



## Social and Economic Effect of Robbery (Piracy) of Boat Passengers and Their Belongings on Lagos Rivers and Creeks

*Sule Abiodun*

Niomr Research Lagos, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

The activities of robbers or pirates apart from affecting the livelihoods of workers, also affects revenue generation as commercial activities by boat operators grinds to a halt or reduces considerably. This is due to the fear of attack from sea robbers or pirates which is entertained by passengers when travelling by water. This paper investigated the social and economic effect of robbery (piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks. It was carried out on 250 boat operators and waterways users around Lagos Rivers selected from the thirty locations in Lagos state including Marina/C.M.S - Oworonshoki, Mile 2 - Addax/Falomo, Ajah - Five cowries - marina/C.M.S, Badore - Five cowries, and Marina/C.M.S – Ikorodu routes using random sampling techniques. Data was obtained by means of questionnaire, structured using a four point likert scale format. The data collected was analyzed descriptively; using frequencies and percentages while hypothesis was done using Chi-Square was used. The result of the study revealed that there is a significant impact of social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks. Based on this result, the study concluded that maritime piracy has negative impacts on maritime business, as well as impacts the social and economic aspect of the people. It affects seafaring, fishing, and trading of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks. Based on the conclusion recommendations were made.

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**Keywords:** Provision of Hygiene, Clean Water, Water Borne Diseases

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

The percentage of trade that is carried out by sea is reported to be about 80%, an indication of the significant role played by the sea in a nation's economic development (Bowden, Hurburt, Aloyo, Marts & Lee, 2010). In spite of this significant role played by the maritime sector in transportation, it does not appear to be receiving the attention it deserves, judging from the budgetary allocation and neglect of security (Onuoha 2012). Onuoha (2012) observed that the maritime security is grossly underfunded and ill equipped to perform effectively and ward off attacks or criminal operations that endanger the lives of people and hinders the smooth transition of vessels. The activities of criminals or piracy on the waterways have serious negative implications on the economy. The activities of robbers or pirates apart from affecting the livelihoods of workers, also affects revenue generation as commercial activities by boat operators grinds to a halt or reduces considerably. This is due to the fear of attack from sea robbers or pirates which is entertained by passengers when travelling by water.

The issue of maritime insecurity is a social problem affecting boat operators, passengers and even the economy. The livelihood of people which is dependent on the waterway is affected, as well as all forms of maritime business, thus negatively impacting on commercial activities leading to huge loss of revenue (Adongoi, Otodo&Adioni-Arogo, 2019). Piracy is defined by Article 101 of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as illegal acts of violence, committed for personal purpose on high seas or a ship against persons or property on board a ship or aircraft (Adongoi, Otodo&Adioni-Arogo, 2019). Piracy includes acts such as hijack, armed robbery with the intents to steal or extort money. This acts according to Igbokwe (2012), threaten waterborne transport and its capacity as a mode of transportation, which is essential to the economy of a country. As observed by Essien and Adongui (2015) the issue of piracy on Nigerian waters is a deterrent to the flow of foreign investment and local businesses necessary to economy development. Sea transport is important as it facilitates trade, increases revenue generation, promotes tourism, creates employment opportunities, and facilitates industrial growth (Essien&Adongui, 2015).

The increased occurrence of sea robbery and the absence of adequate security give an indication of the dangers associated with the Nigerian maritime environment. There are indications of the devastating effect of sea robbery on the maritime environment; however, there is a lack of studies addressing the social and economic impacts of robbery of passengers on Lagos Rivers. Most available studies focus on the effect of sea robbery on issues such as oil and gas, and even national security (Onuoha& Hassan, 2009; Udensi, Okpara&Oyinyechi 2014). Based on this gap in knowledge, this study investigates the problems caused by robbery pose to Lagos water transportation.

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### **Statement of research problem**

Travelling by water is a means of transportation that is being encouraged in Lagos state, unlike the other parts of the country like the Niger delta region, where it is a popular means of transportation (Adongoi, Otodo&Adioni-Arogo, 2020). However the problem of robbery of passengers on the waterways paints an ugly picture of maritime business operations, as well as the state of security which is a challenge to sea business operation in Nigeria. To this end, the issue of sea robbery constitutes a social and economic problem in terms of the threat it poses to passengers and crew and their belongings aboard, especially in a city like Lagos where it is people are still being encouraged to adopt it as an alternative means of transportation. Thus, this study is an attempt to examine the Social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks.

