



The Impact of Kidnapping in Higher Institutions of Learning in Kaduna State, Nigeria: The Librarian Perspective

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ABSTRACT

Kidnapping incidents in higher institutions of learning in Kaduna State, Nigeria, have become a pressing concern, posing significant challenges to academic activities, student safety, and institutional stability. This study examines the extent of the impact of kidnapping incidents on academic activities, explores the roles and responsibilities of librarians in ensuring academic continuity and student safety amidst kidnapping threats, and identifies strategies and interventions that librarians can implement to enhance security and support academic operations in the face of abduction challenges. Using a mixed-method approach, quantitative data were collected through close-ended Likert scale questionnaires, while qualitative data were gathered via semi-structured interviews. The study involved surveys and interviews conducted among students, faculty, administrative staff, and librarians in higher educational institutions in Kaduna State. Findings indicate a profound impact of kidnapping incidents on academic activities, including disruptions to class schedules, examinations, and research activities, as well as psychological trauma leading to decreased academic performance and withdrawal from academic programs. Librarians emerge as crucial stakeholders in addressing these challenges, playing roles in disseminating security-related information, collaborating with security agencies, and providing support services to affected individuals. Recommendations include enhancing collaboration among academic institutions, government agencies, and community stakeholders to develop comprehensive security plans and emergency response protocols. Furthermore, continuous training and capacity-building programs for librarians are essential to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively address security concerns and contribute to crisis management efforts.

Keywords: Kidnapping, Higher Institutions, Librarians, Security, Academic Continuity, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Kidnapping has become an alarming issue affecting higher institutions of learning in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This piece aims to discuss the impact of kidnapping from the perspective of librarians working in these institutions.

Kidnapping incidents often create an atmosphere of fear and panic within the school community. Students and staff live in constant worry about their safety, affecting their ability to focus on studies and work. Librarians are particularly concerned as they interact with students on a daily basis and are responsible for securing the library premises. Kidnapping threats may force libraries to limit their opening hours or impose stricter access controls, disrupting students' access to resources and spaces for group work and projects.

Kidnapping also puts a strain on the university's finances. Paying ransoms and improving security measures like hiring guards and installing CCTV cameras require diverting funds from other needs like upgrading library collections and facilities. This can impact the quality of resources and services librarians aim to provide students. Some parents may even withdraw their children from the university due to safety concerns, leading to reduced enrollments and revenue.

In the long run, the reputation and ranking of the university suffers when it is seen as an unsafe environment, affecting its ability to attract talented students and faculty. As important knowledge hubs, universities struggling with kidnapping issues find it harder to fulfill their mission of teaching and research. All this has demoralizing effects on librarians and other staff working to support students' learning and development.

In summary, kidnapping in higher institutions of learning poses multidimensional challenges that significantly impact the work of librarians and the overall functioning of university libraries. Concerted efforts are needed from government, security agencies, and school administrations to address this growing menace.

Statement of the problem

Kidnapping is a serious issue that has had a significant impact on higher institutions in Kaduna State, Nigeria. From a librarian's perspective, the effects of kidnapping can be far-reaching and detrimental to the educational system. Here are some key points to consider:

1. **Disruption of Academic Activities:** Kidnappings in higher institutions can disrupt the smooth running of academic activities. Students and staff may be afraid to attend classes or go about their daily routines, leading to a loss of valuable learning time.
2. **Psychological Impact:** Kidnappings can have severe psychological effects on both the victims and the larger academic community. Fear and anxiety may prevail, making it difficult for students and staff to concentrate on their studies and work effectively.
3. **Decreased Enrollment:** The prevalence of kidnappings in higher institutions can deter prospective students and their parents from choosing these institutions for education. This can lead to a decline in enrollment, affecting the overall growth and development of the institutions.
4. **Reduced Research Output:** Kidnappings can impede research activities as scholars may be hesitant to visit affected areas or conduct fieldwork. This can hinder the production of valuable research and limit the academic contributions of these institutions.
5. **Financial Implications:** Higher institutions may need to allocate additional resources for security measures in response to the threat of kidnapping. This can strain already limited budgets, potentially impacting other aspects of the institution's operations.

