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KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM: THE PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPLICATIONS ON THE FAMILIES AND VICTIMS

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Abstract

This study highlighted kidnapping for ransom as a trauma that impacted on the victims as well as their families negatively, the origin, types of kidnapping and the incidence of kidnapping in Nigeria were also highlighted. The research question is on the psychosocial implications on the families of the victims. Review of related literatures and theoretical framework of kidnapping were presented. Conclusion and recommendations were based on the need to include the families of the kidnap victims in the rehabilitation packages for the victims.

Keywords: family, kidnapping, Nigeria, Victimization

Introduction

Kidnapping for ransom is a common occurrence in many parts of Nigeria today. It is a varied and developing phenomenon though not new in the society. In recent times there have been attempts to understand the effects, both long-term and short-term, on individual victims and their families (Chinonye et al.,2022; Zannoni, 2003). The reasons for these attempts are both clinical and intellectual.

There is also an increase in the number of people seeking advice from mental health professionals with regard to the strategic management of kidnapped incidents and the clinical management of those kidnapped victims (Awopetu et al.,2024; Claton, 2004). There is enough evidence to suggest how best to help such victims in a sensitive and complex matter that requires professional understanding of the consequences as well as the long-term adverse effects of such trauma. It is important to mention here that the traumatic effect of kidnapping is not only on victims but also on the families and other associates of the individual victims. Irrespective of the type of kidnapping and the motive for its perpetration, the psychological and financial impact of the problem can be quite devastating, both for the victims and their significant others. Victims of kidnapping differ in age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, level of education, and country of origin. Although anyone can become a victim of kidnapping, certain populations are especially vulnerable to this form of victimisation (Awopetu et al.,2024; Kaylor, 2015). The paper will first examine the effect of child kidnapping, which is more common and a deep-rooted crime worldwide. Not only does forceful removal of a child from his/her family traumatises the victim, it also unravels the lives of his/her parents, family, and community (Orset, 2008). One common effect of the kidnapping which seemed memorably traumatic for those concerned, and which was raised many times was the lack of contact for many parents with their children during the period that they were away. This was often because the left-behind parent does not know the children's whereabouts (Chinonye et al.,2022; Freeman, 2006). Child sexual abuse as a result of kidnapping also exposes child to the risk of

contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

The term kidnapping' may be difficult to define with precision because it varies from country to country and jurisdiction, (Asuguo, 2009). Asuguo however defined kidnapping as the forceful seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will Walsh and Adrian (1983) viewed kidnapping as an unlawful seizure and detention of a person(s) by force against his/her will. It is also an act of seizing a person and taking him/her to another country for involuntary servitude or the impressments of male into military or naval service by force or fraud. They also cited the view of Robertson (1968) who saw kidnapping as a crime of seizing, confining, abducting or carrying away of person by force or fraud which subjects him/her to involuntary servitude in an attempt to demand ransom or in furtherance of another crime.

Thomas et al. (2009) defined kidnapping as robbery of the highest rank. They view it as an organized and systematic robbery which is not as deadly as armed robbery but more profitable than armed robbery. The profitability is an encouraging factor for those who indulge in it, irrespective of the fact that it is prohibited by law. The chambers 21st century Dictionary (1996) defined kidnapping as the seizing and holding of someone prisoner illegally, usually demanding for a ransom for his/her release. Kidnapping in criminal law is the unlawful carrying away and conferment of a person against his/her will by force, threat or deceit with intent to detain him/her (Asuquo, 2009). The perpetrator may use a weapon to force the victim into a vehicle or the victim may be enticed to enter the vehicle willingly using any tack like making the victim believe he/she is entering a taxi or bus. Kidnapping may be done to demand for ransom in exchange for releasing the victim or for other illegal purposes which include:

Bride kidnapping which is applied to include any bride abducted against the will of the parents (Nnamani, 2015). Express kidnapping which is a method of kidnapping used in some countries where a small ransom that the family or important others can pay (Garcia and Juan 2007). Tiger kidnapping which hostage is taking to make a loved one or associate of the victim to do something eg a child is taking hostage to make the shop keeper to open the safe, (Aston, 1982). Kidnapping may be found more in countries with high levels of crime and corruption, poorly resourced or trained police personnel, weak judiciary and/or a history of political or social instability and conflict Aston (1982). Kidnapping seems easier compared to other forms of serious crimes like armed robbery. This is because the risk in kidnapping seems less than that in armed robbery and the proceed is more certain because it is negotiable. Once the kidnapping process is successful, the kidnappers and the family of the victim will begin ransom negotiation which the family of the victim pays eventually.

