

YANDABA GANGS AND SOCIO -ECONOMIC STRATEGIES OF THURGGERY; AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION IN TO THE CASE OF VIOLENT IN TUDUN NUPAWA AREA OF KADUNA METROPOLI

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the strategies employed by Yandaba gangs to cause violence in the Tudun Nupawa area of Kaduna Metropolis. The objectives are to examine the socioeconomic, cultural, and political factors contributing to the rise of Yandaba gangs in the area. The Study also assessed the impacts of the yandaba thurgery to the Tudun Nupawa community and evaluate the interventions strategies that have been implemented to address the menace. A survey research design was used, and data was collected through questionnaires administered to 248 respondents within the Tudun Nupawa community of kaduna metropolis. The study achieved a 100% response rate, which was deemed excellent for analysis. Descriptive statistics, including frequency distributions, means, and standard deviations, were utilized for data analysis. The findings revealed that poverty, unemployment, weak law enforcement, and political manipulation are significant factors that contribute to the rise of Yandaba thurgery in Tudun Nupawa area. In addition, Yandaba gangs employ strategies such as intimidation, the use of weapons, and alliances with political figures to maintain their influence. The impacts of this gang violence include fear, insecurity, disruption of economic activities, increased school dropouts, and significant loss of lives and property. While several interventions, including police actions, youth empowerment programs, and community mediation efforts, have been implemented, the study shows varying levels of effectiveness. The research recommended that enhanced law enforcement, community led initiatives, and the provision of sustainable economic opportunities as essential steps toward mitigating Yandaba violence in tudun nupawa area of Kaduna town.

Keywords: Dan Daba, Gangs, Socio–Economic, Strategy Violence

INTRODUCTION

The origin of Yandaba may be attributed to the late 20th century, when the state saw a significant increase in urbanization, which had a profound influence on its socio-economic structure (Obisesan, 2021). The socio-economic environment of Kaduna State has seen a continuous increase in youth violence (Okwuokenye, & Abdurrahman, 2022). This is due to the rapid combination of high unemployment rates, inadequate education, and restricted access to social amenities has caused many young people to become disillusioned and vulnerable to bad influences (Ngwenya, 2022). In regions such as Tudun Nupawa, these reasons are particularly evident, leading to a conducive environment for the emergence and expansion of gangs like Yandaba. Lack of sustainable economic prospects has compelled several young persons to pursue alternate methods of sustenance and self-identification, often resorting to gang membership (Agyeiwaah *et al.*, 2023).

Cultural and societal factors are significant contributors to the widespread prevalence of Yandaba. Youth typically join gangs due to their need for social inclusion, a sense of identity, and the need for peer recognition (Shephard, *et al.* 2021). Yandaba create a feeling of camaraderie and safeguarding, which is especially attractive in situations when governmental and communal systems have been unable to provide safety and assistance (Lavik, 2022).

The Tudun Nupawa area in Kaduna State Metropolis has seen notable issues of youth violence, mostly instigated by factions commonly referred to as Yandaba. Yandaba, which refers to teenage gangs in the Hausa language, has been closely associated with violence, criminal activities, and societal instability in several regions of Northern Nigeria, particularly in Kaduna State. This research seeks to investigate the factors, consequences, and tactics used by Yandaba to sustain violence in Tudun Nupawa. Its objective is to provide a thorough comprehension of this urgent problem and propose alternative remedies. Kaduna State, situated in the northwestern region of Nigeria, has a wealth of cultural and historical heritage. The region is characterised by a heterogeneous mix of ethnic and religious communities, which has traditionally resulted in a combination of cultural abundance and intermittent conflicts. The young in this area have encountered increased hardships because to socio-economic inequality, political instability, and ethnic conflicts that have worsened over time. The senior gang members' influence and the acceptance of violence as a method of problem resolution further solidify the presence of these gangs into the local culture.

Throughout history, political players have strategically used Yandaba to further their own objectives (Yakubu, 2024). Politicians sometimes utilize gangs during election years to scare opponents and voters, therefore securing their dominance in certain regions. This manipulation not only validates the presence of these criminal organisations but also furnishes them with assets and security, making it challenging for law enforcement to efficiently tackle the problem (Akinpelu, 2023).

