CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND CONTROL OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
Kidnapping is one of the oldest crimes in human history. It is a violent crime. It was one of the ways used in the past to get slaves during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade era. The most common form of kidnapping is the economic/ransom kidnapping. Payment of ransom is not often an easy thing to do. Some people were forced to sell their valuable possessions to raise money for the negotiated ransom. This often leaves the victims and their relations terribly traumatized. There were instances when the kidnapped persons were killed even when they have paid the agreed ransom. Nobody is safe any longer in any part of the country. Kidnapping can take place at any time. The inability of the security agencies to stop the crime in most cases is another source of concern. This paper therefore examined the causes, consequences and control of kidnapping in Nigeria. The paper adopted the frustration-aggression hypothesis and the strain theory as its theoretical thrust. It was shown in the paper that unemployment has a major factors influence on kidnapping in Nigeria. It was also shown that corruption and weak institutional frameworks were among the factors influencing kidnapping in Nigeria. The paper recommended among others the need for attitudinal change. The society should place less emphasis on making money through illegitimate means. This could be achieved by questioning people's sources of wealth by all and sundry starting from ones family. The paper further advocated for strengthening of the institutions responsible for controlling crimes in the country. This will ultimately improve efficiency in service delivery.

Keywords: Kidnapping, Abduction, Ransom, Ritual, Unemployment

INTRODUCTION
One of the fundamental needs for human survival is the security of lives and property. However, the emergence and persistence of kidnapping challenges and violates these needs. Kidnapping is one of the unlawful activities that have devastating consequences in every human society. It is however not a new phenomenon, and not peculiar to Nigeria alone. People had been kidnapped and sold into slavery during the 18th and 19th centuries (Ikime, 2006). Furthermore, Ene (2008) added that kidnapping as a criminal behaviour is not entirely a new social problem in the world. It is a common occurrence in various parts of the world. In Nigeria, the menace of kidnapping has been in existence, its incidence and pervasiveness nonetheless became manifest from the 1990s and has persisted unabated till date (Osumah & Aghedo, 2011). In criminal law, kidnapping is the wholesale taking away or transportation of a person against the person's will, usually to confine the person in false imprisonment without legal authority (Amaize, Dayo & Okutu, 2019). In a similar vein, Akinwotu (2021) maintained that kidnapping is a crime of unlawful, forceful seizure and detention of a person or persons against his/her or their wish, in anticipation of payment of ransom or to settle some scores of disagreements.

As earlier stated, kidnapping is a global phenomenon with different degrees and intensity in terms of its practice. The rate of kidnapping in Europe, North America, and South America is attracting worldwide attention (Okwuagbala, 2020). For instance, In Mexico where there is drug-related violence and police corruption, kidnapping is widespread. According to the United State of America's Department of State, Mexico suffered an estimated 105,682 kidnappings in 2012 and in 2013 the number reached 131,946, which is the highest number on record (Anietie, 2021). In the United States of America and European countries, cases of kidnapping especially of young children continue to filter into international news platforms. For example, the disappearance of children in the United States is not unheard of and it is one of the things that the security apparatus in the country is working hard to overcome. According to the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, roughly 800,000 children are reported missing each year in the USA alone. In Southern Sudan, it is a common means used to obtain slaves and money through ransom (Briggs, 2009).

