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Examination of the influence of kidnapping on household's economic security in Nigeria

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Abstract

Apart from the traumatic experiences suffered by victims and their loved ones, the physiological impact of kidnapping could, and often result in huge financial losses, loss of employment, and ruptured family structure. It was against this background that this study employed differential opportunity theory to interrogate the influence of kidnapping on household economic security in Nigeria. The study deconstructed households' economic security into household employment, household income, and household property security. The study adopted a survey research design, and using a multistage sampling procedure, a total of 400 households cum eligible respondents were selected for the study across four designated States of Borno, Kaduna, Rivers, and Lagos. The study used the mean of descriptive analysis and the mean ratings of the various responses, such that the cumulative mean of 3.15 revealed that kidnapping activities have a negative effect on household employment, household income, and household property security in Nigeria. The study recommends that the government should evolve a transparent Social Safety Nets program to provide support to individuals and families affected by kidnapping incidents or insecurity. The government should evolve Safe Corridor for employees to commute to and from work, especially in high-risk areas, and promote kidnap and ransom insurance policies to protect businesses and employees against financial losses associated with kidnapping incidents. Finally, the government should mitigate household property insecurity by investing in security infrastructure of surveillance technology and improved security architecture via community participation.

Keywords: Differential Opportunity Theory, Employment, Household Economic Security, Income

Introduction

Kidnapping, the unlawful arrest, abduction and detention for whatever reason, has been going on for decades in Nigeria. From an unorganized one-man kidnapping of children mainly for money rituals prominent among the Yoruba's and Ibos in the distant times to bride kidnapping practiced in Nasarawa state and environs, kidnapping has existed in Nigerian societies for a long time. Kidnapping for ransom by organized criminal elements which seemed to have dominated Nigeria's crime diary for more than a decade was only restricted to the southern parts of the country. However, the alarming spate of kidnapping, spread all over the country extending to places as far as Kano, Zamfara, Kaduna and Borno states in the Northern part of Nigeria came with overwhelming socio economic consequences (Ngwama, 2014).

At the household level, the prevalence of kidnapping could have a devastating impact on the emotional, psychological and financial well-being of the victim and those associated with him/her as well as ruptured family structure. Spates of kidnapping did not only throw household out of jobs as investors were scared away and this throw lots of household into unemployment and further constrict their economic security as income drastically dropped Kidnapping incidents can have economic repercussions on households,

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affecting their income and savings. The spate of kidnapping also saw many households thrown into economic insecurity in efforts to raise ransom fee to free their loved ones and many could be seen investing in security measures to further secure their household and such security cost further impacted on their economic security since money meant of welfare could be thrown into security cost driven expenses even as Nigerians paid N653.7 million ($1.2 million) as ransom between July 2021 and June 2022 (Oguntola, 2022).

Household economic security could also be seen threatened when incessant kidnapping erode away community and neighborhood Security as such incidents of kidnapping can erode trust and social cohesion within communities and neighborhoods. Landlords and tenants in such property will not only relocate for safety which will threaten rental income, inadvertently reduce the value of estate and put in jeopardy the economic security of all parties as seen in Kaduna, River and Lagos States where prevalence of kidnapping could be established (Odebode et al., 2022; Gabriel, 2021; Ibidough and Kakulu, 2018; This Day, 2016).

Government efforts at fighting the crime in Nigeria have been largely ad hoc, a mix of federal military actions; state officials negotiating with the criminal gangs; and allegedly the payment of ransoms (Onubogu, 2021). In addition, the passing into law of the "Kidnapping Prohibition Law' and Nigeria Terrorism Act (2011) by the Senate and some State Houses of Assembly which prescribed series of punishments ranging from death to jail for life for those convicted for kidnapping has not abated the rate of the crime. It is in the light of the persistence of kidnapping and its consequences on economic wellbeing of the people generally that this study examined the influence of kidnapping on household economic security in Nigeria.

To achieve the objective of the study, the study tested following null hypothesis;

H_{01}: Kidnapping does not have significant impact on household income in Nigeria.

