

**KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM IN DELTA STATE: IMPLICATION FOR
SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

BY

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**BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by **Ifeanyi IBUDE** in the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria is in partial fulfillment for the award of Masters of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Security and Strategic Studies.

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DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to Almighty God for giving me the inspiration, knowledge and wisdom to complete the programme.

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First of all, my appreciation goes to God Almighty who has made it possible for me to be here today and for his grace that has brought me thus far. In the course of my academic pursuit, I was privileged to have come in contact with outstanding personalities, like my lecturers, colleagues and others who have made so much positive impact in my academic and professional career.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGES
TITLE - - - - -	i
CERTIFICATION - - - - -	ii
DEDICATION - - - - -	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - - - - -	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS - - - - -	v
ABSTRACT - - - - -	vi
CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study - - - - -	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem - - - - -	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study - - - - -	4
1.4 Research Questions - - - - -	5
1.5 Research Hypotheses - - - - -	5
1.6 Significance of the Study - - - - -	6
1.7 Scope of the Study - - - - -	7
1.8 Definition of Terms - - - - -	7
CHAPTER TWO – LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	
2.1.1 Conceptualizing Kidnaping - - - - -	9
2.1.2 The Historical Evolution of Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria - - - - -	12
2.1.3 Security: A Conceptualization - - - - -	12
2.1.4 Development as a Concept - - - - -	15
2.1.5 Incidents/Selected Cases of Kidnapping in Nigeria - - - - -	17
2.1.6 Kidnapping and Security Challenge in Nigeria - - - - -	20

2.1.7	Drivers of Kidnapping for Ransom in Niger-Delta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
2.1.8	The Effects and Implications of Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
2.1.9	Nigeria Government Strategies in Combating Kidnapping for Ransom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
2.2	Theoretical Framework-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35

CHAPTER THREE – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Design of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
3.2	Population of Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
3.3	Sample Size and Sampling Techniques	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
3.4	Research Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
3.5	Validity of the Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
3.6	Reliability of the Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
3.7	Method of Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
3.8	Method of Data Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40

CHAPTER FOUR – DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1	Data Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
4.2	Discussion of Findings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65

CHAPTER FIVE – SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1	Summary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69
5.2	Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
5.3	Recommendation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71
	References	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
	Appendix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78

ABSTRACT

The study seeks to the influence of kidnapping for ransom in Delta State: Implications for security and development. The objective of the study was to examine the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State, to investigate the causes of kidnapping and ransom among the people of Delta State, to survey the social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State, to examine kidnapping for ransom effects on the economic life and development of community members in Delta State and finally, to investigate the challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State. In order to achieve the objectives of this study, five research questions and hypotheses were raised and formulated, answered and tested respectively. The study adopted a survey research design. The population of study of this research is made up of the total number of people residing in Delta State while the target population of the study is the residence of Ughelli North Local Government which is 320,687. The sample size of this study is 500 respondents. The instrument used for the collection of data was the questionnaire which was administered to a total number of 500 respondents and 456 was retrieved. To ensure content validity of the research instrument, the questionnaire was submitted to the research supervisor and other expert in the Department of Political Science. Their corrections, criticisms, clarifications, suggestions and scrutiny serve as the final bases in drafting the final research instrument. Again, in order to ensure reliability of the research instrument, it was subjected to test-retest reliability test. Data was analyzed using simple percentage and Pearson Product Correlation Coefficient. The study establishes that despite the kidnapping awareness among the people, kidnapping for ransom is still rampant in the area. The study recommendation that the government should provide employment opportunity for the teeming youths of the area to abate the incidence of kidnapping in Delta State.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The kidnapping for ransom is not unique a phenomenon to the Nigerian State. It was recorded during the 18th and 19th centuries that people were kidnapped and sold into slavery in their numbers. Others were taken from their houses as a result of property disputes, and child abduction was prevalent, with children being stolen or abducted and enslaved for the purpose of ritual making money (Obarisiagbon & Aderinto, 2018; Ikime, 2006). Kidnapping is a long-standing form of organized crime that can be traced back to ancient civilizations (Ayuba, 2020). Kidnapping for ransom has become one of today's most common crimes (Obarisiagbon & Aderinto, 2018).

The phrase "kidnapping" is thought to have first appeared in the 17th century in Great Britain, when "kids" of wealthy families in England were "napped" for ransom (Tzanelli, 2006). While kidnapping activities as a crime is well-known, it is the trends and patterns that gain currency, accounting for differences in its forms as well as the plurality of its occurrences through time and location (Ayuba, 2020).

According to Nya (2018) on the data on kidnapping for ransom globally, Asia has the highest number of documented kidnapping cases worldwide, followed by Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe. Again, according to Popoola, Adeoye, & Alagbe (2017), the number of kidnaps for ransom in Africa is on the rise. Africa's share of the world total kidnapping cases climbed to 34% in the first half of 2011, up from 23% in 2010 (Egbegi, Onyejegbu & Chinweze, 2019). While Africa is the continent with the second-highest rate of abduction for ransom cases,

Nigeria is the country with the second-highest number of kidnapping cases worldwide (Nya, 2018).

Nigeria as a nation-state is currently experiencing an unprecedented amount of kidnapping for ransom. On this note, Chukwuma (2019) said that kidnapping for ransom has remained Nigeria's most virulent kind of banditry. It has evolved into the most pervasive and difficult-to-control form of violent crime in the country. According to Adeola (2012), Nigeria was responsible for a twenty percent of all kidnapping for ransom cases that was globally reported in year 2011, and the country has been dubbed the "global capital of kidnap for ransom" due to the large number of kidnap cases reported each year. Nigeria is now the world's kidnap-for-ransom capital, with a quarter of all documented incidents coming from the country (Egbegi, Onyejebu & Chinweze, 2019).

Nigeria has surpassed the United States of America who used to be a den of kidnapers but contemporarily not even ranked among the top twenty countries for abduction globally (Perlberg, 2013). In February 2006, militants abducted some oil employees in the Niger Delta, reportedly to call international attention to the country's appalling state in the oil-rich region. Kidnapping has proliferated throughout the country since then, particularly in the south-eastern and south-south geopolitical zones, which have experienced increased agitations for secession and militancy respectively, and the north-west and north-east regions, which have experienced increased insurgency as a result of banditry and boko haram activities (Ayuba, 2020). Oil workers and foreigners are no longer the only targets. Today every Nigerian is a target. Indeed, due to the near-daily occurrence of kidnappings, the protection of people and their property in Nigeria are difficult to be guaranteed (Ngwama, 2014).

Kidnapping was first and foremost a weapon or tool used in the Niger Delta region to combat economic and environmental inequity and injustice, with the economic incentives accrued from it employed as a means to fund and prolong the battle for the region's neglect and degradation. The beginning of 2007 witnessed the rise of a number of additional deviant organisations operating under various identities in order to conduct this economic crime while hiding behind the liberation movement (Ngwama, 2014). In 2009, Nigeria's Inspector General of Police said that 130 persons were abducted in Nigeria between 2008 and 2009, with a ransom of N15 billion paid to the abductors (Ijioma, 2009). According to Abugu (2009), more than 200 individuals were kidnapped and freed in the Southeast alone as of July 2009 after their families or friends/associates paid ransoms. This number is ridiculed and became a child's play considering the current wave of kidnapping in the country.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Undoubtedly, one of Nigeria's current social menace is the series of kidnappings for ransom that have taken on an unprecedented scale with no prospect of ending in sight, inspite of the existence of a security agencies and criminal justice system that should be able to curtail the societal menace (Osumah & Aghedo, 2011; Ogugbuaja, 2010, Abati, 2010).

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria, particularly the states of the south-south, has seen an upsurge in crime and insecurity occasioned by the unprecedented wave of kidnapping for ransom. Contemporarily, everyone knows someone who has been kidnapped, and the public is filled with fear and terror since no one knows who will be the next victim. Before traveling to the next town, people must now make many calls, establish security arrangements, and receive continuous information to aid their movement (Okengwu, 2011).

The rising level of insecurity in Nigeria is concerning because it affects everyone. This threat can be found at churches, mosques, markets, schools, residences, and on the highways. The ordeal of kidnapping has left the abductees and their families traumatized. Nigeria and particularly the Niger Delta are being avoided by foreign investors because of the increase in kidnapping cases (Ngwama, 2014). Kidnapping in Niger Delta is a fallout of leadership ineptitude, environmental degradation and long neglect, and the people are paying the price for bad governance and leadership failures of the area. According to Davidson (2010), the general condition of instability in some sections of the country has undoubtedly reached a point where almost everyone is concerned about the Niger Delta region's trajectory. People are currently unable to sleep due to their dread of being robbed or kidnapped. Because of the fear of being abducted or robbed, businessmen and entrepreneurs have fled with their companies to a safe environment (Ngwama, 2014).

It is in this context that the study investigates the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State, examine the causes of kidnapping and ransom among the people of Delta State, survey the social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State, study the kidnapping for ransom effects on the economic life and community development of Delta State, and finally examine the challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to investigate the issue of kidnapping for ransom and its implication for security and development in Delta State. The specific objectives are as follow:

- To examine the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State
- To investigate the causes of kidnapping and ransom among the people of Delta State
- To survey the social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State
- To examine kidnapping for ransom effects on the economic life and development of community members in Delta State.
- To examine the challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State

1.4 Research Questions

- What is the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State?
- What are the causes of kidnapping for ransom among the people of Delta State?
- What are the social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State?
- What is the kidnapping for ransom effects on the economic life and development of community members in Delta State?
- What are the challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

H₀¹ There is no significant relationship between level of awareness and kidnapping among the people of Delta State

- H_R¹ There is a significant relationship between level of awareness and kidnapping among the people of Delta State
- H₀² There is no significant relationship between unemployment and kidnapping among the people of Delta State
- H_R² There is a significant relationship between unemployment and kidnapping among the people of Delta State
- H₀³ There is no significant relationship between social effects and kidnapping among the people of Delta State
- H_R³ There is a significant relationship between social effects and kidnapping among the people of Delta State.
- H₀⁴ There is no significant relationship between kidnapping and economic life and development of community members in Delta State.
- H_R⁴ There is a significant relationship between kidnapping and economic life and development of community members in Delta State.
- H₀⁵ There is no significant relationship between kidnapping and the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State
- H_R⁵ There is a significant relationship between kidnapping and the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State

1.6 Significance of the Study

The significance of this research cannot be overstated. It will aid in comprehending the impact of kidnapping for ransom on Delta State's socioeconomic development. This study is necessary in order to provide the Delta State administration with recommendations on how to combat the threat of kidnapping for ransom in the state. This research has practical implications, particularly

in terms of policymaking. It will empower policymakers to create regulations that deter kidnapping for ransom.

The findings of this research will illustrate the implications of abduction and how it has contributed to insecurity in Nigeria and other countries. This research is critical because kidnapping has become a booming business in this part of Nigeria, with many people adopting it as a way to be heard or gain attention from the government, as well as many young people adopting the idea of kidnapping for ransom as a means of surviving due to a lack of employment opportunities. Other agencies and organizations fighting kidnapping will be able to utilize the findings of this study to determine what strategies they might employ to combat kidnapping for ransom.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study is on the kidnapping for ransom with the Delta State serving as its case study. It aims to provide the government and the general public a framework for assessing the impact of insecurity in the region, identifying and preventing problems, and assisting in their management when they occur. Despite the fact that kidnapping for ransom is associated with a variety of difficulties, the scope of this investigation will be limited to Delta State. This research work is tailored towards evaluating the issue of kidnapping for ransom in Delta State and implications for security and development.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Kidnapping

Kidnapping, according to Hakeem Jamiu, is the forced abduction of a human being with the goal to hold them for ransom or capture them for the purpose of harassing them (physically, emotionally, or sexually) and holding them hostage. Kidnapping is also defined by Uzorma &

According to Nwanagbo-Ben (2014), it is the act of capturing and holding or carrying a person away by unlawful force or fraud, often with a ransom demand.

Ransom

In its most basic form, a ransom is a sum of money paid in exchange for someone's release from the hands of a kidnapper. It is the money given to ensure the release of a person held hostage, whether as a result of kidnapping or capture in some other means, i.e. the release of a captured person in exchange for money or other payment, according to a legal definition.

