Challenges and Prospect of Community Security Watch Corps in Combating Insecurity in Funtua, Katsina State

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Abstract

This study attempts to examine the challenges and prospect of Katsina State Community Security Watch Corps in combating insecurity in Funtua, Katsina State. The researcher selected 10 communities in which the members of Katsina State Community Watch Corps are deployed and still severely affected by the insecurity. In each cluster, 20 respondents were selected to respond to the questions. Based on the finding, the study finds out many challenges that the Community Security Watch Corps faced and may be facing. Such challenges are inadequate funding, corruption within the corps, perception of the conflict as 'ethnic affairs'. The study further, reveals the potentials that may assist the corps in carrying out its mandates of assisting security agencies in the fight against insurgency in Funtua, and the entire state. Finally, the researcher recommends that, The corps volunteers should have post service benefits such as pension or retention, the system of oversight and accountability should be established, the coordination and information-sharing mechanism between the corps and the state-established law enforcement agencies should be strengthened, and Katsina state government should collaborate and work hand-in-hand with the neighbouring states in its efforts to fight bandits' activities.

Keywords: Challenges, Prospects, Community Watch Corps, insecurity, Katsina State

1. Introduction

Many parts of Katsina State have been in siege by the menace of insecurity challenges. Like other neighbouring states - Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto, and Niger States, banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling, raids on villages, etc are now order of the day. Some Local Government Areas of the state have badly been affected by the activities of bandits in the state. Many local communities have been sacked and the environs displaced. More than 20 local Government Areas have been affected by insecurity. Such Local Governments are Jibia, Batsari, Safana, Danmusa, Dutsinma, Kankara, Faskari, Funtua, Sabuwa, and Dandume. The aforementioned Local Governments are the most affected of all.

Insecurity is the state of fear or anxiety, stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection (Ali, 2013). It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as socioeconomic like kidnapping, cattle rustling etc. Insecurity connotes absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty and lack of protection.

According to Godwin, (2023) "There is no gainsaying the fact that, Katsina State has suffered so much in the hands of bandits for almost a decade." But from recent happenings, it is obvious that the menace may soon be over in the state. Though several efforts were previously taken by successive governments at the state and federal levels as well as by civil groups to battle insecurity, the fight seems to be far from the reality on the ground. This, no doubt, cast a pall on the government's objective to provide good governance and quality services to the residents of the state. It is against this backdrop that the present administration of Governor Umar Dikko Radda has taken a bold step to launch the first Community Watch Corps (CWC) to curtail the long-existing menace of banditry in the state." (Leadership, 2023).

Banditry has become a harsh reality in today's Nigeria society; it has come in different forms of manifesting as kidnapping, suicide attacks, self-suicide bombing, insurgency, armed robbery and the life (Adegoke, 2020). Banditry according to Saminas, (2013) cited in Okolie and Ugwu (2019:205-206), is "a crime that has been precipitated and sustained by the prevailing socio-existential environment in the rural sector characterized by a high proclivity to criminal indulgence. Banditry in the Northwestern states of Katsina, Zamfara and Kaduna has reached alarming heights in recent years. They have actually settled in the Zamfara state, setting up fortified enclaves in the hinterland and on the frontiers, from where they plot and carry out their operations (Okolie, 2019).

As part of its continued efforts towards addressing the problems of insecurity bedeviling Katsina State, the state government on Tuesday launched its Community Watch Corps, with the sole aim of augmenting the efforts of the conventional security agencies operating in the state, fighting banditry and other forms of criminalities. Close to 1,500 young men and women were drawn from across the state, particularly the frontline local government areas, in order to take part in security operations having known their terrain better than the security agents in most cases (Daily Trust, 2023).

The government of Katsina State has taken some steps to address some of the challenges facing the Community Watch Corps. For example, it has provided the corps with some funding and training. However, more needs to be done to ensure that the corps is successful. The government and the community need to work together to provide the corps with the resources and support it needs to be effective. (Google, 2023).

A Community Watch Corps are established and given the mandates to work with law enforcement agencies like police and soldiers to prevent, and rid, bandits and their activities.

Proven to be one of the most effective and least costly answers to crime, Community Watch Corps enlisted and encouraged volunteers to join together and be aware of activities around them in their daily lives.

