NEXUS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMET POLICY OF BORDER CLOSURE AND EMERGING CRIMINALITY IN BORDER AREAS OF KATSINA STATE

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Keywords

Border, Border Closure, Border Communities, Economic Activities, Crime

Abstract

Research problem: *the study expands the fronts of studies of federal government closure of border in border areas in five Local Government Areas: Daura, Mashi, Kaita, Jibia and Mai'adua in Katsina State.*
Methodology: *the study adopted the phenomenology research design and rational choice theory as theoretical framework. Research instrument employed were Key Informer Interview (KII) and In-depth Interviews (IDI). Data were collected from five members of border security and administration and fourteen representatives of traditional rulers and business leaders randomly selected. The interviews were recorded, transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis.*
Results: *The findings demonstrate that the enforced policy affected people wellbeing in constrains on economies and productivity especially in youths of all gender. This was due to the fact that the economies of these communities were largely informal and supportive of cross border trade and businesses largely restricted in the enforcement. Also, it was revealed that income and goods sourced from participation in border trades were potent shield against youth redundancy, idleness' and other forms of misdemeanor and criminal activities detrimental to youth development and community tranquility.*
Key contributionto knowledge: *the study demonstrates the efficacy of qualitative method in providing in-depth understanding of the*

intricated relation between policy actions,community response and unintended consequences detrimental to nations development.
Recommendation: *it was recommended that the Katsina State Government through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry design and implement targeted entrepreneurship and financial empowerment scheme towards diversification of youth productivity in the border areas.*

Background to the Study

Nations close border for many reasons, which include improving security, support economic development and ensure self-reliance. Nigeria has a long history of border closure which dates back to 1983 when the military regime of General MuhamamduBuhari (Rtd) closed land borders as a measure to enforce drastic effects on illegally acquired wealth by politician and bureaucrats, through currency change. Additionally, the 1983 border closure aimed to curtail human trafficking from Nigeria through the neighbouring countries (Chidozie, Ibietan and Ujara, 2014). In 1996 the military regime of General Sani Abacha briefly closed Nigeria's border with Benin Republic to enforce the perceived threatened sovereignty of Nigeria. In 2003 Nigerian government unilaterally closed the border with Benin Republic. The decision was informed by attempt to curtail smuggling and other forms of cross border criminal activities perpetuated in the Nigeria-Benin Republic border that constituted threat both to national security and national income (customs and excise duties). On the 20th August 2019, Nigeria'sFederal Government closed all land borders as a policy onthe objectives of economic growth and strengthening national security.

Studies of the policy actions by Abegunde and Fabiyi (2020) and Ibrahim and Singh (2020) demonstrate negative correlations between the policy, economic development and the living standard of people in all the countries affected by the closure (Nigeria and its immediate neighbour; Niger Republic, Chad, Cameroon and Togo). This study strengthens these studies in employingdiscourse analysis to establish a micro horizon view of the impact of the phenomena border closure,in border areas of Katsina State. In this regardthe study contrasted with others in methodology consideration and orientation towards building a more nuance and in-depth examination and understanding the of the phenomena, border closure in Nigeria. This is in consideration of the fact that communities in these border areas remain in history, existence, economy and wellbeing naturally designed in the geographies of these borders and bordercrossingtrade and activities. While, governments initiates policy actions towards the protection and promotion citizen's welfare and wellbeing, in security and economic development, on several occasions these policies turned counterproductive often contradicting or compromising their intended objectives specifically with regards to the citizens whom the policies aimed to liberate. This development and understanding increasingly exposed the rationality in the choices of policy action for border administration and management and border areas development in Nigeria. This is specificallycritical in the light of national security need and general economic development approach and the impact and consequences on border communities' economy, wellbeing and connections with crime and

criminality. Thisstudy explores these connections in the border areas of Katsina State.

Research Questions

The study asked the following research questions as a guide to the explorations in the study:

1. How does border closure affects people and communities' economic activities and wellbeing in border communities in Katsina State?
2. How does border closure affects crimes in border communities in Katsina State?

Literature Review

This section presents a synopsis of related works that informed the background to this study.

