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Causes of insecurity and its Management Strategies among Rural Dwellers of Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State

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Abstract: Insecurity is the phenomenon of being in a state where you are subject to danger or injury. It is the anxiety one experiences when he feels vulnerable and insecure. Therefore, this research study aims to investigate the causes of insecurity and the plight of rural dwellers in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. However, the specific objectives of the study are to examine the nature and trends of insecurity, investigate causes of insecurity, find out the strategies that can be adopted to manage insecurity challenges, and understand the perceptions of people about insecurity in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. We used a sample size of 100 respondents, consisting of adult males and females from four wards of the local government under study. The study adopted Durkheim's Theory of suicide. The study employed analytical tools such as frequency and percentage. We adopted both primary and secondary sources for data collection. In the field study and analysis, it was discovered that several illegal armed groups, ethnic militia groups, religious fundamentalists, and fanatics are evidence of insecurity in Nigeria. These groups have given rise to a series of incidents such as bombings, murders, arson, armed robberies, banditry, kidnapping, corruption, and injustice, all of which we hear about every day. These happenings are negatively affecting the Bauchi Local Government area in the Bauchi State of Nigeria politically, religiously, and culturally. Religious organizations and other humanitarian agencies are losing confidence in law enforcement agencies. This work, therefore, examines and shows the causes and effects of the political, religious, and cultural implications of insecurity in Nigeria. According to this research, there is a threat of political, economic, and civil destabilization if the trend of insecurity persists. This study recommends a stiffer penalty for perpetrators of violence and equipping law enforcement agencies with modern technological weapons, allowances, and proper recordkeeping.

Keywords: Causes of insecurity and its management; Government area; Strategies; Rural dwellers of Bauchi Local

Introduction

Nigeria has a population of more than one hundred and sixty million, the largest in Africa with fast growing economy. It has plentiful agricultural and natural resources such as petroleum but in spite of these, insecurity and poverty is wide spread in the country and has been on the increase since the 1990 (Rahut et al., 2022). According to Quintavalla et al. (2019), security is a concept that is a priority to the state, and the state exists in order to provide that concept. Security is the prime responsibility of the state (Kruck & Weiss, 2023). The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically states that "The security and welfare of the

people shall be the primary purpose of government". Unfortunately, government on this constitutional responsibility has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities. The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has fueled the crime rate and Terrorists attacks in different parts of the country, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and its growth. To address the threat to national security and combat the increasing waves of crime the federal government in the 2013 budget made a huge allocation to security, and the national assembly passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011.

Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is on the increase, and a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria in the Global Peace Index (Wright et al., 2021). Despite the plethora of security measures taken to address the daunting challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, government efforts have not produced the desired positive result. This has compelled the Nigerian government in recent time to request for foreign assistance from countries such as USA, Israel, and EU countries to combat the rising waves of terrorism and insecurity. Amidst the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with daunting developmental challenges which pose serious threat to the socio-economic development of the country. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Horsman, 2022). According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2014), Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.10 percent in 2010 and 19.70 percent in 2009.

The country has a youth population of 80 million, representing about 60 percent of the total population with a growth rate of 2.6 percent per year, and the national demography suggests that the youth population remains vibrant with an average annual entrant to the labor force at 1.8 million between 2006 and 2011. In 2011, 37.70 percent of Nigerian were aged 15-24 years and 22.4 percent of those between ages 25 and 44 were willing to work but did not get jobs. The current level of social insecurity is alarming and unacceptable (Omodero, 2024). The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. According to Orhero (2019), insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Aghaulor (2021) and Savolainen (2023), defines insecurity from two perspectives; firstly, insecurity is the

state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury.

Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune (Onwugbenu, 2024). Insecurity underscores a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. In the context of this research work, Insecurity is defined as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to wanton destruction of lives and properties. The major causes of insecurity among Nigerian rural dwellers includes; - Ethno religious conflict, Political based Violence, Systemic and political corruption, Economic based Violence, Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness, Unemployment and poverty, Weak security system, etc (Ismail & Olonisakin, 2021). Therefore, the study focus on causes of insecurity and its management strategies among rural dwellers of Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, examine the causes and nature of insecurity among rural dwellers, identified the strategies adopted for the management of insecurity challenges and study the perceptions of people about insecurity in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Theorizing about the concept of insecurity has produced a wide variety of insecurity dimensions (Urbanaviciute et al., 2021; Lerner, 2024; Rohde et al., 2020). One interesting question concerning the dynamics of this phenomenon is how the insecurity influences people and their relations in the society. Hossain et al. (2024), Maia et al. (2022), Settembre-Blundo et al. (2021), provided a careful and holistic analysis of security and its creation and maintenance in society. He claimed that, in its deepest meaning, the desire for security was an existential drive. Ellison et al. (2023), also wrote, "By wanting security, therefore, in order ostensibly (and consciously) to protect and prolong our lives, we are really courting insecurity, and actually engaging in the quest after insecurity". According to Hoffner et al. (2022) and Wang et al. (2024), personal security was closely connected to society and to personal, reciprocal relationships as well as to those people who we do not know. The social paradox of security means that people are vulnerable in their relationships, but in its extreme form, people may also see each other as threats and enemies. Security issues also present moral questions on how society is organized and how laws and rules govern security

Method

Research Design

Research design is the overall strategy, which is chosen to integrate the different component of the study in a coherent and logical way. The descriptive research design will be adopted for the purpose of this research. This research design will help to find answers to the questions of who, what, where, and how associated with the research problem.

Brief History of the Study

Bauchi, state, northeastern Nigeria. Before 1976 it was a province in former North-Eastern state. Bauchi is bounded by the states of Jigawa and Kano on the northwest; Kaduna on the west; Plateau, Taraba, and Gombe on the south; and Yobe on the east. The highlands in the southwestern part of the state are an extension of the Jos Plateau. The Gongola River, rising in the Jos Plateau, flows to the northeast, then turns southward (loosely tracing the southern half of the state's eastern boundary) to merge with the Benue River in Adamawa state. Bauchi state is inhabited by a large number of ethnic groups, including the Tangale, Waja (Wajawa), Fulani, and Hausa. The state also contains a number of traditional Muslim emirates. According to tradition, it was named for a hunter known as Baushe, who settled in the region before the arrival of Yakubu, the first traditional ruler of Bauchi emirate (founded 1800-10).

Of the 36 states, Bauchi is the fifth largest in area and also fifth most populous, with an estimated population of over 8,308,800 as of 2022. Geographically, the state is divided between the West Sudanian savanna in the south and the drier, semi-desert Sahelian savanna in the north with a small part of the montane Jos Plateau in the southwest. A key defining characteristic of the state's landscape is Yankari National Park, a large wildlife park in southern Bauchi State that contains large populations of waterbuck, African buffalo, patas monkey, hippopotamus, roan antelope, and western hartebeest along with some of Nigeria's last remaining West African lion, African leopard, and African bush elephant populations.

Population of the Study

The population of this study comprised of both adult males and females residing in the study area, since the incidence of insecurity is an observable phenomenon in the various respected communities within Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The eligibility for inclusion into this study is that, the respondent most be an inhabitant of Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State and most be 18 years old and above.

Sampling Technique

For the purpose of this study, multi-stage sampling technique were used, in which Bauchi Local Government Area were divided into twelve (12) administrative wards. This are: Majindada A, Majindada B, Makama/Sarkin Baki, Zurgur/Liman, Mun/Musal, Dandango/Yamrat, Birshi/Miri, Kumdum/Durum, Kangyare/Turwun, Galambi/Gwaskaram, Dan Iya Hardo, and Dawaki wards.

Therefore, purposively four (4) wards were selected out of Twelve (12) wards as follows, Zurgur/Liman, Mun/Musal, Dandango/Yamrat, Birshi/Miri wards, the reason for this, is that, those wards selected has the highest concentration of insecurity. At the first stage, the 4 wards were considered into clusters having 4 clusters. In the second stage, one streets were selected through the lottery method. The names of the streets were written on small pieces of papers, folded, squeezed, and put in a container thoroughly mixed and drawn without replacement to select the streets in each wards respectively. Making 4 streets. In stage three, 25 respondents were selected from each of the street using the accidental method, making a total of 100.

Sample Size

The study draws a sample size of 100 respondents from age 15 years and above as the sampling size for the study and they were questioned to get the exact information for the study. Since it is not possible to cover all the population of the entire Kura.

Sources of Data collection

The sources of data collected for the purpose of this study were basically be primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary data were derived from the administration of questionnaire using quantitative method. While secondary data were collected from official document and records, newspapers articles and texts journals.

Methods of Data Collection

For the purpose of this research, quantitative method of data collection was adopted; questionnaires were distributed to the respondents. The questionnaire comprised of open-ended and close-ended questions. It enabled the respondents to select among various options provided in the questionnaire.