Officers and the men of police and soldiers cannot be in every place, at the same time, and within twenty-four hours a day, so the participation of indigenous people is needed and necessary to combat the in security challenges bedeviling the state. The inhabitants of the affected areas are the ones who really know what is going on in their communities, and by working together as well as with law enforcement agents, fighting bandits activities will likely be easy.

Community watch corps is volunteer organization recently launched by Katsina State Government to play an important role in combating insecurity in most-affected areas of the state. They work with the police and other security agencies to provide intelligence, patrol communities, and respond to security incidence. However, there are a number of challenges faced by the Katsina State Community Watch Corps from its inception and other challenges that may have come up, including the process of recruitment and the composition of volunteers; human right abuses, and extrajudicial killings; unlawful arrest and detention of innocent civilians; lack of adequate training and equipment; Stigmatized by the criminals in the communities; political interference etc.

This study is aimed at examining the challenges and prospects of Community Watch Corps in Funtua, Katsina State. Based on this, the following are the research questions:

1. What is the main security challenges facing Funtua?

2. How can Community Watch Corps help to address these challenges?

3. What are the main challenges faced, and may likely be facing by Community Watch Corps?

4. How can these challenges be overcome?

5. What are the prospects for Community Watch Corps?

However, the main objective of this study is to examine the challenges and prospect of Community Watch Corps in Combating insecurity in Katsina State. The following are the objectives of the study:

1. To examine the security challenges faced in Funtua, Katsina State.

2. To examine how Community Watch Corps will help to address those challenges.

3. To examine the main challenges faced by Community Watch Corps in Katsina State.

4. To examine the way to overcome the challenges faced by Community Watch Corps.

5. To find out the prospects of Community Watch Corps in Katsina State.

2. Literature review

Many scholars have written about security challenges and community policing in journals, books, pamphlets and so on. However, this study intends to examine the challenges and prospect of Community Watch Corps in Katsina State.

Concept of Community

Bryon Munon (1968) defines "A community is a relatively self-sufficient population, residing in a limited geographic area, bound together by feelings of unity and interdependency. Maciver and Page state that "a community is wherever the members of any group, small or large, live together in such a way that they share, not this or that particular interest, but the basic condition of common life, we call such a group a community".

According to Foundation for Community Encouragement "A community is a group of two or more people who have been able to accept and transcend their differences regardless of the diversity of their backgrounds (social, spiritual, educational, ethnic, economic, political, etc.). This enables them to communicate effectively and openly and to work together toward goals identified as being for their common good."

Systems Perspective

From a systems perspective, a community is similar to a living creature, comprising different parts that represent specialized functions, activities, or interests, each operating within specific boundaries to meet community needs For example, schools focus on education, the transportation sector focuses on moving people and products, economic entities focus on enterprise and employment, faith organizations focus on the spiritual and physical well-being of people, and health care agencies focus on the prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries (Henry, 2011) For the community to function well, each part has to effectively carry out its role in relation to the whole organism. A healthy community has well-connected, interdependent sectors that share responsibility for recognizing and resolving problems and enhancing its well-being successfully addressing a community's complex problems requires integration, collaboration, and coordination of resources from all parts (Thompson et al, 1990).

Social Perspective

A community can also be defined by describing the social and political networks that link individuals, community organizations, and leaders Understanding these networks is critical to planning efforts in engagement For example, tracing social ties among individuals may help engagement leaders to identify a community's leadership, understand its behavior patterns, identify its high-risk groups, and strengthen its networks (Minkler et al, 1997)

Virtual Perspective

Some communities map onto geographically defined areas, but today, individuals rely more and more on computer-mediated communications to access information, meet people, and make decisions that affect their lives (Kozinets, 2002) Examples of computer-mediated forms of communication include email, instant or text messaging, e-chat rooms, and social networking sites such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter (Flavian et al, 2005) Social groups or groups with a common interest that interact in an organized fashion on the Internet are considered "virtual communities" (Rheingold, 2000; Ridings et al, 2002).

