

Causes and the Remedies for Curbing the Menace of Kidnapping in Nigeria

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Abstract

Kidnapping is one of the criminal activities which has negative effects in every human's society and which has also resulted to rape, physical assault such as beatings, kicking/ maltreated of victims, financial victimization and leads to loss of precious lives. This paper intends to examine causes and the remedies for curbing the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria. The study covers the concept of kidnapping, causes of kidnapping, effects of kidnapping, theoretical framework, and remedies for curbing kidnapping in Nigeria. Some of the causes are unveiled in the study such as unemployment, excessive consumption and trafficking of hard drugs, poverty, insecurity, and lack of contentment. The effects of kidnapping could lead to psychological trauma, lack of trust and fear among the citizens, depression, severe stress, emotional attack, anger to fear of unknown. Remedies are recommended for the study, government at all levels needs to create more jobs opportunities for the youths or unemployed graduates, and poverty alleviation programmes should be fully extended to the less-privileged especially in the rural areas to ease the economic hardship; parents and guardians should always monitor the activities of their children at all time with the aim of curbing the negative behaviour that could lead to kidnapping activities. Also, government should establish and fund counselling centres at the various communities or local government levels and employ professional counsellors to help the victims or perpetrators of kidnapping with counselling skills and techniques to modify unacceptable behaviour and to assist them to function better in the society.

Keywords: Kidnapping, Causes, Menace of Kidnapping, Remedies for curbing Kidnapping

Introduction

Kidnapping is one of the criminal activities that have more debilitating consequences in every human's society. This is because, kidnapping could result to gang rape, physical assault such as beatings, kicking/ maltreated of victims, financial victimization and if care is not taken it may also leads to loss of precious lives. Nigeria is among the countries that suffer from kidnapping activities across the world. Jumare, Ismail, Ango and Maryam (2019) reported that over 1,000 cases of kidnapping were recorded in the year 2014. Most of the kidnapped victims are either rich men, political aspirants or their relatives. Among the relatives of those categories of personalities, students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (A.B.U.) Zaria Nigeria were not excluded.

Kyrian (2009) pointed out 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 culminating in today's epidemic proportion.

Kyrian says further that mere looking at kidnapping and terrorism one would understand from its definition that it reflects a breakdown in law and order in society. It is a sign that formal authority is ineffectual and that checks and balances in governance are not working since little or no prosecution of cases abound. Similarly, there is the kidnapping of government-staff as a means to criminally eke-out a large chunk of meat from the national sacred cow called Nigeria. These groups of people habitually kidnap highly placed civil servants across the country, from University Professors, to Chief Judges, Directors of Government Boards, Medical practitioners across different government hospitals, etcetera. There is equally the kidnapping of financial-giants and their family members across different fields of the national life. The religious-oriented model of kidnapping targets church leaders and their faithful. However, the kidnapping of the innocent children and old women remains the most threatening on the future of the Nigerian nation (Ashaye, 2009).

The kidnapper grows his trade on the assumption that there is no justice and equality provided by organisation of society as to encourage people to work and conscientiously earn a decent living. In that light, they

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arm to become powerful in order to join the loot. Where there is proper education and civic orientation perhaps this impression could be changed but not in Nigeria at the moment where money is held too high surpassing every other virtue in the pursuit of survival. In response to this precarious state of the nation, Raheem (2010) suggests a bloody revolution to sanitise the country and to save the future generation from descending into the abyss of economic misfortune, degradation and poverty.

Kidnapping for ransom is fast gaining notoriety across the globe, some cities and countries have been described as the "kidnapping capital of the world," Mexico, Columbia and Brazil are among the cities once named the world leaders in reported kidnapping (Abraham, 2010). Nigeria is gradually becoming the centre of terrorism and kidnapping because of the state of insecurity and worst place to dwell in because of frequent kidnapping incidents. Between 2008 and 2010, the Nigeria Police Force recorded 887 cases across the country (Carmen, 2010). The kidnapping of 110 girls in a Government Girls' Science and Technical College, Bulabulin in Yunusari Local Government area of Yobe State in February 19, 2018 and many more by *Boko Haram* represent the growing incidence of the kidnapping in Nigeria. Nigeria's Niger Delta region especially the south east and south- south States have become characterized by heightened insecurity, and an increase in crime wave. Today, almost everyone knows someone who has been kidnapped, fear and panic grips the populace, as no one knows who will be the next victim.

