



**PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE CAUSES,  
PREVALENCE AND EFFECTS OF KIDNAPPING  
ON THE RESIDENCE OF SABON-GARI LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AREA OF KADUNA STATE,  
NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

The study examined public perception towards the causes, prevalence and effects of kidnapping on residents of Sabon-Gari LGA of Kaduna State, Nigeria. *The study relies on both qualitative methods through the administration of questionnaires to residents of the Local government and also qualitative methods through in-depth interviews to generate data for the study. The study also adopted Conspiracy theory as a theoretical framework. Findings shows that youth unemployment and poverty are the major causes of kidnapping and the menace has led to increased poverty on residents, psychological trauma on victims and families of victims. The study recommend poverty eradication programs, creation of jobs and strengthening the security structure of the country as mitigating measures*

**Keywords:** *Crime, Causes, Effects, Prevalence, Kidnapping, Residence*

**INTRODUCTION**

There has been a rise of high profile crime and delinquency across the world which has become a great threat to achieving world peace and development. At every 24 hours of the day, domestic and foreign media outlets are replete with reports of criminal activities that tend to send fear and shiver down the spines of many, thereby creating doubts about the possibility of the globe ever being peaceful and united. Uncontrolled crimes affect peaceful co-existence in society, distort peace and development since in its absence, social life can hardly be predicted (Nwolise, 2005). Criminal activities such

as kidnapping, terrorism, robbery, thuggery, ritual killings, cyber-crimes, arson to mention but a few, pervade our national dailies with law enforcement agencies doing all they can to eradicate the menace of which they are already overburdened. Currently, Nigeria has been adjudged to be a dangerous and unsafe nation for business and investment. The unsavory rating of Nigeria as a crime haven no doubt scares both domestic and foreign investors from investing in the resource studded Nigerian economy (Odoma, 2011).

Since crime is an abnormal human condition, unwanted and most undesired, it requires a paradigm shift on our popular conception of man in an organized society and the chances for a better and peaceful future. The violent crime of kidnapping, currently ravaging Nigeria, has kept many residents in Sabon Garri LGA of Kaduna State without sleep. Kidnapping has taken an alarming dimension in Kaduna State (Jamiu, 2009). It is said to have sprung up in the Niger Delta when militants, calling for both national and international attention to the perceived injustices, deprivation and ecological degradation occasioned by oil exploration in the region, took to abduction of expatriate oil workers. Soon President Umar Yar'adua, as part of his Seven Point Agenda, granted presidential pardon to Niger Delta militants (Nyam, 2010). Not long after, Kaduna State turned to a hub of kidnappers. This has raised concerns as to whether this wave of abductions is a reaction to the state's exclusion from, or rather non-inclusion in, the federal government's Amnesty Grant; or just an act of sheer criminality by seemingly jobless youths. Kidnapping groups are often beyond the reach of the law enforcement agencies. This is evident in the time taken in conducting their violent bargains by requesting a second payment after reaching agreement and the release of a victim. On other occasions, kidnappers have portrayed inefficiency (whether deliberate or not) with regard to their "database", as they have abducted some persons over and over again. The government with little or no political will and a deteriorating moral authority has made several attempts utilizing force in its approach to kidnapping diplomacy. Also, through negotiation and Amnesty Grants to youths as a means to its sustainable control, but to no avail. It, therefore, appears that the major issues at the root of the problem have not been addressed.

Lawal (2005), respectively believes that challenges facing the administration of criminal justice in terms of frequency in transfer of investigating police officers, inadequate operational facilities, poor working

conditions of prison officers is responsible for the recurring incidence of kidnapping in Kaduna State. Decided cases in Nigeria courts have further exposed the inadequacies in the administration of the criminal justice as being responsible for the apparent inability of the government to tame this social menace.