In most cases the family of the victim is handicapped because they will be warned not to involve the police or any other security agency for help. The family becomes more comfortable with paying the ransom and having the victim back alive. In cases where the family involved the police the victim may be found dead. The phenomenon of kidnapping is not a new one in the society but the system and purpose keep changing and the frequency of it's occurrence is becoming alarming and disturbing The word kidnapping is derived from the word "kid" which means child and "nab" or nap" which means to snatch. In 17lh century, children were stolen for use as servants or labourers in the American colonies (Adewale, 2009).

However, this modern form of kidnapping in Nigeria may be dated back to 2006 when the militants of Niger Delta took hostage of foreign expatriates in the rich oil companies in the state to protest the inequality in the region. The militants claimed that Nigeria is built at the expense of the region which serves a cow for the whole country. Today, the menace has spread to other regions of the country Ngwama (2014).

Incidence/Prevalence of kidnapping in Nigeria

Beyond the available statistics, there is enough evidence that most kidnap cases are not reported to the police for the fear of murder of the victims, hence, most families prefer to pay the ransom to losing one of its own. Such cases include the kidnap of an industrialist in Nnewi, Anambra State in 2009 who allegedly paid 70 million naira for his release. Another such case is the Kano-based multi-millionaire business man who paid 80 million-naira ransom to his captors without informing the police (Ngwama, 2014).

The researcher observed that Frank, an oil marketer in Lagos and his friend an electrical accessories manufacturer also in Lagos were kidnapped in 2017 and each paid 100 million naira and we did not make any official report to the police. Although their kidnapper, a notorious kidnap king pin popularly known as "Evans" was later arrested but from another source.

Other incidents include Owen, an expatriate oil worker with Exon Mobile Uyo who was kidnapped in Dec 2008 and released after a stipulated ransom was paid; an Evangelist Ita Enyon was trailed and kidnapped on his way to the church Nov 24, 2008, John et al., (2013) Mrs. Comfort Aloysius Etok, wife of a serving politician in Akwa Ibom state was kidnapped on Thursday, October 16 2009 and the State government made a promise of an award of N2,000,000 for any information that will help locate the woman(John et al., 2013)

Sassive Khali, a Lebanese working with STEMCO a construction company in Uyo was kidnapped the same time with Nse Ntuen, the chairman ALGON (David, 2009). On May 11, 2017, DSS in collaboration with the military arrested five suspected kidnappers Sani Hassan Suleiman Abdullahi, Bashiru Abdullahi, Amodu Abdullahi and Auwahu Sanda in Kano (David. 2009). On April 16, 2009, an expatriate worker with Gitto Construction Company was abducted by suspected Niger Delta militants and a construction worker a Lebanese who was later identified as Mosuf was abducted at the site of the construction of the Ibom International Airport at Okobo Local Government Area of the State (Kazeem, 2009). In June 14, 2009, the father of the former speaker, Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly Chief Nelsom Effiong was kidnapped and killed after ransom payment has been made. Mr. Ubong Obot (Obotex) was also reported kidnapped and the barber who came to give him a haircut at home was killed in the process.

In June 30, 2009, a business man Engineer Emmanuel Okon Ekpeyang and his younger brother Mathias were killed in a foiled kidnap attempt. According to Inynga (2009) the younger Ekpeyond was shot down when he tried to resist the kidnap and the senior Ekpeyong was bundled into the boot of Audi 80 car. On the way, Engineer Ekpeyong opened the boot of the car while on motion and tried to jump out but was shot dead by the kidnappers (David, 2009; Inyang, 2009).

