



IRREGULAR TRANS-BORDER MOVEMENTS AND PERSONAL SECURITY IN KURMI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF TARABA STATE NIGERIA



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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of trans-border movements on personal security in Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. With increasing security concerns arising from such movements, the research aims to identify effective measures to mitigate associated security challenges. The Broken Windows Theory serves as the theoretical framework, while a descriptive survey method was employed, involving 400 respondents from a population of 83,068. Both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods were utilized, and data analysis was conducted using mean scores and standard deviation, along with hypotheses tested via multiple regression analysis. Findings indicate that trans-border movements pose security threats, including human trafficking, sexual assault, harassment, armed robbery, and kidnapping. To address these issues, measures such as forming vigilante groups, implementing community policing, and engaging international organizations in border security were identified. Recommendations also include the deployment of drones, installation of closed-circuit television cameras, fostering local community policing initiatives, and establishing collaborative measures with neighboring Cameroon to enhance personal security in the region.

Keywords: Migration, Personal Security, Human Trafficking, Irregular Trans-border Movement

Introduction

The migration history of humans, seemingly cut across regional, continental, and intercontinental borders. People across the world are known to move from one place to another in a quest to satisfy basic social

needs and to ensure and enhance their survival, sustainability and continuity in society. Scholars often attributes the growing relative social and economic needs of people as major triggers of trans-border movements and claim that the motives seemingly revolve around legitimate and/or illegitimate social activities. Yendaw (2022) argued that trans-border movement is a movement that migrant embarks upon, regularly or irregularly, across national or international borders; and that such movement is considered regular when such a venture is accented to by the approving authorities; and, it is considered irregular when migrants are unable to access approval. In the course of this movement, people of different orientations and dispositions move along, and as a result, the host community (ies) becomes exposed to development challenges that breaches security and undermine human safety, security and progression. In order words the irregular trans-border movements bridges the personal security of people within and around the study area; considering the fact that, personal security according to the United Nations Development Programme (1994), refers to the protection of persons from physical harm , violence, fear and threat to their wellbeing, dignity and survival. In with this definition, personal security ensures that people live without the risk of crim, abuse, terrorism, conflicts or any form of danger that may hinder the safety of their lives. According to Acharya (2001), personal security can be challenged by social factors physical violence, assault, robbery, terrorism, human trafficking, armed conflicts, kidnapping and banditry. In agreement, the World Health Organization (2022) averred that any action that threatens the protection of human health, economic stability and personal privacy undermines personal security and of course irregular trans-border movements and its antecedents factors, seemingly downplay the security of persons within and around defined settlements like Kurmi Local Government Area in Taraba State.

It is interesting to note that global society is apparently plagued by incidents of trans-border activities across continental, regional, national and local enclaves. According to Orlovska and Stepanova (2021), trans-border movements in Europe, contributes to wide spread cases of trans-border crime such as, human trafficking, drug trafficking, trafficking in stolen vehicles, contraband goods and nuclear materials, including money laundering, among others. This disposition accounts for the institution of the European Union (EU) Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs, with the mandate of addressing organized crimes emanating from trans-border movements. Chackiewicz, Ligaj, and Mariusz (2022) observed that the, development and evolution of organized crime in Europe potentially poses

a threat with long term effects on the economy and social identity of the continent.

In Asia, trans-border movement has been linked to the heightened cases of organized crimes. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2022), revealed that, trans-border movement is fraught with the activities of organized criminals; these groups advance their criminal enterprise using these borders to carryout their activities such as trafficking, smuggling, and identity fraud. In response to this phenomenon, the IOM, in conjunction with the Asian bloc, designed an initiative aimed at facilitating trans-border movement while strengthening the national security of the countries within the region and the security challenges addressed therein. In line with the above, Broadhurst and Kim-Lee (2013), averred that, in Asia, crime groups such as the 'black societies or triad', the Japanese organized crime group (Yakuza), and the military-style ethnic groups controlling opium production in the Golden Triangle have taken advantage of the improved infrastructure and free trade initiatives in the region, which have enhanced the movement of people and commodities to facilitate their criminal enterprise within and around the region.

