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Implications of Kidnapping on National Security in Nigeria's North Central Region

Isiaka Dele¹

Abstract

The study examines the causes of the increased rate of kidnapping in Nigeria, investigates the impact of kidnapping on national security, and examines the difficulties in solving the kidnapping issue in Nigeria. The study used a survey research design and administered a five-point Likert scale questionnaire to respondents who were residents of Abuja's six Area Councils. The Taro Yamane formulas were used to minimize the study's 3,652,000 population, and a 400-person sample was taken. 400 respondents were chosen at random from the six Area Councils in Abuja to receive the questionnaire. Simple percentages and chi-square were employed to evaluate the data in this descriptive survey study. The study results indicated that the marginalization of particular ethnic groups, failures in leadership, weak security systems, high rates of youth unemployment and poverty, and a lack of societal values were the main causes of the surge in abduction. The study also showed that kidnapping has detrimental effects on national security, including harm to the nation's reputation abroad, a decline in foreign investment, a rise in public unease, and slowed economic expansion. The study recommended that the government should address the underlying issues that lead to marginalization, poverty, and unemployment, particularly among young people.

Keywords: *Implications, Kidnapping, National Security, Nigeria, Northcentral region*

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Introduction

Criminal activity like kidnapping is nothing new in the world. Just the criteria and contexts for this occurrence vary. Tzanelli (2009) claims in Ibrahim and Mukhtar (2017) that the term “kidnapping” can be traced to Britain in the 17th century, when infants (or “kids”) from affluent families were “napped” and held for ransom. Kidnapping is a historical, global phenomenon that is not unique to one nation. Every nation on earth has experienced kidnapping at some point in time. It continues to be a concern for the entire country because it has gotten so entrenched. The threat to national security posed by kidnapping is violent, frightening, and dramatic (Mercy & Isiaka, 2020).

In Nigeria, kidnapping and hostage-taking have developed into a social issue that touches almost every citizen in some way. The pre-colonial era is when kidnappings first began in Nigeria. In Nigeria, kidnapping was a major issue during the slave trade due to financial gains, ritual advantages for authority, and the burial of kings. Because humans were kept captive by traditional rulers and traded for material goods, kidnapping became a significant source of income for traditional monarchs and merchants up until the end of the slave trade. Pre-colonial kidnapping vanished after the slave trade was abolished (Wajim, 2020).

According to Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2018), kidnapping was not a widespread crime in Nigeria during the colonial era or into the 1990s. But the beginning of the current kidnapping trend in Nigeria can be found on February 25, 2006, when workers for an oil company in the Niger Delta region were kidnapped to air their grievances with the world regarding the area’s protracted history of marginalization, injustice, exploitation, and underdevelopment (Akpan in Yusuf & Abdullahi, 2020). Since that tragedy, there have been an alarming number of further kidnappings that have spread across the nation. Kidnapping, which is most common in the southern portions of the country, has increased in popularity due to several facets of armed conflicts, including the Boko Haram insurgency, farmers-herders conflict, and ethnoreligious clashes, among others. Conflict entrepreneurs – those who seek to gain directly or indirectly from the wars – have initiated the majority of conflicts that have led to the spread of the epidemic of kidnapping in Nigeria (Wajim, 2020).

In Nigeria, kidnapping no longer just affects foreign victims; it now affects locals from all socioeconomic backgrounds. It should be understood, though, that the political system plays a role in the effectiveness of state security. Even politicians can experience the horrors of kidnapping. Multiple causal relationships exist between the ineffectiveness of Nigerian security and the prevalence of crimes like abduction; corruption is a common causative factor in the causes and explanations for ineffective security (Oarhe & Aghedo, 2010).

Kidnappings are becoming more common in Nigeria today. The already damaged reputation of Nigeria is further damaged by this unlawful activity (Wajim, 2020). This kidnapping industry has developed into an incurable disease with grave repercussions. One may say, for instance, that kidnapping stories appear on newspaper front pages every month in Nigeria. It is impossible for Nigerians engaged in this abhorrent business to quit. Today's kidnapers see kidnapping as a lucrative business that the Nigerian government would never be able to stop. This is because the Nigerian government has not yet made significant attempts to address this heinous crime on a long-term basis.