Border Areas and Border Crime

Border areas also refer to "border region" are described as geographical spaces immediately alongside a state's external border, or straddling it (Newman, 2003). To Fitri, et. al. (2017) border areas provinces, districts or cities that directly intersect with national boundaries (or territory) and/or that have a functional relationship (linkage) and has a strategic value for states. Jabeen and Sultan (2020) are of the view that borders and borderlands possessed great importance in the state politics and world political scenario as they are the main source of connection between people, societies, culture, civilizations of the states. Brülhart, Cadot, and Himbert (2012) have studied border areas and perceived that regions near land borders are generally poorer, and sometimes more prone to civil conflict, than interior regions, as a result of years of neglect through poor policies. This is because country borders typically run through naturally inhospitable regions such as mountain ranges or deserts. The prevention of international crime, smuggling and illegal movement of goods and people could be controlled by effective border administration and management in border areas (Fitri, et. al., 2017 and Bossong&Etzold, 2018).

On the other hand, borders themselves segment markets and thereby act as an impediment to regional economic development. This development was understood by AU (2017) which has observed that, Africa's, peace and security have been fundamentally intertwined with the good governance of borders and the attainment of sustainable development of borderlands. Political and social challenges in border areas often hinder development efforts and complicate interventions regarding the resilience and prosperity of communities in national peripheries.Borderlands have been a haven for criminal groups that carry out activities threatening regional and national security. This is as border constitute barriers to trade and mobility of people in these areas increase poverty and triggers and accelerators of conflicts. Contrarily it was understood that, open borders allow for robust trade, and the free movement of people that can contribute to integration, prosperity and peace (AU, 2017).

Hence, the contention that a more flexible management of borders makes it possible to address issues in border area and to achieve far-reaching transformations needed, especially the urbanization of the continent and the intensification of the resulting flows of persons and goods (AU, 2017).This continental desire has been known to be challenged by the deep-rooted phenomena of border crime (Luqman, et. al., 2023 and Egbeaduma, et.al., 2025). Border crimes pose serious security threats to nations economic growth and development (Njoku & Nwogu, 2025). Joseph and Bassey (2019:109) posited that border crimes undermines and

constitutes a threat and fear to the security of persons, property and erodes the sense of safety (life and properties) and national security. In developing countries Border areas remains an increasingly underexplored volatile area (Vanyoro,2019). An AU (2022) study indicated that in the first six months of 2021, 60% of the victims of violent incidents in North and West Africa were located within 100 kilometers of a border. Almost half of them were civilians. The body thus posited that in the face of growing scale of transnational conflicts and criminality at the backdrop of increasing complex dynamics in the border areas underscores the need for quantitative and qualitative place-based analyses of how borders help shape patterns of political violence and state regulation. Related to this understanding OECD (2022) expressed that there is a commingling of violence along several of Nigeria's borders which were often the hotbeds of tension fuel by different issues.

Studies in criminality in border areas in Nigeria such as Olaonipekun and Egbedina (2020) found that apart from those border areas serving as major corridor for multi-smuggling and trafficking, they serve as hotbed for minor crimes that are in grave consequences to settlers. These crimes include robbery/stealing, abduction/kidnapping, nomadic-farmer clashes and custom-smugglers clashes. This study also shows that the strength of security provision at this Nigeria-Benin border corridor (Okerete) was at the lowest ebb thereby encourages trans-border and border criminalities in this area. In their work Emesiani, et. al. (2025) studyof Seme border management and arms proliferation in Nigeria, demonstrate that poor administrative and security resource disposal at the border intensified the phenomena of illicit arm smuggling including weapons and ammunition that fueled horrifying community conflicts and terrorism in the nation. The authors further posited that such development continued to poses great challenges to the national peace and security.

Theoretical Framework

Rational Choice Theory (RCT)

The study adopted the Rational Choice Theory as the theoretical framework. Rational Choice Theory is an increasing popular theory in sociology with roots in the classical economics of Adams Smith (1776) as reinforced in Becker (1968) work (Paternoster, Jaynes and Wilson (2017). Birthed sociologically; largely by James S. Coleman (1990), the theory has wider application in the study of family roles, gender, organizational behaviour and in the study of social movement (revolution). However, it is in the study of crime and other social issues that the theory found profound application. Thus, it is not surprising when Abegunde and Fabiyi (2020) deployed the theory in their explication of border residents' tendencies for cross border criminality at the background of border closure in Nigeria. RCT as a theoretical tool for explanations was built on key variables mainly the concept rationality, choice and situations. Rationality impliedly thoughtfulness, *deliberation, acting for reasons, while choices denotes decisions and as situations describes* circumstances or instances actors or people find themselves (Hodgson, 2012). Building on rationality in humans the theory posits that humans needs flourishamidst limited resources despite institutional control that influences choices from the alternative cost of actions and antecedent outcomes.

