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Public Perception of Small Arms Epidemic and Conflicts in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract:

The study examines the relationship between small arms epidemic and conflicts in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to determine the effect of small arms epidemic (such as AK-47, double barrel, G-3, AKM, Mag-4, SMG, AR70, dynamite, explosives, revolver pistols, automatic pistols, machete, sword, double barrel guns, bow and arrow, grenades) on ethno-communal, political and intra-communal conflicts. The study adopted survey research design. Stratified and purposive sampling technique was adopted in selecting one thousand, one hundred and fifty two (1152) respondents from the three local government areas in the study area. A self-report questionnaire developed by researcher was used as instrument for data collection. The reliability estimate of the instrument was established through the Cronbach method. The obtained data were statistically analysed using Linear regression. Each hypothesis was tested at 0.05 per cent level of significance. The result obtained from the analysis of data indicates that, there is a significant relationship between proliferation of small arms (such as AK-47, double barrel, G-3, AKM) and ethno-communal conflict, proliferation of small arms (such as Mag-4, SMG, AR70, dynamite, explosives) significantly relates to religious conflict, there is a significant relationship between proliferation of small arms (revolver pistols, automatic pistols, AK-47, Mag-4, G-3) and political conflict, and the proliferation of small arms (machete, sword, double barrel, bow and arrow, grenades) significantly correlate to intra-communal conflict. The study concluded on the note that there is a significant relationship between proliferation of small arms and conflicts in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo state, Nigeria. It was recommended among others that government should actively erect border barriers to stem the flow of small arms into the country. Also, government and other stakeholders in conflict management should adopt preventive approach in handling conflict in the country.

Keywords: Public perception, small arms epidemic, conflict, ethno-communal, political conflict, and intra-communal conflict

1. Introduction

The small arms epidemic is considered at present a challenge to both national and international peace. It has become an issue of increasing concern among the international community because of its propensity to fuel and sustain conflicts, violence, insurgency and terrorist activities, which constitutes great impediment to security and sustainable development (Malam, 2014, Adewoyin, 2016). Small arms such as Ak 47, AR 60, double barrel guns, dane gun among others are adjudged to be responsible for the majority of the combat deaths in modern wars and feature prominently in most of the crimes and civil violence visited upon vulnerable societies around the world (Badmus, 2010). According to Ariahu (2005), small arms especially assault rifles like the Soviet/Russian Avtomat Kalashnikova (AK-47) and the U.S-made M-16, have played a special conspicuous role in recent conflicts, accounting for between 35 and 60 percent of all of the deaths and injuries in warfare since 1990.

Nigeria, like other African countries, has been bedevilled by several forms of conflicts that have posed a mortal challenge to the state and its structures. While religious, political and economic reasons may be the cause of these conflicts, its scale and longevity is often attributed to proliferation of small arms (Adebisi, 2002; Emmanuel, 2013; Ikejiani-Clark, 2010, Adewoyin, 2016). These conflicts include but not limited to the following: farmers-Fulani herdsman conflict, intra communal conflicts between Irawo-Owode/Irawo-Ile, Igboho/Igbope in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo state. Also, the Kasuwan Magani crisis in 1980, Kaduna conflicts in 1982, Gure/Kahugu crisis in 1986, Kafanchan conflict in 1987, Kaduna in 1987 and Zango Kataf in 1992. Others are Kafanchan in 1999 and Kaduna, Kachia and Birnin Gwari in February 2000 (Okoye, 2000; Emmanuel, 2013). During these crises, many people were killed, houses

burnt, properties destroyed, and several people were displaced. The frequency and enormity of these conflicts have foisted a general threat to the security of the citizens, which is not only affecting the nation, but also economic activities of the State, given the manifestation of illegal small arms.

The unrestrained circulation and accumulation of illicit weapons before, during and after aggressive combat has led to many regions like the south-western Nigeria being flooded with small arms with overwhelming consequences on individuals, and peaceful coexistence. In Oyo state, studies show that the availability and use of these weapons fuel ethnic, political and communal conflicts, with untold consequences on sustainable development (Okoye, 2000; Adewoyin, 2016). This may be so because, frequent violent conflicts in the State have witnessed the use of these weapons, sometimes involving highly sophisticated ones suitable for external aggression. It is not easy to quantify the level of destruction to lives and property, their accessibility is generally considered as a major factor that influences armed violence and the outbreak as well as the continuation of internal conflicts and tensions in some parts of Oyo State.