Kidnapping poses a greater threat to national security than that, but it has also called into question the integrity of national security organizations, since, when money is used as an incentive, the idea behind the crime is meaningless to those who commit it. Nigeria's security agencies have generally been ineffective, which has led to extreme instability and bloodshed there. Because they pose serious threats to national security, security priority mismatches must be resolved (Nwakaji, 2018). Nigeria's security institutions and agencies need to be completely restructured for them to be effective (Ngwama, 2014).

Since it impacts everyone, the nature and character of security in Nigeria's Northern Central States have grown alarming during the past 20 years. In Mosques, Churches, Markets, Schools, Houses, and on the Roads, kidnappings are a possibility. The aspirations of Nigerian citizens to live in a country that is safe and secure have started to wane, particularly in recent years (Musa & Singh, 2021). Even while kidnappings for ransom have become widespread in Nigeria's north-central states, the country's general lack of security is undoubtedly alarming. Despite the extreme cruelty that Boko Haram has perpetrated, the threat of banditry and kidnapping has increased, and the

security situation has deteriorated. Consequently, the general lack of security in the country is alarming, particularly in parts of northern and central Nigeria where abduction for ransom has grown commonplace. Despite the extreme cruelty caused by Boko Haram's operations, the region still faces the threat of banditry and kidnapping, and the security situation has gotten worse (Musa et al, 2021).

The threat of kidnapping has resulted in concerns about the safety of people and their property, as well as a general decline in economic activity. It also poses a threat to national security since people are fearful of the unexpected. As a result, the research's purpose is to examine the impact of kidnapping on Nigerian national security while using the north-central region of the country as a case study. The objectives of the study are to:

- Examine the factors responsible for the increased rate of kidnapping in Nigeria.
- Determine the implications of kidnapping on national security; and
- Determine the challenges in eradicating the problem of kidnapping.

Conceptual Frameworks

Kidnapping: Because it differs from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction, kidnapping, like other topics in the social sciences, does not have a universally acknowledged or adopted definition. In other words, it depends on who defines it, how it is defined, and for what reason. It involves the forcible removal, detention, and seizure of a person against that person's will. It is a common law offense, and the crucial element is that the victim does not want it. It violates the fundamental human right to freedom of movement since it restricts the freedom of another individual. According to Abraham (2010), kidnapping is the unlawful seizure, removal, and detention of a person. However, it does entail kidnapping and detaining a person to collect a ransom or resolve a number of interpersonal conflicts. A second definition of kidnapping is provided by Fage and Alabi (2017), who describe it as "the forced or fraudulent abduction of an individual or a group of individuals for reasons ranging from economic,

political, and religious to [struggle for] self-determination." Later, the authors admitted that the individuals who had been kidnapped unlawfully or forcibly had been seized as hostages to extort a ransom. This implies that, although political and economic considerations can result in kidnapping, the former is thought to be the more common cause of the latter (Ene, 2018).

It has been determined that kidnapping involves taking someone from their family against their will to hold them as a prisoner and profit from their family. It is evident from the foregoing that there is no one ideal definition of kidnapping.

Typology of Kidnapping: Due to the means of kidnapping and the motive or cause for kidnapping, there are many different kinds of kidnapping, just like the definition of kidnapping is diverse. kidnappings Nwanunobi (2017) asserts that there are three different categories of kidnapping. He looked at kidnapping from the angle of means of kidnapping. Among these are tiger disappearances, miracle fishing, and express kidnapping (Eze & Ezeibe, 2012).

- i. Express kidnapping:* This sort of kidnapping involves the kidnapping of a person to either force them to participate in the forced acquisition of valuables or to force them to withdraw money from any nearby ATM and deliver it over to the kidnapers. Later, he or she might be freed in a deserted area unhurt.
- ii. Miracle Fishing:* This type of kidnapping is frequent along highways through rural areas where illegal roadblocks are set up. Kidnappers in disguise as law enforcement officers stop cars and ask drivers to get out so they can be identified before kidnapping passengers based on their appearance and propensity to mobilize for ransom.
- iii. Tiger Disappearances:* This sort of kidnapping resembles extortion in nature. a circumstance in which a family member is taken hostage and held against their will to extract ransom money or coerce other family members into breaking the law to benefit the kidnapers.

