



Implication of Kidnapping on Socio-Economic Development in Kebbi South Senatorial District of Kebbi State

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ABSTRACT:

The Research work was conducted to find and investigate the implication of kidnapping on socio-economic development in Kebbi South Senatorial District of Kebbi State because of the alarming increase in the level of crime within the zone. The study adopt Quantitative Research Survey Method, the method of data collection is both primary and secondary. Primary data was obtained through the administration of questionnaires while literature review will be a source of secondary data. The population of the study comprise of all the seven (7) Local Government areas of Kebbi South Senatorial Districts of Kebbi State (i.e. Fakai, Ngasaki, Sakaba, Shanga, Wasagu/Danko, Yauri and Zuru). The paper explores causes, consequences, challenges, control, improving social Development and employing measures to tackle kidnapping. The hazard has spread throughout the area and is still posing a threat to people's lives, means of subsistence, socioeconomic activity and government. The Relational/Vengeance Theory is used in this study. The objective of this study is to examine the socioeconomic implications of kidnapping in the study area. The study revealed that youth unemployment in the state, Bad governance poor security system, poor border security, due to kidnappings affect the socio-economic development of the state. Based on these, paper recommends, among others, the communities affected should be vigilant towards strangers. Reporting the sight of any stranger to community leaders can help the situation. Also, government should make employment available, make free education so that idle children can enrol in schools, this would reduce crime perpetrated by unemployed youth.

Keywords: Kebbi South Senatorial Districts, Kidnapping, Implication, Socioeconomic, Development.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the African Union, achieving any significant socioeconomic development in any country is contingent upon security, peace, stability, and good governance. Security and development in general have been linked, according to some (aminu et al., 2023). Security issues have been a significant obstacle to genuine socioeconomic growth in most African countries, including Nigeria, even though peace and stability have been the primary goal and ambition of most governments in the world during the past few decades (Achumba et al., 2013). The kidnapping epidemic has been observed in Nigeria, and its prevalence is becoming increasingly concerning. In Nigeria, kidnapping and hostage-taking have developed into social issues that touch almost every aspect of the country's population. Kidnapping and hostage-taking are among the most terrorizing crimes in Nigeria, according to Uzorma & Nwanegbo-Ben, (2014), and they are particularly prevalent in the southern regions of the nation (South-South, South-East, and South-West). In actuality, the pair involved kidnapping. Therefore, it happens when a person is kidnapped and taken against their will from one location to another, or when a person is confined to a controlled space without the restraining order being ordered by a legal authority (BASHIR, 2022). Consequently, the act turns into a crime when the individual is transported or imprisoned for an illegal reason, such as to demand ransom or perpetrate another crime (Uzorma & Nwanegbo-Ben, 2014). According to Asuquo (2009), it is challenging to define "kidnapping" precisely because it differs from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction. It is the unlawful taking, taking away, and detaining of a person against that person's will. It is a common law offence, and the most important element is that the victim did not intend for it to happen. It constitutes an infringement on another person's freedom and goes against the Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution, which serves as the foundation for all other laws (Odia, 2023). However, crime prevention is not without problems, Governments and private entities can, in the name of crime prevention, seek to control and monitor citizens; crime prevention can become a commodity and sold to those who can afford it, leaving those who cannot even more insecure, efforts to prevent crime can stigmatise people and communities, and victims can be blamed for contributing to their own victimisation. (Bogges, Greenbaunt&Tita, 2013). The alarming rate of crime in Kebbi South Senatorial Districts which comprises of the following local government area (Fakai, Ngasaki, Sakaba, Shanga, Wasagu/Danko, Yauri and Zuru) has become a great problem as rural dwellers in the area can no longer sleep with their eyes closed. (Addinton, 2019). The belief of the social theory is that everyone needs to be properly housed because it has to do with the efficiency of labour which later transforms to the prosperity of a country's economy or otherwise (Agunbiade, 2012).