The actions of Yandaba have significant and wide-ranging effects on the Tudun Nupawa community. In addition to the direct physical violence and loss of life, the existence of these gangs generates an environment characterised by dread and instability. Businesses have negative impacts when clients deliberately avoid regions with a reputation for gang activity, leading to a hindered general growth and development of the area (Bu & Zhang, 2022). Violence imposes stress and financial hardships on families, while the whole town struggles with the stigma and terrible reputation associated with being a hub for gang activity.

Gaining insight into the intricacies of Yandaba violence in Tudun Nupawa is essential for formulating impactful solutions. This research seeks to analyse the origins, consequences, and approaches used by these criminal organisations in order to provide valuable insights that may guide the development of policies, community programs, and law enforcement tactics. The objective is to progress towards a tranquil, secure, and affluent Tudun Nupawa, where young people have the means to pursue alternatives that may divert them from engaging in violence and instead guide them towards productive positions within society (Hearn, 2021).

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

Conceptual Review

Concept of Gangs

The term "gang" has been subject to varying definitions across disciplines and geographical locations, leading to a diverse range of interpretations and understandings (Bloch, 2022). Gangs are often viewed as organized groups whose primary activities involve illegal or violent behavior, typically for economic gain or territorial control (Paarlberg, 2022). According to Klein (2024), a gang can be defined as a durable, street-oriented youth group whose involvement in illegal activities is acknowledged by both law enforcement and community members. However, this definition does not capture the cultural and social dimensions of gang life, especially in regions where gangs are interwoven with local customs, politics, and economics.

Gangs have existed for centuries, with early forms seen in Europe and North America during periods of economic upheaval and migration. In the United States, for example, gangs such as the Irish and Italian mafias rose to prominence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, exploiting the socio-economic vulnerabilities of immigrant communities. In Africa, gang formation has been similarly tied to social and economic disenfranchisement, but with additional layers of cultural and political complexity (Dziewanski, 2021).

The Yandaba gangs of Tudun Nupawa, for instance, are not merely criminal enterprises but are deeply embedded in the socio-political fabric of their community. Their activities reflect not only economic desperation but also a response to the breakdown of traditional social structures and a failure of the state to provide adequate services and security. This understanding broadens the definition of gangs beyond the narrow legalistic interpretations that dominate much of the Western literature (Moore, 2024).

Concept of Thuggery

Thuggery, particularly in the Nigerian context, refers to violent and disruptive behavior often associated with political manipulation. In many instances, thugs are hired by politicians to intimidate opponents, suppress voter turnout, or engage in acts of violence during elections (Ibeogu & Nwusulor, 2020). The phenomenon of political thuggery has been a persistent issue in Nigeria's democratic process, where hired gangs play a crucial role in shaping electoral outcomes.

Thuggery can also be seen as a manifestation of broader socio-economic frustrations, where marginalized youth, facing few legitimate opportunities, turn to violence as a means of survival and expression (Billingham & Irwin-Rogers, 2021). The Yandaba gangs, for instance, may be involved in politically motivated violence, but their roots lie in deeper socio-economic grievances. Unlike purely criminal gangs, thugs often operate with the tacit approval or direct support of political elites, making them a more complex and entrenched problem in Nigerian society (Seiyefa, 2020).

The intersection between political thuggery and gang violence complicates efforts to combat gang activity, as it blurs the lines between criminality and political agency. This makes it essential to understand thuggery not only as a form of gang violence but also as a tool of political control and social manipulation (Haruna, 2020).

Concept of Violence

Violence, particularly gang-related violence, is often characterised by its systematic and organized nature, distinguishing it from random acts of aggression (Hughes, 2021). Violence in the context of gang activity serves several purposes, including the enforcement of territorial control, retaliation against rival groups, and the establishment of social order within the gang itself. Violence is not merely a tool for economic gain but also a means of achieving power and status within both the gang and the wider community (Mwatwara, 2023).

In the case of the Yandaba gangs, violence often takes on a ritualistic quality, used to initiate new members or to settle scores within the community. Understanding the different forms of violence employed by gangs ranging from physical assaults to psychological intimidation is crucial for developing effective intervention strategies. Violence is not an end in itself for many gangs, but rather a method of asserting dominance and maintaining social cohesion within the group.

Murer & Schwarze (2022) stated that in examining the concept of violence, it is important to recognize that gang-related violence is often a reflection of broader societal violence. In communities where state violence or economic exploitation is rampant, gang violence can be seen as a form of resistance, albeit one that perpetuates cycles of harm rather than addressing the root causes of social discontent.

