

Spatio-Temporal Occurrences of Kidnapping in Kaduna State: Implications on Social Economic Activities

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Abstract

This study investigates the spatio-temporal occurrences of kidnapping in Kaduna State and their implications on socio-economic activities. The research aims to identify areas with a high rate of kidnapping, analyse trends in occurrence over a two-year period, examine the causes and effects of kidnapping on socio-economic activities, and determine the overall impact on the region. The findings of the study indicate varying kidnapping rates across different local government areas of Kaduna State in 2021, with high rates observed in Birnin Gwari, Chikun, and Igabi and relatively lower rates in Giwa, Kachia, Kajuru, Kagarko, Sabon Gari, and other areas. The study shows a significant increase in kidnapping cases in Kaduna State from 2021 to 2022. According to the respondents, the main identified causes of kidnapping are ransom demands 40.16%, unemployment 25.41%, poverty 21.04%, and other factors 13.39%. Furthermore, the study reveals that kidnapping causes financial harm for 34.2% of victims, physical harm for 29.8%, psychological harm for 26.2%, and social isolation for 9.8% of victims. A majority of the respondents 60.1% believe that kidnapping has a negative impact on socio-economic activities, while 39.9% believe otherwise. The study highlights the effects of kidnapping, including fear and reluctance to go to work 27.50%, disruption of businesses and school activities 25.14%, decline in tourism 19.57%, loss of productivity 22.13%, and other consequences 5.46%. The result from the test of hypothesis shows that kidnapping has significant effect on the socio-economic activities in Kaduna state.

Keywords: *Kidnapping, Insecurity, Socio-economic activities.*

1. Introduction

Kidnapping and abduction of hostages are worldwide crimes with parallels and distinctions in their incidence across the world (Attah, Sambo, Sule, Bello, & Saragih, 2021; Harries, 1974; Surtees, Tankebe, & Bland, 2019). In the past decades, kidnapping has become a serious and unpleasant societal issue in Nigeria, more so in Kaduna State, posing a danger to the victims' tranquilly and personal freedoms. With the constant increase in reports of kidnapping cases and an ever-growing account of huge sums lost to this embarrassing societal dilemma, it is safe to say that every attempt to fight the crime has failed (Owagbemi & Olaseinde, 2021). Forcefully seizing a person without his or her consent in order to extort or negotiate for a fee from people to whom the abducted person is valued. Kidnapping is an economic and financial

crime that involves a human rights violation. Although Owagbemi and Olaseinde (2021) reported that the menace is still quite new in Nigeria, unfortunately, this menace has been the ordeal of the day, hampering the social activities and already daunting economic endeavours of the country.

The incident of kidnapping has become a thorn in the flesh for many citizens and foreigners domiciled in Kaduna State, north-western Nigeria. Kidnapping is growing at an alarming rate across the state, which has hampered the movement of people from going to farms, schools, and places of work because of the fear of being kidnapped. This has affected the image of Kaduna. According to (Thom-Otuya, 2010) kidnapping has also affected the state's attempt to develop a viable tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing industry as visitors and stakeholders are made aware of the security challenges plaguing the state. Security challenges in the state have hampered economic growth as youth unemployment escalates. The horror of kidnapping has impacted the economy in the sense that it has created a state of insecurity within all four walls of the state (Ejimabo, 2013).

Freeman (2006) studied the incident of kidnapping at the international level, but she confined it to child abduction, though she viewed it from a global perspective. File-Muriel (2013) also investigated the problem of kidnapping but focused mainly on political kidnapping. A closer study was conducted by Uzormia and Nwanegbo-Ben (2014) on the subject of kidnapping and hostage-taking in south-eastern Nigeria. Their study narrowed it to southern Nigeria, where the causal factors might be limited to economics, while the dominant factor for kidnapping in the south-south is environmental struggle, and in the north-western and north-eastern parts, poverty and terrorism, respectively. Onu et al. (2019) stated that individuals who are behind the kidnapping are young people who were supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow, but because of corruption, injustice, poverty, and unemployment, they are now kidnapping the leaders of today as the only way to get money to survive. Kidnappers have targeted highly influential people to gain a large ransom.

In Kaduna, as it is in every other part of the country, the swiftness with which evil is growing and the merciless ways that innocent lives are being wasted are worrisome. In view of the above, the present study will examine the Spatio-temporal occurrences of kidnapping in Kaduna state and its Implications on social economic activities.

2. Research Questions

The study will attempt to answer the following research questions

- i. Where are the areas with high occurrence of kidnapping in the study area?
- ii. What is the trend of occurrences of kidnapping in the study area?
- iii. What are the causes of kidnapping in Kaduna state?
- iv. What are the effects of kidnapping on socio economic activities of the study area?

