

Educational social implications of human learning theories towards the management of activities of kidnapers in Katsina State

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ABSTRACT: *The study investigated educational social implications of learning theories towards the management of activities of kidnapers in Katsina State. The study employed survey research design and the population of the study comprises of 705 people in the affected areas. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 248 people (Research Advisor, 2006) from the population of the study. The instrument for data collection was Learning Theories Questionnaire for Kidnapers' Activities (LTQKA). The instrument was validated by the experts in educational psychology, test and measurement, guidance and counseling, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. The questionnaires were distributed to the families of victims of kidnappers in the affected areas. Investigation revealed that, schedule of reinforcement and generalization were methods mostly used by the families of captives to free their people from the hands of kidnappers. The finding also revealed that, the families of victims of kidnappers did not believe in the principle of extinction which should have been the best way to end kidnapping in the State. Based on the findings, it was recommended that: government should enact a law that will ban the payments of ransoms to free captives of kidnappers, families of the victims of kidnappers should stop paying ransom to kidnappers as a way to set their people free, governmental and non-governmental organizations should devise means of comforting the families of kidnapped people so that they will have relief and at the same time have courage to abide by the enacted law banned the payments of ransoms to free captives.*

KEYWORDS: kidnapers, learning theories, management, educational implications.

INTRODUCTION

In Katsina State, activities of kidnappers have almost become order of the day; their activities have claimed a lot of lives and properties in the affected areas. The governments of Katsina state have

put a number of measures in place as to put and to these ungodly activities. A large number of people especially in rural areas where kidnappers' activities are highly pronounced have been displaced and left destitute. These activities were not only limited to Katsina State but to virtually all the Northwest States in Nigeria. the methods which the families of the affected people have been using to set their people free were on the wrong side. Family of the affected people have been paying millions of millions to kidnappers in order to set their people free and this ransoms paid have been helping the situation in anyway instead it's create more harms than good. Schedule of reinforcement as far as learning theories is concerned are precise rules that are used to present (or remove) rein forcers (or punishers) following a specified operant behavior. These rules are defined in terms of the time and the number of responses required in order to present (or to remove) a rein forcers (or a punisher). Schedule of reinforcement would have been a good method to end the activities of kidnappers if properly used and applied by the families of kidnapped people. According to learning theories, schedule of reinforcement is used to encourage good behavior and at the same time it can be used to stop unwanted behavior. As far as ransom paid to the kidnappers are concerned, it is a schedule of reinforcement which encourages the activities of kidnappers because the ransoms paid to them provide them with good response which encourages and enable them to extend their activities to many areas as to make more money. The researcher is of the view that, schedule of reinforcement if properly used will help to discourage kidnappers from extending their activities and it will also help to their activities. More so, generalization is also another law under human learning and it is refers to incidental conditioning of behaviours similar to an original operant. This means if kidnappers get ransoms from the family of their captives, we may find them (Kidnappers) increasing their activities as well as for any unwanted activities provided money is paid if committing the offence. Another law under human learning which was used by Pavlo in reference to his observation that the conditioned response to a cue that predicted food delivery decreased and eventually disappeared when food no longer followed the cue. Extinction refers to the fading and disappearance of behavior that was previously learned by association with another event. This principle will help in the management of kidnappers in the Katsina State if properly utilized.

In Nigeria John (2016) reported that the first case of kidnaping for financial payment occurred between the year 1999 and 2000 when the Niger Delta criminal gangs abducted expatriate oil workers and made demands for payment of huge amount of money as ransom for their release. Olaniyi and Aminu (2021) Book Haram operates almost the same way kidnappers do; they have taken the woe of kidnapping into relatively peaceful Katsina State. Favaro, Degortes, Colombo and Santonastaso (2020) opined that, the stockholm syndrome had been present in 50% of the sample when under captivityof kidnappers. The presence of Post-Traumatic stress Disorder (PTSD) can be predicted by the number of violent experiences, whereas the number of humiliating or deprivation experiences predicts the development of the Stockholm syndrome. These may include perpetual flashback of horrified events, nightmares and anxiety and uncontrollable thoughts about the calamity. The fact is that the activities of kidnappers in Katsina State have become order of the day and the occurrences have made a number of people flew from their homes

and settled in the areas where their activities are not pronounced. Some of the victims of kidnappers have in one way or the other lost their control.