Socio-Economic and Political Context of Gang Violence

The socio-economic context in which gangs operate plays a critical role in shaping their activities and strategies. In regions like Tudun Nupawa, where poverty, unemployment, and political instability are prevalent, gangs often emerge as alternative power structures, providing both economic opportunities and social status for their members. The Yandaba gangs, for example, recruit from disenfranchised youth who have few other prospects for advancement, offering them not only material benefits but also a sense of belonging and identity.

Political manipulation of gangs further complicates the socio-economic landscape, as gangs are often co-opted by political elites to serve their interests. This dynamic creates a mutually reinforcing relationship between gangs and political power, where the success of one is dependent on the continued existence of the other. For instance, during election periods, gangs may be hired to disrupt political rallies or intimidate voters, creating an environment of fear that benefits certain political factions (Turnbull, 2021).

This section will also explore how globalization and neoliberal economic policies have contributed to the rise of gang violence in marginalized communities. As traditional economic structures collapse under the pressures of global markets, many young people find themselves excluded from the formal economy, making gang membership one of the few viable alternatives. This global perspective will be complemented by case studies from other regions, such as South Africa and Brazil, where similar dynamics of economic exclusion and political manipulation have fueled gang violence (Harding, 2020).

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

The empirical literature on gang violence reveals significant insights into the effects, causes, and potential solutions to the problem of gang-related activities. This section synthesizes existing research findings, emphasizing the impact of gangs on community safety, economic conditions, psychological effects, social disintegration, and interventions aimed at mitigating gang violence.

Impact on Community Safety and Crime Rates

Gang violence substantially impacts community safety, often resulting in increased crime rates and heightened fear among residents. For instance, Bruhn (2021) conducted an extensive study in Chicago, highlighting a direct correlation between gang presence and the incidence of gun violence. The research demonstrated that neighborhoods characterised by high gang activity not only experience violent confrontations among gang members but also significant risks to innocent bystanders. This escalating violence fosters an atmosphere of fear, compelling residents to avoid public spaces and limit their interactions with their neighbors, which ultimately contributes to social isolation.

Furthermore, this fear undermines community engagement, eroding trust and collaboration among residents. Studies indicate that in areas plagued by gang violence, local residents are less likely to participate in community activities or support local initiatives, leading to a breakdown in social networks that are essential for maintaining collective safety (Brown & Weil, 2020).

Economic Consequences of Gang Violence

The economic ramifications of gang violence extend beyond the immediate costs of crime. Braga, et. al., (2024) found that neighborhoods suffering from high rates of gang-related crime often see a decline in local businesses, as potential customers are deterred by safety concerns. This decline can result in reduced property values and, consequently, diminished local tax revenues, which hinders municipalities' ability to fund essential services.

Moreover, businesses in high-crime areas face increased operational costs, including higher insurance premiums and expenditures on security measures, further straining their financial viability. The long-term economic impact can discourage investment in these neighborhoods, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and crime that is challenging to break. Public resources can also be strained by the costs associated with law enforcement responses, healthcare for victims, and social services for affected families, diverting funds from other critical community needs (Krinsky & Komar, 2021)

Intervention and Prevention Strategies

Numerous studies have examined effective intervention and prevention strategies aimed at combating gang violence. Programs emphasizing community engagement, youth mentorship, and educational opportunities have demonstrated promise in reducing gang involvement and associated violence. Berdychevsky, et al. (2022) highlighted the importance of early intervention programs targeting at-risk youth, providing them with positive role models and constructive activities to divert them from gang involvement.

For example, the Operation Peacemaker Fellowship in Richmond, Virginia, has shown success in reducing gun violence through community-led initiatives focusing on conflict resolution, mentorship, and support for at-risk youth. These programs not only address the immediate issues of violence but also work to rebuild community trust and cohesion, fostering a safer environment for all residents.

Additionally, the Cure Violence program in Chicago treats violence as a public health issue, employing "violence interrupters" to de-escalate conflicts and prevent retaliatory violence. This initiative has demonstrated positive results in reducing shootings and homicides in targeted neighborhoods, underscoring the importance of community involvement in addressing violence through a holistic lens.

Social Disorganization Theory

Social Disorganization Theory, first developed by sociologists Shaw and McKay in the early 20th century, suggests that high levels of crime and violence in certain neighborhoods are the result of the breakdown of social institutions such as family, school, and community organisations. The theory posits that when these institutions fail to provide structure and support for individuals, particularly youth, the resulting social disorganization creates an environment conducive to the formation of gangs and other criminal organisations.