Kidnapping, according to AbdulKabir (2017), refers to the transportation of a person against his or her will, usually to confine the person in false imprisonment without legal authority. Also, kidnapping is an illicit incident through which human-being is forcefully abducted to an unknown area against their will by another human-being because of the reason best known to them. However, the menace of kidnapping has completely gone beyond abduction of students in Nigeria because this current administration witness a lot of pandemonium and kidnapping of government official, politicians, influential people, lecturers, royal families, kinsmen and even some kings were recorded to have been kidnapping from their palace. In essence, Abraham (2010) agreed that kidnapping has become endemic in the Nigeria society. It is fast becoming a lucrative business alternative to armed robbery.

Finally, the impact of kidnapping in Nigeria has been felt in the economic, diplomatic, security, tourism, democratic, sociocultural and worst still the national image of the country. The widening scale of insecurity and kidnapping in Nigeria is a major cause for concern as all are affected by it. Churches, mosques, markets, schools, homes and the highway, all are susceptible to the menace of kidnapping in the country. Nwaorah (2009) pointed out that the general state of insecurity in some parts of the country has no doubt reached a stage where virtually everybody is now worried about the menace of

kidnapping. Presently, hardly can people sleep because of the fear of being robbed or kidnapped.

Statement of the Problem

Kidnapping is a dreadful challenge that disrupts the tranquility and harmonious consolation of the country. Kidnapping is on the increase in Nigeria. Statistically, Nigeria records more than 1,000 kidnapping incidents a year, and there are undoubtedly many that are unreported. This study discovered that kidnapping has widely spread to the nooks and crannies of Nigeria as a result of poverty, unemployment, idleness, frustration and desolation among the youths which stimulate frustrated member to gang up in order to carry out brutality and criminality. In the view of this, Soyombo (2009) lamented that unemployment has been a major problem in most developing countries in the world. Nigeria, as a developing country is witnessing high rate of unemployment among graduates which has become one of the major threats to its national peace and security.

Jumare, Ismail, Ango and Maryam (2019) argued that, the parental neglect, lack of proper counseling, poor skill acquisition and drop-out of school syndrome by youths have led many youths into kidnapping activities. The rate at which innocent life has been muddled through the menace of kidnapping and abduction in Nigeria is worrisome and calls for incisive solution because the impact of kidnapping is becoming excruciating in Nigeria to the extent that everyone is sleeping with one eye open. Nigeria has twirled to a nation of restiveness, insurgent attack, religious violence and incessant kidnapping which discourage many people to have hoped that Nigeria will be reform as a better nation to live. To this end, this paper intends to examine the causes and to proffer remedies for the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria.

Concept of Kidnapping

Ezeibe and Eze (2012) defined kidnapping as the "act of seizing and detaining or carrying away a person by unlawful force or by fraud, and often with a demand for ransom. It involves taking a person from their family forcefully without their consent with the motive of holding the person as a hostage and earning a profit from their family". However, kidnapping is one of the current major social problems that are negatively affecting the free movement of people and the socio-economic development of the country. The menace of the proliferation of kidnapping has brought along with it problems of insecurity of lives and properties and a general fall in the number of economic activities as a result of the fear of the unforeseen. Kidnapping which is mostly common in the southern parts of the country is now very popular in the Northern parts of the country due to different dimension of armed conflicts such as ethno-religious conflicts, farmers-herders conflict, Boko Haram insurgency among others. Most of the conflicts

that have resulted to the proliferation of the evil known as kidnapping in Nigeria are mostly instigated by entrepreneurs who are gaining from the conflicts either directly or indirectly (Ezeibe & Eze, 2012)

Civil unrest, terror threats, endemic corruption and ongoing abductions of Nigerians, including the well-publicised kidnapping of school-girls by terrorist group *Boko Haram*, underscore the continuing challenges of combating modern slavery in Nigeria (The Global Slavery Index, 2014). Modern slavery takes place within the context of human trafficking and, sometimes begins with kidnapping. Yet, kidnapping is not a new phenomenon. Religious parables found in the Holy Bible and the Holy Qur'an about the sly abduction of Prophet Joseph (may the peace of God be unto him) are indications that kidnapping is as old as human history. However, the history of the word kidnap can be traced back to its earliest root, which evolved from two English words, principally 'kid' (meaning infant) and 'nap' (meaning sleep). The etymology of kidnap is dated back to the 17th century child abduction in Britain when the kids of the rich families were been abducted for "ransom while asleep (nap)" (Adebayo, Adeyemi & Adetayo, 2009). Ezeibe and Eze (2012) claim that kidnapping started as far back as 1874 in the form of child abduction.