Security

Security, according to Fischer & Green (2004), is a stable, relatively predictable environment in which a person or organization can pursue their objectives without disruption or harm, and without fear of such disruption or injury. To Craighead (2003), security is defined as a private service that protects people, information, and assets for personal safety or communal well-being.

Development

Todaro & Smith (2011) define development as the multi-dimensional process including the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social system, rather than a solely economic phenomenon. The process of raising the standard and quality of human life is referred to as development. Also, according to Ogbeide (2016), development refers to the betterment of people's living conditions⁴, the achievement of a desired state of being, and the gradual and sometimes quick transformation of a society from a state of scarcity to one of plenty, quality life, and happiness for all.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1.1 Conceptualizing Kidnaping

Kidnapping is a false imprisonment in that it entails the illegal confinement of someone against their will by another individual in a manner that violates the individual's right to freedom of movement. This entails the removal of a person against their will, usually for the purpose of holding them in false custody or confinement without legal authority (Ngwama, 2014). This is frequently done in exchange for a ransom or as part of a larger criminal scheme. Kidnapping can happen to anyone. Kidnappers target both foreigners and non-foreigners in Nigeria, with little or no confrontation from our law enforcement officers. In the face of this hostility, the Nigerian security system has been weakened, and nothing has been done to identify the socio-economic and underpinning aspects that have contributed to the occurrence of this crime in the society (Ngwama, 2014). Nseabasi (2010) defines kidnapping as any situation in which a person is forcibly taken and conveyed to a location where they are detained in unlawful captivity against their will. This means that it is a situation in which people are taken away, detained illegally and forcibly. Again, according to Nseabasi (2010), there are four main reasons for kidnapping people. One of the reasons alluded for kidnapping is for money making and not politics, the second is kidnapping without political motives, thirdly, for money and political gains, and finally, for the sake politics and no money attachment.

Kidnapping, like many other social science concepts, means different things to different individuals, thus there is no universal meaning. It's a concept with multiple meanings that can only be deduced from the context in which it's employed. As a result, a number of researchers have sought to define it from various perspectives, depending on their interpretation of the

phrase. It is defined by Inyang and Ubong (2013) as the use of force to unlawfully capture, take away, and hold a person against his or her will. It is frequently done for a variety of purposes, such as extracting a ransom from the victims, their relatives, or their employer, or abducting a child to increase the negotiating power. Kidnapping is sometimes used to facilitate the commission of another crime, such as human trafficking or slavery. Similarly, Fage & Alabi (2017) regard kidnapping as a product of a number of factors, including economic, political, religious, and self-determination, as well as forceful or fraudulent abduction of a person or group of people.

Turner's (1998) defined kidnapping as seizing and conveying someone to a destination unlawfully detained without their agreement, by force or inducement. This means that, in addition to forcible capture, kidnapping occurs when individuals are lured away and then forcefully imprisoned against their will. The English common law website defines kidnapping as a forcible or fraudulent taking away of a person by another person without his/her agreement or legitimate excuse by another person (Ayuba, 2020).

In a similar way, Uzorma & Nwanegbo-Ben (2014) defined kidnapping as a circumstance in which a person or group of persons is forcibly or fraudulently carried away or abducted and kept against their will with the intention of extorting a ransom. Kidnapping, according to Ngwama (2014), is defined as the violation of a person's fundamental human rights by another person or persons using force to imprison and extort a ransom from the victim.

In the view of Davidson (2010), when a gang of criminals equipped with firearms and cell phones abduct unsuspecting victims and drags them into a remote location, where they begin to make phone calls to anybody they want and demand a ransom is referred to kidnapping. Kidnapping is an extremely serious crime, but in comparison to robbery, burglary, and other

forms of societal crime, it is quite unnoticed compared to other crimes in the society. According to Yang et al. (2007), attributes the relative obscurity to three factors: the event's rarity, access to known kidnapers, and finally to problem of data. It is described by Inyang & Abraham (2013) as a violent seizure, removal, as well as the illegal and wrongful confinement of an individual against his or her will. Fage & Alabi (2017) proposed another definition of kidnapping. To them, kidnapping is the forcible abduction of individuals for a variety of reasons, including economic, political, or religious reasons, as well as the fight for independence. The scholars argued that the people who have been kidnapped forcibly or fraudulently are being held as captives for the purpose of paying ransom. This means that, while both political and economic causes can lead to kidnapping, economic factors are the more common influencing reason.

Kidnapping, according to the definitions above, is the unlawful use of force against another person or persons with the objective of exploiting them as a method of accomplishing social, economic, or political goals (Ayuba, 2020). Various episodes of kidnappings in the Niger Delta and, more recently, the northern areas of Nigeria is for the purpose of social, economic, and political gain. It is important to highlight the misunderstandings that typically accompany the use of the term kidnapping at this point (Ayuba, 2020).

Kidnapping is referred to by a number of different terms, each of which refers to a different sort of kidnapping. Abduction, ransom, hostage taking, and imprisonment are all terms that pertain to kidnapping, but their definitions differ (Okoli & Agada, 2014). While abduction refers to a kidnapping in which the victim is a minor, hostage taking refers to the illegal detention of a victim (kidnapee) in order to gain an edge over opponents. Captivity, on the other hand, refers to the practice of holding a person captive, notably during a war or conflict, in order to gain a competitive advantage in terms of tradeoffs. Ransom, on the other hand, is the illegal detention

of a kidnap victim in order to extract a ransom payment in cash or in kind by imposing certain demands, such as the exchange of prisoners (Okoli & Agada, 2014).

According to Ibrahim & Ahmad, (2020); Samuel, (2019); Ihe, (2018); Imhonopi & Urim, (2016), the government, security services, and all relevant stakeholders are under constant threat from abduction. As a result, the emphasis of this research is on the phenomenon's socioeconomic impact and implications for the wider public. The Nigerian Senate has called for the reform and restructuring of the country's security architecture as a result of the deadly insecurity that has forced Nigeria into the United States' travel ban list (Umoru 2019; Olaniyi 2020).

2.1.2 The Historical Evolution of Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria

Kidnapping, particularly for ransom, is a recent trend in Nigeria; nevertheless, there have been incidences of kidnapping in the past, as people were kidnapped and sold into slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries, and children and virgins were taken and slaughtered for money making rituals (Sanyaolu, 2009). Kidnapping for ransom as an organized criminal enterprise began in the Niger Delta as a way to draw government and international community attention to the oil firms' neglect and underdevelopment of the region (Okengwu, 2011). The democratic era of the 1990s and the early twenty-first century, heralded the start of an unparalleled rise in kidnapping and other violent crimes in the country and particularly the Niger Delta. The region's insecurity was exacerbated by the nation's restoration of democratic rule in 1999 and politicians' quest for power to control petroleum output, as well as personal progress and group security (Joab-Peterside, 2007).

2.1.3 Security: A Conceptualization

Security is a delicate and important problem that has diverse meanings by scholars, analysts, policymakers, and organizations all around the world. The definition of security is imprecise and

broad, and its breadth is growing by the day. Over the course of human history, the ephemeral nature of the concept of security has attracted various interpretations and perspectives (Degaut, 2015; Afolabi, 2015). Security is a concept that every human being desires, and it has one or two meanings, despite the fact that it is difficult to define precisely. This explains Barry Buzan's (1991) view of security as an ambiguous and multidimensional notion in which military factors have been given undue weight. Fundamentally, security entails the presence of peace, wellbeing, protection, joy, and the preservation of human and physical resources, as well as the absence of crisis or threats to human dignity, all of which aid the evolution and flourishing of any human community (Buzan, 1991; Afolabi, 2015). Since the conclusion of the Cold War, which may be regarded a watershed moment for various schools of thought in the field of security studies, the concept of security has become a preoccupation for decades. Again, as a concept, security encompasses many different aspects. It's useful in a variety of fields, including psychology, finance, information access, public safety, defense, and military concerns (Afolabi, 2015).

The practice of assuaging any form of threat to individuals and their valuables is referred to as security (Afolabi, 2015). This is why, according to Buzan, security is defined as a country's ability to maintain its autonomous identity and functional integrity in the face of change that it perceives as hostile, whereas survival is the bottom line. (Bodunde, et.al, 2014). According to the preceding, security is defined as a sense of safety against injury, dread, worry, oppression, danger, and poverty, as well as the defense, protection, and upkeep of fundamental values, as well as threats to those values

Security, according to William (2008), is most usually connected with the reduction of threats to cherished values, particularly dangers that jeopardize the life of a specific reference object. According to Imobighe (2007), the ability of a country to protect and develop itself, promote its

prized values and legitimate interests, and increase the well-being of its population is referred to as security. Internal security can thus be defined as a country's ability to maintain vital institutions for the promotion of its core values, socio-political, and economic goals, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of its citizens, as well as its freedom from or absence of tendencies that threaten internal cohesion, corporate existence, and its ability to maintain vital institutions for the promotion of its core values, socio-political, and economic goals (Ogaba. 2010).

As a result, security is simply the protection of assets, including living and non-living resources, against loss or harm be it classical, state-centric, traditionalist, or non-traditionalist form. Abolurin (2010) links security with peace and conflict prevention through military methods, such as deterrence programs and non-offensive defense.

Security, according to Walt (1999), is the study of the threat, use, and management of military force. It examines the circumstances that make the use of force more likely, the effects of force on individuals, nations, and societies, and the specific strategies that states take to avert or engage in war. According to Nwolise, the Cold War period gave conventional security doctrine high-level dominance, to the point where security is based on the belief that only a military system can effectively deter attack and threat of force (Nwolise, 2008). This aligns with Ken Booth's assertion that one of the hallmarks of new thinking is the idea that security policy should have political accommodation as a key and consistent goal. Throughout the Cold War era, the detrimental impact of virtually and solely associating security with the military was clear. This approach is known as strategic reductionism, which entails viewing security through a technical and mechanistic military lens, as seen by a fixation with military balance and the application of cutting-edge technology (Nwolise, 2008).

As Ogunsanwo (2016) correctly points out, today's security notions are all-encompassing. Security entails more than just military protection or defense from external threats. Many people in underdeveloped countries consider security to be the most fundamental aspect of their struggle for existence. As a result, the non-military dimension of security should be included in an integrated African Security Assessment. Ochoche, (1997), advocated for a larger definition of security to include socio-economic, environmental, and food security, as well as life security and technological security (Ochoche, 1997).

Security, nevertheless, is concerned with human liberation. It means that people/citizens must be free of the obstacles, difficulties, and restraints that may hinder them from doing what they want freely, such as epidemics, poverty, oppression, bad education, and crises. Non-military challenges such as politics, the environment, economics, and demographics are all posing severe risks to people's security today. Barry Buzan provides a theoretical perspective on security, identifying three levels of analysis: individual, national, and international. He believes that individual security, also known as personal security by other researchers, refers to the values that people desire to protect, such as life, health, status, independence, and prosperity (Buzan, 1991). Individuals strive to protect themselves from a variety of risks, including what is known as social security. This includes physical danger, economic danger, and violations of human rights. Pain, damage, death, property confiscation and destruction, unreachability to labor or resources for human subsistence, injustice, unjust detention, denial of normal civil liberties, and threats to human dignity are examples of these.

2.1.4 Development as a Concept

The term "development" has varied connotations for different individuals, and it can be described in a variety of ways (Abuiyada, 2018). Because of the vague character of development, advancing a specific

definition of the concept has been challenging. Indeed, there are many viewpoints on what development entails. There are many who see it solely from an economic standpoint, while others see it as a multifaceted term that encompasses more than just economics (Abuiyada, 2018).

Development, according to Seers (1972) denotes the conditions for the realization of the human personality. As a result, three connected factors must be considered in its evaluation: whether there has been a reduction in (1) poverty, (2) unemployment, and (3) inequality (Seers, 1972). According to Pearson (1992), development implies a better use of given resources, whether qualitatively, quantitatively, or both. He also says that development does not refer to a single point of view on social, political, or economic advancement. Instead, it's a catch-all term for a multitude of ways to transforming existing socioeconomic and environmental conditions into more desired ones (Abuiyada, 2018).