In Tudun Nupawa, the social disorganization that results from poverty, unemployment, and inadequate social services provides fertile ground for the emergence of Yandaba gangs. The breakdown of traditional social structures, such as the extended family and community elders, leaves young people vulnerable to recruitment by gangs, who offer them a sense of identity and belonging that they cannot find elsewhere. As Shaw and McKay argued, when a community lacks strong social bonds and institutions, it becomes difficult to exert social control over individuals, leading to increased rates of crime and violence.

Research by Kubrin, *et al.*, (2022) has shown that communities characterised by high levels of poverty, residential instability, and ethnic heterogeneity are more likely to experience social disorganization and, consequently, higher levels of crime. These conditions are evident in Tudun Nupawa, where rapid urbanization and migration have contributed to the erosion of traditional social networks and the weakening of community ties. As a result, young people in the area are more likely to turn to gangs for protection, economic opportunity, and social status.

Furthermore, the failure of the state to provide adequate public services, such as education and healthcare, exacerbates the problem of social disorganization (Kubrin, *et al.*, 2022). In communities where the government is seen as corrupt or ineffective, gangs often step in to fill the void, offering services and protection in exchange for loyalty and participation in criminal activities (Ucko & Marks, 2023). The Yandaba gangs in Tudun Nupawa, for example, may provide their members with financial support or assistance in dealing with local authorities, further entrenching their power within the community.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

Research Design

In order to accomplish the purpose of this research a descriptive survey design was employed. This design permits the investigation of the current status of the phenomenon from a population who could supply the required information and to whom the information is generalizable (Levitt, 2021). Research design helps the researcher develop a mental image of the structure for gathering the data and the analysis that will follow as observed by Henr, *et al.* (2020). It is the framework for study used as a guide in collecting and analysing data. The design is considered appropriate and relevant for this study.

Method of Data Collection

This was done mainly by primary source, using a structured questionnaire and a structured interview to gain addition responses from the respondents. The collection was done by the researcher with help of some research assistants, who were trained on the purpose of the study and how to carry out the data collection, and ensure proper answering and returning of the questionnaire on the spot. One day was used to train the research assistants. The administration of the questionnaire was done within three days, after which the data were collected systematically

Area of the Study

Kakuri hamlet is the seat of Kaduna South LGA, a central local government area near the town centre. The local government covers 72km². Based on greater employment possibilities and growing living standards, Kaduna South LGA is experiencing significant economic development, population, and urbanization, with high density and low-income inhabitants in indigenous core area (Olumba, 2023). After Lagos, Kano, Ibadan, and Abuja, Kaduna is the 13th most populated city in West Africa and the 5th in Nigeria. Recent years have seen strong physical expansion in the city at 5.72% ((Olumba, 2023). Kaduna, a northern Nigerian industrial city, manufactures textiles, machinery, steel, and aluminum items. A refinery refines petroleum products, bearings, and Nok ceramics are coveted from Kaduna. Ahmadu Bello Way is the city's principal road. Many localities were named after Sultans, Emirs, and distinguished civil war heroes, while others were called after the main tribes, such as Unguwan Kanawa, Barnawa ,Tudun Nupawa, Tudun Wada and Fulani. Checheniya market, restored following the 1990s fire, is in Kaduna North.

Population for the Study

The estimated population of the area is about 367,694 living in Kaduna South (NPC, 2015), but. According to Soltani et al. (2024) research population is made up of all conceivable elements, subjects, or observations, relating to a particular phenomenon of interest to the researcher. These elements or subjects

are the individual items that make up the population. Obi (2022) defined population as the total set of items research wants to analyse; it may be group of people, houses, and records.

Sample and Sampling Technique

A statistical sample has a certain number of observations or replicates. Statistical power and correctness in study conclusions depend on sample size (Baker et. al., 2021). Population size, confidence level, and margin of error this will determine by a 100-respondent sample. A sample size of 250 was based on the Baker et. al., (2021) table for areas with populations between 75,000 and 999,999. Thus, this research employed 250 samples to establish sample size. Yamane (1976) $N = \text{Total population under study}$ 0.05 or 5% error margin. The algorithm above generated the breakdown of 100 responders from the five chosen settlements' 361,067 people. Further, respondent sampling was employed to determine the percentage of questionnaires to be administered in the chosen settlement Baker et. al., (2021) $n = \text{population of each village}$ $N = \text{total population of chosen settlement}$ the purposive random sample method was used to identify instances for further examination.