During the evening of 11 December 2020, over 300 pupils (Cable, 2020, Biz Watch Nigeria & www.cbsnews, 2020) were kidnapped from boys' secondary boarding schools on the outskirts of Kankara, Katsina State, Northern, Nigeria. A gang of gunmen on motorcycles attacked the Government Science Secondary School, where more than 800 pupils reside, for over an hour (www.bbc.co.uk & the Guardian 12 December, 2020). In March 2021, bandit leader Auwalu was named as the mastermind of the mass kidnapping by BBC News (www.bbc.co.uk. 2021). Daudawa and six others had surrendered to government forces and handed over 28 AK-47 rifles, swearing on the Quran not to return to banditry (www.ton.ng, 2021). In an interview with Daily Trust, Daudawa admitted that he was responsible for the kidnappings (www.ton.ng, 2021) however he had already received an amnesty from the Katsina government. Daudawa was reported killed in May 2021 after allegedly returning to crime (www.bbc.uk. 2021).

Katsina State government says its Containment Order of September has drastically reduced banditry and related crimes. In July and August, 2021 there were 173 reported kidnap incidents affecting 475 persons. In September and October of the same year, however, only 61 kidnap incidents were recorded involving 201 victims. Inuwa(2022) there were 97 banditry incidents resulting in 130 deaths and 57 injuries in July and August 2021, while in September and October, there were 56 incidents resulting in 83 deaths and 58 injuries. According to him, in an effort to bring the criminals to justice, 480 suspects were arrested between March and September; 42 are under investigation and 216 facing prosecution. In spite of the successes recorded, it is worthy to note that since the commencement of the order, the bandits have been unrelenting in devising new strategies aimed at circumventing the impact of the order. The strategies range from attacking motorists or motorcyclists to siphon petrol from their fuel tanks, to ransacking communities and coercing villagers into sourcing the petrol on their behalf. A recent and most worrisome move by the criminals was the acquisition and use of Radio Frequency Walkie-Talkie Transceivers. Security Agencies are however on their trail with a view to bringing the menace to an end," Inuwa (2022) said. Inuwa (2022) said that government had also noted the engagement of some unscrupulous elements to smuggle petrol to bandits' enclaves. He said the menace of informants had equally continued to be a recurring problem causing serious setbacks to the fight against kidnapping and banditry. Nevertheless, the efforts of the security agencies are indeed commendable; especially the arrest of such elements, majority of whom are now facing prosecution. Members of the public and good citizens of the state are enjoined to give maximum cooperation by reporting activities of informants and people with suspicious character to law enforcement agencies. The driving objective is to arrest the emerging situation that is becoming a threat to peace, order and our collective well-being (Inuwa, 2022). The Security Challenges (Containment) Order, coupled with on-going offensive have significantly impacted on the ability of criminal elements to traverse the forest or communicate with their informants or relatives of kidnap victims. The measure has also limited bandits' access to cattle markets to sell off rustled and stolen animals to secure funds for purchase of arms and ammunition. Thus, the government of

Katsina State has witnessed a decline in all banditry-related activities. Inuwa (2022) explained that the order restricted communication, food and fuel supplies to suspected bandits and kidnappers (NAN). Premium Time (2022) gathered that armed bandits killed two people and kidnapped four children of a village head in separate attacks in Katsina State. The bandits entered Mahuta in Dandume local government area and started shooting sporadically to scare away people. The attract left two women instantly killed. They abducted several people and many people fled Mahuta for Dandume and Funtua. Premium Time (2022) gathered that in SabuwarKasa, Kafur local government area, the bandits targeted the home of the village head and kidnapped his children. It was observed that the bandits came on motorcycles around 12:30 a.m. when most people were asleep. They went to the village head's house and kidnapped his children in his absence. Kaalu (2022) Nigeria currently has more than 10 million children out of school - most of them in the north, and most of them girls - and the school attacks and kidnappings have only made the situation worse. Fortunately, both parents and the survivors themselves have emphasized the importance of ensuring children continue to learn. The Nigerian Government has expressed a desire to address the issue. In Earlier year of 2020, the country's Minister of Finance, Budget and Planning, Zainab Ahmed, convened a conference on financing safe schools in Abuja. The conference was attended by ministers, governors, security chiefs, traditional leaders and development partners, who all committed to concerted action to change the situation. The International community held their second International Day to Protect Education from Attack on 9 September, 2021 - and Nigeria hosted the Fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration on 25-27 October 2021 with a theme of "Ensuring Safe Education for All: From Commitment to Practice" - parents, communities, students and stakeholders called for the government of Nigeria to ensure that Nigerian children are not denied their fundamental right to education by making schools and places of learning safe.