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### **Research objectives**

The objective of this study is to examine the Social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks. Specifically, the study seeks to;

1. Determine the economic impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers.
2. Assess the social impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers.
3. Examine the security threats posed by robbery (piracy) of passengers to sea business operation in Lagos state.

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### **Research questions**

1. What is the economic impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers?
2. What is the social impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers?
3. What are the security threats posed by robbery (piracy) of passengers to sea business operation in Lagos state?

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### **Research hypotheses**

H1: There is significant impact of social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks.

H0: There is no significant impact of social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks.

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### **Literature review**

Piracy is fast becoming an issue of great concern as it is a threat to national security, economic prosperity, and protection of lives and properties of merchants. Maritime piracy can be defined as the criminal activities and illegal seizure of properties, attack and abduction of seafarers and vessels, takeover of ships, robbery and diversion of vessels for motives that may be personal, political or economic and which the repercussions have negative consequences on the travelers or passengers either within a shore of a country or in international waters (Hassan & Hassan, 2017) while armed robbery is referred to as the attacks on vessels by a smaller gang within a country's territory off the shores of international waters and which is aimed at vessels that have been travelling from one region to another or from one country to another.

These actions are mostly carried out by middle aged youths from economically neglected and politically marginalized regions (Nwachukwu et al., 2020) and the weapons mostly used are smaller or less sophisticated. Unemployment alongside corruption and fraud are the driving forces of piracy and robbery. Lack of jobs make individuals go to any length while using any means necessary to disrupt the economic activities that bring money into the nation (world economic forum, 2019). Besides from the financial aspects, some individuals commit these crimes for vengeful reasons (Bamburly, 2016).

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## Effects of sea robbery

Violent acts at sea threaten security measures put in place to protect travellers and seafarers and any threat to maritime security can lead to financial losses from potential investors. Artisanal fishermen who invest a lot of money into their operations are left scarred psychologically, financially, physically and emotionally with robbery incidents at sea, making it difficult for them to return to fishing (Bambury, 2016).

Commercial traffic by boat operators has significantly decreased, as individuals who would have voyaged by water for job related purposes or to trade are terrified of being attacked by sea robbers who often aim for expatriates and other Nigerian workers in the Oil and Gas industry. This causes a reduction in investment ventures in that region since most investors are afraid to invest due to insecurity to life and business enterprises (Adongoi, Otodo&Azibasuum, 2020). The activities of sea robbers affect fishing business and other commercial activities as there is a decrease in the fleet of fishing trawlers on these waters thereby affecting fishermen and traders as a resulting to a huge loss of revenue to the.

Challenges confronting tackling of armed robbery and piracy in Nigeria include inexperienced and inadequately trained personnel in the maritime sector in place of experts, corruption on all levels including the security sector that is in charge of overseeing safety in the maritime industry (Ibrahim, 2019), too many security issues in the country and not enough workforce to tackle these issues (Brume-Eruagbere, 2017).

Fragile institutions as well as irregular practices account for Nigeria's weak maritime security rather than the absence of laws and the law does not provide for strengthening maritime agencies. Areas that require attention are the ability to control private maritime security operatives, enhanced human and institutional capacity and transparency of mandates and responsibilities (Ogbonnaya, 2020).

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## Empirical review

Essien and Adongoi (2015) carried out a study to examine sea piracy and security challenges of maritime business in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Questionnaires were used to collect data from a sample size comprising 215 randomly selected business operators in nine water fronts in the state. Results from analysis indicated a negative significant effect of attacks from pirates on sea business operations while security surveillance revealed a significantly positive effect on sea business operations indicating that adequate security facilitates sea business operations in Nigeria

Nwachukwu et al. (2020) examined how economic prosperity in Niger Delta Region of Nigeria is impacted by piracy. A structured questionnaire was used to obtain data from a sample size of 186 residents of the region and analyzed with Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 23.0. The result of the analysis revealed that piracy significantly affects economic prosperity of Niger delta region and economic prosperity being economic development, job creation and sea transportation performance as measured in this study were found to be affected by the activities of pirates.