Studies shows that the crime rate in a particular neighbourhood can influence the price of property which often translate to discouragement in property investment (Boguess et.al 2013; Valez et.al 2012). Crime leads to lost of life and property as well as fear of insecurity in the area. Most countries of the world are looking for additional ways of combating or reducing the rising waves and increasing difficulty of urban and rural crimes. (Cozen, 2015).

A survey conducted by the United Nation in 1990 discovered that while most Countries of the developed world devote an average of between 2 to 3 percent of their annual budgets to crime control, but those of the developing world spend an average of between 9 and 14 percent. Nigeria is no exception to this, Nigeria has witnessed an increase in crime during the past three decades (Agboola, 1997). The increasing incidence of armed robbery, banditry, kidnapers has led to a paralysing fear which has affected the Country's economic and social life. Despite the crime problem in the Country, the successive Kebbi State Government rely primarily on the efforts of the Police to curb the crime rate in the affected areas of the State and modern concepts and approaches must be put in place to bridge this gap with consideration of its devastating effects in the states.(Olajide&Lizman,2016)

This study is propose to examine the implication of kidnapping on socio-economic development in Kebbi South Senatorial Zone of Kebbi State.

Kidnappings, ritual killings, ethnic conflicts, and most recently, insurgency and terrorism have brought the economy of the northern region to a grinding halt as investors flee the region. These violent crimes have spread to every region of the country since 1999, and the activities of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) have crippled the economic activities of that period, leading to declining oil revenue (Umaru et al., 2015). The socio-economic development of northern Nigeria has been hampered by kidnapping and hostage-taking, which has also had an impact on some unemployed youths and graduates who view kidnapping and hostage-taking as a lucrative alternative to earning money, gaining economic power, and gaining social recognition. The socioeconomic advancement of the southern region of Nigeria has been negatively impacted by this. Due to the prevalence of kidnapping, there is suspicion among the populace, which has a negative impact on their social lives. Additionally, this has damaged the nation's reputation on the international stage.

Dami, (2021) conduct a study on the impact of terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping on human security in Nigeria. He highlighted Nigeria's increasing insecurity and violence due to frequent attacks by terrorists, bandits, and kidnapers, which affect human security. The primary purpose of government is to protect lives and property, and the paper ranks Nigeria on the global terrorism index for 2020. He uses documentary research to analyse data, finding little difference between terrorists, bandits, and kidnapers. (Audu, 2023, Okoye, 2023, Dami, 2021) None of them considered or paid emphasis on the implication of kidnapping on socio-economic development in Kebbi State, Nigeria, and therefore this research intends to fill this gap, and it is based on this background that the researcher was prompted to carry out this research. The level of crime rate in the Kebbi South Senatorial district is increasing on a daily basis and this has become a subject of concern to all the rural dwellers, and government at all levels. This alarming increase in the crime rate within this district has led to this study title "the implication of kidnapping on socio-economic development in Kebbi South Senatorial District of Kebbi State.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to examine the implication of kidnapping on socio-economic development in Kebbi South Senatorial District of Kebbi State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to;

1. To understand the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area.
2. To examine the socioeconomic implications of kidnapping in the study area.
3. To explore coping strategies employ by households victims to address the challenges of kidnapping in the study area.

III. AN OVERVIEW OF KIDNAPPING

1. Studies on Kidnapping and Socio-Economic Development

Several researches have been undertaken in kidnapping. According to Ikechukwu Anthony KANU & Agbo, (2022) revealed the causes of abduction and their effects on Nigeria as a country in his article titled "Proliferation of Kidnapping in Nigeria: Causes and Consequences." The most frequent cause's poverty, unemployment, and moral decadence were also the most obvious effects, which include a high level of distrust among citizens, a rise in the need for police escort from a variety of public leaders, and a lack of socioeconomic progress in the nation. However, the author did not take into account the possibility of kidnapping as a growing threat to NS. Samuel, (2019) in his article Organized Crime, Kidnapping and Nigerian National Security, the author described kidnapping as an organized crime that has grown to be so pervasive and profitable that those who do it can expect quick and significant rewards. He went on to list other causes of kidnapping, such as poor leadership, widespread poverty, ineffective penal systems, a lack of cooperation among social control organizations, and failure to apprehend and punish perpetrators. Odoma, (2019).