A high number of these kidnapers are unemployed or underemployed. Many studies have explored the causative factors behind the prevalence of kidnapping activities in Nigeria since the early 1970s, finding issues such as institutional failures and the ineptitude of law enforcement agencies and other state entities tasked with the prosecution of criminal cases in the various states as well as at the federal level (Imoh & Salihu, 2014). Additionally, the economic conditions have left many unemployed young adults incentivized to engage in crime (Adejimi & Ogunode, 2015). Some scholars like Obarisiagbon (2017), have contended that the reason for the rise in kidnapping is to be located at the corridor of the Nigeria Police Force. He notes just like Okarah (2014), that corruption and dishonesty are endemic among the rank and file of the police force. In fact, this twin evil- corruption and dishonesty account for the low level of public confidence in the ability of the police. Little wonder then, that the relatives of the victims of kidnapping are often quick to pay the ransom rather than reporting the incident to the police. The kidnapping situation and the seemingly lack of willpower by the police to enforce the law seem to have made Nigerians resign to their fate. The most unfortunate victims of these incidents of kidnapping in Nigeria is that the some victims usually die in the process while the more lucky ones are released after serious torture and payment of heavy ransoms. It is also disheartening to say that the kidnapers collect the ransom and still kill the victim, while other kidnapers go ahead to kidnap the family member that brings the ransom to them; thereby leading to higher negotiation between the family and the kidnapers. In some reported cases; the kidnapers take hostages of more than three to four family members to assert more negotiating value on their part; making it more of a criminal business venture. Little is known about the possible public perception of the causes, prevalence and effects of kidnapping activities in Sabon-Garri LGA of Kaduna State. Thus, the study will attempt to proffer solutions that would be both enduring and peace sustaining.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Conspiracy Theory**

The study will adopt conspiracy theory, the theory originating with disputes over what counts as a conspiracy and what does not. First, we identify a “conspiracy” as a secret plot by two or more powerful actors (Keeley, 1999).

Conspiracies typically attempt to usurp political or economic power, violate rights, infringe upon established agreements, withhold vital secrets, or alter bedrock institutions. When conspiracies fail or are otherwise exposed the appropriate experts deem them as having actually occurred (Levy, 2007). “Conspiracy theories” are attempts to explain the ultimate causes of significant social and political events and circumstances with claims of secret plots by two or more powerful actors (Aaronovitch, 2010). Conspiracy theories could accuse any group perceived as powerful and malevolent. Conspiracy theories about the 9/11 terror attacks accuse the Bush administration, the Saudi Government, corporations, the financial industry, and the Jews; conspiracy theories about climate change accuse scientists, communists, the United Nations, Democrats, the government, and the oil industry among others. While a conspiracy refers to a true causal chain of events, a conspiracy theory refers to an allegation of conspiracy that may or may not be true (Byford, 2011).

### **Major Assumptions**

1. The ultimate causes of significant social and political events and circumstances with claims of secret plots by two or more powerful actors
2. to provide broad, internally consistent explanations that allow people to preserve beliefs in the face of uncertainty and contradiction
3. Belief in conspiracy appears to be stronger when people perceive patterns in randomness
4. Conspiracy belief is also stronger among people who consistently seek patterns and meaning in their environment, such as believers in paranormal and supernatural phenomena
5. It is also stronger when events are especially large-scale or significant and when small-scale, mundane explanations therefore seem unsatisfactory (Coady, 2006).

### **CRITICISMS OF CONSPIRACY THEORY**

1. Conspiracy theories may allow individuals to question or challenge dominance hierarchies and query the actions of powerful groups.
2. Conspiracy theories have been predominantly linked to harmful social, health, and political consequences. It is also debatable whether

or not conspiracy theories meet the psychological needs that people adopt them for

3. Conspiracy theory changes people's attitudes in a way that they are not even aware. This may depend on people's existing predispositions
4. Conspiracy theories have been linked to negative attitudes about groups
5. Several correlation studies have shown that belief in health-related conspiracy theories is associated with the choice to use contraception and practice safe sex. Specifically, one conspiracy theory alleges that birth control is a form of genocide against Africans and African Americans (Dentith & Orr, 2017).

### **APPLICATION OF THE THEORY**

Conspiracy theory applies to kidnapping in Sabon-Gari LGA of Kaduna State; this is because there has been different public perception on the root causes of Kidnapping in the State. Some have linked the causes of kidnapping to powerful forces in the State who wish to paint the State government as ineffective in managing the State's security situations. There are others that have believed that kidnapping in the State is sponsored by politicians to enable them to benefit from allocations meant for the eradication of the menace. Some have accused the government of making money from the state of security in the State.

