

# *“Terror In The City”: Interrogating The Security Conundrum Of “One Million Boys” In Kudeti Area Of Ibadan, Oyo State*

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**Abstract** – The prevalence of gang and urban violence has become a significant concern in many societies worldwide, with Ibadan, Oyo State, being no exception. The emergence of the One Million Boys gang in the Kudeti area of Ibadan highlighted the growing insecurity in urban regions. This study investigated the activities of the One Million Boys, focusing on their impact on the community and the broader security implications for the area. The study explored the nature of the One Million Boys' activities, their motivations, and the consequent security challenges. Using the Broken Windows Theory as a framework, this research delved into the underlying factors that allowed such a group to thrive, as well as the societal and law enforcement responses to their actions.

The study employed a mixed-method design, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data. Data were collected using a self-designed questionnaire, “One Million Boys’ Activities Questionnaire,” and a Key Informant Interview (KII) guide. Quantitative data were analyzed using mean and standard deviation, while qualitative data were thematically analyzed. Empirical findings from the study revealed that the activities of the One Million Boys included burglaries, robberies, gun possession, drug-related crimes, kidnappings, and even murder. Motivating factors for involvement in these activities were found to include a family history of gang involvement, unemployment, media influence, poverty, and the allure of loyalty and protection within the gang. The study further highlighted that the gang's actions had severe security implications, leading to loss of lives, destruction of property, disruption of commercial activities, forced displacement of residents, heightened fear within the community, and an overall increase in criminality within the state.

The study concludes that the activities of the One Million Boys gang encompassed a range of criminal behaviors, including burglaries, robberies, gun possession, substance abuse, kidnapping, intimidation, street loitering, physical altercations, illegal drug operations, and even murder. Additionally, the study identified several key factors that motivated individuals to engage in such thuggish activities. These factors included a family history of gang involvement, high unemployment rates, media influence, poverty, loss of hope, oppression, inadequate family upbringing, drug use, and a desire for loyalty, protection, and personal gratification.

**Keywords** – Security, One Million Boys, Gang, Urban Violence

## I. INTRODUCTION

Security is a fundamental pillar of societal stability and development, essential for the well-being and prosperity of communities worldwide. It encompasses the protection of citizens, the preservation of public order, and the safeguarding of property. As such,

ensuring security is a primary responsibility of governments, tasked with creating an environment where individuals can live, work, and thrive without fear of harm. The significance of security extends beyond mere physical safety; it underpins economic growth, social cohesion, and the overall quality of life. Despite its critical importance, many governments have struggled to fulfil this fundamental duty. In numerous societies, lapses in security measures have led to widespread fear and instability. Factors such as inadequate resources, corruption, and inefficiency within security agencies have exacerbated these issues, leaving many communities vulnerable to crime and violence. The inability of the government to provide comprehensive security has not only eroded public trust but also emboldened criminal elements who exploit these weaknesses.

Among the most pressing and recent breaches of security in urban regions is the surge in gang violence. Urban areas, with their dense populations and complex socio-economic dynamics, have become hotspots for gang activities (Jones & Rodgers, 2015). These gangs engage in various forms of criminal behavior, including robbery, extortion, and violent confrontations, which significantly disrupt the peace and safety of communities. The rise of gang violence highlights the broader challenges of maintaining security in rapidly urbanizing environments. In recent times, insecurity has remained a poignant issue in most states of the federation. Among the states grappling with this menace is Oyo State, which has documented numerous instances of gunmen invasions, killings, gang attacks, kidnappings, rape, herdsmen/farmers disputes, banditry, armed robberies, and murder. One of the most recent and severe incidents is the invasion of the One Million Boys in the Kudeti neighborhood of Ibadan Southeast, Oyo State. The inhabitants of this area, and other communities, have faced significant challenges due to the level of insecurity, resulting in rival cult versus gang conflicts and violent attacks. Oyo State has experienced unprecedented levels of insecurity, leading to the loss of many lives and property worth millions of naira. The activities of the One Million Boys remained unchallenged by community elders, and without fear of law enforcement agents, they conduct their menacing activities openly. Residents are well-aware of their sophistication with dangerous weapons, and anytime the group strikes, innocent residents and those unlucky to be in the wrong place at the wrong time always count their losses (Akinola, 2017).