Oyo State has suffered a great deal of security challenges generated by the circulation, access and misuse of illicit small arms in unauthorised hands. Specifically, the availability and circulation of arms during ethno-communal and intra-communal conflicts in Igboho/Igbope (Oorelope local government area), Irawo-Owode/ Irawo-Ile (Atisbo LGA) and farmers/herdsmen (Saki-West LGA) in 1981, 1996 and 1999 respectively in Oyo State, Nigeria has contributed to the killings of remarkable number of men, women and children. Although, there is no official statistical records available about the number of death during these conflicts, unconfirmed report alleged that nearly five hundred people were killed with properties worth several millions of naira destroyed. Despite the overall implications of small arms epidemic, limited empirical studies have been undertaken particularly in Oyo State to establish whether small arms are responsible for the eruption, continuation and escalation of ethnic, and political conflict in the area. This study therefore sought to provide scientific evidence on the effect of small arms epidemic on sustained ethnic, political and intra-communal conflicts in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State and Nigeria in general.

It is along this perspective that the following research questions were put forward to guide this study:

- a) To what extent does small arms epidemic (such as AK-47, double barrel, G-3 and AKM) affects ethno-communal conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State?
- b) Does the small arms epidemic (Revolver pistols, automatic pistols, AK-47, Mag-4 and G-3) increase the nature and pattern of political conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State?
- c) What is the relationship between small arms epidemic (machete, sword, double barrel, bow and arrow, grenades) and intra-communal conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State?

1.1. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine the relationship between small arms epidemic and conflicts in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

- (i) Determine the extent to which small arms epidemic (such as AK-47, double barrel, G-3, AKM) affect ethno-communal conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State.
- (ii) Investigate whether the small arms epidemic (such as revolver pistols, automatic pistols, AK-47, Mag-4 and G-3) affect political conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State.
- (iii) Assess the extent to which small arms epidemic (such as machete, sword, double barrel, bow and arrow, grenades) affects intra-communal conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State.

1.2. Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and statistically tested.

- (i) There is no significant relationship between small arms epidemic (such as AK-47, double barrel, G-3, AKM) and ethno-communal conflict.
- (ii) There is no significant relationship between small arms epidemic (revolver pistols, automatic pistols, AK-47, Mag-4, G-3) and political conflict.
- (iii) Small arms epidemic (machete, sword, double barrel, bow and arrow, grenades) has no significant effect on intra-communal conflict.

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

2.1. Proliferation of Small arms and ethno-communal Conflict in Nigeria

According to Salawu (2010), Aleyomi (2012), and Ibrahim (2012), as independent nation, Nigeria is a multi-ethnic country, which has been struggling and working hard to deal with the challenge of ethnicity on one hand and the challenge of ethnic crises on the other. Albert (2005) asserts that the availability of small arms risks igniting or fuelling ethnic conflict and as a country, Nigeria is a classic example of a nation where weapons are available and abuse. He stated that these weapons have contributed to various ethno-communal conflict in Nigeria, this crises times and again takes the form of revolt, damage of national assets, massacre, armed conflict, and secession.

Ojatorotu and Okeke-Uzodike (2006), Emmanuel (2013) noted that the circulation of weapons and ethno-communal crises in the country have got to a worrisome level. They stressed that access to small arms have transformed the country into a battleground. They gave instances of ethnic conflict in Nigeria to include the Ife-Modakeke ethnic conflicts in Osun States in 1999; Hausa/Fulani and

Zangon/Kataf in Kaduna State 1999; Ijaw and Istekiris of Warri in Delta State, 1999; Hausa/Fulani and Yoruba ethnic conflicts in Oyo and Lagos States respectively, 1999/2000; Jukun/Chamba and Kuteb, Jukun and Tiv in Taraba State, 1998/1999; Igbakwu-Omor, Aguleri and Umuleri ethnic conflicts of Anambra State 1999.

Enuka (2009) asserts that the persistence and the rising figure of ethno-communal conflicts in Nigeria are partly due to the circulation of lethal weapons. This is corroborated by Klare and Boutwell (2000) who stated that nowhere in the world has the relationship between the accessibility of small arms and the outbreak and severity of ethno-communal conflict has been more dramatically evident than in Africa. They contend that access to lethal weapons frustrates peace moves and once competing groups have access to small arms; any minor dispute can escalate to conflict and this can result to bloodbath. This factor of small arms proliferation is connected to the horrific scale of ethno-communal violence that engulfed Rwanda, Nigeria, Sudan etc.