Individual Perspective

Individuals have their own sense of community membership that is beyond the definitions of community applied by researchers and engagement leaders Moreover, they may have a sense of belonging to more than one community In addition, and their sense of membership can change over time and may affect their participation in community activities (Minkler et al, 2004) The philosopher and psychologist William James shed light on this issue in his writings James thought it important to consider two perspectives on identity: the "I," or how a person thinks about himself or herself, and the "me," or how others see and think about that person Sometimes these two views agree and result in a shared sense of an identity, but other times they do not People should not make assumptions about identity based on appearance, language, or cultural origin; nor should they make assumptions about an individual's perspective based on his or her identity (James, 1890) Today, the multiple communities that might be relevant for any individual — including families, workplace, and social, religious, and political associations — suggest that individuals are thinking about themselves in more complex ways than was the norms in years past.

Concept of Community Watch Corps or policing:

Community Watch:

Community Watch Corps is a community oriented policing. However, According to Ogadima & Okunola, (2015) in Nigeria, community–oriented policing came due to concerns that the prevailing system has failed the traditional and professional policing approach as it were in abroad so also in Nigeria, often at times citizens that witnessed crime are not willingly to be involved in police bureaucratic protocols, thus, they refused to reports crime cases to the police, more so due to lack of confidence and mistrust on the police agency.

Definition and concept of Community Watch Corps according to some scholars:

George F. C. (1995) "A Community Watch Corps is a program that organizes community members to work together to reduce crime and improve public safety. It is a voluntary effort that involves citizens working with law enforcement to identify and report suspicious activity and to take steps to protect their homes and neighborhoods from crime."

Patricia J. B. (1993) "A Community Watch Corps is a crime prevention program that relies on the active participation of citizens in working with law enforcement to reduce crime and improve public safety. It involves citizens observing and reporting suspicious activity, and taking steps to secure their homes and neighborhoods."

Lawrence W. S. (1998) "A Community Watch Corps is a crime prevention program that involves citizens working together to reduce crime and improve public safety. It is based on the principle that citizens are the "eyes and ears" of the police and can play a vital role in deterring crime and reporting suspicious activity."

In line with the above definitions, scholars have also identified several key concepts that are essential to Community Watch Corps programs:

1. Community involvement: Community Watch Corps programs are most effective when they involve a wide range of community members, including residents, businesses, and community organizations.

2. Partnerships with law enforcement: Community Watch Corps programs should have strong partnerships with law enforcement agencies. This helps to ensure that citizens have access to the information and resources they need to be effective, and that law enforcement is responsive to the concerns of the community.

3. Training: Community Watch Corps members should be trained on how to observe and report suspicious activity, and how to take steps to secure their homes and neighborhoods.

4. Education: Community Watch Corps programs should educate the public about crime prevention and safety tips.

Community Watch Corps programs can take many different forms, but they all share the common goal of reducing crime and improving public safety. By working together with law enforcement and other community members, citizens can make a real difference in their neighborhoods.

Forms of Community Watch Corps:

Here are some forms of Community Watch Corps programs according to Lawrence W. S. (1998):

1. Neighborhood Watch: Neighborhood Watch programs are typically organized by residents of a particular neighborhood. Members of the program watch out for suspicious activity and report it to the police.

2. Business Watch: Business Watch programs are organized by businesses in a particular area. Members of the program watch out for suspicious activity and report it to the police.

3. School Watch: School Watch programs are organized by schools and involve parents, teachers, and students. Members of the program watch out for suspicious activity around the school and report it to the police

4. **What is Community Security?**

Community security emerged as a conceptual and policy tool to address the idea, among other things, that development cannot occur without security. States acknowledged that the sources of insecurity were not only poverty and inequality but also a security system incapable of protecting its citizens. In some societies, it was precisely the military or the police that were the main causes of insecurity. Without achieving a basic level of security, reconstruction work was difficult and thus, the basic foundations of democracy could not be established. Community security activities often focus on building the state and its institutions, often missing the fact that supporting such institutions does not necessarily lead to security strategies and outcomes that are people-centered. Additionally, the strategy of focusing on the military and the police contradict the principles of efficiency and economic sustainability, as building these institutions from scratch is an incredibly resource-intensive endeavour, particularly for combating terrorism (Saferworld, 2004; UNDP, 2009).

However, in the context of complexity and continued insecurity, these two institutions stand as the most obvious actors to reform. Literatures have also shown that community security programmes are seldom coordinated and that reforms tend to be sectoral rather than all-encompassing of the entire security sector (Kantor and Persson, 2011). Reforms, according to community security principles, should be carried out in a way that is complementary to or in line with other security programmes. Therefore, supporting the development of police services without supporting at the same time the criminal justice system will, for example, have a limited impact on community security. There has been significant progress in understanding the fact that community security programmes must take a multi-stakeholder approach – based on the insight that the state often lacks the capacity of being the sole provider of security (Stabilisation Unit (2014); Saferworld, 2014, p. 5). By bringing together a wide range of actors, Community Security is a people-centred approach to addressing insecurity that integrates human security, development and state building paradigms.