Development, according to Meier (1988), is the process of accumulating capital and industrialisation in order to maximize the value of the gross national product (Meier, 1988). A country's ability to boost its sluggish economy to the point where it can create and sustain annual GDP growth can also be defined as development (Meier, 1988). Development comprises processes such as modernization, productivity, social and economic equality, modern technical know-how, improved institutions and attitudes, as well as a rationally integrated policy apparatus (Meier, 1988). Similarly, Oghator & Okobo (2000) observed that development entails not only an increase in per-capita income or economic growth, but also long-term improvements in people's living standards, which are ensured by the provision of gainful employment, as well as the presence and availability of social and economic infrastructures (Oghator & Okobo, 2000).

Todaro and Smith (2011) argue that development is when the entire economic and social system is reorganized and reoriented, based on the multi-dimensional structure of the term. According to Ajagun (2003), Development is a condition of advancement in which people's quality of life increases in a variety of ways, including economic, administrative, political, social, cultural, and

religious elements. This means that progress is not limited to a single element, but rather is all-encompassing, it is multi-dimensional, depending on the issue at hand. Onah (2005), viewed development as a constant progress in an individual's and society's ability to control and harness natural forces in order to better the living standards of the people in a society. To Ahmed (2007), the goal of development is to make things better in general for the human and societal material, social, and psychological conditions. Adamolekun (2007) similarly emphasized that development is about improving people's living conditions.

2.1.5 Incidents/Selected Cases of Kidnapping in Nigeria

Nigerian statistics show that over 1,000 kidnappings occur each year, with many more unreported (Catlin Group, 2012). Since January 2007, at least 25 British and dual British citizens, as well as over 200 other foreign nationals, have been abducted in the Niger Delta region, according to the British authorities.

The following is a list of recent kidnapping cases in Nigeria that occurred between 2019 and 2021.

- The kidnapping of the wife of Nigeria Railways' Managing Director, Mr. Fidet Okhiria, at Benin City's along Ulegun Road by unknown gunmen (2019).
- Unknown gunmen kidnapped the mother of Mr. Yayaha Muhammad, a lawmaker in the Jigawa State House Assembly (2019).
- Mr. Augustine Ude, the Permanent Secretary of Enugu State, was kidnapped by unknown gunmen (2019).
- Mr. Udeh Okoye, the National Youth Leader of the People Democratic Party (PDP), was kidnapped by unknown gunmen in Enugu State (2019).

- Professor Valentine Aleto, the former Vice-Chancellor of the African University in Bayelsa State, was kidnapped by unknown gunmen in the Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State (2019).
- The kidnapping of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa's sister-in-law along Asaba's Awai Road by a group of young men (2019).
- Mr. Geoffrey Agada, the Benue State Director of Treasury, was kidnapped in his Makurdi residence by a five-man syndicate (2020).
- Mr. Jubril Giza, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Work, Nassarawa State, was kidnapped by unknown gunmen (2020).
- The kidnapping of Mr. James Ajulo, leader of the All-Progressive Congress, in Ondo State by unknown gunmen (2020).
- The kidnapping of the daughter of Mr. Peter Mwadkon, the former Commissioner for Tourism in Jos, by unknown gunmen (2020).
- Mr. Nengi Talbot, Bayelsa State Commissioner for Water, six years old was kidnapped (2019).
- The kidnapping of 12 passengers in the Itobe-Asegu hamlet in Kogi State's Ofu Local Government Area resulted in a ransom demand of N30 million (2020).
- Mr. John Mamman, Special Adviser to Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nassarawa State, was kidnapped (2020).
- On the Benin-Auchi Road, Emmanuel Agbale, Edo State Commissioner for Science and Technology, was kidnapped (2020).
- The kidnapping of Shauibu Idris Lauje, the Vice Chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Kaduna State, and his daughter (2020).

- Barrister Bisola Ajayi was kidnapped in Rivers by an unknown gunman (2020).
- The kidnapping of Philip Shekwo, the Chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Nasarawa, who was later discovered dead (2020).
- Mrs. Olugbenga Ale, the wife of Rotimi Akeredulu, the Chief of Staff to the Governor of Ondo State, was kidnapped (2020).
- Hon. Bashir Mohammed, a Taraba State House of Assembly member from the Nguroje constituency, was kidnapped (2020).
- The kidnapping of 300 students from Maidugu Secondary School in Nigeria's northwestern region (2020).
- Barrister Isaac Emmanuel Ekpa, the former chairman of Olamabor Local Government Area in Kogi State, was kidnapped (2020).
- In Benin, the Edo State capital, four children and a catholic priest from the Arch Diocese, Rev. Father Nicholas Oboh, were kidnapped (2020).
- Professor Abdullahi Mustapha, former vice-chancellor of the Ahamdu Bello University Zaria, has been kidnapped in Kaduna State (2020).
- The kidnapping case of Alhaji Hassan Mohammed, the District Head of Gayari Village, and his son in Gummi Local Government Area of Zamfara State (2020).
- Four customs officers were kidnapped at a checkpoint in Dan-Bedi Village on the Jibia-Batsari Road in Katsina State (2020).
- Professor Johnson Fatokun, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Anchor University Lagos, AUL, was kidnapped in Nasarawa State and remains missing (2021).
- Peter Jedial, the Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) of the Taraba State Chapter, was kidnapped (2021).

- The kidnapping case of Dr. Jones Ayuwo, a lecturer at the University of Port Harcourt, and King Aaron Ikuru of Ikuru Town Local Government Area, a first-class traditional ruler in Rivers State (2021).
- The kidnapping of 27 schoolboys and 15 students from the government Science College in Kagara, Niger State, has been reported (2021).
- The kidnapping of 300 schoolgirls from a boarding school in Zamfara State, Nigeria's northwestern region (2021).
- The kidnapping of 29 students from the Federal College of Forestry Mechanization in Kaduna State (2021).
- Pius Kolawole, the Chairman of Yagba West Local Government Area in Kogi State, was kidnapped (2021).

2.1.6 Kidnapping and Security Challenge in Nigeria

In terms of worldwide trends that have affected Nigeria's security, kidnappings in Nigeria have gone beyond the traditional typology of kidnappings. The majority of kidnappings in Nigeria can be attributed to the connection between corruption and youth unemployment. Dambazau (2014) agrees with this viewpoint, stating that when seeking to define the problem, a lack of effective leadership and poor governance play a large role. Despite Nigeria's ethnic and religious divisions, the kidnapping strategy resists ethnocentric approaches. Kidnapping in Nigeria is successful because of the information and methods used. Between 2005 and 2006, the number of kidnappings in Nigeria increased, indicating that the primary causes of kidnapping are politicians, poverty, terrorism, lack of harsher government punishment, irresponsibility on the part of the well-to-do in families, and quick money (Dodo, 2010). Again, Dodo mentioned some of the causes and cures for kidnappings that have resulted in insecurity, but he did not go into detail on

the connection between ritual kidnapping and ransom kidnapping in the country (Dodo, 2010, 01). Ritual kidnapping, as a forerunner to ransom kidnapping, is a long-standing problem in Nigeria, posing a threat to the lives of many victims. The idea of snatching humans and using them in rituals to achieve wealth and power has evolved into ransom kidnapping. Cases of ritual kidnapping have primarily been reported in the media, with little academic attention (Akure, 2017).

Furthermore, (Igwe, 2013) remarked on the topic of kidnapping, stating that in Nigeria, the belief in ritual money is quite strong and pervasive. This belief is held by both educated and uneducated people, individuals of all faiths, and those who engage in ritual killing and human sacrifice. The notion has not been eradicated by modern scientific and logic instruction. People have continued to engage in money-making rituals despite the existence of relevant legislation. The belief in ritual money, which is generally taken for granted, has led to criminal minded people all over the country to abduct, murder, and mutilate other people, even their family members (Igwe, 2013).

Security is a topic that has attracted a lot of academic interest in terms of establishing a firm foothold in the political world. This raises the question of whether the framed security that states practice is truly something else than security itself. Connolly (1992) emphasized that cannot avoid onto-political assumptions in striving to correct the wrongs of the framed concept of security that is applied by states. Ontological and epistemological origins can be found in such beliefs. Coleman & Rosenow, 2016 and Bonditti et al., (2015) argued that security is a radical heterogeneous assemblage of knowledge and actions. As a result, when attempting to comprehend and apply security. It should be deconstructed and analyzed from various angles and ways.

Coleman (2015), posited that decentralizing security will help people unlearn what they thought they knew about security and ask other questions (Coleman 2015). As a result, the complex web of components that make up security will be better understood. Security, for example, can be viewed from the perspective of the state, as well as from the perspective of an individual or a group. The approach to security should not be confined to the issues and challenges that the polity creates by granting the state the right to provide security. For the polity, achieving security might often include a conflict over resources such as jobs; hence, struggle is articulated through a series of actions aimed at a common goal, which may include protest when necessary. This type of conflict corresponds to the freedom of desire and fear (UN, 2017).

The obscurities of individual and group security struggles should be identified in order to address security as a benefit given by the state for the polity. In the midst of the issues confronting Nigeria's security institutions and structures, the government must look at security through a different lens, one that includes an examination of power relations in the context of other competing variables such as the country's growth. An attempt to understand and comprehend the pre-fourth republic of Nigeria's security framework would be futile, as it does not correspond to the country's current security trends and concerns. Kidnapping was not a significant security issue in Nigeria until recently.

In Nigeria, addressing insecurity by locating security at the state level while also honouring traditions and customs will go a long way. Nigerian security operatives and officers are trained and upgraded in accordance with international security practices, but little is achieved as a result of the focus on security as a military or policing conduct as opposed to other factors, such as development and other variables that make up security.

In 2016, at public lecture on strategic solutions to the emerging security challenges in Nigeria, Etannibi Alemika (2016) stated clearly that the effectiveness of police and other security and criminal justice systems will not provide long-term solutions unless the political, economic, social, and ethno-religious structures and relationships that breed crime and criminals in the country are transformed. As a result, Akinloye (2017) reinforces the idea that, in order to combat security and hence kidnapping, other variables other than physical force must be utilized.

2.1.7 Drivers of Kidnapping for Ransom in Niger-Delta

Political factors, poverty, and lack of employment opportunities for young people are all contributing to the development of kidnapping in Nigeria and many other developing nations of Africa and Asia. According to Ibrahim & Mukhtar (2016), a substantial percentage of youths live and work on the streets in Nigeria. Economic considerations and exposure to various risks have been blamed for the surge in kidnapping in the country.

Kidnapping in Nigeria is driven by the following factors:

1. Unemployment and Youth Bulge

According to Inyang (2009), one of the driving causes in the deterioration of kidnapping is unemployment, as the old adage goes, "an idle mind is the devil's workshop." Out of dissatisfaction, many Nigerian youths look for jobs that don't exist. Inyang recognizes that negative alternatives often arise in the minds of those who are faced with such a threat, which is compounded by mounting responsibilities to address; they are also impoverished and often seek solace in horrific crimes and criminal activities like kidnapping, as many non-disabled people, school dropouts, and graduates prowl the streets unemployed (Ugwuoke & Ph. 2011).

2. Alarming Political Corruption and Negativity

Ibeanu (2007) stated that politicians recruit the most idle people for political thuggery and then leave them with unfulfilled promises, forcing them to figure out how to subsist by kidnapping their bosses' families and defenseless people as a form of retaliation (Ugwuoke & Ph, 2011). In Nigeria, the rise of oil in the 1970s sparked a wave of horrific crimes, with politicians amassing vast sums of money and those who are left out of lucrative government contracts resorting to kidnapping as a way to get a piece of the "national cake" (Ene, 2018).

Politicians are said to be blamed for the dramatic rise in kidnappings in Nigeria, as they use militants to further their political agendas. Politicians in Nigeria who have lost elections have no choice but to seek out any way possible to cause trouble for those in power. They even groom children for kidnappings. Many incidences of kidnapping in Nigeria today are sponsored by politicians. Politicians who are not politically oriented, on the other hand, look for ways to undermine their opponents' effects in any way they can. This tactic is used to disorganize their political opponents' polity.