Adongoi, Otodo&Azibasuum (2020) examined the implication of the activities of sea robbers on water transportation in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Using questionnaires and oral interviews to collect data from a sample size of 400 respondents comprising maritime business operators from three coastal states in the region who were selected using the Taro Yamane sample size determination technique and multi-stage sampling technique respectively, findings indicated an alarming level of sea robbers' activities in the region which may hinder commercial and socio-cultural activities if left unchecked. This finding indicates that a significant relationship exists between sea robbers and water transportation.

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## Theoretical framework

### Failed State Theory

This theory was created by Helman and Ratner (1993) and later extended by Zartman (1995) which summarily assumed that a state is considered failed when there is failure in delivery of important primary responsibilities to the public, that is, when the government fails to perform its duty accordingly. In such situation where the government fails to provide the elementary needs of its citizens, secure their lives and properties, injustice prevailed and corruption, crime will be on the rise and the citizens will engage in criminal activities, further endangering lives. Sea robbery and piracy in Lagos Rivers and creeks can be inferred from the viewpoint of a failed state because the Nigerian government has allowed for the breakdown of infrastructure for decades, and Nigeria, which was the headquarters of world poverty in 2019 had the highest corruption incidence (Ibrahim, 2019). The citizens therefore turn to crimes including sea robbery and piracy as an alternative means to survive.

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## Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted by this study to gather information from the respondents on the issue under study. The study population consists of boat operators and waterways users around Lagos Rivers. The study purposively selected five jetty locations from the thirty locations in Lagos state, and they include Marina/C.M.S - Oworonshoki, Mile 2 - Addax/Falomo, Ajah - Five cowries - marina/C.M.S, Badore - Five cowries, and Marina/C.M.S - Ikorodu routes. Using random sampling method, fifty respondents from each of the selected routes were selected for the study, thus bringing the sample size to 250. Data was obtained by means of questionnaire, structured using a four point likert scale format. The assistance of research assistants were enlisted in distributing the questionnaires to these respondents which were collected

on the spot after filling. The data collected was analyzed descriptively; using frequencies and percentages while hypothesis was done using Chi-Square was used.

## Data presentation, analysis and discussion

### Presentation of Data

**Table 1: Respondents Ages as classified by Gender**

Age	Male		Female		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Less than 30 years	55	22	63	25.2	118	47.2
30 but less than 40 years	40	16	49	19.6	89	35.6
40 but less than 50 years	16	6.4	11	4.4	27	10.8
50 years and above	9	3.6	8	3.2	17	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2021.

Table 1 indicates that the respondents have different ages as classified by their gender. From the table above, the participants of the study comprises 48% male and 52% female with their ages ranging between less than 30 through above 50 years as indicated in the table.

**Table 2: Respondents Highest educational attainment classified by gender**

Education	Male		Female		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
OND/NCE	41	16.4	43	17.2	<b>84</b>	<b>33.6</b>
B.SC/HND	76	30.4	74	29.6	<b>150</b>	<b>60.0</b>
MBA/MSC	3	1.2	9	3.6	<b>12</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Others	0	0.0	4	1.6	<b>4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2021.

Table 2 above presents the respondents highest educational attainment as classified by their gender. According to the table, 48% of the respondents were male with 16.4% having OND/NCE as their highest educational qualification, 30.4% had BSc/HND; 1.2% had MBA/MSc while none selected 'others. On the other hand, 52% of the respondents were female within which 17.2% having OND/NCE as their highest educational qualification, 29.6% had BSc/HND; 3.6% had MBA/MSc while 1.6% selected 'others. This shows that the participants in the study cut across people from different level of academic attainment.

### Research questions

**RQ1: What is the economic impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers?**

**Table 3: Respondents opinion on the economic impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers**

STATEMENTS		SA	A	D	SD	Total	Percentage in agreement (%)
Hindrances of free flow of goods and services along the Lagos waterways	F	136	99	6	9	250	95.2
	%	55.6	39.6	2.4	3.6	100	
Discourages development in the Maritime sector	F	99	135	9	7	250	93.6
	%	39.6	54.0	3.6	2.8	100	

Causes delay of services and delivery and spoilage of goods and services as a result of attacks	F	128	106	6	7	250	93.6
	%	51.2	42.4	2.4	2.8	100	
Hinders the opportunity for job creation	F	119	123	7	1	250	96.8
	%	47.6	49.2	2.8	0.4	100	
Destabilizes the local economy	F	132	108	3	7	250	96.0
	%	52.8	43.2	1.2	2.8	100	
Increases the cost of waterborne transport,	F	103	139	2	6	250	96.8
	%	41.2	55.6	0.8	2.4	100	
Endanger the livelihoods of coastal communities.	F	109	133	6	6	250	96.8
	%	43.6	53.2	2.2	2.4	100	
Reduction of the State government revenue from taxation and federal allocations	F	125	111	7	8	250	94.4
	%	50.0	44.4	2.8	3.2	100	

Source: Field survey, 2021.