The activities of the One Million Boys in Ibadan forced many residents to leave their homes and abandon their shops for fear of injury or death. The group has unleashed mayhem on innocent members of the public in parts of the Ibadan metropolis for several years, robbing, attacking, and inflicting severe bodily injuries on some individuals before their leader Ebila was killed by Operation Burst in Oyo State. The incessant conflicts and social disorder have created severe psychological, political, and socio-economic dysfunctions, causing inhabitants to face terrorization due to the chaos and violence associated with the group's activities. These actions have crippled daily life and interactions in the area, resulting in a state of uncertainty, fear, and low morale occasioned by fierce gun battles and reprisal attacks between government forces and the group. This precarious situation has significantly paralyzed the socio-economic endeavours of the area's occupants.

Recently, the study of security has experienced a paradigm shift. Emphasis has moved from state sovereignty and national security to human security issues. Ensuring a state's security now involves safeguarding its citizens. According to Francis (2006, p. 23), security has evolved from its primarily military roots to include "non-military dimensions such as environment, migration, ethno-religious and nationalist identities, poverty and human security and disease." Therefore, ensuring the safety of people and their environment requires a comprehensive approach to human security. Human security is one of the fundamental objectives of the United Nations, though the exact meaning of "safety of individuals" remains debated. Human security is ambiguous because there is no universally accepted measure to assess an individual's safety. Terms like "freedom from want" and "absence of fear" (United Nations, 1994) are abstract and difficult to concretize and measure. However, human security can be understood as a high level of well-being and overall safety. The case of the One Million Boys in the Kudeti area of Ibadan offers an opportunity to reinvigorate the concept of human security from all contexts. Human security in Nigeria has been a pressing concern for the government despite the availability of many resources, negatively impacting the country's economy, particularly in sectors like tourism and foreign investment. Numerous factors, including the government's callous attitude toward human security, restrict its achievement.

While violent gang groups have persisted in most Nigerian societies and continue to attract the attention of academics and the government, they have also continued to spread outside of rural regions and into urban regions. A deadly cult organization known as one million boys first appeared in areas of Kudeti in the Ibadan district of Oyo State in 2020 as a result of the rampant street violence in this area.

While the activities of the One Million Boys gang were eventually brought under control, the pain and devastation they inflicted on the residents of Kudeti still linger, motivating this study. Violent cult gangs are ubiquitous in Nigeria, with their activities threatening peace and security wherever they operate. While there are many violent gangs in Oyo State, not all carry the appellation of violent gang like the One Million Boys, who operated in the Kudeti area of Ibadan Southeast Local Government between 2020 and 2021. Despite the challenges associated with the proliferation of gang groups and their devastating activities in the state, there has been a surprising lack of adequate studies on the security implications of these deadly groups. This gap in the literature underscores the need for a comprehensive investigation into the security implications of the One Million Boys' activities in Ibadan, Oyo State. Understanding these implications is crucial for developing effective strategies to prevent future occurrences and to restore and maintain peace and security in the affected communities.

## II. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. What is the nature of the One Million boys' activities in the study area?
- ii. What are the motivating factors for members of the gang?
- iii. What are the efforts of the government in managing the group in the study area?
- iv. What are the security implications of the One million boys' activities in the study area?

## III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study's broad objective is to explore the security implication of "One million boys" activities in Ibadan South east local government of Oyo State Nigeria, while specific objectives are;

- i. examine the nature of the One Million boys' activities in the study area;
- ii. interrogate the motivating factors for members of the gang;
- iii. investigate the efforts of the government in managing the group in the study area; and
- iv. examine the security implications of the One Million Boys' activities in the study area.

## IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

### The concept of security

The discourse on security has evolved significantly over time, adapting to changes in global security threats. Historically, many theories and perspectives on security have developed to explain, rationalize, and legitimize state actions within a security framework. The social contract theories, for instance, facilitated the inclusion of security into political discourse by emphasizing the emancipation of individuals from anarchy and the guarantee of their freedom and security. Since the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, the concept of security has been inherently linked to the state, granting it the exclusive prerogative to define and ensure security (Yakubu & Shuaibu, 2016).

Conceptually, security can be understood in several ways. The Longman Dictionary defines security as the measures taken to keep a person, building, or country safe from danger or crime. Additionally, security provides a form of protection by creating a separation between assets and potential threats (ISECOM, 2014).

The concept of security can be thoroughly explored through the lens of human security and safety. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (1994), human security encompasses protection from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression. It also involves safeguarding individuals from sudden and harmful disruptions in their daily lives, whether these occur at home, in the workplace, or within the community. The UNDP report identifies economic, food, health, environment, personal, community and political as seven critical components that constitute human security.

Security, in this context, is a measure that ensures progress and peaceful coexistence. It entails the absence of worries, threats, and tensions that could lead to the loss of life, liberty, possessions, objectives, and values. The potential for individuals to thrive and

improve is fundamentally dependent on security. This broad approach to security includes strategies aimed at transforming social systems, such as defending human rights and fulfilling basic human needs.

### **The Concept of Insecurity**

The term "insecurity" suggests a state of fear or anxiety arising from a concrete or perceived lack of protection. Insecurity is often used to describe a wide range of issues centered on anxiety and fear, essentially indicating the absence of security. A deeper understanding of security facilitates a better grasp of insecurity.

Maslow (1942) argued that insecurity is an emotional problem, characterized by disturbance due to sensations of tension, anxiety, and conflict, along with other tension-related consequences such as nervousness. Psychologically insecure individuals perceive the world as intimidating and view life itself as insecure (Maslow et al., 1945). According to Beland (2005), insecurity includes not feeling safe from criminal activity and not being protected from psychological harm. This encompasses emotional stress due to the lack of assurance that one is accepted, has the opportunity to pursue goals, and has the freedom to do so without fear. Achumba and Ighomereho (2013) further assert that individuals experiencing insecurity are not only uncertain or oblivious to potential threats but are also unable to prevent or defend themselves when such threats occur.

In respect to this study, insecurity is a multifaceted concept that impacts both the psychological and physical realms of human experience. It reflects a fundamental state of vulnerability and uncertainty, profoundly affecting individuals' perception of safety and their ability to navigate their environment confidently. Understanding insecurity requires an integrated approach that considers both emotional and tangible aspects of protection and safety.

### **The Activities of Gangs**

The concept of gangs has been closely linked with violence and insecurity in many societies, particularly within African contexts. Gangs are increasingly recognized as sources of instability and significant threats to states. These organizations are perceived to provide their members with benefits such as loyalty, support, and safety. However, they also promote and facilitate violence, leading to a higher likelihood of their members engaging in criminal activities (Chu, Daffern, Thomas, & Lim, 2012) and becoming victims themselves (Katz, Webb, Fox, & Shaffer, 2011). Many agree that it is a gang's criminal activity, specifically their law-breaking behaviour, that distinguishes them, rather than merely their nuisance behaviour (Weerman et al., 2009). Although little is known about the precise origins of gangs (Hughes, 2013), they tend to form similarly to other groups by offering members something they need or desire (Goldstein, 2002). According to Knox (1994), gangs provide youth with three forms of power: economic power (the ability to pay, buy, and impress), coercive power (the use of force and violence), and status power within the gang hierarchy.

