# Perceptions Of The Determinants Of Youth Participation In Collective Violence In Jos: The Research Methodology

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**Abstract**

One of the major social problems of the 21st century is the involvement of the youth in collective violence across the developed and developing societies. Collective violence in its various manifestations, constitute an enormous problem, not only is it a major killer, its socio-economic costs in terms of health care, disruption of means of livelihood and security through policing is considerably high. Youth involvement in collective violence has marred Nigeria's historical landscape with significant incidences since the return to democratic rule in 1999. This paper presents the methodology that examined the perception of the determinants of youth participation in collective violence in Jos from 2001-2015. The methodology consisted of a cross-sectional social survey design, using the quantitative and qualitative sources of data collection. The primary data was purposively generated from an administered and returned structured interview (questionnaire)on 1,173 willing youth respondents as well as recorded and transcribed responses from nine (9) FGD sessions with 47 Key-informants purposively selected based on their knowledge and relevance to the subject matter. Relevant secondary data was also used from academic journals and books. The research adopted the classical conflict and symbolic theoretical explanations as framework. It

was envisaged that these theories would complement the explanatory strengths and weaknesses in the understanding of the involvement of the youth in collective violence.The study found out that cultural claims of indigeneity among the Berom, Anaguta and Afizere ethnic groups over the ownership and control of Jos is at the centre of the conflict with the Hausa and Fulani settler ethnic groups who also lay claim to the ownership of Jos. Furthermore, the politicization of ethnic identities within the context of Nigeria's democratic revivalism has deepened the perception that group's access to political power invariably guarantees economic power. This has sustained the conflicts and violence between the Indigenes and the settlers and has also attracted other group sympathizers in a complex web of identity collective violence in Jos.

**Keywords:** Perceptions, youth, participation, collective violence, research methodology.

**Introduction And Background To The Study**

Youth participation in collective violence and how to manage it are problems much discussed in the 21st century. The studies of youth violence and conflict have expanded in recent decades at all levels of analysis, from inter-personal and inter-group violence to inter-state warfare. The phenomenon of youth participation in collective violence is critical because youth tend to be both the most likely victims and the most likely perpetrators of collective violence. The youth constitute the majority of most population categories across the developed and developing societies and are at the centre of societal interactions and transformations. In most developing societies however, the youth are often placed at the margins of the public sphere and major political, socio-economic and cultural processes and discourse.

Increasingly across the developed and developing societies, findings reveals that youth participation in collective violence is basically an engagement in a struggle for survival,

identity and inclusion, a struggle that shapes how the youth as a social group respond to or relate to state and society in terms of engagement or disengagement, incorporation or alienation (Ikelegbe, 2006). It is further argued that the inability of institutions and opportunities, especially in developing democracies such as Nigeria, to mediate the transition process from youth to adulthood motivates the youths to seek or create alternative social safety network(s). The consequences of these are a widespread involvement of the youth in collective violence manifested in armed insurgencies, terrorism and militia group violence within very weak and functionally decaying state institutions. (Egwu, 1998).

**Research Design**

Biereenu-Nnabugwu (2006, p.100) conceptualises research design as a "formal statement, guide, plan or blue-print on how to arrive at a solution to (an) identified research problem". From this conception, a research design simply focuses on the research process and states the choice, pace and direction of the research. Similarly, Babbie (2010:91) defines research design as "a plan that guides the investigator in the process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting observations". The researcher adopted the mixed-method design using both the quantitative and qualitative instruments through a social survey method. The mixed-method/cross-sectional research design is probably the best method available to the social researcher who is interested in collecting original data for describing population too large to observe directly. The method is also adopted because of the heterogeneity of the population (Ibanga, 1992) and its strength in external validity as well as the advantage for the generalization of findings to a wider population.

**Research Population**

The population of this study comprised of the entire youth aged 18-35 residents in Jos North Local Government Area. Administratively, Jos North has only one (1) district and fourteen (14) federal electoral wards (INEC, 2011). The researcher used

these electoral wards as clusters because of their (existing) distinct characteristics in the economic, political, religious and ethnic diversities and homogeneity between and within these clusters. Gwom is the only district in Jos North with the following Federal electoral wards namely; Naraguta (A), Naraguta (B), Tudun-Wada, Jenta-Apata, Vandapuyeh, Ibrahim-Katsina, Ali-Kazaure, Gangare, Sarkin-Arab, Jos-Jarawa, Tafawa-Balewa, Abba-na-Shehu, Rigiza/Targwom/Mazah and Garba-Daho. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the population projection for 2011 was estimated at 3, 669, 993 (NBS, 2012). However, neither the NPC nor the NBS have provided the population estimate for youths aged 18-35 years in Jos North. Nevertheless, since Nigeria has over 60% youthful population (Okafor, 2011), the youth is likely to constitute a significant proportion of the population of Jos North LGA.