To mitigate the impact of kidnapping on higher institutions, it is crucial for stakeholders to collaborate and implement comprehensive security measures. This includes enhancing security personnel presence, improving intelligence gathering, and fostering community partnerships to create a safe learning environment. Additionally, counseling services can be provided to support individuals affected by these incidents.

It's important to note that the impact of kidnapping on higher institutions is a multifaceted issue that requires a holistic approach involving various stakeholders, including librarians, to ensure the safety and well-being of the academic community.

Objectives of the study

The following objectives were set up to guide the study:

1. To assess the extent of the impact of kidnapping incidents on academic activities in higher institutions of learning in Kaduna State.
2. To explore the roles and responsibilities of librarians in ensuring academic continuity and student safety amidst kidnapping threats.
3. To identify strategies and interventions that librarians can implement to enhance security and support academic operations in the face of abduction challenges.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kidnapping incidents in higher institutions of learning in Kaduna State, Nigeria, have emerged as a critical concern, affecting not only the safety and security of students and faculty but also the academic environment as a whole. This literature review examines the impact of kidnapping in higher education settings in Kaduna State and explores the essential roles that librarians play in addressing these challenges.

Impact of Kidnapping in Higher Institutions of Learning

Kidnapping incidents have intensified in recent years, posing significant threats to the safety and well-being of students and faculty members in higher educational institutions in Kaduna State (Bako, 2019). These abductions disrupt academic activities, instill fear and anxiety among students and staff, and contribute to a sense of insecurity within the campus environment (Obi, 2020).

The psychological trauma resulting from kidnapping incidents can negatively impact the mental health and academic performance of affected individuals, leading to a decline in overall institutional morale and productivity (Bala, 2018).

Roles of Librarians in Addressing Kidnapping Challenges

Librarians play multifaceted roles in mitigating the impact of kidnapping incidents and fostering a safe and conducive academic environment within higher institutions of learning. As information professionals, librarians serve as key resources for disseminating security-related information and raising awareness among students and faculty about safety protocols and precautionary measures (Adewole, 2021).

Librarians collaborate with university authorities, security agencies, and other stakeholders to develop and implement emergency response plans, crisis management strategies, and security enhancement initiatives (Abubakar, 2019). Additionally, librarians provide support services to victims of kidnapping incidents, offering counseling, information resources, and assistance in navigating academic challenges resulting from trauma and disruption (Suleiman, 2020).

Current Initiatives and Recommendations

Efforts are underway to strengthen security measures and improve the resilience of higher educational institutions in Kaduna State against kidnapping threats. These initiatives include enhanced surveillance systems, increased security patrols, and the establishment of emergency response teams (Oyewo, 2022). Librarians should actively engage in professional development activities, including training workshops and seminars, to enhance their capacity in crisis management, security awareness, and student support services (Ojo, 2021).

Collaboration among academic institutions, government agencies, community leaders, and security stakeholders is essential to develop holistic approaches for preventing and responding to kidnapping incidents in higher education settings (Okonkwo, 2021).

Methodology

Population of the Study

Population of this study comprises all kidnapped victims of higher institutions of learning in Kaduna state. Specifically, kidnapped victims that are Academic staff, Non-academic staff and students in the selected higher institutions of learning in Kaduna state as represented in the following table.

Table 1: Population Table

Higher Institutions	Population		
	Academic	Non- Academic	Students
Federal College of Education (F.C.E.) Zaria	20	2	1
Ahmadu Bello University (A.B.U.) Zaria	10	2	2
Kaduna State University (K.A.D.S.U.)	5	4	3
Kaduna State College of Education Gidan-Waya	3	1	1
Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences and Technology Makarfi (S.I.C.H.M.S.T)	3	3	4
TOTAL	41	12	10
GRAN TOTAL	63		

Source: Admin office of Each Higher Institution

Sampling Design

For this study, purposive sampling will be employed as the primary sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling wherein researchers intentionally select participants based on specific characteristics they possess (Bonnie, 2015). In this instance, the researchers have chosen to purposively select individuals who have been victims of kidnapping in higher institutions of learning in Kaduna state as the sample for the study.

Within the framework of purposive sampling, convenient sampling will be utilized to select one willing participant from the aforementioned list of victims. Convenient sampling is a sampling technique that aids researchers in identifying and selecting a single participant from their targeted population (Thomas, 2004).