Methodology

This study was conducted in five (5) Local Government Areas: Daura, Mashi, Kaita, Jibia and Maidua in Katsina State. The research

design employed in the study was phenomenology, which was an appropriate design for the examination of the consciousness of the subjects in their lived experiences under the government enforced closure of border in their communities. Key Informer Interview and In-depth Interview (IDI) were conducted withnineteen (19) randomly selected sample of representatives of traditional authorities, business leaders, leaders of transportation and logistics chains and members of border security agentscontrolling border trade and operations of the borders. The subjects possess informed and first-hand information on the border areas as both administrative and socio-economic geographies. The interviews were recorded, transcribed and presented thematically in the study. The study was limited in the randomization in the selection of sample in the study.

Findings

Border Closure and Peoples and Communities' Economic Activities

A representative of the law enforcement provided acontextualizedunderstanding of the efficacy of the closure and the impact on illicit activities as follows, he expressed:

To me the increase or decrease in the traffic can be understood from two perspective as low or high. Where for example in the preborder closure human traffickers can easily move ten to 20 people across now hardly 2 passes through seamlessly. Also, there are delay in clearance, which has to do with proper checks of documents and documentation for people the focus is on under-age travelers, family connections and residences among travelers. This is key and vital to checkmating human trafficking. These are processes neglected before where a whole load of buses passes with teens and whole sought of people in the guise of going for events/occasions in Niger Republic and from there many got trafficked (KII, Border Security, BabanMutum border).

This respondent demonstrated the efficacy of the closure as an administrative measure which strengthened the earlier slack prevalent in the previous control measures. He shows that such stanceaffects flow of traffic in goods and services experienced, but were adequate filter to human trafficking.This understanding, wasstressed differently as follows: "To me humans and drugs trafficking has reduced drastically but prostitution has increased because women are idle and they have to do something to earn a living or sustain themselves. The closure increased official corruption at the border" (IDI traditional leader, BabbanMutum, Baure L.G.A.). This respondent agreed to decelined in human trafficking which is largely a cross border crime, while indicating that prostitution largely a community crime trends as a result of pressure for women to make ends meet. The respondent highlighted official corruption to have increased along the crossing. This both harm the goal of the policy of closure and informed negative perceptions in the communities of the policies.

Border Closure, Wellbeing and Crime

In Mashi a respondent was more emphatic on the correlation of border closure and diminished wellbeing in the study areas, he reported: "Due to the closure of the border, youths lost sources of livelihood and have turned to drug abuse for succour and engaged in criminalities like theft which were not rampant in the society as now experienced" (IDI Labourers Leader,Mashi).Such understanding was categorically corroborated by another respondent in Mashi as follows:

Theft has increased. I give you an example with a case from Birninkuka. The thief was a well-known labourerwho hitherto work was loading rice from the Nigeria side and help packing and loading beans on the Nigerien side of the border. The person was caught broken into a house and stolegoods worth three million naira. He confessed to the crime and attributed his action to the need to provide for his family. My take is that this closure has a lot to do with this development where people break the law. In the preborder era no one borders about the other wealth or possession since the prosperity was here for the take (KII Security Officer,Mashi).

This respondent descried the direction to which the border closure forced people hitherto known for being self-reliant and hardworking increasingly indulged in community crimes. One key predisposing factor the respondent highlighted was community pressure informed by loss of productive economic opportunities associated with the border closure. In Kaita L.G.A. the same observation was made. A respondent noted emphatically that "as a result of the closure vices increased. To me one of the vices is idleness where the youths roam the street aimlessly and, in the process, engage in illegalities"(IDI Traditional Ruler, Kaita, L.G.A). This view was buttressed illustratively as follow:

Violent crimes or crime with dangerous weapons such as knife or guns are new issues here. Before the closure such are unheard. One can move with huge valuables such as money and won't be afraid of falling into harms. But now it typical to receive news of people being bumped, vehicles snatched and even people followed and killed in their homes. Criminality has been let loss. Why was such ugly event occurring now? It's because for long people were protected from temptations of easy money. We are trained not to be lazy and to reach the border so long as people crossed one was bound to make a legitimate end. Without opportunities of legitimate means illegitimate means becomes legitimate as the questions of survival stare people in the eye (IDI Labourer leader,Baure).