**Sampling Design And Sample Size**

Sampling in research is generally conducted in order to permit the detailed study of part, rather than the whole of a population (Ibanga, 1992; Babbie, 2010). The information derived from the resulting sample is then employed to develop useful generalizations about the population. This work adopted both the probability and non-probability sampling techniques. For the probability sampling technique, the study used the simple and systematic random sampling methods, while for the non-probability technique; the purposive sampling method was adopted. Six federal electoral wards within Jos North local government area were purposively selected for this study. Then, streets were selected within the wards using simple random sampling technique, and households were selected from the streets using systematic random sampling technique. The Primary Health Care (P.H.C.) numbering system was used for the purpose of identifying these households. Respondents were selected within the households sampled. In a household where we met one or two eligible respondents, they were selected. However, where there were more than two eligible respondents, at most two respondents were selected through simple balloting.

The choice of these methods ensured more precise information inside the sub-populations on the issues surrounding the involvements of the youth in collective violence.

A sample size of 879 was selected for the study; it was calculated at 97% confidence level at 3% margin of error (Denscombe, 2010). However, Nigeria is a youthful population and a sample of 879 may not be considered to be representative enough, 317 was added to make the sample size 1, 196. Table 1 and 2 present the distribution by administrative district as well as the political wards taken here as our study clusters and the sample-size of the respondents.

| INSTRUMENTS | TARGET AUDIENCE | OBJECTIVES | SAMPLE SIZE | SAMPLE SIZE | SAMPLE SIZE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ALI-KAZAURE | ABBA-NA-SHEHU | GANGARE | TOTAL |
| OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS | Youths, resident in Jos North LGC | General information about the crises in Jos, 2001-2014 | 219 | 182 | 193 | |
| | | | TUDUN WADA 223 | JOS JARAWA 183 | JENTA APATA 173 | 1,173 |
| FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION | Ethnic and community leaders, Community gate keepers, Religious leaders and Youth leaders | Elicitation of more in-depth, broad and sensitive information from more informed members of the community | ALI-KAZAURE 11 (TWO FGDs) | ABBA-NA-SHEHU 7 (ONE FGDs) | GANGARE 6 (ONE FGDs) | |
| | | | TUDUN WADA 11 (TWO FGDs) | JOS JARAWA 6 (TWO FGDs) | JENTA APATA 6 (ONE FGDs) | 47 |

*Source: Field Survey, 2015*

The choice of probability and non-probability techniques thus; cluster and stratified, purposive and quota sampling techniques respectively, were to guarantee among others, the ease of administration of data collection instruments.

Furthermore, it is to also ensure the independence of sampling frame selection, economic resource management and the researcher's access to the study population. Previous knowledge of the researcher in the study area and on the cycle of crises that have engulfed Jos since 2001 informed the choice of purposive/judgemental methods in the selection of the target population for the study.

In a deliberate attempt to further understand the social setting and the subject under investigation and most importantly, to validate the information that would be obtained from the questionnaire, another important category of respondents was explored. These were selected key informants within the study population based on their influence in society and knowledge on the subject matter, who can also talk directly and perhaps, frankly about the involvement of the youth in collective violence. In the six selected research clusters, therefore two (2) Focus Group Discussions(FGDs) were conducted in Ali-Kazaure and Tudun-Wada and one each in the remaining study clusters with six to seven willing discussants selected from political associations, religious organizations, public servants, traditional institutions, community and ethnic institutions, the business community and some community gate-keepers. In all, eight(8) FGD sessions were conducted. This category of respondents (key informants) did not necessarily fall within the defined youth age limits. A deliberate attempt was also made to ensure gender representation in the administration of the research instruments to willing respondents.