3. Aim and Objectives of the study

The main aim of the study is to examine the effect of Kidnapping on Socio Economic Activities in Kaduna state, the objectives of the study are:

- i. To examine the areas with high occurrence of Kidnapping in Kaduna state over 2 years using GIS as a tool.
- ii. To examine the trend of previous occurrences of Kidnapping in study area
- iii. To examine the causes of kidnapping in the study area.
- iv. To examine the effect of kidnapping on socio economic activities of the study area.

4. Research hypothesis

HO: kidnapping has no significant effect on the socio-economic activities in Kaduna state

HI: kidnapping has significant effect on the socio-economic activities in Kaduna state

The Study Area

Kaduna state is geographically located between longitudes 6° 15” E to 8° 38” E and latitudes 09° 02’N to 11° 32’ N. Kaduna state is bordered in the north by Zamfara, Katsina and Kano; by Bauchi and Plateau to the east; Nasarawa to the south, Niger to the west and Abuja to the south east. Kaduna State have 23 local government areas namely: Birnin Gwari, Chikun, Giwa, Igabi, Ikara, Jaba, Jema'a, Kachia, Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Kagarko, Kajuru, Kaura, Kubau, Kudan, Lere, Makarfi, Sabon Gari, Sanga, Soba, Zangon Kataf, and Zaria.