3. Quick-Money Syndrome and Desire

Dodo (2010) identified how the "get-rich-quick" and "moral decay" syndromes have been linked to kidnapping in Nigeria. Furthermore, according to Inyang (2009), no one analyses how people get rich in Nigeria, and that a poor person today may become wealthy the following day, leaving them unquestionably free in a society that craved instant gratification. Such people are boldly rewarded with chieftaincy titles in their communities, so establishing immoral decisions as transparent to Nigerian youths, and such an image has prompted the youths to believe that unlawful incomes earn respect. As a result, they commit horrific crimes like kidnapping in order to portray and reflect government officials who blatantly looted the country's wealth. They act

above the law kidnapping and demanding for ransom without fear of retaliation, which has resulted in the threat being felt by foreigners, businessmen, and successful people who are protected by the government (Ene, 2018). The quest to get rich through dubious means with recognition in Nigeria is fuelling the kidnapping and other insecurity tendencies in the country.

4. Hard Drugs Influence

Kidnapping is exacerbated and aggravated in Nigeria by excessive usage and trafficking of strong narcotics among the youths (Okoli, 2009). Okoli also shows how Abia State's commerce and prospering entrepreneurs contributed considerably to the Nigerian economy. Furthermore, the state has become a well-known drug-trafficking and-consumption hub in eastern Nigeria. In Abia and its neighboring states, the drug lords provided a steady supply of drugs. The widespread use of illegal drugs, particularly among youths, fuels horrible crimes such as armed robbery and kidnapping across the country. There are a plethora of sales outlets where the criminal acts are planned, perfected, and carried out after taking the drugs (Ene, 2018).

5. Poverty and Penury Among the People

Another reason why people prefer to engage in kidnapping in Nigeria is the country's high poverty level. Kidnapping is seen as a way to get out of poverty and into the land of riches. This is because when someone is kidnapped, a price is placed on his or her head, and the victim will not be released to his or her family or friends until the ransom is paid to the kidnappers. When this money is given to the kidnapper, who has been living in extreme poverty, he becomes wealthy overnight. In comparison to his previous state, he becomes wealthy.

6. The Surge of Terrorism

Kidnappings in Nigeria are also caused by surge of terrorism. In Nigeria, a hungry and jobless youths have decided that terrorism is the answer to their many issues. Today, Nigeria is dealing

with a severe security issue that appears to be upsetting the country's peace and tranquillity. In the Niger-Delta, militants have launched a series of attacks on oil facilities. In October of 2006, insurgents killed five soldiers at the oil-rich Cawthorowe Channel, one of the southern region's largest oil reserves. In a same vein, nine Chinese laborers were kidnapped in Bayelsa in February 2007. From the aforementioned cases, it is clear that terrorism is one of the leading reasons of kidnapping in Nigeria. It's a method used by political revolutionaries or terrorists to get a government to give them concessions.

7. Lack of Stiffer Punishment by Government

One of the numerous reasons why this heinous practice of kidnapping persists in Nigeria is the lack of tougher penalties for the perpetrators. Kidnappers regard this criminal enterprise as a lucrative one, making it tough for them to give up. This is akin to child exploitation. This tendency will die out altogether if the government imposes a punitive penalty on individuals who are found kidnapping. Dodo & Ohwonohwo (2008) posited that because Kidnappers face little fear of being prosecuted, the trade thrives.

8. Families Carelessness and Negligence

Another factor that contributes to kidnapping in Nigeria is negligence. In many Nigerian households today, individuals who are financially well-off do not make an attempt to help the poor members of their family. Although the poverty level in Nigeria is to blame, these poor family members find it difficult to afford simple three-square meals. As a result, the only way to offer a three-square supper for themselves is to kidnap wealthier members of the family. After that, place a ransom demand on the kidnapped person's head. In Nigeria, a lot of situations like this exist especially in Delta State (Ene, 2018).

2.1.8 The Effects and Implications of Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria

Undoubtedly, the constant reports of kidnapping incidents reaching Nigerians and the international communities via local and satellite television stations, radio, newspapers, and other forms of broadcast media pose a threat to socio-economic activities in a financially unviable country with a large productive labor force, such as Nigeria. Many multinational corporations in oil-producing states do not regard the region to be conducive to economic activity, nor do they believe the government's security measures provide appropriate protection for them, their children, and their families. As a result, many business people are fleeing to other fast-developing countries in the West African sub-region in search of a safe haven, leaving a ripple effect of unemployment on the country's shores. Okolo (2010) described his ordeal in this regard, emphasizing that if industries are closing shops and investors are not forthcoming due to insecurity and other business-related issues, then everyone's minds should be agitated about the future, particularly the future of children.

During electoral campaign periods, political thugs and hooligans appear to have had a trickle-down and spill-over influence on some innocent people because of their political relevance to the political parties, and party aspirants and candidates. Hitherto, unemployed youngsters have converted their seasonal engagements into a full-time business after being recruited by political godfathers to cause mayhem, steal voting materials, and even kidnap viable political party members and candidates from and outside the party from contesting in election (Ngwama, 2014). The "man must survive" mindset, combined with the "quick money syndrome," has turned many political thugs into kidnapers, who are targeting not only important politicians, but also well-meaning Nigerians who they think to have a huge financial fortune. Teenagers, young ladies,

actors/actresses, relatives of footballers, professors, offspring of clergymen, and TV stars are among those who fall victim to this shady kidnapping enterprise (Ngwama, 2014).

- **The Economic Effect**

From an economic standpoint, kidnapping for ransom has both direct and indirect consequences. Individually, it causes harm, including the loss of significant financial resources as ransom. Also, from an indirect standpoint, the proactive and costly method of hiring private security professionals, as well as the resulting increase in budget expense. For example, the federal government's national security budget for 2019 is NI09.8 billion, which covers security and its agencies' costs. The Lagos state government revealed that it spent over three billion Naira on ransom, and Sir Mike Okiro, a former Inspector General of Police, said that over 15 billion Naira was paid in ransom between 2006 and 2009, money that might have been used for development (Kyrian, 2009). According to Dode (2012), when six foreigners were kidnapped on the premises of Shell Petroleum Corporation in 2006, the firm was compelled to evacuate its personnel, crippling production and causing Nigeria's economic decline and deterring foreign investment.

- **Psychological Effects**

Kidnapping, according to Soyombo (2016), has obstructed many people's social relationships and lives by keeping them indoors all day and night. Due to the terrifying incidents of the threat, it resulted in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Traveling at night has become dangerous, as most successful people sometimes disguise themselves in a taxi because they are afraid of having to buy a new vehicle, and house owners are forced to present an unfurnished view of their homes, displaying poverty notions by leaving their front views unpainted, and there are no interpersonal relationships because kidnapping installs a high level of mistrust (Soyombo, 2016). Soyombo went on to say that, as a result of recent high-profile kidnapping incidents, political

leaders have demanded more police escorts, resulting in a shortage of police officers who could be stationed in high-crime regions to combat the country's horrific crimes.

- **Socio-Economic Effects**

Inadequate and misappropriation of security budgets and expenditures to combat criminal activity, as well as corruption among law enforcement agencies of government, have frequently stymied efforts to prevent crime. Sen. Blas Ople of the Philippines, for example, noted that 52 percent of Philippine kidnapers were retired military and police officers (Ene, 2018). Again, Nwaorah (2009) noted that culprits are people who are desperate in their social and economic needs, in which the gap between the rich and the poor is widening and the only way to obtain legal money is often difficult to come by; heinous crimes like kidnapping have emerged as an alternative venture to draw the government's attention to the unbearable conditions.

2.1.9 Nigerian Government Strategies in Combating Kidnapping for Ransom

Kidnapping has become a serious threat to Nigerian peace and security as it has grown in frequency. It has harmed the state's national image and has infiltrated every region and section of the country. In Nigeria, a new economy of violence known as "kidnapping" has emerged as a result of fanaticism and political violence. In this context, it is argued that there is a powerful strategic tool that can eliminate kidnapping and other forms of crime-related terror in Nigeria by ensuring that violent actors and their sponsors embrace peace while exploring other nonviolent mechanisms for resolving such differences that lead to kidnapping in Nigeria (Ene, 2018). An effective public information campaign, as well as statements and actions that encourage architects of kidnapping to return to the rule of law and peaceful coexistence, destroys the network of organized crime that kidnapers employ to carry out their evil acts. Kidnapping's

abolition will essentially restores the secure climate necessary for the construction of democratic culture, national development, and foreign direct investment.

The following are some techniques for controlling or reducing/minimizing Nigeria's kidnapping rate:

- **Government Partnership with Labour Market Institution**

It's high time for the government to revisit some organizations that helps potential employees and employers exchange information. Job canters at the ministry of labor and other private consulting organizations used to help bring the providers and demanders of labor together. Because the labor market is an abstract term, Fajana (2000) asserted that employment may exist but that labor resource suppliers are unaware of their existence.

- **Equipping the Youth with Appropriate Skill and Training for Entrepreneurship**

The government should revamp the N.D.E (National Directorate of Employment) program and continue to provide other scheme programs, such as the Npower scheme program, which was launched in 2016 under President Buhari's administration and assists unemployed youths with monthly stipends and training in agriculture. However, there is a caveat: training must be on a marketable skill. Nigeria's inadequate and flawed educational system is a major source of concern; there is a troubling and rising mismatch between the abilities of job seekers and the skills that employers seek to hire. If allowed unchecked, this could result in a "lost generation" situation, in which individuals with the requisite talents prosper while those without the needed skills struggle to make ends meet for the rest of their lives. This may lead to a shift in the labor force that widens the divide between the haves and have-nots. It will be impossible to deal with restlessness, crimes, kidnapping, and other undesirable inclinations associated with the youth as long as this scenario remains unchecked (Nwama, 2014).

- **Empowerment of Security Agencies:**

In order to combat kidnapping, security agencies known as state actors, such as the police force, defunct S.A.R.S, and D.S.S, was established. The government must provide these agencies the authority to bring down kidnapping activities and to rescue individuals seized by kidnappers. The government should put aside funds in the budget to supply these agencies with modern weapons and operational vehicles that will aid in apprehending the perpetrators of kidnapping.

- **Peace Education Program:**

According to Ngada & Nseendi (2010), peace education aims to transform the culture of violence and hostility in young people and adults by instilling ideals of nonviolent change. The role that Nwafor (2007:15) respect for people, personal relationships, conflict resolution, social justice, sharing the world's resources, cooperation, and the realization that violence is a function of power are all aspects of peace education. Kidnappers and other conflict actors may be able to change their violent mindsets through peace education. Many kidnapping victims in Nigeria have reported that the kidnappers' errand boys are mostly adolescents. As a result, peace education must be integrated into families, as is the case in several Nigerian school curriculum. It would help to positively affect the minds of such kidnapping apprentices, allowing them to change their behaviour and embrace other legitimate options for a long-term living and career.

- **Information and Computer Technology Reinforcement**

The use of information and communication technology (ICT) is crucial in the fight against kidnapping. According to Ronald & Crawford (2007), information and communication technology can be a significant help in the fight against kidnapping. Wilson & Nuhu (2009) noted that ICT hardware and software - which allows people to interact, comprehend data, and learn through things like computers, the internet, mobile phones, and others - has shown to be a

valuable tool in the fight against kidnapping. Through forensic science, ICT improved security measures, and a high-tech media system could track down kidnappers in the blink of an eye. ICT tools such as digital cameras and smart phones allow people to express themselves, expose information about kidnappers, and assist security networks in making anti-kidnapping choices, among other things. Kidnapping could be prevented by using the security features of websites like Facebook, and Twitter, which allow users to connect with security agents.

The kidnappers of the PDP secretary's son were reportedly tracked down by the Kwara Commissioner of Police, who exploited the existing GSM tracking system (Udo, 2010). The former Inspector General of Police, Ogonnaya Onovo, remarked that the law for registration of SIM cards and other communication equipment will go a long way in reducing the issue of kidnapping (Agbambu (2009). According to Nwosu (2009), Ogonnaya Onovo, the (then) Inspector General of Police, stated that the police were in the midst of acquiring portable electronic equipment that intelligently gather and quickly intercept phone conversations from kidnappers. It was discovered that the device is capable of tracking the exact location from which suspicious phone calls are made within minutes (Nwosu, 2009).