In Nigeria, kidnapping is one of the major security challenges facing Nigerians in recent time (Ayuba, 2020). It is a grievous crime, an offence punishable under the Nigerian law and on conviction the suspected kidnapper is sentenced to ten years imprisonment without an option of fine. It has become endemic in the Nigerian society, with far reaching consequences on our collective conscience. Kidnapping in Nigeria has taken a new dimension; it is one of the most dreadful criminal acts observed in Nigeria. Statistically, Nigeria records more than 1,000 kidnapping incidents a year, and there are undoubtedly many that are unreported (Fadipe, Uwadia & Kayode, 2021). Available statistics revealed that the situation continues to get worse. For instance, since the beginning of 2021, there have been 120 incidents of kidnapping, with 1,181 people (including 362 children and 103 females) between January to February (West African Network for Peace Keeping (WANEP, 2021). The frequency in kidnapping in the reported months of 2021 revealed a higher statistics compared to the 90 kidnapping incidences recorded between January to February 2020 in which 467 people (including 38 children and 51 females) were kidnapped. This suggests an increase in the prevalence of kidnapping in Nigeria (WANEP, 2021). This recurrent trend across states has created a climate of fear and insecurity that undermine sustainable national development and security. In their view, Oyemwinmin and Osazuwa (2016) opined that foreign investors as well as citizens are scared of operating business in Nigeria because no investment thrives in an atmosphere of insecurity and this contributes to unemployment which leads to economic meltdown. Socially, scholars stressed that kidnapping has also contributed to a relatively high level of mistrust among people. Few people still extend the traditional African hospitality to strangers (Uzorma & Nwanego, 2014). Increasingly many people nowadays lock themselves in their homes (Iyang & Ubong, 2013; Ibrahim & Jamilu, 2017). It is in view of the above that this paper examined: (a) The factors influencing kidnapping in Nigeria (b) the Socio economic implications of kidnapping in Nigeria and lastly but not the least, (d) The strategies that could be adopted to minimize the cases of kidnapping in Nigeria.

Theoretical Thrust
The Frustration–aggression theory and the Strain theory were adopted as the theoretical thrust of the paper. The frustration-aggression theory is also known as the frustration-aggression hypothesis. It is a theory of aggression proposed by John Dollard (1900-1980), Neal Miller (1909-2002), Leonard Doob (1909-2000), Orval Mowrer (1907- 1982), and Robert Sears (1908-1989) in 1939. It ranks among the most seminal and prolific theories in research on aggression. From its beginnings in the late 1930s until today, it has been applied and studied in a variety of areas, including clinical and social psychology, ethnology, sociology, criminology, and medical research. The theory states that aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating a person's efforts to attain a goal.
When first formulated, the hypothesis stated that frustration always precedes aggression and aggression is the sure consequence of frustration. Two years later however, Miller and Sears reformulated the hypothesis to argue that frustration creates a need to respond to some form of aggression as one possible outcome. Therefore the reformulated hypothesis stated that while frustration prompts a behaviour that may or may not be aggressive, any aggressive behaviour is the result of frustration, and that frustration may not be sufficient but a necessary condition for aggression. The original formulation of the frustration–aggression hypothesis by Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, and Sears (1939) stated that the occurrence of aggressive behaviour

always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression.

According to Dollard and colleagues, frustration is the condition which exists when an individual is prevented from achieving a goal by some external factor; this will lead to frustration which subsequently will always lead to aggression. It is that condition when a goal response suffers interference while aggression is defined as an act whose goal response is injury to an organism (or an organism surrogate). The theory states that frustration causes aggression, but when the aggression cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced onto innocent and harmless targets.

This theory brings to fore the major reason for persistent kidnapping which can be attributed to frustration expressed through constant display of aggression. Scholars have argued that kidnapping emerged as a result frustration. For instance Ugwuoke (2011) maintained that kidnapping emerged when restive and frustrated unemployed youths in the Niger Delta abducted some foreign oil workers in a bid to press home their demand for equity, restitution, and increased infrastructural development. Nnam and Otu (2015) also opined that the upsurge of unemployment and underemployment in Nigeria pushes some people into kidnapping to eke out a living and, or as a coping mechanism to the vicissitudes of idle life. The other angle of frustration observed in kidnapping is for the victims because government is yet to arrest the situation. The rate at which innocent lives has suffered and grieved through the menace of kidnapping and abduction in Nigeria is worrisome and frustrating for well-meaning and law abiding citizens, although they could not display aggression but we have witnessed series of protests against the government of the day, as a way of expressing their dissatisfaction. It is more worrisome that the frustration and aggression is displayed on innocent and helpless citizens and has led to kidnapping and killing of innocent citizens. In fact, the frustration and aggression displayed by these youths has continued unabatedly that it continue to threaten the peace and security in almost all the states in Nigeria.

