

## **Sociological Overview of the Menace of Kidnapping to the System of Education and Sustainable Development in Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

Nigeria has witnessed an overwhelming increase in the rate of kidnapping that obstruct and sometimes halt academic activities especially from pre-primary, primary, secondary and even the tertiary institutions of learning particularly in Northern Nigeria. This paper seek to show the disastrous atrocities of kidnapping to the schooling and learning system in the country and equally, explained briefly the perceived causes of kidnapping, which among others includes poverty, unemployment, political parochialism. Further the paper, frowned at some reasons why terrorist attacking schools as a representatives of the state, the role of the school as a liberating element, denying girls child from being educated, for reducing the patronage of secular schools and consequences of kidnapping to schooling and learning; increase learning poverty, learning setback, fear that limit school enrolment. While importance of security national development such as security education at the grassroots 2and finally the paper recommended among other that restructuring of the nations educational system that make it possible for youths to develop their national abilities and the need for adequate funding and planning of security education.

**Keywords:** kidnapping, security, insecurity.

### **Introduction**

Kidnapping is the offspring of terrorism and social vices that spread all over the world. It is an endemic disease that cut-across all the states in the country, Kidnapping is one of the most dreaded forms of banditry in Nigeria, Kidnapping was' seen as a unique strategy adopted by the militants in the Niger Delta to vent their grievances against foreign nationals on the infrastructural delay in the region. However, today kidnapping has become ubiquitous in the country. This is evident in the series of kidnapping incidents that involved both high-net-worth and even the downtrodden personalities across various divides in the country. The magnitude of its occurrence is such that, hardly a day passes without a reported kidnapping incident, yet the unreported cases are likely higher; more terrifying is the frequency of its occurrences in Northern Nigeria- a region that is already suffering from numerous social ills and economic quandary. Even though the motives of kidnappers vary across the-globe, extant studies point to reasons ranging from slavery to ritual purpose, sex, trafficking to foreign countries for economic gains, marriage, murder etc. Kidnapping of students in school is a nefarious, villainous terrible and seasonal crime that ported security challenges in Nigeria the perpetrators involve, unemployed youths, gangsters, community hooligans land grabbers, terrorists, Rituals, spiritual father of different religious association.

Globally, the criminal phenomenon and behaviors such as kidnapping is not new, it's a worldwide phenomenon with differences in criteria and scenarios. In the Nigerian context, prior to 1990s, the issues of abducted was rare and it was not reported in the English United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal justice System Conducted in 2001 by the United Nations office 'on Drug and Crime (Obarisiagbon & Aderinto 2018, in Igunnu, 2021). The widespread of kidnapping in Nigeria has been a contagious disease to Northern Nigeria states. Any youth have taken to the business of kidnapping with some godfathers working behind the scene. People no longer sleep with their two eyes closed. The crime of kidnapping has created serious security and education challenges in the country especially North West and central Nigeria as it affects all levels of school and create panic and fear in such states.

### **Conceptual Clarification of Kidnapping**

Kidnapping means different things to different *people* hence its defiance for *a* universal definition. It is a concept that bears difference meanings and is understood only from the contexts in which it is used. Several researchers have thus attempted to define it from different perspectives depending on their conception of the term. Also other see it as the use of force to capture, take away and detain a person unlawfully against his/her will. This definition is in tandem with the conception of kidnapping in the Criminal Law where it is seen as the unlawful taking away or transportation of a person so as to confine him/her against his/her reasons -such as extraction of ransom from the victims or his/her relatives or employer, abduction of a child to have a bargaining power especially in marital dispute, Sometimes kidnapping is perpetrated in order to advance a course of another crime such as human trafficking and/or slavery.

Similarly, Page and Alabi in Akpan, (2021) see kidnapping as a product of some variables ranging from economic, political, religious and self determination through coercive or fraudulent abduction of a person or group of persons. Turner's (1998), description of kidnapping lends support to the above conceptions where he describes it as seizing and transporting persons to a destination of unlawful imprisonment against their consent through force or enticement. This implies that apart from forcible capture of persons, kidnapping also occurs by luring away the victims and eventually forcefully confining them into a false imprisonment. The conceptions of kidnapping by the above researches agrees with the English Common Law Website which defines kidnapping as an offence which connotes a forceful or fraudulent taking away a person by another person without his/her consent or lawful excuse.