2. Conceptual Framework

The unlawful seizing and carrying away of a person by force or trickery, as well as the unlawful seizure and imprisonment of a person against his will, constitute kidnapping, a crime. The main reasons for kidnapping are to force the victim into involuntary servitude, expose him to further criminal activity against him, or demand ransom in exchange for his safe return (NkemdilimOgbuehi, 2018). According to Ibrahim & Mukhtar, (2017) examines the link between terrorism and kidnapping in Nigeria, its correlation with corruption, and its consequences. He found that kidnapping is primarily driven by

The study adopted a simple random sampling technique. First, the population was drawn from the national population commission, Kebbi state. This provided a total population for the study area. Secondly, the study was purposively selected. Therefore, the entire seven (7) Local Government area that constitute Kebbi South Senatorial Districts of Kebbi State (i.e. Fakai, Ngasaki, Sakaba, Shanga, Wasagu/Danko, Yauri and Zuru local government area were used to draw samples for this study. Thirdly, a combination of purposive and snowball sampling procedures will be used to sample one hundred and seven (107) respondents. Source: National population commission Kebbi State, 2023

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This work was designed to ascertain implication of kidnapping on socio-economic development in Kebbi South Senatorial District of Kebbi State, Nigeria. Questionnaire was administered to all local government as mentioned above. The table below provide the simples of questionnaires administered and the associated responses per local government. This results obtained from the field survey. The results and discussion are simultaneously presented in sections based on the stated objectives. The variables considered include demographic characteristic of respondents and well as the specific objectives for the study from the sample size of 107, only 105 questionnaires were retrieved from the field survey which was due to unsuitable data collected from some of the respondents in the study area. This 105 represent 98% which is considered valid for drawing inference on the population studied.

1. Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

This section presents findings on the demographic as well as socio-economic characteristic of respondents. These include gender, age, religion, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, number of children etc in the study area

2. Gender of the Respondents

Gender is a major characteristic of people that make them willing to respond to issues on kidnapping. Also particularly because the female gender are usually “soft or cheap targets” for kidnappers, gender issues are of concern in many insecurity and violence-related studies.

The gender of the respondents is reflected by male and female. This is presented in Figure 1.