Table 3 above presents the respondents opinion on the economic impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers. As indicated in the table above 95.2% of the respondents is in agreement that robbery of passengers on Lagos Rivers hinders the free flow of goods and services along the Lagos waterways. Discourages development in the Maritime sector (93.6%); Causes delay of services and delivery and spoilage of goods and services as a result of attacks (93.6%); Hinders the opportunity for job creation (96.8%); Destabilizes the local economy (96.0%); Increases the cost of waterborne transport (96.8 %); Endanger the livelihoods of coastal communities (96.8%); Reduction of the State government revenue from taxation and federal allocations (94.4%)

#### RQ2: What is the social impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers?

Table 4: Respondents opinion on social impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers

Statements		SA	A	D	SD	Total	Percent age agreement (%)
Discourages people from travelling by water	F	128	106	6	7	250	93.6
	%	51.2	42.4	2.4	2.8	100	
Cripple the general use of the waterways	F	119	123	7	1	250	96.8
	%	47.6	49.2	2.8	0.4	100	
Endanger livelihoods and cause occupational disruptions in ways that could adversely impact the health and wellbeing of passengers and operators.	F	132	108	3	7	250	96.0
	%	52.8	43.2	1.2	2.8	100	
Reinforces other organized criminal activities such as militancy, illegal oil bunkering, drugs and armstrafficking.	F	103	139	2	6	250	96.8
	%	41.2	55.6	0.8	2.4	100	
Increase social tensions and intensify insecurity incoastal communities	F	109	133	6	6	250	96.8
	%	43.6	53.2	2.2	2.4	100	

Source: Field survey, 2021.

The responses gathered from the respondents as presented above indicates that more than 90% of the respondents are in agreement with all the items in the table to indicate that the social impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers include: Discourages people from travelling by water (93.6%); Cripple the general use of the waterways (96.8%); Endanger livelihoods and cause occupational disruptions in ways that could adversely impact the health and wellbeing of passengers and operators (96.0%); Reinforces other organized criminal activities such as militancy, illegal oil bunkering, drugs and arms trafficking (96.8%); Increase social tensions and intensify insecurity in coastal communities (96.8%).

### RQ3: What are the security threats posed by robbery (piracy) of passengers to sea business operation in Lagos state?

**Table 5: Respondents' opinion on the security threats posed by robbery (piracy) of passengers to sea business operation in Lagos state**

Statements		SA	A	D	SD	Total	Percentage agreement (%)
Weakens state-society relations by eroding citizens' trust in the capacity of government security agencies to protect lives and property.	F	103	139	2	6	250	96.8
	%	41.2	55.6	0.8	2.4	100	
Triggers violent protests and civil unrest which could fuel political instability and destabilize the state government	F	136	99	6	9	250	95.2
	%	55.6	39.6	2.4	3.6	100	

Source: Field survey, 2021

Table 4 above presents the data gathered on the security threats posed by robbery (piracy) of passengers to sea business operation in Lagos state from the point of view of the respondents. As indicated in the Table, 96.8% of the respondents are in agreement that security threats posed by piracy weakens state-society relations by eroding citizens' trust in the capacity of government security agencies to protect lives and property. Again, 95.2% of the respondents also support that security risk posed by piracy triggers violent protests and civil unrest which could fuel political instability and destabilize the state government.

### Research hypothesis

**HO<sup>1</sup>: There is no significant impact of social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks.**

**Table 5: The Result of X<sup>2</sup> test on the impact of social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	85.219 <sup>a</sup>	5	.0020
Likelihood Ratio	72.474	10	.0012
Linear-by-Linear Association	.611	15	.000
No of Valid Cases	250		

18 cells (75.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.03.

In the case of this hypothesis, the study seeks to determine the impact of social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks. The outcome from the analysis using SPSS indicates that the P-value (0.0020) is less than the level of significance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) as proposed in this study. Following the rule, we reject the null hypothesis and concluded that impact of social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks.