**Selection of Streets**

In Jos North LGA and particularly within the six selected Federal electoral wards that represented the study clusters, separate draws were held in each ward chosen to select three streets for the study. The names of streets in each ward chosen were written on sheets of paper which were folded and put in a dish. The dish containing the names of the streets was thoroughly shuffled and one street drawn, then the sheet of paper was

replaced in the dish and another draw made to select other two streets in the ward for the study. The same procedure was repeated in the other five study clusters to choose three streets from each of the selected wards for the study.

**Selection of households**

The systematic sampling technique was used to select households for this study. For this study, a household was any distinct dwelling structure, be it a storey building, bungalow or a compound. On each street selected within the six wards, we came to where the street begins and threw a dice, and from the number the dice showed, we counted and picked our first household as our random start, usually on the right hand side. The systematic sampling technique was applied to select one in every four households. Households selected were assigned numbers for identification purposes. The total number of households listed was 672.

**Selection of respondents**

Eligible youth community members residing in each household chosen were selected through simple balloting. One respondent was selected where the household comprised less than eight persons aged 18-35 years. Where a household is made up of eight or more eligible persons, two names were drawn as respondents.

The purposive sampling method was applied to pick people of homogenous characteristics in terms of sex, age and socio-economic status that we considered would provide relevant information and valuable insight on the research topic to participate in the focus group discussions (FGD).

**Research Instruments**

This study used the quantitative, qualitative and relevant secondary methodology of data gathering tools. A structured interview schedule or questionnaire as well as an unstructured in-depth interview guide for the 1,196 and 47 Focus Group

Discussants respectively, representing the six (6) Wards that made up the study population in Jos north L.G.A. were used. The structured interview was intended at enhancing precision while the FGDs were targeted at guaranteeing diversity of views and the liberty for an in-depth discussion. Unlike the structured interview schedule, the FGDs might not allow for rigorous statistical analysis but have the advantage of generating and facilitating extensive and detailed qualitative information. The researcher is also aware that investigating the involvement of the youth in collective violence in Jos is particularly a sensitive task as the crises are an ongoing one. Hence, basic precautionary measures including the objective choice, recruitment and training of research assistants were carefully explored.

The questionnaire was designed to cover basic issues relating to the research questions as well as the specific objectives of the study. The questionnaire was principally divided into two sections. The first section sought to elicit information on the bio-data of the respondents while the second section covered areas specific to the research questions and specific objectives of the study.

The questionnaire included questions with multiple choice options as well as those structured on the modified 4-5 likert-type scale (e.g. Strongly disagree, Disagree, Undecided, Agree, and Strongly agree). The in-depth interview design for the key-informants was unstructured and divided into six sections: A (bio-data), section B (Respondents views on the factors associated with youth collective violence), section C (Respondents views on the manifestations of collective violent actions in Jos), section D (Respondents views on the extent of the involvement of the youth in the crises in Jos), section E (Respondents views on the conditions under which youth groups become violent actors in the crises in Jos). Section F (Respondents views on the relationship between the socio-economic status of the youth and their motivations to participate in collective violence in Jos), section G (Respondents view on the solutions and guidelines towards reducing the involvement of

the youth in collective violence). Section H (Respondents views on solutions and guidelines towards stemming collective violence and its reoccurrence in Jos.

**Reliability And Validity Of Instruments**

Generally, testing the reliability and validity of any survey instrument is basically to measure the stability of response. In other words, this is aimed at confirming if the same respondents are likely to answer/respond to the same questions in the same manner if they were asked again (Babbie, 2010). To achieve this objective, the content validity test was adopted in order to establish a connection between the research instruments and the research problem/topic. The research instruments were validated by the supervisor, the methodology discussant and some senior Lecturers in the faculty who are widely recognised as the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for assessment and vetting. For this study, the SMEs were given a list of content areas as specified in the general as well as the specific objectives of the study, along with the test items/instruments representing each content area of the study. The SMEs indicated items that were inadequate and or inappropriately matched to the research blue-print. The specifics of their observations were either revised or dropped from the research instruments and the result is the set of instruments presented in appendix A and B respectively. The instruments (Questionnaire) were further subjected to reliability test through a pilot study which was conducted within Bukuru metropolis in Jos south LGA. The reliability of the instrument was determined by the Cronchbach's Alpha and the reliability coefficient of 0.70 was obtained.