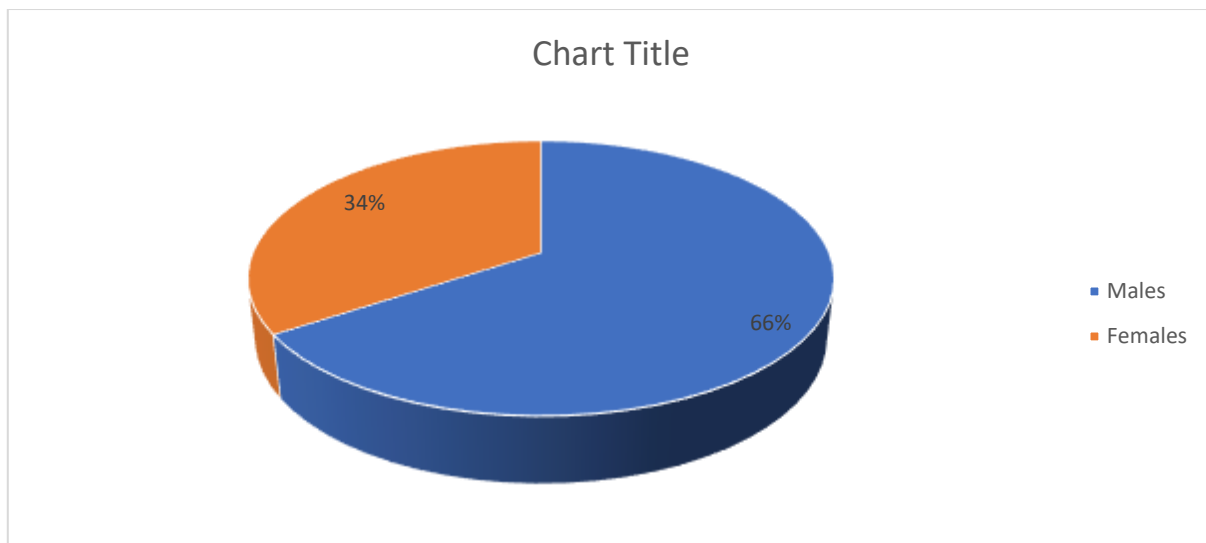


Figure 1: Gender of the Respondents

Source: Field survey (2024)

With regard to the gender of the study participants in the study area, majority 66% of the respondents are males while the remainder 34% are females. This implies that the majority of the study participants are males. The reason for the difference in gender is attributed to the fact that males can easily be seeing on the street than the females in the study area. It was also observed during reconnaissance survey that in a Muslim dominated area, most women were kept in-doors in line with Islamic injunction which limit the access to a large number of women in the study participants.

3. Age of the respondents

Age is an important demographic characteristic of people when it comes to the issue of kidnapping. It is obvious that people of young ages are recruited into vigilante group in most communities because they are more agile than people of old ages. This makes youth the major workforce of any society and are willing to get involved in security matters in their areas and even beyond.

The age distribution of the respondents are shown in the Table 2

Table 2: Age of respondents (Done

Age	Frequency	Percentage
15-17years	5	5
18-20	9	9
21-23	20	19
24-26	31	30
Above 26	40	38
Total	105	100

Source: Field survey (2024)

As to what the age range of the respondents is, Table 2 reveals that majority about 38% of the respondents are 26 years and above while those between 15-17 years formed 5% making this category the least. The age limit 24-26 years also have high number, in which they constitute (30%). Similarly, (19%) fall within the age of 21-23 years while 9% are within 18-20 years. All the age limits are important in meeting the study objectives.

4. Religion of the Respondents

In most communities' people have different religious beliefs. The religious affiliation as a demographic characteristic is important in the area where security issue is paramount to peace and harmony of the people. Religious institutions such as mosques and churches have been useful in sensitizing people about security issues such as kidnapping.

The religious affiliation of the respondents is presented in Figure 2.

