

MAJOR CONSTRAINTS FACING NIGERIA POLICE FORCE IN CONTROLLING THE TREND OF KIDNAPPING IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This study explored the major constraints affecting the NPF in controlling the trend of kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria. Anambra State has a population of 4,182,032 (National Population Commission (NPC), Awka 2006). The target population for this study is 24,878 and using the proportionate stratified sampling technique, 394 respondents were selected. The institutional theory was adopted as the theoretical framework for this study. The questionnaire was used to collect data for this study. The qualitative data were analysed using content analysis. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) statistical software was used to process the data collected in the study and data processed were analysed using descriptive statistics. The study found that the major constraints affecting the NPF in controlling kidnapping in Anambra state include inadequate-manpower, lack of modern technologically enabled crime control equipment. inadequate provision of funds and logistics, lack of expertise, among others. It was recommended that there should be provision of necessary funds, adequate equipment and logistics needed by the police in performing their duty. In this regard, it was equally suggested that the Police Service Commission (PSC) should make moves to appeal to the Federal as well as the State governments to address the major infrastructural deficiencies within the NPF.

Key Words: *Kidnapping, crime control, major constraints, Nigeria Police Force, security challenges*

Introduction

Security of lives and property remains top in the prerequisites for human survival Without adequate security of lives and properties, human existence would have become a reflection of Thomas Hobbes's description of life as poor, nasty, brutish and short (Runciman, 1997). Due to this peculiar need, different nations of the world devise various means of protecting their citizens' lives and properties. One of the viable universal ways by which different nations have become successful in doing so is through the creation of law enforcement agencies. Virtually every nation of the world has one form of law enforcement organisation or the other. For instance, in the United States of America, different forms of law enforcement agencies exist including City Police Departments (CPO), County Sheriff Agencies (CSA), State Police/Highway Patrol, federal law enforcement agencies such as

National Security Agency Police (NSAP), Defence Security Agency Police (DSAP), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (Reaves, 2011) -and a host of other agencies. Equally, in many advanced nations including United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China, Japan and so on; and within other developing nations, various law enforcement agencies exist to perform the role of crime prevention, detection and control.

The case of Nigeria is not quite different because right from the pre-colonial era to the present democratic dispensation, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has been established and charged with a strategic role that no other agency of the government is so critically able to assume including but not limited to crime prevention, protection of ' life and property, enforcement of laws and maintenance of peace and public order (Alemika & Chukwurna, 2003). Without these roles, the sustenance of order, legality, development and democracy may be difficult (Alemika, 2010). However, in recent times, the police have been faced with lots of challenges emanating from the lapses in the structural arrangement of the Nigerian socio-economic, cultural and political system such as: unemployment, inequality, poverty, ethnicity, tribalism and materialism etc. These problems have resulted in serious crimes which affect the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria. Among such crimes, kidnapping (which refers to the criminal act of taking away of a person by force, ' threat or deceit, with intent to cause him or her harm or to be detained against his or her will for ransom or for political purposes) has been evidenced in recent time as one of the most obnoxious, dreaded and feared violent crimes in contemporary Nigerian society. This is because, in almost every part of the Nigerian society, especially in Anambra State, the trend of kidnapping has occupied a greater part of the media, policy making and financial resources allocation (Adebayo, 2013).

Various scholars have documented the factors associated with rising wave of kidnapping in Nigeria as well as its toll on the lives of victims and their families (Ordu, 2014). However, no serious research efforts have been conducted to explore the efforts of the NPF in controlling the trend of kidnapping as well as investigating the factors that affect their performance in controlling the trend of kidnapping particularly in Anambra State, Nigeria. Although various scholars have attributed the challenges of the NPF to issues relating to poor logistics, illiteracy among police officers, low motivation, lack of quality training and retraining programmes, inadequate manpower, lack of expertise and poor relationship with the civil society, and the unchanging structure and culture of policing which have failed to improve over the years, despite various police reform policies and programmes (Alemika, 2010; Robert-Okah, 2014). It is not quite established within academic researches if these factors equally affect the performance of the NPF in controlling the trend of kidnapping particularly in various communities of Anambra State, Nigeria. Thus, a gap in knowledge exists in this direction. It is therefore considered that a

way of bridging this gap is to systematically investigate the factors affecting the performance of the NPF in controlling kidnapping trends in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Over the past few years, there has been consistent public outcry regarding the need to restructure the NPF for optimal performance in crime prevention and control. As such, various legislations have been made through the Police Reforms (PR). Through these reforms, heavy budgetary allocations as well as welfare policies are enacted to strengthen the force and its operational personnel. It is the seriousness of the problem that warranted increased presence of law enforcement authorities in some sensitive regions with incidences of kidnapping activities. The law enforcement commands equally established anti-terrorist squads, task forces, joint patrol teams, police-vigilante services and had even extended invitation to the Nigerian Army to complement the efforts of the police, State Security Services (SSS) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) (Osumah & Aghedo, 2011). Despite these efforts put in place to strengthen the NPF for efficiency, the trend of kidnapping in Nigeria especially Anambra State remains alarming.