Methods of Data Analysis

Quantitatively, data from the questionnaire were analyzed after data clearing and coding using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) in order to generate table, frequency and percentage distribution.

Result and Discussion

This chapter deals with analysis and interpretation of data generated from the field. One hundred (100) questionnaires were administered of which all the questionnaires were successfully filled and retrieved. Thus, the analysis and data presentation is based on the retrieved one hundred (100) questionnaires. Univarate method of analysis using frequency and percentage is used to analyze the quantitative data. In addition, the generated qualitative data through in-depth interviews were analyzed in narrative form so as to complement the data via questionnaires as the principal instrument of this study.

The Socio-demographic Data of the Respondents

This section presents respondents socio-economic and socio-demographic information.

Table 1. Sex Distribution of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	60	60.0
Female	40	40.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The data shows that majority of the respondents 60 (60%) were males, and that of females were 40 (40%). It can be deduced from the total respondents that males were the majority (60%) respondents, and this is because the males are the heads of most of the household visited in the study area. This again is due the nature of the study area where men are visible than their female counterpart as women are kept in seclusion (purdah) as part of the teachings of Islamic religion.

Table 2. Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age Range	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-27	34	34.0
28-37	17	17.0
38-47	38	38.0
48 and above	11	11.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The data shows that majority of the respondents 38 (38%) are between the age of 38-47, followed by 34 (34%) who are between the age of 18-27, and 17 (17%) of the respondents are within the ages of 28-37, lastly 11 (11%) are those aged 48 and above. This implies that, majority of the respondents who are between the ages of 38-47 years are youths who are likely to be affected by Insecurity, than those ages of 48 and above. This is because the youth form the productive force of the society and they engage in hard labor, and whenever they are not

secured they will create a problem in that society (Fallah Shayan et al., 2022; Rodrigues, 2020; Quach et al., 2022).

Table 3. Respondents Marital Status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	17	17.0
Married	34	34.0
Divorce	26	26.0
Widowed	23	23.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The data presented above indicate that majority of the respondents are married 34 (34%) and 26 (26%) which are Divorce respectively, while 23 (23%) and 17(17%) of the respondents are Widowed and Single respectively. This indicate that, those that are Married and divorce are more likely to inclined or associated with In-security than the Single, because they have responsibilities as heads of households than the widowed and divorcees. As we indicated earlier, Insecurity may be both internal (domestic) and external.

Table 4. Educational Attainments of the Respondents

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Non formal	13	13.0
Primary	9	9.0
Secondary	27	27.0
Tertiary	51	51.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The data shows that 13 (13%) of the respondents attend non formal educational such as qur'anic schools, while 9 (9%) primary schools leaving certificate, 27 (27%) attained the level of secondary schools (WAEC and NECO) and 51 (51%) of the respondents attain the level of tertiary education (such as diploma, national certificate of education and degree). Interpretation of the above trends in highest level of educational qualification of the respondents, in regards to the primary schools leaving certificate holders they do not have the means to continue their education to the next level due to poverty and other environmental factor. And in regard to secondary schools graduate who has the second to the highest percentage, most of the youth do no longer further their education due to lack of performance in SSCE (Oswald-Egg & Renold, 2021; Jaremus et al., 2023; Guo & Li, 2024). And therefore it tend to be affected by poverty and are more frown to be engage in any act that will bring In-security and other social problems in Bauchi, the last and highest percentage of 51% attain the tertiary education (Polytechnics Universities), this is because in some households visited only literate ones were presented to the researcher to responds to the questions (Lanciano et al., 2024; Cruz Neri et al., 2021; De Buhr & Tannen, 2020). For Qur'anic education (non-formal) with 13% Bauchi community is dominated by Muslims, and Islamic education is given preference over formal education.

Table 5. Occupational Status of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farmer	9	9.0
Trader	22	22.0
Civil servants	23	23.0
Students	46	46.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The data above shows that 46 (46%) of the respondents are Students, 22 (22%) were traders, civil servants constitute 23 (23%) of the respondents, 9 (9%) of the respondents are farmers. This implies that majority of the respondents 46% are students, this is due to awareness on the importance of education by traditional and political leaders on parents to send their children to schools.

Table 6. Respondents Ethnic Groups

Frequency	Percentage (%)
62	62.0
16	16.0
18	18.0
4	4.0
100	100.0
	62 16 18 4

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The data above shows that 62 (62%) of the respondents are Hausa, while 16 (16%) are Fulani, 18 (18%) are Bare-baris and 4 (4%) of the respondents represents others i.e. Yourba and Igbos residing in the study area. This study was dominated by Hausa and Bare-baris dominated community.

