

## **The effects Of Sara-Suka Political Thuggery On Democratic And Social Activities In Bauchi State: A Study Of 2015 General Election.**

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper examined the effects of Sara-Suka Political Thuggery on democratic and social activities in Bauchi state, Nigeria. This study adopted quantitative means of data collection. Three research question were raised and answered in the study. the findings of the study shows that thuggery in the state is as a result of selfish interest of the thugs themselves, unemployment, illiteracy, poor governance, group sentiment, political manipulation, poverty, injustice and inactive security agencies; the impacts of menace as revealed include inflicting fear amongst candidates, hindering electorates from political activities, killing of innocent people, violating human rights, destruction of valuable properties, insecurity during and after elections and intimidation of people within the state. Thus, the government of Bauchi State needs an effective response, in order to overcome the menace of Sara-suka thuggery as recommended by the researcher.

**KEYWORDS:** Sara-Suka, Political Thuggery, Democracy, Social Activities, Frustration-Aggression and Elite theory.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Since the creation of Bauchi State in 1976 by the Murtala regime, the state experienced both military and democratic governors. The native and popular name of thuggery is called *Sara-suka* in Bauchi State. The name *Sara-suka* is peculiar to Bauchi State, though there are numerous appellations associated to the phenomenon in different parts of the country. Accordingly, thugs retain different names in different states. In Lagos state, they are called Area Boys; in Bayelsa State, they are known as *Egbesu*; in Abia state, they are referred to as *Bakassi* Boys; in Kano state, they are called *Yan Tauri* or *Yan Daba*; in Gombe state, they are named *Yan kalare*; and in Maiduguri, they are popularly referred to as *Ecomog*.

The origin of *Sara-suka* which is the phenomenon as well as the act, could be traced back to the late 1980s and early 1990s. According to Hassan (2011) *Sara-suka* groups are originally organized hunters moving in groups for the purpose of hunting wild animals for their consumptions. *Yan Sara-suka* are the members of *Sara-suka* who participate in hunting and other related activities indifferent groups. Mythically, *Sara-suka* activities derived its name from a retired hunter who hails from Katagum zone in Bauchi state. The man was assumed to be an excellent musician of hunters who motivates them during the hunting events. He sang victory songs to those who excel and return successfully from the trip. The man, *Sara-suka*, was popularly known for his great magical performance for assisting the followers with magical protection against local weapons like machete, cudgel, horns, broken bottles and other dangerous animals.

Furthermore, *Sara-suka*, as an activity before the return to democracy, served as a functional mechanism and socio-cultural organisation in Bauchi State. It serves two purposes; as economic activity providing jobs to the teaming population and as a social protection activity in which the members protect their environments from any attack by thieves, armed robbers and other external attack. Lamido (2008) argues that in the Mid 1990s, the man, *Sara-suka*, was invited to Gombe as a special guest at the victory ceremony of hunters in Jekadafari, Gombe. The man performed admirably well to the appreciation of the gathering which resulted to his greeting with exclamation: *Sara-suka! Sara-suka!! Sara-suka!!!* During and after the event, *Sara-suka* received numerous gifts as admiration from the people of Gombe. Eventually, people of Bauchi State, especially youths, joint the profession of hunting imitating the role played by *Sara-suka* as a model in promoting hunting activities.

Accordingly, a return to democracy accompanied by democratic principles like freedom of association, speech and many more facilitated the growth and development of thuggery. A number of jobless youths join

different political parties anticipating that when their party candidates win elections at various levels, they will guarantee them employment opportunities. As such, more youths became affiliated to a number of political parties by participating in political processes like campaigns and rallies of their preferred candidates under the disguise of supporters. Since political parties have their right to mobilize supporters at their discretion, and the supporters have the right to choose a political party to belong to, thereafter, politicians show their interest of sponsoring the thugs to help them to manipulate political processes; conflict arose due to the difference in their objective, interest and manifest. Eventually, *Yan Sara-suka* became subservient to politicians and political manipulation by the candidates of different political parties.