Thus, kidnapping is taking place everywhere in Nigeria; it is a national problem that has eaten so deep into the fabric of the country (Dodo, 2010). The menace of kidnappings continues to contribute to a climate of insecurity in the South East, the Niger Delta and the South-western region. Hostages have most recently also been taken in the states of Northern Nigeria. Between 2008 and 2010, the Nigeria Police Force recorded 887 cases across the country (Action on Armed Violence, 2013). In the 2010 failed state index report, Nigeria is ranked 14th among countries that are most likely to fail. In 2009, Nigeria was ranked 15th, in 2008, it occupied the 19th position, while in 2007 it was regarded as the 17th most vulnerable country in the world. It is obvious that the Nigerian state has failed to bring about positive changes to the lives of the people even under democratic government. Democratic and economic progress in the country is challenged by poor governance, entrenched corruption, intensive conflict, ineffective service delivery and pervasive poverty.

There is no doubt that Nigeria is today one of the major kidnapping capitals of the world. This has obvious implications for investments, development and even the quality of governance. Adibe (2010) expressed that the common tendency is to blame the all-encompassing wave of kidnapping outside the Niger Delta exclusively on the unacceptable rate of unemployment in the country, an inefficient and corrupt Police force that is ill-equipped to fight crime, and collusion between kidnapers and politicians. To this end, there is every reason to condemn kidnapping as an evil business and call on these abductors to channel their energies into productive ventures that will benefit them, their families and society as a whole.

Nigerians should be worried about the potential of kidnapping business to impact negatively on the Nigerian society as a whole.

Causes of Kidnapping

Kidnapping is a violent, terrible, sensational crime and poses national security challenge for the country. Kidnapping gained momentum in Nigeria as a response to joblessness, moral decadence, hopelessness and frustration among the youths. The politicians and disgruntled individuals seized the opportunity to perpetuate criminality. The miscreants use this criminal model as the easiest method for intimidating human beings for easy access to cash. Osumah and

Effiong (2009) argued that kidnapping is "an engagement for economic survival, securing political and business advantage over rivals and co-competitors" (p.277).

Obijiofor (2009) observed that when people analysed the causes of growing cases of kidnapping in Nigeria, "they pointed out to factors such as greed, insecurity, poverty, high level of unemployment, lack of contentment, social injustice, political apathy, to the basic needs of the poor as well as failed economic policies." It is noteworthy that kidnapping has grown from the Niger-Delta region to the South-Eastern part of the country, where it graduated into the most powerful criminal industry in the state. From the Eastern Nigeria, it spread its tentacle to the South-West, North Central and North East. Today, no region is free from the menace of kidnapping as everybody is directly or indirectly affected by the wave of the crime and its sundry effects.

The issue of "moral decadence" and the "quest to get rich quick" syndrome have been identified as some of the causative factors of kidnapping. Inyang (2009) confirmed these in his proposition that in Nigeria, nobody asks questions on how people make their wealth. According to Inyang, a poor person today can show up with an expensive car tomorrow and nobody dare to question the sudden wealth. Also, people who have donated money to develop their communities are rewarded with chieftaincy titles thereby creating a wrong impression in the minds of Nigerian youths who thereafter take to kidnapping. The inconsistency between economic transparency and accountability in the running of normal government affairs and the desire to amass wealth among public office holders at different levels of government often also contribute to the leverage by kidnapers. They believe that, when those in government employment loot government treasury openly without fear, they too can as well take the laws into their hands by abducting people for ransom (Ene, 2018).

Excessive consumption and trafficking of hard drugs could also ignite the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria (Okoli, 2008). Okoli also illustrates that Abia State contributed significantly to the Nigerian economy due to its commerce and flourishing entrepreneurs. Besides, the

state emerges as a notorious drug zone in eastern Nigeria in trafficking and consuming. The drug lords ensured ready served drug supply in Abia and its neighbouring states, the extensive illegal drug usage especially between teenagers, ignite heinous crimes such as armed robbery and kidnapping, through numerous sales joint where the criminal act is planned, perfected and executed (Nsoh, 2008).

