

## Rural Socio-Economic Impact of Arms Proliferation on Crime in Katsina-Benue State

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Received: 2023-February-12

Rev. Req: 2023-March-27

Accepted: 2023-April-19



10.5758/ijls.v2i2.2023.27

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How to cite this paper: Olufunke, O.A., Jonathan, C. & Onuh, O. (2023). Ural Socio-Economic Impact of Arms Proliferation on Crime in Katsina-Benue State. *International Journal of Law and Society (IJLS)*, 2(2), 40-52. <https://doi.org/10.5758/ijls.v2i2.2023.27>

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**ABSTRACT:** *The study investigated the rural socioeconomic impact of arms proliferation on criminality in Katsina-Ala local government, Benue state, Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study, and a cross-sectional survey research design will be used to examine arms proliferation and criminality in Benue State. Area of the Study Katsina-Ala Local Government, while the sample size for the study was 400, the research uses cluster and random sampling techniques to select the study population. By simple random sampling, the names of the ten (12) council wards were written on pieces of paper, wrapped, dropped into a container and shaken thoroughly. Five (6) council wards out of the original ten (12) wards were randomly selected. The data collected through the questionnaire were analysed using frequency counts and percentages. From the findings, it was concluded from the research findings that even though arms proliferation is caused by so many factors, profitability and utilisation of small arms have been singled out as the primary cause of the unrest in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.*

Studi tersebut menyelidiki dampak sosial ekonomi pedesaan dari proliferasi senjata terhadap kriminalitas di pemerintah daerah Katsina-Ala, negara bagian Benue, Nigeria. Dua pertanyaan penelitian memandu penelitian, dan desain penelitian survei cross-sectional akan digunakan untuk memeriksa proliferasi senjata dan kriminalitas di Negara Bagian Benue. Daerah Kajian Pemerintah Daerah Katsina-Ala, sedangkan jumlah sampel penelitian adalah 400, penelitian ini menggunakan teknik cluster dan random sampling untuk memilih populasi penelitian. Dengan pengambilan sampel acak sederhana, nama dari sepuluh (12) dewan lingkungan ditulis di selembar kertas, dibungkus, dimasukkan ke dalam wadah dan dikocok secara menyeluruh. Lima (6) dewan lingkungan dari sepuluh (12) lingkungan asli dipilih secara acak.

Data yang terkumpul melalui kuesioner dianalisis dengan menggunakan perhitungan frekuensi dan persentase. Dari temuan tersebut disimpulkan dari temuan penelitian bahwa meskipun proliferasi senjata disebabkan oleh begitu banyak faktor, profitabilitas dan pemanfaatan senjata kecil telah dipilih sebagai penyebab utama kerusakan di Wilayah Pemerintah Daerah Katsina-Ala di Negara Bagian Benue.

**Keywords:** *Social Impact, Economic Impact, Weapons Proliferation.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, Nigeria has become a theatre of bloodshed, genocide, and insecurity due to the violent and carnage-causing activities of militants, bandits, and terrorists. Social vices like political violence, armed robbery, armed banditry, oil bunkering, ethnoreligious strife, vandalism, religious fundamentalism, kidnapping, militancy, Boko Haram, human trafficking, and other forms of violent crimes that are creating survival, stability, and security challenges for the country thrive more with little or no countercheck by the government. The proliferation and rise in possession of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999 is undoubtedly a regrettable feature of this setting, the presence of which makes the casualties of violent attacks unprecedentedly high.

More people have been murdered by small arms and light weapons (SALW) than by biological, chemical, or other WMD. Insecurity in Nigeria has been exacerbated by the proliferation of arms, according to United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/50/70. This insecurity includes cattle raiding, armed robberies, kidnapping, intertribal fighting between the north and other ethnic groups in the south, militant groups, and, most recently, the Boko Haram insurgency. Given that there are guns in hamlets, villages, towns, and state capitals alike, it is impossible to estimate the number of weapons in the nation. Given the challenges of lawfully obtaining a firearm, Hazen and Horner (2007) noted that most small guns in Nigeria are thought to be carried illegally. Because they are illegal, it is challenging to monitor flows and possession (Okeke and Oji, 2014). Through seaports and land borders, weapons enter the country.