According to Klare and Boutwell (2000), hundreds of ethno-communal conflicts erupted just between year 1990 and 2000. These ethno-communal crises have destroyed great number of lives, shattered regions, and displaced unquantified number of people. They posit that majority of damages was propagated through small arms such as “pistols, machine guns, and grenades (small arms)”. The persistence and the snag of ethno-communal conflict in developing nations are partly because of availability of small arms.

2.2. Proliferation of Small Arms and Political Violence

Jekada (2005) in his study entitled proliferation of small arms and its implication on national security revealed that contributing factor to the illicit circulation of small arm in the country is political violence. He observed that during the 2003 general election politicians armed their supporters with modern sophisticated rifles instead of the hitherto used traditional locally made guns. Youth, especially the jobless were armed to caused trouble during the general election. This jobless youth served as thugs to this politician and were also used to snatch ballot boxes, kill as well as maim political associates. Jekada assertion corroborates the belief that the Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State, Nigeria started because some powerful politicians in the state freely armed their political thugs to cause mayhem during election periods and later abandoned the thugs after elections.

The formation of a government through coups d'état explains the influential role of lethal arms as the surest way to assume a political office and enrich oneself illegally. According to Galace (2011) “in West Africa alone, there occurred six junior officers' coups between 1980 and 1986 (Ghana, 1979, 1981; Liberia, 1980; Burkina Faso, 1983 & 1986 and the Gambia, 1984)”. “As a rule, the advent of junior officers' coups further exacerbated arms diffusion, introduced arms possession to the civilian youth, radical students, workers' leaders and the marginalized sections of the urban population and increased gun-related civilian casualty rates”. The beginning of junior military coups and the spread of lethal weapons into the hands of civilians, the stage was ready for the entrance of the rebels and their ill-trained soldiers into the conflict vortex.

Furthermore, Aregbesola (2014) reported that there were many small arms in the hands of wrong people in the country, hence the reasons why electoral crises have become a lingering characteristic on the country's political landscape. He further noted that this violence necessitated by small arms negate peaceful co-existence, and in-addition to safety concern, it works against the consolidation of democratic values. He stated that election in Nigeria cannot be free from violence unless small arms and other weapons in wrong hands across the country are mopped up. The Nigeria Pilot editorial (12th February, 2015) collaborates Aregbesola opinion that the unlawful trade on small arms usually witness an upsurge during election periods when some desperate politicians starts piling up illicit weapons; arming their thugs to carry out all manner of despicable acts, including assassinating political opponents. The editorial reported that on 6th of February 2015 the Kwara State Police command apprehended a heavy-duty vehicle carrying deadly weapons at Kosubosu, in Kwara state. The truck with registration number; Lagos XU 110 BDG was assumed to be coming from the neighbouring country and heading to Ibadan when the police operatives intercepted the truck. AK-47 rifles as well as various types of ammunitions were found in the vehicle. This development attests to the fact that small arms are in high circulation during election period in Nigeria. Abdul (2012) asserts that small arms proliferation is a catalyst to electoral violence that consequently breeds insecurity, which leads to destruction of individual lives and their belongings.

2.3. Proliferation of Small Arms and Intra-Communal Conflict

Albert (2001) and Abubakar (2004) assert that intra-communal conflict is a common feature of every human existence; this may be much obvious in societies that possess varied cultural characteristics and economic differences. Abubakar (2004) noted that the costs of intra-communal conflict are often disproportionately high and they are often suffered by individuals who have slight charge over decision-making with issues of conflict. Intra-communal crises have further led to the killing of unquantifiable number of people and injured many innocent citizens as well as cause severe pains in the lives of those that are involved (Albert, 2001).