Table 7. Respondents Daily Income

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Daily Income	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than N1	6	6.0
N1-N199	21	21.0
200-399	49	49.0
400 and above	24	24.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The data above shows that 6 (6%) of the respondents live below N1 per day, while 21 (21%) of the respondents spends between the range of N1-N199 daily, 49 (49%) of the respondents live between the range of N200-399daily, and 24 (24%) of the respondents N400 and above daily. This implies that 6% of the respondents live below poverty line (less than 1US Dollars) while 49% of the respondents are living within the range of

1US Dollars per day, they may be likely to be in poverty in one way or the other, and lastly 24% of the respondents spends more than N400 and above daily.

Substantive Issue on the Causes of Insecurity and its Management Strategies among Rural Dwellers of Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State

This section presents respondents view on the causes of insecurity and its management strategies among rural dwellers of Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Table 8. Respondent's Knowledge about the Existence of Insecurity in Bauchi

Insecurity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agreed	36	36.0
Strongly agreed	25	25.0
Undecided	6	6.0
Disagree	7	7.0
Strongly disagree	26	26.0
Total	100	100.0
0 71110		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The above data shows that 36 (36%) and 25 (25%) of the respondents in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State knows about the existence of insecurity in their community, and only 7 (7%) and 26 (26%) of the respondents Disagree and strongly disagree respectively and are not aware of the existence of insecurity in their community and only 6 (6%) of the respondents remain neutral on the question under investigation. The interpretation indicates that majority of the respondents about 60% of them, are aware of the existence of insecurity in Bauchi; this may be as a result of deprivation, unemployment, lack of basic necessities of life among others.

Table 9. Unemployment as the Causes of Insecurity in Bauchi

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Unemployment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	52	52.0
Strongly agree	26	26.0
Undecided	3	3.0
Disagree	14	14.0
Strongly disagree	5	5.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The above table shows that 52 (52%) of the respondents agreed that unemployment is the major cause of insecurity in Bauchi and 26 (26%) of the respondents strongly agreed that unemployment causes insecurity in Bauchi, while 3 (3%) of the respondents decided to stay neutral on the issue of unemployment as the major causes of insecurity in Bauchi, 14 (14%) and 5 (5%) of the respondents have disagree and strongly

disagree that unemployment cause insecurity in Bauchi. The analysis shows that, majority of the respondents about 70% of the respondents believed that unemployment is the major cause of insecurity in the study area.

Table 10. Respondent's Perception as to whether the Current Insecurity in Bauchi is on High Rate

Frequency	Percentage (%)		
25	25.0		
49	49.0		
6	6.0		
18	18.0		
2	2.0		
100	100.0		
	25 49 6 18 2		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The above table shows that 25 (25%) of the respondents agreed that insecurity in Bauchi is on the high rate and 49 (49%) of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity in Bauchi is on the high rate, while 6 (6%) of the respondents decided to stay neutral on the issue of insecurity in Bauchi, 18 (18%) and 2 (2%) of the respondents have disagree and strongly disagree that insecurity in Bauchi and Nigeria in general is on the high rate. The analysis shows that, majority of the respondents about 75% of them believed that of insecurity in the study area is on the high rate. This may be as a result of lack of care from the government and provision of basic amenities of life and sound education to the rural populace.

Table 11. The Nigeria Police Force is Effective with Necessary Crime Fighting Equipment

recessary crime righting Equipment			
Police Effective	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Agree	12	12.0	
Strongly agree	38	38.0	
Neutral	17	17.0	
Disagree	13	13.0	
Strongly disagree	20	20.0	
Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The above table shows that 12 (12%) of the respondents agreed that the Nigeria police force is effective with necessary crime fighting equipment 38 (38%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Nigerian police is effective with crime fighting equipment, while 17 (17%) of the respondents decided to stay neutral on the issue of effectiveness of Nigerian police in fighting crime in Bauchi , 13 (13%) and 20 (20%) of the respondents have disagree and strongly disagree that Nigeria police is effective with necessary crime fighting equipment. The analysis shows that, majority of the respondents about 50% of the respondents believed that Nigeria police is effective with crime fighting equipment

in the study area (Singh, 2022). This may be as a result of government effort in providing necessary fighting equipment to the police.