One positive consequence of these challenges could be that governments are encouraged to be more transparent. Conspiracy theories can also reveal inconsistencies in government or official versions of events and may open up issues for discussion that would otherwise be closed. Various scholars view conspiracy theories as results of people's and groups' attempts to understand social and political reality. Indeed, it is possible to view conspiracy theories as an important ingredient of democratic discourse.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Sabon Gari local government area is one of the 23 local governments of Kaduna State. The local government is bordered to Zaria, Kudan, Igabi and Giwa local government areas. It's a host to many academic institutions and private organizations. The data collection method was quantitative using questionnaires and qualitative using in-depth interviews. This study sourced

and used primary data from residents of the local government for the quantitative method while qualitative data was sourced from household heads, house wives, youths, police and political ward heads (Mai Andwa)

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Data on the socio-demographic attributes of the respondents indicate that 50% of the respondents were above 53 years of age while 4% were between the ages of 18 and 22 years. As regards the sex of the respondents, 96.6% were males while 4.4% were females. This disparity may be explained by the fact that in the study area, most of the household heads are men that are advanced in age and most youths lived with their parents, wives and children within the family compound. Very few women were household heads in the area of study. The data also showed that 30.8% had attended tertiary institutions while 10% did not attend any kind of school. The high level of literacy could be explained by the influence of educational institutions such as Ahmadu Bello University, Federal College of Education Kongo, and other institutions within the area of study. Data on the religious practices of the respondents showed that 93.6% are Muslims while 6.4% are Christians. This is largely because the area is dominated by adherents of Islamic religion. Data on the occupation of the respondents shows that 35.2% of the respondents are civil servants with 9.6% having no definite occupation. The implication of these findings is that, the respondents are matured literate persons who are household heads. Since household heads are representatives of their family, establishing a rapport with them was easy and they were in a position to reasonably respond to the designed question.

### **Forms and Pattern of Kidnapping**

This section examines what the respondents know about the forms and pattern of kidnapping in their respective communities such as finding out about their awareness of kidnapping in the area, and the level of severity of the menace, to determine if the kidnappers use guns and the kinds of guns used, when does kidnapping occur and the forms it usually takes.

The presentation shows that 94.1% of the respondents are aware of the problem of kidnapping in the study area while 5.8% of the respondents are not aware of the incidence of kidnapping in the area. This goes to prove that



the majority of the respondents have a good knowledge about the security situation of their environment, especially on the issues of kidnapping as represented in this study. When asked on the level of severity. About 58.8% of the respondents are of the view that kidnapping is highly severe in the research area, 29.4% of the respondents said it is severe; only 11.7% of the respondents said it is less severe in the area. It can be deduced from the findings that the issues of kidnapping in the research area are highly severe and a general problem that requires quick attention in the research area.

Respondents were asked if the kidnappers' uses weapons to execute their crime and the majority 64.7% agreed that kidnapper uses weapons in their operation while 23.5% of the respondents said they do not use weapons for their operation while 17.6% of the respondents were undecided about the use of guns. On the kinds of weapons used, 76.5% identified guns while 23.5% of the respondents identified cutlasses as a weapon used by the kidnappers. It can be concluded from these findings that kidnappers use guns to execute their missions. This is necessary to assert fear in their victims and to easily take them away as hostages. It is also widely reported in the in-depth interview that kidnappers resort to the use of guns in their operation. According to one of the victim:

*Yes, we were coming from Kaduna and they stopped us on the way, they are dressed in military uniforms, so we could not differentiate them quickly until we came close and saw the way they are disorganized and we were able to tell that they are kidnappers with all of them carrying guns on their hands. The ones that took us away had gun hanged on his shoulders*

Similarly, a Police Officer reiterated that:

*Why not, the kidnappers use guns and the kinds of guns we are talking about here are machine guns, AK-49 and 47, in fact the kinds of guns they have even though we the Police we don't even have access to such guns and bullets. Why do you think they attack without fear of the Police? It is because they know the kind of guns they carry*

It can therefore be deduced from these findings that kidnappers are highly sophisticated in terms of weapons used to execute their crimes and their weapons are even more advanced than that of the Police that are charged with the responsibilities of curtailing the crime.