Strain Theory:- The theory was propounded by Robert K Merton, It was first published in 1938. It was revised and republished in 1968. This theory argued that deviance resulted from the culture and structure of society itself. Merton began from the standard functionalist position of value consensus- that is, all members of society share same value. However, since members of the society are placed in different positions in the social structure (they differ in terms of class position) they do not have same opportunity of realizing the shared values. This situation can generate deviance. In Merton's words the 'social and cultural structure generates pressure for socially deviant behaviour upon people variously located in that structure' (Haralambos, Holborn & Heald 2008 p; 323).

According to Merton, " in all societies, there are institutionalized means of reaching culturally defined goals; the accepted ways of achieving success are through educational qualifications, talent, hard work, drive determination and ambition". (Haralambos, Holborn & Heald 2008 p; 323). In a balanced society, an equal emphasis is placed both on cultural goals and institutionalised means of achieving them. When great importance is attached to success and there are relatively little importance, given to the accepted means of achieving them, society becomes unstable and there is bound to be anomie; a situation of normlessness. In a normless society, rules cease to operate, a situation of anything goes sets in, norms no longer direct behaviour and deviance is encouraged. Merton went on to outline five possible ways in which members of a society could respond to success goals. The first are the conformist- who followed success goals and the normative means of achieving them. The second are those who reject normative means of achieving success goals and turn to deviant means, in particular crime (they are called the innovators) (Haralambos, Holborn & Heald 2008). Merton went on to argue that members of the lower class are most likely to select this route. He also outlined the third people he called the ritualists-those whom he believed have been so integrated into the social norms that it prevents them from turning to crime but they have however abandoned the commonly held success goals. There is another group he called the retreatists; he believed that they are psychotics, autists, pariahs outcasts, drunkards and drug addicts. They have strongly internalized cultural institutionalized goals but are unable to achieve success. The last group he called the rebels. This group rejects both the success goals and institutionalised means of achieving them. They prefer to replace them with a new order and new means of achieving them. (Haralambos, Holborn & Heald 2008 p; 324).

This theory provides explanation to the issue of kidnapping because the emergence of kidnapping has its root in anomie. The issue of kidnapping stemmed from social disorganization, inequality, unemployment and frustration which birth the disruption of the tranquillity and harmonious state of the society. In Nigeria, we observe a break down in the educational system, social structure and value system. Thus, it is this social disorganization that gave room for the emergence of groups such as the militants,' political thugs, and the raging bandits that are wrecking social and economic damages in different parts of the country, and it is the breakdown in the security system that allowed their growth. When there is unequal access to societal goals and the normative means of achieving them; the frustrated youths become innovators (militants and thugs) violating the law and deviating from the norm to achieve success. The inequality in access to societal resources also implies that the youths are not fully integrated into the culture and values of the society. They are likely going to deviate and create a means of achieving their goal. They are the innovators; they are the ones who become kidnappers.

Review of Relevant Literature
Concept of Kidnapping:- Kidnapping as a social concept has no universally accepted definition among scholars; it has various definitions from different scholars. Individual scholars and schools of thoughts approach the problem from different perspectives and socio-cultural milieu. According to Akpan (2010) the concept of kidnapping poses a number of definitional problems in relation to a country's legal and moral viewpoints. For Inyang and Ubong (2013), kidnapping is the aggressive seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will. It is an offence in common law and the crucial point is that it is an unwanted act on the part of the victim. In the same vein, Fage and Alabi (2017) maintained that kidnapping is a forceful or fraudulent seizure of a person or a group of persons for reasons ranging from economic, political, and religious to struggle for self-determination. The authors however opined that the individuals forcefully abducted are carried off as hostages for ransom purposes. This implies that while political and economic factors could instigate kidnapping, the economic reason is also a fundamental factor influencing kidnapping. Additionally Uzorma and Nwanegbo (2014, p. 132), opined that kidnapping is the "act of seizing and detaining or carrying away a person by unlawful force or by fraud, and often with a demand for ransom". From the foregoing, the definition of kidnapping has no one best way to describe it, but it is clear that for an act to be deemed kidnapping, it shall involve coercive movement of a victim from one place to another, detention or seizure of that person be it a child or an adult. This is why Inyang and Ubong (2013) added that it is legally regarded as a restriction of someone else's liberty which violates the provision of freedom of movement as enshrined in the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, where every other law takes its cue from.
Emergence of kidnapping in Nigeria:- Scholars are yet to agree on the particular year incident of kidnapping originated in the country (Nwoba 2019). According to Igbo and Anugwom (2002) the end of the civil war in January 1970 witnessed the emergence and widespread use of firearms in robbery in Nigeria'. According to Igbo (2007), the civil war provided a platform for the proliferation of dangerous weapons, which ended up in the hands of violent criminals. Subsequently, violent crimes such as murder, rape, kidnapping for ransom, trans-border crime, cultism, militancy and terrorism, began to permeate the society and gained prominence in Nigeria. In contrast, Kyrian (2009) argued that kidnapping and terrorism in Nigeria were unknown in the early years of Nigeria's independence in 1960. It became rampant in the late 90s and further climaxed to today's epidemic proportion.