The above submissions suggest that, the activities of gangs have far-reaching implications for societal security and stability. The link between gangs and violence is well-established, with these groups often serving as both perpetrators and victims of crime. They offer their members a sense of loyalty, support, and safety but at the cost of engaging in criminal activities and fostering environments of fear and insecurity. The criminal activities of gangs, rather than their nuisance behaviors, are what make them distinct and particularly problematic for law enforcement and communities.

### **Theoretical Framework**

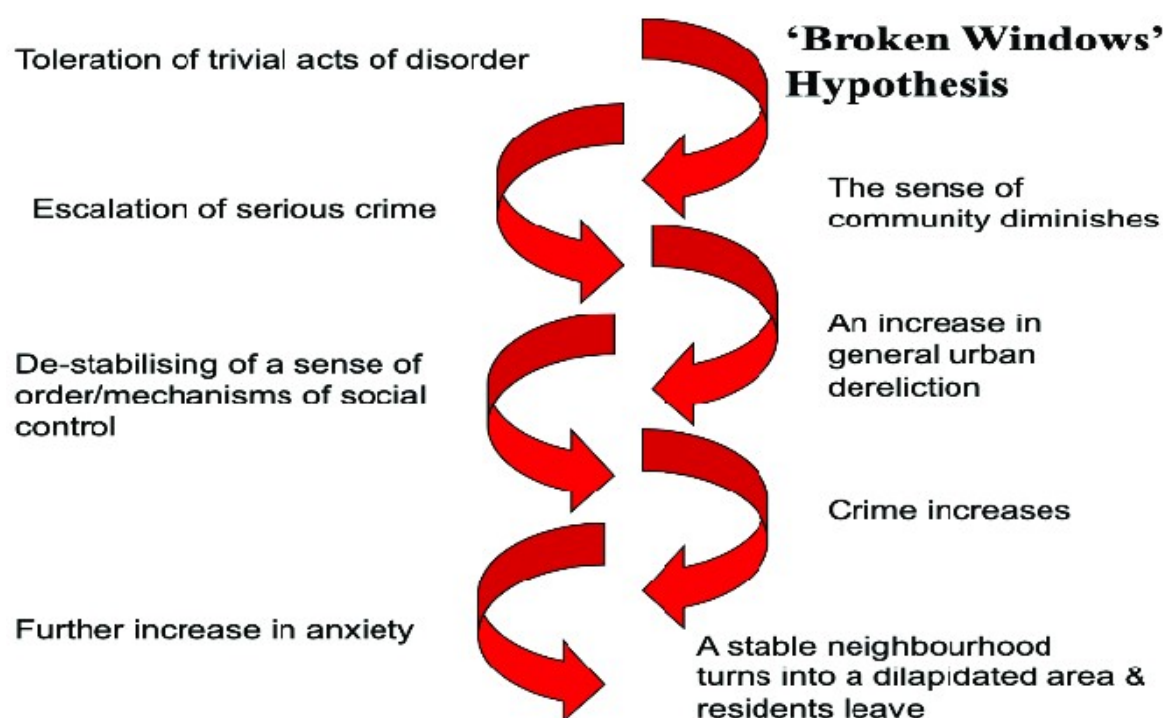
The study uses the theory of broken window's theory to explain the activities of one million boys in the study area.

#### **Broken Windows' Theory**

The theory developed by Wilson and George Kelling in 1982 posits that unattended minor issues in a community, symbolized by a single broken window, can escalate into more severe problems, eventually leading to the deterioration of the entire neighbourhood. This concept extends to various anti-social behaviours such as rudeness, noise, truancy, and vandalism, both literally and metaphorically. Wilson and Kelling (1989), argued that unchecked social vices can evolve into serious crimes that threaten community safety. These unchecked behaviours lead to a reduction in social interaction as people begin to avoid areas where such vices are prevalent.