Regarding when kidnapping takes place; it was found that kidnapping usually takes place by night as represented by 58.8% while 41.1% of the respondents said it occurs at random. This implies that most of the act of kidnapping in the study area takes place at night and also at random. It is easier to commit crime in the night due to the fact that there is darkness and the security agents may not respond quickly to distress calls. Therefore the kidnappers use the late hours to their advantage by taking their victims hostage. A ward head also corroborate this finding by saying that:

*The kidnappers in our areas at times come like armed robbers, they break into your house and take people away to the bush at gunpoint, even when you are on your way returning on bike you can be taken at night with a gun on your head. We have had incidence in this area where people are sleeping at night and they came to steal them, in the morning we have discovered that the kidnappers came to take people at night*

Regarding the forms of kidnapping in the research area, it was found that kidnapping takes the form of high way kidnapping as represented by 47.0% of the respondents, 41.1% of the respondents said kidnapping takes the form of breaking into people's houses while 11.8% asserts that kidnapping takes the form of deception. It can be deduced from this finding that kidnapping usually occurs on the highway. This happens when people travel from one location to the other and the kidnappers obstruct the traveling by taking their victims. Closely related to that also is the form of breaking into houses to take their victims. It can be concluded that the form of kidnapping the research area is through taking of victims from the highway and also breaking into people's houses to kidnap them

### **Causes of Kidnapping**

This section presents the causes of kidnapping known to the respondents.



**TABLE 4.3.1: RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE CAUSES OF KIDNAPING**

<b>Causes of Kidnapping</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Poverty	50	29.4
Unemployment	60	35.3
No strict laws	20	11.7
Get rich quick	20	11.7
Peer Pressure	10	
For fun	5	2.9
Punish government	5	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.3.1 shows that the majority 35.3% of the respondents asserts that unemployment is the cause of kidnapping. This is also affirmed by a youth:

*You see there are no jobs, so what do you want us to do? The people that came with the ideas of kidnapping showed many youths ways on how to make money, some joined them and it became their work now. It started and many youths keep going to join them to give out names and how to get the people that they kidnap and then they make money out of it. If there are jobs nobody will talk about joining such things.*

Similarly, a mother in the research area also stated that:

*It is unemployment; they stay at home with no jobs so because of that they carry guns and other weapons looking for how to extort money from people on the street and now kidnapping people. They are part of our community and knows the place very well*

It was also revealed that 29.4% of the respondents said poverty is the cause of people engaging in the acts of kidnapping, also the problem of no strict laws against perpetrators and the syndrome of get rich quick among Nigerian youths were reported to be the reasons for engaging in the act of kidnapping as represented by 11.7% respectively.

It can be deduced from this finding that youth unemployment and poverty accounts for the cause of engaging in the act of kidnapping. This is true because many victims kidnapped were demanded of ransom which was in monetary terms. Unemployment in Nigeria and Kaduna State is a big social problem recognized by the government and also found in this study to have led to youths engaging in kidnapping as a new form of job. In regards to the reasons respondents considered most as the causal factors of engaging in kidnapping; it was found out that unemployment represented 94.1% while poverty represented 5.8% of the reasons for engaging in kidnapping. This goes to conclude that the lack of job opportunities predispose people to seek alternatives to survive which has become kidnapping ventures.

**TABLE 4.3.2 RESPONDENTS PERCEPTION OF FACTORS THAT PREDISPOSED PEOPLE TO BEING KIDNAPPED.**

<b>Factors of being Kidnapped</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Expensive lifestyle	60	35.2
Traveling on highway	30	17.6
Information about family background	10	5.9
Random kidnap	63	37.1
I don't know	7	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.3.2 shows respondent perception of the factors that predispose people of being kidnapped and the finding revealed that the majority 37.1% of the respondents are of the view that people get kidnapped randomly without any factors attached to it. According to a Police Officer:

*You know when this kidnap of a thing started in this country it was previously rich people that work in the oil region. But the kind of kidnapping in our LGA here, farmers, beggars and children are being taken away. They do not care if you are rich or you are poor. So far as you are not lucky and you meet them when their operation is on then you are gone.*

One of the Mai- Angwa has this to say:

*Well the situation now is not whether you are living an expensive life or not, it is now about who they find as at the time they come to raid the community,*

*before it was targeted at certain people with money and are well to do, but now even beggars on the street are victims of kidnapping. Anyone can be kidnapped both religious leaders, children, old and young people.*

Also finding shows that an expensive lifestyle may predispose one to being kidnapped as represented by 35.2%. Factors such as traveling on Nigerian roads were also identified as represented by 17.6%, information about your family background was represented by 5.9% while 4.1% of the respondents did not know the factors that could lead to someone being kidnapped.

