

Vigilante Group and the Fight Against Kidnapping: The Role of ‘Yan Bula’ in Kubau Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria (2016-2019)

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Abstract. The menace of kidnapping in Kaduna state is a recent phenomenon. It is not only confined to the metropolis but it goes to rural areas. Therefore, this research is aimed at examine the role of vigilante group called "Yan Bula" in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area of Kaduna State. It was due to the ineffectiveness of security agencies to combat any criminal act that led to the formation of various types of informal policing groups with different names at different communities. This study generated both primary and secondary data. The theoretical framework employed is Broken Window Theory which explains the independent variable (‘Yan Bula Vigilante Group’) while Structural Strain Theory explains the dependent variable (kidnapping). The study found out that illiteracy and unemployment are the major factors responsible for kidnapping in the study area. The menace of kidnapping and ineffectiveness of security agencies are also motives for the formation of ‘Yan Bula Vigilante Group’ in the study area. The study recommends that government should make policies inclined towards entrepreneurial skill acquisitions which will create job opportunity for the youths, increase the level enrolment higher institutions and build a strong platform which will provide a mutual partnership between the informal policing groups and Nigerian formal policing institutions at all levels.

Keywords: Vigilante Group, Kidnapping, informal policing, formal policing

1. Introduction

In any given society, security of lives and property of the citizens coupled with respect to their fundamental rights are indispensable for full self-actualization and meaningful development. Policing role is geared towards monitoring the citizenry being pro-active in

detecting and nipping crimes, even at inchoate stage, in the bud for peaceful and orderly society. The Cardinal role of the police force in Nigeria is to this effect. However, as a result of near failure of the police in this regard, coupled with cases of police extra-legal killing, torture and abuse of citizen's fundamental rights, harassment and intimidation of the citizenry, the need for setting up some other para-military security outfits, including community policing or the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) became inevitable.

The vigilante group is sometimes referred to as the informal policing structure or the voluntary policing sector (VPS). In Nigeria, these groups are referred to as vigilantes, neighborhood watch, community guards, or traditional police; vigilante is the most common term. The VGN in Kaduna dates to 1982, when it provided voluntary surveillance to the Tudun Wada community of Kaduna North local government, a safe haven for criminal activities. The operations of the vigilante groups now cover all twenty-three LGAs in the state.

The vigilante group has been existing in Kubau local government area since before the emergence of kidnapping menace that disrupted area. But it's not out of place to assert that it was due to the inefficiency of formal policing saddle with the responsibility of protecting the lives and property of people and rampant criminal activities particularly, kidnapping in the area led to the incessant formation of various vigilante groups across all over the local government area, primarily to end kidnapping and other criminal act. Therefore, one of the vigilante groups that was formed in Kubau local government area between 2016 and 2019 was 'Yan Bula vigilante group, aimed at tackling kidnapping in the area. This study examined the role of 'Yan Bula vigilante group

in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau local government area of Kaduna State, Nigeria (2016 - 2019).

1.2 Research question

- What are the roles of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area ?
- What are the factor responsible for kidnapping in Kubau local government area?
- What are the effect of kidnapping on people of Kubau local government area?

1.3 Objectives of the study

- To examine the role of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area.
- To analyze the factors responsible for kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area.
- To examine the effect of kidnapping on the people of Kubau Local Government Area.

1.4 Research hypothesis

Ho: 'Yan Bula vigilante group has no significant role in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area.

Hi: 'Yan Bula vigilante group has significant role in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area.

1.4 Research methodology

The methods adopted for data collection in this research work are primary and secondary methods. The primary sources are questionnaire and interview. The secondary source are from textbooks, journals, magazines, newspapers and reports from the radio. This study adopted random probability sampling technique. One hundred (100) questionnaires were administered to some selected political wards due to the large size of the study area through the application of stratified sample technique. The questionnaires were both close ended and open ended. The method of data analysis involved the use of frequency distribution table and contextual analysis and the use of chi-square for the testing of hypotheses.

2. Review of literature

In any given society, security of lives and property of

the citizens coupled with respect to their fundamental rights are indispensable for full self-actualization and meaningful development. Policing role is geared towards monitoring the citizenry being pro-active in detecting and nipping crimes, even at inchoate stage, in the bud for peaceful and orderly society. The Cardinal role of the police force in Nigeria is to this effect. However, as a result of near failure of the police in this regard, coupled with cases of police extralegal killing, torture and abuse of citizen's fundamental rights, harassment and intimidation of the citizenry, the need for setting up some other para-military security outfits, including community policing or the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) became inevitable.

2.1 Vigilantism

The word vigilantism is of Spanish origin and means: "watchman" or "guard" but its Latin root is vigil, which means "awake" or "observe". According to Yahaya & Musa (2019) cited in (Johnston, 1996), six elements of vigilant activities are:

- Minimal planning, preparation or premeditation.
- Private agents acting in a voluntary capacity.
- Activity undertaken without the states authority or support.
- A reaction to the real or perceived transgression of institutionalized norms.
- Aims to offer people the assurance that established order will prevail.