Alimba (2004), Angya and Doki (2006) posit that the international circulation of lethal weapons such as assault rifles, machine guns, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and other man-portable weapons has increased both the frequency and intensity of intra-communal conflict and greatly complicated the task of restoring peace. They revealed that such arms are available at global market and black market, both legitimate and illegal, and they are in possession of inexperienced and amateur rebels. Similarly, Azuonwu, (2002), averred that the rise of low-cost lethal weapons contributes remarkably to the likelihood, strength and extent of intra-communal crises in rural communities in sub-Saharan African of which Nigeria is not an exception. In the same vein Angya and Doki, (2006) assert that while these crises often hold a profound and difficult root, it is obvious that the accessibility of sophisticated arms have encourage belligerents to execute their aims on the war-front, rather than at the reconciliation table.

Adeleke (2012) reported that the unchecked circulation of small arms has worsen intra-communal crises and brought damage, untold adversity, and underdevelopment to the affected regions of the world. Adeleke noted that in recent intra-communal crises, more lives have been lost by lethal weapons than any other forms of arms.

2.4. Frustrations-aggression-displacement Theory

The theory is associated with Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mower, and Sears, (1939) and further developed by Miller and Roger Barker (1941), and Leonard Berkowitzin (1969). The major assumption of the theory is that when individuals are prevented from attaining their goals, frustration sets in (Friedman & Scchustack, 1999). The frustration-aggression hypothesis attempts to provide partly the reasons why violence occurs in the society. According to Dill and Anderson, (1995) frustration aggression theory is used to give explanation of unrest and revolutions in the society. The theory reported that the poor and the less privileged engages in various forms of hostility to convey their bottled-up frustration and resentment.

According to Whitley and Kite (2010), the number of frustration and subsequent aggression depends on how near the individuals is to the goal when they are blocked. A significant element of frustration aggression theory concerns the redirection or displacement of aggression. A particular frustration instigates aggression against targets that are to some degree related to that source. The theory has implication for the present study. The intensities of anger, resentment, tension and conflict is associated with the proliferation of arms. In other words, the magnitude and likelihood communal conflict or conflict in general tends to vary inversely with the availability of arms. Arms permit and stimulate the expression of conflict. The circulation of arms is seen as aggression cues to be used by people whose goals in life long been interfered or frustrated. The community responses to denials or deprivations of communal land and other are activated by the availability of arms.

3. Methodology

The study adopted survey research design. The design permits the examination of independent variables with respect to their relationship with effect to their dependent variable (Obasi, 1999; Ofuebe, 2002). The design was considered appropriate for this study because it allows the researcher to make inferences about the population by studying the sample; that is, the design was adopted because it allows for generalization of findings. The study population consists the total number of people residing in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. The Area is made up of ten (10) local government areas.

The population of this ten-local government area is as follows; Olorunsogo – Male (15,639), Female (19,193), Total (34,832). Irepo- Male (26,656), Female (27,569), Total (54,223). Oorelope - Male (24,054), Female (25,028), Total (49,082). Saki East - Male (25,273), Female (25,601), Total (50,874). Saki West - Male (62,137), Female (64,993), Total (127,130). Atisbo - Male (56,747), Female (53,218), Total (109,965). Itesiwaju - Male (60,575), Female (30,097), Total (90,672) Iwajowa - Male (47,217), Female (23,873), Total (71,090). Kajola - Male (44,901), Female (48,593), Total (93,494). Iseyin - Male (57,831), Female (66,858), Total (124,689). The total population of male is (421,030), while that of females is (385,023) giving the grand total of 806,053 (National Population Commission, 2010).

Two methods of sampling were adopted namely, stratified sampling and purposive sampling techniques. The latter was adopted in the stratification of local government areas into different strata. This method reduced sampling inaccuracy as it enabled the investigator to recognize and consider the heterogeneous features of the population while drawing the sample. Purposive method was applied in picking respondents from the enumerated localities. This method was used throughout the three strata. On the whole, a total of 384 respondents were selected from stratum one, 384 respondents from stratum two and 384 respondents from stratum three. This bring the grand total of respondents to one thousand, one hundred and fifty-two (1152).

31 items closed ended questionnaire structured after the four Likert scale entitled “proliferation of small arms and conflict (PSACQ) was designed by the researcher. The reliability of the instrument which is the appraisal of the internal regularity of the research tool was established using the Cronbach Alpha method. Data gathered from the field were coded and analysed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Linear Regression was used to analyse the generated data.