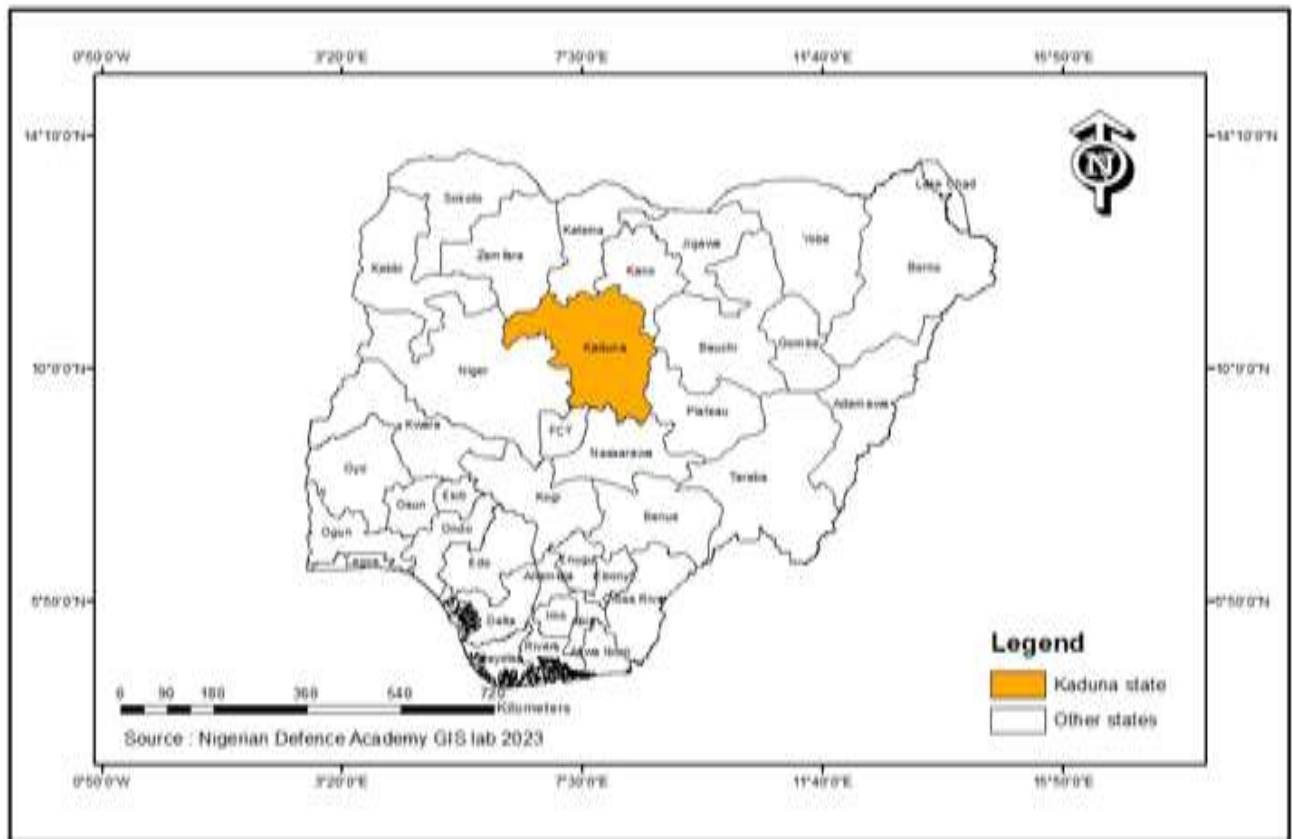


Figure 1. Nigeria Showing Kaduna State

METHODOLOGY

The study employed the use of Stratified sampling technique. Reconnaissance survey, questionnaire and personal observation was undertaken, Primary data and secondary data were utilized during the study. A total of 366 copies of questionnaire were returned for analysis. Choropleth maps were used to identify areas with high-rate of kidnapping cases. The data obtained was processed by coding the filled questionnaires into computer using SPSS version 25. Descriptive and inferential statistics was used to analyse the data and results were presented in pie charts, bar graph frequency distribution, percentages and tables figures, were used to

present information in summary form. Chi- Square(χ^2) was employed to test the null hypothesis that kidnapping has no significant effect on the socio-economic activities in Kaduna state. A Chi-square analytical tool will be used to analyse the produced data at the 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Spatial Analysis of Kidnapping Events 2021 and 2022

This section examines the spatial analysis of kidnapping events in Kaduna State. It considered the annual occurrence of Kidnapping in each LGA between 2021 and 2022. This was with the aim of the knowing areas with high-rate of kidnapping in the state. The findings are as present in figure 4.1 and figure 4.2

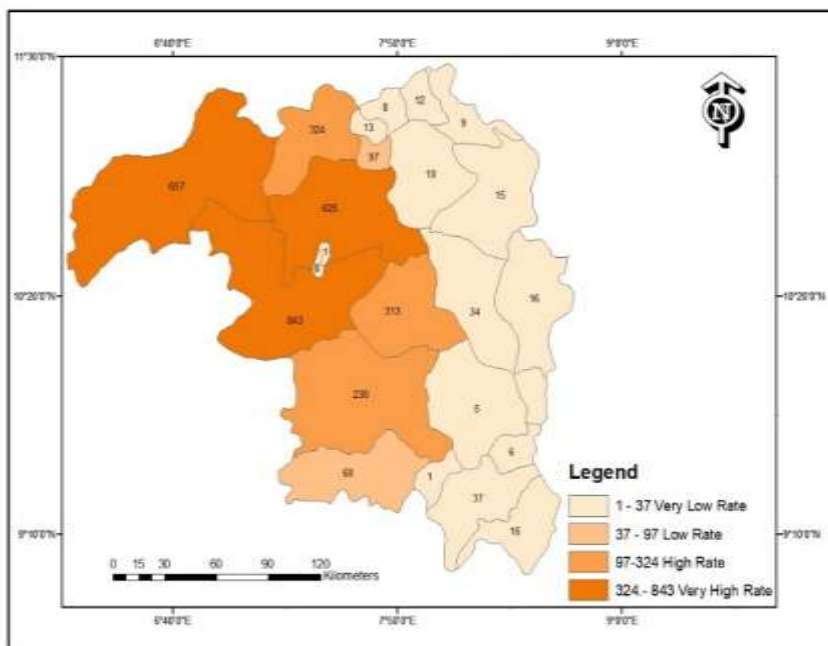
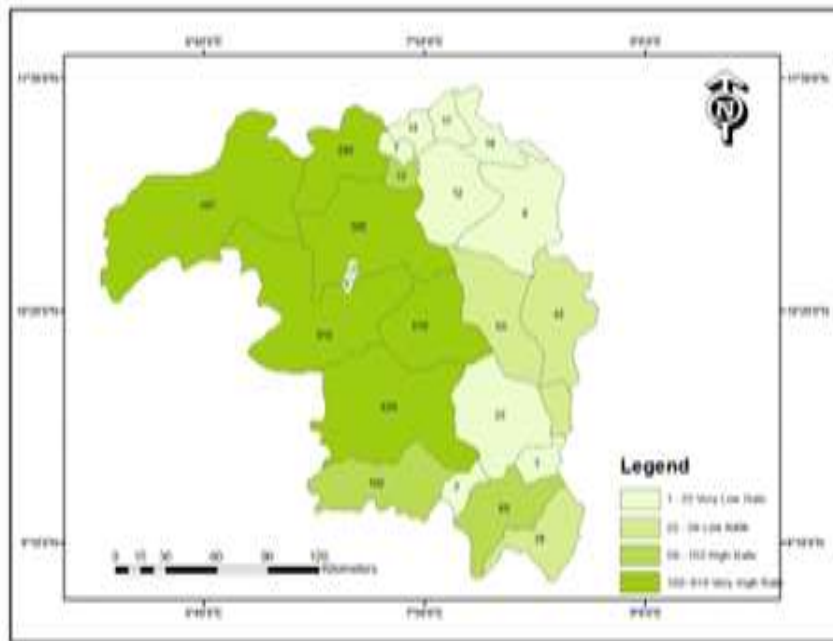


