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The Impact of Funding Towards Improving the Role of the Nigerian Police Force in Curbing the Menace of Kidnapping in Benin, South-South Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

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Study Purpose: The study aims to The Impact Of Funding Towards Improving The Role Of The Nigerian Police Force In Curbing The Menace Of Kidnapping In Benin South-South Nigeria.. The specific objectives of the study were to To ascertain the impact of funding towards improving the role of the Nigerian Police Force in curbing the menace of kidnapping.

Methodology: The research design adopted, descriptive survey design method as it employed a cross sectional design. The area of the Study Benin Metropoli, Sample Size And Sampling Technique. The research instrument that was adopted for this study is structured questionnaire: this was used to collect data from the respondents. The study adopted quantitative method for data analysis since the study was basically a quantitative study. The descriptive statistics such as tables, charts, frequency distribution, and percentages were used in analyzing data gathered from respondents while the inferential statistics. All quantitative data analyses were done with Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 22.0 version, and the confidence of 0.05 p- value was adopted as benchmark for test of significance.

Implications: The findings of the study showed that one of the issue faced by the police force in Nigeria is the issues of funding.

Keywords: FUNDING, POLICE FORCE, CURBING, MENACE, KIDNAPPING, BENIN, and SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA.

Introduction

Kidnapping has emerged as a pervasive threat to security and stability in Nigeria, particularly in the South-South region. The menace of kidnapping not only poses a direct threat to the safety and well-being of individuals but also undermines social and economic development. Obarisiagbon (2017) seen kidnapping as the unlawful taking away of an individual without his consent and keeping the person in a confined place until a ransom is paid. Kidnapping involves an act of seizing, obtaining, removing and keeping an individual in care either forcibly or extortion. In response to this challenge, the Nigerian Police Force is tasked with the responsibility of combating kidnapping and ensuring the safety of citizens. However, the effectiveness of the police in addressing this menace is significantly hampered by various factors, including inadequate funding.

The kidnapper erratically engages in criminality for several complex reasons ranging from unemployment, idleness, vengeance, rituals, and monetary gains to political reasons (Tzanelli, 2006). Inyang. (2009), . Obarisiagbon (2017) believes that the explanation behind the ascent in kidnapping is to be situated at the passageway of the Nigeria Police Force. Similarly, Okarah (2014) affirmed that corruption and dishonesty are endemic among the rank and file of the police force. In other words, 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. Kidnapping is a severe offence which denies the casualty of his/her freedom. The incidence of the unlawful and nonconsensual taking of a person with the intent of demanding ransom before victims are being released is a crime punishable under section 364 of the Criminal Code, (2004) with ten years imprisonment (Yang, & Huang, 2007). However, recently, some states like Anambra, Edo and Delta considering the alarming rate of kidnapping, enacted law by making kidnapping an offence punishable by death.

THE CONCEPT OF KIDNAPPING

Asuquo (2009) noted that the term "kidnapping" is difficult to define with precision, because it varies from State to State and jurisdiction to jurisdiction. It is the forcible seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will. It is a common law offence and the key part is that, it is unwanted act on the part of the victim. It is a restriction of someone else liberty which violates the provision of freedom of movement as enshrined in the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, where every other law takes its cue from. For this reason, Siegel (1986) sees it as a serious offence. Abraham (2010), defined kidnapping as an act of seizing, taking away and keeping a person in custody either by force or fraud. However, it includes snatching and seizing

of a person in order to collect a ransom in return or settle some scores of disagreement among people. Various ideas have been projected to denote what may be termed kidnapping. According to Akpan (2010) defining kidnapping poses a number of definitional problems in relation to a country legal and moral viewpoint as well as the availability of other variables such as hostage-taking and hijacking. Ikpong (2011) argued that in kidnapping, the criminal motive for removing the victim is irrelevant for the crime to be committed.

TYPES OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA:

Mass Kidnapping However, since Boko Haram kidnapped 276 Chibok schoolgirls in 2014, a significant shift is now being observed in kidnapping cases involving the poor, schoolchildren, university students, and government employees, to extract the highest ransom from the government (Iyekekpolo, 2016; Teresa & Català, 2021; Wild, 2021). The subsequent abduction of Dapchi girls in 2018 (Pearson & Zenn, 2021) widens to the spectrum.

Many kidnapping incidences were staged to hope that the government would release a significant ransom. However, the recent experience in the abduction of thirty-nine (39) students in the federal college of forestry in Kaduna state (Lere, 2021) and the ones after that indicate a substantial increase in the number of abductions.

Roadside kidnapping Roadside kidnapping is one of the most experienced types in Nigeria. This type is quickly done because of its easy access to the intended victims. Tade et al., (2020) argues that kidnappers can sometimes truncate the movement of their victims by blocking strategic roads in mostly deserted areas of low traffic. In this type, foreigners have been picked during their movements (Kamaludeen et al., 2021) along roadsides in the Niger Delta. Subsequently, many victims have been reported to have been kidnapped in secluded regions (Olapeju & Peter, 2021) along the main roads forcefully (Kakar & Yousaf, 2021).

House to house kidnapping

In this type of kidnapping, communities and houses are often visited and raided by the kidnappers, particularly at night, to whisk away their victims. For example, recently, some kidnappers visited homes and picked people field (PremiumTimes, 2021) in Zaria. In the same town, kidnappers invaded and abducted about 12 people in Kofar Gayan and Kofar Kona communities (Isenyo, 2021). These are just two out of hundreds of cases in Nigeria where abductors visit houses and pick their victims. In this type, kidnappers usually cordon areas to ensure a hitch-free exercise.