Political or economic kidnapping is the other category of kidnapping from the perspective of the motive (Sunday et al., 2022).

- i. Economic Kidnapping:* Economic kidnapping occurs when a financial demand is made, which could be cash or other financial resources.
- ii. Political Kidnapping:* On the other hand, it is where political concessions such as the release of prisoners, changes to the law, and policy retreats are demanded in exchange for the person(s) abducted. An example is the Abduction of Chibok Girls (Ene,2018).

Causes of Kidnapping in Nigeria: Dodo (2010) and Ugwuoke (2011) go into more detail about the factors that contribute to kidnapping in Nigeria, including extreme poverty, fraud and corruption, political influence, unemployment, terrorism, the absence of the death penalty, shifting moral standards, and the need for quick cash.

- a) Nigeria's poverty was one of the factors that led people to take part in the kidnapping. They see it as a means of veering away from poverty and toward prosperity. This is because when someone is abducted, a sizable ransom is typically requested, and the kidnapper won't ever be returned to their people until the ransom is paid to the kidnappers. In contrast to their prior dismal, impoverished situation, the kidnappers experienced a sudden influx of money when they got the ransom (Umez, 2000).
- b) Political Influence: It is undeniable that many politicians in Nigeria are lusting after power and are willing to use whatever means necessary to get it. The increase in political assassinations shows that the majority of politicians in the nation have turned evil, abducting fellow Nigerians for ritualistic purposes and committing political assassinations to further their agendas. It is shocking and regrettable to see that when elections draw near, rituals target children and those who are abnormal, such as imbeciles and those who are mentally sick. Parents and family are sternly cautioned to keep track of people's whereabouts and to exercise vigilance because ritual kidnappers are typically political operatives.

In Nigeria, political kidnappings of this nature are quite regular for elections (Dodo, 2010).

- c) High unemployment rate: "An idle mind is the devil's workshop," as the saying goes. Since school dropouts and graduates who have been unemployed for years both walk the streets, many unemployed youngsters in Nigeria are poor and turn to horrific crimes like kidnapping for solace (Ugwuoke, 2011).
- d) Get Rich Quick Syndrome: According to a wise man, the root of all evil is a love of money. In Nigeria today, especially among young people, there is still a strong emphasis on getting rich quickly or dying trying. People with this mentality frequently engage in kidnapping and may even kill another person for ceremonial purposes to earn money as quickly as possible. These people don't care about any consequences that might occur tomorrow as a result of their actions and would much rather make money today by any means necessary. Due to their intense desire for money, which is akin to avarice and greed, many Nigerian youths have turned to kidnapping as a source of quick cash. This is typically accompanied by other criminal activity, such as violent election interference and armed robberies.
- e) The lack of stringent consequences for kidnappers is one of the reasons why the problem is getting worse in Nigeria. Most traditional judicial systems in Africa employed the death penalty as a last resort for serious crimes. Kidnappers struggle to flee because they view this illicit activity as a lucrative fortune (Dodo, 2010). This is due to the low risk of action for traffickers, which enables the trade to flourish. The National Assembly ought to swiftly approve a law authorizing the imposition of the death sentence for abduction in Nigeria as a deterrent.
- **The Nigerian Value System in Transition:** Umez (2000) asserts that the dominant value system in contemporary Nigeria encourages and glorifies unlawful and corrupt means of earning as necessary and sufficient. This is a total reversal of the traditional system, which was mostly focused on excellent morals and hard effort, and it has now

changed most Nigerians' moral integrity, including the youth. Odey (2000) argues that a society that sets a high priority on criticizing its young people for being dishonest and lazy and for posing threats to the rest of society such as kidnapping, armed robbery, and materialism should equally place a high value on providing them with opportunities for growth better economic, social, and moral alternatives that will dissolve immoralities to be less attractive and thus drain their current drift to criminal life.

- **Corruption and Fraud:** These issues play a crucial role in Nigeria's booming abduction industry. Transparency International ranked Nigeria as number 136 of the 174 most corrupt nations in the world in 2014, along with Cameroon, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, and Russia. Nigeria was classified as the 38th most corrupt country in the world in 2014. The ruling class in Nigeria is known for routinely plundering public funds for their gain. Due to the extent of public funds being misappropriated by politicians, some teenagers are compelled to abduct members of the political class to demand a portion of the national cake from them by demanding that they pay significant ransoms. Men now view kidnapping more as a game and nothing bad, due to the high level of corruption that has permeated the nation. This idea contributes to the nation's rising kidnapping rate.