Method of Data Analysis

The questionnaires were properly cross-checked for completeness of responses. The information was coded and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM-SPSS) software version 20. The data was analysed and presented using frequencies and percentages to answer the demographic data, mean and standard deviation for the research questions items. Residents were also selected at random and interviewed to complement the information obtained through questionnaires.

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Figure 1: Demographic Data of the Respondents Age

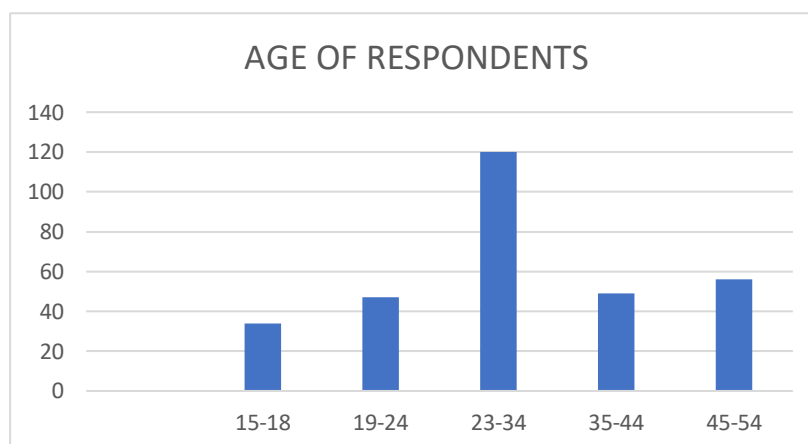


Figure 1: Ages of the respondent

Age of the respondent show the distribution of the respondents based on their Ages. It indicates that 15-18 has 34 (13.6%), 19-24 has 47 (18.8%), 25-34 has 120 (48%), 35-44 has 49 (19.6%) and 45-54 has 56 (22.4%). In conclusion, most of the respondents are aged 25-34 years.

Figure 2: Gender of the Respondents

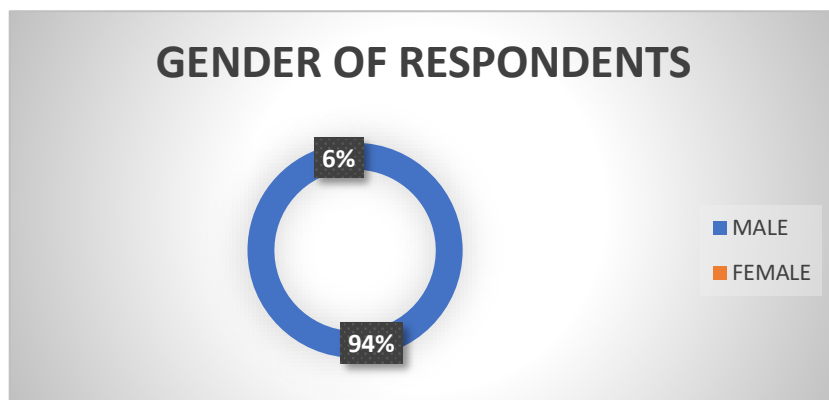


Figure 2: Gender of the respondent

The figure 2 above show the distribution of gender of the respondents, it indicates that male has 236 (94%) and female has 14 (6%). In conclusion majority are male.