Similarly, Chinwokwu and Michael (2019) stated that on 4th July 1984, the Nigerian government sponsored the kidnapping of Alhaji Umaru Dikko, a former Minister of Transport in Alhaji Shehu Shagari's National Party of Nigeria government. This kidnapping saga was ordered by Major General Muhammadu Buhari, the then head of state in Nigeria, with the assistance of the Israeli Mossad in London (Ogefere, 2015). That perhaps, marked the first official recorded case of kidnapping involving the Nigerian government time the word 'kidnapping' entered the criminological lexicon in Nigeria.
In his view, Ehwarieme (2009) maintains that the emergence of kidnapping could be attributed to the demand for justice; a consequence of injustice and inequality in which resources and values are distributed unevenly.

For instance, the agitations being canvassed by the Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta for resource control claiming that Niger Delta is in disarray as a result of marginalization, environmental degradation and deficiencies in infrastructure. While fighting for the marginalization of the Niger Delta region occasioned by years of neglect and environmental degradation, those movements metamorphosed into militancy holding oil workers hostage, and kidnapping for ransom (Alumuna et.al., 2017).

Prevalence of Kidnapping in Nigeria:- The rate of kidnapping in Nigeria has continued to rise unabatedly and its spread has continued to attract attention across the nation and beyond. Available literature reveals that the rate of kidnapping has more than doubled so far. For instance, statistics revealed that there were 484 kidnapping victims in 2017, the figure grew to 987 the following year then 1,386 in 2019 and 2860 in 2020 (Adebajo, 2021). Between January 1 and June 30 2021, at least 2, 944 people were reportedly kidnapped making 2021, the worst year (Adebajo, 2021).

Ezegwu et al. (2022) revealed that in the last decade, more than 8,000 people have been killed in the states of Kebbi, Sokoto, Niger and Zamfara. Also, records of kidnapping incidents in Nigeria have revealed that there is an expansion in the location and pool of potential targets regardless of victims' social class or economic status. Currently, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), schools, commuters and even poor communities, have become vulnerable to the menace (WANEP, 2021). This is a departure from the initial targets of wealthy Nigerians and expatriates. It is reported that between January to December 2020, over 3,312 people (including 373 females and 574 children) were kidnapped across the 36 States in the country including Abuja which is the Federal Capital Territory between (WANEP, 2021). In this period, the Northern part of the country accounts for the highest figure of kidnapping (1,070). This is followed by South-South (73) South-West with 36 victims. Although the Southeast recorded the lowest number of kidnapped victims, the recent spate of kidnappings and killings has continued to trigger unrest across the Southeast States as the inefficiency of the security intelligence and poor surveillance system of security agencies is being brought to the fore (WANEP, 2021).

In a further examination of the prevalence of kidnapping Okoli (2022) stressed that over 3000 people were kidnapped in the first half of 2021 alone, the figure for January 2021 alone has been reported as 571. Kidnapping continues to contribute to a climate of insecurity in the country. It has evolved among bandits and terrorists of Northern Nigeria, militants and cultists in the Niger Delta as well as ritual killers of the western and eastern parts of the country. The rate of kidnapping is also reflected in the amount of money paid by victims and their families to release captives. For instance, it was estimated that over $18million was paid as ransom in Nigeria between January 2011 and March 2020 (Okoli, 2021). Similarly Oguntola 2022 reported that Nigerians paid 653.7 million naira ($1.2 million) as ransom between July 2021 and June 2022. The security report also disclosed that 6.531 billion was demanded in ransom in the year under review.