4. Results

Detail results for all the main variables are presented below. Out of the 1152 copies of the questionnaire administered, 1141 copies were retrieved and found useable. Three hundred and seventy-nine (379) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved from Saki West while 380 and 382 copies were retrieved from Oorelope and Atisbo Local Government Areas respectively. Table 1 shows the cross tabulation of socio-demographic of the respondents in relation to the three selected local government areas. Table 1 reveals that 662 respondents (58 per cent) were male and 479 respondents were female (42 per cent). Of the 379 respondents from Saki-West Local Government Area who responded to the questionnaire, 221 (58 per cent) were male while 158(41.7 per cent) were female. In Oorelope LGA, the result shows that 223 respondents were male (58.7 per cent) and 157 respondents (41.3 per cent) were female while in Atisbo LGA, it was 218 respondents (57.1 per cent) male and 164 females (42.9 per cent).

On the distribution of their age, 30 respondents (2.6 per cent) were below 20 years while 89 participants (7.8 per cent), 128 participants (11.2 per cent), 188 participants (16.5 per cent), 262 participants (23 per cent) and 444 participants (38.9 per cent) were within age group 20-24 years, 25-29 years, 30-34 years, 30-34 years, 35-39 years respectively. The result also shows that in the three selected local governments, majority of the respondents were 40 years (38.5 per cent Saki-West, 39.2 per cent in Oorelope and 39 per cent in Atisbo LGA). In summary, a significant number of the participants were above 40 years of age.

On the nature of their occupation, out of the 1141 respondents, 450 respondents (39.4 per cent), were farmers, 457 respondents (40.1 per cent) were public servants while 194 respondents (17.0 per cent) and 40 respondents (3.5 per cent) were traders and Business men and women respectively. In terms of their marital status, 253 respondents representing (22.2 per cent) were single, 813(71.3 per cent) were married while the remaining 75 respondents (6.6 per cent) were either separated or widowed or divorced. In Saki-West, majority of the respondents were married (71.5 per cent). Similar result was obtained in Oorelepo and Atisbo Local Government Areas where

(71.8 per cent) and (70.4 per cent) of participants were married respectively. This result clearly shows that majority of the respondents were married.

Personal Characteristics of Respondents	Local Government			
	Saki West N(percent)	Oorelope N(percent)	Atisbo N(percent)	Total N(percent)
Gender				
Male	221 (58.3)	223 (58.7)	218 (57.1)	662 (58.0)
Female	158 (41.7)	157 (41.3)	164 (42.9)	479 (42.0)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)
Age (years)				
Below 20	10 (2.6)	10 (2.6)	10 (2.6)	30 (2.6)
20-24	29 (7.7)	30 (7.9)	30 (7.9)	89 (7.8)
25-29	42 (11.1)	43 (11.3)	43 (11.3)	128 (11.2)
30-34	63 (16.6)	61 (16.1)	64 (16.8)	188 (16.5)
35-39	89 (23.5)	87 (22.9)	86 (22.5)	262 (23.0)
Above 40	146 (38.5)	149 (39.2)	149 (39.0)	444 (38.9)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)
Occupation				
Farming	151 (39.8)	150 (39.5)	149 (39.0)	450 (39.4)
Public servant	150 (39.6)	155 (40.8)	152 (39.8)	457 (40.1)
Trading	66 (17.4)	61 (16.1)	67 (17.5)	194 (17.0)
Business	12 (3.2)	14 (3.7)	14 (3.7)	40 (3.5)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)
Marital status				
Single	85 (22.4)	84 (22.1)	84 (22.0)	253 (22.2)
Married	271 (71.5)	273 (71.8)	269 (70.4)	813 (71.3)
Separated/widowed/divorced	23 (6.1)	23 (6.1)	29 (7.6)	75 (6.6)
Total	379	380	382	1141 (100)

Table 1: Personal characteristics of respondents
Source: Fieldwork, 2016

4.1. Hypothesis I

Hypothesis one states that their Proliferation of small arms (such as AK-47, double barrel, G-3, AKM) does not significantly affect ethno-communal conflict. This hypothesis was tested using linear regression. The findings revealed in table 4.2 The correlation coefficient of .552 was obtained which means that there is moderate remarkable relationship between the circulation of lethal weapons and ethno-communal conflict. The coefficient of determination of .552 was obtained which means that proliferation of small arms accounted for 55.2 percent of the variation in ethno-communal conflict. The moderately high positive relationship means that the more the proliferation of small arms, the more likely ethno-communal conflict to occur. The r-square value of 55.2 percent suggests that proliferation of small arms accounted for more than half of the variance in ethno-communal conflict in Oke-Ogun. Result also revealed that proliferation of small arms significantly predicts the incidence of ethno-communal conflict $F(1, 1139) = 499.862, p < .05$.