Figure 3: Marital Status of the Respondents

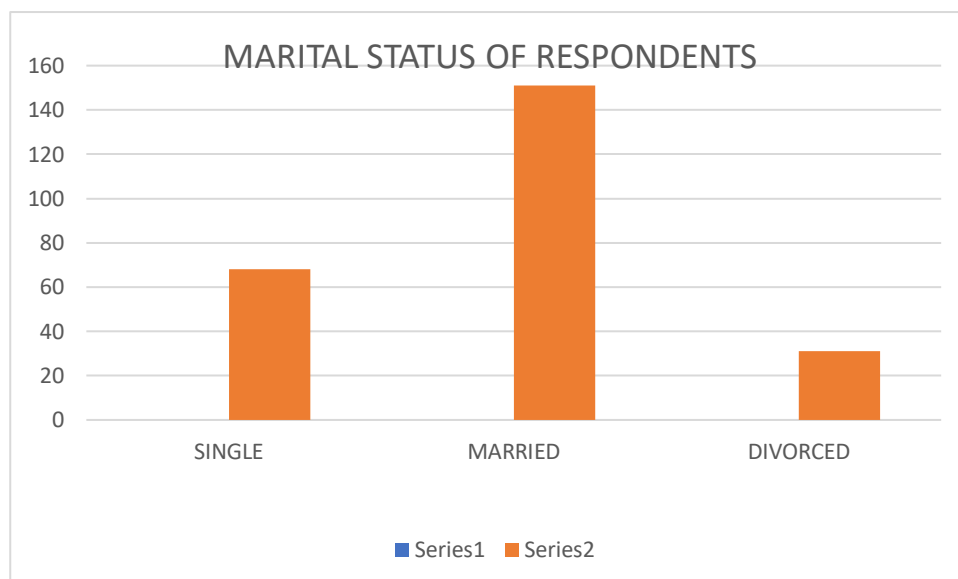


Figure 4: marital status of the respondents

The figure 4 above show the distribution of marital status of the respondents, it indicates that married has 152 (61%), single has 50 (20%) and separated has 46 (19%). In conclusion majority of the respondent are married.

Figure 5: Occupation of the Respondents

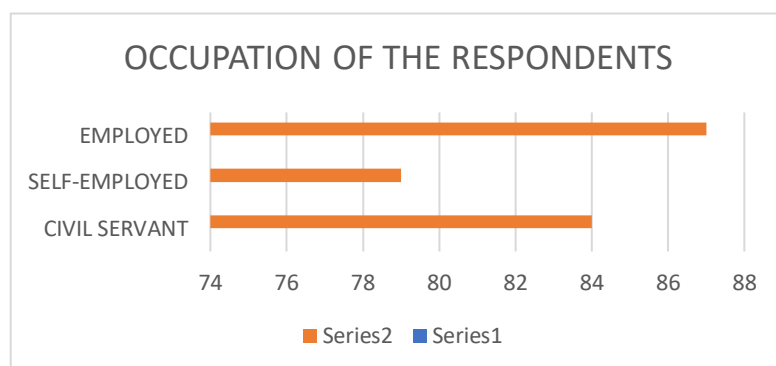


Figure 5: Occupation of the Respondents

The figure 4 above show the distribution of occupation of respondents, it indicates civil servant has single 68 (27.2%), self-employed has 151 (60.4%) and employed 31 (12.4%). In conclusion majority of the respondents are self-employed.

4.2 General Description of Research Questions

The descriptive statistics of the major variables comprises of the mean and standard deviations are calculated and presented.

Table 1: Responses on what are the primary socio-economic, cultural, and political factors contributing to the rise of Yandaba gangs in Tudun Nupawa, Kaduna State.

S/no	Socio-Economic, Cultural, and Political Factors Contributing to Yandaba Gangs in Tudun Nupawa	M	SD	REMARK
1	Poverty and unemployment are major drivers of Yandaba gang recruitment	2.99	1.45	Agreed
2	Political manipulation by local leaders encourages gang violence in Tudun Nupawa	2.89	2.46	Agreed
3	Traditional cultural norms play a role in sustaining Yandaba gang activities in Tudun Nupawa	2.54	2.44	Agreed
4	Lack of formal education among youths contributes to their involvement in gangs in Tudun Nupawa	2.97	2.48	Agreed
5	Weak law enforcement allows Yandaba gangs to operate freely in Tudun Nupawa	2.90	2.23	Agreed
Mean		2.85	2.21	Agreed

Data analysis presented in Table 1 indicated that the grand mean of 2.85 (SD=2.21) is greater than the cut-off mean point of 2.50, revealing that the items have been accepted by the respondents on what are the primary socio-economic, cultural, and political factors contributing to the rise of Yandaba gangs in Tudun Nupawa, Kaduna State, and in what ways do these factors continue to shape contemporary gender disparities in political representation. Item-by-item analysis reveals that all items each had a mean score higher than the accepted mean score of 2.50, indicating agreement. In conclusion, this depicts that there are primary socio-economic, cultural, and political factors contributing to the rise of Yandaba gangs in Tudun Nupawa, Kaduna State.