In similar vein, Uzome et-al (2014), asserted that, kidnapping refers to a situation whereby a person or groups of persons are forcibly or fraudulently taken away or snatched and detained against their will with the motive of extorting sustainable development goal it is aimed at ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and ensure that quality primary And secondary education leading to relevant and functional and is among the 17 sustainable development goal established by the United Nations

in September, 2015. However, school were frequently ransoms from them, Adagba, (2021) sees kidnapping as trampling of the fundamental human rights of a person by another person or persons through the use of force to subject the victim (the Kidnapper) to false imprisonment and extortion of ransom. From the definitions above, it can be inferred that, kidnapping is the unlawful use of force against another person or persons with the intention of using such person as means of achieving some social economic or political, This is exemplified by various incidents of kidnapping being witnessed in the Niger Delta and recently northern regions of Nigeria for the purpose of social economic gains and/or political freedom. It is pertinent at this juncture to clarify the ambiguities that often trail the use of the concept of kidnapping. Certain concepts are used alternatively to refer to acts of kidnapping but each connotes a specific types of the act. Thus, concepts such as abduction, ransom hostage taking and, captivity all refers to kidnapping but have differences in meaning (Okoli & Agabe, in Ayodele & Genyi 2014)

While abduction refers to kidnapping where the victim involved is a minor hostage taking denotes keeping a victim (kidnapee) in an illegal confinement with a view to gain advantage over adversaries. Similarly, captivity means holding a victim usually during war or conflict so as to have constant advantage in terms of tradeoffs, Ransom on the other hand is false confinement of a kidnapee to demand a payment in cash (bit, coins, money, valuables etc.) or in kind by placing certain demands such as the swap over captives. Kidnapping refers to criminal offences which involves abduction of a person or group of persons against his or their freedom and subjugate him/her or them to the threat of murder or assassination and requesting for ransom before released. It is a traumatic behaviour orchestrated by gangster with the mindset of abducting human being for ransom.

### **Why Terrorists are Attacking School?**

School were frequently attacked in Nigeria by various terrorist kidnapper groups for a reason best known to them, though phenotypically for ransom and attack on government policy/programme. However, Chinyere (2018), compiled some research findings on why terrorists are attacking schools. The -reasons are:

- a. School and its contents are seen by the terrorist as representing their enemy the state. Teachers and students are considered to be government properties representing the state interest. Therefore, attacking them is indirectly attacking government. Neft and Sheppard (2011), indicated that non-state armed groups target schools, teachers as symbol of the state, as in the rural areas may be the only government structures with their vicinity.
- b. Teachers and students are considered defenceless citizens: teachers and students are vulnerable to attack because they are not armed like government security forces and attacks on them are likely to garner more media attention to their political agendas, and undermine a confidence in government control

- c. The role of school as a liberating element: Schools are attacked by bandits for their liberating potentials through education. Schools are attacked in order to distort its transforming power because of the terrorist belief that education changes people, that they will be liberated from ignorance and develop questioning minds to critically text and validate issues before accepting and adhering to them.
- d. Denying girls' child from being educated: it is the tradition of many people (men) all over the world from the era of darkness to medieval ancient, Greek, Persian and Japanese to present generation that girls were not to be educated for the fear of transforming power of education and when girls are educated they will develop critical mindset and make their involvement and their children in terrorism - impossible. That is why the target of attack is mostly girls as in the case of attacks of girls' secondary school Chibok and Dapchi where hundred of girls were abducted. Blair Faith Foundation (2016) reported that the schooling of Malala Yousafzai was because of the active involvement in promoting education for Pakistan girls.
- e. For reducing the patronage for secular schools for they are regarded as un-Islamic. Secular schools in Nigeria are attacked to reduce their patronage in anticipation that patronage of Islamic schools. Boko Haram belief that secular education that is Western orientation is un-Islamic and forbidden for the society. This position formed the basis of attack of schools as indicated in the speech of the leaders of Boko Haram.
- f. Attack as an act of revenge or retaliation; secular schools are attacked by the terrorist kidnappers to take revenge on government security forces and to prove government incapacitated to fully confront them.

### **The Perceived Causes of Kidnapping in Nigeria**

Ogabidon (2009) agreed that the issues of poverty and unemployment of youths as well as social justice and unfair distribution of the nation's wealth are potent causes of kidnapping in Nigeria. These factors have caused youths to engage in kidnapping and criminal activities as a way of getting their share of the nation's wealth for any years 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. Meanwhile, some of the factors that are responsible for the unlawful detention or holding people hostage include the following:

#### **Unemployment**

The occurrence of unemployment in Nigeria in this 21<sup>st</sup> 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. It is unbearable to pronounce how Nigerian graduates losing their lives searching for pasture of, their professional achievement, some even drowned at the Mediterranean sea on their-way searching for greener pasture in Europe.