According to a Report, in 2015, by the Human Right Watch, the picture of thuggery manifested itself in the political processes of Bauchi State in 2003. The Report stated that ahead of Nigeria's 2003 polls, the PDP mobilized large numbers of young men, ostensibly to protect their votes from attempts at rigging by rival parties. Community leaders, civil society activists and other residents of the state interviewed by Human Rights Watch, stated that those youths were used to help the PDP in winning the election by stealing and stuffing ballot boxes, chasing away voters and intimidating INEC officials. This scenario, paved way for the persistence of thuggery and social violence in general. The organized thugs are now a constant feature of Bauchi political scene and not only limited to political affairs but also have been implicated in numerous acts of criminal activity and violence against ordinary Bauchi residents (HRM, 2016). In spite of the different measures adopted by different governments through policies and programmes to curb the menace, thuggery has remained pervasive in the state.

## **II. STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM**

Since the return to democracy in 1999, thuggery has become a pervasive phenomenon affecting innocent individuals and democratic activities in Bauchi State. The menace is affecting democratic activities during campaign, rallies and casting of votes which invariably cause loss of lives and valuable properties. Thuggery also perpetually affects innocent individuals on daily basis in their homes, shops and on the streets. The activities of thugs called *Yan Sara-suka* in Bauchi State have widely affected the relative peace enjoyed by the people. These thugs move mostly in groups victimizing, terrorizing, intimidating, and injuring not only politicians but also innocent individuals in the state. The menace results to death or poses deadly threats by deterring individuals from actively partaking in the political, economic and cultural activities in their environments. Hassan (2011) and Lamido (2008) explained and attributed *Sara-suka* thuggery to only political affairs that affect political activities, but this research has gone further to examine *Sara-suka* thuggery not only a political but also a social affair affecting democratic and social activities within the state with particular reference to 2015 general election. It is against this background, therefore, this research attempted to examine the reasons responsible for the incessant *Sara-suka* thuggery as well as its impacts on democratic and social activities, despite measures adopted by governments to overcome the menace.

### **RESEARCH QUESTION**

- a) What are the factors responsible for the recurrence of *Sara-suka* thuggery in Bauchi State especially during 2015 general election?
- b) What are the impacts of *Sara-suka* thuggery on democratic and social activities in Bauchi State?
- c) How effective has been the government response towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery in Bauchi State?

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of this research are as follows:

- a) To find out the factors responsible for the recurrence of *Sara-suka* thuggery in Bauchi State.
- b) To evaluate the impacts of *Sara-suka* thuggery on democratic and social activities in the state.
- c) To assess the effectiveness of government policies and programmes designed to overcome *Sara-suka* thuggery in the state.

## **III. LITERATURE REVIEW**

As a political concept, thuggery has been defined differently by different scholars. As observed by Howell (2004) and Asiegbu (2011), thuggery refers to the activities of thugs connected with stealing, killing, kidnapping, rudeness, victimization, intimidation and harassment. This manner affects peace, harmony and mutual co-existence among groups in their respective communities. If politics is criminalized through thuggery, right people who are the observers of good values tend to be scared and keep away from political processes. This suggests that thuggery is a violent behaviour affecting political processes in the Nigerian politics. Banwo (2003) maintains that the processes of the use of extra-judicial means in the course of the contest for or in exercising political power including intimidation, harassment, assassination, blackmail, and arson; physical and psychological attacks could not help to ensure sustainable peace and security within any democratic system like

Nigeria. Hence, scholars believe that the attributes of sponsoring thugs is due to the fact that Nigerian politics is characterized by rigging, violence and ropes under the manipulation of the few elites.

