

Security Agencies and Kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: The study examines the role of security agencies in preventing kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, it examines the Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility, Community vigilante activities, and the Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp role in the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State. These were posed as research questions and translated into null hypotheses. Related and relevant literature were reviewed. The theories that supported the study were The Queer Ladder Theory and the general strain theory. The research design was Cross-sectional survey research design, while the research area was Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The mix method sampling technique was adopted for the study. Data were generated from 400 respondents. The research instrument used in generating data was the questionnaire. The study statistically tested the generated data using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that the Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility has a significant relationship with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Community vigilante activities significantly relates to the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria and finally that the Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp have a significant relationship with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Based on these findings, recommendations were that the government needs to increase its funding for security agencies so that modern and adequate equipment to combat kidnapping and other crimes could be acquired among other things.

KEYWORDS: Security agencies, kidnapping, police force statutory responsibility, community vigilante activities and Nigerian Security Civil defence Corp.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The right to security is the most important of human right that is the reason why it is provided for in the constitution of all sovereign and independent nations. In Nigeria, it is stated clearly in section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Federal Constitution. The section states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary responsibility and purpose of government. Security is a necessary and an indispensable tool and requirement for the development and attainment of a healthy life quality in any society. It provides the needed enabling atmosphere and environment for societal individuals to aspire and work towards a socio-economic development of society (Groenwald & Peace, 2004; Ukwai, Agba, Inyang, & Eraye, 2011). Hence, the absence of security impedes on human and societal capacity to develop and compromises the quality of life and dignity of individuals in the society. Also the lack of security impacts negatively in the life of citizens through loss of life, and property and loss of confidence from the fear of violence (Odekunle, 2005; Odinkalu, 2005; Alemika & Chukwuma, 2005).

In performing their role in providing security in Nigeria the government delegate the duty of maintenance of internal security to a number of security agencies. These security agencies are by law saddled with the responsibility of preventing and detecting crime, preserving peace and order and enforcing all laws and regulations. They are expected to perform these roles efficiently and effectively. With the high rate of insecurity in the country, the question that borders every mind is whether these security agencies, especially the police perform these roles as expected of them? Majority of the people are of the opinion that the institutions, especially the Nigerian Police Force, formed and given the role of protecting life and property falls below their standards of performance. They are seeing as a toothless dog that can only bark but not bite. Odekunle, (2014) argued that there is no need to prove the non-performance of the security agencies especially the Nigeria police in the present condition. Rather, what is needed is the identification of the major inadequacies, problems and obstacles that are responsible for the situation.

To say that kidnapping is a menace is an understatement. An issue that was previously unknown to the Nigerian society has in the past ten to fifteen years become volatile and domesticated (Akpan, 2010). The phenomenon started in the Niger Delta region where the target are mostly expatriate foreign and Nigerian workers in the oil industry. Overtime it has spread throughout the nation reaching places such as Kano and Kaduna, the North and South-East and South-south regions of Nigeria (Ngwama, 2014). Since it started, this deadly crime has not only become ubiquitous, but has become shamelessly commercialized in the country. Today, the victims of this reprehensible crime are no longer expatriates workers, but now mostly Nigerians and sadly includes male and female, the rich as well as the poor, the aged, children, infant and even dead corpse. The perpetrators have become so mean and heartless that they have even turned to kidnapping pastors and clergy men.

Although this crime against humanity takes place in both urban and rural areas and perpetuated in all parts of the nation, it is more pronounce in the Niger Delta states and recently has become an almost everyday occurrence in Cross River State. The worrisome and frightening aspects of these crimes in Cross River State, is not just the humiliation and torture that victims go through at the hands of the perpetrators of such crimes, but also the psychological trauma their family members go through. The incident of kidnapping has affected the image of the nation abroad. It has also affected the attempt to develop a viable tourism and hospitality industry, as visitors and tourist have been warned of the dangers of being kidnapped in the country (Inyang, 2009;Ukwaiyi, Ojong, Austine&Emeka, 2012). In parts of Cross River, such as Calabar and Akpabuyo, kidnapping has become everyday news. The most recent occurrence is the abduction of an academic professor and the former commissioner for Water Resource of Cross River State, Gabriel Odu-Orji (Cross River Watch, 2017). It is as a result of these that this study is articulated to investigate the role of security agencies in preventing kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State. This study is therefore articulated to address the following questions.

