

EXPERIENCES AND COUNSELING INFORMATION ON KIDNAPPING: THE ROLES OF LIBRARIANS AND COUNSELORS IN A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY OF KIDNAPPED VICTIMS' STUDENTS OF AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *Kidnapping be it in any format leads several negative consequences such as psychological trauma, psychiatric disorder or even suicidal behavior. As such this, study was set up in order to find out the experiences of Kidnapped Victims' Students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria especially its effects to their social and educational activities in the university. Particularly, the contributions of Librarians and Counselors to cope with the undesirable experiences. In order to achieve these unique objectives, qualitative research methodology was adopted and interviewed ten (10) participants. Findings of this study revealed that psychological experience, sociological experiences, sexual abuse and physical abuse were the experiences of kidnapped victims from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Nigeria. Finally, the researchers proposed some recommendations for practical intervention.*

KEYWORDS: Experiences; Counseling Information Kidnapping; Librarians; Counselors; Qualitative Case Study; Thematic analysis.

INTRODUCTION

What we knew

Scholars from different profession debated, discussed and published empirical research articles on issues related to the concept of kidnapping, causes of kidnapping and affects of kidnapping.

What we don't know

In this study, the researchers confirmed that at the time of conducting this study there is no one single empirical study that identified and discussed the negative implications of the experiences of

Kidnapped Victims' Students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria especially its effects to their social and educational activities in the university. Particularly, the contributions of Librarians and Counselors to cope with the undesirable experiences.

Introduction

Kidnapping is one of the unwanted crimes that have more debilitating consequences in every human's society. This is because, kidnapping alone leads to gang rape, physical assault such as beatings, kicking/ maltreated of victims, financial victimization and if care was not taken it may also leads to loss of precious lives.

Nigeria is among the country that suffers from kidnapping activities. To support this argument, Nigerian police affairs minister reported that over 1,000 cases of kidnapping have reached his desk (Chidi, 2014). Most of the kidnapped victims are either rich men, political aspirants or their relatives. Among the relatives of those categories of personalities, students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (A.B.U.) Zaria Nigeria were not excluded.

Therefore, there is a critical need to find out what the Kidnapped Victims' students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria experienced during their abduction, when they were under the custody of their abductees and after their released. Moreover, to identify the counseling information communicated to them after their released.

Objectives of the study

1. To find out the experiences of Kidnapped Victims' Students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria
2. To identify the counseling information communicated to Kidnapped Victims' Students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria
3. To propose the roles of Librarians and Counselors in curbing the negative experiences of Kidnapped Victims' Students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria

METHOD

In order to collect relevant data for this study, qualitative case study approach was adopted and design semi-structured interview for cancer participants. Qualitative case study is an excellent approach for clear understanding of individuals' inner-pains and real-life experiences. (Cohen & Crabtree 2006).

Procedure

Relevant data for this study was collected through face to face interview with Kidnapped Victims' Students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria. Initially, before the commencement of the interview the researchers seek the participants' consent and explained to them in details about the study aims and objectives. The interview was conducted at various participants' choice of locations within the university. Questions were asked about the challenges they face with regards to cancer complications and the sources of information they consulted in order to overcome the challenges.

Analysis

All data collected in this study was analyzed based on thematic analysis phases. Thematic analysis is a qualitative analytical method for identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns, themes, phrases and key words in minimally organized and describable data in rich and detail (Braun & Clark 2006).

Phase 1: The entire voice recorded interview was transcribed into written document while later, the researchers carefully read and re-read the data more than five times with the help of highlighter pen in order to search for themes or phrases which directly answered the research questions.

Phase 2: Open codes (themes or phrases which directly answered the research questions) were identified from the participants narratives.

Phase 3: Open codes were condensed together and formed sub-categories.

Phase 4: Sub- categories based on a particular research question were grouped together (related sub-categories) and formed several themes.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations in research refer to a designated policy protecting the reputation of participants under investigation. For the purpose of this study, the researchers explained the study purpose, objectives and the whole research process to the participants before obtaining their consent to participate. Moreover, the researchers assured the participants that should anyone of them wants to discontinue during the course of the research he/she will be free to do so. Confidentiality and anonymity was censured by protecting the privacy of the research participants for not exposing their names at any stage in this research.