S/no	Yandaba Gangs' Strategies and Execution of Violence in Tudun Nupawa	M	SD	Remark
6	Yandaba gangs recruit vulnerable youth through financial incentives in Tudun Nupawa	2.65	2.43	Agreed

7	Gangs use fear and intimidation to maintain control over communities in Tudun Nupawa	2.78	2.23	Agreed
8	Yandaba gangs form alliances with political leaders for protection in Tudun Nupawa	2.45	2.44	Disagreed
9	Social media platforms are used by the Yandaba to organize and spread violence in Tudun Nupawa	2.24	2.50	Disagreed
10	Yandaba gangs use weapons to enforce their influence in the community in Tudun Nupawa	2.55	1.45	Agreed
Mean		2.53	2.21	Agreed

Table 2: Responses on how do Yandaba gangs strategize and execute their violent activities

Data analysis presented in Table 2 indicated that the grand mean of 2.53 (SD=2.21) is greater than the cut-off mean point of 2.50, revealing that the items was not accepted by the respondent on how do Yandaba gangs strategize and execute their violent activities. Item-by- item analysis reveals that all items each had a mean score higher than the accepted mean score of 2.50, indicating agreement on all the items which is above the mean cut off 2.50 except item 8 and 9 which has 2.45 and 2.24 respectively. In conclusion, this depicts that the yandaba gangs strategize and execute their violent

Table 3: Responses on what are the direct and indirect impacts of Yandaba violence on the Tudun Nupawa community

S/no	Direct and Indirect Impacts of Yandaba Violence	M	SD	Remark
11	Yandaba violence causes fear and insecurity among community members in Tudun Nupawa	2.99	2.42	Agreed
12	The economic activities in Tudun Nupawa have been disrupted due to gang violence	2.50	2.22	Agreed
13	Yandaba violence has led to increased school dropouts and poor education outcomes in Tudun Nupawa	2.97	1.96	Agreed
14	Social relationships in the community are negatively affected by gang violence in Tudun Nupawa	2.50	2.43	Agreed
15	Yandaba violence has resulted in significant loss of lives and property in Tudun Nupawa	2.67	2.43	Agreed
Mean		2.72	2.29	Agreed

Data analysis presented in Table 3 indicated that the grand mean of 2.75 (SD=2.29) is greater than the cut-off mean point of 2.50, revealing that all items have been agreed and been accepted by the respondents on what are the direct and indirect impacts of Yandaba violence on the Tudun Nupawa community. Item-by-item analysis reveals that all items each had a score higher than the accepted mean score of 2.50, indicating agreement on all items; which are all above the mean cut off 2.50. In conclusion, this depicts that the respondents have direct and indirect impacts of Yandaba violence on the Tudun Nupawa community.

Table 4: Responses on what interventions have been implemented to address Yandaba violence, and how effective have they been

S/no	Effectiveness of Interventions Addressing Yandaba Violence in Tudun Nupawa	M	SD	Remark
16	Police interventions have significantly reduced Yandaba violence in Tudun Nupawa	2.51	1.99	Agreed
17	Youth empowerment programs have been effective in reducing gang recruitment in Tudun Nupawa	2.68	2.34	Agreed
18	Community leaders have played a vital role in mediating and reducing violence in Tudun Nupawa	2.99	2.32	Agreed

19	Government policies targeting gang violence have been well-implemented in Tudun Nupawa	2.76	2.41	Agreed
20	Rehabilitation programs for former gang members have contributed to reducing violence in Tudun Nupawa	2.50	2.32	Agreed
Mean		2.68	2.27	Agreed

Data analysis presented in Table 4 indicated that the grand mean of 2.68 (SD=2.27) is greater than the cut-off mean point of 2.50, revealing that all items have been agreed and been accepted by the respondents on what interventions have been implemented to address Yandaba violence, and how effective have they been. Item-by-item analysis reveals that all items each had a score higher than the accepted mean score of 2.50, indicating agreement on all items; which are all above the mean cut off 2.50. In conclusion, this depicts that the respondents there are interventions have been implemented to address Yandaba violence, and how effective have they been.

Discussion of Findings

The findings on poverty and unemployment shown significant drivers reflect widespread issues of economic hardship in northern Nigeria more particularly in Tudun nupawa area in kaduna materopoli. Studies by Fraser & Van (2020) show a similar trend in other regions where economically disenfranchised youth turn to gangs as a means of survival. Furthermore, the role of political manipulation suggests that local leaders might exploit these gangs for personal gains, as indicated by (Roberts, 2021).

Verification of Assumptions

The assumption that socio-economic factors such as poverty are the primary drivers of Yandaba gang formation has been validated. The results indicate that without addressing economic and educational disparities, the cycle of violence will likely persist. Additionally, political manipulation, an often-overlooked factor, appears to play a pivotal role, aligning with the assumption that local politics significantly influence gang dynamics.