- i. What relationship doe the Nigerian police force statutory responsibility have with the prevent kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria?
- ii. Does community vigilante activities relates to the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria?
- iii. What relationship does the Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp have with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State?

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the activities of security agencies in curbing kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The specific objectives include:

- i. To examine the relationship between the Nigerian Police force statutory responsibility and the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.
- ii. Investigate if community vigilante activities relates to the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.
- iii. To examine the relationship between Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp and the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

1.2 Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in the study.

- i. The Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility does not have any significant relationship with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.
- ii. Community vigilante activities does not significantly relates to the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.
- iii. Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp does not have any significantly relationship with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Literature

2.1.1 The Nigerian Police and the Prevention of Kidnapping

The Nigerian police as a national security outfit is saddled with the sole responsibility of preventing and controlling criminal activities. The force is also empowered by law to foster the peaceful co-existence of the society, so as to make the society governable for the benefits of its citizens. Minig and Maanew (1978) maintained that the role of the police is best understood as a mechanism of distribution of non-negotiable coercive force employed in accordance with the dictate of the laws that guide the situation. The police have a function of protecting public lives and properties. In understanding the importance of the police, there will be a state of anarchy in a society where there is no police to check crime and keep order (Appadona, 1978). The Nigerian police as mentioned are saddled with the responsibility of preventing and controlling crime in the country, but the burgeoning state of crime and the sophistication with which these crimes are committed makes

their job difficult and arduous. The situation is aggravated when one considers the low morale of members of the force and the numerous internal and external problems confronting the agencies, especially corruption, manpower shortage, level of essential police equipment and the quality of personnel (Igbmovia, 1982; Karimu, 1999).

According to Onoge (1988) the Nigerian Police has fallen short of optimum performance in their task of preventing crimes such as kidnapping, arm robbery and other organized crimes. In the process of performing its statutory function to the larger society, the Nigerian police have been indicted in a number of ways. This is seen in its widespread insufficiency and corruption, despite the power given it by the constitution to maintain public peace and safety. According to Karimu (1999). The Nigerian Police have been accused of abuse of human right, aiding and abetting criminal activities and engaging in bribery and corruption. Odinkalu (2004) argues that the Nigerian Police still have a long way to go in meeting the expectations of Nigerians especially in the area of preventing violent crimes such as kidnapping. He went further to maintain that those violent crimes and conflict occur due to the inaptitude and inefficiency of the police in the performance of their duties.

Odekunle (2004) in a study argued that the Nigerian police lack modern equipment to effectively combat crimes in Nigeria. He went further to argue that infrastructural facilities and equipments are in short supply in the Nigerian police force vehicles, communication equipment, scientific tools for investigation, intelligence gathering, control equipment are grossly inadequate to assist the police in combating crime. Olurotami (2012) is of the opinion that the Nigerian police is known to be corrupt organized crime kingpins are known to bribe the police to turn a blind eye as they perpetrate their crime on the population of the country. Odekunle (2004) also maintain that poor police remuneration for officers of the Nigerian police is another reason for their poor performance of crime prevention. Odekunle (2004) maintain that crime prevention is a collective responsibility between the police and the general public. But the vast majority of Nigerians do not believe that the police have their best interest, either because of past experience or for some other reasons known to them. He argued that public perception of the Nigerian police force has greatly affected the level of support given to them in combating crime. As a result of these, many refrain from giving valuable information which could help checkmate crime.