Contemptibly many of them were prancing as sex hawkers to the politicians and government functionaries in order to procure employment, many others were took into -service as political thugs for political propaganda to wreck havoc at the slightest provocation. As a result. Of this detrimental development there youths turn to monster which resulted to the occurrence of incessant robbery and kidnapping. It is imperative to be mentioned that unemployment is one of the most serious problem facing Nigeria like many other developing countries in the world because it is a global phenomenon as simply put by Adesina (2012) who concludes that eligible workforce of a nation is disengaged in the service of the nation. Meanwhile, the state of unemployment among youths has become a critical and alarming issue in the world and Nigeria in particular.

### **Poverty**

Poverty is one of the causative spectrums that lead many people to turn out to be notorious criminals in Nigeria. Poverty is a financial incapacity of state of lacking basic requirement to live a rational life. Basic requirement 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 wraths of anomaly. Nonetheless, poverty has twisted many youths to have become disreputable kidnappers due to the implacable famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn. The greater the number of poor people living unrestricted famine and the higher the increase of poverty in a given society, the greater the number of crime and detrimental vices predominant in that society.

In this respect, any people out of option concluded to kidnapping a well to do people in the society, because the wide spread of poverty 'in Nigeria has incurred outrageous predicament to the life of many Nigerian. That is why Sulaiman (2018), concludes that poverty has triggered perilous spectrum to the life of people in the country over than before, this current administration and thus, more than 60 percent were living is despicable famine 20 percent were on the breadline, 10 percent were neither rich nor poor which as a result of this assessment only 10 percent can boast of their three-time meals. Count to level of poverty bedevilling Nigerians, this country is one of the nations blessed with abundant natural resources and other valuable raw materials yet, while mysteriously hunger is killing people in hundreds (Karl, 2002).

### **Ritual and spiritual proclivity**

One of the-major causes of kidnapping in Nigeria is the preponderance of ritual and spiritual proclivity. Kidnapping for ritual involves killing or severing the body parts of abducted person for the purpose of using it as an object of sacrifice aim to acquire ritual money, favor, fame success, power and protection in many instances politician, used all forms of weapon to protect themselves against assassination and all that characterizes the present political terrain as a result of this evil many young school children lost their lives. Kidnapping for ritual is an unlawful seizure of person in order to kill and severe part of his or her body for the purpose of ritual

sacrifice, Meanwhile, outcome of such kidnapping reveals that many people especially school pupils who were kidnapped and later recovered with their head being cut eyes remove, genital and breast several arms being cut as ingredient for sacrifice to, acquire huge money political appointment or fame.

The role of political to hire killers in Nigeria especially during the season of political campaign has metamorphosed to disparaging kidnappers that obtain communication from politicians and using it to capture them when the trust had been contravened. The political importance of thugs and hooligans to party aspirants during campaign periods seem to have had a trickle down and spill-over influence on several innocent citizens. Previously, Jobless youth that were recruited by political godfather to cause chaos, steal ballot boxes and then kidnap viable political members from opposing parties-has now taken up their seasonal job as a full-time business venture.

### **The Lingering Insecurity issues**

The level of insecurity in Nigeria has increased the rate of crime and terrorists' attacks in different part of the country, leaving disgusting consequences for the nations economy" and business growth. Despite the government efforts to address the menace of insecurity in Nigeria yet, the country was confirmed with the low rank in the Global peace index. As a result of insecurity vices such as insurgency, kidnapping, abduction are handled in Nigeria with lukewarm attitude which channel transformation and structural development to no avail. This is so, because when there is security threat in the country, money meant for social development like education which is the plank for any nation's development are diverted into fighting such threat in the country (Chinyere, 2018).

### **Prevalence of Hard-drugs Intake.**

Hard drugs like Indian hemp, heroine, cocaine, tramadol, codineet, are the illicit substances that cause that cause irreversible damage to the Nigerian society. Vices such as kidnapping, unnecessary violence and other imperial atrocities to Nigeria. Couple to this is the porous nature of the Nigerian borders and other 'West African countries, that turn the region into a believe of drugs transit form Southern American Countries to west African and proceeding to Europe. These problems have degenerated to high level of crime rate of which kidnapping become a lucrative business.

### **Consequences of kidnapping**

Kidnapping as a violent criminal offence is a rather complex phenomenon. It takes place in? Various contexts and for various 'reasons. It causes and consequence are also many. Hazen and Horner (20.07), observe that hostages have been taken for two primary reasons: political bargaining and economical gain. This broad classification of kidnapping is very important for understanding the underlying factors for the problems especially kidnapping for ransom. But beyond these broad tryologies, persons are kidnapped and abducted by criminal for various



reasons and intentions such as for adoption, begging, came! racing, illicit intercourse, Marriage, prostitution, ransom, revenge, selling body parts slavery, unlawful activity, murder and for others purpose(NCRB,2014), Considering influence of Globalization on the expansion on the increase in crimes as transcending national borders, termed as trans-border-crimes, Like commercial sex by under-age and human trafficking(Ibrahim and Mukhtar, 2016), today physical movements across the borders by Legal organized Syndicates has become common places.