National Security: Despite evolving from simpler meanings that placed a higher priority on freedom from military threats and political pressure, the term "national security" is still vague. According to (Arnold, 1960), "national security" is "the absence of threats to acquired values and, more importantly, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked." National security, according to Harold (1977), is "the capacity to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institutions, and governance from disturbance from without; and to control its border." National security is also described by the National Defense College of India (1996) as "an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources,

economic structures and capacity, technological competence, industrial base, and natural resource availability, and finally, military might.”

The existence of the state as a political community, the existence of the nation (which is distinct from the existence of a specific state), and the physical survival of its population are all guaranteed; territorial integrity is protected as a fundamental right of the state; and maintaining political independence is maintained as a characteristic of the state are all identified as basic elements of national security by international law professor Vojin Dimitrijevic (Grizold 1994). Utilizing economic might, diplomatic connections, military might, and political clout to preserve the existence of the state is known as national security. The idea was primarily developed in the United States following World War II. It used to be primarily concerned with military strength, but it has since expanded to include a wide range of elements that affect the nation's economic security, non-military security, and societal values. As a result, a nation must also have economic security, energy security, environmental security, and so forth to have national security. (Mercy et al. 2020).

Implication of Kidnapping on National Security in Nigeria: Kidnapping still poses a threat to and hinders Nigeria's socioeconomic development and national security. Some young people without jobs and fresh graduates see kidnapping as a lucrative alternative to employment as a means of gaining financial independence, social acceptance, and power. As a result, the economic development of the state of Nigeria has suffered. People's social lives have been damaged, and there is mistrust among them as a result of the frequency of kidnapping and hostage-taking throughout Nigeria. The nation's reputation abroad has also been harmed as a result of the kidnapping. (Nwokeoma, Okpan, & Benjamin, 2018).

Kidnappings have increased significantly throughout the majority of the country, which has caused waves of crime to affect Nigeria's federal, state, and local government security forces (Thomotuya, 2010). Soyombo (2009) asserts that the nation's current spending on security could stifle economic progress by diverting scarce resources and highly qualified individuals from efforts that could produce wealth and assist the disadvantaged. Without a doubt, if this continues, it will probably prevent the economy from growing and the

welfare of the population from improving. Inyang and Ubong (2013) pointed out that the country experiences huge financial losses when foreign workers for multinational businesses are kidnapped, which goes hand in hand with the rise in defense spending. This sparked anxiety, and as a result, many people chose to steer clear of the workplace, which continuously has a detrimental impact on the economy. Kidnapping undermines Nigeria's national security, to speak the obvious. It may be helpful to state our definition of national security in writing to contextualize this claim: development inevitably leads to national security and vice versa (McNamara, 1968; Okoli, 2013). Therefore, everything that jeopardizes Nigeria's long-term growth must also be a danger to the country's security (Okoli et al. 2014). The following factors make kidnapping a real threat to Nigeria's sustainable development:

- i. Causes loss of life and poses a threat to public safety;
- ii. Leads to a negative perception of Nigeria on the international stage, which has a negative.
- iii. Impact on trade, tourism, and foreign direct investment (FDI);
- iv. Hinders economic development and growth by causing capital and investment flight;
- v. Undermines the possibility of societal advancement by fostering a climate of unease among the general populace; and
- vi. Frequently results in lost investment capital, business closures, job losses, etc.

In modern Nigeria, kidnapping is quickly evolving into one of the most heinous forms of organized crime. It has already had a significant negative impact on both the high and low strata of society, and it is becoming more endemic and unmanageable by the day.

Theoretical Framework

The Structural Functionalism Theory serves as the foundation for our investigation. The writings of Talcott Parsons (1979), Robert K. Merton

(1968), and Emile Durkheim (1917) are linked to the structural functionalism hypothesis.