Security of Life and Property

Anything that constitutes a danger to the security of a nation is a threat. A threat could be economic, political or social, and the threat of crime covers all three major categories. Crime as a threat to security of life and property has impact on all aspects of human security visa viz; economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political. Crime is one of the major factors associated with underdevelopment. The reasons are not far-fetched because of the way it lowers or discourages investment, destroys human and social capital, damages

relationship between citizens and the state, and thus undermines democracy and the ability of the state to promote development. The fact that people are at the heart of security concerns suggests that crime can erode the sense of safety and security of entire community (Dambazau, 2007).

Crime impacts negatively on the Nigerian economy. The Economist Intelligent Unit (EIU) runs a service called "Riskwire" which evaluates the safety of a number of countries for foreign business. Out of the fifty-nine (59) countries evaluated, Nigeria is rated as the riskiest country for business in the world.

According to the report; Nigeria is an insecure environment for commercial operations. Security risk arises at three levels. The first comes from rising violent crime, (from) simple armed robbery [to] carjacking and violent attacks…Second, companies can be subjected to direct attack or blackmail facilities can be vandalized and staff kidnapped. Third, incidences of inter-communal violence have risen ... Nigeria's Ill-equipped police force … has been ineffective in stemming the crime wave (EIU, 2005:2).

The United States Department of Justice has defined community policing as a philosophy that "focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police services that includes aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships." Katsina State Community Watch Corps is there to provide community policing in collaboration with the security agencies in the state.

5. Theoretical Framework

Collective Efficacy Theory

In order to find a focus for this study, collective efficacy theory is adopted. Building on the theoretical framework of self-efficacy, Bandura noted that "perceived collective efficacy will influence what people choose to do as a group, how much effort they put into it, and their staying power when group efforts fail to produce results" (Bandura 1982: 143, emphasis added), and hypothesized that collective efficacy was a property of any sized group, ranging from small collectivities to nation-states. Sampson and colleagues (Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls 1997) theorized the importance of collective efficacy for neighborhoods as "the capacity for achieving an intended effect" (Sampson and Raudenbush 1999: 612). Sampson argues that social networks and the strength of social ties alone cannot explain the social control of crime, given that strong ties are not always conducive to action. While the systemic model of social disorganization assumes that relational networks are related to, and even facilitate, the exercise of control, they are not sufficient for explaining social control because nonconforming behavior may be tolerated by network members as long as it does not interfere with the attainment of common goals. Again we know from the research of Whyte that dense social networks do not always translate into low crime.

The concept of collective efficacy was introduced in the late 1990s (Sampson et al.1997), but the founding premises of the theory can be traced back to the early Chicago school of sociology.

Within the Chicago school, the city was a major arena of investigation and specifically, neighbourhood social disorganization was shown to exhibit a strong association with crime (Park and Burgess 1925; Shaw and McKay 1942/1967). The basic idea was that neighbourhoods characterized by low socioeconomic status, a high degree of ethnic heterogeneity and a high population turnover would be socially disorganized, and in turn vulnerable to higher levels of (juvenile) crime. Kornhauser (1978) further advanced this theoretical notion by arguing that the (in)capacity of residents to maintain informal social control was the key mechanism in explaining higher levels of crime in socially disorganized neighbourhoods. In their pioneering study, Sampson and Groves (1989) discussed how the theoretical structure of social disorganization had been measured inadequately in previous census-based studies (see also Bursik 1988). Using their extended version of social disorganization theory, Sampson and Groves (1989) demonstrated that the effect of neighbourhood structural characteristics (low socioeconomic status, ethnic heterogeneity, residential instability, family disruption and urbanization) on crime is mediated by community social organization. Community social (dis)organization was in turn operationalized as the absence of community social networks, a high prevalence of unsupervised teenage peer groups and low organizational participation among residents.