In a society where the incidence of kidnapping is high fear limits people lives and actions. They will always move with cautions as they do not know who might be the next target. The rich surround themselves with security guards ^because of the fear of getting kidnapped. For young pupils, the negative psychological effects of being abducted are huge especially for a child Depression, anxiety and post traumatic stress syndromes (PTSD) may last a lifetime. Learning setback, frequent and unnoticed choosing of school at any level of education without considering of schools at any level of education without considering the immediate and long-time implications and the results of such actions include, rampant kidnapping of students, teacher and other personnel in school will cause high rate of school dropout due to school-phobia attacks. This posed a serious danger to learning. Consonance to this is loss of memory of students because they can easily forget what they were taught in schools due to pressure on learning and without knowing when kidnapping will be end. (Chinyere, 2018)

As a result of kidnapping of kidnapping pupils and student were expose to bad behaviours. Gradually, if care is not taking children especially those at the adolescence stage might think of something dangers talking advantages of the currents situation as an opportunity to stay at home and related with their peer group who are in to smoking, stealing and other deviant behaviors. Also, withdrawal of students especially girls will become order of the day' and pave the way of unprepared marriage, engage in petty business, roaming in the motor parks and some take to toutting or political thuggery which could increase the level of poverty in the society. Increased Learning Poverty: The kidnapping of teachers is intricately linked to the issue of learning poverty. It adds to other factors that severally limit the effectiveness of teaching and education, even when children can attend school: Insurgents has not only turned teaching into dangerous vocation, It 'has also damaged the societal standing of the profession (Asuquo 2009) kidnapping also, has damaged the societal standing teaching profession. And there is yet one more problem. Children growing up surrounded by conflict are far more likely to develop psychological responses to trauma, such reactions can significantly hinder their comprehension their ability to produce work, their comprehension their ability to produce work, their engagement: in learning and their trust. These children are far less likely to grow up to be positive, productive individual in their society. Instead they are exposed to a life of criminality and violence Economic deprivation sense of desperation have planted the seeds of kidnapping as a way of getting money in poor communities. It can then become a way of life, even when legal options become available (Catlin group, 2021). The disparity between rich and poor is grouping and thanks to the

internet and global media, everyone can see how the rich are living. It rules resentment and a desire poor a bigger share (Cartlingroup, 2021),

### **Importance of Security Education to National Development**

Importance of security to national development according to Abraham (2010), education is the key to development and environmental sustainability in any nation to maintain a long lasting culture of peace among citizens for environmental sustainability, there is need to provide commensurate security education that will target at inculcating into the individuals the right spirit, awareness and consciousness to protect their environment, In essence, this must fully be integrated at the early stage of life, (i.e., at basic educational level) to enable both children and youths imbibe the culture of being security minded. Security education must also address the prevention of all forms of security threats from the interpersonal level to the societal and global level. National security has been defined to include not only safety devices implored by government for -the safety of lives and property in the country but it is also includes-developmental strategies put forwards to actualize effective social, political economics technological reforms that will brings about improvements in the quality of life of the people. To this extent security can play a vital or pivotal role in ensuring that the, nation attain her national security.

Tellingly of the reality that, majority of Nigerian are ravaged by hunger and starvation, religious dichotomy, poorly integrated society, ethnicity and political inclinations. A cursory look primary continue education in Nigeria, which would help to promote peace co-operation, security and national pride. It is a common knowledge that our society (Nigeria) today is being plagued by social vices, or evils excessive profile erring embezzlement, thrift statism, arms struggles by the youth and other maladjusted behavior. Security education-can help greatly to educate the youths on the importance of peace and security in the country. Perhaps, no nation is self-sufficient or can produce all her needs. It is therefore necessary to understand the relationships between one society and another. Various topics concerning safety and national security are designed to produce good citizens that will promote national and international security.