Figure 2. Rate of kidnapping Cases in 2021

Figure 3 Rate of kidnapping incidences in 2022

The findings of the study on the spatial distribution of kidnapping incidences in Kaduna state as presented in figure 4.1 reveal the spatial distribution of kidnapping across the local government areas of the state for 2021. The map shows that Birnin Gwari, Chikun and Igabi LGAs had very high Incidence rate of kidnapping 324–843, while Giwa, Kachia, and Kajuru had high incident rate of incidents of kidnapping 97–324, Kagarko and Sabon Gari had low rate of cases of kidnapping 37–97 and lastly, other LGAs had a very low rate of incidents of kidnapping 1–37 in the state. The findings of the study on the spatial distribution of kidnapping events in Kaduna state as presented in figure 4.2 reveals the

distribution of kidnapping across the local government areas of the state for 2022. The map shows that Birnin Gwari, Chikun, Giwa, Kajuru, Kachia and Igabi, LGAs, had a very high rate of 102–816 incidents of kidnapping, while Kagarko, Jamaa, and Sabon Gari had a high rate of 59–102 incidents of kidnapping, Kauru, Lere, and Sanga had a low rate of 22–59 cases of kidnapping, and finally, other LGAs had a very low rate of 1–22 incidents of kidnapping in the state. The map shows that certain areas of the state have high rates of kidnapping incidents. This suggests a serious security threat for those who live in or go to these places. Kidnapping hotspots make people fearful and anxious, which restricts their freedom of movement to their places of work, schools and lowers their quality of life. High kidnapping rates can hurt the local economy, especially in areas where they are common. Investments, economic growth, and job creation can all be hampered by the impression of unease and the areas' status as kidnapping hotspots. Additionally, it might hinder travel and other forms of commerce, worsening the socioeconomic problems already experienced by the localities. Identifying high crime areas can be useful for the development and evaluation of police responses and testing for spatial displacement or diffusion of benefits (Braga and David, 2010).

Trends of kidnapping events in Kaduna State

This section examines the trends of kidnapping incidents in Kaduna State. It considered the quarterly occurrence of Kidnapping in each LGA between 2021 and 2022. This was with the aim of understanding the existence of any form of trends of kidnapping in the state. The findings are as present in Figure 4.3

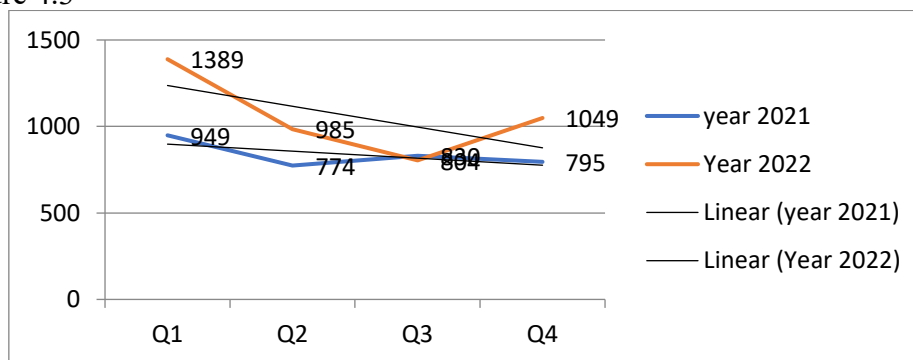


Figure 4 Quarterly trends of kidnapping cases for 2021 and 2022

The findings of the study on the trends of kidnapping in Figure 4.3 show that there was an increase in 2022 in the first quarter, with 1389 kidnapping incidents compared to the first quarter of 2021, which had 949. There was also an increase in the second quarter of 2022 of 985 compared to 2021, with 774 incidents reported. There was a drop in the 2022 third quarter from 985 to 804 incidents of kidnapping, compared to the rise in the 2021 third quarter from 774 to 830 cases of kidnapping. Lastly, in the fourth quarter of 2022, the number of kidnapping incidents increased from 804 to 1049, while in the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of kidnapping incidents decreased from 830 to 795. The figure reveals that from 2021 to 2021, there has been an increase in incidents of kidnapping in Kaduna State. Public safety and security are seriously threatened by the rise in kidnapping events. Residents' everyday lives, mobility, and general well-being are affected, and it fosters an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty among them. The increase in kidnappings threatens public confidence in the government's ability to uphold law and order, economic hardship, joblessness, and political unrest. These elements contribute to an environment where kidnapping is considered a

legitimate means of making money. This finding concurs with Obarisiagbon & Aderinto's (2018) study, which states that "Kidnapping is seen as a profitable enterprise and the quickest way to make money by those engaged in this crime".