H_{02}: No significant relationship between Kidnapping and household employment in Nigeria.

H_{03}: Kidnapping does not have significant impact on household property security in Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

Kidnapping

Uzorma and Nwanegbo-Ben (2014) defined kidnapping as the unlawful, forceful or fraudulent seizure and detaining, or taking away of a person for the purpose of demanding ransom from the victim's family. It could also include taking the person to another country for servitude. This definition highlights the

importance of ransom as vital to the understanding of kidnapping; however, kidnapping within the context of this study goes beyond just kidnapping for ransom.

The Michigan state police in 1978 defined kidnapping as the unlawful taking away of another person using force, persuasion, misrepresentation, false promises, or the like to serve as a hostage, to sexually assault, for ransom or reward or with any other intent. This study aligns with the encompassing nature highlighted by this definition; hence it is adopted as the operational definition of kidnapping within the context of this study.

Household

Crispin (1998) defined household as a person living alone or a group of persons, who may or may not be related, staying together whether permanently or temporarily with common housekeeping sharing at least one meal a day or occupying the same accommodation. To the author, the most important element of being a member of a household is not necessarily by relation (whether blood or by marriage) but by sharing critical benefit and domestic consumption units.

Household Economic Security

Kosny and Pitrowska (2013) view economic security in terms of both the macro and micro-economic dimensions. While the former according to the authors remain the responsibility of the state as reflected in the national budget of a nation year in and year out, the latter affects the identity, behaviour, and welfare of individuals. ICRC (2015) defined economic security as the ability of individuals, households, and communities to sustain their basic needs with dignity. It argued that the economic security of one household varies from another to their basic needs. It, therefore, identified some basic elements of economic security including food production and consumption, income, living condition, and capacity.

The ILO in the socio economic security programme adopted the definition of economic security to mean a number of conditions which guarantees a sense of security in terms of basic social security (health, housing, social protection etc) and work related safety (income, representation, labour market, employment, job security among others). However, Within the context of this study, household economic security would refer to the ability of individuals or households to provide and sustain their basic needs, maintain a steady income and ensure the general wellbeing of the household.

Household Property

These are property that earns household income from rental and safety of abode. These property could also be endangered in moments of seeking to offset ransom demands on loved ones or relation. Incessant spate of Kidnapping affects properties of household in multidimensional order. Many household for fear of being singled out from door to door kidnapping do maintain unfurnished appearance for their property and this

attract less patronage and low income from rental (Soyombo, 2009), also in this orer are rental income from property ownership are negatively impacted in areas infested by kidnapping as shown in Kaduna around Kakau, Federal Housing, and Goni Gora new layout Odebode et al. (2022). In Rivers State, areas like Diobu, Port Harcourt Township, Borokiri, Ogbunabali, and D-Line (Ibidough & Kakulu (2018) and developing sites of Lagos State (This Day, 2016)

Empirical Review

Odebode et al. (2022) adopted qualitative research design to examine the influence of urban violence on residential property rental value in Kaduna metropolis. The study employed a survey of key sites of urban violence of enumeration of 67-estate surveying and valuation firms in the study area to elicit from them vital information on trends on rental from 2011 to 2019. The data obtained were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential methods of statistical analysis. Results that emanated from the study showed that urban violence in Kaduna metropolis contributed to a fall in the rental value of residential property in the study area. Study did not consider impact of kidnapping on household economic security which this study considers.

Ibidough and Kakulu (2018) appraised the effect of variations in crime on Property values in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The study leveraged on primary data obtained from statistics and perceptions on the prevalent crime types in five neighborhoods in Port Harcourt namely; Diobu, Port Harcourt Township, Borokiri, Ogbunabali, and D-Line. The identified crime types include burglary, housebreaking, robbery, kidnapping, and stealing. Findings from the study submitted that the higher the level of perceived crime in a neighborhood, the lesser the willingness of tenants to seek for residential spaces in that neighborhood. However, residents of these areas perceived crime to be low, and to therefore, have little effect on the value of properties in the neighborhoods in terms of voids and crime is not high enough to induce relocation.