Even though there are specific prospects for raising the standard of living, Benue State currently needs help with insecurity. This problem is characteristic of an intriguing situation in all its ramifications, as the proliferation of weapons is rising. And this has dreadful effects on a variety of facets of human life. The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) (2001) asserts that the spread and abuse of small arms pose a danger to individual safety, undermine the effective government, fuel abuse of human rights, and threaten social justice, development, and peace around the world, including Benue State.

The state's rural areas have the potential for agriculture, while its urban centres, including Makurdi, Gboko, Katsina-Ala, and Otukpo, also have some profitable commercial activity potential. The educated millennials, however, favour the few available white-collar occupations. Some of these educated youth have turned to

commercial motorcycle riding, working as touts at motor parks, among other jobs, to avoid being idle and farming simultaneously. Even better, some people have turned to crime as a source of income. Among the three main ethnic groupings, the state has also developed a crop of successful political elites (Idoma, Iggede, and Tiv). However, despite their inclination to offer economic possibilities that will empower young people, these individuals have yet to show a firm commitment to the state's socioeconomic development.

Instead, the political elites "empowered" the adolescents selfishly and destructively by providing them with weapons and ammunition to pursue their political goals. According to Shilgba (2004), the elites frequently provide poor Tiv men and women guns instead of products, wealth instead of weapons, and mutual hatred instead of health to employ against other Tiv. Do we include our children among the militia, wonders Shilgba (2004)? Even beyond the borders of Nigeria, they are kept as far away from the conflict zone as is humanly possible. The other ethnic nations have also not demonstrated admirable commitment, except Idoma elites, who have used their proximity to the top of the Nigerian economy to help their people; this carelessness is not limited to Tiv elites alone.

However, this is done to advance politically. The youth who lack literacy is, therefore, weaker. Meaningful progress cannot be made in Benue State with this collaboration. Numerous agricultural products, including groundnuts, yam rice, and oranges, have drawn customers to the state's markets. However, rather than being important in the supply value chain, young people typically opt to set up ambushes in various sections of the state to rob customers of their money.

To address the state's various security concerns, the administration has turned to antiquated security tactics that appear no longer effective in the modern era. These safety precautions are effective band-aid solutions, but economic security is far more critical. Songu (2016) argues further that security must be understood in all its dimensions, including food security, employment security, insurance coverage for one's health, financial safety, and other social security measures (Udofia & Alexander, 2017). For the government to effectively attempt to reduce crime in Benue and throughout Nigeria, insecurity must be addressed holistically. Bad economic governance is a major mediating factor between resource abundance and vulnerability (Ballentine & Sherman, 2003).

Therefore, failing to implement economic and security measures will undoubtedly lead to risks to the populace's security and safety, hindering economic progress. Small and Light Weapons (SALWs) are widely used, demonstrated by a rise in societal acceptance of firearms since the 1970s (Ikelegbe, 2014). Possession of weapons is today seen as a sign of manhood, rising prestige, affluence, and strength. Given the strict regulations on civilian gun ownership and that licences are only for hunting, 80% of the firearms in civilian hands are believed to have been obtained illegally (Obasi, 2002). This has led to unauthorised individuals having access to weapons, which has led to varied levels of crime throughout the state.

The proliferation of weapons is one of the problems facing African nations, including Nigeria, and is not limited to wealthy nations (Akpan & Udofia, 2015). The issue received

all of the attention, which indicated that things had quickly gotten out of hand. In addition, the majority of the speakers were from developing nations. Their message focused on the danger that the unrestrained trade in small guns poses to global peace and security. Despite the historic decisions on dealing with the issue, several subsequent events did little to raise the earlier high hopes. When the meeting was convened, the Arab Spring uprising had not yet begun, and nobody was anticipating the appearance of death squads such as Boko Haram, ISIS, and other murderous organisations.

However, the subsequent rise in household, governmental, and international violence indicates that the world is rapidly heading toward annihilation. This is made more apparent by the fact that human life and existence have never been as dangerous as they are. This tendency is fuelled by several factors, all of which can be traced back to the rapidly expanding production capacity of small arms and light weapons, whose widespread availability for both public and private use has made them powerful catalysts for criminal activity, war, interethnic or communal strife, and other forms of atrocities against humanity and society. This, combined with indigenous gun production in Nigeria, has led to crime and insecurity. Kidnapping, terrorism, weapons robberies, and general insecurity are now problems in Benue State. Despite several government initiatives, including an amnesty programme where illegal weapons were recovered, crime persists. This study interrogates the interface between arms proliferation and criminality in the Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.