Nwankwo and James (2016) conducted an online survey of the prevalence of lethal and non-lethal Crimes in Nigeria. They found that armed robbery and kidnapping are recurring forms of crime in Nigeria, contributing about 50% of an overall 8516 deaths in 3, 840 fatal incidents between June 2006 and September, 2015 nationwide. Lagos, Rivers, Ogun, Benue and Imo states were reported as the most affected crime states. Findings also disclosed that there were more crime fatalities in the Southern part of Nigeria than in the North. Considering the time this research was conducted, the validity of the research outcome may not be questioned. However, recent media reports contradict this research finding as there are more cases of violent crime including kidnapping in Northern part of the country.

Similarly, Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2018) adopted qualitative methods (in-depth interviews and key informant interviews) in investigating the perception of kidnappers, victims of kidnapping and their relations on the administration of criminal justice in selected states of Nigeria with a view to underscore its implication with regards to the prevalence of kidnapping. The study generated data from 60 interviewees. The qualitative data collected from the study was analyzed using a manual content analysis. The findings revealed that there is high rate of kidnapping which has led to loss of confidence and distrust in the judicial system and in turn the kidnappers exploit the situation to their advantage. Furthermore, Ekwukoma and Osagiobare (2021) adopted cross sectional descriptive design in investigating the prevalence, contributing factors and consequences of unethical practices among university students in Edo State, Nigeria. Three research

questions guided their study. The population of the study comprised all full-time undergraduates and lecturers in public and privately-owned universities in Edo State. Using a multistage sampling procedure, a sample of 720 students and 200 lecturers was drawn for the study. A reliability testing of the instruments was done using Cronbach's Alpha. The results of the study revealed, among others, that all the identified unethical practices except vandalism, the threat and actual kidnapping of lecturers by students were moderately prevalent among university students in Edo State. This study contradicts the earlier reports by the other researchers. The negation in the research outcome could be attributed to the location of the study and the actual study participants.

Factors responsible for kidnapping:- Scholars have identified many factors that are responsible for kidnapping in Nigeria. As stated by Igbo (2007), one of the social determinants of kidnapping is social instability. The civil war provided an opportunity for the proliferation of dangerous weapons, which ended up in the hands of violent criminals. Consequently, violent crimes such as murder, rape, kidnapping etc. became the other of the day. In addition to this, Ugwuoke et.al, (2016) argued that the emergence of militant groups was initially aimed at creating awareness and making demands for restitution and increased infrastructural development. This has evolved into kidnapping with youth involvement in militancy and kidnapping for ransom has becoming common and a booming business for youths in most cities across Nigeria.

Further evidence from the literature reveals that politicians equip thugs with firearms. These political thugs, armed with guns and ammunition, are used to influence the electoral process. When the elections are over, the politicians, who now have no need for the thugs, abandon them without first retrieving the dangerous weapons. In most cases, the promises made to these armed thugs during electioneering process were never met. The result is that the political elite have unwittingly built, trained and equipped criminals, who are now released upon the general public (Ebienfa, 2011). Paradoxically, this was one of the roots of militancy in Nigeria. With instruments of cruelty in their hands, some frustrated and neglected youth set up militant camps, and became involved in the destruction of oil installations, kidnapping and taking hostage expatriate oil workers for ransom. Some scholars have argued that it was on this platform that militant leaders in Nigeria, especially in the Niger Delta, emerged (Ebienfa, 2011; Manby, 2016).