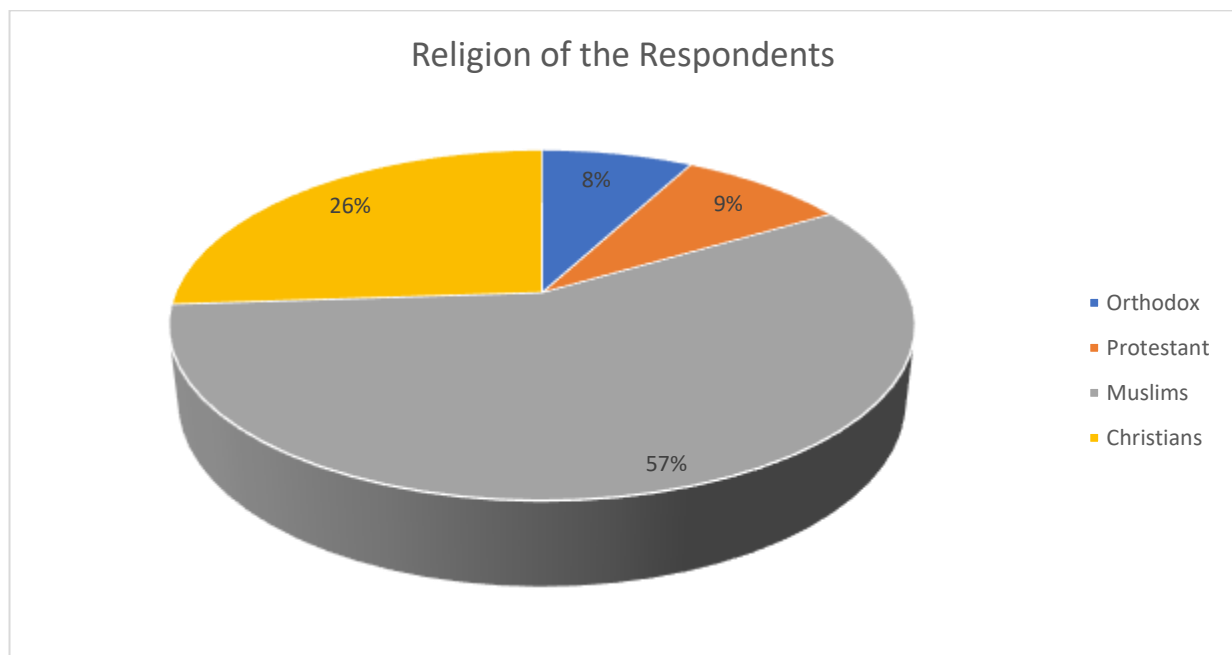


Figure 2: Religion of respondents

Source: Field survey (2024)

Concerning the religion of the respondents, figure 2 reveals that majority 57% of the respondents are Muslims, while the least (8%) orthodox. In addition, Christians have a high percentage that is (26%), Protestants, (9%). Historically the study area is dominated by Islamic religion than other religion and expectedly most of the study participants who were non-Muslim were settlers.

5. Marital Status of Respondents

With respect to demographic characteristics of people, marital status of individuals could have a strong influence on their approach societal issues like kidnapping. It is factual to say that people who are married could be more vigilant towards security issues because they are the custodian of their families, compared to those who are not married, thus married persons are always willing to support any measure towards addressing security issue in a society as a way to prevent any insecurity issues such as kidnapping that could be of threat to family, particularly that children and women are weak in the course of trying to escape from kidnapers.

Marital status of the respondents is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Marital Status of Respondents (done)

Marital status	Frequency percentage	
Single parents	17	16
Married	52	50
Divorced	7	7
Widowed	19	18
Others	3	3
Total	377	100

Table 3 revealed that majority (50%) of the respondents were married while the least (3%) were categorized under other forms of marital status such as man and woman living together without getting married. Also, there is a high number of widows which constitute (18%). For single parent, the analysis showed that they form (16%) while respondents who are divorced formed (7%).

The reason for the high number of married people in the study area may not be unconnected with the fact that in typical African society marriage is considered an important thing in the life of man, where he is left alone to fend for himself and family. From another perspective, Muslim dominated societies give priority to early marriage, even young males get married at young age which applies even more to females whose marriage is valued for them than getting education.

6. Occupation of Respondents

Occupation are useful demographic characteristics of people because they can portray how persons can respond to issues of kidnapping. People who spend many hours at places of work are likely not to effectively participate in security matters than those who spend less hours at work and more hours at home. Employment/Occupation of the respondents is presented in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	Frequency	percentage
Farmer	17	16
Civil servant	30	29
Business	20	19
Self-employed	12	11
Housewife	8	8
Student	18	17
Total	105	100

Figure 5.3 shows that majority of the respondents (29%) were civil servants while those who constituted the least 8% are housewives. The reason for high number of civil servants in the study area is because the area has been known to have LGA and other government institutions where jobs are created. Also, (19%) are into business such as tailoring and cloth design, buying, selling and so on. Those who are students formed (17%), farmers formed (16%), while self-employed (11%). All the variables discussed are important because they have helped in distribution of socio-demographic characteristics of the study participants

7. Number of Children of the Respondents

The number of children of the respondents is presented in table 5.4

Table 5: Number of Children of the Respondents

Number of children	Frequency	Percentage
One or two	5	5
Three	15	14
Four or five	24	23

Above five	55	52
Others	6	6
Total	105	100

Table 5 showed that the number of children of the respondents varies and, results indicated that majority, (52%) have children above five while the least (5%) have one or two children. This implies that majority of the study participants have above five children. This is in line with the fact that the study area is in one of the north western states that there is high birth rate. However, (23%) have four or five children, (14%) three children and (6%) do not have any child.