It can be deduced from the findings that one can get kidnapped at random irrespective of your class, or any other factors as revealed by the study. This implies that everyone within the research area is at risk of getting kidnapped by the kidnappers for no reason other than collecting ransom.

**TABLE 4.4. RESPONDENTS PERCEPTION ON THE EFFECTS OF KIDNAPPING.**

<b>Effects of Kidnapping</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>	<b>NO (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
It create fear among residents	168 (98.8)	2 (1.2)	170 (100.0)
Kidnappers kill their victims	160 (94.1)	10 (5.8)	170 (100.0)
Kidnapping leads to hardship	170 (100)	0	170 (100.0)
Psychological Trauma	170 (100)	0	170 (100.0)
Health related problems	170 (100)	0	170 (100.0)

Table 4.4 presents findings on the effects of kidnapping on residents. Findings showed that kidnapping led to economic hardship on the victims as represented by 100% of the respondents. This is true because when victims are being kidnapped; the family members had to seek for ways on how to raise the ransom for the release of their victim, 100% of the respondents also said kidnapping have psychological effects trauma for both victims and the family, 100% also posit that kidnapping can lead to health related problem. Also, 98.8% of the respondents asserts that kidnapping creates fear among the residents while 94.1% are of the view that kidnapping can lead to death. A Police Officer in the area asserts that:

*The problem of kidnapping here is something that affects all of us. When it happens to one almost the whole community tries to raise money to pay for the release of the victim. So it ends up drying their pockets. Some after paying the money, the kidnappers still go ahead to kill their relatives leaving them to mourn and cry the more. Some sell all their farm storage for the season to meet up with the ransom. The effects are numerous to mention*

Similarly, a family member in the in-depth interview posits that:

*Yes, kidnapping has a lot of challenges, aside from the fact that you may lose your friend, or family member if you can't raise the ransom is a big problem. Some of us had to sell our lands and properties to pay; in fact the depth can lead to hypertension and other mental problem*

It can be deduced from the findings that kidnapping has a special effect on the residents of the research location as highly represented above. Effects such as death, trauma, poverty, health challenges and fear among the residents were identified as effects.

**TABLE 4.5. RESPONDENTS PERCEPTION ON THE MEASURES OF CURTAILING KIDNAPPING.**

Measures	Yes (%)	NO (%)	Total (%)
Government should put in more efforts	90 (52.9)	2 (1.2)	170 (100.0)
There should be security personnel at the communities	168(98.8)	10 (5.8)	170 (100.0)
Avoiding expensive lifestyles	139 (81.8)	31 (18.2)	170 (100.0)
Families should be security conscious	150 (88.2)	20 (11.8)	170 (100.0)
There should be strict laws against kidnapping	134 (78.8)	36 (21.2)	170 (100.0)
There should be job opportunities	167 ( 98.2)	3 (1.8)	170 (100.0)
There should be public awareness against kidnapping	98 ( 57.6)	72 (43.4)	170 (100.0)

Table 4.5 presents measures of curtailing the menace of kidnapping. Findings show that 98.8% of the respondents suggested that there should be

adequate security at their communities. This measure will have a great impact because aside from the fact that it will scare away kidnappers, it also gives the residents a sense of safety. Also 98.2% of the respondent's advocates for the creation of jobs for Nigerian teeming youths, 88.2% also asserts that families should be security conscious. This involves putting out family measures that are intended in curtailing kidnapping. Findings showed that 81.8% of the respondents are of the view that the best way to curtail kidnapping is when people avoid flaunting expensive lifestyles as this may attract kidnappers. Similarly, findings from the in depth interview show that a Police Officer asserts that:

