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**LACK OF EMPLOYMENT FOR RURAL DWELLERS AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN KIDNAPPING OF  
EXPATRIATES IN THE THREE SENATORIAL DISTRICTS OF AKWA IBOM STATE**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study empirically assessed the lack of employment for rural dwellers and youth involvement in kidnapping of expatriates in the three senatorial districts of Akwa Ibom State. Expost-Facto design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in Akwa Ibom state. The population of the study consisted of all youths in Akwa Ibom State. Stratified sampling technique was used in selecting 100 youths which was drawn from each of the senatorial district of Akwa Ibom state. This gave a total of 300 sample size used for the study. The instrument used in this study for data collection was a questionnaire titled "Lack of Employment for Rural Dwellers and Youth Involvement in Kidnapping of Expatriates Questionnaire (LERDYIKEQ)". Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in testing, measurement, and evaluation to ensure that the instrument has the accuracy, appropriateness, and completeness for the study under consideration. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.89, and this was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical techniques such as percentage analysis. The test for significance was done at 0.05 alpha levels. It was concluded that the cases of unemployment need the attention of government authorities to resolve them, thus creating job opportunities in order to mitigate the impacts of unemployment. Also, all strategic solutions to mitigate unemployment require cooperation and goodwill. The strategic solutions must, on the one hand, recognise the critical roles of state and municipal governments while also empowering rural residents. One of the recommendations made was that the government should enact more stiff and strict laws concerning the kidnapping crime.*

**KEYWORDS:** Employment, Rural Dwellers, Youth, Kidnapping and Expatriates.

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**Introduction**

Kidnapping is on the increase in Nigeria and it is prevalent across the six geopolitical zones. It aggravates the level of insecurity in the country. 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.

Since 1673, the unfriendly world has been used to the practice of stealing 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. The kidnappers, who can be very erratic, have been found to engage in criminality for several complex motives ranging from unemployment, idleness, vengeance, rituals, monetary gain, and political reasons. The first act of kidnapping in Nigeria started in 2006 when the militants of the Niger Delta took total hostages to protest the inequality in the region. According to the militants, Nigeria is being built at the expense of the region that serves as the cash cow for the whole country.

Kidnapping is a social enterprise, and according to The Nation (2002), kidnappers are businessmen; they just happen to be on the illegal side of it. If you deprive them of the demand, there is not going to be any supply. Tzanelli (2006) noted that this is the reason why perpetrators of this crime choose their victims based on their ability to cough out good money. Nseabasi (2009) stated in his treatise that the most successful kidnapping operations are masterminded by government officials, opposition groups, unrewarded or uncompensated members of election rigging militant groups, among others. Kidnapping is then seen as an instrument for political vendetta and the settling of political scores.

Many other research studies have viewed kidnapping from the angle of unemployment, which pervades the country's 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 kidnappers targets not only prominent and well-off individuals but also ordinary citizens who possess little wealth. The common target includes every perceived person with the prospect of a high and lucrative ransom, including teenagers, children, and adults alike.

### **Statement of Problem**

Presently, people can hardly sleep because of the fear of being robbed or kidnapped. In all areas, the effects of kidnapping are devastating, no matter the type of kidnapping one encounters. Victims are humiliated and dehumanised irrespective of their age, position, socio-economic status, level of education, and popularity. Psychological trauma alone can increase the blood pressure of the victim, and this can lead to stroke or other health-related challenges. Such ugly news creates tension among the relatives, who are then given one possible solution to effect the release of the victim. In most cases, female victims are sexually abused as a result of kidnapping. This action exposes the person to the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Many women are impregnated by criminals, and any form of resistance or refusal may result in the victim's death.

### **Objective of the Study**

1. To find the extent of unemployment in Akwa Ibom State.
2. To examine the extent of youth involving in kidnapping in Akwa Ibom State as a result of lack of employment.
3. To determine strategic solutions to kidnapping of expatriate in Akwa Ibom State.

## Research Questions

1. What are the extent of unemployment in Akwa Ibom State.
2. What are the extent of youth involving in kidnapping in Akwa Ibom State as a result of lack of employment.
3. What are the strategic solutions to kidnapping of expatriate in Akwa Ibom State.