North America, like other regions of the world, is not exempted from the challenges of border infiltration, as the bloc is faced with the challenge of border security as a result of the migrant activities of criminal elements that consistently devised new ways to beat the border security architecture to advance their criminal enterprise. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (2011) report, revealed that countries within the region of North America are inundated with trans-border criminal activities that are evident in the prevailing cases of human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, trafficking for sex, drugs peddling, money laundering, trafficking in arms, and other forms organized criminal activities, such as; trade in blood diamonds and smuggling of artifacts, as well as the shipment of cocaine from the Andean region to North America. While billions of dollars are generated annually, world peace and development are undermined by this nefarious criminal merchandise. In collaboration with the above, White House (2011) claimed that, transnational organized crime poses significant and growing threats to national and international security, with dire consequences for global public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and global economic stability and overall sustainable development.

In Africa, the daunting challenges of managing its borders creates a porous platform for all manners of nefarious activities to be trafficked

through the borders. The situation is even compounded by the phenomenon of globalization, which has reduced the efficacy of security structures along the borderlines. In addition to this, organized criminal activities championed by criminal syndicates and traffickers have exposed the security platform at the borders to security pressures accruing from increasing volume of trade and human mobility (Wafula, 2011). According to Igwe (2021) the African border is characterized by multifaceted security challenges. In the Central African Republic, for instance, the activities of rebels from neighbouring countries have impacted negatively on the country's democracy. Further to this, in Nigeria, between July 2019 and June 2020, 880 incidents of conflicts or abuse were recorded to have affected civilians; kidnapping for ransom and illegal migration have become recurring decimals, while in Ethiopia, the conflict at Alfashada, an adjoining area between Ethiopia and the Tigray region, has led to a humanitarian crisis, leading to the dislodging of tens of thousands of civilians without shelter over their heads.

Apparently, security breaches in most cases become imminent when the influx of immigrants is not checked and there are no monitoring mechanisms that determines who is worthy or not of being allowed to come into a country. The porosity of Nigeria's borders is considered a major factor compounding the insecurity situation that borderlines are exposed to (Adetola & Oluyemi, 2012).

Statement of the Problem

Based on the fore-goings, it is pertinent to state herein that, the significance of border security cannot be overemphasized as it can make or mar the sustenance and credibility. As opined by Adetola and Oluyemi (2012), the threats posed by the activities of insurgents or terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP), and al-Qaida, whose activities cut across the West African sub-region and the African continent at large, calls for concern, especially as Nigeria is already faced with repeated armed confrontations with migrants from the axis of the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Niger, and even the Republic of Cameroon, as a result of contending and conflicting economic, religious, cultural and social factors. The activities of these outlaw groups have resulted in the loss of countless lives, the destruction of properties, and the desolation of some parts of Northern Nigeria. Hundreds of thousands of people have had to relocate to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, and some communities have restricted their farming activities due to threats caused by marauding herdsmen. This apparently

has become the new norm, and it is cut across all six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, thereby putting the sovereignty of Nigeria under threat.

Nosiri and Ohazuike (2016) opined that the movement across porous Nigerian border has led to infiltration by terrorists/insurgency; loss of government revenue and smuggling of illegal goods. These findings appear to be valid however; the study appears to be mute on whether trans-border movement has implication on anti-social behaviour, illicit trafficking on humans. Ikwuyatum (2014) posited that trade and business activities are the most dominant within the border area. While this submission appears to be valid, there was no mentioning of security implication along the border crossing, and it was not established whether the trans-border movement has any impact on anti-social behaviour or illicit occupation such as arms trafficking, drug trafficking, human trafficking, recruitment and trafficking of terrorists. Adeyinka (2014) observed that trans-border crimes hampered the movement of people freely across the borders to visit their loved ones and/or safely engage in social functions and trading across the border. While these findings appear valid, there was no mentioning of impact of trans-border movement on anti-social behaviour, illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition, human trafficking, drug trafficking, recruitment and trafficking of terrorists, trafficking for sex, trafficking for forced labour etc. Jedisola (2017) averred that the movement across borders with neighbouring countries has created security situation in the form of arm trafficking, drug trafficking and infiltration by terrorists. Significant to note herein is the fact that, the place of security in the growth and development of any human society cannot be substituted by anything else, and whenever the security of a people appears to be threatened, there have to be deliberate measures to curbing it. In this regard, this paper empirically seeks to ascertain the impacts of trans-border movement on the personal security of residents of Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to investigate the impact of trans-border movements on personal security in Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- (1) examine the types of trans-border movements affecting personal security;
- (2) assess the effects of irregular trans-border movements on personal security;
- (3) determine the relationship between trans-border movement and personal security; and