Perception of Respondents on Causes of Kidnapping

This section discusses the perception of respondents on causes of kidnapping, with the aim of it looking at the kidnapping experience, causes of kidnapping, actions taken and measures taken by the government to fight kidnapping. The findings are presented in Table 1 and figure 5

Table 1. Distribution of Respondent by Experience, Causes, Action taken and Measures of kidnapping

Response on kidnapping experience	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	177	48.4
No	189	51.6
Total	366	100.0
Response on causes of kidnapping	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	215	58.7
No	151	41.3
Total	366	100.0
Actions taken by respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Report of any suspicious activities to security agencies	186	50.8
Creation of local vigilante	72	19.7
Providing education and awareness about kidnapping	67	18.3
Others	41	11.2
Total	366	100.0
Measures to eliminate kidnapping	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strengthening law enforcement agencies	97	26.5
Improving intelligence gathering	72	19.7
Implementing preventive measures	65	17.8
Improve economic development	132	36.1

Total	366	100.0
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Source; Fieldwork 2023

The findings of the study on experiences, actions taken, causes and measures taken to eliminate kidnapping presented in table 1 reveals that the majority of the respondents 51.6% have not experienced kidnapping, while 48.4% have. While that of causes reveals that the majority of the respondents 58.7% have taken actions to deal with or eliminate the problem of kidnapping, while 41.3% have not taken any action or steps to eliminate kidnapping. The next table shows the types of actions taken on kidnapping. It shows that the majority of respondents 50.8% took action by reporting any suspicious activities to security agencies; 19.7 opted that the community created local vigilantes; 18.3% took action by providing education and awareness about kidnapping and lastly, 11.2% took other actions to stop or deal with kidnapping in their area. The findings show the measures that should be taken by the government to stop kidnapping. The table reveals that the majority of the respondents 36.1% were of the opinion that the government should improve economic development, and 26.5% opined that they should strengthen law enforcement agencies. While 19.7 and 17.8 improved intelligence gathering and implemented preventive measures respectively. The table reveals that addressing kidnapping requires a combination of community engagement, prevention strategies, law enforcement involvement, and socio-economic development. By leveraging multiple approaches and considering the specific context, governments and communities can work together to mitigate the prevalence and ensure citizens' safety. Most respondents emphasize the importance of law enforcement engagement, community-based strategies, public awareness, and prevention through information exchange. Economic development is considered important, while some focus on law enforcement, intelligence collection, or preventative measures.

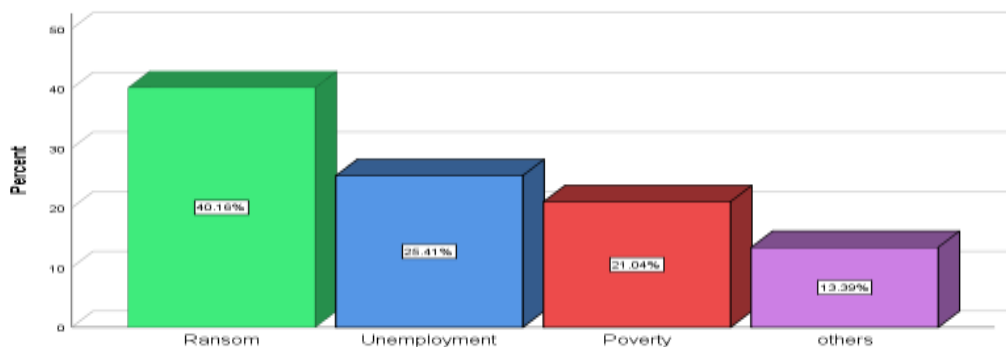


Figure 5. Causes of Kidnapping

The findings of the study on causes of kidnapping in Figure 5. reveals that the majority of the respondents 40.16% opined that collecting ransom was one of the causes of kidnapping; 25.41% opined unemployment as a cause; 21.04% opined poverty as a cause; and finally, 13.39% were of the opinion that other factors can cause kidnapping. Overall, the figure

indicates that the majority of respondents think that kidnapping in Kaduna State is primarily caused by ransom demand, unemployment, and poverty. The finding agrees with Ohakhire's (2010) study, which explained that kidnapping is associated with the quest for ransom; Adegoke (2015) found out that unemployment is the major cause of kidnapping for ransom, which is largely committed by youngsters. Olulowo (2017) posited that poverty is directly related to crime. He contends that if people do not have enough to eat, they will steal to survive.