Abagen& Tyona (2018) conducted a study on the impact of arms proliferation on Nigeria's national security. The study's primary objective was to investigate the rapid increase of arms and ammunition in Nigeria. The paper relied on secondary materials, and data were analysed using a qualitative method. Findings from the study show that Nigeria, since independence in 1960, has witnessed a lot of internally-generated crises, beginning with the Nigerian civil war, 1967-1970; the battle for political offices through elections; the ethnoreligious crisis; the Boko Haram menace; Fulani herders attacks; militancy in the Niger-Delta region; and armed robbery, among others. These crises have contributed significantly to the proliferation of illegal weapons in the nation, meaning Nigeria's security is seriously threatened. The paper recommends using modern technologies by security operatives at our porous borders and seaports and adequate provision of security workforce and other logistics to help curtail the flow of dangerous illegal arms and ammunition into the Nigerian nation-state.

Omitola and Awotayo (2016) investigated the proliferation of arms and challenges to national security and sustainable development in Nigeria. The paper used secondary materials, and the data were analysed qualitatively. Findings from the study revealed that Nigeria's porous border and money laundering, among other factors, are significant causes of arms flows into the country. The paper contends that all control initiatives have yet to work effectively, as illegal arms flow is still rising. The paper reveals that the proliferation of arms has created an ever-expanding circle of violent conflicts and hampered the country's sustainable development, as all areas of socio-economic development are affected.

Olayiwola (2017) evaluated Nigeria's proliferation of arms and security challenges. The paper relied on secondary sources, and content analysis was utilised. The trend has continued despite the illegality of the trade. Proliferation has taken on a severe dimension since the beginning of the current political dispensation. As a result of this, Nigeria has faced serious security challenges. They include the Maitatsine religious riots in Kano and Bauchi; religious riots in Kaduna; conflicts in Jos; the Zango-Kataf, Yoruba-Hausa/Fulani, Ife-Modakeke, Aguleri-Umuleri, TivJunkun, Ijaw-Ilaje, Ijaw-Itsekiri, Urhobo-Itsekiri, and Ijaw-Urhobo; Niger Delta crisis; and most recently, the Boko Haram insurgency. The perceived attack from the Fulani herders in certain parts of the country is one of the various crises faced due to the proliferation. This development calls for serious attention from the states as it poses serious security challenges. The increased number of internal crises or conflicts has been after the proliferation of arms in the state and has engendered the further proliferation of arms.

Alimba (2017) conducted a study on controlling the proliferation of small arms in Nigeria: emerging issues and challenges. Over time, the measures often adopted to regulate small arms have yielded little or no result because of increased demand for and supply of small arms and light weapons, which are readily induced more quickly than envisaged worldwide. Recent accounts revealed that Nigeria is awash with small arms and that large quantities of these weapons are found in illegal hands in the nooks and crannies of the country. These weapons are used to commit crimes and fuel violent conflicts, thwarting peace and its sustainability in the country. Poor security networks, corruption, border leakages, and politics have played dominant roles in Nigeria's excessive availability of arms.

Brown (2018) examined the impact of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons on Nigeria's quest for national security. The thrust of this paper is on the impact of uncontrolled proliferation, stockpiling, trafficking, availability, and usage of these arms on Nigeria's national security as it is believed to fuel alarming levels of armed crime, communal conflict, political instability, and social unrest, as well as flooding all the geo-political zones of the country with small arms. The paper further argues that the inability of the Nigerian government and its law enforcement agencies to check the menace has led to a significant challenge in terms of security, as it was revealed that previous and current efforts at tackling the issue had not yielded much, as only a few seizures of illegal arms have been made. Hence the proliferation continues to sustain and exacerbate armed conflicts within the country. The study is anchored on realist and failed state theories using secondary data, literature evidence, and descriptive and historical methodology. Findings reveal that the impact of small arms and light weapons on society is too grave and devastating to be treated with a kid's glove, as they lead to massive losses of lives and property, erode social capital, facilitate corruption, and foster a climate of impunity.

