



## **ROLES OF COMMUNITY WATCH CORPS IN COMBATING BANDITRY IN MALUMFASHI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA**

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### **Abstract**

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*This paper examines the roles of Community Watch Corps in combating banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria. The objectives of this paper are to assess the roles played by the Community Watch Corps, to identify the strategies used in preventing bandit attacks, and to examine the challenges affecting their performance. The paper adopts Routine Activity Theory and Social Control Theory as its theoretical framework. The population of this study comprised residents of Malumfashi as well as relevant security personnel. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) respondents were selected as sample size through simple random availability and purposive sampling techniques while ten participants (10) were interviewed through in-depth interviews. Primary and secondary sources of data were utilized with questionnaires and interview guides serving as instruments for data collection. The paper found that Community Watch Corps play crucial roles in preventing bandit attacks apprehending suspects safeguarding communities and protecting lives and property. It also found that their effectiveness is enhanced through strategies such as arrest intelligence gathering neighborhood watch and the timely handover of suspects to the police. Furthermore, the paper revealed that inadequate funding poor welfare political interference personnel shortages and weak community support hinder their performance. The paper therefore recommends adequate funding improved welfare structured training community partnership and stronger government support as essential measures for addressing banditry in Malumfashi and similar communities.*

**Keywords:** Banditry, Combating, Community Watch Corps, Roles, Security.

### **Background to the Study**

Banditry has become a major source of insecurity across many parts of Nigeria, especially the northwestern region, where communities have witnessed increasing violence, including

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killings, kidnappings, cattle rustling, and village raids (Akhain, 2019). Although the responsibility for security traditionally lies with the state, the rapid escalation of crime has made it evident that formal security agencies alone cannot provide adequate protection. This has led to the growing adoption of community-based security initiatives in many parts of the country. Informal social control mechanisms, often exercised by family members, community leaders, and neighbors, play important roles in shaping crime rates and maintaining order within communities (Kurbrin & Eitzer, 2021).

In Nigeria, the movement toward informal security has gained prominence as communities and government actors search for more effective approaches to address widespread crime. Community participation in crime prevention emphasizes collaboration between residents and formal security agencies and reflects the principles of proactive policing, where collective action helps reduce opportunities for crime (Ekblom, 2021). Consequently, several communities, especially in northern Nigeria, have adopted vigilante groups and local watch structures to complement the efforts of the police in addressing crimes such as banditry, kidnapping, and armed robbery (Nigeria Police Force, 2023).

Banditry, in particular, has intensified across the northwestern region since the late 1990s and early 2000s, with Nigeria witnessing persistent attacks on rural communities, farming households, and major economic activities (Nadama, 2019). The consequences include displacement, destruction of infrastructure, disruption of agriculture, and loss of livelihoods. Reports by humanitarian agencies indicate that millions of people, including farmers and herders, have been displaced by bandit attacks over the years (UNHCR, 2023). The situation has further affected school attendance and community life, as parents withdraw their children from schools due to fear of attacks (Umaru & Terhember, 2023).

To address these escalating threats, communities have responded by forming informal security networks. In Katsina State, several frontline local government areas, including Malumfashi, Musawa, and Kankara, have experienced repeated attacks, resulting in widespread displacement and insecurity. In response, the Katsina State government inaugurated the Community Watch Corps on 10 October 2023 as part of a community-driven initiative to support the police and military in combating banditry. The first batch consisted of two thousand four hundred trained youths selected across the thirty-four local government areas of the state (Adejoh, 2023). This development reflects the growing recognition of the importance of community involvement in safeguarding lives and strengthening local security in areas severely affected by banditry. Given these challenges, this paper examines the roles, strategies, achievements, and constraints of the Community Watch Corps in combating banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area, Katsina State.

### **Problem Statement**

Banditry has become a rapidly escalating security threat in Nigeria, particularly in the northern region, where communities experience frequent attacks resulting in loss of lives, destruction of property, and massive displacement. Despite sustained efforts by government and security agencies, the prevalence of banditry remains high due to limited manpower, inadequate logistics, weak intelligence structures, and poor community-police relations, which continue to undermine effective policing and contribute to rising insecurity (Mammus, 2019).