(4) identify measures to mitigate security challenges.

Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it provides empirical evidence on security implications of irregular trans-border movements in a rural border community. The findings will benefit policymakers, security agencies, and international organizations involved in border security management. The recommendations offer practical measures for enhancing personal security in vulnerable border communities.

Research Hypothesis

The null hypothesis tested in this study is: There is no significant relationship between trans-border movement and personal security in Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State.

Literature Review

Conceptual Clarification

Personal Security

Personal security refers to the elimination of threats to freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship in one's own way, freedom from fear and freedom from wants, and guaranteeing the rights of humans regardless of particular state borders, powers, and populations, which are the elements that constitute a state (Janusz, 2018). It focuses on protecting humans from physical violence emanating from the state and other bodies. Karim, Donata, and Wanjiru (2004) opined that personal security is an individual security from physical violence and threats that can manifest in several forms, for example: threats from the state, foreign states, other groups of people, individuals, or gangs; threats directed against women or children based on their vulnerability and dependence; and threats to oneself.

According to Charles (2017), Personal security, is the effectiveness with which the safety and well-being of an individual or group of individuals are protected from vulnerability and the risk of being injured or harmed. Here, Charles argument tends to lean more on a person's safety; it looks at personal security as threat proof that an individual or group of individuals enjoy themselves within or without their comfort zone. In line with the above, Albertan Government (2016) considered personal security as the sum of the application of protective measures to reduce human-induced intentional risks; it is the prevention of an individual or group from causing harm such as violence, theft, or wilful damage. The later part of

the argument, as canvassed by the Government of Alberta, tends to look at personal security from the perspective of having security-proof measures that are potent enough to prevent perpetrators of crime from harming their victims.

In essence, personal security can be viewed as attributes that ensures and enhances the overall welfare and wellbeing of the individual within specified social settings, community, environments and/or society.

Irregular Trans-Border Movement

Conceptually trans-border movement refers to the movement of humans, goods and service including ideas across international borders. The major characteristics of trans-border movement is that it enhances inter-connectivity between individuals, groups, cultures and economy (Sassen, 2020). Zolberg, Suhkre and Aguayo (2020), opined that, trans-border movements influences both economic, political and social factors. These influence could breed positive or negative outcomes and consequently defines the level of development or under-development of a society. According to Castles (2020) trans-border movements leads to labour migration; a condition that allows workers to move from one society to another in search of employment and/or to render services. Shaw and Williams (2020), averred that trans-border movement promotes tourism; as it allows people to move from society to society for leisure and recreation. Bhagwati (2019), in addition claimed that trans-border movements encourages trade relations as it allows for exchange of goods and services across international borders. Ratha (2020), characteristically viewed trans-border movements as a platform for remittances; as it paves way for migrants to transfer funds to their families in their home town.

Based on the varying definitions and categorization of trans-border movements and the fact that it influences economic, political and social conditions, scholars are in agreement that it has both positive and negative consequences. However, the concept simply depicts movements of humans, goods and services across National, Regional and International borders.

Impacts of Irregular Trans-Border Movement on Personal Security

In considering this subject, it suffices to note that there is no universally accepted definition of what trans-border movement is and what it is not. Moret (2018) considers trans-border movement as an international migration that is followed by long-term settlement in a new country. Adeyinka (2014) contended that the socioeconomic characteristics of

households determine, to a greater extent, their involvement in trans-border movement. Put differently, many people who engage in trans-border activities do so to promote their standard of living, or simply put, ventures such as trans-border movement are mostly motivated by the desire to better the welfare of those involved, as it offers them opportunities that are lacking in their respective original place of residence. In other instances, factors such as violation of human rights, bad governance, political intolerance, wars, poor economies, and responses to demand for their skills abroad are the compelling factors motivating trans-border movement, whereas others are compelled by famine, natural disasters, and persecution (International Labour Organization, 2010; Adeola & Oluyemi, 2012).