Furthermore, in discussing the causes of thuggery in Borno state, Mbaya (2013) had argued that the majority of youths in Borno state are jobless, illiterates, with no means of livelihood, they are impoverished, and being paid easily to manipulate election results. The political elite capitalize on this weakness and recruit the youths, who not only constitute the pillar of society but also the most vulnerable to the self-inflicted poverty, as their thugs and touts to perpetrate violence. Secondly, politics for personal gain – this has become a common feature in Nigerian politics. This is a situation in which an individual tries to hold on to power for personal gains. In an attempt to hang on to power, leaders often create a regime of violence, repression and bloodshed. They organize political thugs, hooligans and scavengers to sing their praises, intimidate opponents and kill them if they become intransigent. The unnecessary and uncoordinated urge to control, dominate and amass wealth for their family and friends informs the emergence of political thugs to be used to win election by all means. Thirdly, prebendal politics in Nigeria, politics is conceived as an investment. The politicians, having invested huge amount of money on campaigns and other political activities, coupled with the existing system of winner takes all, would want to win at all cost. In view of the above, the need to employ the use of thugs and touts to manipulate and rig elections becomes necessary, especially when such politicians are not popular candidates. Fourthly, refusal to accept electoral defeat in good faith is also a fertile factor that can breed thuggery and trigger violence in politics. And finally, absence of good governance and low political culture are also contributing factors to the menace of thuggery and violence. Similarly, hunger, marginalization, incapacitation, intolerance, domination, and apathy etc can also cause political violence.

#### **IV. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Theoretical frame work is an important aspect of scientific inquiry which “provides logical basis for expectations about the world” (Izah, 2012:28). Therefore, frustration aggression and elite theories are adopted to examine the causes and effects of Sara-suka thuggery on democratic and social activities in Bauchi State with particular reference to 2015 general election.

**The frustration-aggression** model is a theoretical framework developed by John Dollard and his associates in 1939 but was expanded and modified by Yate 1962 and Berkowitz (1963), drawing mainly from the psychological basis of motivation and behaviour. The theoretical framework provides explanation for violent behavioural disposition resulting from the inability of a people to fulfil their human needs. It is based on the general premise that all humans have basic needs which they seek to fulfil and that any blockade to the fulfilment of these needs by individuals or groups elicit violent responses.

Frustration-aggression theory emphasizes the difference between what people feel they want and the discrepancy however, marginal, between what is sought and what they get, the greater the violent reaction. In the face of these frustrated expectations, a group is most vulnerable to embark on violent destructive behaviour or be a ready army to be used to cause crisis. Central to this explanation is that aggression is the natural outcome of frustration. In a situation where the legitimate desires of an individual or group is denied either directly or by the indirect consequence of the way a society is structured, the feeling of frustration can compel such persons or group to express their anger through violence that is directed at those perceived to be responsible for their misfortune or others who are indirectly related to those frustrating their expectations.

The relevance of the frustration-aggression theoretical framework to the insurgency of Political Thuggery is better appreciated when viewed against the backdrop of widespread poverty in Northern Nigeria and Bauchi state in particular. Poverty though endemic throughout Nigeria, the rate is highest in the north. The three northern regions have the highest incidence of poverty having an average poverty incidence of 70.1% compared to 34.9% of the three geo-political regions of the South. Ten states in Nigeria with the highest incidence of poverty are all in the north, while ten states with the lowest incidence of poverty are in the south (Lukeman 2012). This means that about 70% of people in the north live below poverty line with an income of less than one dollar per day.

The poverty profile is exacerbated by the problem of unemployment and hopelessness. A negative condition caused not by the unwillingness of the people to work but by bad governance that creates capability gap. The capability gap portrays the inability of governance to effectively utilize the resources of the state to better the lots of its citizenry through the provision of job opportunities, infrastructural development and initiation of potent or viable poverty alleviation and eradication programmes. This failure of governance breeds frustrated expectations. Under this pathetic condition, members of this thugs and other frustrated persons are readily available to be recruited as a destructive political agent for indiscriminate and destruction of life and prosperities especially before, during and after election.