Thus with the trend of kidnapping, it is feared that the socio-economic development of citizens of Nigeria especially in Anambra State may be threatened as a result of adverse effects that are associated with the crime of kidnapping including the untimely death of innocent victims and the attendant financial distress, misery and anguish inflicted on relatives of the kidnapped victims and the society at large. It is equally assumed that with the current scope, intensity and sophistication of kidnapping in virtually every State in Nigeria, particularly in Anambra State and the inability of the police force to successfully quell it, the NPF may be facing serious challenges which affect their performance. It is therefore assumed in this study that if such challenges are not identified, the NPF may continue to suffer from low performance which could further reduce public confidence in the police force. Thus, it is considered that a way of addressing such challenges is by systematically inquiring into the factors affecting the NPF in kidnapping control in Anambra State, Nigeria, so as to come out with findings that could be useful for policies that would help to strengthen the police force for optimal performance. Although different scholars have noted the general challenges that affect the NPF in crime control, such challenges have not been systematically analysed within the context of kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria. This present study is therefore positioned to bridge this gap in knowledge.

Objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following objectives:

1. To identify the major constraints affecting the police in controlling the trend of kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Concept of Kidnapping

Kidnapping has been conceptualised by different authors. However, few definitions are summarised here. Kidnapping refers to the forceful seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will (Asuquo, 2009); an act of seizing, taking away and keeping a person in custody either by force or fraud (Abraham, 2010); an act of an angry man who wants to take any person of value hostage, and who could be rescued by loved ones. In most cases, victims are often released after payment of ransom (Nwaorah, 2009); the act of taking a person or group of persons into captivity in order to achieve a defined aim (Ani & Nweke, 2014); a situation where a person is abducted and taken from one place to another against his or her will, or a situation in which a person is confined to a controlled space without the confinement being from a legal authority (Okorie, Ajah & Okpan, 2017); the seizing and holding of someone prisoner illegally, usually demanding for a ransom for his/her release (Chambers 21st Century Dictionary, 1996) and a process of forcefully abducting a person or group of persons perceived to be the reasons behind the injustice suffered by another group (Dode, 2007).

Historical Trajectories of the Challenges of the NPF

Historically, policing in Nigeria can be traced to three epochs, that is, the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial era (Alemika, 2010). However, the present police force in Nigeria is a product of the past British colonial rule which instituted the police to protect the commercial interest of the colonial masters at the detriment of the masses which they were commissioned to protect. Rotimi (2001) described this pattern of policing as that in which strangers policed strangers. The police in that colonial era were pitched against the people they were supposed to protect and there were series of clashes between the police and the people. According to Alemika, (2003), the police force was created as mere instruments of the British government to suppress and exploit the resources within their reach and to sustain alien domination. Thus, it is the structure of the colonial police that has shaped the present policing structure in Nigeria. However, the present Nigerian Police Force is a society outfit that is federally controlled; of which, the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Section 214 (1) as amended, states that: "there shall be a police force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force, and subject to the provisions of this section, no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof" (Alemika, 2010, p.8). This implies that the NPF is saddled (theoretically) with the responsibility of combating crime and ensuring security of lives and property of the people in Nigeria among many other things. The statutory functions of the Nigerian Police force as identified by Adegoke (2014) include: prevention of crime, protection of

lives and property, law enforcement, maintenance of peace and public order, provision of a wide range of services to the citizens. By doing this, it has the potential for violence and right to use coercive means in order to establish social control.

However, experiences in recent time in Nigeria indicate that there have emerged various security outfits including Local vigilante services; a trend that has been attributed to the abysmal performance and inefficiency of the police in achieving their mandate (Onyeozili, 2005; Alemika, 2010). Scholars have varying opinions on factors which impede the performance of the NPF in crime control, For instance, scholars like Onyeozili (2005) and Adegoke (2014) identified endemic corruption, inadequate manpower (both in strength and expertise), low level of education and training, lack of required expertise, lack of adequate equipment, shabby appearance, poor training facilities and poor conditions of service of the average policeman as factors affecting police performance.