RESULT

Original data collected and analyzed from ten (10) kidnapped victims from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Nigeria specifically with regards to their experiences when they were kidnapped and the type of counseling information they received yielded the following themes as described below:

Table 1: Experiences of kidnapped victims from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Nigeria

Investigation	Themes
What are the experiences of kidnapped victim's students of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria?	❖ Psychological experience
	❖ Sociological experiences
	❖ Sexual abuse
	❖ Physical abuse

The above table represents the voice of kidnapped victim's students of A.B.U. Zaria with regards to their experiences during their abduction and after their released and the following themes

emerged (i) Psychological Experiences, (ii) Sociological Experiences (iii) Sexual abuse and (iv) Physical abuse.

Psychological experiences

Psychological experiences as a theme in this study was captured from the story kidnapped victim's students of A.B.U. Zaria shared with us concerning their experiences with during and after their abduction. Over (10/10) of the victim's claimed that Psychological effects of their abduction was one their experiences. For example in the word of the participant he narrated the follow story when he stated that:

"Well!, my brother [the interviewer] am not going to lie to you seriously speaking when those people (kidnappers) kidnapped me I felt like I have psychological problem because even after I was released from them I use to have the feeling that someone is following me, and sometimes I use to talk to myself alone, seriously it was a terrible experience."

Another participant with different opinion stated that:

"Am! When I was abducted and my parents paid for the ransom required and the kidnappers released, I became so scared. Before my abduction I love traveling in the night but now whenever the weather turn dark, I usually have the feelings that the kidnappers will come back and kidnap me again. Sometime even if am sleeping I usually have nightmare about the kidnappers."

Sociological experiences

Sociological experiences theme comprises the difficulties victims of kidnapping in this case study found themselves after they were released from their abductees. Over (7/10) of the victims reported this claimed. This assertion can be traced in the confession of one participant when he stated that: *"Well! Since after my release I found it very difficult to connect with my friends because am afraid they could be kidnappers or their informers. You see now days I don't attend any party or social gathering organized by friends. Am scared and being careful with those kinds of social interactions."*

In order to support the above claimed another participant claimed that

"uhm! Ogah (the interviewer) if not you were introduced by my beloved brother I will not accept your offer to attend this interview session because I don't trust anyone in this university now. That is why my parents haired an anonymous Body-guide for me. I don't trust anyone now nor my friends neither you (the interviewer)."

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse theme contains a lot of complains about how the victims experienced sexual abuse when they were under the custody of their abductees. About (6/10) participants reported theirs complains. For instances one of the participants stated that:

"Wow! I can still remember how those animas (kidnappers) raped me (pause for a while and shade tears) I was bitterly begging them to stop but they refused. I always pray that God almighty will exposed those useless people."

Another participant claimed that

“Kai! Kai! (Cried for like 2 minutes) my brother (the interview) before my abduction I was simple and innocent lady. I swear to you that I was virgin I reserved myself for my future husband. But, now those evil people (kidnappers) spoiled everything for me.”

Physical abuse

One of the participants expressed that he encounter physical abuse when he stated that:

“Ash! uhm, those useless people (kidnappers) beat the hell out of me because I was so stubborn to them. They nearly kill me.”

Table 2: Types of counseling information communicated to kidnapped victims status of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria

Investigation	Theme
What types of counseling information is communicated to kidnapped victims of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria?	Religious perspective information

The above table represents the types of counseling information kidnapped victims of this case study received after they were released from their abductees generated the following theme:

Religious perspective information

The above theme captured the counseling information kidnapped victims in that study received from different religious leaderships in order to calm them down from the terrible situations they found themselves. For example one of the participants stated that:

“Well, after my released from those useless people (kidnappers) one of the prominent pastor from the church me and my family members attend visited our house. He prayed for me and he recites some verses from the holy bible, he later narrated so many stories to me about this kind of incidents and he gave me so many advices that calmed me down. And believe me it works.”