Bite, Konczos, and Vasa (2020), argued that a decrease in border control at the regional level has contributed to influencing migration. Accordingly, the absence of strict border control measures makes it easier for people to migrate across borders; especially when the 'push and pull factor' is so alluring that it cannot be resisted. This development has created serious security concern along the border line. Buttressing this postulation, Wafula (2016) stated that, increase in the activities of trans-border trading and movements of people along the borderline has created an enormous pressure that requires an effective security effort to minimize its relative criminal antecedents. Significant to note herein is that, crime emanating from borderland can create security threats that can undermine freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship in one's own way, freedom from fear and freedom from wants, and guaranteeing the rights of humans regardless of particular state borders, powers, and populations, which are the elements that constitute a state (Janusz, 2018). An attestation to this is the Boko Haram scenario, where their nefarious activities cuts across Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. They often manage to find their way to cross-over into Nigeria, carry out their heinous crime of killing people, destroying property, homes and businesses, and still find their way back into these countries that share borders with Nigeria. In line with this analysis, Foyou, Ngwafu, Santoyo, and Ortiz (2018), where of the view that, the growth of transnational insurgencies in Africa such as Boko Haram Islamist terrorist groups, whose violent and bloody incursions cut across Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria have impacted lives, society, and the economies of these countries negatively; these negation is also reflected in Al-Shabaab terrorist organizations, which have launched numerous attacks into Kenya and Ethiopia; and the Seleka Opposition movement in the Central African Republic, which has conducted trans-border raids into Cameroon and Chad.

The insurgent activities seem not to be restrained by borders; hence, in most instances, they succeed by causing trauma as a result of the loss of lives and properties suffered by the direct and indirect victims. Abiodun (2016) reiterated that weapons often made their way into Nigeria through the land border to bolster the supplies of organized criminal syndicates and terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram. These lethal weapons have been used to promote social vices such as armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism. This development has led to the infliction of heavy damage, which ranges from the loss of means of livelihood to the loss of homes. Hundreds of thousands of people died, consequently, millions of Nigerians are subjected to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps across Nigeria and even neighbouring countries such as the Niger Republic, Republic of Cameroon, and Chad Republic, with little or no hope of ever returning to their homes. This activities also results in millions of out-of-school children roaming the streets of major cities across Nigeria. Tushar (2019) conclusively views migration as a movement that is compelled by a factor such as the search for employment opportunity in a foreign country, which of course involves the crossing of border(s) into other countries, this development in most cases results in security breaches for the host communities. In a nutshell, trans-border movement has a strong and negative impact on security, especially when it is not effectively managed.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Broken Window Theory. Wilson and Kelling coined the Broken Windows Theory in 1982. Broken Windows theory emerged as an aftermath of a programme titled "Safe and Clean Neighbourhood" that was designed to improve the quality of community life in the cities. The aim was to take police officers out of patrol cars and place them in walking beats as a way to cut down on the rate of crimes in society. Five years later, it was observed that residents of the foot-patrolled areas felt more secure than others and had a more favourable opinion of the police officers. The foot patrol was essentially helpful; it elevated to an extent public order in the neighbourhood (Joë, Mataka, & Rogier, 2017).

The underpinning principles of Broken Windows theory are neglect in the neighbourhood, and this neglect bores anxiety of fear of real crime; neglect and crime are inextricably linked in sequential order. When neglect becomes the order of the day, so much so that social rules are neglected without adherence, criminal activities become the attendant consequences. When a window is broken and left unattended to, it is a

pointer to indifference, and such indifference sends signals that no one cares and no one is going to tend to it going forward (Wilson & Kelling, 1982). The sign that no one cares and probably no one would triggers more of 'window breaking', which in most cases keeps people in check and motivated to correct anomalies: a sign that someone cares, and someone is there to tend to these anomalies, whenever the need arises.