2.1.2 Community Security and the Prevention of Kidnapping

A number of factors have occasioned the emergence of community security known as vigilante groups in Nigeria state. Chukwuma (2001) asserts that the inability of the police to protect the lives and properties of members of the society has given rise to community effort at ensuring their own security. Okoro (2007) identified corruption, brutality, oppressive and repressive postures, high level of extortion, high cost of assessment to police services, poverty, non-personal relationships, as some of the factors that made the people lose faith in the police and their consequent preference for informal policing structures. Shaw (2002) is of the view that there is a rise in crime because of the perceived inadequacies of the police in the society to provide safety and security to citizens. To him, crime is on the rise and the police are not coping very well with the demand for protection by the citizens who are active in countries undergoing dramatic transformation in the economic and political spheres.

Community security is beneficial as a policing approach to address a range of different crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. For example, community security approaches have been used to address graffiti and property damage to gang violence and organised crime (Skogan & Hartnett, 1997; Ukwai, Igwe-Okomiso, & Angioha, 2018). More recently it has been an approach adopted to deal with anti-terrorist activities in some communities (Pickering, Wright-Neville, McCulloch & Lentini, 2007). Adegbusi (2009) 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 preventing crime such as Kidnapping, arm robbery, as majority of the respondents indicated that vigilante service groups can partner with the police to control and prevent crime in the state such as kidnapping, arm robbery and other crimes. In his analysis of a study conducted by Etim (2001) he observed the positive impact of the vigilante group to include a drop in "violent crime rates such as kidnapping and arm robbery in Aba and Onitsha and a surge in the crime rate of adjoining States of Edo, Delta and Rivers", suggesting the relocation of criminals. Although the effectiveness of community security practices has not been clearly documented, it is widely believed that it can have a positive effect on community attitudes such as fear of crime and neighbourhood satisfaction (Cordner, 1999; Palmiotto, 2005). Skogan (2006) argues there is evidence to suggest that increasing community police interactions are associated with lower levels in fear of crime.

2.1.3 Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp and The prevention of Kidnapping

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps roles were specified and demarcated from those of the police, the paramilitary agencies and the army, navy and the AIR force to prevent roles clashes and duplications of duties and responsibilities. Consequently, the acts which the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps get to enforce are those that tend most grossly offend the major function of the society. Abolurin (2008) maintain

argued that their function includes to investigate and take every necessary step to forestall any act of terrorism and report same to appropriate federal security agency; provide necessary warning for the civilian population from danger areas; provide and manage shelters for the civilian during period of emergency; assist in the decontamination and in the taking of precautionary measures during any period of emergency; carryout rescue operations and control volatile situations; assist in the provision of emergency medical services, including first aid, during any period of emergency; detect and demarcate any danger area; assist the federal and state fire service in fire-fighting operation; assist in the distribution of emergency supplies; provide assistance to resolve and maintain order in distressed areas in any period of emergency; assist in repairing indispensable public utilities during any period of emergency; provide intelligence information to the military on any matter relating to crime control generally, riot, disorder, revolt, strike or religious unrest; subversive activity by members of the public aimed at frustrating and government programme or policy; industrial action and strike aimed at paralyzing government activities, any other matter as may be directed by the minister and have power to arrange and mediate in the settlement of disputes among willing members of the public among others.

Igbo (2006) and Gibbons (1997) capture that, the image of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps as presented here is the social agent which functions in the interest of the general public, or the society as a whole. Since the formation of the corps, it has performed tremendously in the area of crime prevention. Chidozie (2009) observes that Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps have recorded a significant achievement and commitment in discharging their duties. According to him, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps has done satisfactory work in the area like public security of well-meaning Nigerian and foreigners, carrying out anti-canalization, arresting and prosecuting of vandals, restoration of riot prevention of robbery and kidnapping and conflict areas among others. Oche (2006) opines that, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps has done well in providing security. He stresses that, because of the presence of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps there are fair elections and violent free election in Nigeria through the provision of adequate security at various polling centers and also within and around the vicinity. Nkanga (2009) postulates that worried by the proliferation of unregistered security companies, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps is saddled with the responsibility of monitoring and supervising the activities of the private guard companies in Nigeria. He further maintains that; the charter aims at publishing among other things requirements for renewal grievance redress mechanism among others.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 General Strain Theory

