Factors Militating against Community Policing in Curbing Kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Review Article

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to determine the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. The study was guided by two research questions and two hypotheses. The design used in the study was a descriptive research design. The population for the study was 1,620 members of the vigilantee group in Anambra State. The sample size was 321 members of the vigilantee group in Anambra State and was arrived at using Taro Yamane sample size formula. Muti-stage sampling technique was used. The instrument for the study was 11 items sructured questionnaire titled "Factors Militating against Community Policing in Curbing Kidnapping Questionnaire" (FMCPCK). Using Cronbach Alpha, a reliability coefficient of 0.81 was obtained on the ICPCKQ instrument. The two research questions that guided the srudy were responded to using mean and standard deviation. T-test was used for Ho_1, while Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used for Ho_2. It was found out that some factors such as inadequate funding, lack of fire arms, lack of patrol vehicles, little or no training and development of police staff, illiteracy, use of outdated

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and insufficient technology among the police, lack of cooperation between the police and the masses, poor initiative and administrative frame work in police system, wide spread corruption and harassment among the police, poor access to vital information are affecting community policing in curbing kidnapping. Based on the findings, The state government should provide the security force with adequate firearms, funding and patrol vehicles.

Keywords: Militating factors; kidnapping; vigilante; educational level.

1. INTRODUCTION

Kidnapping is one of the major challenges that Anambra State is facing at the moment. Kidnapping as a social problem has been defined by Oleka [1] as the act of illegally taking somebody away and keeping him or her as a prisoner in order to demand for money (ransom). "In criminal law, kidnapping is the act of taking somebody away, usually to confine the person in false imprisonment without legal authority" [2]. "This act may be done principally to get ransom. However, the act of kidnapping could be for a number of reasons, such as getting money or getting some sort of items from the person. It is usually done for a motive or for oppressive intentions, the most common of which is demanding of money from the family of the victim in the form of ransom for freedom and continual living" [3]. Several forms of kidnapping of humans have been recorded in Anambra State and the world in general. The three categories of abduction that are the most widely recognized are political, express, and basic kidnapping.

"Basic kidnapping is the most common type of kidnapping. It is accomplished in most parts of the world with minimal preparation and a relative low risk of failure. In this case, abductors usually target local businessmen or their family members, the affluent of society, who they consider to be 'well-off', without having sufficient resources to spend a great deal of money on security precautions. The kidnapper's goal is a fast, easy payoff. Generally, the ransom requested is relatively easy for the victim's family or company to obtain" (Aruma, 2012). Aside basic kidnapping, another types of kidnapping is express kidnapping.

"Express kidnapping, on the other hand, is one in which the victim is abducted and then forced to withdraw their own ransom from the bank or ATM. Those kidnappers go with the victim to the ATM point to withdraw all the money he or she has in the bank account. If all goes well, the victim is released afterwards, having been relieved of all valuables on their person and occasionally in their residence" [4]. Those kidnappers target the low and average income earners on like the political kidnapping that target politicians in the state or country.

"Political kidnapping involves any abduction incident conducted to extort political concessions from governments or security forces. As monetary ransom is no longer enough, it is more difficult to negotiate the abducted victim's freedom as, in many cases, the political concessions or demands cannot be met by the involved government, thereby putting the victim's life at greater risk" [5]. For instance the abduction of, Uzozie Chukwujekwu, a special adviser to a former chairman of Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra State in Anambra is political kidnapping.

Moreover, kidnapping has affected both urban and rural dwellers. The menace has spread and taken deep root in rural communities where thousands of able-bodied, but unemployed youths abound. The current security challenge in Anambra State is better understood against the existing evidence that even government officials and traditional rulers are not spared. Kidnappers do target government officials, as well as their family members, in spite of the relative tight security at their disposal.

It is this ugly situation of insecurity about kidnapping experienced in Anambra State that calls for community policing, which, from experience, has been joyfully embraced by vigilante groups at different locations [6]. Community policing is a method that links members of society with security personnel [7]. It gets the community immediately involved in fixing both criminal and civil disorders and makes the community interested in judicial settlements of social problems. The core of this is to include the community in the protection of the citizens and strengthen police-community partnerships for the successful policing of society. Community policing aims not only to create a positive impression of the security personnel but also to improve the safety of citizens and their trust in

the police as an institution responsible for their safety. It also raises citizen awareness and increases the number of reports and information given by citizens, which enables more effective identification of kidnapping problems and solutions to those problems. Among the security personnel that can be used in curbing kidnapping in Nigeria are the vigilantes.

However, there are certain factors militating against community policing in Nigeria. One of these factors is lack of funding. Despite the security vote's allocation from the federal government to the state government, the state government still find it very difficult to fund the vigilante groups and other security personnel in the state. Most of these factors militating against community policing are concomitants of changing neighbourhood values arising from the public perception of the police and other security personnel in the state. There cannot be a better time for Anambra State securities to adopt a community approach to policing than in a period when they are losing the needed trust and confidence of members of the public as a result of incessant kidnapping in the state. Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) observe that major segments of the Nigerian population portray the security officers in negative terms without considering those factors affect them from discharging their duties beautifully. Despite inadequate funding and other militating factors, the vigilante groups still serve as an important community policing groups needed in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State.