On Wednesday, September 23 2009, a two-year-old boy was kidnapped on their way from church with the mother. Also, the mother Mrs. Iniobong Eshiet, a former member of Akwa Ibom State house of Assembly was reported kidnapped in her house in Etinan Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State on Wednesday Nov. 4 2009. Effiong (2009) should Newspaper of December, 9 2009 reported a case of a student of university of Uyo who was kidnapped and one million naira was demanded for his release on Dec 4 2009) The Boko Haram insurgency is another national disaster regarding. The issue of kidnapping in Nigeria Boko

Haram has used kidnapping as a weapon of war in its quest to establish hardline Islamic state in Northern Nigeria, seizing thousands of women, young girls and men of fighting age www.today.ng/news/Nigeria 77639. Subsequently, it was reported that Haruna Yahaya a 35 years man involved in the 2014 kidnap of Chibok girls was jailed for 15 years. 7am network news of Feb 24, 2018 reported a fresh kidnap of some girls from Government Technical College Yobe. The news also reported that the police post in front of the school did not respond to the kidnap. The list of kidnap incidents is inexhaustible and all the cases both the victims and their families suffer psychological, social, economic and financial trauma.

Psychosocial Implications of Kidnapping

One simply hears about kidnap case and ransom paid but one cannot appreciate enough the psychosocial implication on the victims as well as the family. According to Bob Marley, the reggae Singer "who feels it knows it better". While some researchers (Akhigbe et al., 2013) have dwelt on the effect of kidnap on the victim, little has been said on the effects of kidnap on the family of the victim. Some researchers have also looked at the implications of kidnapping on the socio-economic development of Nigeria while some others looked at it as a social crime with the implications on the labour market in general.

Various types or motives for kidnapping have been identified; criminal, political, tiger kidnapping etc. Peterson (2008) claims that whether the motivation of the kidnappers is due to ideological, economic or personal reasons, kidnapping have similar effect on the victim and his/her family and company. For the victim the experience is tormenting. Often the victim is cramped in appalling conditions and may be exposed to various health hazards or may be subjected to threats or beatings that can lead to injury or eventual death. According to Hargrove (2007), the hostage remains at the mercy of kidnappers who are generally uninhibited killers especially when confronted with the treat of armed force or when angered by poorly negotiated terms of release or the risk of being identified by the victim. The best chance of survival and freedom for the victim depends only on a balanced negotiation based on a detailed understanding of complexities of kidnapping for ransom.

Hargrove (2007) consequently described kidnapping as a deliberate creation and marketing of human grief, anguish and despair. For the family, throughout incarceration, the victim's family is crippled by fear and uncertainty about the welfare of their loved one, who the kidnappers are, their motives and whether the matter will be resolved safely (Peterson,2008).

The psychological implication include somatization, that is bodily pains and general discomfort, dissociative disorders, irresistible thoughts and actions discomfort in social situations (Akhigbe et al., 2013). These symptoms result from the Trauma of being kidnapped. Consequently, other symptoms associated with traumatic experience may manifest, for instance post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Somatization/Somatoform Disorders People with conversion disorder completely, loose functioning in a part of their bodies, apparently for psychological reasons. These disorders arise most commonly in response to extreme stress (Nolen-Hocksema, 2004). Psycho-dynamic treatments involve helping people make the links between their symptoms and traumatic memories. Behavioural treatments focus on relieving people's anxiety about the initiating traumas through desensitization and exposure treatments. (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2004) usually, people with somatization disorder have histories of multiple physical complaints for which there are no organic causes but for which they have sought a great deal of medical help. People with pain disorder focus their complaints in symptoms of pain. These disorders may represent

acceptable ways of expressing distress. (Nolen- Hoeksema, 2004).

Cognitive theories of these disorders suggest that they are due to the catastrophization of physical symptoms. Cognitive treatment for these disorders involves helping people cope more adaptively with the stresses they face;

People with hypochondriasis worry chronically that they may be ill even when they have no physical symptoms and have been thoroughly checked by medical professionals. The causes and treatment for hypochondriasis are similar to those for somatization disorder. People with body dysmorphic disorder are excessively preoccupied with a part of their bodies and go to elaborate means to change that part of their bodies. This disorder may be a form of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Dissociative Disorders

People with dissociative identity disorder develop multiple separate personalities. Dissociative identity disorder may develop in people who experience severe traumas especially during childhood and who use self-hypnosis to create "alters" to help them cope with these traumas (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2004) Treatment for dissociative identity disorder involves discovering the functions of all the personalities and helping the individual to integrate these personalities and to find more adaptive ways of coping with stress. People with dissociative fugue move away from home and assume a new identity with complete amnesia for their previous lives.