The respondent described an increasing dangerous phase in community crime associated with increasing joblessness in communities. He emphases the role of socialization and knowledge and benefit of participation in border economy which had hitherto shielded the youths from crimes.This observation was reiterated in submission from Mashi where a respondent expressed that:

The closure has cause increased in theft and other community related crimes which are hitherto trivial here in Mashi. These occurrences are regular in my neighbourhood here Mayani and also in Kashemire. We formed ourselves into neighborhood guard to safeguard stores and trade utility vehicle that are increasingly vandalized. When we caught thefts stealing livestock, cable wires and losing vehicle parts we found out they are people we know. These are abled bodies' people capable youths whose daily earnings in the pre-border time could successful last two to three days. Most of them are found addicted when we caught them, it a pity state always (IDI Labourers Leaders,Mashi, L.G.A.).

Aside community and property crimes respondents reported observing proliferation in self-destructive crimes like drug abuse in the youths in communities. It was reported that:

The productivity here in the pre-border closure was a 24 hrs driven activity. Day and night youths load and offload essential goods from trucks. Such time don't warrant laziness of any forms of men women misbehaviors like sex or drug abuse. But this forced idleness has

caused the youth to be introduced to drug abuse (KII Security Officer, Daura).

Another respondent from Daura corroborated this submission thus: "To me people income has drastically reduced because of the joblessness forced on the people hence many especially the youths took to drugs, theft and prostitution (IDI Civil Defense Officer, Daura). Another respondent concurred thus, "The closure contributed a lot on these. The first point is that poverty pushed people to do many ugly things from theft to prostitutionwhich girls engage in across the border to fend for themselves."(IDI Business Leader, Daura). The views were agreed upon as follows, "We have less problem of violent crime here. But the rise of women and girls going into prostitution and other social misbehavior has become alarming" (IDI TruckDriver, Daura).

The emergence of women involvement in social vices such as prostitution due to the effects of border closure was explained succinctly:

Of course, there are lot of women who turned into prostitution here. This is because their relatives could not adequatelyprovide for their care. It is about families, parents, brothers and sisters not being able to take care of themselves. I give you example with myself. In the pre-border closure, I earn daily N15,000, N20,000, N30,000 and N40,000. My sister do ask me formonies for her needs, which I dutifully and comfortably provided her. Compare to now, where I hardly earn N3000 in a day. Coupled with inflation and lake of basic needs many families and relatives with large number of girls are caught in these current realities. The weak minded get lured and swayed into bad things as you mentioned just to get by (IDI Labourers Leaders,Mashi).

This respondent presents the efficacy of inabilities in relatives and families financial viability informed by deplorable economic capacity caused by the closure pushing girls into vices that are socially and legally criminal like prostitution. Importantly, the data mirror the consequences of limitation in men capacity as breadwinners. In Zango, this development was understood andthe connections between economic opportunities blockage and rising immoralities in the female population stressed as follow:

The youths especially, the female ones are highly affected by the development in the closure of the borders. In the pre-closure such girls have tasks at homes and engage in petty trades to while away boredoms by participation in little commodities markets. They process and sell tiger-nut, ginger and zobo drinks and other productivity activities that take away their times from male evil plans for them. But now that was not the case as the girls pressed for basic needs (IDI Traditional Leaders,Zango).

Other crimes such as human trafficking and vices such as perilous Sahara-desert route migration toEuropeby the youths were identified as crucial outcomes of the closure on the youths. A respondent explained as follow:

As I had earlier mentioned a lot of boys and youths whom hitherto enjoyed many forms of menial work to choose from have turned to stealing and other crimes. Some few smart ones had sold what they had acquired and left for Europe throughAgadaz, Libya and Algeria. Currently, this is trend in our youth. Others, less brave move westward to Lagos and Enugu (IDI Business Leader, Daura).

This submission associated the policy of border closure to both inward and outward migratory movement of youths from the border communities in the study area, for greener

pastures, the development is multi-consequential on the environment in several ways. These include, loss of man power for agriculture and food production, increased depopulation and consequence on micro-economic development and community protection. In Bauresimilar understanding of the impact of border closure on youth migration was describes as follows:

This relates to the youths being waylaid to bad behaviour due to insolvency. These affects youths of both genders here. The girls now travel to Libya and Algeria. Most of the times the parents of these youths are not aware of what the girls do in those countries. This trend of migration is rampant in localities. …prior to these economy realities, the economy here is rich and adequate for needs and prosperity our youths informing their desire to stayand be supportive (IDI, Truck Driver, Garki, Baure).