Vigilantism has been a label placed on so many different situations over the centuries that no precise definition can capture all its elements, and arguments inevitably arise over the appropriateness of categorizing some group or event as an example of vigilantism. According to Ernest Ogbosor (2016), vigilantism is a deliberate attempt by an organised group of citizens to maintain law and order and enforce norms and on behalf of their communities. These groups usually resort to the use of violence in the absence of constituted state official who are supposed to take action through the police or courts.

The essential defining elements of vigilantism are that it embodies the following: a social reaction to crime; actions taken by civilians (whether as individuals, or as members of clandestine groups, large crowds, or mass movements) as opposed to government officials; a response that involves violence that exceeds the legitimate use of force in self-defense; an intent to inflict punishment and pain in order to avenge a previous wrong or to deter future misconduct or to incapacitate dangerous persons; a belief that the resort to force is necessary and

justifiable because government agents cannot or will not provide protection or enforce the law; and a recognition that the remedies undertaken are illegal, since governments claim a monopoly over the legitimate use of force in the form of police and military action (Joston; and Moses)

2.2 Vigilante Group of Nigeria

The Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) officially registered on February 18, 1999, with the Corporate Affairs Commission Companies and Allied Matters, the federal agency charged with registering not-for-profit organizations. The Vigilante Group of Nigeria was inaugurated to complement the services of the Nigerian Police Force in combating crime on the principle that in a democratic society. The police are entrusted by their fellow citizens to protect and service the public's fundamental rights, liberty, equality and justice under the law (Christian Obeagu, 2011).

The term "vigilante" is used loosely in Nigeria to refer to a range of different groups, each with different motives. The term has been applied to groups such as the Bakassi Boys, who were initially set up with the purpose of fighting crime without an explicit political agenda, as well as to others such as the O'odua People's Congress (OPC), a Yoruba ethnic militia active in the south-west of Nigeria. The OPC was initially created to advocate for autonomy for the Yoruba people, then extended its activities to fighting alleged criminals. In some of the northern states of Nigeria, there are other groups, also referred to as vigilantes, such as Yan Kato Dagara, Hisbah etc. In the part of Hisbah which are used to monitor and enforce observance of Sharia (Islamic law); some of them have administered instant punishments to those caught violating Sharia. A variety of other armed groups, many of them formed along ethnic lines in different parts of the country, are also described as vigilantes (Ernest Ogbosor, 2016).

2.3 Kaduna State Vigilant Service

On June 6, 2013, the Kaduna State House of Assembly ratified the State Vigilante Service Law, which legalized the operation of vigilante groups. The law states: "Vigilance Service is a registered service of people in a community that have agreed to render assistance on crime detection, prevention, and promotion of security consciousness in the community." The law regulates the activities of the VPS to assist in securing lives and properties in the rural communities. The VGN in Kaduna dates to 1982, when it provided voluntary surveillance to the

Tudun Wada community of Kaduna North local government, a safe haven for criminal activities. The operations of the vigilante groups is now cover the all twenty-three LGAs in the state. The VGN Kaduna chapter is one of the most well-established branches, largely because the VGN's national headquarters were based in Kaduna before they were relocated to Abuja in 2011. Following the 2011 post-election violence in Kaduna, the Jema'a emirate of the Vigilance Service was established in Kafanchan to help protect the community from attacks. Kafanchan, the capital of Jema'a, had been adversely affected by the violence. The other voluntary policing actors in Kaduna are the community and neighborhood watches, with operations at the LGA and district levels. The community neighborhood watches were established to monitor activities of unknown gunmen in the southern Kaduna communities. The Antang and Sanga community watch groups are typical examples. However, the other parts of Kaduna State both Northern and Kaduna Central were not left behind in times of formation of various vigilante groups for safeguarding their community (Ernest Ogbosor, 2016).

2.4 Vigilante Groups in Kubau Local Government Area

The vigilante group has been existing in Kubau local government area since before the emergence of kidnapping menace that disrupted area. But its not out of place to assert that it was due to the inefficiency of formal policing saddle with the responsibility of protecting the lives and prosperity of people and rampant of criminal activities particularly kidnapping in the area led to the incessant formation of various vigilante groups across all over the local government area, primarily to end kidnapping and other criminal act. Therefore, one of the vigilante group that was formed in kubau local government area between 2016 and 2019 was 'Yan Bula vigilante group, aimed at tackling kidnapping in the area. However, this resulted in structuralizing and joining hand with other neighboring watch groups, particularly the local government areas that border with kubau local government area. It also led to the formation and launching of vigilante group joint task force popularly known as 'Yan Bula vigilante group. This 'Yan Bula vigilante group vigilante group comprised and enrolled various categories of people irrespective of ethnic groups and religious affiliation. The hunters, herdsman, farmers and other brave individuals are the key actors of this group.