According to Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2018), there are several flaws in the justice administration; they accused the judicial officers of deliberately not applying the rule of law after money has exchanged hands (Abati, 2002). In fact, Manby (2004) was very emphatic in his argument that Nigeria's justice process is laced with corruption thus, enabling suspected kidnappers to continue in their reign of terror and illicit money making venture. Corruption appears to be the bane of the justice system as several judges even at the apex court have been accused of corrupt practices with the assistance and connivance of very senior legal practitioners. The Nigeria police have been generally criticised for its unenviable, ineffective and inefficient performance because of its corrupt practices. Inyang (2009) argued that unemployment is one of the many reasons why kidnapping in Nigeria is growing and spreading. He used the popular adage, which says that "an idle mind is the devil's workshop" to present the situation of unemployment in Nigeria. He noted that there are countless able-bodied men and women in Nigeria roaming the streets in search of non-existing jobs. Out of frustration together with mounting responsibilities, many idle young persons have ventured into several criminal activities, of which kidnapping is not an exemption. In their view, Eke and Christopher (2019) maintained that increased 'inequality and injustice, ethno-religious conflicts, porous borders, rural-urban drift, poverty, and unemployment are responsible for kidnapping. Greed was also found to influence kidnapping. For instance, Umez (2005) cited in Ugwuoke (2011) argued that the dominant value system in contemporary Nigeria is on that glorifies and endorses corrupt and illegal means as necessary, normal and sufficient means to ends. The illegal means to ends includes kidnapping. This quest for money is being socio-culturally validated. According to them, this has made nonsense of traditional concept of morality, social responsibility accountability and fair play (1kezue, 2013).

Empirical researches have revealed some of the factors influencing kidnapping in Nigeria. Nnam (2014), adopted cross sectional design in investigating salient social and demographic characteristics as determinants of kidnapping in the South-eastern States of Nigeria using inmates detained on the grounds of kidnapping in Abakaliki and Umuahia Prisons as a unit of analysis. A specific non-probability sampling technique known

as the respondent-driven-sampling was adopted in selecting a sample of 86 respondents from a total population of 123 inmates in the two prisons. Data collected from in-depth oral interview were analysed using thematic analysis. The study found that certain social and demographic characteristics such as age, occupation, gender, social backgrounds, marital status, and the likes were responsible for kidnapping in Nigeria. He also found that kidnapping enterprise was dominated by men in their youthful age; and weak/lack of strong religious attachment exerts undue pressure on some people, thereby luring them into kidnapping. Although scientific research does not deal with logic, it deals with empirical facts. Nevertheless, it is only logical to accept this finding because socio economic status could influence tendency for kidnapping. For instance, kidnapping requires strength and agility and only people in their youthful age have such strength. Moreover, based on the available media reports and available statistics, kidnapping is common among young men.

In a related development, Nwoba (2019) adopted mixed method research design in examining governance, security and kidnapping in Southeast of Nigeria: The focus on imperative for State Police. The objective of the research was to scrutinize and dissect the inadequacies of security vis-à-vis incessant increase of kidnapping in the Southeast Region and imperative for state police. The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative methods while simple percentages, tables and content analysis were utilized through descriptive and inferential data analysis. The study found that kidnapping was triggered by centralization of security outfits which promoted lack of knowledge of local security peculiarities and inadequate personnel as some communities live without police post. A critical look at the research outcome reemphasizes the need for community policing.

Similarly, Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2018) adopted cross sectional qualitative methods (in-depth interviews and key informant interviews) in investigating the perception of kidnappers, victims of kidnapping and their relations on the administration of criminal justice in selected states of Nigeria with a view to highlight its implication with regards to the prevalence of kidnapping. The study generated data from 60 interviewees. The qualitative data collected from the study were analysed using manual content analysis. The findings revealed that there is general corruption; ineffectiveness and inefficiency amongst the police, court and prison officials and, kidnappers exploit the situation to their advantage. Many of the participants revealed that the criminal justice in Nigeria today cannot provide effective remedy to kidnapping, as it is corrupt and inefficient and this invariably influences the rate of kidnapping.

Aminu, et al. (2020) examined the antecedents of kidnapping incidents in Nigeria from the viewpoint of security personnel in Kwara State, Nigeria. A cross sectional descriptive survey design was adopted for the study and purposive sampling technique was used in selecting the 372 respondents for this study. However, 243 responses were valid and analysed using percentage, mean ranking, t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistics. All hypotheses were tested at .05 alpha levels. The findings revealed that, the topmost precursors of kidnapping incidence in Nigeria as perceived by security personnel in Kwara State are unequal distribution of common wealth, high prevalence of poverty and the lack of basic needs of citizens.