While, it was largely reported that the policy of border closure forced youths to migrate out of the border communities, others were reported to stay and challenges the policy,however such stance turned to be. A respondent reported thus:"it is true that many youths in our communities engage in prostitutions and other unpalatable stuffs due to the closure of the border. Others continue to engage with the border whileflagrantly disobeying the controls and the new restrictions sometime at greater risk of being shoot and killed, by the lawenforcement agents." He stressed further, "In their determination and resilience of theyouths you perceiveresoluteness to confront government bullets than beingcaged in humiliation and living unimaginable life under theclosure"(IDI Business Leader, Daura). Hence, the apprehension of the consequences ofthe policy as follow: "If the closure issue is not resolved only God know what criminality will lead to in our communities"(IDI Load Carrier, Daura).

There were clear drifts toward illegal and criminal activities in people and communities due to closure of border in communities as studies. A respondentin Jibia, described the implication as follows: "smugglers have now found collaborators in bandits" (IDI Custom Officer,Jibia LGA). The respondent explained further "Some desperate smugglers in the state go to the extent of collaborating with bandits, which increased the rate of attacks our duty post and men" (KII Custom Border Administration Officer,Jibia, LGA). While, it was normal for security agents and border administrator to encounter hostilities and violence, this development remains undesirable and harmfultoboth the security agents and the communities. Nevertheless, a respondent in this study location, clearly highlighted the trajectorythus:

People have to live and survive. The people can't let the state ill-informed policy led them to extinction. Therefore, the struggle to live must be sustained. Things are more difficult now. The state agents are more brutal now, partly due to 'eye on them' and on their activities and partly due to the drastic decrease in benefits accruing to them. Our life is here and we always learn and strive to survive and overcome whatever obstacle thrown at us (IDI Business Leader,Magama-Jibia, LGA).

While, this respondent was subtle in his submission pinpointing peopleshard stance to the policy amidst administrative determination. Another respondent in the same study area was critically in his highlight of the connections of the closure and rising insecurity as follows:

While, the claim of the government was that it closed the border for security purposes and to prevent the importation of rice and exportation of petrol to disabled the supplies to criminals like the bandits. The state of things in this regard

are anything but achievement as desired. Take, the case of the rice. They still got imported thought the quantity has drastically reduced from let say from 100% to 40%. This reduction was due to the logistics and preparations that must put in place before the crossings. In addition, insecurity on the roads to *Magama* has increased as never seen before. These bandits now operate on the road despites all the security operatives stationed. Communities on the road are now caricature of themselves as people relocate and moved closure to Katsina town. (IDI Commercial Motorcyclist, Jibia).

The respondents further illustrate on the connection between the consequences of border closure and emerging insecurity that affectscommunities and environment of border administration, as follows:

The closure eliminated the long queueof trucks and vehicles used to brought and move commodities from and through the borders. This created a situation of increase dispersity of the traffic and communities from Jibia to *Magama*which hitherto provide cover for the the security operatives and their insecurity post and checkpoints. Of recent several post have been attacked. A DPO was gruesomely killed and his body displayed on the road a few miles to *Magama*. The ugly event was due to the intricateness of the emerging kidnapping and bandits on the route. An immigration officer was kidnapped on the road, his kidnapers demanded N100,000,000. Which they later reduced to 15million. He was badly wounded when he was released. He would spend the rest of his life on the crutches. That was not an issue in the pre-border era. The security operatives; customs, immigration, SSS, police now converged to protect themselves not the people and the goods flow that was their preoccupations prior to the closure. The security operatives have moved farther from the borders in Magama-Jibia towards Katsina town (IDI Commercial Motorcyclist, Jibia).

In Maiadua, a respondent explains the resilience in the people as follows. His narration: “The crux of the matter on the effects of the closure is a common knowledge that any action or processes that constrained people sources of livelihood in a negative way is bound to be consequential on the people and their loved one” (IDI Bureu De Change Operator,KongolonMaiadua). The respondents thus suggested that; “This state actions (in the closure of our borders) needed to be re-examined in the light of our plights.” His reasons are; “Generally the closure is problematic. It led to youth decay and vices associated with it. The youths now engaged in drug addition to while away their boredom and some of the consequences therefrom” (Bureu De Change Operator,KongolonMaiadua). It is shown that different categories of people in the border areas adjusted differently to the aftermaths of the border closure. A respondent put the experiences thus:

The fact of the matter is that the elderly and the old here have no alternative than resigned to fate living under this policy. This is because of the fact that their lives, experiences, skills and capacity were built around the environment here. A few of the youths have left and relocated, while many still try their lucks at the border. Some tried changing business and trade this has not being easy. New businesses and enterprises need capital and nurturing. Capitals are not easy to come by. This is as breakthrough in new ventures (IDI Community Leader Maiadua).