The government both at the state and local level support and control this 'Yan Bula vigilante group

through ensuring mutual collaboration both with police and soldiers in order to oversee their activities purposely to ensure that they work within the confine of national law. Their primary assignment is to fish out kidnappers everywhere they might hide themselves especially in the bush. Its worth of note that there was little or no financial support by the government to these vigilante groups.

2.5 Kidnapping

Kidnapping has now become a generic word both in public and private discuss going by its prevalence in the country. Literarily, the word, which has become notorious, putrid and nauseating in the ears of virtually everyone is derived from "kid" meaning; child and "nab" which means; to snatch. Adewale (2009) pointed out that kidnapping now appears to be an emerging concern in Nigeria though it is not a new phenomenon. It is as old as the word itself. But the motive may vary from country to country.

The kidnapping of all manner of persons has gained ascendancy in Nigeria. A malady previously unknown to the people has rapidly become domesticated. In the last 1990s the volatile oil rich regions of the Niger Delta witnessed this phenomenon on a large scale with the target being mostly expatriates and Nigerians in the oil business. It has spread throughout the country extending to places as far as Kano and Kaduna in the far Northern part of Nigeria. South-East and South-South Nigeria have become known as the kidnappers' playgrounds of Nigeria. Kidnapping seems easier compared to other forms of serious crimes.

Since 1673 the unfriendly world has been used to explain the practice of stealing of children for use as servants or labourers in the American colonies. So it has come to mean any illegal capture or detention of a person or people against their will, regardless of age (Ngwama J Chid, 2014).

Turner (2008) opined that the phenomenon of kidnapping and hostage taking began in the Niger Delta region as a freedom fight by militants protesting the degradation of their environment by oil industrial activities. According to Davidson (2010), a group of criminals armed with guns and cell phones apprehend unsuspecting victims and drag their victim into a secluded spot and begin to make phone calls to whomever and demand for a ransom (Journal of Law and Judicial System, 2018).

The police with a mandate to provide security for the people are often unprepared for the task at hand.

They think their job is done if they manage to secure the kidnapped, but of the kidnappers nothing much is ever heard. As we all know, the police are poorly trained and poorly equipped, but beyond these inadequacies there are worrying signs that their loyalty is suspected. Some whistle blowers have come to grief for confiding in them. Churches, mosques, markets, schools, homes and the highway, all are susceptible to this menace. The abductees and their families are traumatised by the ordeal of kidnapping. Foreign investors are scared away from Nigeria. Nigerians are paying the price of poor governance and failures of leadership. Davidson (2010) points out that the general state of insecurity in some parts of the country has no doubt reached a stage where virtually everybody is now worried the direction the region is going. Presently, hardly can people sleep because of the fear of being robbed or kidnapped. The current security challenge in the country is better understood against existing evidence that even government officials and traditional rulers are not spared. Kidnapping are targeted at the executive, legislative, and the judicial branch of the government, and also their family members in spite of the tight security at their disposal. This has led to some of these officials relocating their families outside the geopolitical zone or outside the country, thereby leaving the civilian population at the mercy of the marauding gangs.

According to a Presidency source, Nigeria recorded 1177 cases of kidnapping in a space of 14 months from 2016 to 2017. While 525 suspects were prosecuted, 652 are still being investigated (The Eagle Online, 2017). The fact that over 1000 persons were arrested as kidnap suspect within such a short time speaks volume of the extent which the crime has eroded the security fabrics of the country (Victoria Nkemdilim: 2018).

Nigerian security system has been weakened in the face of this confrontation, a little has been done to find the socio-economic and underlining factors precipitating this crime. Several theories have been put forward to explain kidnapping within the Nigerian context. Economic Theory views kidnapping from economic concept of making ends to meet, Nseabasi (2009) citing (Tzanelli 2006, Gerth and Mills 1948: 56-7) has raised the idea that kidnapping is regulated by the laws of demand and supply and is a type of social action that involves the calculation on the most efficient means to the desired ends (Tzanelli (2006) Ngwama J Chid, (2014).

The Political theory of Kidnapping sees the act as a Political Tool which is motivated by attempt to

suppress, outsmart, intimidate and subjugate political opponents, like the case in Anambara state when the former Central Bank governor who then was PDP gubernatorial candidate had his father kidnapped by the aggrieved opponents of the same party who felt marginalised by the PDP political process. Turner (1998) as cited by Nseabsi (2009) established relationship between “money and politics” accordingly, where there are political motivations for kidnapping and where ransoms are also demanded. Such ransoms are often used to further the political objectives of the kidnapping organisation or simply to facilitate the survival of the organization (Nseabsi (2009); Ngwama J Chid, (2014).

Another theory views kidnapping from the angle of unemployment which pervade the countries labour market. This is blamed on the inability of the government to create adequate employment for the youth. (Nseabasi,2009 Umoh, 2010) posited that the political consequence of kidnapping activity has had a spill-over influence on the jobless youths and criminals who take it as a new substitute or complement to robbery and pick pocketing. Such a group of kidnapers target not only prominent and well-off individuals but also ordinary citizens who possess little wealth. The common target includes every perceived person with prospects of high and lucrative ransom including teenagers, children and adults alike (Ngwama J Chid, 2014).