Fugue states may arise following major traumas (Nolen-Hocksma, 2004) people with dissociative amnesia lose their memories for important facts about their lives and personal identities, apparently for psychological reasons. Psychologically based amnesias most frequently occur following traumatic events such as sexual assaults, involvement or observation of fatal accidents, loss of loved ones or valuable objects, kidnap experience and war traumas etc.

Depersonalization, another form of somatoform disorder involves a sense that one is detached from one's own mental processes or body most people have mild dissociative experiences occasionally following traumatic experiences (Aderibigbe et al.,2001) Day dreaming is a dissociative experience. When we day dream, we can lose consciousness of where we are and of what is going on around us. Becoming absorbed in movies is a dissociative experience. Dissociative experiences are especially common when we are sleep-deprived and under stress. A kidnap victim may not be allowed to sleep when and how he/she may want to sleep and still under the stress of being kidnapped. For example, a study of mentally healthy soldiers undergoing survival training in the united states Army found that ever 90 percent reported dissociative symptoms, such as feeling as if they were separated from what was happening as if they were watching themselves in a movie, in response to the stress of the training (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2004).

Post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D) is a set of symptoms including hypervigilance, re-experiencing of the trauma and emotional numbering experienced by trauma survivors. Some predictors of people's vulnerability to PTSD are the proximity, duration and severity of the stressor, the availability of social support, pre-trauma distress and coping strategies. Consequently, a kidnap victim's vulnerability to PTSD depends to a large extent on these predictors. A wide range of traumas can include PTSD from extraordinary events such as kidnapping, sexual abuse to common events such as traffic accidents. A survivor of the terrorist attacks on the world trade center on September, 11, 2001 reported mobility to sleep resulting

from constant re-experiencing of the event anytime she wants to sleep (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2004).

The first set of PTSD symptoms is repeated re-experiencing of the traumatic event. PTSD sufferers may experience intrusive images or thoughts, recurring nightmares or flashbacks in which they relive the event. They react psychologically and physiologically to stimuli that remind them of the event. One survivor of war atrocities in Bosnia in the 90s said films of traumas constantly play in his head, and although he tries to look away from them, they continue to intrude on his consciousness. The quoted World Trade Center survivor vividly remembers her traumatic event to the point of reliving it. Memories of the attack into her consciousness against her will, particularly, when she encounters something that reminds her of the event. She also relives her emotional reaction to the event and since the event; she has chronically experienced negative emotions which have not diminished with time. A PTSD client in the psychology clinic reported re-experiencing of the kidnap of his son who did not survive the kidnap especially when he sees the twin sister of the kidnapped son. He reported virtually the same experiences with the quoted World Trade Center attack survivor.

The second set of symptoms in PTSD involves emotional numbing and detachment. People become withdrawn, reporting that they feel numb and detached from others, especially just after the trauma, they may also feel detached from themselves and their ongoing experiences; with a general sense of unreality as does the quoted world Trade Center survivor.

The third set of symptoms involves hypervigillance and chronic arousal. PTSD sufferers are always on guard for the traumatic event to guard for the traumatic event to recur. Sounds or images that remind them of their trauma can instantly create panic and flight. A war veteran upon hearing a car backfire, may jump into a ditch and begin to have flashbacks of the war, re-experiencing the terror he felt when he was on the front lines. The same way, the quoted client reported re-experiencing the trauma anytime a car screeches just like the car with which the son was kidnapped did.

PTSD sufferers may report "survivor quilt", painful quilt feelings over the fact that they survived the traumatic event or about things that they had to do to survive. For example, one survivor of a flood reported tremendous quilt over not having responded when a neighbor called to him for help, instead he chose to save his own family. (Erikson, 1976, Cited in Nolen-Hoeksoma, 2004) one Vietnam veteran with PTSD said, "I am a killer". No one can forgive me. I - We should be shot. There should be a Nuremberg Trial for us" (quoted in Langone, 1985); cited in Nolen-Hoeksema (2004).