In Katsina State, the consequences of banditry have been particularly devastating. Communities in Malumfashi, Musawa, Kankara, and surrounding areas have experienced

recurrent attacks involving killings, destruction of homes, theft of livestock, closure of businesses, and disruption of agricultural activities. These attacks have led to declining economic activities, heightened fear among residents, and large-scale displacement (Aro, 2022; UNHCR, 2023). Educational institutions have also been affected, as persistent insecurity discourages school attendance and forces many parents to relocate their children to safer areas (Umaru & Terhember, 2023).

In Malumfashi Local Government Area, the deteriorating security situation has made community involvement increasingly necessary, as formal security agencies alone have been unable to effectively manage the growing insecurity. In response, the Katsina State Government inaugurated the Community Watch Corps in October 2023, with two thousand four hundred youths trained to support conventional security agencies in protecting communities across the state (Adejoh, 2023). This initiative reflects a broader shift toward community-based security arrangements aimed at complementing state security efforts.

Across Nigeria, particularly in the northwestern region, the persistence of banditry, including killings, kidnappings, cattle rustling, and village raids, has further exposed the limitations of formal security agencies in providing adequate protection (Akhain, 2019). As a result, community-based and informal security initiatives have gained prominence, with local actors playing important roles in crime prevention and social control through collaboration with formal security institutions (Kurbrin & Eitzer, 2021; Ekblom, 2021).

However, despite the establishment of the Community Watch Corps and its growing presence in frontline local government areas such as Malumfashi, there is limited empirical evidence on its actual roles, operational strategies, achievements, and constraints in combating banditry at the local level. Given the persistent challenges of limited manpower, inadequate logistics, weak intelligence structures, and poor community-police relations that continue to affect formal security agencies, it remains unclear how effectively the Community Watch Corps has contributed to preventing and responding to banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area. This gap necessitates an examination of the roles played by the Community Watch Corps, the strategies it employs, and the challenges affecting its performance in combating banditry in the study area.

### **Study Objectives**

This paper examines the roles of Community Watch Corps in combating banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area Katsina State Nigeria. Therefore, the specific objectives of the paper are as follows:

- i. To assess the roles played by the Community Watch Corps in preventing and responding to banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area Katsina State Nigeria.
- ii. To identify the strategies used by the Community Watch Corps in combating banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area Katsina State Nigeria.
- iii. To examine the challenges affecting the performance of the Community Watch Corps in the

- iv. fight against banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area Katsina State Nigeria.

## **Literature Review**

### **Concept of Banditry**

Banditry refers to organized violent activities carried out by armed groups who engage in crimes such as kidnapping, killing, cattle rustling, and destruction of property (Abdullahi, 2021). In Nigeria, contemporary banditry has evolved into a sophisticated criminal network that operates largely across rural communities, forest areas, and vulnerable settlements, particularly in the northwestern region (Akhain, 2019). Bandits often take advantage of ungoverned spaces, poor policing structures, and weak state presence to attack communities and disrupt socio-economic life.

Scholars note that banditry is driven by conditions such as poverty, unemployment, rural marginalization, weak border control, and the proliferation of small arms (Nadama, 2019). These conditions often create opportunities for criminal groups to operate with limited resistance. As banditry continues to expand, communities increasingly rely on informal security structures such as vigilante groups and Community Watch Corps to ensure protection and complement formal security efforts (Nigeria Police Force, 2023). Banditry, therefore, represents not only a criminal act but also a direct challenge to national stability, social order, and human security. Its persistence has compelled many state governments, including Katsina State, to adopt community-based interventions aimed at restoring peace and strengthening local resilience.