Perception of Respondents on Effects of kidnapping

This section discusses the perception of respondents on effects of kidnapping, with the aim of it looking at the effects of kidnapping. The findings are presented in Table 2. and figure 6

Table 2: Distribution of Respondent by Effect on Socio Economic activities

Response on Effects	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	220	60.1
No	146	39.9
Total	366	100.0
Kidnaping Effects	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Physical harm	109	29.8
Psychological harm	96	26.2
Financial harm	125	34.2
Social isolation	36	9.8
Total	366	100.0

Source; Fieldwork 2023

The findings of the study on the effects of kidnapping in table 2. reveal that majority of the respondents 60.1% opined that kidnapping affected socioeconomic activities, while 39.9% were of the opinion that kidnapping didn't affect socioeconomic activities. The table shows how respondents' perspectives about how kidnapping affects socioeconomic activity were distributed. It implies that the majority thinks kidnapping has an impact on these activities, while a sizable minority thinks otherwise. This finding agrees with Dode's (2012) study, which stated that in 2006, when the perpetrators kidnapped six foreigners on the premises of Shell Petroleum Corporation, the company was forced to evacuate its employees, which crippled its production and thus caused Nigeria's economic decay and deterred foreign investment. The table reveals the distribution of respondents by the effects of kidnapping on individuals. The table shows that the majority of the respondents 34.2% opined that kidnapping caused financial harm; 29.8% opined that it caused physical harm; 26.2% opined that kidnapping caused psychological harm; and finally, 9.8% opined that kidnapping caused social isolation for the victims. These findings demonstrate the diverse effects of kidnapping on people. It illustrates

that the respondents' perceptions take into account both the physical and financial components as well as the significant psychological and social impacts that the victims are forced to endure. Understanding these perspectives can be essential for guiding the development of legislation, treatments, and support systems designed to help those impacted by kidnapping and lessen its effects on their lives. This finding agrees with Soyombo's (2016) study, which opined that kidnapping barricade so many people's social relations and social lives by keeping them indoors day and night. It resulted in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder due to horrifying incidences of the menace. also, with Nwaorah (2009), who noted that perpetrators are people that are so desperate in their social and economic needs, in which the inequality among the poor and the rich is escalating and the only possible means to acquire legal money is often difficult to attain; dreadful crimes such as kidnapping appeared as the alternative venture to draw the government's attention over the unbearable conditions.

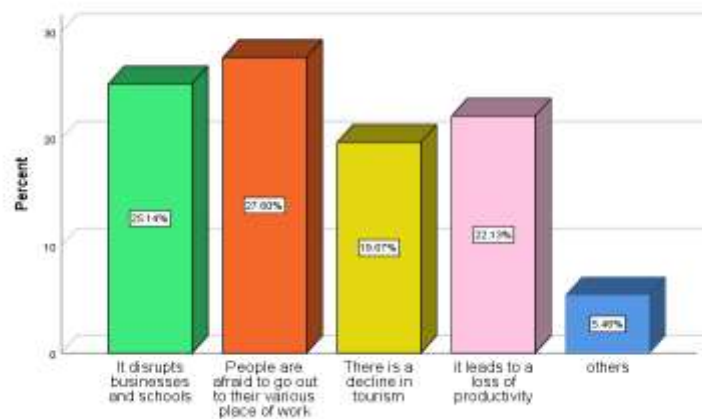


Figure 6. Effects of kidnapping in the study area

The findings of the study on the effects of kidnapping in figure 6, reveals that the majority of the respondents (27.50%) opined that kidnapping created fear and people were afraid of going to their place of work; 25.14% opined that kidnapping disrupted businesses and school activities; and 19.57% opined that kidnapping caused a decline in tourism, while 22.13% and 5.46% opined those kidnapping leads to loss of productivity and others, respectively. The Figure sheds light on the varied effects of kidnapping as seen through the respondents' perspectives. The results highlight the wide-ranging negative effects, which include anxiety, disruption of businesses and educational institutions, a drop in tourism, lost productivity, and other consequences. This finding concurs with Noble *et al.*'s (2015) study, which says that, In the short term, kidnapping hinders direct economic investment in the area where this evil act is being perpetrated, and in the long term, it leads to a decline in economic productivity and unemployment and is a threat to the government's ability to convince investors to do business in the country.

Perception of Respondents on Socio Economic Activities of the Study area

This section discusses the perception of respondents on socio economic activities and safety of the study area, with the aim of it looking at the effects of kidnapping. The findings are presented in figure 7, 8. and Table 3.