Propounded by Agnew (1992). The theory draws from previous version of the strain theory. Agnew (1992) points to different kinds of strain not mentioned in previous strain theory and provides a larger discussion of the condition. Under which strain is now likely to lead to crime. Agnew (1992) described two categories of strain that contribute to crime;

- The first prevents an individual from achieving his goals; and
- The second takes things you value or present you with negative or noxious stimuli.

While strain may result from the failure to achieve a variety of goals, Agnew (1992) focuses on the failure to achieve these related goals, such as status, respect, and money. Strainful events, which are the inability to achieve a desired goal make people feel bad and frustrated. These bad feelings create pressure. This is especially true of anger and frustration, which energizes the individual to action, creating a desire for revenge and lowers inhibitions. According to Agnew strain is more likely to lead to crime among individuals with poor coping skills and resources. Money is perhaps the central goals every individual in the Nigerian society. All people, whether poor or rich are encourage to work hard to make money. Many people are prevented from making money they need through legal channels, such as work. As a consequence of the strain they fell, they may attempt to get this through illegal means such as crime. The general strain theory has come on the scene of criminology and brought a renewed interest in the effect of strain on crime. Since this is a relatively new theory that is very broad in its scope, critics have criticized it for not having much data to support or refute it. Due to the fact that it is such a broad theory, it is not possible to test it all at once, and it must be broken down into its component parts (Agnew, 1992). Agnew (1992) also noted that it is not a fully developed alternative to other theories, since it does not extend into the macro social world and does not take into account factors such as strain caused by non-social means. Agnew (1992) emphasized that "the general strain theory then, is presented as a foundation on which to build."

In applying this theory to this study, the incidence of kidnapping in Akpabuyo can be attributed to the strain that criminals feel as a result of their inability to achieve their goals such as employment, living a standard life, and lack of money.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design

This study adopted the Cross-sectional survey research design. The Cross-sectional survey design allow the investigator to select and study samples drawn from a population for the purpose of finding the relative incidence, distribution and interrelatedness of sociological variables (Osuala, 2005). The survey design is mostly used in researches that involve individuals as the unit of analysis (Babbie, 2008). It is a systematic enquiry in which the researcher gathers data from a sub-unit of a larger population, describing certain features of the population as they are at a particular time of the study (Isangedighi, Joshua, Asim&Ekuri, 2004).

3.2 Study Area

Akpabuyo is one of the Local Government Areas in Cross River State, Nigeria; it was created out of Odukpani Local Government Area in 1997 and became the 14th local government area in Cross River State (Abia, Nwagbara, Nkpoyen and Ushie, 2012). The local government area is located in the Calabar Agricultural zone with its headquarters at IkotNakanda. Akpabuyo is connected by one major road that passes through Calabar to Iking at the border that separates Nigeria from the Republic of Cameroun. Akpabuyo lies between latitude 4°45' N and 5°10' S and longitude 8°25' W and 8°40' E of the Greenwich Meridian. It is when the vegetative belt of Southern Nigerian and shores of the Atlantic Coastline with Bakassi to the East and the Republic of Cameroun to the West. The temperature of the study area is generally high with a duration range of 21^oc – 29^oc. The relative humidity of the area is also high most months of the year having a mean value of 80% except in December and January where the value of less than other months at less than 80%. The study area has an annual mean rainfall of 4021mm through the year with its peak between May and August, while the lowest mean of 240mm occurs from December and February (Ukpong, 1995).

3.3 Population of the study

The population constitute all the people of Akpabuyo Local Government Area, which according to the National Population Commission (2006) stands at 272,262. It is from this total population that a representative sample for this study was picked from.