The beta coefficient of .552 indicates that circulation of small arms contributes significantly to the prediction of ethno-communal conflict ($\beta = .552, t 22.36, p < .05$). The adjusted r-square, which is a measure of effect size, shows that 30.4 percent of the variance in ethno-communal conflict was explained by proliferation of small arms. Furthermore, since the calculated r (0.552) is greater than the critical r (.139) with 1139 degrees at the 0.05 level of significance. This means that the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, Proliferation of small arms (such as AK-47, double barrel, G-3, AKM) does not significantly affect ethno-communal conflict in Oke-ogun.

VARIABLES	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.	
Small arms proliferation	10.53	2.60	0.552	.000	
Ethno-communal conflict	9.38	2.46			
Model summary	R	R square	Adjusted R-square	Std. Error of the estimate	
1	0.552	0.305	0.304	2.05	
ANOVA					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	2107.185	1	2107.185	499.862	.000
Residual	4801.494	1139	4.216		
Total	6908.680	1140			
COEFFICIENT					
Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Constant	3.873	.254	.	15.27	.000
Proliferation of small arms	.523	.023	.552	22.358	.000

Table 2: Relationship between proliferation of small arms and ethno-communal conflict
Significant at 0.05, $df = 1139$, critical $r = .087$, critical $F = 3.85$

4.2. Hypothesis II

The second hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between the circulation of lethal weapons (Revolver pistols, automatic pistols, AK-47, Mag-4 and G-3) and political conflict. Linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at $p < .05$, the result presented in Table 3 shows that the predictor variable which is proliferation of small arms significantly predict political conflict, $F(1, 1139) = 454.88$, $p < .05$. The correlation is moderately high ($r = 0.534$) and positive which means that the smaller arms are in circulation, the more likely the occurrence of political conflict. The coefficient of determination of .285 means that 28.5 percent of the variance in political conflict was explained by proliferation of small arms.

The beta weight show that proliferation of small arms contributes significantly to the predictor of political conflict ($\beta = 0.534$, $t = 21.33$, $p < .05$), the adjusted r-square value of .285 which is a measure of effect size, indicate that 28.5 percent of the variance in political conflict was explained by proliferation of small arms. The calculated r (.534) is greater than the critical r (.087) at .05 level of significance. The null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between proliferation of small arms (Revolver pistols, automatic pistols, AK-47, Mag-4 and G-3) and political conflict is rejected. Hence, it is concluded that there is significant relationship between epidemic of small arms (Revolver pistols, automatic pistols, AK-47, Mag-4 and G-3) and political conflict in Oke-ogun area.

VARIABLES	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.	
Proliferation of small arms	10.53	2.60	.534	.000	
Political conflict	9.94	2.32			
Model summary	R	R square	Adjusted R-square	Std. Error of the estimate	
1	.534	.285	.285	1.96	
ANOVA					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	1750.75	1	1750.75	454.88	.000
Residual	4383.83	1139	3.85		
Total	6134.58	1140			
COEFFICIENT					
Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Constant	4.919	.242	.	20.29	.000
Proliferation of small arms	.477	.022	.534	21.33	.000

Table 3: Relationship between proliferation of small arms and political conflict
Significant at 0.05, $df = 1139$, critical $r = .087$, critical $F = 3.85$

4.3. Hypothesis III

Hypothesis three states that, there is no significant relationship between proliferation of small arms (machete, sword, double barrel, bow and arrow, grenades) and intra-communal conflict. The result in Table 4 shows that proliferation of arms significantly predicts intra-communal conflict, $F(1, 1139) = 508.58$, $p < .05$. The correlation coefficient is positive and moderately high ($r = .556$). The r-square of .309 was obtained which implies that proliferation of small arms explained 30.9 percent of the variance in intra-communal conflict.

The beta weight suggests that proliferation of small arms contribute significantly to intra-communal conflict, ($\beta = .556$, $t = 22.55$, $p < .05$). The adjusted r^2 -square of .308, which is a measure of effect size, indicate that 30.8 percent of variance in intra-communal conflict was explained by proliferation of small arms. This implies that, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between proliferation of small arms (machete, sword, double barrel, bow and arrow, grenades) and intra-communal conflict is rejected while the alternate hypothesis is upheld.