### **Social Control Theory**

Social Control Theory, developed by Hirschi in 1969, argues that individuals engage in crime when their bonds to society are weak. Attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief shape conformity to societal norms. In the context of banditry, many offenders come from communities with weak social institutions, poor economic opportunities, and low trust in authorities. Community Watch Corps strengthen social control by reinforcing community cooperation, building social bonds, encouraging collective security, and reducing opportunities for deviance. However, the theory does not fully address structural causes of banditry such as poverty and state failure (Okeke, 2020).

### **Methodology**

This paper employed a descriptive survey design using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study was conducted in Malumfashi Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria, targeting residents, community leaders, security personnel, and members of the Community Watch Corps. The study population comprised approximately 246,006 people according to 2025 population projection according to National Bureau of Statistics (National Bureau of Statistics, 2025). As such, a sample of one hundred and fifty respondents was selected through simple random, availability, and purposive sampling, while ten key informants were purposively selected for in-depth interviews. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and interview guides. Primary data were complemented with secondary sources from journals, books, reports, and official publications. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented in tables and percentages, while qualitative data were analyzed thematically. Ethical standards, including confidentiality, informed consent, and voluntary participation, were strictly maintained.

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## Data Analysis

This section presents the analysis of data collected from the respondents through both quantitative (questionnaire survey) and qualitative (in-depth interviews) methods of research. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires were administered to the respondents, but eighteen (18) were missing, and an in-depth interview was conducted with ten (10) respondents in order to support the responses from the quantitative data. Therefore, the sample size of this study is one hundred and thirty-two (132) respondents.

## Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. It includes gender, age, marital status and occupation.

**Table 1: Respondents Sex**

Gender	Frequency	Percent (%)
Male	98	74.2
Female	34	25.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 1 above shows the gender distribution of the respondents where majority of the respondents were male which represents 74.2%, while 25.8% of the respondents were females. This indicates that most of the respondents were male representing (74.2%) as the highest.

**Table 2: Respondents Age**

Age	Frequency	Percent (%)
18-27 years	13	9.8
28-37 years	33	25
38-47 years	53	40.2
48 years and above	33	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 2 above shows the age distribution of the respondents, where prevalent of the respondents (40.2%) are within the age bracket of 38-47 years, 18-27 years represent by (9.8%), 28-37 years represent by (25%), and 48 years and above represent by (25%). The findings indicate that those within the ages of 38-47 years are the prevalent (40.2%) because they are more accessible in the study area and can give maximum cooperation towards the success of the study.

**Table 3: Respondents Marital Status**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent (%)
Single	32	24.2
Married	76	57.6
Divorced	12	9.1
Widow	8	6.1

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Separated	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

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**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 3 above indicates the marital status of the respondents where majority of the respondents are married represent by 57.6%, those single with 24.2%, divorced with 9.1%, widowed with 6.1% and separated 3%. The findings of the study show most of the respondents were married (57.6%) as the highest.

**Table 4: Respondents Occupations**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Civil servant	50	37.9
Businessmen/women	30	22.7
Artisan	12	9.1
Farming	32	24.2
Others	8	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

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**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 4 above entails the occupation of the respondents, where majority of the respondents are civil servant which represent 37.9%, businessmen/women are 22.7%, artisan are 9.1%, farmers are 24.2% and others with 6.1%. This indicates that, majority of the respondents (37.9%) are civil servants because, they are mostly found available in the study area.

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## Substantive Issues

**Table 5: Perceptions on whether the Respondents are Aware of the existence of Community Watch Corps**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Yes	118	89.4
No	14	10.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 5 above entails the respondents view on the view on whether they are aware of the existence of community watch corps in the study area. Majority of the respondents (89.4%) are aware of the existence of community watch corps in the study area. Meanwhile, (10.6%) of the respondents revealed that they are not aware of the existence of community watch corps in the study area. This implies that majority of the respondents representing (89.4%) in the study acknowledged the existence of community watch corps in the study area. Therefore, the findings revealed that majority of the respondents are aware of the existence of community watch corps in the study area.