3.4 Sample size and Sampling Technique

The sample size used for this study is four hundred (400). The sample consists of men and women living in the study area. The mix method sampling technique was used in selecting the sample from the total population of the study area. The stratified sampling technique was used to stratify the twenty-eight (28) villages that make up Akpabuyo Local Government into ten strata. From the ten strata, ten (10) communities were purposively selected. The researcher also applied the purposive sampling technique in selecting eight (8) major streets in Akpabuyo. From the eight (8) streets, fifty (50) respondents were purposively selected that made up the four hundred (400) sample that the researcher used for the study.

3.5 Instrument of data collection

The questionnaire that was used for this study contained three sections and was made up of twenty-five (25) questions. The section A contained the personal information of the respondents such as age, gender, educational qualification, occupation, and religious affiliation. The section B and C were designed to reflect the major variables that were raised for this study.

3.6 Method of data analysis

Data collected from the study area was checked to make sure that all questions that are contained in the questionnaire are answered by the respondents. Thereafter, the questionnaire was edited, coded and analysed using appropriate statistical tool. Simple percentages, frequency distributions, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to analyse the data. These statistical tools were found to be suitable as they deal with the lineal relationships of the variables under study.

IV. RESULTS

4.1 Data presentation

In this section, the main variables of the study were identified, their mean and standard deviation calculated. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 21 was used to perform frequency count, percentages, mean, standard deviation, while the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient analytical tool was employed to test the study's hypotheses. The demographic variables of respondents is presented in Table 1. Table 1 presents respondents demographic information. The responses to the questionnaire in respect to gender reveal that majority 69.0 percent (N = 276) were male while only 41.0 percent (N = 124) were female. From this findings, it showed male constitute majority of the study population as they number a higher per cent than female. The responses to the questionnaire in respect to age reveal that majority 34.8 per cent (N =139)

were between 28-37 years, respondents below 27 years were 33.3 per cent (N = 133), respondents in the group of those between the ages of 48 years above were 17.3 per cent (N = 69) respondent while those from 38-47 years numbered 14.8 per cent (N= 59) respectively. This finding or result implied that respondent from age 28-37 years had a higher percentage than other category of respondent in this variable.

The spread of respondents in terms of marital status shows that majority 50.5 per cent (N= 202) were married, 43 per cent (N =174) were single, 3.5 per cent (N=14) were widows/widowers, while 2.4 per cent (N=10) were divorced. This means that married couples were more among respondents in this category than other group. The distribution of respondent by occupational description shows that majority of the respondents 38.8 per cent (N=155) were farmers, 27.8 per cent (N=111) were students, 20.8 per cent (N=83) were civil servants, 6.5 per cent (N=26) were artisans while 6.3 per cent (N=25) were form other group description. This shows that the study area is dominated by farmers and student. The spread of respondents by religious affiliation revealed that majority of the respondent- 95.5 per cent (N =382) were from the Christian congregation 2.5 per cent (N = 10) were Muslims while 1.5 per cent (N = 6) were traditionalist while .5 per cent (N=2) were for other category of respondent. From this result presented, it is obvious that the study area is a Christian dominated area as they constitute the highest population.

Table 1 Demographic Information

VARIABLE	CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Gender	Male	276	69.0
	Female	124	41.0
	Total	400	100
Age	Below 27 years	133	33.3
	28-37 years	139	34.8
	38-47 years	59	14.8
	48 years and above	69	17.3
	Total	400	100
Marital status	Single	202	50.5
	Married	174	43
	Divorced	10	2.5
	Widow/widower	14	3.5
	Total	400	100
Religion	Christianity	382	95.5
	Islam	10	2.5
	African traditional religion	6	1.5
	Others	2	.5
	Total	400	100
Occupation	Civil servant	83	20.8
	Student	111	27.8
	Traders	26	6.5
	Farmer	155	38.8
	Others	25	6.3
	Total	400	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2018

4.2 Test of hypotheses

4.2.1 Hypothesis One

Hypothesis one in its null form states, “The Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility does not have any significant relationship with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was conducted to investigate the relationship between Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility and kidnapping.