When there are no repercussions or oversight, individuals inclined towards criminality are more likely to commit further offenses. Conversely, if community members perceive that efforts are being made to uphold law and order by addressing any actions that violate community norms and values, they are more likely to resist or report crimes, preventing them from spiralling out of control. This creates a positive feedback loop where residents are more inclined to report anti-social behaviour, trusting that security personnel will respond appropriately. As confidence in the security forces grows, so does the likelihood of confronting lawbreakers, which ultimately benefits society. The theory underscores the responsibility of the police to intervene early and prevent minor infractions from escalating into major problems. Their role is to maintain public law and order by addressing illegal activities promptly before they worsen. This framework is pertinent to understanding why the activities of the One Million Boys in the Kudeti area escalated to such a degree. According to the theory, if the community and police had responded decisively to the initial incidents, the group's activities might not have proliferated to the extent that they did.

**Figure 1:** Broken Windows Hypothesis, Wilson and Kelling (1989)



Source: Göklem Tekdemir. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Broken-Windows-Hypothesis-Wilson-and-Kelling-1989\\_fig1\\_353745054](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Broken-Windows-Hypothesis-Wilson-and-Kelling-1989_fig1_353745054)

## V. METHODOLOGY

The study employed concurrent mixed-method. This design allows usage of both quantitative and qualitative data set in single research. All youths within All youths in Ibadan South East local government area of Oyo State Nigeria where the activities of these are being felt formed the target population for questionnaire part. While, all compound chiefs and security personnel serving at the division office within the council under consideration formed the target population for the qualitative component.

One-hundred (100) residents who had resided more than five years within Kudeti axis and are still residing there were purposively sampled. Seven respondents were purposively sampled for key informant interview section. This comprised two compound chiefs from Kudeti district, three security personnel serving within the study location and two business owners within the location under investigation.



The study employed both self-designed questionnaire and Key Informant Interview guide (KII guide). The questionnaire tagged “One Million boys’ Activities Questionnaire” with reasonable reliability index was used to obtain information from the participants. The mean and standard deviation tools were explored to achieve all the objectives and answer the research questions. The information obtained from the Key Informant Interview (KII) was thematically analysed.

## VI. RESULTS

### Results Based on the Demographic Distribution of the Respondents

**Table 1:** Descriptive statistics showing the distribution of respondents with respect age, marital status, religious affiliation, and educational qualifications.

	18-25 Yrs.	26-35 Yrs.	36-45 Yrs.	46 & above Yrs.	
Age	15(15%)	28(28%)	51(51%)	6(6%)	
	Single	Married	Divorced	Widow	
Marital Status	5(5%)	95(95%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	
	Islam	Christianity	Traditional	Others	
Religious	89(89%)	11(11%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	
	NCE	OND	Degree/HND	Postgraduate	Others
Educational Qualifications	10(10%)	12(12%)	77(77%)	1(1%)	0(%)

Table 1 indicated that 15% of the respondents are between 18-25 years of age, 28% of them are between 26-35 years of age, 51% and 6% of the participants are between 36-45 years and 46 years and above respectively. It is revealed that majority of the respondents were within age of 36-45 years of age range as having 48% of the total respondents.

The results indicated that five (5) of the respondents which represented 5% of the total participants are single going by their marital status, ninety-five (95) of them which represented 95% were married. While, none of them were neither divorced nor widow. It can be deduced that majority of the participants involved in the study were married as having 95% of the entire respondents used in the research.

The empirical findings indicated displayed that eighty-nine (89) of the participants which represented 89% claimed to be Muslim, while the remaining Eleven (11) participants which amounted to 11% are Christianity by their claim. No participants have neither Traditional nor others as their religious affiliation. worshipers. Hence, majority of the participants involved in the research are Muslim as having 89% of the overall respondents.