8. Educational Status of Respondents

Level of education is a vital tool when demographic characteristics of people is mentioned. People who have attain a high level of education are bound to understand issues that affects their immediate environment and can come up with ways of addressing the issues as in the case of insecurity as a result of kidnapping. On the part of this study, educated people can provide comprehensive information on security matters of the area such as kidnapping, which can help in meeting the aim of the study. Educational status of the respondents is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Education of the Respondents

Education	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	23	22
Primary education	18	17
Secondary education	27	26
Tertiary education	37	35
Total	105	100

Table 6 shows that majority (35%) of the respondents have acquired tertiary education while only (17%) have passed through primary education without furthering their education. This means most of the people under study have post-secondary education. (26%) have obtained secondary education and (22%) no formal education. Since those who are educated is higher in the study area it means they can provide meaningful information regarding kidnapping which can help the researcher to provide adequate information security usage.

9. Information on Socio-Economic Implication of Kidnapping

The information on socioeconomic implication of kidnapping is presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Information on the Socioeconomic Implication of Kidnapping

Variables	SA	A	UN	D	SD
Undesired migration by Fulani	50(47%)	39(37%)	6(6%)	8(8%)	2(2%)
Poverty/poor governance	5(5%)	71(68%)	10(10%)	7(7%)	2(2%)
Insufficient financial resources	20(19%)	30(29%)	45(43%)	8(8%)	2(2%)
Cases of rape	96(91%)	5(5%)	0(0%)	1(1%)	3(3%)
Health problems	43(41%)	36(34%)	18(17%)	6(6%)	2(2%)
Loses a lot of revenue	54(51%)	29(28%)	2(2%)	14(13%)	6(6%)
Less in flow of funds	18(17%)	60(57)	20(19%)	2(2%)	5(5%)
Internet usage addiction	2(2%)	18(17%)	7(7%)	56(53%)	22(21%)
High level of unemployment	93 (87%)	8(8%)	0(0%)	4 (4%)	0(0%)
Poor security system	6(6%)	0(0%)	65(62%)	30(29%)	4(4%)

Table 7 shows that majority (47%) of the respondents strongly agreed that undesired migration by Fulani is the greatest socioeconomic implication to kidnapping in the study area this is against the least (2%) that strongly disagreed. This implies that majority are (47%) which makes their opinion valid.

For Poverty/poor governance (68%) agreed while (2%) strongly disagreed. Similarly, (43%) were undecided that Insufficient financial resources is an implication of kidnapping while the least (2%) strongly disagreed, Cases of rape, (91%) strongly agreed while (1%) disagreed, Health problems, (41%) strongly agreed while (2%) strongly disagreed. Furthermore, (51%) of the respondents strongly agreed that loses a lot of revenue is the greatest implication of kidnapping against the least (2%) that were undecided. For less in flow of funds, majority (57%) of the respondents agreed against the least (2%) that disagreed. And for other variables such as internet usage addiction, majority (53%) disagreed while (2%) strongly agreed that the variable is socioeconomic implication of kidnapping. Also, responses regarding high level of unemployment were rated as, majority (87%) strongly agreed while the least (4%) disagreed and finally, (62%) were undecided that poor security system is socio economic implication of kidnapping while the least (4%) strongly disagreed.

10. Information on Coping Strategies Employ by Households' Victims to Address the Challenges of Kidnapping in the Study Area.