The current state of anomie on our political history could be blamed on poor leadership elite who are unresponsive to this state of insecurity as they over concentrate on how to acquire political power. They place and give little or no value to matters concerning greater nation aspiration and the dignity of lives of the people. Increasing rate of kidnapping and other criminal activities is a direct consequence of failure of leadership. The political leadership is too engrossed with issue of power acquisition because of what they personally get out of it and negates the responsibilities expected of them. The character of our political leadership at all levels contradicts the logic and philosophy of governance which essentially is the promotion of human dignity and the protection of core values of society (Ngwama J Chid, 2014).

While there is need to condemn these acts of criminality, there is need also to condemn the security agencies for incompetence and complicity on their part. There is the need to restate that the Federal Government which has the exclusive power over security matters immediately put in place a mechanism for ending the booming kidnapping or hostage-taking racket particularly in some parts of

the country, anything short of ending the prevailing tension, regime of fear and general insecurity is unacceptable to the Nigerians who have waited in vain for the realisation of the promises of democratic governance since 1999. The negative impact of the worrying trend on the economic wellbeing of the country was also lost on government (Ngwama J Chid, 2014). Every year, Nigerian universities graduate millions from higher institutions of learning. Since this administration/government came into existence, how many jobs has it created in the Federal Civil Service? So, the thing boils down to unbridled unemployment in the country.

2.6 Kidnapping in Kaduna State

In recent years, Kaduna state is experiencing an upsurge of kidnapping activities for ransom. The frequent occurrences of this new insecurity in the last few years of 2016 to date, has put the country and Kaduna state in danger, and have become a source of worried and concern with tenths of people from different socio-economic category are being kidnapped for ransom on daily bases.

According to Victoria Nkemdilim (2081) it was recently reported that notorious armed bandit operating along Abuja Kaduna express way had kidnapped 87 passengers traveling along the route. The bandits were said to have selected their victims based on appearances. In May 2018, unknown shooters attacked Mangada in Birnin Gwari LGA of Kaduna state where they kidnapped the three wives of a famous business man Adamu Nakwana. According to some armed bandits kidnapped 32 passengers along the Birnin Gwari axis of Kaduna state stripping the female passengers naked as they moved them to the bush.

Therefore, kidnapping in Kaduna State become one of the most criminal activities in the state whereby, many people's lives and properties has been lost and unfortunately the security agencies saddle with the power to provide safety to the society are not doing well. The lack of modern equipment, unqualified personnels, poor security system, transparent, corruption and poor relationship between civilians and security personnels are said to be the major problems that promote the insecurity in the state and the nation at large. However, there are many kidnapping incidents that has been published by various Newspapers. However with the above reports of kidnapping in kaduna state, it clearly shows that the level of kidnapping in the state is overwhelming especially in the volatile areas of Birnin Gwari and kaduna-Abuja high way.

2.7 Kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area

Kidnapping in Kubau local government area is a recent menace traceable to 2016. It was from this time, the people of this area started experiencing this such kind of new phenomenon of crime in the area. It's not out of place to assert that it's in a new search of green posture by the criminals particularly, armed robbers, burglaries motorcycle snatchers and cattle rustlers lead to the adoption of kidnapping by these criminals, because they do not gain a lot of money with former types of criminalities (Daily Trust, 2016).

Kidnapping has spread to the rural areas because the urban areas are becoming too hot for the criminals. There is a very high frequency of law enforcement activities by the Police and other security agencies in the urban areas. The rural areas are a little bit quieter. Since it began in the Niger Delta in 2005 by members of MEND who kidnapped an expatriate for political reasons, kidnapping has worsened and spread to rural Nigeria in the manner, and with the speed, of a dreadful epidemic, virtually for economic reasons. Kidnapping in the rural areas of Nigeria, the comparatively safer, easier and more assuring cash-spinning criminal enterprise in vogue, is entwined with robbery and cattle rustling, which are comparatively riskier, more difficult and time-consuming to organize and commit. With bank transfers, ATMs and such other facilities, merchants have ceased to carry substantial amounts of money enroute for armed highway robbers to feel satisfied of having snatched something worth their effort; with the current massive clampdown on cattle rustlers, it has become difficult and risky for the rustlers to rustle and dispose of the cattle for an amount of money, which they can easily garner with the simple kidnapping of the merchant or cattle- owner or one of his loved ones (Daily Trust, 2016).

Every blessed day, persons are kidnapped in villages and hamlets in Askiya and Damau wards of Kubau Local Government Area of Kaduna state. The kidnappers do not only target the rich men and government officials but even the common men were the victims of kidnapping. Some of them cannot raise the amount of money demanded by kidnappers. At times they usually sell their assets in order to meet the demands of kidnappers. Therefore, kidnaping in this area does not only cause social trauma to the people but effects their economic activities. For instance, the people of this area enjoy substantial benefits from agricultural activities, and when the kidnapping reached its climax many farms were deserted because many of them were kidnapped

working in the farm or on their way to the farm.