Many Holocaust survivors reported quilt for having survived when their families did not or for not having fought more strongly against the Nazis (Krystal, (1968): cited in Nolen-Hoeksema (2004), Even move common everyday traumas such as traffic accidents can lead to wrenching quilt and searching questions.

People's styles of coping with stressful events and with their own symptoms of distress may also influence their vulnerability to PTSD following a trauma. Several studies have shown that people who use self-destructive or avoidant coping strateqies, such as drinking and self-isolation are more likely to experience PTSD (Merrill et al.,2001).

Another form of coping that may increase the likelihood of PTSD is the use of dissociation. (Ikeda, 1996: citd in Nolen-Hoeksema 2004). Dissociation involves a range of psychological process that indicates a detachment from the trauma and ongoing events. People who dissociate

following a trauma may feel they are in another place or in someone else's body watching the trauma and its aftermath unfold. Studies have shown that people who dissociate shortly after are at increased risk to develop PTSD. (Fauerbach, Lawrence, Schmidt, Munster, & Costa, 2000). Some studies suggest that latinos are more prone to dissociate in response to severe stress and this may increase their vulnerability to PTSD (Marshal et al., 2002)

Social implications include high level of mistrust and lower level of hospitality among people, Linus (2015). People are no longer willing to help those in distress for fear of being kidnapped. Also rich individuals now demand for police escorts for their daily activities which in turn, deplete the number of police available for their functions. The ban on commercial motorcyclists popularly known as "okada" in most states of the country results from the menace of kidnapping. This prohibition of "okada" has both adverse social effects and economic effect on the residents as well as the "okada" operators. Many people no longer buy new cars of their choice for fear of being kidnapped. Some rich men no long paint the outside walls of their houses to ward off the attention of the potential kidnappers. Generally, most people now live a disguised life style in order not to be noticed, all for fear of being kidnapped. A good example is one of my cousins, a wealthy paint manufacturer who comes home always in a rickety taxi cab, just for him not to be noticed.

The kidnap of Frank by notorious kidnap king pin popularly known as Evans early 2017 gave the researcher an insight into the psychological, social and economic experience of not only the victim but also the family of the victim. The kidnappers warned against police involvement, they said if they notice the slightest police movement, we will receive the corpse of the victim. Negotiations did not start immediately but after two weeks when the kidnappers used the victim's phone to call the wife and demanded for two million (2.000,000) dollars, equivalent to one billion (1,000,000.000) naira. During the two weeks when the kidnappers do not communicate there were speculations that the victim must have been killed. Although the victim was alive and was discussing with the kidnappers but the family members went into mourning. The eldest sister developed almost all the psychological symptoms mentioned above. At a time the blood pressure was uncontrollably and consistently high coupled with insomnia and complete loss of appetite that she was hospitalized. When eventually the kidnappers communicated and she was told, the symptoms instead of reducing changed dimension. She will shout "where is Francis" (the name of the victim) at anybody that comes to see her in the hospital and constantly manifest irresistible thought and action. Eventually hundred million (100,000,000) was paid and the victim released. Other family members developed different types of psychological disorders but that of the eldest sister was outstanding. Till today she is still asking the same question anytime she do not see Francis but she will be calmed down by telling her that Francis just left now and will come back soon.

The period of incarceration affected both social and economic conditions of the family members adversely. The business outlets of the victim were closed down and the immediate family members no longer appear in social gatherings. The town union also got a share of the adverse effects because the town union organized a prayer session for the victim every Thursday between 7.00am and 10am. Although the victim was tortured, he said he knew he was going to survive because his survival depended on paying the ransom which he believed he can pay and has assured the kidnappers prompt payment as soon as the negotiations ends but the family members did not know this, as a result remained in perpetual fear with the attendant anxiety and nightmare. Most of his immediate siblings still suffer repeated re-experiencing of the traumatic kidnap and repeated mightmares. The eldest sister to the kidnap victim manifests hypervigillance more than any other immediate sibling. This is evidenced by

the change in mood and actions of the woman any time a car stops in front of her house. Most other relations and associates may also be experiencing one PTSD symptom or the other but may be because they have not been availed with the opportunity to tell their experiences fully like in a clinical setting. For instance the responses of some of the siblings and business associates include "the shock has not left me: "I still get goose pimples if I remember the kidnap day"; "It was lack of enough security for him". All these statements converge to symptoms of PTSD. The victim experiences high blood pressure sometimes now which he had not before the periods he experiences. High blood pressure may be linked to anxiety as a result of re-experiencing the trauma. This may also be the case with some of the family members and close associates who were also traumatized by the kidnap. The family members as well as friends and business associates were impacted on the same way as the victim by the trauma.