Kidnapping for political gains

In some cases, kidnapping in Nigeria is used by politicians as an instrument to extract or distract political rivals and opposition (Ibrahim & Ahmad, 2020). However, in the 2003 gubernatorial election in Anambra state, Chris Uba sponsored the election of senator Chris Ngige having agreed to his demands. After winning the election, Ngige refused and declined all Chris Uba requests, which led to the kidnap and abduction of Ngige as the elected governor of the state (Offor & Eze, 2019). This was indeed the most famous example in Nigeria’s democratic system history. It was done in flagrant abuse and disregard for the laws. However, this type of kidnapping is rarely organized today in the country.

Bridal kidnapping Northern Nigeria had in the past been engulfed with bridal kidnapping. They are called ‘Yan Daukan Amarya in Kano and Zaria. The gangs usually whisked away from the bride on her wedding day. While the female version of it is called ‘Ya ‘Yan Mage, they kidnapped men and raped them sometimes to death.

ROLES OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE IN CRIME PREVENTION

The Nigerian Police according to Olunyinmi (2004) a accorded wide powers by laws. For instance, they a empowered: to take measures to detect and apprehend offenders and collect evidence for prosecution of offenders, prevent crimes, detect or investigate crimes (Olusegun, 2014). Part II section 3 of the Police Act, 2020 there is established for Nigeria the Nigerian Police Force which shall, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria (Nigeria Police Act, 2020). Thus, it provided for the following duties for the police. Viz. protect the lives and property of every persons in Nigeria, maintain public safety, law and order; prevent and detect crimes and protect the rights and freedom of every person in Nigeria as provided in the constitution, facilitate free passage and movement on highways, roads and streets open to the public, enforce all laws and regulations without any prejudice to the enabling Acts of other security agencies, discharge such duties within and outside Nigeria as may be required of it under this Act or any other law etc. (Nigeria Police Act, 2020).

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to examine public perception of the role of the Nigerian Police Force in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Benin City and the specific objectives are

- i. To ascertain the impact of funding towards improving the role of the Nigerian Police Force in curbing the menace of kidnapping.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Four research questions were generated for this study

- i. What impact does funding have towards improving the role of the Nigerian Police Force in curbing the menace of kidnapping?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted, descriptive survey design method as it employed a cross sectional design. The area of the Study Benin Metropolis, The estimated population of the three Local Government areas namely Oredo, Egor, and Ikpoba-Okha is 1,841,000 with a growth rate of 3.31%. With 859052, males and 981948 females. And the 2022 projected population of male and female within 20 years and 79 years is 544479 (NPC, 2022). Sample Size And Sampling Technique. The research instrument that was adopted for this study is structured questionnaire: this was used to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire was titled: “Public Perception of the Role of the Nigerian Police in Curbing the Menace of Kidnapping Questionnaire (PPRNPCMKG). The study adopted quantitative method for data analysis since the study was basically a quantitative study. The descriptive statistics such as tables, charts, frequency distribution, and percentages were used in analyzing data gathered from respondents while the inferential statistics, specifically the Chi Square was used to test the stated hypotheses to determine the relationship between the variables in the study. All quantitative data analyses were done with Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 22.0 version, and the confidence of 0.05 p- value was adopted as benchmark for test of significance.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Do you think that lack of funding affects the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	225	57.1	57.1	57.1
No	169	42.9	42.9	100.0
Total	394	100.0	100.0	

From the above table on if the respondents think that lack of funding affects the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Benin City, 225 representing 57.1% opined that lack of funding affects the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Benin City. And while 169 respondents representing 42.9% said No to the assertion that funding does not affect the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping. It can be deduced that

though there might be other reason but one of the issues faced by the police force in Nigeria, is the issues of funding. Nigeria government need the put more financial effort on the police force as to enable them to be more effective in playing their role most especially in Benin City.

If Yes, to what extent

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid High	92	23.4	23.4	23.4
Low	247	62.7	62.7	86.0
Very Low	55	14.0	14.0	100.0
Total	394	100.0	100.0	

On the extent to which lack of funding affects the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping, most of the respondents said low. As 92 respondents representing 23.4% said high none of the respondents said very high, 247 of the respondents representing 62.7% said low, and while 55 respondents representing 14.0% said very low. It can be deduced from the above table that the level of funding on the Nigeria police force is low, this means that there are other factors that cause ineffectiveness of the police force in Nigeria. This also indicate that funding is not the major issues in Nigeria police force as it can be seen from the respondents responses above

Are there other ways of improving the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	248	62.9	62.9	62.9
No	146	37.1	37.1	100.0
Total	394	100.0	100.0	

Respondents on if there are other ways of improving the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria opted Yes. From the above table 248 respondents representing 62.9% said Yes, 146 representing 37.1% said No to the opinion. It can be seen that there are other ways of improving on the role of the Nigeria police force in curbing the menace of the kidnapping in Nigeria

SUMMARY OF FINDING

This work examined the impact of funding towards improving the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Benin south-south Nigeria.. The specific objectives are; to ascertain the impact of funding towards improving the role of the Nigeria police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping, the finding of the study showed that one of the issue faced by the police force in Nigeria is the issues of funding. Out of the respondents 225 representing 57.1% opined that, lack of funding affects the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Benin City. Though respondents asserted that issues of funding is not the major issue. Adequate funding will help improve the role of the Nigerian police force in curbing the menace of kidnapping according to the respondents.

CONCLUSION

Police have been referred as one of the major body, organized for the security purpose in Nigeria. Several literature, have reviewed some of the issues and challenges in the police force. The finding of this work showed some of the factors that caused ineffectiveness of the police in Nigeria:

1. Inadequate funding was discovered to be one of the issues in the police force. Respondents asserted that lack of funding discourage most of the police men and women.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Base on the finding of this work, the following recommendation were made:

Nigeria government needs to put more financial effort on the police force as to enable them to be more effective in playing their role most especially in Benin City.

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