The result of this study clearly indicates that piracy has significant impact on social and economic aspect of the country. For one thing it makes the seafarers and travellers to feel insecure which left them scarred both physically, emotionally, and otherwise. People suffer loss of money and goods. Some even lose their lives in the process. This result therefore is in support with Bamburly(2016) who revealed maritime piracy lead to financial losses from potential investors. Similarly, Adongoi, Otodo and Azibasuum, (2020) also revealed the negative impact of maritime robbery leading to a reduction in investment ventures in that region since most investors are afraid to invest due to insecurity to life and business enterprises. Mbekeani and Ncube(2011) also revealed that maritime piracy have great impact on social and economic growth; for one thing, it

impose direct costs on humanitarian assistance as well as affect maritime economic activities such as oil production, insurance, cost of energy, as well as costs of shipping, fishing and tourism. The outcome of this study further confirmed an earlier studies by Ochai, (2013); Igbokwe (2012); Oyetunji, (2012); Ezem (2012); Onuoha & Hassan, (2009) and Badejo (2000) respectively as they also revealed that sea piracy has negative effect on maritime operations and economy.

## Conclusion and recommendations

The outcome of this study clearly indicates that maritime piracy has negative impacts on maritime business, as well as impacts the social and economic aspect of the people. It affects seafaring, fishing, and trading of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks. Based on these negative consequences, the study makes the following recommendations: Recommends that more jobs be created to keep our youths out of the street since most time unemployment primarily leads to crime such as piracy. By keeping this youths busy with gainful employment. It is also good to include youths among the guards, taskforce and surveillance team to protect seafarers and travellers on Lagos Rivers and creeks. Armed forces like the Nigerian Police, Armed Forces, Civil Defense Corp among others should double their efforts to minimize the proliferation of illegal fire armed possession which has been one of the reasons for the increasing armed bandits in the country. Finally the study recommends the used of radar technology in monitoring the activities in the sea and creeks.

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## SOCIAL AN ECONOMIC EFFECT OF ROBBERY (PIRACY) OF BOAT PASSENGERS AND THEIR BELONGINGS ON LAGOS RIVERS AND CREEKS

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dear Respondent,

I am carrying out a study on “Social and economic effect of Robbery (Piracy) of boat passengers and their belongings on Lagos Rivers and creeks”, and you have been chosen to be part of the study. This questionnaire is only for academic purposes. Kindly select the response which applies to you and all information will be kept confidential

### SECTION A

**Gender:** Male ( ) Female ( )

#### Education qualification

- a) OND/NCE ( )  
 b) B.Sc./ HND ( )  
 c) M. Sc./MBA ( )  
 d) Others ( ) Specify.....

#### Age

- a) Less than 30 years ( )  
 b) 30 but less than 40 years ( )  
 c) 40 but less than 50 years ( )  
 d) 50 years and above ( )

### SECTION B:

Instructions: Please tick (√) as appropriate where

SA = Strongly Agree (SA), A = Agree, D = Disagree (D), SD = Strongly Disagree (SD)

**Key: Strongly agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1).**

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
<b>RQ1</b>	<b>What is the economic impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers?</b>				
1	Hindrance of free flow of goods and services along the Lagos waterways				
2	Discourages development in the Maritime sector				
3	Causes delay of services and delivery and spoilage of goods and services as a result of attacks				
4	Hinders the opportunity for job creation				
5	Destabilizes the local economy				
6	Increases the cost of waterborne transport,				
7	Endanger the livelihoods of coastal communities.				
8	Reduction of the State government revenue from taxation and federal allocations				
<b>RQ2</b>	<b>What is the social impact of robbery (piracy) of passengers on Lagos Rivers?</b>				
9	Discourages people from travelling by water				
10	Cripple the general use of the waterways				
11	Endanger livelihoods and cause occupational disruptions in ways that could adversely impact the health and wellbeing of passengers and operators.				
12	Reinforces other organized criminal activities such as militancy, illegal oil bunkering, drugs and arms trafficking.				
13	Increase social tensions and intensify insecurity in coastal communities				
<b>RQ3</b>	<b>What are the security threats posed by robbery (piracy) of passengers to sea business operation in Lagos state?</b>				
14	Weakens state-society relations by eroding citizens' trust in the capacity of government security agencies to protect lives and property.				
15	Triggers violent protests and civil unrest which could fuel political instability and destabilize the state government.				