*You see there are many reasons why people become victims at the hands of this criminals, but one that is popular is when you over show yourself as a wealthy man, when you spray money at occasions and make donations at different event centers, their attentions are drowned to you immediately, so among others I am suggesting it*

A ward leader in the area said:

*Well, it is our collective efforts, once we all join hands together as father, mother, and children you will see how far it will take us. That is, children come home on time and avoid late nights, everyone being conscious of our security, I can say we will easily find them and deal with them. It will become difficult to engage in any crime in this area*

It can be deduced from the above findings that measures such as providing security personnel at the community to scare away the kidnappers is a key component of addressing the effects of kidnapping. Also, the government should create avenues to engage jobless youths in things that are creative and as such it will limit the level at which youths engage in kidnapping as a means to cushion the effects of poverty and lack of money among themselves.

### **Discussion of Key Findings**

This section is aimed at discussing the key findings of the study and it will follow the stated objectives of the study

### **Socio-Demographic Data**

The study revealed that respondents that participated more in the study are within 53 years. This is because topics as vital as security of lives and properties capture the attention of the adults and the elderly easily. Also in regards to sex of the participants it was also found that 96.6% were males. This was due to the nature of the topic Kidnapping. Many of the female gender easily think that the men should have good knowledge of the problem as they are largely involved in the negotiation of ransom, providing the kidnappers the ransom and also championing measures of addressing the problem.

### **Forms and Pattern of Kidnapping**

The study revealed that the majority of the respondents are aware of the problem of kidnapping in the research area. It was also found that the problem of kidnapping is highly severe in the communities. It was also revealed that the kidnappers' uses highly sophisticated weapons such as guns and other weapons to assert fear in their victims and to smoothly engage in their criminal activities unchallenged. It was found that kidnapping takes the form of attacking people on the highways during traveling and breaking into people's houses at night. This findings agrees with the work of Ugwulebo (2011, 32-33), he asserts that kidnapping in the South-South states occurs at company sites however, in the Northern States it involves stopping moving vehicles and also getting into people's houses at day and night times to kidnap victims with no fear of the security personnel. According to OSAC (2010), kidnapping takes the form of highway robbery. It induces and creates a palpable ambience of fear and despair for all citizens who use the road to travel and stultify economic growth and sustainable development. It is thus one major development challenge bedeviling Nigeria today. It drives away investment, both domestic and foreign direct investments and consequently slows down growth.

### **Causes of Kidnapping**

Findings revealed that unemployment and poverty are the major causes of kidnapping in the study area. This finding agrees with the study by Inyang, (2009) who associated the problem of unemployment as one of such reasons why kidnapping in Nigeria is often associated with youth unemployment. He used the widely acknowledged adage, which says that "an idle mind is



the devil's workshop” to present the situation of unemployment in Nigeria. He noted that there are uncountable able-bodied men and women in Nigeria roaming the streets in search of non-existing jobs. Out of frustration together with mounting responsibilities to tackle many idle young persons have ventured into criminal activities of which kidnapping is not an exemption. He further acknowledged that, a graduate who is unable to secure a job is psychologically bereft of other means of survival. In such situation, the young person could develop a negative attitude towards society and attribute his failure to the society

Mukhtar and Abdullahi, (2014), agrees with the findings by asserting that Poverty is a multi-dimensional and complex phenomenon, encompassing not only material deprivation, but also other forms of deprivation, such as unemployment, ill-health, and lack of education, vulnerability, powerlessness and social exclusion. Poverty has serious consequences on the living condition of the people and consequently on the socio-economic and political security of a nation which may prompt some of the youths into the activity of kidnapping. According to Farraro, (2003) poverty is the state of human beings who are poor; they have little or no material means of surviving either with little food, shelter, clothes, healthcare, education, and other physical means of living and improving one's life. Nigeria, a sub – Saharan African country, has at least half of its population living in abject poverty (Ojo, 2008). Ogwumike, (2002) reveals that poverty reduction is the most difficult challenge any developing country is facing, where on the average, the majority of the population is considered poor.

It was also found in the study that there are no definite factors that predisposes people to being kidnapped as kidnapping in the area occurs randomly, anybody can be a victim of kidnapping while others identify expensive lifestyles as a factor that may likely expose an individual to getting kidnapped.