Discussion of key Findings

Border closure, economic activities and wellbeing: The findings demonstrates that the enforced Federal Government policy of border

closure in the border areas of Katsina State affected people wellbeing in constrained productivity and economy which are largely informal and supported in of cross border trade and businesses.Such development had enhanced access to essential commodities such as rice, vegetable oil and spaghetti, which supported families and community's wellbeing. Samples reveals that income and goods source from their participation not only support family and community wellbeing but were potent shield from youth redundancy, idleness and other forms of youth's misdemeanor detrimental to youth development and community tranquility.This finding supports the work of Muhammad, et. al., (2025) in the demonstration of the established fact in the potency of cross border economy and community's wellbeing.

The closure and emerging criminality: Generally, social vices and crime constitute unique socio-geographical features of the border areas globally. The indication in this study where the closure of the border gravitated youths into committing theft, prostitution and drug-abuse as a result of increased blocked opportunities availed for self-reliance and other forms of economic productivity asobtained in the preborder closure era. The most alarming finding is gravitation of the youth especially the female gender into participation in human trafficking as victims due to these blocked opportunities in local industries and economy. Human trafficking remains a dangerous form of border crime which must alarm authorities for its lucrative and danger posed to both individuals, communities and the nation at large. In this connection, the study shows the emergence of kidnapping and its consequences in the aftereffects of the closure with victims that include security agents. The implications are dare on the nations border security as state economic infrastructure, the safety of legitimate trade in the study area and general environmental protection. In this direction the finding in the study raise critical observation on the objectives of the government policy of closing the border on the condition of improve national security inclusive of the border communities.The significance of this finding on the geo-politics and economic development in Nigeria is relevance in the continued security challenges in the nation in the heightened banditry and kidnapping in the North-Western Nigeria. This fact reinforces the work of Nnadi and Okoye (2022) the implications of strategy and implication of ungovernable spaces in border communities to national security in Nigeria.

Weakened objectives of the closure: The study illustrated the established fact that border areas as gate-way of the nation for entries and exit of goods and humans, remain critical to both economic growth and social mishap in nations. This study shows that a prosperous border community support national economic development,entrepreneurship growth, productivity and community security. However, finding in this study illustrates the challenge in administrative and management of border area in policy (border closure) that try to regulate and limits illegitimate trade (ban on importation of rice and related commodities), and consequences onpeople directly benefitting from the trades as a way of life (the border communities). Where, no clear provisions are made to support people and communities' transitions from known sources of income to unknown realities in the after effects of the closure, the goals of policy got compromised in dwindled wellbeing of people in the border communities.

Theory and findings: while it was shown that the government took rational decision to closed its national land borders to drive economic growth and strengthened national

security, the policy choice is shown to adversely affect the people in income, wellbeing and security. The communities affected by the policy have made choices between living with the policy however hurtful and circumventing the policy however risky and some turned to outright criminality. This finding called for rethink and reevaluation on the part of the government of the outcomes of the policy and on the communities of the consequences of choice and alternatives.

Conclusion

Conclusively, this study found that the Nigeria's government closure of border impacted people and communities negatively in Border Areas of Katsina State. This is mostly on their wellbeing which were built on reliance of the vibrancy of the borders as goods mainly essential communities crossed. To survive the consequences of the enforcement people and communities responded variously, some towards crime and criminality with consequences still emerging and felt in the border areas and Katsina State in general.

Recommendation

From the foregoing the study recommends as follow:

1. The Federal Government through the Ministry of National Planning and National Border Commission examine and come out with strategic economic development plan for the border communities towards drive for permanent legalization of trade and investments in the areas. Agro-economy entrepreneurship and industrialization are potential economic options for therecalibration of the economy of the border area.
2. Katsina State Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry should design and implement targeted entrepreneurship skill development and financial empowerment schemes towards productivity diversification in the youths in the border area geared towards exploration of new economic connections and opportunities for the development of the areas.
3. Nigeria's National Agency for The Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) needed to increase their presence and reach in the border areas of Katsina State for sensitization, advocacy and support provision for victims and potentials victims of human trafficking.
4. National and international Non-Government Organizations have increasing role to play in youth empowerment and advocacy against violence and youth crime.Advanced Girl Child Education and women empowerment are critical areas requiring interventions.
5. Community and business leaders need to understand changing times and background to government policies and prepared their communities to antecedent shocks and consequences of these policy changes through adoption of news economic opportunities and business.

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