One of the dens of criminals where they hide those kidnapped is Kuyat, popularly called Liberia at the Saminaka axis of the forest. Generally, persons kidnapped in this region are taken into the depth of Falgore Forest. At Maitunku, the first person to be kidnapped was the ward head, Mai-anguwa Tukur. The kidnappers have sacked the entire villages of Maitunku and Makerar-soja. The residents of those villages have dispersed to Damau and Anchau". Since kidnapping started here less than a year ago, I cannot immediately list all the persons kidnapped. Between Tuesday and Wednesday (30th and 31st August, 2016) nine persons were kidnapped at 'Yar-doka and Unguwar-lambu in Askiya ward. (Daily Trust, 2016). Communities most terrorized in kubau LGA include Maitunku, Maigwanda, Kagadama, Makerar- soja, Banki in Damau ward; Dokoki, 'Yar- doka, Tashar Tsamiya, Unguwar-Lambu and Kanwa in Askiya ward; all cattle-rearing hamlets in these wards; as well as a few other communities in Kargi ward, partly due to their proximity to the forest and partly due to the said resolve of the criminals to retaliate the killing of their colleagues (Daily Trust, 2016).

Therefore, it can be proved that as a result of incessant kidnapping in the area which at times led to the lost of many lives and properties, dare the people of this area to defend themselves against the criminals. The police men who are unable to coupled with the situation decided to authorize the members of the community to punish whoever they catch for such criminal activities.

2.8 Theoretical Framework

This study employed on broken window theory and structural strain theory. Broken window theory was used to explain the place of Vigilante Group structures in crime control, while structural strain theory was used to explain the incidence of crime (kidnapping) in the society.

Broken window theory was proposed by James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in 1982. They used broken windows as a metaphor for disorder within neighborhoods. The theory focuses on the control and prevention of crime from within the community as against from outside the community. It explains how effective and efficient informal policing structures are in controlling crimes compared to the formal policing structure that is made up of 'strangers'. The theory holds that only the community members can safeguard themselves from crimes. This is because they live in the community and can work and watch

at all times. They also know who those potential criminals are and how best they can be contained. The core principle of informal policing structures is the constant maintenance of law and order in the various communities by members of that community. This is in line with the core notion of broken window theory, which asserts that the constant presence of police structures makes a community less conducive for crime and criminals. Increased police presence and enforcements of informal rules of conduct and laws can make a community seem less chaotic and safer, thereby, increasing the presence and involvement of residents in their community and lowering crime rates (Palmiotto, 2000).

The Broken Window Theory can be incorporated into the concept of informal policing in the sense that collective efforts by both the police and community dwellers can help alleviate the rate of crime in the community as the police see residents as partners in development and vice versa. The broken window theory asserts that if there is a crack anywhere in the community and no one is available or observant enough to take care of it, overtime it becomes a deep ditch that would pose a serious security risk to members of the society. The theory also assumes that most neighborhood crimes are more often than not perpetrated by offenders who reside near the victims; this makes crime primarily a local problem which can best be solved locally.

Structural strain theory was developed by Robert Merton in 1957 drew from the concept of "Anomie. Anomie is a concept developed by one of the founding fathers of sociology, Emile Durkheim, to explain the breakdown of social norms that often accompanies rapid social change. It was from this concept the American sociologist Robert Merton (1957) drew on this idea to explain criminality and deviance in the USA. His theory argues that crime occurs when there is a gap between the cultural goals of a society (e.g. material wealth, status) and the structural means to achieve these (e.g. education, employment). This strain between means and goals results in frustration and resentment, and encourages some people to use illegitimate or illegal means to secure success. Strain theory posits that the cultural values and social structures of society put pressure on individual citizens to commit crime (Scottish Center for Crime & Justice).

According to him, in every society, people experience strain whenever there is a disjuncture between the culturally accepted goals and the institutionalized (conventional) means of achieving these goals. According to Merton, the social and cultural

structures of society contain two major elements. The first is the culturally defined goals (culture goals) which members of a society are encouraged to recognize and value as worth striving for. Examples of such goals are wealth, material possessions, etc. The second major element of the social and cultural structure of society is the means or modes which society has institutionalized or put in place for the pursuit of culture goals.

Robert Merton asserts that in pursuit of culturally accepted goals and the means to achieving these goals, five categories of people emerge in the society. They include: the conformists, ritualists, innovators, retreatists and the rebels. conformity, where people adhere to both goals and means, innovation, where the goals are accepted but a different way is used to achieve them, ritualism, where the means are used but the goals are lost, retreatism, where both the goals and means are rejected, and finally rebellion, where different goals and means a substituted for societies approved ones.