Other factors as identified by other scholars include poor police attitude and response to crime situations, constant conflicts and tension between the police and the citizenry and endemic corruption among police officers (Kamiru, 2014) poor crime and operational information management including inaccurate recording and collation, poor storage and retrieval, inadequate analysis and infrequent publication of criminal statistics (Human Rights Watch, 2010), deficient syllabi which places much emphasis on law enforcement and order maintenance without adequate liberal and broad training that can illuminate the nature and sources of law and criminality, inadequate logistics, poor knowledge of the law and disregard for human rights (Police Annual Report, 2014).

Olusegun (2014) made an 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 emphasize reactive instead of proactive/preventive measures, brutality against citizens, including extrajudicial killing, corruption and extortion, poor performance in the areas of intelligence analysis and utilisation as well as investigation and perversion of the course of justice etc. To cap it all, Alemika (2013) added that a combination of structural, political, socio-economic and cultural factors as well as institutional inadequacies prevent the Nigerian 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.

Previous Studies on Factors Affecting the Police Force

In a study, Adebayo (2013) investigated the social factors affecting crime prevention and control in Nigeria. The study made use of secondary data and found that inadequate equipment of the security agencies and low motivation, coupled with poverty,

unemployment and the breakdown of family values among others, were among the major factors that made crime prevention and control a difficult task. Nwankwo (2013) conducted a survey to examine people's perception of community policing as an effective strategy for crime reduction in Enugu North L.G.A of Enugu State, Nigeria. One of the specific objectives of the study was to identify the challenges faced by the police in living up to the standard for effective community policing. The study made use of 600 respondents selected through the multi-stage sampling technique. The structured questionnaire and in-depth interviews were used to collect data for the study which were analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic content analysis method. The study revealed that the challenges affecting the police in crime control include: recruitment of some unqualified personnel, insufficient crime fighting equipment/patrol vehicles, inadequate remuneration of the security personnel and lack of trust of information to the security agencies by the residents.

In another study, Oyemwinrnina and Aibieyi (2016) surveyed the topic "Analysis towards Effective Policing in Nigeria" using secondary data consisting of documented evidence in scholarly literature. The findings of the study suggest that several factors are responsible for police inefficiency and ineffectiveness in crime control which include corruption, poor funding by the government and lack of confidence by the general public.

In Thailand, Tengpongsthom (2017) examined factors affecting the effectiveness of police performance in metropolitan police bureau. The study used both quantitative and qualitative research methods; using questionnaire and in-depth interviews as research tools. In the quantitative research method, the overall samples based on both cluster and simple random sampling techniques included 405 police officers from different police stations under the control of the Thai Metropolitan Police Division whereas the 25 samples in the qualitative research were selected using purposive sampling. Statistics used for data analysis in the study were frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and Pearson correlation. The study found that police officers in all divisions felt strongly that enough equipment was a factor facilitating an increase in work effectiveness whereas the - imbalance of manpower and scarcity of modern equipment were factors which were obstacles to work effectiveness. Although this study was conducted in a different geographical context, its findings are relevant for the purpose of this present study. In other words, such factors found as constraints to police effectiveness would also be investigated in this present study to know if there would be difference in the results that would be obtained.

Theoretical Framework

This study anchors its theoretical framework on the institutional theory of the state as developed by Evans (1995). It is as a comparative institutional approach which argues that

states count and do play highly positive roles in national development. The broad thrust of the theory is anchored on the concept of embedded autonomy which stresses that the success or failure of any development strategy and/or socio-economic performance for any nation is based on the nature and character of the state (which the police force represents), as well as the nature of the relationship between the state and other key economic factors such as business, labour, agriculture, industry etc. From this direction, the theory draws the idea of the state under three typologies that range from: the developmental state, predatory state to the intermediate state.

The developmental state according to this theory has as its internal character, an autonomous make-up that makes it to stand alone, above the fray and beyond the controlling reach of vested interests in formulating its own socio-economic policy. It also incorporates the Weberian ideals of meritocracy, discipline and is immune to corruption. For the purpose of this study, the predatory state will be the focus. Evans elaborated further the ideas of the predatory states aptly exemplified by most states in Africa like Congo, Zaire, Nigeria and others, to the developmental states represented by the tightly knit and efficient state bureaucracy in the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. In all of these typologies of state types drawn by Evans, one key factor that runs through them has to do with the nature of governance and the functions it sets out to perform. What this fact brings to fore is that governance (whether good or bad) is an important determinant of socio-economic development.