Some of the strategies utilized by institutions, the government, or its agencies to make sure that kidnapping never occurs at all or that the propensity of its occurrence is reduced to the barest minimum in Anambra State are vigilante groups. Vigilante refers to an organized group of citizens who take upon themselves the protection of their community and property. Vigilante Group of Nigeria is the leading community policing organization in Nigeria. It was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 1999 in the area of public security. Its main objectives are to assist and promote community policing, kidnapping control, prevention, and the protection of lives and property in Nigeria. The agenda of this group is to deter the ever-increasing crime cases in their surroundings and also to protect the political class from likely enemies [8]. The rise of vigilantism in its current form in the south-east of Nigeria can be traced to the explosion of kidnapping incidents that rocked

the cities of Onitsha, Nnewi, and Awka in Anambra State and their neighboring towns. These commercial towns have been gripped by insecurity, kidnapping, and other forms of violent crime at unprecedented levels. Adegbusi [9] in "a study conducted in Ondo state of Nigeria on 'Vigilante groups and the task of policing' with 500 respondents found that vigilante service groups are important in crime prevention and control as majority of the respondents indicated that vigilante service groups can partner with the police to control and prevent crime in the state". It is against this introduction that this study sought to ascertain the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State.

The aim of this study was to determine the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. Specifically, the study sought to determine:

1. The factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State.
2. The factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the membership of the vigilante.
3. The factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the educational qualification of the vigilante.

The study was guided by the following research questions

1. What are the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State?
2. What are the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the membership of the vigilante?
3. What are the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the educational level of the vigilante?

The following null hypotheses which were tested at 0.05 significance level guided the study.

Ho$_1$: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and non-executive members of the vigilante group on the factors militating against community policing in curbing

kidnapping in Anambra State based on the membership of the vigilante.

Ho$_2$: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the vigilante group on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on their educational level.

2. METHODS

The researcher used a descriptive survey research design in carrying out this study. Ezeudu, Jolaosho and Dajan [10] describe research design as a type of design that is meant to describe the behaviour of a particular population in an accurate fashion. The design was considered appropriate for this study because it sought to collect and analyze data elicited from the respondents considered to be a representative sample so as to ascertain the extent of the use of community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. This study was carried out in Anambra State, Nigeria. Anambra State is made up of 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and is located in the South-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria, with its capital situated at Awka. It is bordered by Enugu State to the east, Delta State on the west, Kogi State on the north, and Imo and Rivers States to the south. The choice of Anambra State was based on the fact that there is a seemingly high rate of kidnapping and insecurity, which at the moment lacks backing. Hence the need for this presents study.

The population of this study comprised all the 1620 executive and non-executive members. The executive members of the vigilante group are those that are holding one or two positions such as the chairman, secretary and others while non-executive members are those without any position attached to them. The sample for this study was 321 executive and non-executive members of the vigilante groups. The sample size was arrived at using Taro Yamane. 90 were executive members while 231 were non-execitive members of the vigilante groups. The sample size was arrived at using multistage sampling technique. First, the proportionate stratefied sampling technique was used to ensure that the sample size of both the executive and non-executive vigilante were represented base on their population. Secondly, simple random sampling technique was used to sample the Local Government Areas used for the study. Thirdly, convenient sampling technique was used

to administered the instrument to those vigilantee thtat agreed to fill the questionnaire instrument. The instrument for data collection was a researchers' structured questionnaire titled "Factors Militating against Community Policing in Curbing Kidnapping Questionnaire" (FMCPCKQ). The instrument was made up of two clusters namely cluster A and B. Cluster A was on the demographic data of the respondents while the cluster B was on the question items. The question items was 11 and were all positively skewed items. The instrument was structured on a four point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4 points, Agree (A) = 3 points, Disagree (D) = 2 points and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1 point.

Three experts did face validation of the instrument. Cronbach alpha estimate was used to test the internal consistency of the questionnaire items. Cronbach Alpha was chosen because the instrument was non-dichotomously scored. The reliability co-efficient obtained was 0.81. The reliability value of 0.81 shows that the instrument was highly reliable. The data was collected with the help of three research assistants. The researcher and the research assitants administered the instrument to the respondents and collected it back on the spot of administration. That was made possible because the instrument was administered on the meeting day of the respondents. The research questions were responded to using mean and standard deviation while t-test was used for the ho1 and Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) was used for the H02. Mean scores above 2.5 were considered agreed while those below 2.5 were considered disagreed.

3. RESULTS

Research Question 1: What are the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State?

Table 1 shows the mean ratings of the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria. It shows that the mean ratings of the vigilantes on items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. 8. 9. 10, and 11 are more than the 2.50 criterion mean, indicating their level of agreement with the statements of the items. Thus, the cluster mean of 3.34 with standard deviation of 0.67 indicates the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State.