For the purpose of this study, the innovators are explained as it is the strand of the theory that suitably explains the issue of crime in the society. Innovators are those individuals that accept the cultural goals of society but reject the conventional methods of attaining those goals. Examples are Kidnappers, armed robbers, drug dealers, prostitutes. The innovators are constantly interested in achieving success in the society but they fail to follow the acceptable laid down procedures for this. They rather devise their own means of attaining success which is often times contrary to what is acceptable by members of the society. This results to all sorts of criminal activities. Innovators literarily invent crime to achieve success. Crime for them is the short cut to success as they consider the laid down procedures by the society so long and out of reach. It is pertinent to also note that the frustrations associated being unable to achieve success through laid down societal procedures oftentimes leads people into becoming innovators.

An example is a youth who has diligently gone to school and study so hard and comes out with a good grade expecting to get a job. When the job doesn't come the youth begins to think of other means of survival. In a situation like this he could invent kidnapping as a way of surviving the pains of having no job. The important of Broken Window Theory in our modern society in relation to crime and community policing can not be underestimated. Because the theory emphasize the role of informal policing (vigilante group) in securing the society. The

Broken Window Theory can be incorporated into the concept of informal policing in the sense that collective efforts by both the police and community dwellers can help alleviate the rate of crime in the community as the police see residents as partners in development and vice versa. The theory holds that only the community members can safeguard themselves from crimes. This is because they live in the community and can work and watch at all times. They also know who those potential criminals are and how best they can be contained. The core principle of informal policing structures is the constant maintenance of law and order in the various communities by members of that community.

While the relevance of structural strain theory to this research work is tremendous. The theory explain the cultural values and social structures of society put pressure on individual citizens to commit crime e.g poverty, unemployment etc. For instance kidnapers accepted cultural goals of the society (e.g. material wealth, status) but they rejected the legal means (e.g. education, employment) of the society. Crime for them is a short cut to success as they consider the laid down procedures by the society so long and out of reach. It is pertinent to also note that the frustrations associated being unable to achieve success through laid down societal procedures oftentimes leads people into becoming innovators (kidnappers). In this case we can also understand the reason why kidnappers embrace kidnapping in Nigeria They do so, because most of them were not be able to secure job resulted in embracing kidnapping as a means of achieving cultural goals of a society.

Also to draw upon Merton's writings was Albert Cohen (1955) who was interested in the fact that much of the offending behaviour was not economically motivated, but simply done for the thrill of the act which is backed up by the evidence that 18% of crimes in Britain today are vandalism. Cohen suggested that lower class boys aimed to emulate middle class values and aspirations, but lacked the means to attain success. This led to status frustration, a sense of personal failure and inadequacy, and in an attempt to gain status; they invert traditional middle class values by behaving badly and engaging in a variety of antisocial behaviours. Therefore, this also can be proved by looking at most of the kidnappers are economically weak, they are from very poor background.

The Broken Window Theory has been criticized for been legitimizing informal policing which can lead to misappropriation of application of law in the society. Because the informal personnel are usually recruited on voluntary basis, they are not based on formalities.

It can also lead the violation of right of the people. However, informal policing structure may tend to be controversial and conflictual with formal policing. Informal police is vigilante group. They may have no skill and technique which is a preliminary and necessary requirement for security provision and maintenance of law and order in the society.

While the Strain Theory has been criticized base on it assertion that crime are committed in the process of achieving cultural goals in the society (e.g. material wealth, status). The critic is that the crime are also committed by those that have already owned these goals not only by those people that experienced strain.

Merton was also criticised by sociologists such as Valler for his emphasis on the existence of common goals in society. Valler argues that there are a variety of goals that people strive to attain at one time. In contemporary society, the realisation of Britain's multicultural society has meant that it is impossible to suggest one set of common goals that people subscribe to as there are too many cultures in society to have one common set.

3. Research Methodology

The research design adopted in this research study is the quantitative research design. The research design will enable the researcher to make assessment on employee's demographic factors as well as analyse their views and opinions regarding the role of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau local government area. The quantitative design also ensures that data are collected from the respondents by carrying out a sample survey.

Due to the large size of population, researchers often cannot test every individual in the population because it is too expensive and time consuming. Therefore, the population frame of this research study is the population of kubau local government area. This research study employed both simple random sampling techniques and Stratified Sampling. It is one in which each element of the population has an equal and independent chance of being included in the sample.

The main instrument used for data collection in this research study is questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire for this research study consist of two sections. Section A contains questions on the socio demographic attributes of the respondents while section contains the body of the research work which seeks to find out the respondents' views regarding the

variables of the research work.

The main techniques for data analysis in this study are based on frequency and percentage distribution analysis. These enabled the researcher to determine

the highest and lowest frequencies and percentages of respondents' views on a particular question. The frequencies and percentage of responses are displayed on a frequency distribution table and textual analysis was used to complement the findings.

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 4.2.1: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	69	69 %
Female	31	31 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Field Work, 2019.

Table 4.2.1: the above table shows the distribution characteristics of the respondents' gender. However, information on the table indicates that 69% of the respondents are male, while 31% of the respondents are female. Therefore, this implies that both the male and female are represented in this research study, thus the majority of the respondents are male.

Table 4.2.2: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Respondents	Percentage (%)
18-25	52	52 %
26-33	29	29 %
34-40	11	11 %
41 and above	8	8 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Field Work, 2019.