Lastly but not the least, Yakubu and Gongs (2021) adopted cross sectional design in examining factors influencing kidnapping in Shendam Local Government Area in Plateau State. The study employed quantitative survey design to identify factors influencing kidnapping via clustered random sampling technique of residents in Shendam. Questionnaires were used for data collection and out of the 400 administered questionnaires, 374 (93.5%) were retrieved for analyses and hypothesis testing. Results revealed that 69.0% of the study sample opined that kidnapping is influenced by unemployment (23) 6.1% indicated that religion/rituals were responsible for kidnapping. (55) 14.7 % opined that politics influenced kidnapping, (33) 8.8% posited that greed was a driver of kidnapping. This research finding correlates earlier reports on kidnapping. It goes to demonstrate that despite the variations across time and place unemployment still remains a major factor influencing the crime.

Factors affecting the control of kidnapping:- Several factors have been noted within the ambit of extant literatures to affect the performance of the law enforcement agency in the fight against kidnapping and other violent crimes. Among the notable factors identified are endemic corruption, inadequate manpower (both in strength and expertise), low level of education and training, lack of required expertise, lack of adequate

equipment, poor appearance, poor training facilities and poor conditions of service of the average policeman (Onyeozili, 2005; Adegoke, 2014), others include poor attitude of the law enforcement agents in responding to crime situations, lack of trust between the police and the citizenry which breeds constant conflicts and tension between the police and the citizenry and endemic corruption among police officers (Kamiru, 2014).

Furthermore, Ajayi (2014) made important point which highlighted that there is no doubt that the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nigeria Police have been under stress and adversely affected by other problems such as: inappropriate policing orientation and strategies which emphasises reactive instead of proactive/preventive measures. He also added brutality against citizens, including extrajudicial killing, corruption and extortion, poor performance in the areas of intelligence analysis and utilization as well as investigation and perversion of the course of justice etc. Alemika (2013) maintained that a combination of structural, political, socio-economic and cultural factors as well as institutional inadequacies prevent the Nigeria Police force from adequately performing their duties satisfactorily and in compliance with the rule of law at all time and such inadequacies are in fact, responsible for deepening crime rate in Nigeria.

Socio-economic implications of Kidnapping in Nigeria:- Gibbs et al. (2013) conducted a pilot study of the consequences of parental abduction; A pilot study with a retrospective view from the victims. A multiple choice and short answer was developed for the study and administered through phone interview. The effects identified in this study by abductees include loss of trust with the opposite sex, trouble making and keeping friends, feeling like they were in dream world, trouble recalling important aspects of the abduction and trouble sleeping and concentrating after the abduction.

In a related study, Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2018) adopted mixed methods in their study of the perception of kidnappers and their relations in the administration of criminal justice. The study revealed that Nigerians believe that the criminal justice in Nigeria today cannot provide effective remedy to kidnapping, as it is corrupt and inefficient. Consequently, they lose confidence in the administration of criminal justice, such that they now take the law into their own hands.

Olofin 2020 adopted cross sectional design in examining the socio-economic cost of kidnapping in Southwest, Nigeria. The descriptive research design of the survey type was adopted in the study. The samples for the study consist of 450 adults from 15 Local Government Areas in 3 States of Southwest, Nigeria. The sample was selected using multistage sampling procedure. A self-designed research instrument tagged Socio-economic Cost and Kidnapping Questionnaire (SCKQ) was used to collect relevant data for the study. The study specifically examined the causes of kidnapping; the social and economic cost of kidnapping; and the difference in perception of the social and economic cost of kidnapping in Southwest, Nigeria. The data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings of the study revealed that the social cost of kidnapping are sexual harassment of female victims, reduction in quality of social relationship, fear of rendering public assistance and fear of association with strangers while economic costs of kidnapping are ransom paid to kidnappers, capital flight of investors and high budget on security.