Jeffrey Morenoff, Sampson, and Raudenbush argue that researchers must move beyond a reliance on social capital and density of ties when examining the determinants of crime. They describe social capital as a "resource potential," but one that must be activated and utilized. To move beyond social capital and strong ties and associations, Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls conceptualize collective efficacy as a mechanism through which social capital confers benefits on neighborhoods. Collective efficacy is the process of activating or converting social ties among neighborhood residents in order to achieve collective goals, such as public order or the control of crime. This formulation relies on trust and a shared willingness to actively engage in social control as key dimensions explaining crime. As Sampson asserts, "social networks foster the conditions under which collective efficacy may flourish, but they are not sufficient for the exercise of control" (2006b, p. 39). In other words, when neighbors have mutual trust for each other, this facilitates social control but does not guarantee it. Similarly, Barry Wellman argues that social scientists have become preoccupied with local solidarity, "rather than a search for functioning primary ties" (p. 1202). The point is that strong ties and a union of interests are secondary in importance to a consideration of whether the structure of ties provides some function or benefit irrespective of strength or sentiment.

6. Methodology

Method of Data Collection

This study adopts primary data collection methods which involves collecting data directly from the source, such as through surveys. According to Dillman (2017) surveys are a popular method

for collecting data from a large number of people. They can be administered in person, over the phone, or online. Surveys typically consist of a series of questions that respondents answer to provide information about their opinions, attitudes, or experiences.

Population of the study

The study population has been defined differently by many researchers. Avwokeni (2006:92) refers to population of study as the "set of all participants that qualify for a study" while Akinade and Owolabi (2009 :72) defined population as "the total set of observations from which a sample is drawn"; Adeniyi et al (2011:49) see it as the "total number of large habitations of people in one geographical area, for example, the population of a country"; besides, Popoola (2011:2) defines population as the "totality of the items or objects under the universe of study. So, the populations of this study are people who lives in Funtua community and directly affected by the activities of bandits.

Sample and Sampling Technique

Sample is the group of individuals who will actually participate in research (source). For the purpose of this study, the researcher used cluster sampling. This involves dividing the population into sub-group should have similar characteristics to the whole sample. It is impossible to source data from all the people that were affected by the activities of bandits. For this, 200 respondents will be sampled. The researcher selected 10 communities in which the members of Katsina State Community Watch Corps are deployed and still severely affected by the insecurity. In each cluster, 20 respondents were selected to respond to the questions. This will comprise of men, women, and youths who are either members of Community Watch Corps or the inhabitants of Funtua.

7. Overview of the Study Area:

This study was conducted in Funtua Local Government area, in Katsina state of Nigeria. Funtua is located at approximately 11032'N07019'E and 11032'N07019'E coordinate. Funtua occupies the highest point on the Hausa plains. Funtua town is also the headquarters of Funtua Local Government Area, which covers an area of 448km2 and has a population of roughly 225,571 according to the 2006 Census. Funtua at one time comprised of Maska, Kogo, and Danja districts. It is about 197 Kilimetres from the state capital, Katsina.Funtua is surrounded by hills, such as Jabiri hill, Dutsen Reme hill, Dutsen Fadi hill, and Dutsen Funtua hill. The town is trategically located at a cross road of many towns and cities eg. Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Sokoto road, Funtua-Birnin-Gwari-Lagos road, and Funtua-Malumfashi-Katsina/Kano road (Tukur, 2019) Funtua Local Government has the total population of 225,571 (2006 Census) and 502,110 according to (2016 Estimate). And majority of people of Funtua Local Government are farmers, with others engage in trade, commerce and animal husbandry.
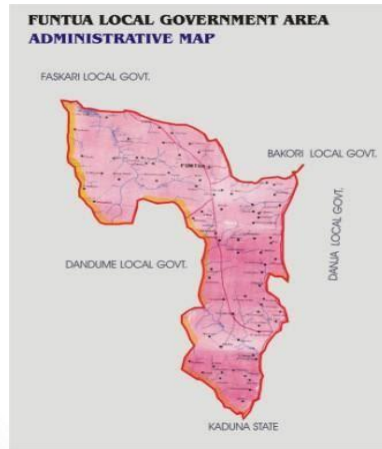
Figure 1: This is an administrative map of the study area.

Source: Funtua Local Government Information Unit

Table 1: The table below contains the names of wards and no. of male and female population of Funtua Local Government Area.