Ibrahim Yakubu Lame, the previous Minister of Police Affairs, indicated that there were plans to establish six forensic laboratories in each of the six geopolitical zones, as well as mobile forensic laboratories (Claniyi, 2009). Regrettably, the country has yet to see the establishment of a forensic laboratory four years after the declaration was made. President Goodluck Jonathan established a committee in April 2013 to advise the Federal Government on the modalities for improving current laboratories and establishing a forensic and deoxyribonucleic (DNA) laboratory for the Nigerian police (Sun, 2015). Premium Times observed that at the time, the President, who was represented by Caleb, the then-Minister of Police Affairs, stated that the

country could no longer rely on other countries for high-quality forensic services (Premium Times, 2016). In a similar vein, the Lagos State Government declared then that Badagry would be the site of Nigeria's first world-class forensic laboratory. The project was being pitched as a public-private partnership initiative, with the government as the proponent bringing in the knowledge and funding for the landmark project's construction, according to Mabadeje, the state commissioner for Science and Technology at the time. Mabadeje, the project has received approval from the State Executive Council, and all of this was taken into account in order to ensure security and prevent kidnapping and other crimes.

- **Security Consciousness Revolution**

The type of security revolution being promoted in this regard is one in which everyone is an agent for a secure society. It is a state of mind in which civilian citizens not only assist the police with crucial security information, but also participate in the hunting down of kidnappers by being aware of their neighbors' activities and movements in the area. Such revolutionary security, on the other hand, is provided by patriotic police with an established command structure engaged in proactive security. Given that the Nigerian Police Force is responsible for the discovery of crime, the maintenance of public order, and the arrest of criminals, this is critical. The police in Nigeria are given the powers to arrest and prosecute under the Police Act, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Act, and the Electoral Act in order to preserve security (Idowu, 2010). Again, the idea of state police and community-oriented policing has remained a contentious issue in Nigeria. There is a need to improve intelligence collection, particularly from Nigeria's numerous villages, as many of them are used as hideouts by kidnappers to ensure that the abductees and criminal actors involved are not discovered by the larger society.

- **Job Creation:**

The death penalty as a panacea for the threat of kidnapping perpetrated in states in the country is not the only or even the best option, because some criminals, such as those who engage in kidnapping as a means of survival, are willing to change. To restructure and re-configure security to be battle-ready for a better and more productive society, the government and other relevant authorities must devise a strategy for creating jobs for idle graduates and create a productive business climate that will attract investors. Foreign and domestic investment in the Nigerian economy will create jobs and re-energize the country's economic development.

- **New Policy Adaptation and Implementation:**

The Nigerian government should support a severe anti-kidnapping law that makes kidnapping a capital penalty, despite the fact that there are various types and levels of kidnapping. As a result, appropriate punishment should be imposed. In terms of government leaders, they must avoid corruption and money displays, and they must implement new policies that will economically sustain and empower people. Re-energizing excellent leadership with transparency, responsibility, and equality must be the priority. Using this method, hostage-taking will be replaced with patriotism, nation-building, and long-term development.

- **Public Awareness and Empowerment Programs:**

The three branches of government, especially the federal government, should launch a public awareness campaign about the dangers of kidnapping. Inclusion of the less fortunate in poverty alleviation programs, particularly in rural regions, will help to alleviate economic hardships, as well as the establishment of micro-industries in rural areas to empower youths. This will divert young people's focus away from kidnapping.

- **SIM Cards Registration:**

The service providers must effectively re-check their policy to ensure that every sim card is completely registered before it starts working, allowing them to track in and outgoing calls by every customer in the network, as well as track their location using the GPS network, in order to trace and intercede every call from kidnappers and track their location, which is detectable by the network provider. After all, the criminals used a phone-based ransom in their negotiating operation.

- **Quitting Ransom Payment:**

The kidnapper's family should avoid paying ransom out of desperation and instead postpone or stop paying ransom to the kidnappers because it often serves as a motivator for the offenders to continue their evil conduct.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Kidnapping can be viewed as a false incarceration in the sense that it entails the illegal confinement of a person against his or her will by another person in a way that violates an individual's right to freedom of movement. This entails the removal of a person against their will, usually for the purpose of holding them in a false prison or detention without legal permission. This is frequently done for ransom or to aid in the commission of another crime. No one is immune to kidnapping. Kidnappers are everywhere in Nigeria, targeting both indigenes and foreigners, with little or no resistance from the law enforcement officers. In the face of this confrontation, the Nigerian security system has been weakened, and nothing has been done to identify the socio-economic and underlying issues that have led to this crime.

Kidnapping in Nigeria has been subjected to several theories. According to economic theory, kidnapping is regulated by the laws of demand and supply and is a type of social action that

involves the calculation of the most efficient means to the desired ends. Nseabasi (2009) has raised the idea 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.

Kidnapping is a form of social enterprise (Nation, 2012). Kidnappers are businessmen and women; they simply happen to be on the wrong side of the law. If you take away their demand, there will be no supply. This is why criminals chose their victims depending on their ability to pay large sums of money (Tzanelli, 2006).

The economic incentive from kidnapping was utilized as a tool to support and prolong the fight in the Niger Delta, where kidnapping was first employed as a weapon to fight for economic and environmental justice. At the start of 2007, a several deviant organisations with a variety of names emerged, all hiding behind the liberation movement to conduct economic crimes.

The political theory of kidnapping sees the act as a political tool used to outsmart, intimidate, and subjugate political opponents, as in the case of the former Central Bank governor who was then a PDP gubernatorial candidate in Anambra State, who had his father kidnapped by aggrieved PDP opponents who felt marginalized by the PDP political process. According to Nseabsi (2009), there is a relationship between "money and politics" when kidnapping has political reasons and ransoms are required. These ransoms are frequently utilized to further the kidnapping organization's political objectives or simply to ensure the organization's survival. According to Nseabasi (2009), the majority of high-level kidnapping operations are orchestrated by government officials, opposition groups, and rewarded or uncompensated members of election-rigging terrorist groups, among others. Kidnapping is then viewed as a tool for political revenge and score-settling. Once the victim is kidnapped, a high-level negotiation is expected, which will

eventually lead to a very large ransom. A ransom like this is paid to further political goals, to settle grievances with disgruntled parties, or to financially cripple a serving leader.

Another theory looks at kidnapping through the lens of widespread unemployment in the country's labour sector. This is attributed to the government's inability to provide appropriate work for the youth. According to (Nseahasi, 2009; Umoh, 2010), the political ramifications of kidnapping activity have had a spillover effect on unemployed youths and criminals who use it as a new substitute to robbery and pickpocketing. A group of kidnappers like these targets not just prominent and wealthy people, but also ordinary persons with limited resources. Children, teenagers, adolescents, and adults are all targets because they are seen as having the potential to pay a large and lucrative ransom.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The chapter provides information about the research approaches and procedures that was adopted and utilized in this study.

3.1 Design of the Study

Survey research design was adopted as the design of the study. In the view of Osemwota, Okhakhu & Tonwe (2007), in recent years, survey research has gained popularity as a scientific tool for determining the influence and inter-relationships of social and psychological variables in a particular population. Obasi (1999) posited that a survey research design can take the form of descriptive or historical in nature. It is historical when it assesses and explains previous occurrences in order to obtain a better understanding of the present and make a more accurate forecast of the future. When it unravels the major elements and qualities of a phenomenon, it is descriptive.

More specifically, survey research examines large and small populations by examining samples chosen from the population to determine the relative occurrence, distribution, and interrelationships of sociological and psychological variables (Osemwota, Okhakhu & Tonwe, 2007).

3.2 Population of Study

The population of a study is defined as the set of cases that a researcher wants to use to make generalizations about the study. Bryman (2012) defines research population as the total of all elements of units of analysis that a study is interested in. A population, according to Nitko (2004), is the total number of cases that match a set of criteria. This study's population is made up of the

entire number of individuals living in Delta State. The study's target demographic is the 320,687 residents of Ughelli North Local Government (NBS, 2010).

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size for this study is 500. The research adopts the simple random sampling method in selecting 500 respondents for this study. Thus, the research survey was carried out among the people residing in Ughelli North Local Government of Delta State. A total number of 500 questionnaires was administered to the respondents to seek their perception on the issues raised in the study.

3.4 Research Instrument

The questionnaire is the research tool used in this study. To get information from respondents, a self-design questionnaire was used. There were two sections to the questionnaire. Section A contains the respondents' biographical information, whereas Section B deals with the key issues surrounding kidnapping for ransom in Delta State.

3.5 Validity of Instrument

To ensure content validity of the research instrument, the questionnaire was submitted to the research supervisor and an expert in measurement and evaluation for scrutiny, corrections and suggestions. The corrections and suggestions made by them were considered by the researcher in the process of drafting the final copy of the questionnaire.

3.6 Reliability of the Instrument

In order to ensure the internal consistency of the research instrument, it was subjected to test-retest reliability test. In doing this the researcher administered the questionnaire to 20 residences of Ughelli North Local Government Area. After an interval of two weeks the instrument was administered again to the same residences. The results obtained from both administrations were

correlated with the use of Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) test, and correlation coefficient of 0.63 was obtained. Meaning that the instrument was valid.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

To reduce the mortality rate of the instrument, the researcher personally administered the questionnaire to the respondents in each of the selected professional athletes residing in Benin City. A total of five hundred (500) questionnaires will be administered to the professional athletes which will be immediately collected from the respondents. This was done to ensure that no questionnaire was missing.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

Two statistical tools of data analysis shall be deployed in the analysis of data derived from the field. They are the simple percentage and the Pearson correlation. The simple percentage which is a descriptive tool for statistics will be used for initial analysis, while the Pearson correlation which is an inferential tool will be employed in testing the hypotheses generated from the survey.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter dealt with the analysis of data, interpretation of results and discussion of findings.

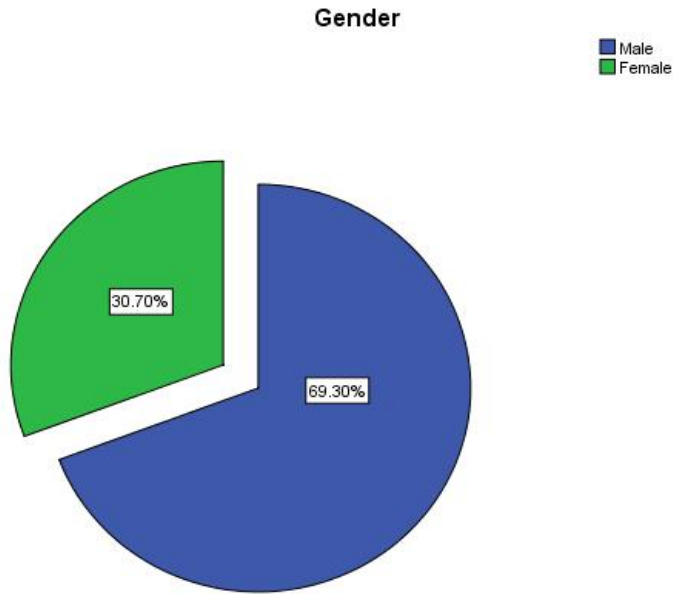
The study was undertaken to investigate kidnapping for ransom in Delta State and its implications for security and development.

4.1 Analysis of Respondents' Demographic Data

Table 1: Percentage distribution of respondents based on gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	316	69.3	69.3	69.3
Female	140	30.7	30.7	100.0
Total	456	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, (2021)



The data in table 1 and fig. one showed that 316 representing 72.8% of the respondents are males, while the remaining 140 representing 27.2% of the respondents are females. This implies that more males participated in the study than their female counterparts.