Wonah (2016) examines the proliferation of small arms in the Niger Delta and thinks that the proliferation of small arms in the Niger Delta is a consequence of the existential realities of the people of the Niger Delta. This opinion is made more concrete by adopting a political economy approach that takes a holistic view of the subject matter. It considered the inherent contradictions of a capitalist mode of production, which find

expression in economic determinism, as the underlying factor in determining the material existence of the people of the Niger Delta as occasioned by the actors of the state.

## II. METHOD

A cross-sectional survey research design will examine arms proliferation and criminality in Benue State. Area of the Study Katsina-Ala Local Government, the Sample for the study was 400. At the same time, the research uses cluster and random sampling techniques to select the study population. Moreover, through simple random sampling, the names of the ten (12) council wards were written on pieces of paper, wrapped and dropped in a container and shaken thoroughly. After that, five (6) council wards out of the original ten (12) wards were randomly selected. The data collected through the questionnaire was analysed using Frequency count, Percentage.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section of the study presents and analyses the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents.

Table 1. Socio-Demographic Characteristic of Respondents

Demographic Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	301	86
	Female	49	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>
Marital Status	Single	96	27.4
	Married	223	63.7
	Divorce/Widow	31	8.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>
Age	18-30	99	28.3
	31-40	141	40.3
	41-50	68	19.4
	51 and above	42	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>
Education	Non formal education	25	7.1
	Primary	31	8.9
	Secondary	182	52
	Tertiary	112	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>
Occupation	Farming	177	50.6
	Business	45	12.9
	Fishing	26	7.4
	Civil Servant	102	29.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>



Religion	Christianity	289	82.6
	Traditional	61	17.4
	Islam	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source:Field Survey, 2023

The data in Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of respondents. The distribution of the respondents according to sex in Table 1 shows that 301 or 86% were male while 49 or 14% were female. This shows that more males are heads of households than female respondents in the study area. This aligns with the African tradition where males are regarded as heads of households (Udofia, 2021; Udofia & Uduigwomen, 2022). The next segment, which is the marital status of the respondents, shows that 223 or 63.7% were married, whereas 96 or 27.4% of the respondents were single, while divorced/widows accounted for 31 or 8.9% of the total respondents. The implication of this to the study is that, since the majority of the respondents were married, they were faced with the reality of taking care of themselves and their family members and were displaced from the abode due to the proliferation of arms, which resulted in a high rate of crime in the area of study can negatively affect their means of livelihood.

The third segment in Table 1 shows that 99, or 28.3%, respondents were aged between 18 and 30. 141, or 40.3% of the respondents, were between the age brackets of 31-40 years, whereas 68 or 19.4% were aged between 41 and 50 years, and 42 or 12%, were 51 years and above. This shows that a significant proportion of the respondents representing 141 or 40.3%, were between the ages of 31-40. This has two implications for the study; first, it shows clearly that it is a productive population. Secondly, since most of them are of adult age, the tendency for youthful exuberance orchestrated by this segment of the population would be high.

The preceding segment shows the educational qualification of the respondents. Here those with secondary education constituted the highest with 182 or 52% of the respondents, followed by tertiary with 112 or 32%. In contrast, those with non-formal and primary education accounted for 25 or 7.1% and 31 or 8.9%, respectively. This result shows that the majority of the respondents are literate enough so that they can respond objectively to the matter under investigation.

On the occupational distribution of the respondents, the majority, representing 177 or 50.6%, engage in farming, followed by civil servants with 102 or 29.1%. In comparison, those in business and fishing accounted for 45 or 12.9% and 26 or 7.4%, respectively. This shows that farming is a significant source of livelihood for the people. The disruption of farming activities due to arms being in the hands of unauthorised persons has brought security challenges, making farming activities more complex and challenging. On religious affiliation, the respondents were mostly Christians, with 289 or 82.6% of the respondents, while traditional religion accounted for 61 or 17.4% of the respondents. This implies that the study area is inhabited predominantly by Christians.