Olulowo, Babawale and Anani (2021) adopted cross sectional design in examining the causes of kidnapping and its attendant challenges in Ogun State, Nigeria The paper adopted a descriptive method; a total of 600 copies of questionnaire were administered among churches in the three Senatorial Districts of Ogun State. Findings revealed that kidnapping has economic, political, social and psychological implications; economically it could affect businesses and chase investors, socially it affects social relationships and psychologically, there is the issue of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which could last for a long time.

Umar and Hamza (2022) adopted cross-sectional survey method in evaluating the experiences and counselling information on kidnapping: The roles of librarians and counsellors in a qualitative case study of kidnapped victims' students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria. Findings reveal the psychological and sociological experiences of kidnapped victims; sexual abuse and physical abuse were the experiences of kidnapped victims from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Nigeria.

Strategies that can be adopted towards reducing situation of kidnapping in Nigeria:- Nnam (2014) studied social and demographic characteristics as determinants of kidnapping in the Southeastern States of

contemporary. The study revealed that kidnapping enterprise is dominated by men in their youthful age; and weak/lack of strong religious attachment exerts undue pressure on some people, thereby luring them into kidnapping. The study recommended that youth empowerment should be vigorously pursued and earnestly considered in the national development plans; conscientious efforts should be made by all levels of government in Nigeria to combat social inequality and exclusion, and provide social security for the teeming unemployed youths and the disadvantaged ones in the country pending when they will be gainfully employed.

Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2018) in their qualitative study of the perception of kidnappers, victims of kidnapping and their relations in the administration of criminal justice in selected states of Nigeria recommended that the government should stop paying lip service to the fight against corruption, inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the public service but instead take concrete steps to stem the rising tide. The study further recommended a review of the conditions of service of the police, prison and judicial officers. They suggested the need to provide functional vehicles to the police, court and prison authorities as well as renovating and refurbishing dilapidated buildings and furniture in the various courts so as to boost their morale and increase efficient and effective service

For Nwoba (2019), who adopted mixed research methods in examining governance, security and kidnapping in southeast of Nigeria: the focus on imperative for state police. The objective of the research was to scrutinize and dissect the inadequacies of security vis-à-vis incessant increase of kidnapping in the southeast region and imperative for state police. The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative methods while simple percentage, tables and content analysis were utilized through descriptive and inferential data analysis. The study recommended that police should be decentralized; state police should be enshrined in the constitution with proper training on local security peculiarities and challenges. Security trust fund should be introduced by the states to fund the security agencies.

Conclusion

Kidnapping is a violent crime which has threatened the peace, law and order in the country. It is a very dreaded crime that people would like to avoid at all cost. It could be a planned action when a suitable target is being traced and finally kidnapped or as a random exercise with no specific target. So many people have lost their lives to kidnapping. Several others were made to sale their means of livelihood so as to be able to pay the negotiated ransoms to the kidnappers. It is very unfortunate crime that makes people to question the ability of the government to protect the lives and property of its citizens. It appears the most common form of kidnapping in Nigeria is ransom/economically motivated kidnapping. Other forms of kidnapping exist in the country; they include, kidnapping for ritual purposes, hijacking of train and taking of hostages. Unemployment was found to be a major factor influencing kidnapping in Nigeria. The consequences of kidnapping are enormous and could include lack of trust among people and relocation of businesses to areas that are not prone to kidnapping.

Recommendations

The paper recommended the need for attitudinal change. People should discourage unnecessary get rich quick syndrome among youths in the country. People's sources of income should be questioned. This should start from the family level. Parents should be able to identify the sources of money they see with their children. Community members should endeavour to report and investigate any sudden rise in affluence by their members. Indigent members of the society should be assisted by all and sundry. Unemployed persons should be assisted with skills and entrepreneurial capabilities. Having observed from literature that unemployment is a major factor influencing kidnapping, it is pertinent that human empowerment programmes be instituted in communities by the affluent members of the community, government and the organized private sector to reduce the rate of unemployment in the country. The institutions of government should be strengthened. This will go a long way in curbing inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the institutions. In particular, the law enforcement agencies should lead in the fight against corruption and other vices which encourage criminality in the country.

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