The result also indicated that ten (10) respondents had Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) which represented 10%, twelve (12) of them which accounted for 12% had Ordinary National Diploma certificate, seventy-seven (77) and one (1) of the respondents which amounted to 77% and 1% had Higher National Diploma/First Degree certificates, and postgraduate certificates, respectively. Therefore, majority of the participants had Higher National Diploma/First Degree certificates.

### Results Based on Research Questions

**Research Question 1:** What is the nature of the One Million boys’ activities in the study area?

**Table 2:** Descriptive statistics containing respondents' perspective of the nature of the One Million boys' activities in the study area

Items on Nature of One-Million Boys' Activities	Mean	St. Dev
Burglaries	3.04	0.69
Robberies	3.20	0.75
Gun Possession / distribution / trafficking	3.56	0.82
Smoking and drug taking	3.01	0.66
Kidnapping	3.01	0.66
Intimidating and abusive to people	3.04	0.69
Hanging around on the streets	3.20	0.75
Fighting	3.56	0.82
Weed dispensaries,	3.01	0.66
Murder	3.01	0.66

**Decision Value:** Undecided = 0.00-0.09 Negative = 0.10 -2.00 Positive = 2.01-4.00.

Table 2 contained respondents' view on the nature of the One Million boys' activities in the study area. The empirical findings indicated that the nature of the One Million boys' activities within Kudeti consisted of burglaries, robberies, gun possession, smoking and drug taking, kidnapping, intimidating and abusive to people, hanging around on the streets, fighting, weed dispensaries, and murder with mean values of 3.04, 3.20, 3.56, 3.01, 3.01, 3.04, 3.20, 3.56, 3.01, and 3.01, respectively which are within the positive decision region. The interview conducted corroborated the empirical outcomes by revealing thus:

One-million boys activities started few years back by gathering around Kudeti and appointed a guy with nicknamed 'Ebila' as their head. This group has gun in their possession but did not involve in armed robbery and kidnapping activities. Thought, the group usually confront other thuggery group and, in most cases, defeat them. One-million boys took active role during 'Soka Knapping Activities' by apprehending the kidnappers. However, this group provides security services to the entire Kudeti community to the extent that no armed robbery cases are reported within the zone. The one-million boys do involve in land dispute crisis, smoking and drug taking, hanging around on the streets, fighting, and weed dispensaries to mention a few (Key Informant Interview Report, 2024).

**Research Question 2:** What are the motivating factors for members of the gang?

**Table 3:** Descriptive statistics containing respondents' perspective of the motivating factors for members of the gang.

Items on the Motivating Factors for Members of the Gang	Mean	St. Dev
Family history of gang involvement	3.01	0.61
High rate of unemployment	3.50	0.75
Media influence	3.67	0.65
Poverty	3.67	0.65
Loss of hope	3.67	0.65
Oppression	3.01	0.61

Lack of proper training and upbringing by family.	3.50	0.75
Drugs	3.01	0.61
Loyalty, protection and enjoyment,	3.67	0.65

**Decision Value:** Undecided = 0.00-0.09 Negative = 0.10 -2.00 Positive = 2.01-4.00.

Table 3 contained respondents' view on the motivating factors for members of the one-million boys' gang. The empirical findings indicated that family history of gang involvement, high rate of unemployment, media influence, poverty, loss of hope, oppression, lack of proper training and upbringing by family, drugs, loyalty, protection and enjoyment are some of the motivating factors for involvement in thuggery activities with mean values of 3.01, 3.50, 3.67, 3.67, 3.67, 3.01, 3.50, 3.01, and 3.67, respectively which are within the positive decision region. The respondents of the interview conducted reiterated thus:

The membership of one-million boys is basically involved in thuggery exercise for people around them to recognize them and even these boys move in group. This group was formed and extended their tentacle as a result of lack of parental care, poor orientation from the governmental side, and peer influence to mention a few. This group is dominated by young (Key Informant Interview Report, 2024).