According to this theory, the predatory state is one wherein the appropriation of unearned income is endemic; where political offices are held not for the reason of providing service to a nation but for the purpose of individual gain in a society which may offer few alternatives to wealth accumulation. Corroborating this assumption, Bardhan (1990) asserted that government in a predatory state is all too often hijacked by a predatory oligarchy that siphons the national treasury and transforms government bureaucracy into bribe-collection agencies which impede legitimate business, policy implementation, socio-economic and societal development. Hence, economic policies made by the state are not necessarily for the benefit of those within the lower strata of the society. This may account for reasons why many police reform programmes and crime control strategies fail to yield positive results in Nigeria.

In this kind of state, everything is for sale from the courts, the legislatures, the taxing authority, to the military among others including the police force. Economic mismanagement, social distrust and political instability are the hallmark of this state. Its primary characteristic is to distribute income to selected elements of society by creating monopolies in major sectors of the economy through the collusion between the state and its allies in the private sector to milk the nation's resources through the execution of white

elephant projects with little or no benefit which creates social inequality with attendant social insecurity (Kohli, 1999).

The application of this theory to this discourse is that the Nigerian Police Force operates under the features of a predatory state, which its policies and strategies are mere formalities often heard in the pages of newspapers but never reflected in actual practice. This accounts for why the police force still lack equipments, sophisticated weapons and other operational logistics that can help track kidnappers and criminal syndicates despite several financial allocations that are often been channeled towards the procurement of weapons and logistics in the security sector of the Nigerian economy. Basically, the choice of this theory as the framework for this study is informed by its relevance in exploring the nature of the socio-political structure in which the NPF operates and how such structure constitutes obstacle to the operational efficiency of the police.

Materials and Methods

The area of this study is Anambra State. It is one of the States in the South-East geo-political zone of Nigeria. It was created from the old Anambra State on the 27th August, 1991 and currently has 21 local government areas and 117 local communities (Chukwuemeka & Chukwujindu, 2013). The State is located within the boundaries of Delta State in the West, Imo State and Rivers State in the South, Enugu State in the East and Kogi State in the North. The choice of this area of study was informed by several pockets of kidnap cases in the State, besides, the police in Anambra State have also had questionable issues concerning public accountability and efficiency in the past such as the unaccountability of over 35 corpses that were found at Ezu-River Amansea, which no crude police investigation report pertaining the culprits of the act has been issued to the public to date (Anaba, 2017).

However, the geographic scope of this study covered selected urban and rural Local Government Areas (L.G.As) within the three senatorial districts of Anambra State. These included: Awka South and Idemili North L.G.As - selected from Anambra Central senatorial district; Onitsha South and Oyi L.G.As - selected from Anambra North senatorial district; and Nnewi North and Ekwusigo L.G.As - selected from Anambra South senatorial district.

The target population of this study comprised of adult residents within the selected study L.G.As aged 18 years and above. Thus, the researchers considered the following groups appropriate to form the target population: market traders, community opinion leaders, road transport workers, community vigilante groups and civil servants. These groups were chosen based on the consideration of their level of maturity, knowledge and experience about police operations within the study area; coupled with the view that they have direct

and constant dealings with the police. After gathering data from the respective selected study groups within the selected L.G.As, the target population for the study was put at 24,878.

Using this population, a sample size of three hundred and ninety four (394) respondents were determined using Taro Yamane (1967) formula for calculating sample size. The proportionate stratified sampling technique was used in selecting the respondents for the study. This involved selecting respondents in their various groups based on their proportion to the entire population of the study. Researchers' -developed structured questionnaire was used to collect the data from the sampled respondents. The instrument consisted of two major sections: Section I contained items designed to obtain information on the personal data of the respondents, while Section II contained items designed to address the specific objectives of the study. The questionnaire was structured in a concise and simple English language was used to enable easy understanding and response to the given questions. The instrument was administered on a face-to-face basis to the selected respondents by the researcher and two research assistants who helped in the distribution as well as the collection of the filled questionnaire copies. Out of the 394 copies of the questionnaire distributed, only 379 copies were correctly filled and were used for the data analysis. The data collected were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics including frequency count, simple percentage and rank order statistic.