**Table 2. Effects of Arms Proliferation on Criminality in Katsina-Ala Local Government**

Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Disruption of economic activities	92	26.2
Institutionalization of a culture of violence	56	16
Forced displacement of the population	47	13.4
Militarization of the Polity	10	3
Potential for food insecurity	145	41.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 2 shows that among the effects of arms proliferation potential on food, insecurity was identified as one of the significant consequences accounting for the highest loss representing 145 or 41.4% of the respondents, followed by disruption of economic activities representing 92 or 26.2%. In contrast, the institutionalization of a culture of violence stood at 16, while the forced displacement of the population and militarization of the polity accounted for 47 or 13.4% and 10 or 3 %, respectively. This implied that, since arms are in the hands of unauthorised persons, the majority of them have been using them to cause mayhem in the area of the study, therefore, discouraging people from going to their farms for fear of being killed or attacked hence the primary occupation of the people in the area is farming thereby causing a food shortage. More so, infrastructural facilities that support economic activities in the area are affected, thereby disrupting business merchants from operating in the area. This, no doubt, would affect the economy negatively. The social support network, which eases business activities in the study area, is dismantled. The terrors unleashed by the carriers of this goat board diplomacy have displaced the population who seek refuge in outlying areas, thereby creating humanitarian problems.

In addition, most of the respondents interviewed maintained that whenever such conflict occurs, farmers run for their lives, allowing the criminal elements to enter their farms and destroy crops. Some food crops harvested and stored in houses are destroyed since the owners have fled. One of the respondents, who identified himself as Mr Terna Wombo in an interview with the researcher in Katsina-Ala 10 October, 2022, has this to say:

“Most of my people are farmers, and this is their primary source of income; therefore, forcefully displacing them out of their ancestral land due to the activities of these criminals operating as militias will no doubt affect their occupation. Their primary source of income, which is farming, is greatly hampered.”

An interview held with some of the respondents regarding the topic under consideration indicated that the majority of the respondents unanimously agreed that this arms proliferation impedes economic development; they argued that when arms are in the hands of unauthorised persons, the tendency to put them to use for personal gain is very high thereby causing damage to humans, basic infrastructure such as houses, schools, roads, bridges, churches, hospitals and markets are destroyed. One of the respondents, who called himself Rev Timothy Kwaghange, was interviewed on 21 October 2022 in Katsina-Ala Local government bears his mind on the subject matter.



“Conflict usually results in a reprisal attack, thereby putting fear in traders who refuse to go to the markets or open shops for fear of being attacked. He believes that road transportation is the most popular and widely used but suffers a severe setback when conflict occurs. He contends that agricultural produce is hampered because basic infrastructure, such as roads and bridges needed to move farm produce to other safe areas. Besides, some people buy grains stored in those conflict ravage areas and become helpless as they cannot transport them due to the breakdown of transport facilities. Hospitals that supply the health needs of the people are destroyed, including schools and churches. These hurt the overall life of the people.”

This means that the crisis in Katsina-Ala local Government affects basic infrastructure such as houses, roads and bridges destroyed, and this hurts the government of Benue State; hence money that would have been used to better the lives of people in other sectors of the economy will be used to build destroyed structures thereby hampering accelerated development in the state. In addition, when conflict takes place, people flee in order to escape the attack and, in the process, trace some of their relatives or friends in another part of the state. This further strained the feeding requirement of the relatives’ homes. This increases the mouth to be fed but no commensurate increase in the food supply or money to buy food. Even decent accommodation becomes a problem as the available facilities are overstretched, making the people live in deplorable harsh conditions, making the majority live below three square meals a day.

In summary, we can deduce that conflict affects farmers negatively in Benue State. According to Ezekiel (2001), conflict can affect the economy negatively because there will be a sharp increase in the sale of food items which will cause inflation and probably lead to starvation. Conflict crowds out regular economic activity, such as food production, destroys necessary infrastructures and cuts off access to food supplies (Messer, Cohen and Machine, 2002; Collier et al., 2003).

In general, within 18 years, the economy of Katsina-Ala Local Government will suffer stagnation. There are multiplier effects of insecurity on the economy of the local Government. Thus, most small and medium-scale enterprises closed down their business, and even the only Bank in the area usually gives skeletal services operations due to losses they have incurred from the armed robbers.