## Conceptual Review

### Concept of Employment

The term "employment" refers to the state of being employed. It is the relationship between an employer and an employee, usually. People's employment varies in the sense that some of them are employed for the entire year while others are employed for only some portion of the year. Employment is a relationship between two parties regulating the provision of paid labour services. Usually based on a contract, one party, the employer, which might be a corporation, a not-for-profit organization, a co-operative, or any other entity, pays the other, the employee, in return for carrying out assigned work (Archer, Borthwick, Travers & Ruschena, 2017). Employees work in return for wages, which can be paid on the basis of an hourly rate, by piecework, or an annual salary, depending on the type of work an employee does, the prevailing conditions of the sector, and the bargaining power between the parties. Employees in some sectors may receive gratuities, bonus payments, or stock options. In some types of employment, employees may receive benefits in addition to payment. Benefits may include health insurance, housing, and disability insurance. Employment is typically governed by employment laws, organizations, or legal contracts. An employee contributes labour and expertise to an endeavour of an employer or of a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCB) and is usually hired to perform specific duties which are packaged into a job. In a corporate context, an employee is a person who is hired to provide services to a company on a regular basis in exchange for compensation and who does not provide these services as part of an independent business (Ristau, 2010).

### Concept of Rural Dwellers

The word "rural" implies a settlement characterised by agricultural orientation where there are farm houses, sheds, barns, and other structures that are of similar purpose. Olisa et al. (1992) were of the opinion that the main difference between rural and urban areas is the population, especially in a developing country like Nigeria. In Nigeria, a community with a population of less than 20,000 people can be classified as rural. However, population alone does not determine what characterises a rural area. According to Egbe (2014), rural dwellers are the people that are lacking the most in terms of basic infrastructure for meaningful development. These infrastructures include good roads, clean water supply, health facilities, electricity, and quality education, among others. The dwellers of rural areas, according to him, engage in subsistence farming and are also characterised by a low standard of living and are neglected socially and politically. Rural areas represent a very important sector of the economy as they represent a home for fortunes. This is demonstrated by the fact that these communities produce nearly all of the country's food products, have both human and raw materials for industrial processes,

provide shelter during national crises, and preserve cultural values in society, to name a few (Raji, Muhammed, Joseph, Abdulbaqi, Adeshina, & Suleimon, 2017). These rural dwellers suffer from meaningful development and are affected by many of the economic policies in the country. This is because they are less vocal, live far from the government, and thus cannot be heard. Yet, they still constitute the majority population in a developing nation like Nigeria, where over 70% of the country's population still lives in rural areas. Thus, there is a need to develop these areas in order to have meaningful development economically as well as in other sectors of the country (Nyagba, 2009).

### **Concept of Kidnapping**

Kidnapping is a global phenomenon; every part of the world has its share of this menace. The disappearance of children and adults in the country is not unheard of either, and it is a problem that the police and other agencies are working relentlessly to address. According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, roughly 800,000 children are reported missing annually in the country (Freeman, 2006). Likewise, Uzorma and Nwanegbo-Ben (2014) defined kidnapping as the act of seizing and detaining or carrying away a person by unlawful force or by fraud, often with a demand for ransom. In another definition, Fage and Alabi (2017) presented kidnapping as the "forceful or fraudulent abduction of an individual or a group of individuals for reasons ranging from economic, political, and religious to (struggle for) self-determination. Peter and Osaat (2021) stated that in most cases, kidnapping seems to make very little or no sense. One example is an incident that happened in the United Kingdom in which a woman kidnapped her own daughter. There are so many cases of kidnapping involving mothers, fathers, children, and other close relatives. The question that many asked was, why would a mother kidnap her own daughter? What could have possibly inspired her to do such an abominable act? The answer remains that she intentionally committed the crime for the money involved. In the above case, she purposely did it so that she could claim the \$50,000 reward offered by the government for finding Sharion. She planned to share the money with her accomplice, Michael Donovan, by name, who was a relative (Freeman, 2006).