Table 4.2.2: the table above shows the respondents' age distribution. However, information on the table indicates that 52% of the respondents are between the age range of 18-25, 29% of the respondents are between the age range of 26-33, 11% of the respondents are between the age range of 34-40, 8% of the respondents are between the age range of 41 and above. Therefore, this implies that the majority of the respondents are between the age ranges of 18-25.

Table 4.2.3: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	45	45 %
Married	44	44 %
Divorced	9	9 %
Widowed	2	2 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Field Work, 2019.

Table 4.2.3: the above table shows the marital status of the respondents. However, information on the table indicates that 45% of the respondents are single, 44% of the respondents are married, 9% of the respondents are divorced, while 2% of the respondents are widowed. Therefore, this implies that the majority of the respondents are single.

Table 4.2.4: Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Education	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Non Formal Education	1	1 %
Primary Education		
Secondary Education	29	29 %
Tertiary Education	70	70 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Field Work, 2019.

Table 4.2.4: the above table shows the educational qualification of the respondents. However, information on the table shows that 1% of the respondent have non-formal education, 29% of the respondents have secondary qualification, while 70% of the respondents have tertiary qualification. Therefore, this implies that the majority of the respondents have tertiary qualification.

Table 4.2.5: Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Respondents	Percentage (%)
F a r m i n g	17	17 %
Civil Service	31	31 %
B u s i n e s s	19	19 %
S t u d e n t	26	29 %
Unemployment	4	4 %
O t h e r s	3	3 %
T o t a l	100	100 %

Source: Field Work, 2019.

Table 4.2.5: the above table shows the occupation of the respondents. However, information on the table shows that 17% of the respondents are farmers, 31% of the respondents are civil servants, 19% of the respondents are businessmen, 26% of the respondents are students, 4% of the respondents are unemployed, while 3% of the respondents are from other occupations. Therefore this implies that the majority of the respondents are civil servants.

4.4 Testing Hypothesis

STEP I

Proposition

Ho: Yan Bula vigilante group has no significant role in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area between 2016 and 2019.

Hi: Yan Bula vigilante group has significant role in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area between 2016 and 2019.

STEP II

Tables

V a r i a b l e s	O	E	(O - E)	(O - E) ²	$\frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$
Y e s	94	50	44	1,936	38.72
N o	6	50	-44	1,936	38.72
T o t a l	100				77.44

Therefore χ^2 calculative is = 77.44

STEP III

Finding the χ^2 critical value at 0.05 level of significance

$$df = k - 1$$

$$= 2 - 1 = 1$$

Therefore χ^2 critical value is = 3.84

STEP IV

Decision

The χ^2 calculative (77.44) is greater than χ^2 critical value (3.84) at 0.05 level of significance, therefore we reject Ho.

STEP V

Conclusion

Conclusively, Yan Bula vigilante group has significant role in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area between 2016 and 2019. at 0.05 level of significance.

Interview on Activities of 'Yan Bula Vigilante Group In Kubau Local Government Area

Nazifi Al-Hassan also known as kaura ma'aji Pambegua (the leader of 'Yan Bula vigilante group Pambegua division)

"I'm a hunter also the leader of 'Yan Bula vigilante group Pambegua division. 'Yan Bula means people that applied blue color on their faces so that to differentiate themselves with others during fighting against kidnapping in our area. This group was mainly formed primarily to fight against kidnapping in Kubau local government area. The group has two divisions one located at Anchau under the supervision of Anchau divisional police officer and the other one is located at Pambegua under the supervision of Pambegua divisional police officer. Therefore, I'm the leader of Pambegua division which comprise six political ward" Kaura Ma'aji said.

He further added that "We work hand in hand with SARS under the leadership of Abba Kyari the deputy commissioner of police. We rescued many kidnapped men and women time without numbers and we don't have the total numbers of these people but they are many. When we caught kidnappers during our operation we normally handover them to police station. However, these kidnappers also when were caught we usually give them an option for repentance and promise that they will no longer engage into any kind of criminal activities. Among them Muslims were given the holy Quran to swear with it and Christians were given the holy Bible to swear with it".

"We achieved much in fighting against kidnapping and other criminal activities under this group. Because before the formation of this group is known to everybody that people of Kubau local government area are in adversity of insecurity particularly the notorious areas like Jos road of in between Pambegua and Kudara town. Thank God with the help of this group now kidnapping has become history in our area, because now we are approaching almost one year without reporting anyone been kidnapped. But honestly speaking still there are some iota of armed robbery and other criminal activities but are less compare to the past" Kaura Ma'aji maintained.

He also lamented that "we do not receive financial support either from local, state, and federal government or community members, we take the responsibility of this group by ourselves, we are just doing this for sake of Allah. Nevertheless, there was a time once the then Kaduna State commissioner of police gave us two hundred thousand naira (200000) when holding meeting with him at kaduna. Therefore, apart from this no any person or government officials give financial support to this group".