Table 12. Insecurity is Aggravated by the High Level of Poverty and Unemployment in Nigeria

Poverty and Unemployment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	18	18.0
Strongly agree	39	39.0
Neutral	19	10.0
Disagree	21	21.0
Strongly disagree	12	12.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The above table shows that 18 (18%) of the respondents agreed that insecurity is aggravated by high level of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria and 39 (39%) of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity is aggravated by high level of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria, while 10 (10%) of the respondents decided to stay neutral on the issue under investigation, 21 (21%) and 12 (12%) of the respondents have disagree and strongly disagree that insecurity in Bauchi and Nigeria in general is aggravated by the high level of poverty and unemployment. The analysis shows that, majority of the respondents about 57% of the respondents believe that insecurity in the study area is aggravated by poverty and unemployment. This may be as a result of poor government policies to the rural populace.

Discussion

The statutory duties of the Nigerian police force as spelt out in section 194(2)(b) of the 1999 constitution as enacted in section 4 of the police act 1967 as amended by act no 23 of 1979 charges the police among other duties, the duty of investigation, prevention and detection of crime. As a basic general duty of the Nigerian police, prevention of crimes and provision of security appears to be a simple expression applied to its real sense, thus prevention of crime is fostered by good and efficient crime investigation and detective ability and actions, the prompt apprehension and prosecution of offenders, produces repressive and deterrent effects on habitual or Potential offenders (Törrönen, 2021). Crime prevention therefore presents to the police officer perhaps the greatest challenge which may confront him in the performance of his duties (Koper et al., 2022; Frenkel et al., 2021; Shjarback & Nix, 2020). The inability of the police to effectively tackle insecurity in Nigeria is traceable to low funding of the force, inadequate logistics, poor motivation and remuneration, lack of modern communication facilities and crime fighting equipment, inadequate and deplorable

accommodation, indifference, corruption, police brutality and lack of public support.

Added to this, the image of the Nigerian police has been seriously damaged with the public knowledge that high ranking police officers are involved in abating and aiding crimes in Nigeria, thus the issues of crime should not be left to the police alone such factor like motivation, good working conditions inadequate crime fighting facilities, good salaries and logistics are positively related to reducing insecurity in Nigeria. Accordingly, Queiroz (2018), Almas et al. (2025), and Hult et al. (2023) perceive the cause of insecurity to be as a result of the environment dominated malignant insensitivity to man, thus many people in authority take advantage of their positions to force down policies that impoverish 'the many' in so much as it benefits them and a few others (Zain et al., 2022; Dwivedi et al., 2021; Wisse et al., 2019). Furthermore, the inability of the managers of Nigeria's security apparatus to address the country's security challenges raises yet another critical question on the preparedness of Nigeria to attain desired political, social and economic heights in the year 2020. It further poses serious threats to the unity and corporate existence of Nigeria as a sovereign state. Therefore, addressing the security challenges in Nigeria ultimately requires not only the causes of threats but also a critical evaluation of the performance of security agencies in handling the security situation in Nigeria and effectiveness of the security agencies in Nigeria to perform their statutory responsibilities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study on the causes of insecurity and its management strategies among rural dwellers of Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State has shown that insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered industrialization and sustainable development in Nigeria in particular and Africa at large. Nigeria which is perceived as the giant of Africa has witnessed an unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Fulani Herdsmen; Boko Haram Robber Insurgencies, Armed Attacks, political/religious crisis, kidnapping, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants, Child Abduction/ Trafficking etc. Other crimes committed by these Islamic sects include; destruction of vehicles; burning of churches, police stations, schools, hospitals, clinics, shops, army barracks and residential houses; abduction of expatriates. These challenges have made security a pivotal issue that has culminated in the allocation of country's huge meager resources to the protection of lives and properties. It has also made government to divert resources meant developmental purposes to security. Also, the alarming rate at which the economic, political, social and religious affairs of the nation are dwindling at present is a real symptom of insecurity. Similarly, insecurity has threatened the desperate attempt to industrialize, the existing socio-cultural tranquility and sustainable development. Consequent upon this, the Global Peace Index (2012) rated Nigeria low as regards security matters.

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Author Contributions

Conceptualization, S. U. M; methodology, S. A. W.; validation, S. U. M.; formal analysis, S. A. W.; investigation, S. U. M.; resources, S. A. W.; data curation, S. U. M.: writing—original draft preparation, S.A. W and S. U. M.; writing—review and editing, S. A. W.: visualization, S. U. M. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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