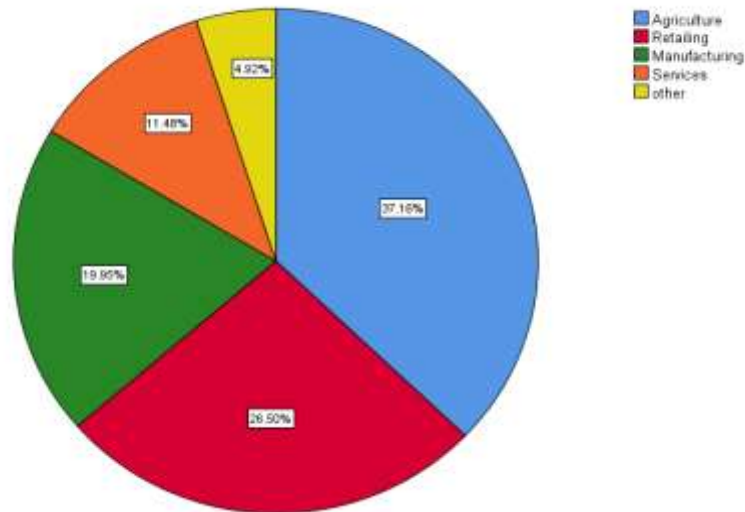


Figure 7. Socioeconomic activities in the study area

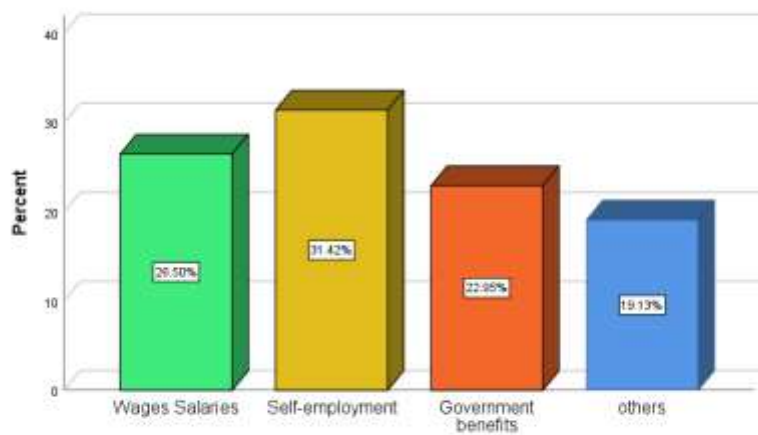


Figure 8. Sources of income in study area

Table 3: Distribution of Respondent by Safety and Challenges Facing Socio Economic Activities

Safety of respondent	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	111	30.3
No	255	69.7
Total	366	100.0
Challenges facing socio economic activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Poverty	83	22.7
Unemployment	103	28.1
Lack of Education	67	18.3
Lack of infrastructure	72	19.7
Others	41	11.2
Total	366	100.0

Source; Fieldwork 2023

The findings of the study on socioeconomic activities shown in figure 7, reveals that the majority of the respondents 37.16% opined that agriculture is one of the socioeconomic activities of the state, 26.50% opined retailing, and 19.95% opined manufacturing. While 11.48% and 4.92% opined on services and others, respectively. This figure reveals insight into the respondents' ideas and impressions of various socioeconomic activities in the state. Government officials, researchers, and other interested parties can use the data to better understand the structure of the local economy, identify important industries, and guide decisions about resource allocation, investment, and economic development. Figure 8, shows the distribution of respondents by sources of income. The figure reveals that the majority of the respondents 31.42% sourced their income from self-business or trading, 26.50% from wages and salaries, 22.95% from government benefits, and finally 19.13% from other sources of income. The figure shows that the group questioned has a diverse distribution of income sources. A degree of entrepreneurial activity is indicated by the predominance of self-employment or trading as the main source of income. The sizeable percentage of respondents who rely on income and salaries also suggests a strong presence of traditional work. Government assistance may be a source of income for certain respondents, based on the fact that it is listed as a significant source of income. The "other sources of income" option, last but not least, represents the fact that the population being polled has a wide range of financial situations. The findings of the study on safety are shown in table 4.5. It reveals that the majority of the respondents 69.7% opined that they don't feel safe engaging in socio-economic activities in areas where kidnappings have occurred, while 30.3% opined that they feel safe. The table reveals the distribution of respondents by challenges facing socio-economic activities. The table shows that the majority of the respondents 28.1% opined that unemployment is one of the challenges facing socioeconomic activities, 22.7% opined poverty as one of the challenges facing socioeconomic activities, and 19.7% opined lack of infrastructure as a challenge facing socioeconomic activities. While 18.3% and 11.2% opined on lack of education and other factors as challenges facing socioeconomic activities, the table shows how various difficulties are seen as impediments to socioeconomic activities. These difficulties include unemployment, poverty, and a lack of infrastructure, a lack of education, and other unnamed elements. Forging

successful policies and strategies to advance inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development requires an understanding of and attention to these issues. These findings concur with Thom-Otuya (2010), which states that most Nigerians lack basic social amenities, high unemployment, community violence, and abject poverty shown in the expanding slums in practically all cities. Thus, he claims, poverty drives crime not just in Nigeria but globally.