According to Inyang and Abraham (2013), kidnapping is defined as the forcible seizure, taking away, and unlawful detention of a person against his or her will. In agreement with the two definitions above, kidnapping is usually motivated by financial gains or political benefits. Thus, opportunists or regular criminals as well as political opponents can resort to kidnapping in order to illegally obtain economic benefits or have their demands granted. In many cases, kidnapping is a business involving a demand for ransom, which may vary considerably depending on the victim's personal status. In most cases, the victims' eyes are blindfolded so that they cannot see or locate the place of detention. Many are detained in places far away from their families. In their forceful movement, a lot of gunshots may be released into the air to create fear and tension, especially in the victim who would be dragged without his consent. Consequently, resistance, struggling, and refusal to obey and follow the kidnappers have led to the untimely death of some victims. The perpetrators are often tempted to shoot sporadically for safety in order to accomplish the mission, not minding who gets affected.

## Concept of Expatriates

Expatriation (from the Latin *ex-patria*: out of country) has existed from the time that there were countries for people to expatriate from. People have always moved about the earth, sometimes making seemingly incredible journeys; empires sent emissaries to other lands, and religious history is full of stories of missionaries sent by the church to achieve their objectives amongst strangers (Freeman, 2008; Oberholster & Doss, 2016). In international trade, the Silk Road from China through many different countries to the edge of Europe dates back almost two millennia (Hipsher, 2008). The huge European trading companies set up to trade with the Far East were established well over four hundred years ago.

Expatriates' were thus widely conceived of as being sent by an organisation ('organizationally assigned') to work abroad for a defined period of time ('temporarily'). Decades of research since the 1950s shows that the historic conceptualization of the expatriate construct is borne out of business employment, with the demand for expatriates being "tailored to the organisational context of working abroad" (Andresen, Bergdolt, Margenfeld, & Dickmann, 2014, p.2303) and based on the notion that expatriates will help organisations meet their business objectives (Tharenou & Harvey, 2006; Tungli & Peiperl, 2009). While "corporate expatriate" has remained the predominant term to describe these individuals (e.g., Shaffer, Kraimer, Chen, & Bolino, 2012), researchers have also described them as "traditional expatriates" (Suutari & Brewster, 2009), and less frequently as "business expatriates" (Hudson & Inkson, 2006; Selmer, 2006) – the term that we adopt here. More recently, the concept of expatriates, and business expatriates more specifically, has been extended to include individuals engaging in many forms of international experience (including work and non-work experience), among them: self-initiated expatriates (SIEs; Shaffer et al., 2012); sojourners, students, and retirees (de Wit, Agarwal, Said, & Sirozi, 2008; Pedersen, Neighbors, Larimer, & Lee, 2011); international business travellers (Mayrhofer, Reichel, & Sparrow, 2012; Meyskens, von Glinow, Werther, & Clarke, 2009); and migrants (Al Ariss & Ozbilgin, 2010; Andresen et al., 2014). Critically, some of these studies imply that business employment is not a criterion for determining who is and who is not an expatriate in the context of IHRM studies.

In the last century, the term "expatriate" was historically used to describe Westerners that had lived abroad for varying lengths of time (Fechter, 2007), including artists, musicians, colonials, writers (e.g., Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Stein), and generally anyone else (e.g., small-scale entrepreneurs, teachers, those working for small local NGOs, students, interns, journalists, and volunteers) with a mission of some kind. If in paid employment, they are typically classified as "local hires" and they receive local salaries (Bickers, 2010). Recently, the term "expatriate" has also been widely used to describe all categories of movers, including migrants (Al Ariss & Syed, 2011; Andresen et al., 2014).

## Cases of Expatriates Kidnapping in Nigeria

According to a reporter called Nicholas, tears dropped down the cheeks of Catherine Ukpekpi as she narrated her family's ordeal (Nicholas 2021). It was April, and her husband, Ben, the leader of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) in Cross River State, had been kidnapped four weeks earlier. It was the second time in 16 months that he had been kidnapped. According to him, Mrs. Ukpekpi said that the circumstances of both incidents were identical. Just as in

December 2019, he was again abducted at the front of their house in Calabar by people she suspected were the same. "Two days later, they opened communication and said we should pay N150 million before they released my husband." I asked them for N150,000 or N150 million. They said, "Madam, N150 million! We abducted your husband for money. Pay us N150 million, not a kobo less. He is the NLC chairman. Mr. Ukpekpi told PREMIUM TIMES that the kidnapers occasionally allowed his family to speak with him to show he was not dead (Nicholas 2021). A month before Mr. Ukpekpi was kidnapped, some 750 kilometres away in the Southwestern region of Nigeria, Ayodeji Odetunde, a final year student at the country's premier university, the University of Ibadan, was kidnapped at his father's poultry farm as well (Nicholas 2021).