**Research Question 3:** What are the efforts of the government in managing the group in the study area?

**Table 4:** Descriptive statistics containing respondents' perspective on the efforts of the government in managing the group in the study area.

Items on the Efforts of the Government in Managing the Group	Mean	St. Dev
Use of dialog strategy to avert some of their thuggery activities	3.05	0.58
Increase employability among the gang members	3.05	0.58
Introduction of gang intelligence officers.	3.50	0.75
Isolation of gang leadership	3.50	0.75

**Decision Value:** Undecided = 0.00-0.09 Negative = 0.10 -2.00 Positive = 2.01-4.00.

Table 4 contained respondents' view on the efforts of the government in managing the group in the study area. The empirical findings indicated that the use of dialog strategy to avert some of their thuggery activities, increase employability among the gang members, introduction of gang intelligence officers and isolation of gang leadership are some of the efforts expected of the government to be taken not only in addressing the one-million boys' activities but also thuggery event in general with mean values of 3.05 and 3.50, respectively which are within the positive decision criteria. The participants of the interview session submitted that:

There is synergy among security personnel with the view of reducing or possibly eliminating thuggery within Ibadan metropolis. There is joint task security team comprising civil defence, DSS, policemen, army personnel, Amotekun among others with the motive of addressing thuggery. Provision of job and orientation programmes by governmental or non-governmental bodies would go a long way in changing the thuggery orientation of one-million boys. In another development, people in the helms of affairs are using these guys most especially during the electioneering exercise for their personal gains (Key Informant Interview Report, 2024).

**Research Question 4:** What are the security implications of the One million boys' activities in the study area?



**Table 5:** Descriptive statistics containing respondents' perspective on the security implications of the One million boys' activities in the study area.

Security Implication of One-Million Boys' Activities	Mean	St. Dev
Leads to loss of lives	3.66	0.82
Destruction of properties	3.04	0.69
Interrupt with commercial activities of the people within the area	3.20	0.75
It makes people became refugees	3.04	0.69
Creates fear among community members	3.20	0.75
It increases criminality in the state	3.66	0.82
It restricts the movement of the stranger within area.	3.20	0.75

**Decision Value:** Undecided = 0.00-0.09 Negative = 0.10 -2.00 Positive = 2.01-4.00.

Table 5 contained respondents' view on the security implications of the One million boys' activities in the study area. The empirical findings indicated that the activities of one-million boys usually result into loss of lives, destruction of properties, interrupt with commercial activities, makes people became refugees, creates fear among community members, increases criminality in the state, and restricts the movement of the stranger with mean values of 3.66, 3.04, 3.20, 3.04, 3.20, 3.66 and 3.20, respectively, which are within the positive decision criteria. The interview conducted on this direction indicated that:

The activities of one-million boys have both economic and security implications on the community under investigation. With respect to economic implication, the economic activities usually paralyze whenever this group has an encounter either with member of the community or other thuggery group. Any shop owners within the study location who failed to shut down his/her transaction prior their thuggery crisis would be attacked and dealt with by members of this group to the extent that few of his/her goods or items may be damaged. On the part of security, the vehicular and people's movement are usually restricted whenever this group is at loggerhead with someone or other group (Key Informant Interview Report, 2024)

## VII. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The empirical findings indicated that burglaries, robberies, gun possession, smoking and drug taking, kidnapping, intimidating and abusive to people, hanging around on the streets, fighting, weed dispensaries, and murder are some of the natures of One Million boys' activities. Oloruntimehin, (2017) concurred that the proliferation of youth gangs fueled by sustained economic depression in Nigeria has led to an increase in the crime rate as more young people resort to gang-like criminal activities such as burglary, extortion, protection rackets, fraud, and political violence to make ends meet.