**Table 6: Perceptions on whether the Respondents are Aware of the Role of Community Watch Corps in the Fight against Banditry**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Yes	116	87.9
No	16	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 6 above entails the respondents view on the view on whether they are aware of the role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Majority of the respondents (87.9%) are aware of the role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Meanwhile, (12.1%) of the respondents revealed that they are not aware of the role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. This implies that majority of the respondents representing (87.9%) in the study acknowledged the role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Therefore, the findings revealed that majority of the respondents are aware of the role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry in the study area.

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**Table 7: Respondents Views on the Role of Community Watch Corps in the fight against Banditry**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>	<b>No (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
Preventing bandit attacks	106 (80.3)	26 (19.7)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Identifying bandits	110 (83.3)	22 (16.7)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Apprehending suspects	98 (74.2)	34 (25.8)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Protecting lives	112 (84.8)	20 (15.2)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Emergency assistance	97 (73.5)	35 (26.5)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Rescuing victims	94 (71.2)	38 (28.8)	<b>132 (100)</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 7 above revealed that 80.3% of the respondents are of the view that preventing bandit attacks is the role of community watch corps, while 19.7% opposed. Also, 83.3% said identifying bandits while 16.7% opposed. In addition, 74.2% said apprehending suspects while 25.8% opposed. Moreover, 84.8% said protecting lives while (15.2%) opposed. However, (73.5%) said emergency assistance while (26.5%) opposed. Also, (71.2%) said rescuing victims while (28.8%) opposed. The study therefore, revealed that protecting lives is the major role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. This is because community watch corps recorded tremendous achievement in safeguarding communities against banditry. Moreover, in an In-depth Interview with a Traditional Leader, opined that:

Protecting lives and properties, apprehension, detection and preventing bandit attacks are the role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Other role includes first aid assistance and rescue service to the victims (IDI with a Traditional Leader, 2025).

Similarly, in an In-depth Interview with a Area Commander of the Community Watch Corps, he opined that:

Emergency assistance, protecting lives, maintaining peace, identification, apprehension and detection of bandits are among the major role and achievements recorded by the community watch corps in the fight against banditry (IDI with Area Commander of the Community Watch Corps, 2025).

**Table 8: Respondents Views on the Strategies of Community Watch Corps in the Fight against Banditry**

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>	<b>No (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
Arrest of suspects	111 (84.1)	21 (15.9)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Interrogation of suspects	104 (78.8)	28 (21.2)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Torture	50 (37.9)	82 (62.1)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Informants	96 (72.7)	36 (27.3)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Neighborhood watch	64 (48.5)	68 (51.5)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Extrajudicial killings	46 (34.8)	86 (65.2)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Handing over the suspect to the police	90 (68.2)	42 (31.8)	<b>132 (100)</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

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Table 8 above revealed that 84.1% of the respondents are of the view that arrest of suspect is the strategy of community watch corps in the fight against banditry, while 15.9% opposed. Also, 78.8% said interrogation of suspect while 21.2% opposed. In addition, 37.9% said torture while 62.1% opposed. Moreover, 72.7% said informants while 27.3% opposed. However, 48.5% said neighborhood watch while 51.5% opposed. Also, 34.8% said extrajudicial killings while 65.2% opposed. Whereas 68.2% said handing over the suspect to the police while 31.8% opposed. The study therefore, revealed that arrest of suspect is the major strategy of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Furthermore, in an In-depth Interview with a Police Officer, opined that:

Identification and arrest of suspects, patrolling, informants and neighborhood watch are among the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. And these strategies help a lot in preventing and controlling banditry in various communities of this locality (IDI with a Police Officer, 2025).

Similarly, in an In-depth Interview with Personnel of the Community Watch Corps, he opined that:

Beat patrol, intelligence gathering, information sharing, arrest, handing over to the police and neighborhood watch are the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry (IDI with Personnel of the Community Watch Corps, 2025).