He also appealed that "What we needs from

government is to build us an office and provide motorcycle or vehicle or both for patrol".

Sani Aliyu Kareh (member)

"I'm a member of 'Yan Bula vigilante group, I joined this group as a result of difficulty that we experienced particularly the menace of kidnapping in our area. Its true kidnapping has existed in our area, kidnappers use to come to our various houses and kidnapped our people and demand for ransom. Due to this the community members decided to confront these criminals and subsequently I joined them" Sani Aliyu said.

He further added that "there was a time that we chased the kidnappers into their hidden place which is called Liberia forest, the place is very notorious. Four of our members were killed during confrontation with them and we successfully rescued many abductees. We loss seven members in the curse of fighting against kidnapping in our area. We arrested more than thirty kidnappers some of them along with guns and money and we usually handover them to security personnel particularly the Nigerian army".

He also maintained that "Honestly speaking now our area is free kidnapping area, but we heard that they want to come back and continue with their illegal activities, they even call me through phone and intimidate me and they told me that they are coming back and I assured them that we are ready to crush them again".

Research findings

The finding shows that kidnapping has existed in kubau local government area between 2016 and 2019.

The finding shows that 'Yan Bula vigilante group was formed in Kubau local government area between 2016 and 2019.

The finding shows that kidnapping was high before the formation of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in Kubau Local Government Area between 2016 and 2019.

The research finding shows that kidnapping is presently low in kubau local government area.

In the research study we also find that illiteracy and unemployment are the major factors responsible for kidnapping in Kubau Local Government Area between 2016 and 2019.

The research finding shows that loss of lives and property are the effects of kidnapping on people of Kubau local government Area between 2016 and 2019.

The finding shows that it was kidnapping that led to the formation of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in kubau local government area between 2016 and 2019.

The finding shows that fighting against kidnapping is the role of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in kubau local

government area between 2016 and 2019.

The finding shows that 'Yan Bula vigilante group has significant role in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau local government area between 2016 and 2019.

The finding shows that 'Yan Bula vigilante group have succeeded in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau local government area between 2016 and 2019.

5. Conclusion

Vigilante group which also refers to as informal policing group has become inevitable as a result of poor performance by the Nigeria police force and other security agencies in safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens. Therefore, in almost every community, the citizens feel do not secured by the formal police force and this leads to the incessant formation of various vigilante groups in order to tackle the menace of criminality in their community. Kubau local government area is not an exception, despite the presence of various vigilante groups that were been in place in the area. Therefore, kidnapping in all its ramification had affected the people of Kubau local government area through the loss of their lives, property and psychological trauma.

In this research study we discover that it was due to the menace of kidnappings in which people and agencies saddles with legal authority to ensure security performed below expectation led to the formation of 'Yan Bula vigilante group primarily to fight against kidnapping in the area.

Also from the research study which was carried based on scientific method we find that illiteracy and unemployment are the major factors responsible for kidnapping in the study area. And also hypothesis shows that the 'Yan Bula vigilante group has significant role in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau local government area of Kaduna state. The research also shows that kidnapping was rampant before the formation of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in Kubau local government area. However, the menace of kidnapping has been curtailed by the activities of 'Yan Bula vigilante group.

6. Recommendations

This research study which examines the role of 'Yan Bula vigilante group in the fight against kidnapping in Kubau local government area of Kaduna state has come with the following recommendations aimed at ameliorating the security challenges for sustainable peace in the area in particular and the nation at large.

These are the following recommendations:

- There is need to review the current strategy of dealing with the issue of kidnapping in Nigeria. In particular, there is the need to build a strong platform which will provide a mutual partnership between the informal policing groups and Nigerian formal policing institutions particularly, the Nigerian police force.
- Government at all levels should make policies and programmes such as entrepreneurial skill acquisition which will surely create employment opportunities for the youths especially the vulnerable ones. This is because the research discover that unemployment is one of major factor responsible for kidnapping in area and nation at large.
- There is need to sensitize and engage members of the public by the security agencies in tackling the issue of kidnapping and other kind of criminality.
- There should be proper protection of identities of the public members that supply useful information to the security agencies and officers and men of the security agencies.
- There is need to equip the security agencies with modern equipment and obsolete ones should be discarded.
- Employment into the security agencies should be based on merit not by nepotism or tribalism as what is mostly obtainable today.
- Officers and men of security agencies that are found to be corrupt should be dealt with accordingly.
- Anybody found conniving with kidnapers should be dealt with no matter how wealthy, politically or religiously connected the person may be.
- The government should finance vigilante groups so as to encourage it members to work diligently and shun corruption.
- This study also recommend that government should increase the level of education through the creation of higher institutions as the research discovered illiteracy is one of the major factors responsible for kidnapping in the area.
- Government should supervise all the activities of informal policing groups so as to avoid human right violation by these groups.
- The government should strictly deal with any kidnapper that has been caught by

ensuring proper application of justice on him by the court of law.

- Government should also initiate policies and programmes aimed at given tactical training and orientation to the members of informal policing groups.

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