Besides, the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities, ultimately resulted to anger, agitation and violent crimes against the Nigerian state by some individuals and groups. Such crimes include militancy, kidnapping, bombing, armed robbery, vandalisation of government properties among others. In the effect of above assertion, Emanemua and Akinlosotu (2016) emphasized that the menace of kidnapping continue to spread wing due to cases on unsuccessful apprehension of culprits, and successful collection of ransom by captors, many Nigerians have seemingly lost interest in security operatives whom they sometimes see as collaborators with the perpetrators.

Poverty is also part of the major causative factors that lead many people to engage in kidnapping activities. Poverty is a financial incapacity or state of lacking basic requirement to live rational life. Basic requirements such as money, food, water and shelter among many others are the scourge of poverty which demoralized the less privilege to be inflicted with the wrath of anomaly. This study discovers that poverty has twisted many youths to have become disreputable kidnapers due to the implacable famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn. Popoola, Adeoye & Alagbe (2016) confirms that Nigeria is currently facing serious job challenge and widespread decent work deficits, a development that is capable of increasing the spread of poverty. The mysterious hunger are killing many people in thousands every day, the politicians are burying money in a sock away pit while some of them are procuring expensive property that is not functional to their daily needs. As a mater vengeance, some youths ganged up in order to kidnap and demanding huge ransom from well to do people who are not ready to assist their immediate circumstances.

Besides, unemployment is part of the driving factors contributing to the menace of kidnapping, as always the wise saying "an idle mind is the devil's workshop." In Nigeria, the occurrence of unemployment in Nigeria in this 21st century is geometrically increased and all proactive measure forwarded by the federal government to hold back its menace was failed woefully to the extent that the numbers of unemployed youths continue to increase every day. Adesina (2013) stated that it is no longer news that the unemployment factor in Nigeria with its alarmingly increasing rate, is among the country's top five headaches. Neither is it news that this evil monster, unemployment, has succeeded massively in

pouring into the minds of its victims, bright but negative thoughts and ideas on how to make fast cash, by ignoring all cautions. Today, the newest idea seems strongly to be 'kidnapping.' The problem of unemployment has become a national 'thorn in the flesh' in Nigeria. Ejimabo (2013) argues that "Nigeria needs problem-solving skills of leaders to help fight fraud and corruption in the country", otherwise, issues such as job creation and worsening political crisis would continue to be impediments to the control of crimes and delinquencies in the country.

Effects of Kidnapping Activities

The impact of kidnapping in Nigeria has been felt in the economic, diplomatic, security, tourism, democratic, sociocultural and worst still the national image of the country. This forced one of the Senate President in Nigeria, David Mark, to state that "as it is now, everybody is a potential victim of kidnapping. The earlier the governments and individuals tackle the matter headlong and end it, the better for all of us" (Adesina, 2013). Kidnapping human beings at random produce significant psychological, sociological and financial impacts on the lives of the victims, victims' relatives, and the nation at large.

Kidnapping a person or holding an individual hostage is very traumatic. The kidnapers traumatize their victims by blindfolding their eyes and sometimes hide the victims in the trunk of their vehicles and transport them to unknown locations. The kidnapers sometimes use inhalant tranquilizers to make their victims become tranquil so that they would remain asleep until they get to their hidden destinations. When the victims realize their predicament; their psychological trauma ranges from depression, severe stress, emotional attack, anger to fear of unknown (Danesy, 2011).

Besides, the victims' families are normally emotionally traumatized. The emotional impacts get the families deeply involved as financial negotiating partners with the kidnapers in order to secure their release from their captors. Kidnapers place heavy financial burden on victims' families. In an effort to secure the release of the victims, the families may go on solicitations for fund from friends, relatives, and well-wishers. Sir Mike Okipo disclosed that 15 billion was paid as ransom to kidnapers between 2006 and 2009 (Kyrian, 2009). In December 4, 2009, the Bank Manager of the United Bank of Africa (UBA) was kidnapped in front of his house and an undisclosed amount of money was paid as ransom for his release after days of negotiations (Ihe, 2018). Because the society is willing to engage in ransom negotiation, it becomes very difficult to halt the booming illegal enterprise.