A pilot study was conducted in Bukuru metropolis of Jos–South LGA, an urban area that shares similar socio-economic and political characteristics with Jos-North (the study area). Until 1996, Bukuru and Jos-North were one LGA. At present, the two LGAs are knitted into a mega-city that is only separated by administrative boundaries. The pilot study here was intended to test the strengths and weaknesses of the design and

instrumentations of data collection. One hundred and twenty (120) respondents were administered with the structured questionnaire as well as four (4) FGD sessions each comprising five to seven willing participants for the four residential clusters purposively selected by the researcher. These areas were, Angwan- Doki A and B, Gyero and Gyel. The pilot study provided the researcher and his assistants with the requisite practical experience of the research process and procedure before the main study.

**Methods Of Data Analysis**

Data generated were analyzed and interpreted using the descriptive tools of data analysis. The use of qualitative data analysis tools such as content analysis was also adopted for data that were obtained after the transcription from the in-depth interview with the key-informants as well as the FGD.

For the quantitative data, contingency tables and frequencies were used in the presentation, description and analysis of data obtained from the questionnaire using the tabular percentile presentation. The goal here was to enable the researcher summarize the original data to make them more manageable while maintaining as much as possible the original data. For the qualitative data, a transcription of the recorded responses from the FGDs was carried out and thereafter subjected to a content analysis. Data was also collated from relevant secondary sources and presented verbatim.

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# APPENDIX A1

School of Postgraduate Studies,
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Jos, Nigeria.

I am a PhD student in the above institution conducting a research on **Youth and Collective Violence in Jos**. Kindly respond to these questions sincerely so as to enable me carry out this purely academic exercise. Your response will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thank you.

PETER, Nungshak Wika.

PGSS/UJ/0315/12

**Section A: Biodata.**

Age..... Sex/Gender.....

Marital status..... Educational status.....

Occupation..... Religion.....

Ethnic Group..... Residential Area.....

How long have you lived in this area

a)5-10years b) 11-15years c) 16-20years d) 21years and above

**Section B: Perceptions of determinants of youth participation in collective violence.**

1. The protracted crises in Jos are as a result of the unresolved indigenes and settlers conflicts.
   a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
   d) Agree e) Strongly agree
2. The violence in Jos can be described as anethnic collective violence
   a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
   d) Agree e) Strongly agree
3. The youth fighters in the Jos collective violence are mostly from the poor social class.
   a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
   d) Agree e) Stronglyagree

4. The youth collective violence in Jos is a response to political exclusion by some aggrieved groups.
   a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
   d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
5. The Jos collective violence can be described as religious radicalization and terrorism
   a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
   d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
6. The protracted youth collective violence in Jos has been executed because of the proliferation of fire arms and other weapons in Nigeria.
   a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
   d) Agree e) Stronglyagree

**SECTION C: Manifestations of collective violence by the youth in Jos**

7. How often does a violent eruption occur in this area?
   a) Once a year b) Once in two years c) Once in four years d) Others.....
8. The youth collective violence in Jos has been executed by ethnic militia groups
   a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
9. Some of the instances of the Jos collective violence have manifested instances of religious terrorism.
   a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
10. The youth violent eruptions in Jos have been fought along religious lines
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
11. The diffusion of violent ideologies and tactics through the use of ICT has exacerbated the Jos collective violence
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
12. The youth fighters in the Jos collective violence may have

been 'imported' from neighbouring countries.
a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree
e) Stronglyagree

**SECTION D: Effects of youth involvement in collective violence in Jos**

13. The protracted crises in Jos have created sharp residential divisions along:
    a) Religious identities b) Ethnic identities
    c) Political identities d) Economic status/class.
14. The collective violence in Jos has created a culture of violence among the youths.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree
    e) Stronglyagree
15. The collective violence in Jos has been supported by an organised violence financing network.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree
    e) Stronglyagree
16. Do you think the violence in Jos have been supported by some armed training locations in Nigeria and beyond?
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
17. Hate messages preached by religious leaders also contributed to the fuelling of the violence in Jos.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
18. The Jos protracted collective violence has had a toll on the overall development of the city and the state at large.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree
    e) Stronglyagree