VARIABLES	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.	
Proliferation of small arms	10.53	2.60	.556	.000	
Intra-communal conflict	10.65	3.06			
Model summary	R	R square	Adjusted R-square	Std. Error of the estimate	
1	.556	.309	.308	2.55	
ANOVA					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	3297.04	1	3297.04	508.58	.000
Residual	7383.92	1139	6.48		
Total	10680.95	1140			
COEFFICIENT					
Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Constant	3.758	.315	.	11.95	.000
Proliferation of small arms	.654	.029	.556	22.55	.000

Table 4: Relationship between proliferation of small arms and intra-communal conflict
Significant at 0.05, $df = 1139$, critical $r = .087$, critical $F = 3.85$

5. Discussion of Findings

5.1. Proliferation of Small Arms and ethno-communal Conflict

The findings of the first hypothesis revealed that the illegal circulation and access to small arms significantly influence ethno-communal conflict in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The implication of this result is that the availability as well as access to small arms fuel ethno-communal conflict. This suggests that, ethno-communal conflict is prevalent among communities that have stockpiles of small arms like double barrel, AK-47. The study further revealed that the proliferation of illicit arms, pose a serious threat to peaceful co-existence of communities who have disagreement or dispute. The findings from the statistical testing shows that although small arms do not cause ethno-communal conflicts, the wide accessibility, build up and illegitimate circulation of such arms drives ethno-communal crises; destabilize harmonious resolution; strengthen hostility and hampers socio-economic development. The finding of this study corroborates an earlier work by (Vendley & Ali, 2010), Albert (2005); Adetiba (2012); Albert (2001), Ojatorotu, and Okeke-Uzodike (2006); Emmanuel (2013). Euka (2009), Klare and Boutwell (2000), Fabiyi, Thontteh, and Borisade, (2012).

5.2. Proliferation of Small Arms and Political Conflict

The result of the statistical analysis relating to hypothesis two indicates that proliferation of small arms significantly affects political conflict in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The result revealed that politicians stockpile arms, to avoid being stranded when challenged by a rival political party. This tradition of violent behaviour has not only been absorbed and practised as component of the nation's political attitude since freedom from colonialism it has discouraged many Nigeria from taking part in political activities in the country. These two findings of the study lend support to several earlier findings as well as submissions of scholars such as Jekada, 2005; Ikejiani-Clark, 2010; Aregbesola, 2014; Freedom, 2013; Malam, 2014; Abdul, 2012. They all observed that violence during election is an expected occurrence in Nigeria political landscape because of the illegal circulation of lethal weapons. They averred that election in Nigeria cannot be free from violence unless small arms and other weapons in wrong hands across the country are mopped up.

5.3. Proliferation of Small Arms and intra-communal Conflict

The result of the statistical analysis for hypothesis three revealed that proliferation of small arms significantly correlate with intra-communal conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The finding of the study shows that machete is among the class of small arms used during intra-communal conflict. The study further indicates that double barrel guns are prominently used in prosecuting intra-communal conflict in the study area. It was also revealed that the prevalence of intra-communal conflict in the study area is as a result of the easy access to small arms such as sword, Ak-47, double barrel guns, as well as bow and arrow. It was also revealed that the frequent use of small arms during intra-communal communities is linked to its lethal nature. This suggests that the lethal nature of these weapons increase the occurrence and strength of intra-communal crises and significantly made the process of restoring peace difficult.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusively, the findings of this study revealed that proliferation of small arms greatly influences ethno-communal, religious, political and intra-communal conflicts in Oke-ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The implication of this finding on proliferation of small arms and conflicts in Oke-Ogun area is for government at various levels to restrict local production and circulation of small arms. Furthermore, all borders entries and exit route through which arms are smuggled into the Oke- Ogun area should be effectively blocked with a view to eliminate inflow of arms from neighbouring countries. Also, Border surveillance should be strengthened and sophisticated ICT and detective devices should be made available to law enforcement officer at the border. In addition, transparency and accountability should be taking into cognizance in the production and transfer of small arms, as well as weapons registration, to help stem the massive flows of small arms circulation throughout the country.

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