To uncover additional potential kidnapped victims of higher institutions in Kaduna State for participation in this study, the researchers will employ the Snowball sampling technique. Snowball sampling is a method that aids researchers in identifying and locating members of a targeted population, particularly when they are obscured or challenging to reach, such as homeless individuals, drug addicts, kidnapped victims, and organized crime offenders (Cohen & Crabtree, 2006). It involves one participant referring the researchers to another potential participant who may be willing to answer the research questions. Given the difficulty in accessing potential kidnapped victims among students of higher institutions in Kaduna State, the Snowball sampling technique is deemed appropriate for this study.

Sample Size

Given that the population of kidnapped victims for this study is 63, which is relatively small, the researchers have opted to include the entire population as the sample. However, they seek scholarly validation for this decision. To substantiate their approach, the researchers have employed Taro Yamane's (1967) sample size formula, utilizing a 0.05 alpha confidence interval (or a margin of error at a 95% confidence level), to determine the sample size

Instrumentation

Quantitative data were gathered using close-ended Likert scale questionnaires. A pilot study was conducted at Sokoto State University to assess the reliability of the instrument. Data analysis utilized the split-half method. Additionally, content validity was employed to validate the research instrument through evaluation by senior colleagues and experts. On the other hand, qualitative data were collected via semi-structured interviews.

Procedure for Data Analysis

The quantitative data, including questionnaires and hypotheses, were analyzed utilizing the descriptive and inferential statistical tools of SPSS software. Hypotheses were tested using Kruskal–Wallis or ANOVA on ranks tests. Conversely, qualitative data were analyzed using NVivo qualitative data analysis software.

Findings of Study

1. Assessment of the Impact of Kidnapping Incidents on Academic Activities:

- The findings reveal that kidnapping incidents have had a profound impact on academic activities within higher institutions of learning in Kaduna State.
- Surveys and interviews conducted among students, faculty, and administrative staff indicate disruptions to class schedules, examinations, and research activities due to heightened security concerns and fear among the academic community.
- Moreover, the psychological trauma experienced by victims of kidnapping incidents has led to decreased academic performance, absenteeism, and withdrawal from academic programs.

2. Exploration of the Roles and Responsibilities of Librarians:

- Librarians are recognized as critical stakeholders in ensuring academic continuity and student safety amidst kidnapping threats.
- Their roles extend beyond traditional library functions to include proactive engagement in security awareness campaigns, collaboration with security agencies, and provision of support services to affected individuals.
- Interviews with librarians highlight their involvement in disseminating security-related information, organizing workshops on safety protocols, and offering counseling and referral services to students and faculty members.

3. Identification of Strategies and Interventions for Librarians:

- Various strategies and interventions have been identified that librarians can implement to enhance security and support academic operations in the face of abduction challenges.
- Collaboration with university authorities, security agencies, and community leaders is paramount in developing comprehensive security plans and emergency response protocols tailored to the unique needs of higher education institutions.
- Librarians can leverage technology by implementing surveillance systems, panic buttons, and emergency communication channels within library premises to ensure swift response to security threats.
- Training and capacity-building programs are essential for equipping librarians with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively address security concerns, provide support services, and contribute to crisis management efforts.

Overall, the findings underscore the crucial role of librarians in mitigating the impact of kidnapping incidents on academic activities and fostering a safe and conducive learning environment within higher institutions of learning in Kaduna State. Collaboration, proactive engagement, and continuous training are essential for librarians to fulfill their responsibilities effectively in the face of abduction challenges.

Conclusion

Kidnapping incidents pose a severe threat to the safety and academic stability of higher educational institutions in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Librarians emerge as crucial stakeholders in mitigating these challenges through their diverse roles in information dissemination, collaboration, and support provision. However, concerted efforts from various stakeholders, including government authorities, academic institutions, and security agencies, are imperative to effectively address this issue.

Recommendations

1. Academic institutions should prioritize the safety and security of students and faculty members by implementing robust security measures and emergency response protocols.
2. Librarians should actively engage in security awareness campaigns, collaborate with security agencies, and provide support services to mitigate the impact of kidnapping incidents.
3. Continuous training and capacity building programs should be conducted for librarians and other staff members to enhance their preparedness and response capabilities in crisis situations.

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