Security education should be made to address the issues that are today confronting our nation. These issues include terrorism, armed robbery, kidnapping or hostage taking, suicide bombing, cyber crimes etc. The above finding is in Wusonarne with Ebigbo (2003), who asserted that the core child abuse and neglect in Nigeria are suffered by children, youths, environment and could only be prevented through adequate training and retraining of social sciences teachers on how to propagate security should be even/body business and<sup>1</sup> should be seen as such. (Igunnu, 2021)

It is important to catch the pupils young expose them to security education build in them security consciousness and watch them take serious interest in their own security as they grow and sojourn through life. It is also mind-setting for one to observe that some pupils in the primary



level of education do not know road signs, making it difficult for them to interpret it, when they cross the road; some do not know how to relate with strangers; what to do with unfamiliar objects could harmful or injurious. How to communicate dangerous or life-threatening situations or handle simple personal security, issues, even how to protect their properties likes books, writing tools and so on. They will grow to know primary security procedure and imbibed security tenets which would have become part of them when they start working as it would, be applied at work and while travelling. It is an obvious that security and education augment one another. (Igunnu, 2021).

### **Suggestions**

In order to curtail the menace of kidnapping and other social vices in the country. The following recommendations are made for

- i. Restructuring of the national educational system must be one that makes it possible for young children to develop their natural abilities to the highest extent possible If the pupils/students are properly trained to be creative and self-reliant, insecurity and unemployment triggers will be considerably minimal and manageable,
- ii. There should be adequate planning and funding of security education in the basic education curriculum by government and relevant stakeholders.
- iii. Learners should be exposed to security awareness programmers. Participatory Learning on security education must be highly promoted and effective teaching Methodologies utilizes as well,
- iv. Government should insure life of all Students at all levels and be responsible for the, ransom payment of every students by the kidnappers is possible.
- v. Government should work in tandem with Nigerian communication commission (NCC) and all network providers in order to track the kidnappers within and Outside Nigeria.
  - a. Government should enact a stiffest law to incarcerate all corrupted individual that sponsored and perpetrators or kidnapping with death penalty through hanging and schedule periodic meeting with all community leaders to secretly expose suspecting criminal to the necessary security. in order to pre-empt an attempt to kidnap
  - b. Government and private school proprietors should install surveillance devices like closed circuit television cameras at strategic area of the school environment so as to monitor the intruders.

### **The general public**

- i. In case you are abducted or kidnapped, stay calm and cooperate but begin to see any necessary avenue or an opportunity and if you are saved of escaping to the bush without your car, leave the doors open and ignitions key on this will distract the kidnappers and attract passersby.
- ii. Speak every little when you are in the public vehicle or public places and never

- moment on government, religious or political issues.
- i. When you are going out to anywhere tell someone where you are going to and the expected time to your arrival.
  - ii. If your area is being attacked, switch off all light to no matter how tiny,
  - iii. Community should endeavour to create vigilante group and equip them with the necessary equipments to protect schools and vital Areas.

### **The School**

A part from fencing the school, guiding those who are coming in and out of the school and children movement during and after school hours, the school managers should still cooperate with the joint task force (JTF) and other security agents such as vigilantes for effective communication on security matters.

The rate at which innocent life has been murdered through the menace of kidnapping and terrorists' activities in Nigeria is worrisome because the impact of kidnapping is becoming excruciating to Nigerians to the extent that everyone is sleeping with an eye open. This scenario has intimidated both national and international investors to establish in Nigeria. This has incurred unbearable economic recession and educational backwardness and fluctuation. This pestilence - kidnapping in the country is becoming like an insidious Cankerworm to the extent that no one is irrespective of age, social status is free from kidnapping. Social ills, like unemployment, corruption, poverty, spiritual proclivity, political parochialism and prevalence of hard drugs and cannabis are the factors responsible for the widespread of kidnapping in the country. In essence, the federal government must realise that unemployment is the yardstick of all crime and detrimental vices and threatening to disintegrate the country and destroy the education system especially in the Northern part of the country.

### **Conclusion**

To crown it all, having discussed some relevant literatures on kidnapping and its devastating effects to the education sector most especially the basic and secondary school levels. It is noticeable to conclude that no education can thrive well where kidnapping has become an organized business and a way of life like in Nigeria today. Kidnapping is a heinous social menace challenging all social institutions in Nigeria. This requires prompt action and urgent solution. This partly accounts for the push and pull style of the country's education system. Academic, non-academic and students lost their levels through activities of kidnapping beyond this variegated causes of this malady have identified which among others includes poverty, unemployment, ritual and spiritual proclivity, prevalence of hard drugs, societal moral decadence, arms proliferation, illiteracy etc. consequences of kidnapping comprise of violence, learning setback, increased learning poverty. Lastly, the Federal Government is working round the clock to curb the menace, given credence to it, some state governments in their own effort to nullify the act of kidnapping have also passed bills designating capital punishment for everybody involved in kidnapping.

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