Ibrahim and Mukhtar (2017) in an empirical study investigated the link between terror campaign and kidnapping. They investigated the nexus between corruption and kidnapping on the one hand and its correlation with poverty on the other. The study adopted secondary qualitative data and concluded that the existence of the crime is a resultant effect of youth unrest in the oil producing region, further bolstered by terrorist activities in the Northeast. They also averred that while corruption is not directly linked to abduction, there is an indirect link in which young political thugs assist corrupt political leaders and later become kidnappers; poverty on the other hand was found to have correlation with kidnapping in Nigeria; and there are numerous effects of kidnapping, such as monetary persecution, rape and even loss of lives.

Chukwueme et al. (2019) investigated the influence of banditry and abduction on the growth of the economy in Nigeria during the Fourth Republic. These kidnapping and banditry incidents have negatively

impacted the country's image nationally as well as globally, particularly in terms of attracting investors from abroad and developing an economically viable tourism sector, as tourists are periodically cautioned by their home countries to be mindful of visiting Nigeria. The Ordinal Least Squares (OLS) multiple regression analysis was used to establish the association between variables. According to the findings, unemployment has a negative correlation with the GDP, whereas poverty has a direct correlation with the GDP. Although many causes have been adduced to the problem by the study, it is undeniable that there should be a broad explanation of the criminal behaviour in Nigeria. But existing touted causes have rarely addressed the specific characteristics of the crime. Thus, an effective policy strategy that can help to fight the scourge of kidnapping in the country should be founded on evidence-based understanding of dynamics and dominant types of the crime in contemporary Nigeria.

Dami (2021) interrogated the influence of terrorism, banditry, and abduction on human security in Nigeria, contending that the country is experiencing increased violence and insecurity as a result of regular assaults by insurgents, criminals, and kidnappers. The perpetrators continue to attack, sexually assault, and kill defenceless individuals, particularly women, around the country, putting Nigeria's human security at risk. Unemployment and poverty were also mentioned as variables accountable for such societal evils and their influence on Nigeria and Nigerians as well as ruptured family structure respectively. The study though apt did not capture the dynamism of the phenomenon or its capacity to change in substance and form over time. This unique feature of kidnapping has not seemingly been appreciated enough and given the attention it deserves in the literature.

Kwanga et al. (2022) investigated the influence of abduction on the social and economic activities of Benue State's Katsina-Ala Local Government Area. The study's sample size was 397 respondents, and the data gathered was analyzed utilizing the standard deviation, mean, and distribution of frequencies tables. According to the findings, the main drivers of abduction in the research area include teenage unemployment, moral deterioration over time, the abandoning of political thugs, the desire to get rich swiftly without working, and the growth of weaponry. The findings also show that the principal effects of kidnapping in the area include a fall in people's monthly income levels, loss of hard-earned money through ransom payment, and forced relocation and property loss. The study did not examine the risk factors exposing individuals to kidnapping in Nigeria. A good knowledge of this is however important in helping the authorities concerned to design appropriate form of public enlightenment on how to reduce exposure to risks associated with kidnapping in Nigeria.

Achumba et al. (2013) investigated Nigeria's insecurity status and its consequences for investment, operations, and long-term growth. The amount and dimension of insecurity were assessed using secondary

data and observations made by authors in various locations, zones, and walks of life as stated in their remarks, as well as direct proof of insecurity occurrence in various parts of Nigeria. According to the paper, the country's insecurity dilemma is large and complex and it will stay such if the scenario persists.

File-Muriel (2013) in a research titled "Exploration of the social effectiveness of political testimonies in Columbia" examined the challenge of kidnapping in Columbia but focused chiefly on political kidnapping. It averred that from the available research works, there is no research on kidnapping in the region under consideration and the overall implication for sustainable development of Columbia as per the study is that social-economic activities are fast deteriorating. The study gathered data using Focus Group Discussion and semi-structured interviews with thirty randomly selected students of the Universidad El Bosque in Bogota, Columbia, According to the survey, the homicidal campaigns and ruthless attacks on both individuals and organizations have created an extremely unfavourable economic environment for both local and foreign investors. It recommended that deliberate effort be made to reduce state sponsored kidnapping in the country. The study was however unable to isolate significant predictors of specific kinds of kidnapping from a list of probable causes, thereby making it difficult to recommend far-reaching evidence-based policy options for intervention not precluding the problem of its applicability in Nigeria given that the study was conducted in Columbia.