**Table 3. Measures to curtail proliferation of arms and criminality in Katsina-Ala LGA**

Measures	Frequency	Percentages
Provision of Job opportunities for the youths	153	44
Arms dealers should be arrested and prosecuted	58	17
Good governance	123	35
Politicians should desist from arming the youth for electoral purposes	16	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source:Field survey, 2022

The data elicited above concerning measures taken to address the arms proliferation and criminality in Katsina-Ala Local Government shows that the provision of job opportunities for the youth was singled out as the significant cause representing 153 or 44% of the total respondents, followed by good governance which accounted for 123 or 35% whereas 58 or 17% of the respondents went for the prosecution of arms dealers to deter other from engaging in this illegal business. In comparison, 16 or 4% of the respondents felt the solution is that politicians should stop aiding criminality by providing a soft landing for these criminal elements when arrested.

Most of the respondents interviewed argue that if the government can provide job opportunities for graduate youth, the tendency of them being manipulated and used by politicians to cause mayhem would be minimal. For us to experience this, good governance becomes sacrosanct. Those in positions of authority should see themselves as servants rather than leaders. In that wise, the social contract entered into with the people in the first instance would yield results knowing fully well that lousy governance is tantamount

to change of government. Law enforcement agencies should ensure that those found to have engaged in these sharp practices be treated in a such to serve as a deterrent to others.

### Discussion of Findings

Research question one revealed the impact of arms proliferation on criminality in the Katsina-Ala Local Government. The effects of arms proliferation, as identified by the study, include disruption of economic activities, the institutionalisation of a culture of violence, forced displacement of the population, militarization of the polity, and the potential for food insecurity. These effects are very high. First, agriculture, which has been the mainstay of the people, was destroyed, and social support networks were dismantled. Consequently, most small and medium-sized families are adversely affected and impoverished. Domestic economic activities were disrupted, and occupations were lost. The cordial ethnic, tribal, and religious relations among the people were dashed. Individual life dignities were lost because of the lack of privacy necessitated by inadequate accommodation for affected persons. Families were rooted out of their traditional and ancestral domain, practise, and way of life due to the activities of these hoodlums, who killed, kidnapped, and destroyed the people's properties. This economic backwardness, food insecurity, kidnapping and human trafficking, insecurity, loss of socio-cultural and communal value systems, and deterioration in the health and education systems were some of the effects identified by the study. The destruction of human lives and markets by militia gangs has virtually hampered economic activities in the region. The people can no longer go to the market or their farms; this has resulted in a food crisis, which will spell doom for the economy, according to Ezekiel (2001). Education, which shapes the thinking and behaviour of people and how they can change the environment to their advantage, has been neglected due to the activities of these criminals. Therefore, it is easier to become a terrorist and survive than to live according to the acceptable standards prescribed by society. This does no doubt that militia gangs

have an undue advantage in recruiting uneducated and vulnerable youth to commit crimes against the state to survive.

Research questions Two measures were proffered that would mitigate the proliferation of arms and reduce crime in Katsina-Ala, which include the provision of job opportunities for the youths, good governance, the prosecution of arms dealers to serve as deterrents to others, and de-emphasising political thuggery in our electioneering process as this would not only discourage hooliganism but reduce violence and criminality in the Benue political landscape. Youths are often the promoters of violence and should be provided with decently paid employment to discourage them from being used and manipulated by the ruling class. This can be made possible through good governance, where only those with proven integrity and who have demonstrated the capacity to provide good governance are voted into office. By so doing, those in the governance architecture that have poorly performed should be shown their faces during elections.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The study, therefore, concludes that the government (particularly the local government) should collaborate with the communities and other stakeholders to host regular community-based programmes for value reorientation among the people and, by extension, awaken the conscience of the people to the reality that matters of security must not be left to the government. Also, relevant security agencies, especially the anti-kidnapping squad, should be adequately equipped and funded to stamp out criminality in the Katsina-Ala LGA. It was recommended that the youth whom are the users of these deadly weapons be provided with job opportunities to earn a decent living by which they would be engaged and may need more time to engage in such dastardly activities for the greater good of society. Security agencies should arrest and prosecute those who engage in illegal arms dealing. This would go a long way in deterring those willing to engage in this venture. Hence, people have argued that the business is lucrative and that the tendency for people to engage in it is very high. Politicians who are sponsors of arms proliferation should not be spared, and those found wanting should be treated according to the laws of the land by the security agencies. They are the ones who usually smuggle in these weapons for the youth for election purposes, and most will be discouraged.

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