Table 2: Percentage distribution of respondents based on age

Age	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-28	162	35.5	35.5	35.5
29-39	235	51.5	51.5	87.1
40 and above	59	13.0	13.0	100.0
Total	456	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, (2021)

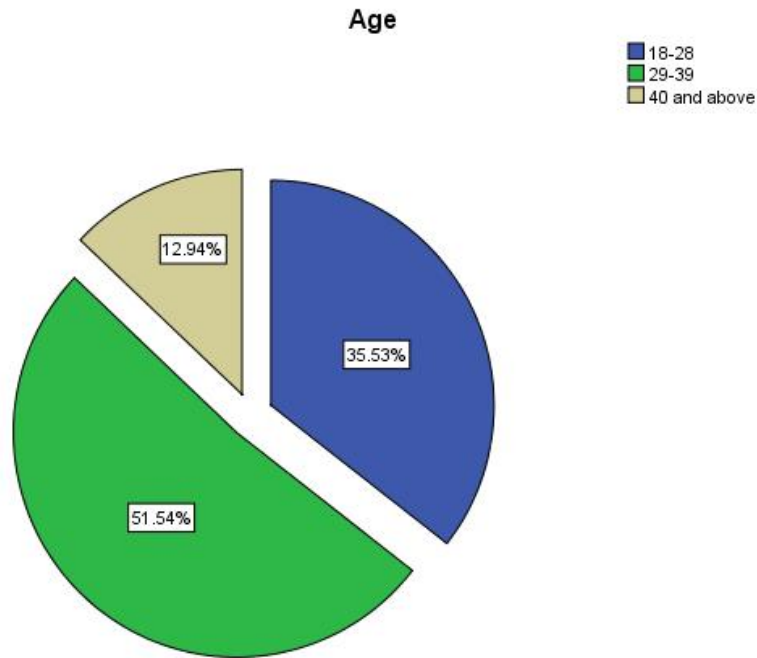
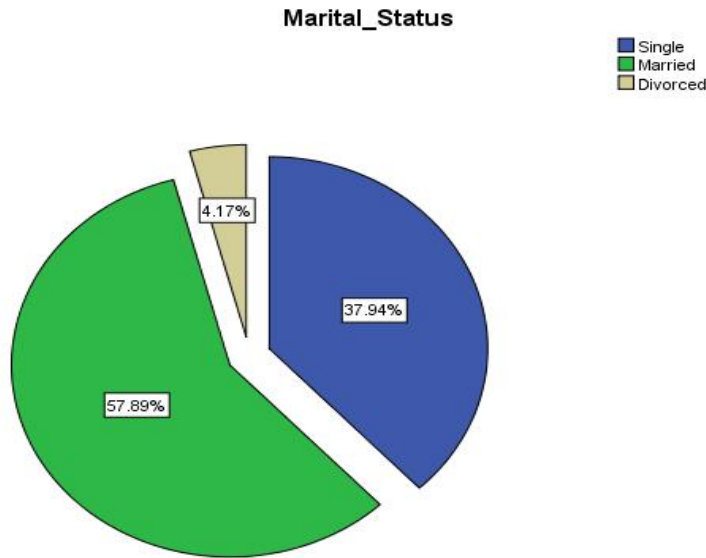


Table 2 shows that 35.5 percent of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 28, 51.5 percent were between the ages of 29 and 39, and 13 percent were between the ages of 40 and above. This means that the bulk of the participants in the study were between the ages of 29 and 39, followed by those between the ages of 18 and 28, and finally those between the ages of 40 and beyond.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of respondents based on marital status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	173	37.9	37.9	37.9
Married	264	57.9	57.9	95.8
Divorced	19	4.2	4.2	100.0
Total	456	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, (2021)



The data in table 3 showed that 37.9% of the respondents are single, 57.9 were married while 4.2% were divorcee. Therefore, the data analyses indicate that most of the respondents who took part in the study were married.

Table 4: Percentage distribution of respondents based on education

Education	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Primary	101	22.1	22.1	22.1
Secondary	196	43.0	43.0	65.1
Tertiary	159	34.9	34.9	100.0
Total	456	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, (2021)

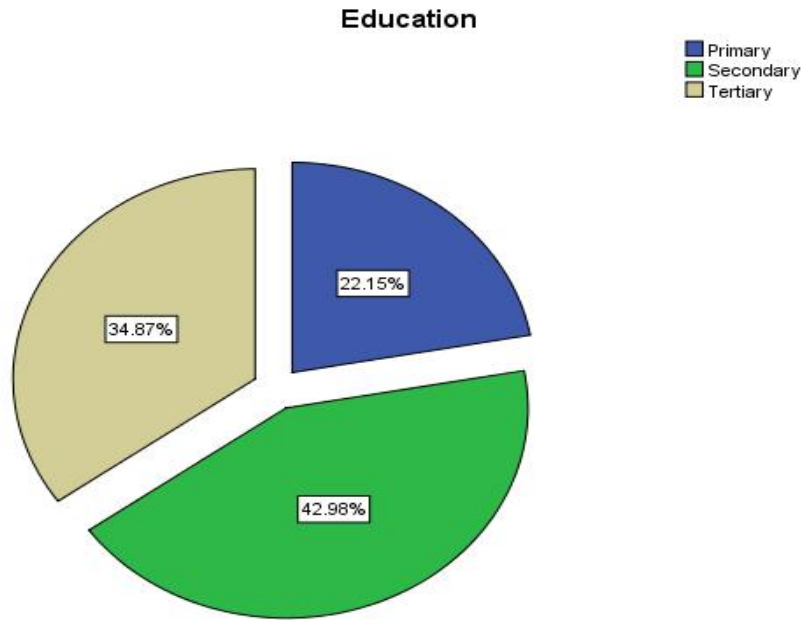


Table 4 shows that respondents with primary school leaving certificate are 101, representing (22.1%), those with secondary school certificate are 196 respondents, representing (43.0%) while those with tertiary certificate first degree are 159, representing (34.9%). It thus indicates that, respondents that are secondary school certificate holders participated more in this study.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of respondents based on occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Civil servant	83	18.2	18.2	18.2
Businessmen/women	151	33.1	33.1	51.3
Farmer/artisan	222	48.7	48.7	100.0
Total	456	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, (2021)

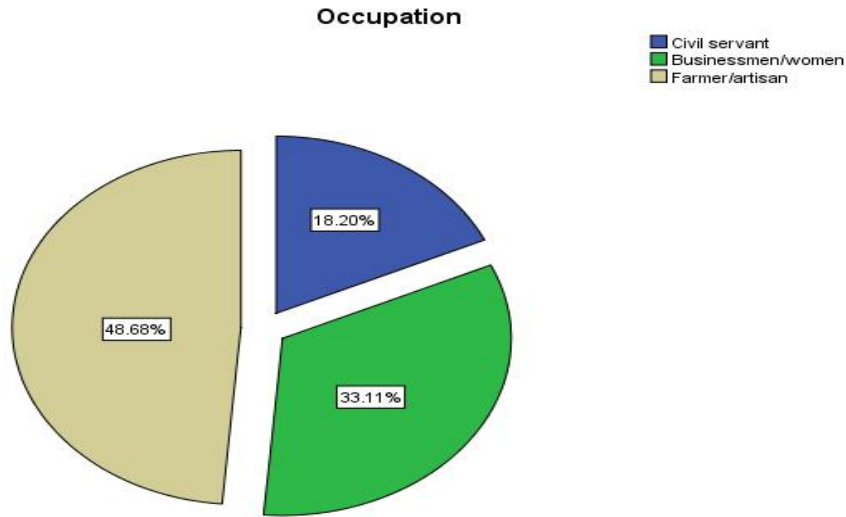


Table and figure 5 show that 83 respondents representing 18.2% of respondents from the sampled population are civil servants, those involve in businesses are 151 respondents representing 33.1% of respondents sampled, while 222 respondents representing 48.7% of total respondents were farmers and artisans. It therefore means that majority of the respondents are farmers and artisans.

Table 6: Percentage distribution of respondents based on religion

Religion	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Christainity	392	86.0	86.0	86.0
Islam	50	11.0	11.0	96.9
ATR	14	3.1	3.1	100.0
Total	456	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, (2021)

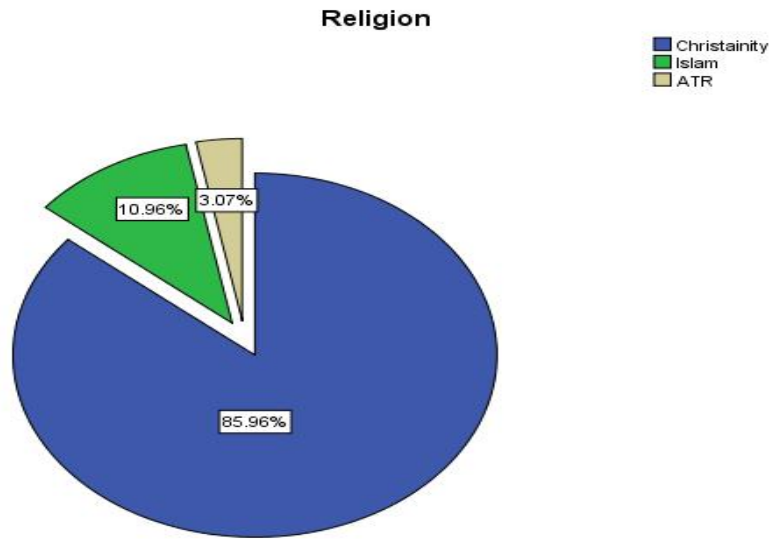


Table 6 shows that 86.0% of the respondents are Christians, 10.9% are Muslims while 3.1% belongs to the ATR. This implies that more Christians participated in the study more than Muslims and ATR.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of respondents based on individuals kidnapped

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	185	40.6	40.6	40.6
Valid No	271	59.4	59.4	100.0
Total	456	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, (2021)

The data above shows that 40.6% of the respondents are have been previously kidnapped in the area while 59.4% of the respondents have not been previously kidnapped.

Percentage of Results

Research Question 1: What is the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State?

Table 8: The dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State

S/ N	Items	Responses									
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
1	People are kidnapped in this community	173	37.9%	256	56.1%	15	3.3%	9	2.0%	3	0.7%
2	Kidnapping activities are common in this area	224	49.2%	198	43.4%	11	2.4%	21	4.6%	2	0.4%
3	Cases of kidnapping at gun point are often reported in this local government	219	48.0%	187	41%	30	6.6%	20	4.4%	-	-
4	Indigenes and non-indigenes are kidnapped in this	300	65.8%	124	27.2%	14	3.1%	12	2.6%	6	1.3%

	community										
5	Most big men and women in my community are victims/target of kidnapers	150	32.9%	256	56.1%	31	6.8%	16	3.5%	3	0.7%

Source: Field Data, (2021)

The data in research question 1 of table 8, revealed that 37.9% of the respondent strongly agree that people are kidnapped in their community, 56.1% of the respondents agreed, 3.3% were undecided, 2.0% disagreed while 0.7% strongly disagreed with the assertion that people are kidnapped in their community. It was discovered that majority of the respondent were of the view that, people are kidnapped in their community. Also, in item two, the study revealed that 49.2% of the respondent strongly agreed that kidnapping activities are common in their area, 43.4% agreed, 2.4% were indecisive in their view, 4.6% disagreed while 0.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed that kidnapping activities are common in their area. Moreso, in item three, 48.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that cases of kidnapping at gun point are often reported in this local government, 41% agreed, 6.6% undecided while 4.4% disagreed. Thus, making those who agreed to be in the majority. This meant that cases of kidnapping at gun point are often reported in the local government area. Again, the study also shows in item four that 65.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that indigenes and non-indigenes are kidnapped in this community, 27.2% agreed, 3.1% were of indecisive opinion, 2.6% of the respondents disagreed while 1.3% strongly disagreed with the claim that indigenes and non-indigenes are kidnapped in

the community. The study established that the majority of the respondents strongly agreed that indigenes and non-indigenes are kidnapped in the community. As regards item five of table 8, the study indicates that 32.9% of the sampled population strongly agreed that most rich men and women in their community are victims/target of kidnapers, 56.1 agreed, 6.8% undecided, 3.5% disagreed while 0.7% strongly disagreed. It therefore means that the majority of the respondent agreed that most rich men and women in my community are victims/target of kidnapers.

Research Question 2: What are the causes of kidnapping for ransom among the people of Delta State?