Findings/Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage%
Gender		
Male	247	65.2
Female	132	34.8
Total	379	100
Age		
18-27years	37	9.8
28-37years	108	28.5
38-47years	138	36.4
>48years/above	96	25.3

Total	379	100
Marital Status		
Single	89	23.5
Married	188	49.6
Divorced	13	3.4
Separated	27	7.1
Widowed	62	16.4
Total	379	100
Level of Educational Attainment		
No formal Education	7	1.8
FSLC	24	6.3
GCE/SSCE/WAEC	73	19.3
OND/NCE	116	30.6
HND/B.Sc	144	38.0
M.Sc/Ph.D	15	4.0
Total	379	100

A higher proportion (65.2%) of male respondents participated in the study compared to females (34.8%). With respect to age, a majority (36.4%) of the respondents aged between 38-47 years. This is followed by 28.5% and 25.3% of them who were between 28-37 years and 48 years and above respectively. Only a relatively lower proportion (9.8%) of them aged between 18-27 years. The mean age of the respondents is 42.8years. This shows that the respondents were mature to provide reliable information needed for this study.

A majority (49.6%) of the respondents indicated being married, while 23.5% of them were single. Also, 16.4% of the respondents were widowed and 7.1% and 3.4% of them indicated being separated and divorced respectively. With regard to the educational attainment of the respondents, it was found that a majority (38.0%) of the respondents completed their tertiary educational level - obtaining HND/B.Sc certificates. This was

followed by 30.6% of them who obtained OND/NCE certificates. While 19.3% of the respondents completed the secondary school academic level, 6.3% of them completed primary school level- obtaining the FSLC. Only 4.0% of the respondents attended up to the post-graduate (M.Sc/Ph.D) academic levels, while a much lower proportion of them indicated that they had no formal education.

Questions were asked to the respondents regarding their views on the major constraints affecting the police in controlling the trend of kidnapping in Anambra State. The findings are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Respondents' views on the factors affecting police effectiveness in kidnapping control

Items	Strongly Agree/Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree/strongly Disagree	Total	Rank Order
Lack of training and periodic retraining on modern strategies of crime prevention and control	254(67.0%)	38 (10.0%)	87(23.0%)	379 (100.0%)	3 rd
Lack of modern technologically enabled crime control equipment	274 (72.3%)	27(7.1%)	78 (20.6%)	379 (100.0%)	2 nd
Poor cooperation with the members of the public	233 (61.55)	37 (9.8%)	109 (28.8%)	379 (100.0%)	5 th
Inadequate manpower	291 (76.8%)	20 (5.3%)	68 (17.9%)	379 (100.0%)	1 st
Inadequate provision of funds and logistics	241 (63.6%)	57 (15.0%)	81 (21.4%)	379 (100.0%)	4 th
Illiteracy among most police officers	213 (56.2%)	55 (14.5%)	111 (29.3%)	379 (100.0%)	6 th
Lack of expertise	211 (55.7%)	16.6%)	105 (27.7%)	379 (100.0%)	7 th

The respondents were presented seven statements reflecting assumed factors affecting police effectiveness in kidnapping control. They were asked to rate each statement using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 5 - strongly agree to 1 - strongly disagree. The scale of 5 - strongly agree and 4 - somewhat agree were summed into one single affirmative response category. Equally, scale of 1 - strongly disagree and scale of 2 - somewhat disagree were summed into one single negative response category; while the scale of 3 -

undecided was retained as the neutral response category for easier data description. The data analysis showed that the respondents were affirmative in all the items given - suggesting that all the factors identified are constraints to police effectiveness in controlling kidnapping trends in Anambra State. Additionally, the rank order statistic was run to determine the relative importance of the factors as constraints to police effort towards kidnapping control in Anambra State. Evidently, the first major factor in the rank order is that of inadequate manpower as affirmed by 76.8% of the respondents. This is followed by lack of modern technologically enabled crime control equipment as affirmed by 72.3% of the respondents. The third factor in the rank order as affirmed by 67.0% of the respondents is that of lack of training and periodic retraining of police personnel on modern strategies of crime prevention and control. Other factors in the sequence according to rank order include: inadequate provision of funds and logistics, poor cooperation with the members of the public, illiteracy among most police officers, and lack of expertise.

This study was equally interested in identifying measures that could be employed to address the challenges faced by the police in controlling kidnapping trend in Anambra State. Consequently, the respondents were presented with eight items in respect to this and were employed to rank the items based on their views using a 5-point Likert-type items ranging from 5 - most likely to 1 - most unlikely.