The broken window theory in relation to this study indicates that neglect in society emboldens criminal elements to unleash more crime on society; that the fear of the law coming down on hard criminals is absent, and the neglect seen abinitio has proven that there is inefficiency in the regulatory mechanism that ensures that the framework of society is functional. Timothy (2006) argued that physical deterioration and the apparent absence of defensible features are related to the rate of violence in a neighbourhood and other criminal activities that impact human security; as it creates conducive environment for the free reign of crimes without a capable guardian. In order words, when human behaviour or movement is not regulated, the resulting effect would be a broken society with a dearth in social control mechanisms. A society without communal barriers or boundaries creates an impression that no one cares; when this becomes the norm, community becomes exposed to criminal invasion and criminal exploitation. A painful reality evident in Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria; as a result of the inability of the authority to rise to the occasion and contain the activities of criminal elements arising from unchecked trans-border activities such as irregular trans-border movement across the Nigeria-Cameroon boundary as it is poorly monitored, unmanned crossing points, and limited security infrastructure creates visible disorder. According to the Broken Window Theory, such conditions implies that unauthorized movement can occur without consequences, thereby encouraging smugglers, illegal migrants, traffickers, and armed groups to cross freely. In addition to Small-scale illegal activities such as petty smuggling, informal crossings, and weak documentation check function. When these minor violations are tolerated, they gradually normalize unlawful entry and exit. Over time, this may attract more dangerous actors, including bandits, arms traffickers, or insurgent elements, thereby increasing irregular trans-border movement and undermining state authority to the detriment of residents and the locality at large.

The theory also helps explain the deterioration of personal security in Kurmi LGA.: as frequent unauthorized crossings can lead to increased crime, kidnapping, communal clashes, cattle rustling, and trafficking,

which threaten the safety of residents. As insecurity rises, citizens may lose confidence in law enforcement, reducing cooperation with authorities and further weakening security structures. This cycle of disorder reinforces itself, in agreement with the Broken Window Theory's prediction that visible neglect produces fear and invites more crime.

Furthermore, Kurmi's rural terrain, dispersed settlements, and cross-border ethnic ties make surveillance difficult. When communities observe that borders are porous and crimes go unpunished, individuals may adopt self-help measures or vigilante actions, which can escalate violence and instability. Thus, irregular trans-border movement directly affects personal security by exposing residents to physical harm, economic losses, and psychological fear.

In conclusion, the Broken Window Theory explains that weak border control and tolerated minor violations in Kurmi LGA create an environment where larger security threats flourish. Addressing small disorders such as illegal crossing routes, corruption at checkpoints, and lack of patrol can therefore be crucial to improving personal security and reducing irregular trans-border activities.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey design. This approach involves the collection of data from a sample of the population of the study (Ofo, 2005). The choice of this approach was informed by its flexibility in describing the characteristics of a heterogeneously large population and the phenomenon of study (the implication of trans-border movement on human security). The target population of the study includes male and female of twenty (20) years and above who are resident in Kurmi Local Government Area: a border community sharing International borders with the Cameroons and local borders with Sardauna, Donga, Bali and Ussa Local Government Areas of Taraba State respectively. The study also relied on the use of In-depth Interview to support quantitative claims derived from the field.

Table 1: Population Distribution According to Political Wards

Council Wards	Population
Abong	10,148
Akwento/Boko	15,589
Ashuku/Eneme	12,552
Baissa	20,072
Bente/Galea	8,565
Didan	16,642
Total	83,068

Source: INEC Registrar, (2022).

The study adopted Yamane’s sampling technique for objective determination of representative of sample size. Yamane (1967) posits that for a 95% confidence level and $p= 0.5$, the sampling size should be calculated thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Wherein,

n = Sample

N = population

e = level of confidence

$$n = \frac{83,068}{1+83,068(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{83,068}{1+83,068(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{83,068}{1+207.67}$$

$$n = \frac{83,068}{208.67}$$

$$n = 399.90$$

$$n = 400$$

As shown in the foregoing discussions, the sample size of the study is four hundred (400), this is arrived at through Taro Yamane's sampling technique. The sample for the study that were residents of Kurmi of ages 20 and above; were administered questionnaire upon using purposive proportionate technique.