The organism analogy, which claims that every body organ in every living thing has some type of interconnectedness that connects it all, was the inspiration for the structural functionalism approach. Each of these organs has a role in the survival of the organism. It is believed that when one or more of the organs fail, it may affect the organism's capacity to endure. Therefore, social structures like groups and institutions, according to functionalist theory, are what constitute society as a whole. Additionally, they claim that each of these social institutions contributes to the persistence of the system (Ritzer & Barry, 2001).

The aforementioned illustrates how functionalists view society as a system, or as a group of connected components that together form a whole. Society, therefore, acts as the primary unit of functional analysis. The fundamental issue is how different institutions, including the military, police, religious organizations, families, political, economic, legal, and educational ones, interact and work to maintain the survival of the entire community. The functionalists are particularly concerned with the topic of order. To make sure that society runs smoothly, social order would be created and maintained in this manner.

The functional approach to the study of society tends to be conservative in nature since it seems to be generally opposed to social development. Functional ideology holds that for social existence to continue, a society's basic requirements must be satisfied. These basic survival needs are known as the "functional prerequisites of society." The most general conditions that must be satisfied in order for a system to exist and keep from being terminated are called functional prerequisites. According to the functionalist school of thinking, a society's basic requirements must be understood and met for it to thrive. It is assumed that the economy, a part of the social system, is inefficient when utilizing structural functionalism to evaluate the social problem of abduction in Nigeria and its repercussions on national security. This is the outcome of the political system's inadequate management. This systemic breakdown contributes to high levels of poverty, unemployment, deprivation, and marginalization. The result is illustrated visually by the high crime rate, which ranks abduction at the top. Kidnapping is a lucrative and practical crime for those who commit it. Because

kidnapping is so profitable, it is immensely attractive. Observations in several Nigerian districts indicate that politicians employ kidnapping as a form of intimidation of the opposition. The ransom money's purpose is to undermine the rivals and coerce them into quitting the electoral race.

The administration is looking into the situation in the Niger Delta following the kidnapping of foreign residents there. This was planned for in the 2009 post-amnesty program of the Yar'adua/Goodluck administration, which intends to restore the country and the region's much-needed calm so that socioeconomic activity can take place freely. Although the structural functionalism theory is attacked for not being able to explain change and for approaching issues with a system as a "closed" notion, Charles, Ikoh, Iyamba, and Charles (2005) note that the theory does solve some issues. The theory is justified despite these objections since it may concentrate on the functional side of crime in our society.

Methodology

This study adopted the cross-sectional survey research design. The study area is the six-area councils of the Federal Capital Territory. The target population for this study comprises males and females aged 18 and above in the FCT, Abuja. The population of Abuja in 2022 was 3,652,000 (Macrotrends, 2022), and the population of the study consists of persons aged 18 years and above in all six (6) Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The sample size was determined using the Taro Yamane Formula. = where n is the sample size, N is the Population, and e is the margin of error.

For this study $N = 3,652,000$ and $e = 0.05\%$ (assumed)

Therefore, $n =$

$n =$

$n =$

$n =$

$n = 399.9$

Approximately $n = 400$.

To address the research issues, a questionnaire was employed as a tool in the study. The objectives chosen for this study served as a guide for developing the questionnaire. A Likert Scale with four options will be used to rate items. Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Disagree all fall under the acronym (SA). The respondents were spread out across the six Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. When the questionnaire was finished being given out, it was promptly retrieved. A frequency table with a straightforward percentage will be utilized for data analysis, and the data value will be given in tabular form. Version 21 of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for data entry and analysis.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Factors responsible for the increased rate of Kidnapping in Nigeria.

S/N	STATEMENT	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	AGREE (SA+A)	NEU-TRAL (%)	DIS-AGREE (SD+D)	DECI-SION
1	The Marginalization of some tribes and ethnic groups has contributed to the increased rate of Kidnapping in Nigeria.	168 (42%)	116 (29%)	46 (11.5%)	16 (4%)	284 (71%)	62 (15.5%)	79 (25.08%)	AGREED
2	Leadership Failure and Poor security structure a major factors leading to a high rate of kidnapping in Nigeria.	290 (72.5%)	98 (24.5%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)	388 (97%)	8 (2%)	4 (1%)	AGREED