Table 3: Respondents' views on the likely strategies that can improve existing police strategies in kidnapping control

Items	Very Likely/ Somewhat Likely	Undecided	Less likely very less Likely	Total	Rank Order
Strengthening of police-community policing	262(69.15)	32 (8.4%)	85 (22.4%)	379 (100.0%)	7 th
Adequate provision of funds	307 (81.0%)	22(6.1%)	55 (12.9%)	379 (100.0%)	5 th
Provision of modern equipment and logistics to the police force	322 (85.0%)	17(4.5%)	40(10.6%)	379 (100.0%)	1 st
Adequate remuneration of the members of the police force	298 (78.6%)	25 (6.6%)	56 (14.8%)	379 (100.05)	6 th
Periodic retraining of police officers	318 (83.95)	15 (4.05)	46 (12.1%)	379 (100.0%)	2 nd

Recruitment of more police personnel	302 (79.75)	25 (6.6%)	52 (13.7%)	379 (100.0%)	4 th
Improving the general working conditions and welfare fo the police officers	314 (82.8%)	23 (6.1%)	42 (11.1%)	379 (100.0%)	3 rd
Recruitment of professionals and higher degree holders in the police force	236 (62.3%)	38(10.0%)	105 (27.75)	379 (100.05)	8 th

The respondents were asked to indicate the alternative strategies which they perceived as being likely to improve existing police strategies in kidnapping control in Anambra State. The data show that the respondents were affirmative in all the items given. In other words, they were in agreement that all the strategies were very likely/somewhat likely to address the factors affecting the police with regards to kidnapping control in Anambra State. The implication is that these measures are all considered and put into action to address the challenges facing the police in kidnapping control within Anambra State. However, the rank order statistic was further used to determine the most likely strategies that could help to address the constraints against police efforts in kidnapping control.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study brought to the understanding that a number of factors constitute obstacles to optimal performance of the police. The major factors affecting the NPF in controlling kidnapping in Anambra State include inadequate manpower, lack of modern technologically enabled crime control equipment, lack of training and periodic training on modern strategies of crime prevention and control, inadequate provision of funds and logistics, poor cooperation with the members of the public, illiteracy among most police officers and lack of expertise. These findings are supported by previous studies such as Nwankwo (2013) who found that the major challenges of the police bore on issues of insufficient crime fighting equipment/patrol vehicles, inadequate remuneration of the security personnel, lack of trust on the police force by members of the public and unprofessionalism in some of the police officers. Tengpongsthorn (2017) also supports the findings of this study that lack of modern equipment was a factor that affected police effectiveness.

Findings of this study also indicated that strategies such as provision of modern equipment and logistics for the police, periodic retraining of police officer, improving the general

working conditions and welfare of the police officers, recruitment of more police personnel, adequate provision of funds, remuneration of the police officers, strengthening of police-community relations and police and recruitment of professionals especially those within the information technology field are likely to address the constraints affecting police efforts in combating kidnapping and other related crimes. These findings are not far from what previous scholars have recommended. For instance Okoshola and Mudiare (2013) recommended increased logistic funding. Adebayo (2013) also recommended improving the welfare of the police officers to motivate them to do their job well while Adejoh (2014) recommended the strengthening of community policing to complement police efforts.

Conclusion

The major objective of this study was to explore the major constraints affecting the NPF in controlling the trend of kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria. Based on the data analysed in this study, it was concluded that despite police efforts in controlling the rate of kidnapping in Anambra State, they are faced with lots of serious challenges which constitute obstacles against the police in their efforts towards curbing the trend of kidnapping in Nigeria, particularly in Anambra State. More efforts need to be employed to address the challenges affecting the optimal performance of the police for sustainable development in the control of kidnapping in the State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it is suggested that:

1. There is the need for the introduction of IT based investigation method such as the phone tracking method and surveillance system using surveillance cameras in the NPF. Of course these schemes require finance and training. As such, the Police Service Commission should approach the federal and state governments on the need for financial provisions that will take care of both the acquisition of modern policing technological gadgets, as well as the training of the police personnel on the use of such technologies.
2. One of the major constraints against police efforts as found in this study is inadequacy of equipment and logistics needed by the police in performing their duty. On this note, the Police Service Commission should make moves to 'appeal to the federal and state governments to address the major infrastructural deficiencies within the NPF, through the provision of necessary funds and logistics, so as to enable police to perform their job credibly.
3. Finally, the present structure of the Nigeria Police Force does not allow for efficient grass-root policing at the lowest community levels where most of the kidnappings occur. On this premise, there is need to strengthen community policing to serve as

an anchor point for the NPF whenever serious crimes occur in any community within the State.

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