Research Question 2: How do Yandaba gangs strategize and execute their violent activities?

With a grand mean of 2.53 (SD = 2.21), it is evident that Yandaba gangs use intimidation and financial incentives to recruit members and exert control over communities. The use of weapons and alliances with political figures, although partially supported, shows a more nuanced strategy, with some respondents disagreeing on social media's role in organizing violence.

Discussion of Findings

The reliance on fear and intimidation is a common tactic among gangs globally (Vigil, 2020). In Tudun Nupawa, the use of financial incentives for recruitment highlights the economic vulnerabilities that push youths into gangs. The discrepancy regarding the use of social media might reflect a lack of access or digital literacy among some gang members, contrasting with trends in urban gangs globally where social media plays a significant role (Whittaker et. al., 2021).

Verification of Assumptions

The assumption that Yandaba gangs primarily rely on economic incentives and intimidation is partially verified. However, the data reveals mixed findings on the use of social media and political alliances, suggesting that while these factors are present, they may not be as pervasive or uniformly understood across the community.

Research Question 3: What are the direct and indirect impacts of Yandaba violence on the community?

A grand mean of 2.72 (SD = 2.29) indicates that respondents agree Yandaba violence has caused widespread fear, disrupted economic activities, and led to social disintegration in Tudun Nupawa. Loss of lives and property is a critical consequence, affirming studies by Gubio (2018), which highlight the destructive impact of gang violence on communities.

Discussion of Findings

The findings highlight the significant social and economic disruption caused by Yandaba violence. Fear and insecurity are prevalent, affecting community relationships and hindering economic development. Similar patterns have been observed in other conflict-prone regions in Nigeria, where gang violence erodes social trust (Eke, 2022).

Verification of Assumptions

The assumption that gang violence has far-reaching socio-economic consequences is strongly supported. The data confirms that both direct impacts, such as loss of lives, and indirect effects, such as fear and disrupted education, are significant.

Research Question 4: What interventions have been implemented to address Yandaba violence, and how effective have they been?

The grand mean of 2.68 (SD = 2.27) suggests that interventions like police action, youth empowerment programs, and community mediation have been moderately effective. However, responses indicate varying degrees of success, particularly regarding rehabilitation programs.

Discussion of Findings

While police interventions and community leaders' efforts have made progress, the mixed results from youth empowerment programs and rehabilitation suggest a need for more holistic, long-term strategies. Studies by Agbormbai (2021) emphasize that without addressing the root causes of violence, such as poverty and lack of education, these interventions will have limited success.

Verification of Assumptions

The assumption that current interventions are only partially effective is confirmed. The findings suggest that while some efforts have yielded results, they are insufficient to address the underlying causes of gang violence.

The findings of this study underscore the complex socio-economic, cultural, and political dynamics contributing to Yandaba violence in Tudun Nupawa. Effective strategies must address not only the immediate security concerns but also the underlying structural issues driving youth toward gang involvement. While current interventions show some promise, they must be scaled up and made more comprehensive to achieve long-lasting peace and stability in the community.

Conclusion

The findings of this study highlight the complex interplay of socio-economic, cultural, and political factors that contribute to the rise of Yandaba gangs in Tudun Nupawa. While interventions have been implemented to address the issue, their effectiveness has been limited due to systemic challenges such as corruption, inadequate resources, and the deeply embedded nature of gang culture. To effectively combat gang violence, a multifaceted approach that addresses both the symptoms and root causes of the problem is needed.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are made:

1. **Strengthening Law Enforcement:** There is a need for a more proactive and well-resourced law enforcement strategy that focuses on preventing gang violence rather than merely reacting to it. This should include measures to combat police corruption and improve community-police relations.
2. **Expanding Youth Empowerment Programs:** Youth empowerment initiatives should be expanded to provide more comprehensive education, vocational training, and employment opportunities for at-risk youths. These programs must be adequately funded and tailored to the specific needs of the local community.
3. **Community-Based Conflict Resolution:** Community-based initiatives that promote dialogue and conflict resolution should be strengthened and supported by local authorities. These programs should focus on rebuilding social cohesion and fostering a sense of collective responsibility for community safety.

4. **Political Accountability:** Politicians who exploit gangs for personal gain should be held accountable through stricter regulations and penalties. Efforts should be made to educate youths about the dangers of political manipulation and the importance of non-violent political engagement.

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