**Elite Theory** was developed from the popular writings of Gaetano Mosca (1858-1941), Vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923), and Robert Michels (1876-1936), and Ortega Gasset. The elite theory assumes that any political community is divided into two, the few who are cohesive, well-organized and self-protective and above

all have the power to allocate values for the communities, and the majority who are uncoordinated and confused without any political power to make policy. It is further assumed that the elites are obtained truly from the higher socio-economic status who possess certain qualities of superiority over the masses; also, the elites are essentially cohesive constantly defending the status quo, in order to ensure the protection of their gains at the detriment of the masses. The channel of sustenance include but not limited to coercion by security agencies, militancy, manipulation of the media, schools, indoctrination of masses with deceitful ideologies and stereotype; and finally, to ensure system maintenance of their interest, elite avoids any sort of rebellion or revolt against their interest by creating institutional framework which permits gradual process to recruit and absorb tiny few individuals whom will also protect the general interest of elite.

Therefore, the particular case of Bauchi state also shows that, the elite and politicians recruit unemployed and frustrated youths into thuggery for their selfish aggrandizement during political processes like campaigns and elections to serve as thugs or to snatch ballot papers and ballot boxes in many ways, Hassan (2011:122). Elites more especially political class who hold political power used various means in order to remain in power without considering the state of socio-political harmony of their respective societies. These class of people recruit and sponsor some frustrated youths that show allegiance to them during political activities and consequently they also benefitted from the services the youths render to them during political activities; and in turn, the youths were motivated by little amount of money and other mind control drugs and light weapons.

## **V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Sources of Data, sample and sampling methods**

This research involved the use of both primary and secondary sources data while the Sampling method entails the “way sample units are selected from a parent population” (McNabb, 2009:127). This study used a combination of cluster and systematic sampling techniques in determining the unit and size of the population and questionnaires distribution. The area of study, Bauchi state has twenty local government areas and three senatorial zones. Furthermore, the three senatorial zones constituted the units of the study. For each of the three units of the study, one local government was systematically selected, making the sum of three local government areas. The three local government areas selected are Bauchi Local Government, as the state capital, representing Bauchi South Senatorial Zone; Ningi Local Government, representing Bauchi Central Senatorial Zone and Katagum Local Government, representing Bauchi North Senatorial Zone. The selection of these local government areas, to represent their respective Senatorial zones, is due to the fact that they are well known centres of politics, trade and commercial activities in their senatorial zones. Accordingly, the local governments are also divided into wards and three wards are selected on the basis of raffle draw which represented the local government area. The selected wards are Dankade, Dawaki and Dan-amar, representing Bauchi Local Government Area; Ningi east, Burra and Kurmi wards, representing Ningi Local Government Area; and Nasarawa, Kafinkuka and Yayu, wards representing Katagum Local Government Area.

Questionnaires are also distributed fairly among the three local governments. The 2011 population projection provided that Bauchi local government area has 228,325, Ningi local government has 181,366 and Katagum Local Government Area has 137,577 population of 18 years and above.; and the total number of the projected population of 18 years and above in the three local government areas is 547,268 and thus, 547,268 formed the actual population size in this research.

Statistically, to get the actual number of questionnaires that were administered in each local government area, the research divided the projected population of 18 years and above of each selected local government to the actual population size of this research which is 547,268 and multiply it with the number of questionnaires generated from Krejcie and Morgan (1970) scale which is 384. For instance, if one taken says Bauchi Local Government, the result shown that 228,325 divided by 547,268; it gave us 0.4172088 and multiplied it by 384; one got 160.2 into one significant figure. Therefore, 160 questionnaires were administered in Bauchi Local Government Area, and the same formula were used in arriving at the number of questionnaires administered in other two local government areas, Ningi and Katagum, 127 and 97 questionnaires respectively.

## **VI. RESULTS**

This research is based on three hundred and eighty four (384) questionnaire distributed out of which only eight hundred (381) were duly collected or returned back. All the findings was discussed based on three hundred and eighty (381) questionnaires successfully collected from the respondents. Data would be presented in table of numbers on left and percentages on the right followed by a brief analysis.