Wards	No. of Male	(%)	No. of Female	(%)
Nasarawa	28,723	6%	27,823	5.5%
Unguwar Musa	27,000	5%	26,150	5.2%
Makera	26,802	5%	25,101	4.9%
Unguwar Ibrahim	24,700	5%	25,046	4.9%
Tudun Iya	24,150	5%	23,110	4.6%
Sabon Gari	23,050	5%	21,846	4.4%
Maigamji	20,352	4%	19,992	3.9%
Goya	20,917	4%	19,850	3.9%
Maska	21,356	4%	23,113	4.6%
Dike	18,957	4%	18,806	3.7%
Dandutse	17,858	4%	17,408	3.4%

Total	253,865	51%	248,245	49%

Source: National Population Commission 2015 Estimate
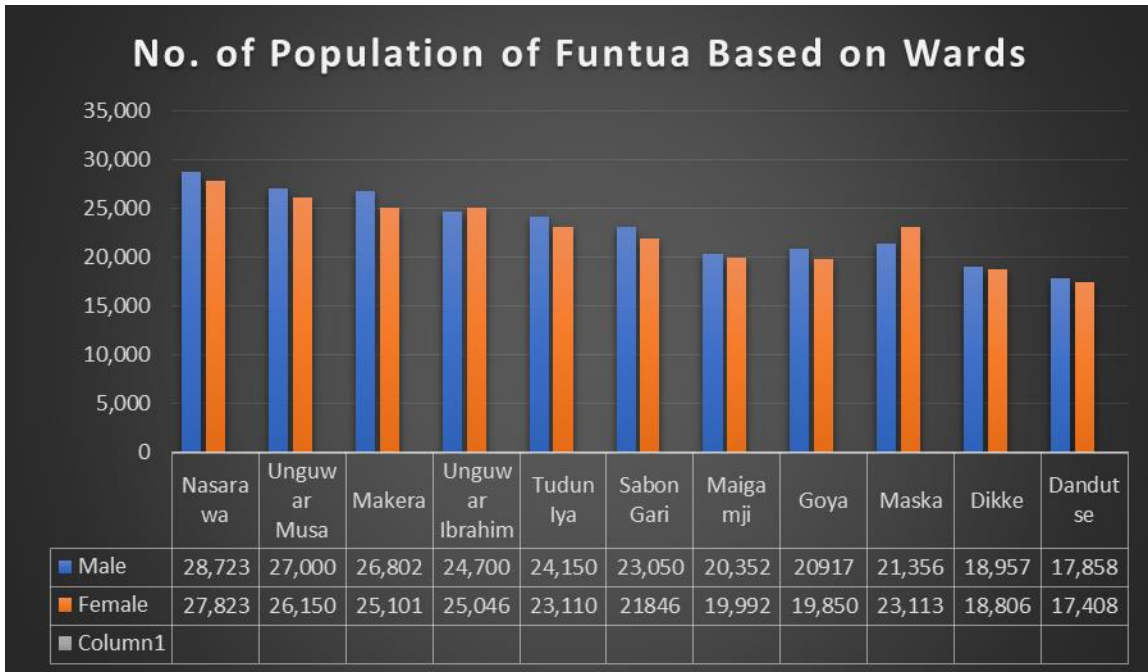
Source: National Population Commission 2015 Estimate

8. Data Presentation and Analysis

This study tends to find out the challenges and prospects of Katsina State Community Watch Corpse in combating insecurity in Funtua, Katsina state, Nigeria. A total of 200 questionnaires were administered in order to get the opinion the respondents on the challenges and prospects of Community Watch Corps in combating insecurity in Funua Local Government Area, in which the researcher was able to retrieve 155 questionnaires from the respondents.

Table 2: Demographic Information

Age Distributions			
S/N	AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	18 – 29	40	25.8%
2.	30 – 39	50	32.2%
3.	40 – 49	25	16.2%
4.	50 – Above	40	25.8%
	Total	155	100%
Sex Distribution			
1.	Male	95	61.2%
2.	Female	60	38.8%
	Total	155	100%
Occupational Distribution			
1.	Student	50	32.2%
2.	Businessman/woman	45	29.1%
3.	Civil servant	40	25.8%
4.	Others	20	12.9%
	Total	155	100%
Educational Level			
1.	Primary Level	15	9.7%
2.	Secondary Level	20	12.9%
3.	NCE/Diploma	35	22.6%
4.	HND/BSc	48	30.9%
5.	PGD	37	23.9%

6.	Total	155	100%

Source: Field survey (2023)

Table 2 contains the demographic data of the respondents, which includes age, sex, occupational distributions, and educational level of the respondents. The table shows that 25.8% are 18 – 29 years old, 32.2% are at the age of 30 – 39 of age, 16.2% made up of 40 – 49 years old, and those who fall in 50 – above age comprise 25.8%.