**Table 9: Respondents Assessing the Strategies of Community Watch Corps in the Fight against Banditry**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Excellent	22	16.7
Very good	58	43.9
Good	40	30.3
Fair	8	6.1
I don't know	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 9 above assess the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Majority of the respondents with 43.9% are of the opinion that the strategies of community watch corps are very good in the fight against banditry. Meanwhile, 16.7% said excellent, 30.3% said fair and 3% revealed not been aware of the effectiveness of the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. This implies that majority of the respondents representing (43.9%) in the study acknowledged the effectiveness of the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Therefore, the findings revealed that the strategies of community watch corps are effective in the fight against banditry in the study area.

**Table 10: Perceptions on whether the Respondents are Aware of the Challenges of Community Watch Corps**

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<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Yes	119	90.2
No	13	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 10 above entails the respondents view on the view on whether they are aware of the challenges of community watch corps in the study area. Majority of the respondents (90.2%) are aware of the challenges of community watch corps in the study area. Meanwhile, (9.8%) of the respondents revealed that they are not aware of the challenges of community watch corps in the study area. This implies that majority of the respondents representing (90.2%) in the study acknowledged the challenges of community watch corps in the study area. Therefore, the findings revealed that majority of the respondents are aware of the challenges of community watch corps in the study area.

**Table 11: Respondents Views on the Challenges of Community Watch Corps in the fight against Banditry**

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>	<b>No (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
Inadequate logistics	117 (88.6)	15 (11.4)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Political interference	70 (53)	62 (47)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Corruption	58 (43.9)	74 (56.1)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Shortage of personnel	114 (86.4)	18 (13.6)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Lack of support from the community	58 (43.9)	74 (56.1)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Inadequate training	110 (83.3)	22 (16.7)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Inadequate funding	106 (80.3)	26 (19.7)	<b>132 (100)</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 11 above revealed that 88.6% of the respondents are of the view that inadequate logistics is the challenge of community watch corps in the fight against banditry, while 11.4% opposed. Also, 53% said political interference while 47% opposed. In addition, 43.9% said corruption while 56.1% opposed. Moreover, 86.4% said shortage of personnel while 13.6% opposed. However, 43.9% said lack of support from the community while 56.1% opposed. Also, 83.3% said inadequate training while 16.7% opposed. Whereas 80.3% said inadequate funding while 19.7% opposed. The study therefore, revealed that inadequate logistics, shortage of personnel and inadequate funding are the challenges of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Furthermore, in an In-depth Interview with NSCDC Officer, opined that:

Political interference, inadequate funding, poor welfare package and remuneration, shortage personnel and lack of adequate community support affect community watch corps in the fight against banditry (IDI with NSCDC Officer, 2025).

Similarly, in an In-depth Interview with another Police Officer, he opined that:

Untimely training and retraining of the personnel, poor remuneration and inadequate government support are

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challenges facing community support affect community watch corps in the fight against banditry (IDI with Police Officer, 2025).

**Table 12: Respondents Views on the Possible Solutions to the Challenges of Community Watch Corps in the Fight against Banditry**

Possible Solutions	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
Adequate logistics	116 (87.9)	16 (12.1)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Good governance	98 (74.2)	34 (25.8)	<b>132 (100)</b>
War against corruption	74 (56.1)	58 (43.9)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Adequate personnel	95 (72)	37 (28)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Community support	97 (73.5)	35 (26.5)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Adequate training	102 (77.3)	30 (22.7)	<b>132 (100)</b>
Adequate funding	109 (82.6)	23 (17.4)	<b>132 (100)</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 12 above revealed that 87.9% of the respondents are of the view that adequate logistics is the possible solution to the challenges of community watch corps in the fight against banditry, while 12.1% opposed. Also, 74.2% said good governance while 25.8% opposed. In addition, 56.1% said war against corruption while 43.9% opposed. Moreover, 72% said adequate personnel while 28% opposed. However, 73.5% said community support while 26.5% opposed. Also, 77.3% said adequate training while 22.7% opposed. Whereas 82.6% said adequate funding while 17.4% opposed. The study therefore, revealed that adequate logistics, adequate personnel and adequate funding are the possible solution to the challenges of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Furthermore, in an In-depth Interview with a Personnel of Community Watch Corps, opined that:

Adequate training, funding, welfare package and remuneration, community and government support can help address the challenges of community watch corps in the fight against banditry (IDI with Personnel of Community Watch Corps, 2025).