**Table 1 Demographic Information of Respondents**

S/No:	Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent
1	Age	18-28 years	166	43.6
		29-39 years	134	35.2
		40 and above years	81	21.3
			<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>
2	Gender	Male	247	64.8
		Female	134	35.2
			<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>
3	Marital status	Married	208	54.6
		Single	173	45.4
			<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>
4	Literacy	Western Education	321	84.3
		Arabic Education	47	12.3
		None	13	3.4
			<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>
5	Certificate Possession	Primary School	102	26.8
		Secondary School	158	41.5
		Tertiary Institution	108	28.3
		None	13	3.4
			<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>
6	Employment	Employed	132	34.6
		Unemployed	249	65.4
		Total	<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's Field Work, Sept 2017

**Age Distribution:** Age distribution of the respondents ranged from 18-28, 29-39 and above 40 years. The selection of this distribution is because individuals who fall under these categories have the right to vote and be voted for during election. Out of 381 filled and returned questionnaires, 165 respondents are between 18-28 years which is representing 43.6%. The record also shows that 134 respondents are between 29-39 years which is representing 35.2% of the total percentage. Similarly, the 81 respondents representing 21.3% are from 40

years and above. Furthermore, the ranking of the overall age distribution shows that respondents from 18-28 years had taken the highest portion with 165 frequencies and 43.6%. This is followed by the individuals between 29-39 years with 134 frequencies and 35.2%. It finally followed by the individuals who are 40 years and above which is the least frequency and percentage at 81 and 21.3 respectively.

**Gender:** Out of 381 filled and returned questionnaires, male category had 247 respondents representing 64.8%. The remaining 134 respondents representing 35.2% belong to the female category. Thus, the findings revealed that male category had the highest number of frequency of 247 respondents, representing 64.8%. While female category left with 134 frequency with its total 35.2%.

**Marital Status:** There are only two categories (married and single) in this finding. Out of 381 filled and returned questionnaires, married category had 208 respondents representing 54.6%. The remaining 173 respondents belong to the single category representing 45.4%. Therefore, the finding revealed that married category had the highest number of frequency of 208 respondents representing 54.6%. Single category is left with the 173 frequency of respondents representing 45.4%.

**Literacy:** This variable is supported by three categories including Western education, Arabic education and the none-options. The result of the finding shows that out 381 filled and returned questionnaires, 321 respondents belong to Western education category representing 84.3%, 47 respondents belong to the Arabic education category representing 12.3% and 13 respondents belong to the None category representing 3.4%. This indicated that majority of the respondents, 321 frequency and 84.3%, are literates by Western education; followed by the individuals who can read and write, 47 frequency and 12.3%, in Arabic education; and 13 respondents cannot read and write (illiterate) in any form of education suggested or belong to the None category.

**Certificate Possession:** Certificate as a variable has four categories consisting of Primary School category, Secondary School category, Tertiary Institution category and the None category on which the respondents have option of choice. Out of 381 total frequency, 102 respondents representing 26.8% belong to Primary School category, 158 respondents representing 41.5% belong to Secondary School category, 108 respondents representing 28.3% belong to the Tertiary Institution category and the remaining 13 respondents representing 3.4% belong to the None category. Therefore, the record has revealed that majority of the respondents, 158 frequency and 41.5%, possess Secondary School Certificate without furthering their educational career. This is followed by 108 respondents representing 28.3% that obtained Tertiary Institution Certificate. The third category is for the respondents who obtained only Primary School certificate. Finally, the least category is for the respondents who have neither attended any of the above three categories representing 13 respondents and 3.4%.

**Employment:** This variable informed us more about the respondents' employment status. There are only two categories, as either employed or unemployed. 132 respondents representing 34.6% are employed; the remained 249 respondents representing 65.4% are unemployed. Hence, majority of the respondents are unemployed based on 249 frequency representing 65.4% and the employed respondents stand with 132 respondents and 34.6%. This reflected the record of employment statistic in Nigeria that shows there is high rate of unemployment in Bauchi State.