Table 2: Proportional Sample Size Distribution

Political ward	Population	Proportional sample	Total
Abong	10,148	48	48
Akwento/Boko	15,589	75	75
Ashuku/Eneme	12,552	60	60
Baissa	20,072	96	96
Bente/Galea	8,565	41	41
Didan	16,642	80	80
Total	83,068	400	400

Source: Author’s computation, 2026

Instrument of Data Collection/Data Analysis

The researcher triangulated the instruments of data collection. In view of this, both quantitative and qualitative methods were used; hence, a structured questionnaire and an in-depth interview guide were adopted. However the primary (quantitative) data was analyzed using mean score (X), and standard deviation while multiple regression was used to test null hypothesis at 0.5 level of significance.

Results / Presentation of Findings

Table 3: Respondents’ Rating of Types of Trans-Border Movements and Effect on Personal Security

Types of Irregular Trans-Border Movement	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	STD
Non-Porous/Controlled movement	22	34	48	147	149	2.14	1.159
Kurmi’s border has Porous Movement	129	147	48	34	42	3.86	1.159
Effects on Personal Security	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	STD
Residents suffer Intimidation	144	190	29	11	6	4.20	.822
Residents suffer Harassment	134	142	64	26	14	3.94	1.061
Kidnapping and robbery is common	130	152	48	35	15	3.91	1.090
Residents suffer Sexual assaults	125	158	56	26	15	3.93	1.050
Human trafficking is common in Kurmi	161	141	35	23	20	4.05	1.110

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 3.1.3 revealed the mean rating of respondents on types of trans-border movement and effect on personal security. Regarding border movement status, the findings shows that respondents largely disagreed that the border is non-porous/controlled (mean = 2.14), indicating that official border control mechanisms are perceived as ineffective. Conversely, respondents agreed that the border is porous/uncontrolled (mean = 3.86), confirming the existence of illegal entry points and weak

enforcement along the borderland. This findings suggest significant lapses in border control mechanisms, including possible compromised on the part of formal security personnel at the border, and calls for proactive security measures.

The respondents rated the ways trans-border movement affected personal security. Given the mean rating above the average (2.5) on a 5- point likert scale, the personal security of the inhabitants was threatened in multiple ways. The inhabitants were exposed to intimidation as a result of influx of miscreants (mean = 4.20, STD = .822), which ranked highest among the indicators. This was followed by human trafficking (mean = 4.05, STD = 1.110), indicating that the porous border creates an easy route for traffickers. There were also significant cases of harassment (mean = 3.94, STD = 1.061), sexual assault (mean = 3.93, STD = 1.050). The standard deviations indicate some variability in respondents' experiences, but the consistently high means across all items demonstrate widespread concern about personal security.

Findings from the in-depth interview added depth to the effect of trans-border movements on personal security in Kurmi LGA.

A 45-year old community member claimed that trans-border movement has exposed people to threats that affect their personal security, and these challenges come in the form of unexpected attacks from smugglers as well as bandits and terrorist groups who are mostly armed to the teeth. This unfortunate development appears to be encouraged by non-cooperative attitude of locals, who are mostly adamant about sharing intelligence with the authorities for fear of being subjected to unfriendly treatment or even having their identities publicized. And this attitude hampers the attempt to control threats to personal security. (Male, IDI, Kurmi LGA).

A security personnel stationed at the border area added: "The biggest challenge we face is the numerous illegal crossing points. People and goods move freely the night, and by the time get information, they have already disappeared into the communities. We need more manpower and technology to effectively monitor these routes. "(Male, Security official, IDI, Kurmi LGA.)

Test of Hypothesis: There no significant relationship between Trans-Border Movement and Personal security in Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State.

Table 4: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis of Irregular Trans-border Movements and Personal Security.