Theoretical Review

Differential Opportunity Theory

The Differential Opportunity Theory postulated by Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin (1961) states that the structural positions of individuals must be viewed not only in terms of the strain of blocked legitimate opportunities but also in terms of illegitimate opportunities available to individuals in specific social settings. In other words, there is “differential opportunity” to reach cultural goals by legitimate means and there is also “differential opportunity” to use illegitimate means to reach those goals. According to the theory, the discrepancies between aspirations and legitimate chances of achievement are very high in lower class structure. The lack of access to legitimate means to reach cultural goals produces intense frustration among the lower class people. This frustration drives them to search for illegitimate means to reach their cultural desires or goals (Conklin, 1995; Swetnam & Hope, 2001).

Differential Opportunity theory has an important contribution to the study of crime in Nigeria in general and to kidnappings in particular. This could be seen as government increases the availability of legitimate opportunities to members of the lower classes in society such as the unemployed youths who sometimes are behind violent crimes such as kidnappings. To this end, enterprises and initiatives by the federal

government such as the Mpower, TraderMoni scheme in Nigeria are some of the ways of increasing available economic opportunities for the lower class people and unemployed youth who could be tempted to engage in kidnappings for ransom. Some kidnappings are conducted by ex-prisoners or inmates in prisons. Many that were formally into armed robbery have also scaled up into kidnapping. Equipping youthful offenders with professional skills during their rehabilitation could assist them to earn a living with ease hence reduce the risks of the feeling of frustration and an attempt to go back into violent crime.

Methodology

This study adopted a survey research design which allows respondents to provide candid, honest and valid information freely. The study was conducted in four states of Nigeria which are Kaduna, Borno, Lagos, and Rivers. The choice of these states was based on their antecedents of kidnapping (Ayuba, 2020). A multistage sampling procedure was used to ultimately select households cum eligible respondents for the study which followed the adoption of the existing Senatorial Districts (SDs) as an ideal basis for clustering each focal state; as such, each focal state was clustered into 3 groups. One Local Government Area (LGA) was randomly selected per Senatorial District (SD); which implies a total of 3 LGAs per state. Households were then selected via a random walk procedure.

To determine the survey sample size, a projected population figure based on the United Nations annual growth rate of 2.58% for 2020 was adopted. Total projected population figure for 2021 for the selected LGAs in the study locations i.e Kaduna, Borno, Rivers, and Lagos states, stands at 5,929,234 persons, while total number of households stands at 289,212. The computation of the sample size assumed the projected total of these focal states, and also assumed the 2013 National Demographic & Health Study estimates of average household size of 5.9 (North-East), 5.2 (North-West), 4.7 (South-South) and 4.0 (South-West) respectively. Using Taro Yamane's (1973) formula, the sample size of this study is approximated to four hundred (400) respondents which are households in the four states as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where, n = Sample Size 0,

N = Population,

1 = Constant, and

e = exponential (usually 5% or 0.05).

$$S = \frac{N}{1 + [N(ME^2)]} = \frac{289{,}212}{1 + [289{,}212(0.0025)]} = 399.45 \cong 400$$

A structured questionnaire was employed to collect data from the respondents. The study used the mean of descriptive analysis. Thus, the responses of each subject were coded on the computer coding sheet, and

thereafter, entered and processed, using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), mean and simple percentages were used for analysis and interpretation of the results. The frequency distributions of the various response categories were calculated to obtain the item and section mean ratings. Frequencies were weighed in the following manner: Strongly Agreed - 4 points, Agreed - 3 points, Disagreed -2 points, and Strongly Disagreed -1 point. The mean ratings of the various responses were calculated and used to answer the research questions.

Results and Discussion

Results from data collected and analysed are discussed below.