Research Question 2: What are the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the membership of the vigilante?

Table 2 shows that executive members of the vigilante group had mean rating of 3.31 with a standard deviation of 0.26, while the non-executive members of the vigilante group had mean rating of 3.35 with standard deviation of 0.31. This shows that the non-executive members of the vigilante group had higher mean rating on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra than their non-executive counterparts.

Ho$_1$: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and non-executive members of the vigilante group on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the membership of the vigilante.

Table 3 reveals that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and non executive paid vigilante group members some constraints affect community policing as a security strategy for curbing kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria, t (319) = -1.001, p = 0.317. This implies that the null hypothesis was not rejected since the associated probability value of .317 was greater than the 0.05 significant level

Research Question 3: What are the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the educational level of the vigilante?

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation analysis of the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria

n = 321

Item Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Remarks
1. Funding.	3.31	.71	Agree
2. Lack of fire arms.	3.23	.78	Agree
3. Lack of patrol vehicle.	3.25	.68	Agree
4. Little or no training and development of police staff.	3.44	.72	Agree
5. Illiteracy.	3.37	.74	Agree
6. Use of outdated and insufficient technology among the police.	3.45	.65	Agree
7. Lack of cooperation between the police and the masses.	3.41	.60	Agree
8. Poor initiative and administrative frame work in police system.	3.27	.67	Agree
9. Wide spread corruption and harassment among the police.	3.04	.64	Agree
10. There is poor access to vital information.	3.45	.57	Agree
11. Poor documentation of policies, strategies, plans among the police.	3.54	.56	Agree
Cluster Mean	**3.34**	**.67**	**Agree**

Table 2. Mean and standard deviation analysis of the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria

n = 321

Vigilante Members	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Executive	90	3.31	0.26
Non-Executive	231	3.35	0.31

Table 3. T-test analysis of the difference in the mean ratings of executive and non-executive members on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria

Members	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	T	Sig	Decision
Executive	90	3.31	0.26	319	-1.001	.317	NS
Non-Executive	231	3.35	0.31				

NS = Not Significant

Table 4. Mean and standard deviation analysis of the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria based on the educational level of the vigilante

n = 321

Educational Level	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
No Education	21	3.34	0.32
Primary Education	96	3.34	0.26
Secondary Education	189	3.36	0.33
Tertiary Education	15	3.27	0.12

Table 5. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the difference in the mean ratings of the vigilante group on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State, Nigeria

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	10.680	3	3.560	.325	.807
Within Groups	3467.382	317	10.938		
Total	3478.062	320			

Table 4 shows that the viglante who have no education had a mean rating of 3.34 with standard deviation of 0.32, those who have primary education had a mean rating of 3.34 with standard deviation of 0.26 while those who have secondary education had a mean rating of 3.36 with standard deviation of 0.33 and those who have tertiary education had a mean rating of 3.27 with standard deviation of 0.12. This indicates that the vigilante group with secondary education had the highest mean rating on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on the educational level of the vigilante.

Ho$_2$: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the vigilante group on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on their educational level.

Table 5 reveals that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the vigilantes on ' vigilante group on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State based on their educational level, $F(3, 317) = 0.325$, $p = 0.807$. This implies that the null hypothesis was not rejected, since the associated probability value of 0.295 is greater than the 0.05 significant level.

4. DISCUSSION

The findings of the study showed that they are factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. Factors such as; inadequate funding, lack of fire arms, lack of patrol vehicles, little or no training and development of police staff, illiteracy, use of outdated and insufficient technology among the police, lack of cooperation between the police and the masses, poor initiative and administrative frame work in police system, wide spread corruption and harassment among the police, poor access to vital information and poor documentation of policies, strategies, plans among the police. However, it was further revealed that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and non executive vigilantee group members on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. In line with the finding of this study was Eze [11] who found out that lack of fire arms, poor funding, and lack of patrol vehicles were among the major problems confronting them (security). By implication, the finding of this study proves that if those militating factors stated above could be properly looked into, kidnapping will be something of the past in Anambra State [12].

5. CONCLUSION

The study found out that they are some factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. Factors such as poor funding, lack of firearms, lack of patrol vehicles, and little or no training and development of the security personnel should be well addressed. The study also concluded that good educational level will also help the security personnel in curbing kidnapping.

6. IMPLICATION OF THE FINDINGS

The findings of the study revealed that they are factors militating against community policing in

curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. The implication of this is that providing adequate funding and patrol vehicles will be helpful in curbing kidnapping in communities in Anambra State. The study also revealed that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and non executive paid vigilante group members on the factors militating against community policing in curbing kidnapping in Anambra State. The educational implication of this is that educating the security personnel and letting them to be aware of vital information would help in curbing kidnapping in communities in Anambra State.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- Government should provide the security force with adequate fire arms, funding and patrol vehicles.
- Both the executive and non-executive members of the vigilante groups should be well equipped by the government.
- Government should encourage the security force towards upgrade their educational qualification.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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