

FEAR OF KIDNAPPING AND SOCIAL LIFE IN AFFECTED STATES

BY

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DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Fear of Kidnapping and Social Life in Affected States" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined fear of kidnapping and social life in affected states, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of fear; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with fear and kidnapping. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 415 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 376 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 2.98). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.494$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 9.2, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.31$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on fear.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	10
1.8 Definition of Terms	12
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	14
2.1 Conceptual Review	14
2.1.1 Concept of Fear	14
2.1.2 Concept of Kidnapping	15
2.1.3 Concept of Social	17
2.2 Theoretical Framework	19
2.2.1 Structural Functionalist Theory	19
2.2.2 Social Learning Theory	20
2.2.3 Strain Theory	21
2.2.4 Symbolic Interactionism	22
2.3 Empirical Review	23
2.3.1 Early Studies on fear	23
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on fear	25
2.3.3 Fear and kidnapping	27
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	29
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	30
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	32
3.1 Research Design	32
3.2 Population of the Study	32
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	33
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	34
3.5 Research Instrument	35
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	36
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	37
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	38

3.8 Ethical Considerations	38
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	41
4.1 Data Presentation	41
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	41
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	42
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	43
4.5 Discussion of Findings	44
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	49
5.1 Summary	49
5.2 Conclusion	50
5.3 Recommendations	51
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	51
REFERENCES	53
APPENDIX	55

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	31
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	31
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	39
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	39
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	47
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	47
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	47
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	48
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	48
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	48
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	48
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	48

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	13
Figure 3.1: Sociology Research Context	40
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	47
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	47

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of fear of kidnapping and social life in affected states is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The salience of fear in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of fear. The aggregate picture emerging from Salami and Ibrahim (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between fear and the outcomes of interest. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding kidnapping. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Umeh and Alade (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Debates on national transformation repeatedly return to the role of fear and its attendant dynamics. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how fear is experienced across communities. Studies by Ibrahim and Ogunlana (2019) largely support the view that fear exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Longitudinal research by Alade and Ogbeide (2016) revealed that sustained attention to fear yields appreciable dividends over time. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

fear continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in sociology. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which fear unfolds. Comparative work by Alade and Ogbeide (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking fear with kidnapping. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Research by Ekwueme and Osinachi (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting fear and kidnapping. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding kidnapping. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

In recent years, fear has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on sociology. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of fear in everyday life. A notable study by Nnamdi and Dauda (2017) argued that the impact of fear is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. For practitioners, the practical significance of fear cannot be overstated, given its