Table 8: Information on Coping Strategies Employed by Household Victims to Address the Challenges of Kidnaping in the Study Area.

Variables	SA	A	UN	D	SD
Community and Joint Task Force (JTF)	66(63%)	25(24%)	2(2%)	9(9%)	5(5%)
Organize Security Seminars	9(9%)	6(6%)	87(83%)	2(2%)	1(1%)
Empowerment Programmed	8(8%)	29(11%)	1(1%)	67(64%)	17(16%)
Inter-communal Engagement	13(12%)	56(53%)	23(22%)	10(10%)	3(3%)
Improving Border Security	70(67%)	20(19%)	10(10%)	3(3%)	2(2%)
Good community leaders	31(30%)	66(63%)	2(2%)	1(1%)	3(3%)
Security Intelligence	60(57%)	15(14%)	17(16%)	10(10%)	3(3%)
Personal Security Consciousness	5(5%)	98(93%)	2(2%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Community Leaders Supervision	27(26%)	61(58%)	9(9%)	5(5%)	3(3%)
Creating Job Opportunities for Youths	58(55%)	31(30%)	10(10%)	6(6%)	0(0%)

As to what coping strategies household victims adopt to overcome effect of kidnapping, Table 8 revealed that (63%) making the majority of study participants strongly agreed that community and joint task force popularly called abbreviated as (JTF) is the most common coping strategy of the household victims against the least (2%) that were undecided. The participant who could decide on an option, are few very few therefore, they did not in any way pose a threat to the results. Furthermore, community joint task force has been a collaboration between community members and government security agency, of course this in fact can be a way that the community could cope with kidnaping in the study area. However, the Organize Security Seminars as a way to cope with kidnapping, majority, (83%) were undecided while the least (1%) strongly disagreed. Those who strongly disagreed are few and their opinions are insignificant in this study. Similarly, for empowerment programme, majority (64%) disagreed against the least (1%) that could not decide on any of the options. This makes majority as those who disagreed. Also, for a variable such as inter communal engagement, majority (53%) of the respondents agreed while the least (3%) strongly disagreed. (67%) strongly agreed that improving border security is a coping strategy to kidnapping act in the study area while the least (2%) strongly disagreed. (63%) also agreed that good community leaders are coping strategy while the least (1%) disagreed. But even at that, the (1%) that disagreed do not have facts to support their view since the majority supersedes their opinion. (57%) strongly agreed that security intelligence is a coping strategy to kidnapping which makes these responses the highest among all opinion while the least (3%) strongly disagreed. Personal Security Consciousness, (93%) agreed while the least (2%) were undecided. For community Leaders Supervision, majority (58%) agreed as against (3%) that strongly disagreed and finally creating Job Opportunities for Youths (55%) strongly agreed while the least (6%) disagreed, making the majority have a higher percentage to support their opinions. The overall results has helped in meeting this particularly study objective

VI. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that there are various socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents which differs among them. And has been able to put this study towards solving the specific objectives. More so, there are implications of kidnapping in the study area but the findings shows the socioeconomic variables that are more severe than the others, as a result of the opinions of the respondents. Also, the population under study have coping strategies to help them address the issue of kidnapping.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Among the various coping strategies some are more effective or seeing as better coping strategies that is to some extent working for them the study made the following recommendations.

1. Since the study has found out that the implication of kidnapping on socioeconomic activities of the study participants, this study recommends that the communities affected should be vigilant towards strangers. Reporting the sight of any stranger to community leaders can help the situation. Also, government should make employment available, make free education so that idle children can enrol in schools etc. this would reduce crime perpetrated by unemployed youth.
2. The communities affected have various coping strategies. With these measures, this study recommend that Joint Task Force should be enhanced. The youth who joint the task force should be paid by government and be given adequate military training. Some of them should also be trained as secret informants since they know the terrain very well as well as the community members. Finally, the coping strategies of the people against the menace of kidnappers should be supported by both federal and state government which would provide them with habitable place for living.

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