3	The high level of poverty and unemployment among youths and young adults has immensely contributed to the increasing rate of kidnapping in Nigeria.	290 (72.5%)	88 (22%)	6 (1.5%)	4 (1%)	378 (94.5%)	12 (3%)	10 (2.5%)	AGREED
4	Lack of Societal Values, such as a culture of respect, love for human life, hard work, and friendliness, has contributed to the increased rate of kidnapping.	142 (35.5%)	212 (53%)	10 (2.5%)	8 (2%)	354 (88.5%)	28 (7%)	18 (4.5%)	AGREED
5	The lack of strict penalties for arrested kidnappers is one of the reasons for the increased rate of kidnapping in Nigeria.	204 (51%)	140 (35%)	14 (3.5%)	6 (1.5%)	344 (86%)	36 (9%)	18 (9%)	AGREED

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

From Table 1, the results show the respondents agreed that the factors responsible for the increased rate of kidnapping are Marginalization of some ethnic or tribal groups (71%), Leadership failure and poor security structure (97%), high level of poverty and unemployment (94.5%), Lack of societal values (88.5%) and lack of strict penalties for arrested kidnappers (86%).

Table 2: Implications of Kidnapping on National Security

S/N	STATEMENT	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	AGREE (SA+A)	NEUTRAL (%)	DIS-AGREE (SD+D)	DECISION
1	The high rate of kidnapping has damaged Nigerian's reputation on the international stage.	244 (61%)	118 (29.5%)	14 (3.5%)	4 (1%)	362 (90.5%)	20 (5%)	18 (4.5%)	AGREED
2	Kidnapping has stunted the economic growth of Nigeria by diverting funds that would have been generating wealth to security.	208 (52%)	134 (33.5%)	22 (5.5%)	8 (2%)	342 (85.5%)	8 (2%)	30 (7.5%)	AGREED
3	The high rate of kidnapping has resulted in the closure of or scared away many foreign investors from investing in Nigeria due to the abduction of multinational corporation staff.	252 (63%)	114 (28.5%)	6 (1.5%)	2 (0.5%)	366 (91.5%)	26 (6.5%)	8 (2%)	AGREED
4	Kidnapping undermines the possibility of societal advancement by fostering a climate of unease and insecurity among the general populace.	208 (52%)	160 (40%)	6 (1.5%)	2 (0.5%)	368 (92%)	24 (6%)	8 (2%)	AGREED

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

The result in table 5 indicates that the respondents agreed that the implication of Kidnapping on national security in Nigeria are damaged of Nigerians reputation in the international Stage (90.5%), stunted economic growth of Nigeria (85.5%), closure of many foreign investment (91.5%) and increase unease and insecurity (92%).

Table 3: Challenges in Eradicating the Problem of Kidnapping in Nigeria.

S/N	STATEMENT	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	AGREE (SA+A)	NEU- TRAL (%)	DIS- AGREE (SD+D)	DECI- SION
1	The poor motivation of the security officers is one of the major challenges facing the eradication of kidnapping.	178 (44.5%)	172 (43%)	12 (4.5%)	2 (0.5%)	350 (87.5%)	34 (8.5%)	16 (4%)	AGREED
2	Security agencies lack modern, sophisticated equipment that aids in fast-tracking and accurate investigations of kidnapers.	238 (59.5%)	128 (32%)	18 (4.5%)	2 (0.5%)	366 (91.5%)	14 (3.5%)	20 (5%)	AGREED
3	Corruption among security operatives is a major challenge facing the eradication of Kidnapping in Nigeria.	274 (68.5%)	100 (25%)	2 (0.5%)	2 (0.5%)	374 (93.5%)	22 (5.5%)	4 (1%)	AGREED
4	The lack of proper recording of births, deaths, and migrations of its inhabitants and citizens also contributed to the problem facing the eradication of Kidnapping.	116 (29%)	136 (34%)	44 (11%)	8 (2%)	252 (63%)	96 (24%)	52 (13%)	AGREED

5	Misunderstandings and unhealthy interactions among security agencies have made the issue of kidnapping difficult to tackle.	166 (41.5%)	158 (39.5%)	16 (4%)	6 (1.5%)	324 (81%)	54 (13.5%)	22 (5.5%)	AGREED
6	Inadequate funding of security agencies and the recruitment of unskilled personnel are a serious challenge in eradicating kidnapping in Nigeria.	250 (62.5%)	120 (30%)	8 (2%)	4 (1%)	370 (92.5%)	18 (4.5%)	12 (3%)	AGREED

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

The result shown in Table 6 above indicate that the respondent agreed that the challenges in eradicating kidnapping in Nigeria are poor motivation of security officer (87.5%), lack of sophisticated equipment by the security agencies (91.5%), corruption among leaders and security operatives (93.5), lack of proper records of births, deaths and migrants (63%), misunderstanding among security agencies (81%) and inadequate funding of security agencies and recruitment of unskilled personnel (92.5%).