Testing of Hypothesis

This section attempts to discuss the stated hypothesis

HO: kidnapping has no significant effect on the socio-economic activities in Kaduna state

HI: kidnapping has significant effect on the socio-economic activities in Kaduna state

The hypothesis was tested with cross-tabulation, and the result is presented in Table 4.5 below.

Table 4: Experience of Kidnapping by Effect of Kidnapping on Socioeconomic Activities

Effects on socio economic activities	Experience of Kidnapping		Total
	Yes	No	
It disrupts businesses and schools	44.5 25.1%	47.4 0.0%	92.0 25,1%
People are afraid to go out to their various place of work	48.8 23.2%	52.2 4.4%	101.1 27,6
There is a decline in tourism	34.8 0.0%	37.2 19.7%	72.0 19.7%
it leads to a loss of productivity	39.2 0.0%	41.8 22.1%	81.0 22.1%
Others	9.7 0.0%	10.3 5.5%	20.0 5.5%
Total	177.0 48.4%	189.0 51.6%	366.0 100.0%

Source: Fieldwork 2023

The findings of the study on the experience of kidnapping and the effects of kidnapping on socioeconomic activities, the table reveals that 25.1% of the respondents opined that yes, they have experienced kidnapping before, and it disrupts business and school activities. While 23.2% of the respondents said yes, kidnapping has made people afraid of going to their various places of work, 4.4% opined that kidnapping doesn't affect people going to their various places of work. The table reveals that kidnapping has significant effects on the socio-economic activities of the state.

Table 5: Showing the Chi-Square Value and Degree of Freedom

	Values	df	Asymptotic (2-sided)	Significance
Pearson Chi-Square	312.081 ^a	4	.000	
Likelihood Ratio	418.709	4	.000	
N of Valid Cases	366			

DISCISION RULE

Since the asymptotic significance is 0.000, which is less than 0.05 significant confidence limit. We now reject HO, which states that kidnapping has no significant effect on Kaduna State's socio-economic activities, and accept H1, which states that kidnapping has a significant effect on those activities.

Conclusion

Kidnapping has a significant impact on socio-economic activities in Kaduna State. The research revealed high rates of kidnapping in certain local government areas, while other areas had lower rates. There was also a substantial increase in kidnapping cases in Kaduna State in 2022. The study identified various causes of kidnapping according to the respondents, with the majority attributing it to ransom demands unemployment, poverty and other factors respectively. Furthermore, a significant number of respondents believed that kidnapping negatively affected socio-economic activities, while the remaining respondents held the opposite view. The effects of kidnapping on socio-economic activities were also explored in the study. The majority of respondents identified fear and avoidance of workplaces, disruption of businesses, school activities and a decline in tourism as the main effects of kidnapping. Additionally, respondents mentioned loss of productivity, physical harm, financial harm, psychological harm and social isolation for the victims as further effects. The statistical analysis using the Chi-square test supported the hypothesis that kidnapping has a significant effect on socio-economic activities in Kaduna State, rejecting the null hypothesis. This strengthens the evidence that kidnapping poses a real threat to the region's socio-economic development.

Recommendations

Base on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. To dissuade criminals and promote citizen and business safety, the government should strengthen security measures in regions with a high incidence of kidnapping.
2. Initiative measures like providing social amenities and creating job opportunities to reduce poverty will assist in addressing these fundamental problems of unemployment and poverty.

3. To effectively combat kidnapping, the government, law enforcement organisations, and community stakeholders should cooperate. This entails information exchange, the use of community policing techniques, and the promotion of a cooperative and watchful culture among locals.
4. Adequate support mechanisms should be put in place to help kidnapping victims with their healing. This can entail offering possibilities for reintegration into society, financial support, and counselling services.
5. Public awareness programmes should be put in place to inform people about the risks of kidnapping and encourage the use of safety precautions. Informed and watchful communities that actively participate in crime prevention may result from this.
6. Kaduna state's economy should be diversified in order to lessen the impact of kidnapping on socioeconomic activity. This can entail developing industries outside of the regions where kidnapping is most prevalent in order to broaden economic options and decrease susceptibility.

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