**SECTION E: Conditions associated with youth involvement in collective violence.**

19. The low literacy level of the youth in Jos is responsible for their participation in the crises?
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
20. The soaring unemployment rate in Nigeria is responsible for the recruitment of youth collective fighters in Jos.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
21. Most youth collective violence participants have been manipulated by the elite
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
22. Most youth collective violence in northern Nigeria has been blamed on religious radicalization.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
23. Most groups and associations in Jos have blamed the protracted violence on political marginalization and exclusion.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
24. Mutual fear and suspicion by the indigenes and settler groups is responsible for the collective violence in Jos.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
25. Increase in the proliferation of youth groups and associations in Jos since the 2001 crisis is responsible for the spate of violent eruptions in Jos.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree

**SECTION F: Relationship between socio-economic status of youth and their involvement in collective violence**

26. Sex/Gender is a critical factor in the distribution of most youth collective violence fighters in Jos.
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
27. Absence of Job opportunities for the youth is partly responsible for their participation in the Jos collective violence.
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
28. Most youth collective violence participants do so to revenge previous violence losses.
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
29. Most youth violence participants in Jos do so to identify psychologically with the groups they represent.
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
30. Most collective violence participants in Jos are social isolates without any intensive family or societal social ties
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
31. Most youth collective violence actors participate based on a politicised ethnic commitment and allegiance to a perceived interest.
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
32. The Jos youth collective violence participants fight in defence of their religious social and physical space.
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree

**SECTION G: Measures and approaches to preventing and controlling youth involvement in collective violence in Jos.**

33. Do you think constructive dialogue among the warring actors in the Jos crises can help solve the conflict hard-line issues?
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
34. Do you think a constitutional remedy would be needed to help address some of the issues in the crises in Jos?
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
35. Do you think the provision of employment and other vocational opportunities for the youth is likely going to stem the involvement of the youth in the crises in Jos?
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Strongly agree
36. The adoption of an Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism by the Jos conflict parties will help resolve most of the issues in the Jos crises.
    a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree
37. Violence perpetrators in the Jos protracted crises must be severely punished by law to serve as deterrence and to stem recurrence.
    a)Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Undecided
    d) Agree e) Stronglyagree

b) What other solutions would you suggest to the resolution of the involvement of youth in the collective violence in Jos?

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## APPENDIX A2

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### Key Informants In-depth Interview Guide.

SECTION A:**Preliminaries**

SECTION B: **Introduction**

Welcome participants.

Describe the FGD as a group discussion that allows participants to discuss the topic among themselves rather than talking to those guiding the discussion.

**1. Purpose/Modus Operandi**

We will be discussing the involvement of the youth in the collective violence in Jos. We are interested in all your comments and suggestions. Therefore, we wish to request your kind permission to record our discussion on tape. This is to help us recall the discussion for quality analysis. You are assured that the discussion on tape will not be used against you. Furthermore, we understand that you have willingly obliged to participate in this research. One person will speak at a time without taking much time, or repeating what another person has said. One person will speak at a time so that the tape recorder can pick your voice clearly. Please feel free to disagree with one another politely. We will like to have many points of view. All comments are welcome as there are no wrong answers. All comments are confidential and for the purpose of this research only.

SECTION C: **Research Questions**

1. How would you describe the relationship among the diverse communities in Jos since 2001?
   (**Probe**for the nature of intergroup relations among the diverse communities in Jos)

2. What in your opinion are the critical factors responsible for the 2001, 2008, 2010 and 2011 crises in Jos?
   (**Probe** for the factors responsible for the spate of collective violence in Jos)

3. Can you describe the role of the youth in the violent eruptions in Jos?
   (**Probe** for the critical role the youth perform in the Jos collective violence)

4. Describe the manifestations of youth collective violence in Jos.
   (a) Ethnicity.....
   (b) Religion.....
   (c) Economic.....
   (d) Politics.....

5. What are some of the conditions associated with youth involvement in the Jos collective violence?
   (**Probe** for the underlining conditions responsible for youth participation in collective violence)

6. What are the effects of youth involvement in the collective violence in Jos?
   (**Probe** for the general and specific impact of youth involvement in collective violence)

7. Can the crises in Jos be described as 'Religious Terrorism'?
   (**Probe** to find out if the Jos collective violence is a religious terrorism)

8. Is there any relationship between socio-economic status of the youth and their involvement in the collective violence in Jos?
   (**Probe** for the relationship between socio-economic status of the youth and their involvement in collective violence)

9. Suggest some of the measures and approaches to preventing and controlling youth involvement in collective violence in Jos.

(**Probe** for a practical solution to the resolution of the Jos collective violence)