Table 2 Pearson product moment correlation of Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility and kidnapping

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.
Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility	400	16.34	1.89	0.338**	.000
Kidnapping	400	16.61	1.35		

*significant at P <.05; critical r-value = 0.138; df = 398.

As presented in Table 2 the calculated r-value of 0.338** is greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 398 degree of freedom, this result therefore implies that the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility and kidnapping is rejected. It

therefore means that, there is statistical significant relationship between the Nigerian Police Force statutory responsibility and kidnapping.

4.2.2 Hypothesis Two

Hypothesis two in its null form states, “Community vigilante activities does not significantly relates to the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria”. The independent variable is Community vigilante activities while the dependent variable is kidnapping. Pearson product moment correlation analysis was employed to investigate the relationship between Community vigilante activities and kidnapping.

Table 3 Pearson Product Moment Correlation of Community vigilante activities and kidnapping

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.
Community vigilante activities	400	14.52	1.47	0.392**	.000
Kidnapping	400	16.61	1.35		

*significant at $P < .05$; critical r-value = 0.138; df = 398.

As presented in Table 3 the calculated r-value of 0.392** is greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 398 degree of freedom, this result therefore implies that, the null hypothesis which states that, Community vigilante activities does not significantly relates to the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria is rejected. It therefore means that, Community vigilante activities significantly relates to the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

4.2.3 Hypothesis three

Hypothesis three in its null form states, “Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp does not have any significantly relationship with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria”. The independent variable is Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp while the dependent variable is kidnapping. Pearson product moment correlation analysis was conducted to investigate the relationship between Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp and kidnapping.

Table 4 Pearson product moment correlation of Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp and kidnapping

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.
Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp	400	14.90	1.87	0.440**	.000
Kidnapping	400	16.61	1.35		

*significant at $P < .05$; critical r-value = 0.138; df = 398.

As presented in Table 4. the calculated r-value of 0.440** is greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 398 degree of freedom, this result therefore implies that the null hypothesis which states that, Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp does not have any significantly relationship with the prevention of kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. It therefore means that, there is statistical significant relationship between Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corp and kidnapping.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main objective of the study is to examine security agencies and kidnapping in Akpabuyo Local government Area of Cross River state. The findings from the study reveals that kidnapping has become a social problem in akpabuyo, and security agencies have a significant role in preventing and fighting the problem in the local government. As a result of the findings made, the following recommendations are made for the study;

- I. There is need for effective community policing in the country. Not just institutionalizing the machineries, adequate operational facilities should be given to security agencies to assist in their proper functioning. With these observations in mind particularly as it affects people with criminal tendencies.
- II. The government needs to increase its funding for security agencies so that modern and adequate equipment to combat kidnapping and other crimes could be acquired. However, such funds should be properly monitored to avoid diversion into private pockets and also rid the security agencies such as the Nigeria police of its corrupt elements. It is also important that security agents must be motivated through regular promotion, good salary, and decent accommodation.
- III. Proper training programmes should be organized to acquaint them on how to carry out investigations especially by working with community members.

- IV. There is need to strengthen the family institution as well as develop a welfare programme for the children from broken homes, as well as unemployed youths as this will prevent them from being recruited into gangs that will later metamorphose into kidnap rings.
- V. It is also necessary to enforce laws against any political/government official/public office holder found collaborating with kidnapers directly or indirectly. Such a person should be disqualified from holding, contesting/vying for any position in government. This will serve as deterrent to others who may want to venture into such criminal activities.
- VI. The government should upgrade their access to justice delivering and enhance a distributive mechanism that will serve as an integral and necessary orientation for better democratic dividend and at the same time viable in the punishment of violent kidnapping offenders.

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