The empirical findings indicated that family history of gang involvement, high rate of unemployment, media influence, poverty, loss of hope, oppression, lack of proper training and upbringing by family, drugs, loyalty, protection and enjoyment are some of the motivating factors for involvement in thuggery activities. Raufu and Mendies (2021) supported that the poverty and deprivations resulting from the culture of corruption and ineptitude of the political class amid sustained economic crisis created a fertile climate that encouraged youth to see membership in urban gangs as alternative means to satisfy unmet needs. Gangs, therefore, became adaptive social forces in a stressful environment for Nigerian youth to find succor that traditional means had taken out of their reach.

Cloward and Ohlin (2019) adduced the restraints in opportunity structures experienced by the lower class of society. This limitation arises because the lower class is disadvantaged and do not have access to economic opportunities that are randomly available to members of the middle and upper classes. Thornberry, (2018) stated that youths from disorganized neighborhoods, broken homes, and who associate with delinquent peers exhibit a high tendency of becoming gang members. Lenzi, (2014) concurred that gang

and the attendant criminality can run in a family as a result of which a child is socialized into intergenerational gang culture such as gang membership being passed from one generation to another. On the other hand, family instability and the consequent absence of parental support can create a difficult environment that can lead young people to seek the company of other neglected youth.

The empirical findings indicated that the use of dialog strategy to avert some of their thuggery activities, increase employability among the gang members, introduction of gang intelligence officers and isolation of gang leadership are some of the efforts expected of the government to be taken not only in addressing the one-million boys' activities but also thuggery event in general.

The empirical findings indicated that the activities of one-million boys usually result into loss of lives, destruction of properties, interrupt with commercial activities, makes people became refugees, creates fear among community members, increases criminality in the state, and restricts the movement of the stranger. There is no doubt that effect of war, social unrest, electoral violence, riot / protests etc. which are all features of security challenges always lead to loss of properties and lives of viable and productive youths as the army of unemployed youth are being used as tools by politicians to perpetrate their selfish act.

### **VIII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The concluded that burglaries, robberies, gun possession, smoking and drug taking, kidnapping, intimidating and abusive to people, hanging around on the streets, fighting, weed dispensaries, and murder are some of the natures of One Million boys' activities. It is also concluded that family history of gang involvement, high rate of unemployment, media influence, poverty, loss of hope, oppression, lack of proper training and upbringing by family, drugs, loyalty, protection and enjoyment are some of the motivating factors for involvement in thuggery activities. In addition, the government is expected to take steps to address not only the activities of the one million boys but also thuggery in general. These steps include employing dialog strategy to prevent some of their thuggery, increasing employability among gang members, introducing gang intelligence officers, and isolating gang leadership. Ultimately, the actions of a million lads typically lead to fatalities, property damage, disruptions of business operations, the creation of refugees, terror among the populace, a rise in crime in the state, and limitations on the movement of strangers. Hence, the following recommendations are raised.

The governments should rise to the occasion by taming and ending thuggery gangs in the state. This can be achieved through introducing those policies that would bring about the social-inclusiveness of members of the various people and communities that made up the state as well as providing those basic human needs that are intrinsic of the people in the entire state.

Government should also direct monies to public education, i.e. mass literacy, as it is through this that the youths are more enlightened and become useful and acceptable members of the society as well as contributing positively to the development of the nation.

Politicians employing the services of the youths as political thugs should be banned from contesting elections or holding any political position in the country. This should be included in the rules and regulations that guide the code of conduct of politicians in Electoral act.

Moreover, parents and guardians as well as religious leaders should inculcate morals in their children and congregations as the case may be. They should be taught how important it is to be peace seekers and lovers not only within the family but in the country at large.

Only sure ways to reduce crime in the society is to grow the economy and absorb the teeming unemployed youths. Perhaps, it is only when they are gainfully engaged that the high incidence of crime will slowly but surely come down. This can be supported by the wealthy citizens in the country through investing their wealth in the country instead of spending it on luxuries or depositing it in the foreign banks. Even the embezzled money would be appreciated if it is invested in the country instead of laundering it abroad.

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