The table also shows the sex distribution, in which 61.2% are male respondents. While 38.8% are female. However, the occupational distribution shows that 32.2% are students, 29.1% are businessmen/women, 25.8% are civil servants, and others made up of 12.9%.

The table also shows the educational levels of the respondents, where 9.7% are primary school leavers, 12.9% are secondary school certificate holders, 30.9% are either Diploma or NCE holders, and those with HND/B.Sc. and PGD are 30.9% and 23.9% respectively.

Table 3: Major challenges faced and may be facing by the Katsina State Community Watch Corps.

S/N	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Inadequate funding	55	35.5%
1.	Lack of training	20	12.9%
2.	Lack of equipment	20	12.9%
3.	Lack of support from security agencies	15	9.6%
4.	Lack of public cooperation	05	3.2%
5.	Political interference	10	6.5%
6.	Corruption within the corps	30	19.4%
7.	Total	155	100%

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Table 3 is about the challenges faced and may be facing by the Katsina State Community Watch Corps. The table shows that 35.5% of the respondents have the opinion that inadequate funds will be a major challenge of the corps, 12.9% view lack of equipment as a major challenge, 3.2% see lack of public cooperation will be a challenge to the operation of the corps. Furthermore, those with the opinion that political interference and corruption within the corps are 6.5% and 19.4% respectively.

Table 4: Prospect of Katsina State Community Watch Corps

S/N	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
1.	The corps has the potential to play a significant role in combating insecurity, given its familiar with the terrain and its ability to gather intelligence from the community.	70	45.2%
2.	The corps can help to bridge the gap between the security agencies and the community.	55	35.5%
3.	The corps can help to raise awareness of the security issues, and promote crime prevention.	30	19.3%
4.	Total	155	100%

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Table 4 contains the prospect of Katsina State Community Watch Corps. 45.2% respondents believe that the corps has the potential to play a significant role in combating insecurity in Funtua, and the state in general. While 35.5% of the respondents, are of the opinion that the emergence of Community Watch in the state, could help to bridge the gap between security agencies and the community. However, 19.3% respondents view that the corps can help to raise awareness of the security issues, and promote crime prevention in Funtua, and Katsina state in general.

Table 5: What are the potential risks and challenges associated with the use of Katsina Community Watch Corps?

S/N	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Perception of the conflict as ethnic affairs	48	30.9%
2.	Absence of transparency and accountability in the recruitment process	15	9.7%
3.	Vigilante brutality tendency and ensuing lawlessness and injustice	54	34.8%
4.	Uncoordinated actions between the corps and other security personnel	38	24.6%
5	Total	155	100%

Source: Field survey (2023)

Table 5 shows the potential challenges associated with the use of Katsina Community Watch Corps in Funtua, and the state. 30.9% of the respondents believe that perceiving the conflict as an 'ethnic affairs' will be a major challenge. 9.7% are of the view that absence of transparency and accountability in the recruitment process is the potential challenge. However, 34.8% and 24.6% of the respondents believe that the tendency of vigilante brutality, lawlessness, and injustice, uncoordinated actions between the corps and other security personal will be a major potential challenges associated with the corps.

Table 6: What Katsina State Government and security agencies can do to better support for the Katsina State Community Watch Corps?

S/N	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Investing of adequate funding	75	48.4%
2.	Training and Development	55	35.5%
3.	Cooperation from security agencies	25	16.1%
4.	Total	155	100%

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Table 6 is about what government and security can do to better support for the Katsina State Community Watch Corps. 48.4% of the respondents have the view that investing of adequate fund by the government will better the operation of the corps, 35.5% believe that the government and security agencies can only support this corps through training and development. 16.1% of the respondents are of the opinion that the corps can be supported by the cooperation from security agencies.

Table 7: what is the key factor that will contribute to the success of Katsina Community Watch Corps?