Similarly, in an In-depth Interview with Religious Leader, he opined that:

Timely training and retraining of the personnel, adequate remuneration and adequate government support are the possible solutions to the challenges of community watch corps in the fight against banditry (IDI with Religious Leader, 2025).

## Findings

### Roles of Community Watch Corps in the Fight against Banditry

On the role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry, most of the respondents believed that identifying bandits is the major role of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Similarly, the qualitative data revealed that, community watch corps has helped the security agencies such as the police and NSCDC, to mention but a few, in identifying and apprehending bandits, preventing attacks, protecting lives and properties. In addition, Adejoh (2023) opined that, community watch corps have remained popular, acceptable and largely effective in the fight against banditry through collaboration between the community members and security agencies.

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## **Strategies of Community Watch Corps in the Fight against Banditry**

On the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry, findings of the quantitative data revealed that most of the respondents believed that arrest of suspect is the major strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. The qualitative findings revealed that arrest of suspects, informants, intelligence gathering, information sharing and beat patrol are among the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry. And these strategies have aided a lot in combating banditry. In line with this, Ahmad (2021) stressed that, the strategies of community watch corps in the fight against banditry include beat patrol, arrest and detention, intelligence gathering, information sharing and surveillance among others.

## **Challenges Community Watch Corps in the Fight against Banditry**

On the challenges of community watch corps in the fight against banditry, most of the respondents believed inadequate logistics to be the major challenges confronting community watch corps in the fight against banditry. Similarly, the qualitative data revealed that, community watch corps face a lot of challenges. Problems such as inadequate funding, logistics and shortage manpower, political interference and poor leadership are the major challenges facing community watch corps in the fight against banditry. This is in line with Hussain (2018) who argues that, even though the community watch corps in collaboration with the formal security but bad leadership and lack of financial and logistics support serve as an impediment to the success of community watch corps in the fight against banditry.

## **Conclusion**

Community watch corps play an inevitable role in the fight against banditry. Preventing bandit attacks, apprehending suspects, safeguarding the community against banditry and protecting lives and properties are the major roles of community watch corps. In addition, they succeeded in achieving tremendous performance through their strategies of arrest, informant, neighborhood watch and handing over the suspects to the police. Nevertheless, they do face challenges of political interference, inadequate funding, poor welfare package and remuneration, shortage personnel and lack of adequate community support which affect their performance in the fight against banditry. Therefore, there is the need for adequate training, funding, remuneration and government support can help address the challenges of community watch corps in the fight against banditry.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings from this paper, the following recommendations are made:

- i. The findings revealed that the Community Watch Corps plays a significant role in combating banditry but is constrained by inadequate training and weak institutional support. It is therefore recommended that government at the federal, state, and local levels should institutionalize regular and continuous training programmes for Community Watch Corps personnel to enhance their operational competence, professionalism, and effectiveness in preventing and responding to banditry in Malumfashi Local Government Area.
- ii. The study found that inadequate logistics and limited operational resources negatively affect the strategic capacity of the Community Watch Corps. In response, it is recommended that relevant government authorities should ensure the adequate provision of logistics, including communication gadgets, patrol vehicles, protective equipment, and other operational tools. Strengthening logistical support will improve patrol coverage, intelligence gathering, and timely response to banditry incidents.

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- iii. The findings further revealed that poor remuneration, inadequate welfare, and lack of community support pose serious challenges to the effectiveness of the Community Watch Corps. It is therefore recommended that government should improve welfare packages and remuneration for personnel to boost morale and commitment. In addition, stronger collaboration between the Community Watch Corps, community members, and traditional and religious leaders should be encouraged through moral, financial, and intellectual support, in order to enhance trust, intelligence sharing, and collective action against banditry.

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