Kidnapping creates fear among the indigenes and foreign nationals. People live in fear of being kidnapped. Some foreign multinational oil companies, construction companies, production sectors, and foreign investors closed down offices due to fear of being abducted. In

some states, especially in Uyo capital city, an expatriate oil worker with Exxon Mobil was kidnapped in December 2008 at the church premises very close to his residence at the Mobil quarters in Eket. He was released later after an undisclosed ransom was paid. In this regard, some oil workers moved locations to other parts of the country while some moved out of Nigeria entirely due to kidnapping threats and insecurity.

Tracing the activities of the contemporary kidnapping events in the country, this study noticed the following occurrences: On July 10, 2003, Dr. Chris Ngige (ex-governor of Anambra State and Chief Pete Edochie) were kidnapped. A student by name, Mr. Samuel Ita Inickong of the University of Uyo was kidnapped on November 25, 2005 by unidentified persons. Mrs Comfort Etok (the wife of the Senator representing Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District) and the wife of ANPP gubernatorial candidate were kidnapped (Ikeje, 2010).

Since 2003, kidnapping escalated in the country (as both security challenge and a social malaise), which has underscored some efforts made by the Federal Government to combat this security challenge (Freeman, 2006). Some people have limited freedom to walk around their vicinities due to fear of being abducted. Therefore, kidnapping affects the social life and social relations of many people who are held hostages in their homes from dusk to dawn, for the fear of being kidnapped. As a result of kidnapping, night travel has become a high risk venture. Furthermore, many people have been forced out of their newly completed houses by kidnapers. People are compelled to present an unfinished look of poverty by not painting the external walls of their houses. Many people are afraid to buy or use new motor vehicles for the fear of kidnapers. It was reported that rich people in Nigeria have resorted to riding in taxi cabs and commercial motorcycles popularly called *okada* to market, school and social outings as a means to check hostage takers (Soyombo, 2009).

In regards to inter-personal relationship, kidnapping has also contributed to a relatively high level of mistrust among people. Few people still extend the traditional African hospitality to strangers. Some people do not acknowledge or return greeting by strangers nor oblige strangers asking for direction most people are unwilling to render help to people in distress for fear of being kidnapped. Few people would venture to stop to assist people calling for help on the express way. Increasingly many people nowadays barricade themselves in their homes (Soyombo, 2009). Most devastatingly, it has been noted that, it is the fear of kidnapping that has contributed to the current high demand for police escort by diverse public officials in the country, thereby further depleting the inadequate police personnel that could have been deployed to street crime control (Soyombo, 2009). In some parts of Nigeria, most people live in fear, as they do not know who will be next to be kidnapped.

Theoretical Framework

Social Learning Theory of Violent Crime

Albert Bandura developed the social learning theory in 1977 and is one of the most widely acceptable theories. Social learning theory is a theory of learning process and social behaviour which proposes that new behaviours can be acquired by observing and imitating others through observation, imitation and modelling. The theory has often been called a bridge between behaviourist and cognitive learning theories because it encompasses attention, memory and motivation. The Social Learning Theory of Criminology states that people learn from the community around them. This could happen in two ways:

1. **Differential Association:** this deals with the idea that people learn values and behaviours associated with crime.
2. **Differential Reinforcement:** this implies the fact that rewards and punishment shape our behaviour. Bandura (1997) proposed Social Learning Theory of Violent Crime of kidnapping, that people acquire aggression to involve in kidnapping by watching others act and noting the consequences. Kidnapping is a behaviour which can be learned through observation and imitation especially when the behaviour is being reinforced positively by payment of ransom. People whose goal in life has been blocked either due to lack of job or poverty, can easily learn the act of kidnapping or eventually become kidnapers (Ruwan, Ignatius & Andrew, 2019). The social learning theory therefore presents kidnapping as a learned behaviour. People can learn the act of kidnapping through the mass media, when they watch films containing violent acts, hostage taking, abduction and even the act of kidnapping and terrorism. By so doing, they watch people killed in cold blood through the use of sophisticated weapons, and watch teenagers carry arms and ammunition. All these are very possible avenues of learning the act of kidnapping and becoming kidnapers. Through social learning of violent crime related to kidnapping, parents in Nigeria have learnt the act of staging the kidnap of their loved ones for ransom. A woman was arrested when she arranged to get herself kidnapped in order for her husband to pay ransom when she will collect and share with her accomplice. On Thursday 13th July 2017, there was a reported case of a Lagos Chief (Baale) which made headlines when security agents found that the Chief alongside his wife and brother faked his kidnap (Abdulwahab, 2017). A 37 year old woman Bukola Ogun faked own kidnap to scare her husband into relocating her and children back to the United States. (Odude, 2019). It is pertinent to note that if aggression is a learned behavior, then kidnapping which is a specific type of aggression can also be learned.