S/N	Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Adequate funding	28	18.1%
2.	Timely training by expert in security management	77	49.7%
3.	Timely update and upgrade of equipment	50	32.2%
4.	Total	155	100%

Source: Field survey (2023)

Table 7 shows the key factors that will contribute to the success of Katsina Community Watch Corps. 18.1% of the respondents have agreed with the fact that adequate funding to the corps is a key factor that will determine the corps success. 49.7% of the respondents believe that timely training by expert in the security management is a key factor to the success of the corps. While 32.2% of the respondents believe that updating and upgrading of equipment is the factor that will determine the success of the corps.

9. Discussion of findings:

This study intends to find out the challenges and prospects of kastina state Community Watch Corps in combating security challenges in Funtua, Katsina state. Based on the findings, the respondents opined that, there are many challenges that the corps faced and may likely be facing in combating the insecurity in Funtua. Inadequate funding, lack of training on security management, lack of public support, and corruption within the corps are seen to be the most serious challenges that the corps will face now or in the long run. Although, according to the state government "the state executive council during the meeting approved another N320 million, in addition to the N640 million it approved earlier for the procurement of security equipment for the newly established community security watch corps in the state" (Vanguard, 2023). However, lack of support and synergy between the corps and other security agencies will also denounce the essence of creating the corps.

In terms of the prospect of this newly established Community Watch Corps in Katsina, the corps has the potential to play significant roles in combating insecurity in Funtua, Katsina state. And its presence will also create awareness against security issues and prevent crime in Funtua community. There is a presence of banditry, terrorism in the some parts of the state. In order to combat this issue the state has formed this corps which serves as a security watch and patrols. The corps is expected to be protecting their communities from the attacks and violence.

In the course of combating insecurity in Funtua, the corps has the tendency of falling within some potential risk. Such risks may perceive the conflict as 'ethnic affairs' which may turn out to bring about xenophobia. However, another potential risk may be the police extortionist tendency, vigilante brutality and ensuing lawlessness and injustice. Furthermore, unlawful arrest and detention of innocent people and extra judicial killings may be part of the potential risk associated with the corps. Furthermore, timely training and upgrade of modern arms will also determine the success of the corps in its quest to combating the security issues faced by the state.

For the newly established State Community Watch Corps to have support from the Katsina State government and security agencies, the study found out that adequate funding for the procurement of arms, vehicles, and the volunteers welfare will boost the morale of the personnel. In addition to this frequent training and cooperation from security personnel will be of immense help to Katsina state Community Watch Corps.

10. Conclusion

This study intends to examine the challenges and of prospect of Katsina State Community Watch Corps in combating insecurity in Funtua, Katsina state. In Katsina state, the activities of banditry, such as kidnapping, abduction, and cattle rustling have deteriorated all the socioeconomic endeavours of the people in the state. As a result of the fact that, the security personnel are not enough to cartel this menace, the Katsina state government has established community watch corps that will work in collaboration with the state securities and bridge the gap in combating the security issues. Based on the findings, there are many challenges that may limit the effectiveness and the success of establishing the corps, such as inadequate funding, brutality, arrest and detention of innocent people. The study has also found out that, another challenge that may hinder the activities of this corps in its fight against banditry is the tendency of taking the fight as ethnic affairs. However, despite the aforementioned challenges, the prospects of the corps are likely to be positive and clean. Based on the findings, the Katsina state Community Security Watch may help to address if not all the security issues, but will reduce its spread to other places that are not affected so far. Moreover, the study found out that justice to all regardless of the 'perceived, ethnic identity of the victim or perpetrator is another prospect that will ensure the success of the corps.

11. Recommendations

In order to squarely deal with the challenges, and ensure the effectiveness of the Katsina State Security Watch Corps in combating the security challenges in the state, the researcher recommend followings:

➤ The corps, after the defeat of the situation, should post service benefits such as pension or retention as the employees of the state.

➤ The system of oversight and accountability should be established to ensure that the corps works within the ambit of the law of the state.

➤ The coordination and information-sharing mechanism between the corps and the state-established law enforcement agencies should be strengthened.

➤ Katsina state government should collaborate and work hand-in-hand with the neighbouring state in its effort to fight bandits' activities.

➤ Katsina state government should formulate and implement a monitoring and evaluation system that will be assessing the effectiveness and impact of the Community Security Watch in the state.

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