Table 9: The causes of kidnapping for ransom among the people of Delta State

S/ N	Items	Responses									
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
6	Poverty and unemployment are causes of kidnapping in the area	211	46.3%	175	38.4%	42	9.2%	18	3.9%	10	2.2%
7	Frustration and aggression about government neglect of the youths and under-development of the	140	30.7%	243	53.3%	33	7.2%	35	7.7%	5	1.1%

	area										
8	The attitude of politicians and quest to get rich quickly	191	41.9%	257	56.4%	8	1.8%	-	-	-	-
9	The surge of moral decadence in the society manifesting in taste for high life and use of flashy cars	230	50.4%	201	44.1%	15	3.3%	5	1.1%	5	1.1%
10	The proliferation and possession of weapon such as guns by the youths	128	28.1%	318	69.7%	5	1.1%	3	0.7%	2	0.4%

Source: Field Data, (2021)

From research question 2, item six of table 9, the study revealed that 46.3% of the respondent strongly agreed that poverty and unemployment are causes of kidnapping in the area, 38.4% agreed, 9.2% undecided, 3.9% disagreed while 2.2% strongly disagreed that poverty and unemployment are causes of kidnapping in the area. Hence, majority of the respondents concurred that poverty and unemployment are causes of kidnapping in the area.

In addition, in item seven of table 9, the data showed that 30.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that frustration and aggression about government neglect of the youths and the under-development of the area are causes of kidnapping, 53.3% agreed, 7.2% undecided, 7.7%

disagreed while 1.1% strongly disagreed. This meant that majority of the respondents agreed that frustration and aggression about government neglect of the youths and under-development of the area.

Also, in item eight of table 9, 41.9% of the respondents agreed that the attitude of politicians and quest to get rich quickly are causes of kidnapping, 54.6% agreed while 1.8% were undecided in their view. Thus, the majority agreed that the attitude of politicians and quest to get rich quickly are causes of kidnapping in the area.

Again, the data also showed in item nine of research question two, that 50.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that the surge of moral decadence in the society manifesting in taste for high life and use of flashy cars, 44.1% agreed, 3.3% undecided, 1.1% disagreed while the remaining 1.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The study established that the majority of the respondents strongly agreed that the surge of moral decadence in the society manifesting in taste for high life and use of flashy cars.

Furthermore, in item ten of table 9, the study indicates that 28.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that the proliferation and possession of weapon such as guns by the youths, 69.7% agreed, 1.1% were indecisive, 0.7% disagreed while 0.4% strongly disagreed that the proliferation and possession of weapon such as guns by the youths. It therefore means that the majority of the respondent agreed the proliferation and possession of weapon such as guns by the youths.

Research Question 3: What are the social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State?

Table 10: The social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State

S/ N	Items	Responses									
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
11	Increasing rate of insecurity is a major social effect of kidnapping	163	35.7%	239	52.4%	20	4.4%	18	3.9%	16	3.5%
12	Fear and poor level of interaction among residents in the community	223	48.9%	158	34.6%	15	3.3%	28	6.1%	32	7.1%
13	Poor attendance of social event/meeting by the people is one of the social effects of kidnapping in the area	149	32.7%	202	44.3%	40	8.8%	30	6.6%	35	7.7%
14	Increase in the rates of suspect and suspicious	163	35.7%	248	54.4%	20	4.4%	10	2.2%	15	3.3%

	mindset among the members of the community										
15	Inability to give help to people is a social effect emanating from kidnapping in the community	129	28.3%	253	55.5%	37	8.1%	26	5.7%	11	2.4%

Source: Field Data, (2021)

From table 10, item eleven revealed that 35.7% of the respondent strongly agreed that the increasing rate of insecurity is a major social effect of kidnapping in the area, 52.4% agreed, 4.4% were of neutral opinion, 3.9% disagreed while 3.5% of the sampled respondents strongly disagreed. It was revealed that the majority of the respondents strongly agreed that the increasing rate of insecurity is a major social effect of kidnapping in the area.

In item twelve of table 10, the study reveals that 48.9% of the respondent strongly agreed that kidnapping increased the fear and poor level of interaction among residents in the community, 34.6% agreed, 3.3% undecided, 6.1% disagreed while 7.1% strongly disagreed with the claim that kidnapping increased the fear and poor level of interaction among residents in the community. This meant that majority of the respondents agreed to the notion that kidnapping increased the fear and poor level of interaction among residents in the community.

Also, in item thirteen of table 10, 32.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that poor attendance of social event/meeting by the people is one of the social effects of kidnapping in the area, 44.3%

agreed, 8.8% were undecided in their opinion, 6.6% disagreed while 7.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed. It was observed that majority of the respondents agreed that poor attendance of social event/meeting by the people is one of the social effects of kidnapping in the area.

Again, the data also showed in item fourteen of research question 3 that 35.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that increase in the rates of suspect and suspicious mindset among the members of the community, 54.4% agreed, 4.4% were of neutral opinion, 2.2% of the respondents disagreed while 3.3% strongly disagreed. The study established that the majority of the respondents agreed that increase in the rates of suspect and suspicious mindset among the members of the community.

In item fifteen of table 10, the data indicates that 28.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that inability to give help to people is a social effect emanating from kidnapping in the community, 55.5% agreed, 8.1% undecided, 5.7% disagreed while 2.4% of the respondents disagreed with the assertion that the inability to give help to people is a social effect emanating from kidnapping in the community. It therefore means that the majority of the respondent agreed that the inability to give help to people is a social effect emanating from kidnapping in the community.

Research Question 4: What are the kidnappings for ransom effects on the economic life and development of community members in Delta State?

Table 11: The kidnappings for ransom effects on the economic life and development of community members in Delta State

S/ N	Items	Responses									
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
16	Lack of investment from foreign and local investors in the area	191	41.9%	220	48.3%	17	3.7%	18	3.9%	10	2.2%
17	Liquidation and relocation of businesses from the area	104	22.8%	308	67.6%	27	5.9%	17	3.7%	-	-
18	Increase rate of unemployment and criminality in the area	193	42.3%	236	51.8%	18	3.9%	9	2.0%	-	-
19	Increase spending on security measures rather than on socio-economic and development needs of	202	44.3%	198	43.5%	27	5.9%	17	3.7%	12	2.6%

	the area										
20	Kidnapping results to a decreasing socio-economic and commercial activities in the area.	185	40.6%	217	47.6%	29	6.4%	20	4.4%	5	1.1%

Source: Field Data, (2021)

From the data in item sixteen of table 11, 41.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that lack of investment from both foreign and local investors is an economic effect of kidnapping in the area, 48.3% agreed, 3.7% undecided, 3.9% disagreed while 2.2% strongly disagreed that lack of investment from both foreign and local investors is an economic effect of kidnapping in the area. It was observed that majority of the respondents agreed that that lack of investment from both foreign and local investors is an economic effect of kidnapping in the area.

Again, the study showed in item seventeen of research question 4 that 22.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that an economic effect of kidnapping is seen in the liquidation and relocation of businesses from the area to a more secured environment, 67.6% agreed, 5.9% were of neutral opinion while 3.7% disagreed that an economic effect of kidnapping is seen in the liquidation and relocation of businesses from the area to a more secured environment. The study established that the majority of the respondents agreed that an economic effect of kidnapping is seen in the liquidation and relocation of businesses from the area to a more secured environment.

In table 11, item eighteen of research question 4, the study indicates that 42.3% of the respondents agreed that kidnapping has caused increase rate of unemployment and criminality in

the area, 51.8% agreed, 3.9% undecided while 2.0% disagreed that kidnapping has caused increase rate of unemployment and criminality in the area. It therefore means that kidnapping has caused increase rate of unemployment and criminality in the area.

From item nineteen in table 11, the study reveals that 44.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that kidnapping has caused increase spending on security measures rather than on socio-economic and development needs of the area, 43.5% agreed, 5.9% were indecisive in their opinion, 3.7% disagreed while 2.6% strongly disagreed that kidnapping has caused increase spending on security measures rather than on socio-economic and development needs of the area. It was discovered that majority of the respondents strongly agreed to the view that kidnapping has triggered an increase in spending on security measures rather than on socio-economic and development needs of the area.

Also, in item twenty of table 11, the study revealed that 40.6% of the respondent strongly agreed that kidnapping results to a decreasing socio-economic and commercial activities in the area, 47.6% agreed, 6.4% undecided, 4.4% disagreed while 1.1% strongly disagreed that kidnapping results to a decreasing socio-economic and commercial activities in the area. It therefore means that majority of the respondents were in one voice supporting the notion that kidnapping results to a decreasing socio-economic and commercial activities in the area.

Research Question 5: What are the challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State?

Table 12: The challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State

S/ N	Items	Responses									
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
21	Kidnapping leads to moodiness of people in a community	154	33.9%	246	53.9%	18	3.9%	23	5.0%	15	3.3%
22	Kidnapping damages the image of people in a community/locality	179	39.2%	237	52.0%	34	7.4%	3	0.7%	3	0.7%
23	Kidnapping also lead to depression among members of the community	116	25.4%	233	51.1%	22	4.8%	75	16.4%	10	2.2%
24	Kidnapping creates fear and anxiety among members of a community	197	43.2%	231	50.7%	16	3.5%	11	2.4%	1	0.2%
25	Kidnapping increases	121	26.5%	271	59.4%	32	7.0%	23	5.0%	9	2.0%

the psychological injuries and illness among members of a community kidnapped												%
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Source: Field Data, (2021)

Item twenty-one in table 12 of research question 5, the data revealed that 33.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that kidnapping leads to moodiness of people in a community, 53.9% agreed, 3.9% undecided, 5.0% disagreed while 3.3% strongly disagreed that kidnapping leads to moodiness of people in a community. It was observed from the data that the majority of the respondents agreed that kidnapping leads to moodiness of people in a community.

In the vein, the study showed in item twenty-two of table 12 that 39.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that kidnapping damages the image of people in a community, 52.0% agreed, 7.4% were of neutral opinion, 0.7% disagreed while 0.7% strongly disagreed. The finding established that kidnapping damages the image of people in a community.

Furthermore, in item twenty-three in table 12, the study indicates that 25.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that kidnapping leads to depression among members of the community, 51.1% agreed, 4.8% undecided, 16.4% disagreed while 2.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. It therefore means that the majority of the respondent agreed that kidnapping leads to depression among members of the community.

In item twenty-four of table 12, the study revealed that 43.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that kidnapping creates fear and anxiety among members of a community, 50.7% agreed, 3.5% were indecisive, 2.4% disagreed while the remaining 0.2% of the sampled respondents strongly disagreed that kidnapping creates fear and anxiety among members of a community. It therefore means that the majority of the respondent agreed that kidnapping creates fear and anxiety among members of a community.

Lastly, in item twenty-five of table 12, the data indicates that 26.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that kidnapping increases the psychological injuries and illness among members of a community kidnapped, 59.4% agreed, 7.0% were indecisive in their opinion, 5.0% disagreed while the remaining 2.0% of the respondents strongly disagreed that kidnapping increases the psychological injuries and illness among members of a community kidnapped. It therefore means that the majority of the respondent agreed that kidnapping increases the psychological injuries and illness among members of a community kidnapped.

Hypotheses Testing

Table 13

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between level of awareness and kidnapping among the people of Delta State

Correlations

	Level of awareness	Kidnapping
Level of Correlation	1	.709**
awareness Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
N	456	456
Kidnapping Pearson Correlation	.709**	1
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
N	456	456

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables ($p < .001$). The direction of the relationship is positive. There is a strong positive relationship between level of awareness and kidnapping, meaning that these variables tend to increase together. Thus, the increase in the level of awareness leads to a corresponding increase in kidnapping. There is a significant relationship between the level of awareness and kidnapping among the people.

Table 14

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and kidnapping among the people of Delta State

Correlations

		Unemployment	Kidnapping
Unemployment	Pearson Correlation	1	.723**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	456	456
Kidnapping	Pearson Correlation	.723**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	456	456

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables ($p < .001$). The direction of the relationship is positive. There is a strong positive relationship between unemployment and kidnapping, meaning that these variables tend to increase together. Hence, an increase in the

level of unemployment leads to a corresponding increase in kidnapping. There is a significant relationship between unemployment and kidnapping among the people of Delta State.