### **Effects of Kidnapping**

The study found that kidnapping has led to problems such as poverty, economic hardship on the residents as a result of struggling to pay ransom. It has also led to psychological trauma on relatives of the kidnapped and as well as victims. The findings also showed that kidnapping has created a lot of health issues, panic fear and has led to the death of many victims in the research area. Inyang and Ubong (2013) classified the economic effects of kidnapping as direct and indirect costs. Direct Cost of Kidnapping involves

the economic value that individuals and government may lose to kidnappers, much money has been paid as ransom. According to the former Inspector General of Police, Sir Mike Okiro, N15 billion have been paid as ransom to the kidnappers between 2006 and 2009 (Kyrian, 2009). The large sum of money spent as ransom payment could affect the state economy drastically. Many people kidnapped paid a lot of money as ransom. This situation affects both the state and household economy. Some people usually go as far as borrowing to bail their relatives out from the hands of hoodlums. Inyang and Ubong (2013) pointed out that in many cases, it is often the bread winners of families that are usually targeted. The implication is always felt particularly within the family, whereby members of such families will have to feed themselves and adjust to their normal daily activities, until they secure the release of the victim. If the victim is a businessman or woman the business will suffer, if he is a civil servant or an artisan, his place of work will be affected adversely. In both cases there is going to be some setback. If he works in an organization, the challenges to be experienced are enormous as the victim's absence will impact the system and the output may drop. Victims of kidnapping also suffer indirect costs from the incidents. Some of the victims are killed in the process of kidnapping, some sustain various levels of injuries like bullet wounds which may deform them forever. Many victims suffer various degrees of assault, abuse and torture in the hands of the kidnappers. Some of the female victims are even raped by the kidnappers. Generally, most victims suffer severe traumatic pains from their experiences in the hands of the kidnappers.

### **Measures of Curtailing the Problem of Kidnapping**

The study identified measures such as providing security personnel at the community to scare away the kidnappers. Also, the government should create avenues to engage jobless youths in things that are creative and as such it will limit the level at which youths engage in kidnapping as a means to cushion the effects of poverty and lack of money among themselves. Okorie, Ajah and Okpan (2018), agrees with the identified measures as they assert that there is need to review the current strategy of dealing with the issue of kidnapping and hostage taking in Nigeria. In particular, there is the need to explore the extant laws and the extent to which they are being enforced with a view to establishing their efficacy. There is a need to sensitize and engage members of the public by the security agencies in tackling the issue of kidnapping and hostage taking. Also there should be proper protection of identities of the public members that supply useful information to the security agencies and officers and men of the security agencies. Wajim (2020), also asserts that unemployment, poverty and moral decadence must be properly dealt with to the bearable level in order to curtail the rate of people who have resorted to engage in criminal activities because

of idleness as a source of livelihood. Which is concomitant with what Maitama (2015), unveiled that “an Idle mind thinks nothing but evil, plans nothing but evil, and wants to do nothing but evil”.

## **CONCLUSION**

The paper carefully interrogated the prevalence, causes and effects of kidnapping activities and it was revealed that kidnapping is a heinous and lucrative economic venture many have resorted to in 21st century Nigeria. The study noted that kidnapping takes the form of attacking people on highways in the Local Government and also breaking into people’s houses at night. The causes of kidnapping in the research location is said to be high levels of youth unemployment and poverty ravaging the communities. The study also sought out to find out the effects of kidnapping on the residents and it was revealed that kidnapping has led to the problem of poverty, economic hardship on the residents as a result of struggling to pay ransom. It has also led to psychological trauma on relatives of the kidnapped and as well as victims. The findings also showed that kidnapping has created a lot of health issues, panic fear and has led to the death of many victims in the research area.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The following recommendations are made to stern the tide;

- There should be security personnel at communities that have become targets to scare away the kidnappers.
- The federal government should create avenue to engage jobless youths in things that are creative and as such it will limit the level at which youths engages in kidnapping as a means to cushion the effects of poverty and lack of money among themselves
- The Federal and Kaduna State Government should enact laws to prosecute kidnappers. Laws such as death penalties will scare prospective kidnappers and they will refrain from such crime.
- Law enforcement agencies should synergize and scale up inter-agency intelligence gathering mechanisms.

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