**Table 2 Causes of Sara-suka Thuggery**

S/No:	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	Selfish Interest	39	10.2
2	Unemployment	91	23.9
3	Illiteracy	34	8.9
4	Poor Governance	53	13.9
5	Group Sentiment	19	5.0
6	Political Manipulation	48	15.2

7	Poverty	54	14.2
8	Injustice	21	5.5
9	Inactive Security Agencies	12	3.1
	Total	381	100

Source: Author's Field Work, Sept. 2017

The Table 2 discusses the factors responsible for *Sara-suka* thuggery in Bauchi State. The 39 respondents representing 10.2% believed that thuggery is caused by selfish interest of the thugs. 91 respondents representing 23.9% believed that the major cause of thuggery is unemployment. 34 respondents representing 8.9% are of the view that thuggery is as a result of the level of illiteracy in the state. Group sentiment contributes to thuggery as depicted by 19 respondents representing 5.0%. Out of 381 respondents, 58 respondents representing 15.2% believed that political manipulation is the cause thuggery in the state. Poverty is seen a cause of thuggery by 14.2% of the 54 respondents. Meanwhile, injustice and inactive security agencies contributed to thuggery as shown by 21 respondents representing 5.5% and 12 respondents representing 3.1% respectively.

**Table 3 Effects of Sara-suka Thuggery on Democratic and Social Activities**

S/No:	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	Creating Fear Among Candidates	77	20.2
2	Hindrance of Electorates	28	7.3
3	Killing Innocent People	106	27.8
4	Violation of Human Rights	18	4.7
5	Destruction of Properties	74	19.4
6	Insecurity	40	10.5
7	Intimidating People	38	10.0
	Total	381	100

Source: Author's Field Work, September 2017

Table 3 is on the effects of thuggery on democratic and social activities in Bauchi State in which the findings revealed that out of the 381 filled and returned questionnaires, 77 respondents representing 20.2% are of the view that thuggery created fear among the candidates. 28 respondents representing 7.3% believed that thuggery affects democratic and social activities through hindrance of the electorates. 106 respondents representing 27.8% believed that killing innocent people is the effect of thuggery on democratic and social activities. The finding shows that 18 respondents representing 4.7% are of the view that violation of human rights is among the effects of thuggery on democratic and social activities. 74 respondents representing 19.4% believed that thuggery resulted to destruction of properties in democratic government. Insecurity during election is as a result of thuggery as believed by 40 respondents representing 10.5%. Finally, 38 respondents representing 10.0% considered intimidation of people is also among the consequences of thuggery on democratic and social activities.

**Table 4 Sponsorship of Sara-suka Thuggery**

S/No:	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	Politicians	209	54.9
2	Elites	111	29.1
3	Thugs Themselves	47	12.3
4	Securities	14	3.7
	Total	381	100

Source: Author's Field Work, September 2017

Table 4 revealed the sponsors of Sara-suka thuggery in Bauchi State based on the 381 filled and returned questionnaires administered. Out of 381 filled and returned questionnaires, 209 respondents representing 54.9% considered politicians as the major sponsors of thugs. 111 respondents representing 29.1% believed that elites sponsored the thugs. 47 respondents representing 12.3% believed that selfish interest motivated the thugs. Security agencies accounted for 14 respondents standing with 3.7% as sponsors of Sara-suka thugs.

**Table 5 Beneficiary of Sara-suka Thuggery**

S/No:	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	Politicians	195	51.2
2	Elites	118	31.0
3	Securities	10	2.6
4	Self	58	15.2
	Total	381	100

Source: Author's Field Work, September 2017

The table 5 exposed the rate of benefit and beneficiaries of Sara-suka thuggery in Bauchi State. Out of 381 respondents, 195 representing 51.2% believed that politicians benefitted from Sara-suka thuggery that accounted for violence. Elites, ruling and non-ruling are said to be beneficiaries of thuggery, from with 118 respondents representing 31.0%. 10 respondents representing 2.6% considered the security agencies as the beneficiaries of Sara-suka thuggery. Some 58 respondents representing 15.2% believed that the thugs themselves benefitted from their operations.