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square		Std.Error estimate	
Sig. F Change						
1	.259	.067	.062	.796		.000
ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression		17.198	2	8.599	13.564	.000
Residual		238.999	377	.634		
Total		256.197	379			
Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardised		Standardised Coefficient		
Collinearity Statistics		coefficient				
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Tolerance	VIF					
Constant		2.606	.266		9.802	.000
Non-Porous-Movement		.228	.050	.230	4.581	.000
.985	1.015					
Porous-Movement		.073	.052	.071	1.404	.161
.985	1.015					

Source: Field Survey 2026

The mean of the dependent variable (intimidation, harassment, kidnapping sexual assault and human trafficking) in table 4 was regressed on the independent variables (non porous movement and porous movement). The summary of the findings revealed that; each of the variables had a variance indicator factor (VIF less than 10, indicating the absence of multicollinearity between the variables. The relationship between the variables was weak and positive (R=.26). The two independent variables less regulated movement and unregulated movement accounted for 6.2% of the variance in the dependent variable. Given the ANNOVA \[P (2, 377) =13.564, P<.001\], it suggests existence of relationship between the two variables. This justifies the rejection of the null hypothesis.

The regression coefficient indicated the contribution of the two independent variables to the rejection of the null hypothesis. A beta

weight ($\beta = .230$, $t = 4.581$, $P < .05$) held that less regulated movement was a significant predictor of threat to personal security. Porous movement ($\beta = .071$, $t = 1.404$, $P > .05$). Both porous and non-porous movement contributed to personal security. However, non-porous movement significantly predicted personal security. This asserts the inefficiency of border control and clearly affirms that, there is a relationship between trans-border movement and personal security in Kurmi Local Government Area of Taraba State.

Discussion

The findings confirm that porous borders characterize Kurmi Local Government Area, with respondents agreeing that uncontrolled movement across the Nigeria-Cameroon boundary is prevalent. This supports Adetola and Oluyemi's (2012) assertion that the porosity of Nigeria's borders compounds insecurity situations along borderlines.

The study found that irregular trans-border movements expose residents to multiple personal security threats including intimidation, harassment, kidnapping, armed robbery, sexual assault, and human trafficking. These findings align with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (2011) report on trans-border criminal activities and corroborate Abiodun's (2016) position that lethal weapons smuggled through land borders promote armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism.

The Broken Windows Theory provides explanatory power for these findings. The visible disorder created by unmanned crossing points, limited security infrastructure, and unregulated movement signals to criminal elements that no effective guardianship exists. As Wilson and Kelling (1982) argued, when neglect becomes the order of the day and social rules are disregarded, criminal activities become attendant consequences. The weak border control mechanisms in Kurmi have created an environment where minor violations are tolerated, gradually normalizing unlawful entry and exit, and attracting more dangerous actors including bandits, arms traffickers, and insurgent elements.

The qualitative data further revealed that non-cooperative attitudes of locals, stemming from fear of reprisals or identity disclosure, hamper intelligence sharing with authorities. This finding extends the Broken Windows Theory by identifying a feedback loop where community distrust of security agencies exacerbates the neglect that enables criminal activity.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study based on reviewed literatures backed by a theoretical position and the outcome of field study concludes that, the residents of Kurmi Local Government Area are exposed to irregular trans-border activities which in turn predisposes them to security threats; these threats tend to affect their personal safety, wellbeing and security; as it exposures residents to subcultures of violence, kidnapping, robbery, human trafficking, theft, and harassment. The study equally revealed that, there is dearth in control mechanisms as signs of inadequate security agencies paves way for porous border allowing for influx of unapproved persons in and out of the area without check. This outcome significantly explains why there are criminal elements perpetuating all manners of criminal activities within the study area.

The study therefor came up with the following recommendations:

1. That there is need for the deployment of technologies such as drones and CCTV to support activities of security agents within the area.
2. There is need to improve border control mechanism through community policing, erecting of perimeter fences along exposed borders, and the deployment of more security personnel around designated border areas.
3. And there should be cross border collaborations between neighbouring communities to foster effective border control and movements around restricted areas.

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