Table 1: Gender of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Gender of the Respondents	Female	116	29.0	29.0	29.0
	Male	284	71.0	71.0	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 1 shows the gender of the respondents and from the result, 29% of the respondents are females and 71% male. This implies that there were more male heads of household that responded to the questionnaires in the four states covered.

Table 2: Respondents' Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Age of Respondents	15-29	46	11.5	11.5	11.5
	30-49	182	45.5	45.5	57.0
	50-79	134	33.5	33.5	90.5
	80-Above	38	9.5	9.5	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 2 presents the age bracket of the respondents and from the result, 11.5% of the total respondents are within the age bracket of 15-29, 45.5 percent are between 30 to 49 years of age, while 33.5% falls within the age bracket of 50-79 years and 9.5 percent of the respondents are 80 years and above. This implies that there were more respondents in the age bracket of 30 to 49 years which is youthful age.

Table 3: Residence of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Residence of Respondents	Villages	102	25.5	25.5	25.5
	LGA	173	43.3	43.3	68.8
	The Capital City	125	31.3	31.3	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 3 shows the residence of the respondents and the results revealed that 25.5% of the total respondents reside in the remote areas of the states under study, 43.3% respondents reside in the local government headquarters of the states under study, while 31.3% reside in the capital cities of the states under study. This shows that almost half of the respondents in this study reside in the local government headquarters thus have information about kidnapping activities within their domains..

Table 4: The employment status of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
The Employment Status of the Respondents	Unemployed	66	16.5	16.5	16.5
	Employed	191	47.8	47.8	64.3
	Self Employed	143	35.8	35.8	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 4 shows the employment status of the respondents and the results revealed that 16.5 percent of the total respondents are unemployed that is without meaningful employee engagement, 47.8 percent of the total respondents are employed that is with meaningful employee engagement and 35.8 percent of the total respondents are self-employed. This implies that the majority of the respondents have stable sources of income.

Table 5: The size of the households of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Size of Households	1-4	72	18.0	18.0	18.0
	5-10	183	45.8	45.8	63.8
	11-above	145	36.3	36.3	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 5 shows the size of the households of respondents and the results revealed that 18.0% of the respondents have a household size of between 1 to 4, 45.8% have a household size of between 5 to 10 and 36.3% falls between 5 to 10 household size. This implies that the majority of respondents are between 5 to 10 household size.

Table 6: The household monthly income of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Size of Income	less than 29999	65	16.3	16.3	16.3
	30000-99999	189	47.3	47.3	63.5
	100000 and above	146	36.5	36.5	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 6 shows the household monthly income of respondents and revealed that 16.3% of the total respondents have a monthly income of less than ₦29999, 47.3% have a monthly income of ₦30000 to ₦99999, and 36.5% have monthly income of ₦100000 and above. This implies that the most of the respondents earn above the minimum wage in Nigeria.

Table 7: Do you know of any kidnapping activity in your community or State?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Kidnapping in the Community	No	118	29.5	29.5	29.5
	Yes	282	70.5	70.5	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 7 shows the knowledge of respondents on kidnapping activities in their communities and from the results, 29.5 percent of the total respondents do not have any knowledge of kidnapping activity in their communities and 70.5 percent of the total respondents know about kidnapping activities in their communities. This implies that the majority of the respondents have knowledge of kidnapping incidence in their communities and are aware of kidnapping cases in their communities.

Table 8: Do you know any case of kidnapping activity among your relatives?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Relative Victim	No	273	68.3	68.3	68.3
	Yes	127	31.8	31.8	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 8 shows the knowledge of respondents on cases of kidnapping activities among their relatives and from the results, 68.3 percent of the total respondents do not have knowledge of the case of kidnapping activities among their relatives and 31.8 percent of the total respondents have knowledge of the case of kidnapping activities among their relatives. This implies the majority of the total respondents have no knowledge of the case of kidnapping activities among their relatives or are unwilling to share such sensitive information.