Another Social dimension to the kidnapping is general distrust resulting from the kidnaper's statement when he was caught. The kidnaper Evans said that usually he does not know the kidnapped victims. He further said that it is the same associate who brought information about the victim that will monitor the victim and keep reporting to him the victim's movements. The associate will now tell him when to strike and that's why he rarely misses his targets. This information raised suspicion not only in the mind of the victim but also in the minds of the family members and his business associates. Everybody suspects the other with the attending rumours and confusion. Stories were told about who the victim was seen last with. The victim was asked to recall the phone calls he received 48 hours before the kidnap. Various methods were employed in an attempt to identify the possible associate that betrayed the victim. Some people went to the native doctor but the findings of the native doctors cannot be empirical and cannot be legally supported, such findings may not be made public, although the findings may not be made public, it will nevertheless have some impacts on the people and the group that believe in the native doctor. Each native doctor visited may not point at a particular person but may give a description that may or may not suit anybody which still resulted in suspecting one person or the other. One important revelation was that these native doctors did not have a consensus description of the culprit rather they pointed at different directions resulting to more confusion.

Today there is distrust among the family members, his business associate and friends. The victim once told me "In my life, I will not trust anybody again including my wife". He shows this behaviourally by withdrawing himself from public functions and does not keep friends as before. He withdrew the credit facility to some of his business associates and petty customers he used to help. Some family members are no longer free to enter his house as usual. He no longer attends family meetings but will simply send whatever money that is needed. He now lives a solitary life style which may have other adverse effects. This distrust affects his life as well as the lives of the family members and his other associates negatively.

Research Question

In the course of this study this research question was addressed.

1. How does kidnapping for ransom affect the psychosocial implications on the families of the victims?

Significance of the Study

The study will have both practical and theoretical significance. Practical) the outcome of this study will be of utmost importance to kidnapping for a ransom in general. Kidnapping for a

ransom has been highlighted as a traumatic experience for the victims. However, the families of the victims are also traumatized. How the family cope with their traumas and how best to help the families who share in the trauma cope adequately becomes the research problem.

Review Related Literature

Theoretical Framework

As stated before, kidnapping can be seen as false imprisonment and denial of rightful freedom and can be motivated politically, or for ransom payment or even in furtherance of another crime. Several theories have been put forward to explain these motives. See the act as a political tool motivated by attempt to suppress outsmart, intimidate and subjugate the political opponents.

Political Theory of kidnapping (Zannoni, 2003)

Turner (1998) as cited by Nseabasi (2009) established a relationship between "money and politics" where kidnapping was politically motivated and ransom demanded also. The kidnap of Mrs. Comfort Aloysius Etok, wife of a serving politician in Akwa Ibom State on Thursday, Oct 16, 2009 was politically motivated. Zannoni (2003) emphasized that political kidnapping involves a situation where the foremost objective is to further the political aims of a particular political group or movement. In this case a ransom is demanded usually to obtain money for the activities of the group.

The Economic theory of kidnapping (Gerth et al., 1948)

View kidnapping from economic concept of making ends to meet, Tzanelli, (2006), as cited in Nseabasi, (2009) opined that kidnapping is regulated by the laws of demand and supply and is a type of social action that involves the calculation on the most efficient means to the desired ends. Also, kidnappers are businessmen, they just happen to be on the illegal side, if you deprive them of the demand, then, there is not going to be any supply. This is why kidnappers choose to kidnap rich people who can pay good ransom (Tzanelli, 2006).