Statement of the problem

The problem of this study is as a result of the increase in the activities of kidnappers in Katsina State. A number of people have lost their loved ones to kidnappers and a lot of ransoms have been paid to kidnappers in order to set their captives free. This has been affecting standard of living of the affected people in one way or the other. More so, the government of Katsina state has been wasting their resources on the money spent on insecurity on a monthly basis; all in the name of kidnapping. The government has have put in place a number of measures to put an end to these unwanted activities but yet people are kidnapped on a periodic basis. The measure put in place in the management of kidnappers' activities did not include law of extinction and schedule of reinforcement under learning theories which the researchers are of the view that if properly implemented will go a long way in bringing a lasting solution to the activities of kidnappers in Katsina State. Educationists in various fields of studies such as psychology, administration and planning, guidance and counseling have put their heads together applying the principles of extinction and schedule of reinforcement in bring an end to these problems. It is the responsible of the experts in the field of education to work out modalities on how to fully implement the modalities put in place for effective utilization of the directives given in the implementation guides. It is in view of this, the study investigated educational implications of learning theories towards

the management of activities of kidnapers in Katsina State with the aim of putting an end to kidnapers' activities in the State.

Objectives of the study

1. To find out how often kidnapers carry out their attack in the affected areas in Katsina State.
2. To find out the most suitable law of educational learning theories capable of putting an end to kidnapers' activities in Katsina State.
3. To find out if people will allow the government of Katsina State to rescue their kidnapped relatives if law to ban the payment of ransoms is enacted in the State.
4. To find out if there is gender difference in the number of kidnapped victims.

Research questions

1. How often do kidnapers carry out their attack in the affected areas in Katsina State?
2. What is the most suitable law of educational learning theories capable of putting an end to kidnapers' activities in Katsina State?
3. Is there gender difference between male and female victims of kidnapers in Katsina State?
4. Is there gender difference in the number of kidnapped victims?

METHODOLOGY

The population of the study comprises of 705 people in the affected areas. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select 248 people (Research Advisor, 2006). The instrument for data collection was Learning Theories Questionnaire for Kidnapers' Activities (LTQKA). The instrument was validated by experts in educational psychology, test and measurement, guidance and Counseling, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. The questionnaires were distributed to the family of victims of kidnapers. The reliability coefficient of internal consistencies of the instrument using Cronbach Alfa was 0.629. The questionnaires were administered to the subjects of the study to respond to the questions on the instrument and finally, descriptive analysis was used to analyse the data.

Presentation of results

Research question one: How often do kidnapers carry out their attack in the affected areas in Katsina State?

Table 1

| Time | frequency | percentage | cumulative percent |
|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| Often | 156 | 62.90 | 62.90 |
| Not often | 92 | 37.10 | 100 |
| Total | 248 | 100 | |

The table above showed that 156 people in the affected areas representing 62.90% responded that kidnapers operated often in Katsina State while 92 representing 37.10 responded and said the activities of kidnapers were not often in the State.

Research question two: What is the most suitable law of educational learning theories capable of putting an end to kidnappers' activities in Katsina State.

Table 2

| Laws of human Learning | frequency | percent | cumulative percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Extinction | 130 | 52.42 | 52.42 |
| Schedule of reinforcement | 70 | 28.23 | 80.65 |
| Generalisation | 48 | 19.35 | 100 |
| Total | 248 | 100 | |

The table above showed that 130 victims representing 52.42% responded that extinction will go a long way in stopping the activities of kidnappers in the Katsina State. Also, 70 people representing 28.23% were of the view that, schedule of reinforcement will be of help to intercept kidnappers' activities and finally, 48 people representing 19.35% responded that generalization will be a good method to stop kidnappers' activities in Katsina State.