Discussion

The results of this study showed that the marginalization of some ethnic or tribal groups, leadership failures, weak security structures, high rates of youth unemployment and poverty, a lack of societal values such as respect for human life, hard work, etc., and the lack of strict penalties for kidnappers who have been apprehended are to blame for the increase in kidnapping in Nigeria. According to the respondents, a significant factor contributing to kidnapping in Nigeria is weak security and ineffective leadership.

This result is consistent with Justice's (2014) observation that leadership failure, a weak security system, a decline in societal values, and unemployment all

contribute to kidnapping in Nigeria. According to the same trend, Abubakar (2020) cited the causes of the rise in kidnapping as being unemployment and poverty, poor governance, racial and religious strife, and lax border controls. The findings of this study highlight the effects of kidnapping on national security, including harm to Nigeria's standing in the international community, slowed economic development, closure of many foreign investment opportunities, and increased unease and insecurity among the populace.

This result concurs with that of Jega (2020), who noted that kidnapping has negative effects on national security, including harm to the nation's reputation, an increase in criminal activity, interruption of economic activity, a threat to human security, and a weakening of the legitimacy of the government. According to John (2020), abduction has had a significant negative impact on the economic development of the nation by scaring away investors. The report also identified several obstacles to eliminating abduction in Nigeria, such as security personnel corruption, a lack of accurate records of births, deaths, and migrants, miscommunication among security personnel, a lack of advanced tools, and insufficient money.

According to Oyewumi (2021), who also found that corruption and weak governance, lax border control, insufficient security agency training, inadequate security agent intelligence, a lack of funding, and a lack of political will are obstacles to ending kidnapping in Nigeria. Another study conducted by Benjamin, Nwokeoma, and Okpan (2018) shows that the challenges in preventing kidnapping in Nigeria include a lack of reliable information, low security officer motivation, a lack of high-tech tools for finding criminals, miscommunication, and ineffective coordination between security agencies.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the marginalization of some ethnic or tribal groups, poor leadership, weak security systems, high rates of poverty and unemployment among young people, a lack of societal values, and a lack of strict penalties for kidnappers who are apprehended are factors contributing to Nigeria's rising kidnapping rate. Additionally, it can be concluded that kidnapping has a significant impact on national security,

including harm to Nigeria's reputation in the international community, slowing down the country's economic growth, closing many foreign investment opportunities and scaring away many other foreign investors, and raising unease and insecurity among the populace.

Finally, it can be said that obstacles to ending kidnapping in Nigeria include: corruption among security personnel; a lack of accurate records of births, deaths, and immigration; miscommunication among security personnel; a lack of sophisticated equipment; and insufficient funding for security agencies.

Recommendations

- i. The government needs to do more to address the underlying issues that lead to marginalization, poverty, and unemployment, particularly among young people. To do this, it may be necessary to offer young people opportunities for education and training, encourage entrepreneurship, and expand employment options. The government should also make sure that all ethnic and tribal groups are treated equally in the implementation of policies and programs, as well as in the provision of chances for marginalized populations to participate in decision-making.
- ii. The government needs to do more to address the underlying issues that lead to marginalization, poverty, and unemployment, particularly among young people. In order to do this, it may be necessary to offer young people opportunities for education and training, encourage entrepreneurship, and expand employment options. The government should also make sure that all ethnic and tribal groups are treated equally in the implementation of policies and programs, as well as in the provision of chances for marginalized populations to participate in decision-making.
- iii. The government should prioritize the proper documentation of births, deaths, and migrants in the country. This can involve implementing modern registration systems that are accessible, reliable, and secure. By having accurate documentation, the government can better track

and monitor criminal activities, including kidnapping, and identify potential suspects and victims.

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