Remedies for Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria

These are the remedies recommended in this study for curbing the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria, including:

- The joint security forces instituted to check kidnapping should be sustained and given free role to report kidnapper's hideouts. When they are rendered homeless, it will be difficult for them to carry-out their regular criminal operations.
- The government should enact a stiff anti-kidnapping law that will make kidnapping a serious felony. A kidnapper should be charged with a capital offence if the kidnapping results into death. This is because kidnappings are of different types and levels. Therefore, punishment should be assigned accordingly.
- Government at all levels needs to create more jobs opportunities for the youths or unemployed graduates.
- Political leaders should desist from seeing their biological children as assets but using other unemployed youths as thugs by providing them with rifles and ammunitions to destabilize electoral process during election periods in order to achieve their selfish aim and later dumps them. Because whenever the unemployed youths are dumped they will judiciously make use of the weapons at their disposal to commit crime in order to survive since they are without jobs.
- Poverty alleviation programmes should be fully extended to the less-privileged especially in the rural areas to ease the economic hardship, and not the urban areas where the already rich people will benefit. When this is addressed, this study strongly believes that kidnapping will be a thing of the past in Nigeria.
- Parents and guardians should always monitor the activities of their children at all time with the aim of curbing the negative behaviour that could lead to kidnapping activities.
- It is the responsibility of government to establish and fund counselling centres at the various communities or local government levels and employ professional counsellors to help victims and perpetrators of kidnapping with counselling skills and techniques to modify unacceptable behaviour and to assist them to function better in the society.
- Federal and State governments should properly equip and deploy forest guards into our forests that are serving as safe and conducive habitats for the kidnappers to perpetrate their activities in order to curb the menace.
- It could be of great advantage if Government and school proprietors can install surveillance devices like closed-circuit television cameras at strategic places of the school environment so as to monitor the intruders or unknown people visiting the school.
- The three tiers of government most especially the federal government to deem it necessary to embark on a public enlightenment campaign on social media via Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, radio programmes and any other means of communication on the need to curb the menace of kidnapping.
- Government should equip community police and motivate other law enforcement agencies such as: Nigerian Police, Department of State Security, Military and Para-military forces. Therefore, this study agreed that the development of any society to a large extent depends on the extent of the security of lives and properties of the citizens. A secured atmosphere would encourage intellectual minds who would be a great asset to the Nation building
- It is pertinent to be known that kidnappers in most cases carried out this notorious act after hard drug consumption. In order to reduce the menace of kidnapping and other detrimental vices, government should take proactive measure with guiding principle that will prevent the negative impact of drugs in Nigeria. Government should enact a law to stop selling and consumption of hard drugs and intoxicant that is powerful enough to jeopardize thinking faculty.
- It is also necessary to enforce laws against any political/government official/public office holder found collaborating with kidnappers directly or indirectly. Such a person should be disqualified from holding, contesting/vying for any position in government. This will serve as deterrent to others who may want to venture into such criminal activities.

Conclusion

Kidnapping is one of notorious activities that have more debilitating consequences in every human's society. The study finds that, unemployment, poverty, ritual and spiritual proclivity, lack of contentment, insecurity and prevalence of alcoholic consumption are major factors responsible for the widespread of kidnapping in Nigeria. Kidnapping could result to gang rape, physical assault such as beatings, kicking/ maltreated of victims, financial victimization and if care is not taken it may also leads to loss of precious lives. The impact of kidnapping in Nigeria has been felt in the economic, diplomatic, security, tourism, democratic, sociocultural and worst still the national image of the country. Among the remedies provided in the study is that poverty alleviation programmes should be fully extended to the less-privileged especially in the rural areas to ease the economic hardship, and not the urban areas where the already rich people will benefit. When this is addressed, this study strongly believes that kidnapping will be a thing of the past in Nigeria

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