Although, kidnapping appeared in Niger Delta in 2006 as a weapon to fight economic and environmental injustice, and the economic motivation was used as a means to fund and sustain the fight, which results to formation of other deviant groups who hide under liberation struggle to commit economic crimes. Others brazenly perpetrate the act as a means of making quick money resulting to economic and social problems.

Frustration- Aggression Theory (Bollard, 1939)

This theory was propounded by (Dollard in 1939) and modified by Berkowitz (1962) as cited in Nnamani, (2015), this theory stated that people with different beliefs, values and expectations live in different parts of the world and interact in the social system, hostility and frustration occur. The frustration hostility nexus escalates into violence. This theory believes that when individuals or groups are denied what they feel they desire legitimately, they feel disappointed which will lead to frustration and violent behaviours. The violent behaviours will be directed towards the people they perceive as being responsible directly or indirectly for such denial. This theory disagrees with the notion that aggression is innate but argues that aggression result from anger, frustration and aggressive behaviour that leads to violence. This explains the kidnapping and vandalization of oil pipe line in Niger Delta.

Several attempts have been made by researchers to link kidnapping with the attendant social, economic and psychological consequences, some of which are descriptive and narrative. Before now, the descriptive studies touched areas such as; study of survival, study of effective negotiation strategy; crisis management issues; developing prevention or security strategy and the threat posed by kidnapping and hostage taking. Bolz, (1987) wrote about various survival or coping for kidnap and hostage victims. Jenkings (1976) provided some tips for hostages in captivity. Reber, Singer and Watson (1978) who focused on effective coping strategies in terrorist kidnapping cases for key business executives argue that. The awareness of the dynamics of kidnapping process and quick adjustment to the hostage's new life is essential to their survival.

In the same vein, Quarles (1988) argued that the kidnap victim action to a large extent determines his/her survival from captivity and that quick understanding between the hostage takers and the hostages could save the victim's life. Voss (2004) suggested the crisis negotiation Unit (CNU) method of negotiation as a response to international kidnapping. Developing prevention or security strategies is considered proactive to hostage taking. This type of study tends to suggest tips or guidance to avoid or prevent a possible strategy. Guidance may be directed to a specific individual working in a risky area or governmental or nongovernmental organizations.

Empirical Review

Chinonye et al., (2022) examined influence of kidnapping on the psychological distress of residents in Kaduna Metropolis. A total of 191 residents participated in the study and were selected through cluster sampling method. Structured standardized questionnaires were used to elicit information from the samples Two hypotheses were tested at $p<0.05$. Results showed a significant relationship between kidnapping and physiological distress among residents. Also, the results indicated that no significant difference in psychological distress between male and female residents. The study concluded that the high state of insecurity from kidnapping was impacted adversely on the residents of Kaduna metropolis leading to a heightened degree of psychological distress. The study recommended that there is need for counselling and psychotherapy to alleviate the distress which has shown no signs of abating. The security personnel should be increased and armed and informants protected by the federal government.

Akhigbe et al., (2013) investigated psychological and psychiatric considerations in a kidnapped- for-ransom victim: a clinical case study. The psychological assessment shows that the victim suffers both physical and psychological harm as a result of the negative experiences. The evaluation of psychological harm suffered by victims is important for planning treatment and giving recommendations to prevent revictimization and avoiding the making of new victims.

Awopetu et al. (2024) examined psycho-social analysis of kidnapping in Nigeria: Implications for rural children. The study reveals that Nigeria is currently and increasingly engulfed with various forms of violence ranging from kidnapping, banditry, corruption, terrorism, extra judicial killings to religious and electoral violence. These have left our society in a state of trauma, posttraumatic disorder, endless fears, heighten anxiety, chronic depression other psycho pathological disorders bewildering innocent citizens as a result of the menace. There is growing evidence to suggest that victims of kidnapping suffer both short- and long-term adverse effects particularly young children and women who might be raped during this period.

Uyang, et al, (2022) examined kidnapping and ransom payment: socio-economic implication for the family in Calabar municipal local government area, cross river state, Nigeria and find that there is a significant relationship between ransom induced kidnapping and socioeconomic wellbeing of the family. Also, it was found that the common causes of kidnapping in the area are poverty, unemployment, quick-money syndrome and moral decadence, weak law enforcement and security system, and political economy of the Niger Delta. The result indicated that there is a significant relationship between ransom induced kidnapping and socioeconomic wellbeing of the family. The study recommended that poverty alleviation programmes should be directed towards addressing poverty among the poor and unemployed youths rather than politicians using the programmes as compensation for party faithful.