Table 9: I will rate the kidnapping activities very high in my state.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
High Rate of Kidnapping	No	115	28.8	28.8	28.8
	Yes	285	71.3	71.3	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 9 shows the rate of kidnapping activities in the states under review and from the results, 71.3 percent of the total respondents agreed to the fact that there is a very high rate of kidnapping activities in their states and 28.8 percent of the total respondents disagreed to the fact that there is a very high rate of kidnapping activities in their states. This implies that there is a high rate of kidnapping activities across the four states under review.

Table 10: Do you know any government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activity in your state?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Government Intervention	No	62	15.5	15.5	15.5
	Yes	338	84.5	84.5	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 10 shows the respondents' knowledge of government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activities in their states and the results revealed that 84.5 percent of the total respondents have knowledge of government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activities in their states while 15.5 percent of the total respondents do not have knowledge of government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activities in their states. This implies that the majority of the respondents are conversant with government's efforts targeted at reducing kidnapping activities in their states.

Table 11: Do you think the government intervention toward reducing kidnapping activities in your state is effective and efficient?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Intervention Efficient	No	236	59.0	59.0	59.0
	Yes	164	41.0	41.0	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 11 shows the responses of the respondents on the efficiency and effectiveness of government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activities in the states and the results revealed that 59.0 percent perceives government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activities in their states as inefficient and ineffective. 41.0 percent of the total respondents on the other hand believes government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activities in their states is efficient and effective. This implies that the government intervention towards reducing kidnapping activities in the states has not been efficient and effective.

Table 12: Kidnapping and household's Economic security in Nigeria

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Income Security	400	3.1775	.90446	.04522
Employment Security	400	3.1450	.91983	.04599
Properties Security	400	3.1300	.96718	.04836
Total		**3.145**		

Source: Administered Questionnaires, 2022.

Table 12 shows the effects of kidnapping on households' economic security in Nigeria and the effect was examined using five indicators of economic security which are income security, employment security, property security, food security, and life security. The cumulative mean of 3.145 revealed that kidnapping activities have a negative effect on households' economic security in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

From above analysis, result from study revealed that kidnapping activities have a negative influence on household income security in Nigeria, based on the calculated mean of 3.18 which is greater than the expected mean of 2.5. The finding strengthens the positions of Chukuigwe & Albert (2015) and Kwanga et al. (2022) that payment of ransom impacts monthly income level of affected households negatively and in some cases lead to closure of businesses and forceful relocation.

Similarly, the finding revealed that kidnapping activities negatively influences households' employment security in Nigeria with a calculated mean of 3.15. This aligns with findings of earlier studies by Ngwama (2014) and Ibrahim (2017) that the prevalence of the crime has led to massive investment migration as well as loss of employment by members of households. Ransom payment have attendant consequences on the sustainable development of a nation's economy as jobs are lost as a result of business closure, brain drain as well as increased cycle of violence and criminal activities occasioned by unemployment and poverty.

Finally, the result gotten from analysis submits that kidnapping activities have a negative influence on household property security in Nigeria with a calculated mean of 3.13. The finding further strengthens the position of Soyombo (2009), Odebode et al. (2022) of property abandonment in the face of incessant kidnapping or property unfurnished appearance for fear of being kidnapped while others have had to sell properties to raise required ransom.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study concludes that government Kidnapping activities in Nigeria have significant negative influence on household economic security specifically the household's employment, property, and income in the States under study. Thus there is the need for government to redesign mechanisms to strengthen intervention towards reduction of kidnapping in the country through increased budgeting and strategies of implementation of war against kidnapping.

Therefore, the study recommended the following policies:

i. The study recommends that government should evolve a transparent Social Safety Nets programs to provide support to individuals and families affected by kidnapping incidents or insecurity.
ii. Government should evolve Safe Corridor for employees to commute to and from work, especially in high-risk areas while promoting the kidnap and ransom insurance policy to protect businesses and employees against financial losses associated with kidnapping incidents.
iii. Government should mitigate household property insecurity in areas with prevalent incidents of kidnapping by investing more in security infrastructure of surveillance technology, law enforcement

agencies, and community participation. This should be done in tandem with addressing some of the underlying economic and social factors contributing to crime.

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