Research question three: Would you allow the government of Katsina State to rescue your kidnapped relatives if law to ban the payment of ransoms is enacted in the State?

Table 3

| Responsibility by Govt. | frequency | percent | cumulative percent |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Yes | 181 | 72.98 | 72.98 |
| No | 67 | 27.02 | 100.00 |
| Total | 248 | 100 | 100 |

The table above showed that 181 respondents representing 72.98% were of the view that they will allow the government to carry out their civic responsibilities if the law to stop the payments of ransoms is passed into law with the pledge that the government will do everything possible within its limit to rescue captives of kidnappers.

Research question four: Is there gender difference in the number of kidnapped victims?

Table 4

| Gender | |
|--|-----|
| Is the number of male kidnapped greater than number of female? | |
| Yes | 202 |
| No | 46 |
| Total | 248 |

The table above showed that 202 people responded that the number of males kidnapped in the State outnumbered the number of females.

DISCUSSION

The number of houses affected in the village by the kidnappers' activities in Katsina State outnumbered those in the town. In spite of this, many households have left their houses and even properties and relocated to another place where there is a high level of security compared to their previous destinations. It was discovered that the families of the victims paid ransoms to set their

people free from the hands of kidnappers whenever their relatives are kidnapped. The frequent payments of ransoms have increased the rate at which kidnappers operate in the State because payment of ransoms was seen as a motivational factor to kidnappers. The findings showed that extinction is the best method to avert kidnappers' activities in Katsina State. This means if no payment is made to set the kidnappers' captives free, the perpetrators will be discouraged from the business. The result also showed that a number of people responded that if governments can comfort and do all the necessary things to free their relatives if kidnapped from the hands of kidnappers, they will abide by the provision of law that enacted the payments of ransoms to kidnappers. The economy of the family of the captives have been greatly affected because the findings showed that the number of males kidnapped is more than the number of female. The males were the ones responsible to take care of the house and when under captivity, everything concerning their business activities is confined.

CONCLUSION

It is obvious from the results of the findings that kidnappers' activities are on rampart and it happens often and often. This is because in the affected areas a large number of people responded that kidnappers' operated often and often in the state. It was also found that extinction will be more suitable to curb kidnappers' activities in Katsina State because a large number of respondents were of that opinion. The people of Katsina State in the affected areas were in support of the government to enact the law that will ban the payments of ransoms to set kidnapped people free if they will be comforted and ensure the freedom of their relatives if kidnapped. More so, the economy of the affected areas is at risk because a large number of males who indulged in one business or the other were under captivity.

Recommendation

1. Government should endeavour to curtail the activities of kidnappers by using extinction learning theories which happened to be the best method to curb kidnapping in Katsina State.
2. Government should enact a law that will ban the payments of ransoms to free captives of kidnappers.
3. Governmental and non-governmental organizations should devise means of comforting the families of kidnapped people so that they will have relief and at the same time have courage to abide by the enacted law banned the payments of ransoms to free captives.
4. Government should provide succumbs for the families of the kidnapped people so that it will not largely affect their businesses.

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Appendix I

Learning Theories Questionnaire for Kidnapers' Activities (LTQKA).

Instruction: choose the option that best express your opinion

Section A: Bio-data

Name of affected area.....

Gender.....

Section B

| S/N | STATEMENT | YES | NO |
|-----|---|-----|----|
| 1 | Do kidnappers kidnapped your people often and often? | | |
| 2 | Are your villages under attacks often and often? | | |
| 3 | Are you always restless in our houses because of the fear of being kidnapped? | | |
| 4 | Stopping the payments of ransoms will go a long way to address the issue of kidnapping? | | |
| 5 | Would gradual withdrawal of payments of ransoms helps to stop kidnaping? | | |
| 6 | Would generalizing the method used to stop kidnaping helps to address kidnaping? | | |
| 7 | Do number of kidnapped males more than number of females kidnapped? | | |
| 8 | Do you prefer male to be kidnapped than female? | | |
| 9 | Do kidnapping of male affect the victims' economy? | | |
| 10 | Do government provide assistance to the families of kidnapped people? | | |

Mojeed, Umar, Aminu& Adamu (2022)