Muhammad et al., (2023) investigated psychological effects of kidnapping and banditry on teaching and learning in tertiary institution in North-West Region of Nigeria. study revealed that kidnapping and banditry have psychological effects on the students of higher learning as it creates frequent fear on the victims, causes lack of sleep to the victim, affects student's academic performance, causes Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms among victims and traumatizes the victims. More so, there is relationship between the psychological effect of kidnapping and banditry on students of higher institutions in North-West Nigeria. Also, revealed that there is no significant difference on the impact of kidnapping and banditry on male and female students of higher institutions in North-West Nigeria. The study recommends that Government should do all what it takes to eradicate kidnapping and banditry so as to eliminate its effects on the students.

John et al., (2013) investigated the implications of kidnapping on socio-Economic development in Nigeria, focusing on Uyo metropolis. The study revealed that kidnapping has implications on both the economic development of Nigeria and the culture of people. They also pointed out that the laxity on the legal implementation over kidnapping undermines the government effort to curb the act. We only hear kidnapping cases and arrests without any news of eventual sanction or punishment on the kidnappers.

Ngwama, (2014) in his study of the implications of kidnapping on the labour market noted that kidnapping is one of the negative factors that adversely affect the labour market. Genuine investors now shy away from venturing into the Nigerian business environment already enmeshed in the epileptic power supply, death of infrastructure, and unfavorable political climate. Ngwama argued that there should be a determination to build a new foundation for collective development and progress in order to sustain a viable and stable labour market in Nigeria.

A clinical case study of the psychological and psychiatric considerations in a kidnapped for-ransom victim, Akhigbe (2013) revealed a very high overall distress level of the victim/client resulting from an increased psychological distress experienced when the victim was kidnapped. Results of psychiatric and psychological assessment, of the victim/client showed high anxiety and depression. However, there was no sign of psychiatric illness. At the psycho physiological level, victims may be startled easily and frequently and at the behavioural level, victims may be apathetic and find it difficult to return to everyday life, Esbec (1994). The victim/client showed extreme discomfort in social situations, highly tensed as well as suspicious of movements around her.

Garrido and Redondo (1999) claim that understanding of psychological harm and the need for its evaluation is mere intellectual matters. The fundamental purpose is to recognize the

psychological condition of the victim, treat it correctly, repair the harm caused and avoid the making of new victims.

Conclusion

This work is an attempt to review the psychological as well as the social implications of kidnapping on the families the victims. Kidnapping has been found to have negative psychological implications on the victims who manifest high anxiety and mild depression. Other psychological symptoms include somatization, irresistible thoughts and actions and general discomfort. The families of the victim do not differ significantly in the symptom's manifestations. Akhigbe et al., (2013). The period of incarceration of my uncle Francis Umeh by the notorious kidnapers popularly known as "Evans" impacted psychologically on many members of the family ranging from anxiety to hypertension and depression. My uncle Francis Umeh who reported that he was blinded most of the time for the six months he was incarcerated find it difficult to recognize people he knew before. This may be a major difference in the symptom manifestations between the victim and the family.

Kidnap victims develop social problem such as social phobia even agoraphobia. They experience general discomfort in social situation (Akhigbe et al., 2013). Some victims develop the habit of holding themselves hostages in their homes from dusk to dawn, (John et al.,2013). Most people who can afford good cars now move about in rickety cars and even leave the outside of their houses unpainted to project a fake impression of themselves. Rich men are now into hiding and present fake personalities.

Recommendation

Whatever negative implications, kidnapping impacts on the victim the family of the victim is not left out in the negative effects. Therefore, whatever welfare package planned for the victim should be extended to the family members. It becomes impertinent for a study to find out the coping strategies adopted by the family members of the victim and the effectiveness of such coping strategies in reducing the negative effects on the family members which will in turn determine the need for professional intervention for the family members as well as the victim.

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