**Table 6 Effectiveness of Government Response towards Sara-suka Thuggery**

S/No:	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	Very Effective	28	7.3
2	Effective	43	11.3
3	Good	58	15.2
4	Partially	64	16.8

5	Poor	72	18.9
6	Very Poor	116	30.5
	Total	381	100

Source: Author's Field Work, September 2017

Table 6 disclosed the effectiveness of government response towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery in Bauchi State. The respondents rated the effectiveness of government efforts towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery. 28 respondents representing 7.3%, out of the total 381 filled and returned questionnaires are of the opinion that government response towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery was very effective. 43 respondents representing 11.3% believed that government response towards overcoming thuggery was simply effective. 58 of the total respondents representing 15.2 % answered that government response towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery was good. 64 respondents representing 16.8% considered government action towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery was partial 72 respondents representing 18.9% believed that government action towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery was poor. 116 respondents representing 30.5% believed that government response towards overcoming *Sara-suka* thuggery was very poor.

**Table 7 Security Situations in Bauchi State**

S/No:	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	62	16.3
2	Partially	125	32.8
3	No	194	50.9
	Total	381	100

Source: Author's Field Work, September 2017

Table 7 answers security situation in Bauchi State. Out of the 381 filled and returned questionnaires, 62 respondents representing 16.3% are of the view that there is security in Bauchi State on which they responded "Yes" regarding the question "Is there security in Bauchi State?" 125 respondents representing 32.8% believed that there is partial security in the state which they responded "Partially". 194 respondents representing 50.9% out rightly believed that there is no security in Bauchi State on which they responded "No". Accordingly, majority of the respondents with 194 frequency representing 50.9%, presented in Table 7, believed that there is no security in the state. This is due to the fact that *Sara-suka* activities persisted and caused the loss of lives and properties worth millions of Naira. The nature of their activities ranged from killing, kidnapping, street attack, house break-in, shoplifting, frightening and threatening the innocent individuals in their respective communities, which in turn deter and destabilizes their harmony and coexistence. Thus, this situation not only affects social but also democratic activities through intimidating, scaring, exasperating, galling and even killing of the electorates cum candidates of different party affiliations.

## VII. CONCLUSION

This study utilized the use of questionnaire and review of relevant literature which proved that factors responsible for the *Sara-Suka* thuggery in Bauchi State is limited to selfish interest, unemployment, illiteracy, poor governance, group sentiment, political manipulation, poverty, injustice but also inactive security agencies; all these contributed to the recurrent *Sara-suka* thuggery both as political and social phenomenon. Generally, the effects of the perpetual thuggery in Bauchi State are basically included creating fear amongst candidates, hindering electorates, killing innocent people, violating human rights, destruction of valuable properties, insecurity during and after elections and intimidating people.

Towards the end, the researcher observed that these effects have been politically and socially motivated which affected different people in different places in Bauchi State. As a result, both government and private properties including vehicles and offices were burnt, offices and valuable properties of different political parties were destroyed and burnt, innocent individuals lost their valuable properties on the streets, in their shops and at

homes. Besides, elites and innocent individuals of various positions in both public and private establishments have been affected by the *Sara-suka* thuggery with different degrees of injuries ranging from wounds to loss of lives within the state.

Finally, the researcher recommended that, government should ensure the physical punishment to the *Sara-suka* thugs regardless of their political party's affiliations. This will deter them from involving into thuggery within the state. The government should initiate other programmes including awareness campaigns that will transform and dissuade the *Sara-suka* and intended thugs psychologically from involving into such violent behaviours within the state

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