Another participant also stated that:

“Ah! Alhamdulillah, after they received their ransoms they released me and when I got home my dad called one of the respectable imam in our area he prayed for me against any future occurrence of the incident. The imam also gave me some Quran verses to be frequently reciting to serve as a protective mechanism and also to help me control my emotional instability. And it's really works”

Data discussion

The findings of this study were discussed below based on the objectives that this study was set up to achieve.

1. This study found out that psychological experience was one of the experiences kidnapped victims of this study gained after released from their captors. This is not supposing because any individual who lost his freedom and is caged in a particular undesirable location may experience

psychological trauma such as feeling incompetent, helplessness, guilt, insecurity and emotional stress (Spilman, 2006). Another findings revealed that

Social experience was one of the experience victims of this case study encounter. It comprises fear of being followed, and suspicions of friends and some family members. Ene (2018) claimed that most of kidnapped victims displayed behaviors of mistrust and fear of travelling especially in night or even use commercial mobility to their various destinations.

Furthermore, sexual abuse was one of the terrible experiences the victims experienced. Sexual abuse is described as unacceptable sexual intercourse without the consent of the victim (Ojo, 2013). This is not surprising because, organized crime offenders like kidnappers usually take advantage of their hostage and molest them in any way the desired.

Finally, this study also found out that physical abuse was another experience gained by kidnapped victims in this case study, physical abuse is all about causing physical damage to an individual by batting kicking or using hard or sharp objects to course damage to human body system. Contrary to the findings of this study, research conducted by Ellen Sigrid & Geert (2005) found out that the experiences of kidnapped victims in Netherlands and Belgium were fallings of helplessness, uncertainty and isolation.

2. When kidnapped victims of this case study were asked to discuss the types of counseling information they received often they were released from their captors they claimed that the only advice they receive was religious related information.

Religious perspective information as counseling information was indeed an excellent information because it comprises advices how kidnapped victims can cope with the traumatic situations they found themselves. In line with this finding, the study of Okobia (2017) suggested that religion plays a vital role in curbing with kidnapping experiences.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study the research confirmed that kidnapped victims of this study encounter so many challenges during their abduction, at the time they were held as a hostage and after their released. Moreover, the study also found out that they only received one type of counseling information. Therefore, the researchers proposed the following roles of librarians and counselors in providing counseling information to victims.

Roles of Librarians in curbing kidnapping experiences

Ideally, librarians are the custodians of information that is why they select, acquired, process, store, retrieve and disseminate information to their clients in any formats. As such the researchers recommend that the university librarians of this case study should:

1. Package all necessary information resources such as newspapers, magazine flyers and grieving motivational video clips and communicate it only restricted to the victims and the counseling staff of the university.

2. Frequently organizing lectures, talks and seminars in collaboration with both the librarians and counselors being the university library as a venue.

Roles of Counselors in curbing kidnapping experiences

Counseling staff of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria should be able to provide post-incident counseling services to the victims in order to help them overcome the challenge of uncertainty, fear, anxiety, desperations and mistrust of their immediate environment. This objective can be achieved based on the themes identified from the findings of this study:

- i. **Psychologically:** Nigerian government or the university should establish rehabilitation centre where professionally trained counselors will use different psychotherapy techniques to reduce or eliminate the psychological trauma i.e. feeling of guilt, stress, helplessness and incompetent from the victims.
- ii. **Sociological Experience:** Released victims should be taking to the rehabilitation centre for behavior modification to minimize or eradicate the fear of being followed by someone, suspicious of members and mistrust before they are fully integrated back to their respective communities.
- iii. **Sexual Abuse:** Sexually abused victims of kidnappers on released should be taken to specialist medical centre for various tests especially to find out their HIV/AIDS status for proper medications before recruiting them to their immediate and larger society.
- iv. **Physical Abuse:** Physically abused victims of kidnappers should also be taking to medical centre for proper medical care to ascertain their fitness or unfitness to be reunited into the society.

Religious perspective information

Since Findings of this study revealed that Religious perspective information was the only counseling information kidnapped victims in this study received after they were released by their captives, therefore the researchers recommends for professional counselors intervention.

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Competing Interests Statement

The authors of this study declare that there are no competing or potential conflicts of interest with regards to this study.

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