Table 15

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant relationship between social effects and kidnapping among the people of Delta State

Correlations

		Social effects	Kidnapping
Social effects	Pearson Correlation	1	.621**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	456	456
Kidnapping	Pearson Correlation	.621**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	456	456

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables ($p < .001$). The direction of the relationship is positive. There is a strong positive relationship between kidnapping and social effects, meaning that these variables tend to increase together. Hence, increase in kidnapping leads to a corresponding increase in its social effects. There is a significant relationship between kidnapping and its social effects among the people of Delta State.

Table 16

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant relationship between kidnapping and low economic life and development of community members in Delta State

Correlations

		Kidnapping	Low economic life
Kidnapping	Pearson Correlation	1	.643**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	456	456
Low economic life	Pearson Correlation	.643**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	456	456

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables ($p < .001$). The direction of the relationship is positive. There is a strong positive relationship between kidnapping and low economic life, meaning that these variables tend to increase together. Hence, the increase in kidnapping leads to a corresponding increase in low economic life. There is a strong relationship between kidnapping and economic life and development of community members in Delta State.

Table 17

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant relationship between kidnapping and the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State

Correlations

	Kidnapping	Mental and psychological wellbeing
Kidnapping	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.801**
	N	.000
Mental and psychological wellbeing	Pearson Correlation	.801**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	1
	N	.000
	N	456
		456

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables ($p < .001$). The direction of the relationship is positive. There is a strong positive relationship between kidnapping and mental and psychological wellbeing, meaning that these variables tend to increase together. Hence, the increase in kidnapping leads to a corresponding increase in mental and psychological wellbeing. There is a significant relationship between kidnapping and the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

Kidnapping is a form of false imprisonment in which an individual is held against his or her will by another person, infringing on the confined individual's right to freedom of movement (Ngwama, 2014). Because of its widespread use in the country, it has become a generic term in

both public and private discussions (Ngwama, 2014). The number of kidnappings for ransom in Nigeria has reached new heights (Egbegi, Onyejebu & Chinweze, 2019), nonetheless, it is a criminal offense in Nigeria. (Obarisiagbon & Aderinto, 2018). Anyone caught in the act faces a ten-year prison sentence. Aside from that, states in the South-East and South-South geopolitical zones have approved laws prohibiting the taking of hostages and related crimes, with the death penalty as a penalty for violators in their respective states (Inyang, 2009). The goal of this study was to determine the level of awareness, causes, and socioeconomic impacts of kidnapping on community development in Delta State's Ughelli North Local Government Area.

In the quest to ascertain the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State, the study in research question one revealed that kidnapping activities are common in this area and cases of kidnapping at gun point are often reported in the state. Moreso, indigenes and non-indigenes of the state are often reported kidnapped in one community or the other in the state. The position of the study affirms Obarisiagbon & Aderinto (2018) who argued that kidnapers' targets are no longer just oil employees or foreigners; they are now targeting any Nigerian irrespective of class and status. Indeed, due to the near-daily occurrence of kidnappings, the protection of people and their property in Nigeria cannot be guaranteed (affirms Obarisiagbon & Aderinto, 2018).

The study in research question two found that the causes of kidnapping for ransom ranges from poverty and unemployment, corrupt political attitude and moral decadence, get rich quick syndrome, frustration and aggression about government neglect of the youths and under-development of the area, and most importantly the proliferation and possession of weapon such as guns by the youths. Yang & Ubong (2013) backed up this claim by arguing that kidnapping for ransom in Nigeria is frequently linked to youth unemployment. As a result, Egbegi, Onyejebu,

& Chinweze (2019) proposed that poverty is the primary cause of kidnapping and abduction in Nigeria, with offenders demanding ransoms before releasing their victims. Arewa (2013) stated plainly that there is social infrastructure deterioration and that governments are unable to give the necessary democratic dividends. Individuals in high-ranking positions of political authority embezzle state monies and resources. Misappropriation of funds intended for state initiatives is common. This frequently has far-reaching consequences for citizens. Furthermore, according to Arewa (2013), the state has gradually lost its moral authority to socialize the population away from criminality, resulting in an increase in the crime of kidnapping and abduction. Kidnapping in Nigeria, according to Iyang (2009), is a result of the proliferation of weaponry among able-bodied youths who were utilized by dishonest politicians to obtain election victory.

The study in research question three posited that increasing rate of insecurity is a major social effect of kidnapping for ransom among the people and on community development in Delta State. Kidnapping for ransom has been the most virulent kind of banditry in Nigeria (Chukwuma (2019). Thus, it has become the country's most ubiquitous and intractable violent crime. The present level of kidnapping in the Niger Delta region became worrying when extremists seized some oil employees in February 2006, presumably to call international attention to the country's appalling status in the oil-rich Niger Delta region.

In research question four, lack of investment from foreign and local investors, liquidation and relocation of businesses from the area, increase rate of unemployment and criminality in the area are some of the kidnappings for ransom implications or effects on the economic life and community development in Delta State. Kidnapping as a social menace resulted to a rapid decreasing socio-economic and commercial activities status of an area. Again, the study revealed that there is a strong relationship between kidnapping and low economic life and community

under-development in the area. Though investors have long found the Nigerian business environment oppressive, Ngwama (2014) stated that kidnapping topped it all, making investment in the country both discouraging and unappealing. Kidnapping for ransom has been one of Nigeria's most serious problems. As a result of kidnapping activities in Nigeria, factories are closing and some are transferring elsewhere. According to Akunyili (2009), kidnapping is damaging Nigeria's economic good and may jeopardize the country's survival. The economic implication is that both foreign and local investors will not come to invest in the country because of the rising insecurity caused by kidnapping, and this would have a spiral effect on the economy. Lastly, research question five posited that kidnapping creates a damaging effect of the people's image and lead to depression among members of the community. Also, it creates fear and anxiety, and increasingly inflicts psychological injuries and illness among people kidnapped. Ngwama (2014) posited that people no longer visit their villages, and social and economic activities in many communities across the country have come to a halt..

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study was carried out to determine the influence of kidnapping for ransom in Delta State: Implications for security and development. The objective of the study was to examine the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State, to investigate the causes of kidnapping and ransom among the people of Delta State, to survey the social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State, to examine kidnapping for ransom effects on the economic life and development of community members in Delta State and finally, to investigate the challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State. In order to achieve the objectives of this study, five research questions and hypotheses were raised and formulated, answered and tested respectively. The study adopted a survey research design. The population of study of this research is made up of the total number of people residing in Delta State while the target population of the study is the residence of Ughelli North Local Government which is 320,687. The sample size of this study is 500 respondents. The instrument used for the collection of data was the questionnaire which was administered to a total number of 500 respondents and 456 was retrieved. To ensure content validity of the research instrument, the questionnaire was submitted to the research supervisor and other expert in the Department of Political Science. Their corrections, criticisms, clarifications, suggestions and scrutiny serve as the final bases in drafting the final research instrument. Again, in order to ensure reliability of the research instrument, it was subjected to test-retest reliability test. Data was analyzed using simple percentage and Pearson Product Correlation Coefficient.

Findings

The following findings from the study emanated from the analyzed data.

- The study establishes that despite the kidnapping awareness among the people, kidnapping for ransom is still rampant in the area.
- The study found that there is a strong relationship between unemployment and kidnapping for ransom in Delta State.
- The study ascertains that there is a strong relationship existing between government neglect and kidnapping for ransom in Delta State.
- The study revealed that kidnapping for ransom creates a negative socio-economic effect in the nation
- The study found that kidnapping for ransom promotes insecurity and mental/psychological trauma in the area.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that kidnapping for ransom creates insecurity upheaval that dampened and destroy the social, economic, political, mental and psychological prowess of a nation towards achieving a sustainable development. Kidnappings can occur in the workplace, at home, in public locations such as schools, churches, mosques, parks, tourist attractions, parties or shows, on highways, and even at the hospitals (Okengwu, 2011; Sanyaolu,2009). A victim could be a random kidnapping victim or a victim who has been specifically targeted for kidnapping. Okara, 2012).

Kidnappings, particularly for ransom, are becoming common in the present-day Nigeria. Violent-laden politics, the employment of militia and cults, the government's failure to deliver basic services, and security failure are all elements contributing to the rise (Okengwu, 2011).

It's simple to blame a crime's attractiveness on a mix of lack of work experience, low pay, and high unemployment rates. Kidnapping may appear attractive to a young man without a formal education who is having difficulty finding work. To become a kidnapper, no qualifications are required; simply courageousness, which grows less important over time (Okoli, 2019). The Nigerian government should be pragmatic in its policy decisions in order to solve fundamental challenges such as poverty, economic suffering fueled by political corruption, and, above all, vast unemployment and poor pay, which are jeopardizing the foundation of peace and our nation's existence.

5.3 Recommendations

From the data gathered and analyzed from the survey, the study recommendations are as follows:

- The government should provide employment opportunity for the teeming youths of the area
- Government should provide skill acquisition centres for the youths and people of the area to learn skills and training
- The government should provide infrastructural and industrial development in the area
- The government and the local populace should device a local mechanism to improve on the security architecture of the area.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Political Science,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Benin,
Benin City.
July 19, 2021.

Dear Respondent,

I am a postgraduate student of the above-named institution and department, writing a project on the topic: Kidnapping for ransom in Delta State: Implications for security and development.

I hereby solicit your response to these questions. Your assistance in supplying the necessary information will be highly appreciated and also that every information supplied by you has no effect on your personality, but will be purely used for academic purpose and be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Yours Faithfully,

Researcher

Ifeanyi IBUDE

Section A: Demographic Data

Instruction: Please tick (✓) in the box of the option that best describes your option on the questions that follow

1. Sex: Male () Female ()
2. Age: 18- 28years () 29-39 years () 40 and above ()
3. Marital Status: Single () Married () Divorce ()
4. Education Qualification: Primary () Secondary () Tertiary ()
5. Occupation: Civil servant (), Businessmen and women (), Farmers/artisans ()
6. Religion: Christianity () Islam () ATR ().
7. Have you been kidnapped before? Yes () No ()

Section B:

Please indicate the degree to which you agree with the questions asked below where: SA-Strongly agree, A-Agree, N-Neutral, D-Disagree and SD-Strongly disagree.

QUESTIONS/ITEMS		SA	A	N	D	SD
RQ1	What is the dynamic nature, level of awareness and knowledge of kidnapping among the people of Delta State?					
1	People are kidnapped in this community					
2	Kidnapping activities are common in this area					
3	Cases of kidnapping at gun point are often reported in this local government					
4	Indigenes and non-indigenes are kidnapped in this community					
5	Most big men and women in my community are victims/target of kidnapers					
RQ2	What are the causes of kidnapping for ransom among the people of Delta State?	SA	A		D	SD
6	Poverty and unemployment are causes of kidnapping in the area					
7	Frustration and aggression about government neglect of the youths and under-development of the area					
8	The attitude of politicians and quest to get rich quickly					
9	The surge of moral decadence in the society manifesting in taste for high life and use of flashy cars					
10	The proliferation and possession of weapon such as guns by the youths					
RQ3	What are the social effects of kidnapping on the people and community development in Delta State?	SA	A		D	SD
11	Increasing rate of insecurity is a major social effect of kidnapping					
12	Fear and poor level of interaction among residents in the community					

13	Poor attendance of social event/meeting by the people is one of the social effects of kidnapping in the area					
14	Increase in the rates of suspect and suspicious mindset among the members of the community					
15	Inability to give help to people is a social effect of kidnapping in the community					
RQ4	What are the kidnappings for ransom effects on the economic life and development of community members in Delta State?	SA	A		D	SD
16	Lack of investment from foreign and local investors in the area					
17	Liquidation and relocation of businesses from the area					
18	Increase rate of unemployment and criminality in the area					
19	Increase spending on security measures rather than on socio-economic and development needs of the area					
20	Kidnapping results to an increasing socioeconomic and commercial activities in the area.					
RQ5	What are the challenging effects of kidnapping on the mental and psychological wellbeing of the people in Delta State?	SA	A	N	D	SD
21	Kidnapping leads to moodiness of people in a community					
22	Kidnapping damages the image of people in a community/locality					
23	Kidnapping also lead to depression among members of the community					
24	Kidnapping creates fear and anxiety among members of a community					
25	Kidnapping increases the psychological injuries and illness among members of a community kidnapped					