Again, in April 2019, a lawyer, Lawarga Yabura, left his Wukari hometown in the morning for Takum, a journey he had never completed. "News then came that his vehicle was seen parked by the roadside with the doors open," his younger brother, Ibrahim Iliya, said. "The kidnapers contacted us the following day and demanded N30 million to release my brother and his driver, but we later agreed to a N2.5 million ransom." According to Ibrahim Iliya, brother of the abducted, "We raised the money within a week and gave it to them at a location, but they refused to release my brother and his driver." They said it was N5 million that they wanted. "Then, one of them later called to say he had been the one taking care of my brother, but he had not given a dime from the N2.5 million we paid. He said we should send N500 thousand to a Zenith Bank account with the name Theodeus Tse, a Tiv name, and that he was going to facilitate the release of our brother and his driver. We sent the money since it involved an account number, which we thought was a way to get the kidnapers by the police. " After sending the money, Mr. Iliya said they stopped hearing from any of the kidnapers and they then intensified pressure on the police to act with the account details one of them had sent.

Mr. Tse said he forwarded the N500,000 to his younger brother and had since not heard from him again. Mr. Tse remains in police custody, while his younger brother remains at large. The victim, Mr. Yabura, has not been found. His family fears he might have been killed. "We don't know where he is, whether dead or alive," Mr. Iliya said of his brother. There is a common presumption that rogue Fulani cattle herders are behind every kidnapping in Nigeria. However, our investigation reveals another pattern, involving people from other ethnic extractions. According to Nicholas (2021), in the southern part of Taraba State, sharing boundaries with Benue State, survivors of abductions and family members who have negotiated ransom payments accuse gangs of Tiv origin of involvement in the cases in the area.

According to Aurore (2022), bandits on Tuesday night attacked Chinese and security personnel working on a hydroelectric dam in Zunguru, Niger State in western Nigeria, security sources quoted by local media said on Wednesday. "Bandits killed two Niger State natives and abducted two Chinese expatriates on Tuesday night," the Investigative Journalism Foundation, a Nigerian NGO, reported, citing Wasuu Abiodun, spokesman for the Niger State Police Command. According to the same source, they were abducted while one of their compatriots was shot and two local workers who were also injured died on the way to the hospital. Among others, on June 16, 2021, four Chinese workers on the Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railroad project were abducted in Ogun State by gunmen, while a policeman was killed in the operation in June 2021, the Guardian, a Nigerian online media outlet, reported, citing security sources. Again, at a press conference on Nov. 22, 2021, Zhao Lijian, the spokesperson for the Chinese

Foreign Ministry, also recalled the kidnapping of three Chinese by armed robbers at a private Chinese company in Kogi State, Nigeria. During the same year, kidnappings of Chinese citizens in Nigeria "occurred from time to time, increasing the security risk," he noted. Also on April 5, 2021, two Chinese employees of a Chinese-funded company in Osun State, Nigeria, were kidnapped, Zhao recalled at an earlier press conference. He said the Chinese Foreign Ministry and Chinese embassies and consulates have issued multiple warnings to Chinese citizens, discouraging them from travelling to high-risk areas. "The situation has never been ideal," he said, referring to the context of the deployment of "a number" of Chinese-funded projects and companies in Nigeria. However, despite this situation, China does not resort to evacuation because of occasional individual cases, he said. According to the Chinese authorities, China has always prioritised its cooperation with Nigeria and has made Nigeria a major strategic partner.

In December 2009, the Police Affairs Minister disclosed that 512 cases of kidnapping had been recorded from January 2008 to June 2009, compared to 353 recorded in 2008. A rundown of the statistics indicates that Abia State led the pack with a total of 110 kidnapping incidents: Imo had 58,109 arrests, 41 prosecutions, and one death; Delta had 44 kidnappings, 43 releases, 27 arrests, 31 prosecutions, and one death; and Akwa Ibom had 40 kidnappings, 418 arrests, and 11 prosecutions. The report added that between July/September 2008 and July 2009, over 600 million were lost to kidnapers. But beyond statistics being available, it is a known fact that most kidnapping cases are never reported to the police authorities for the fear of the murder of the victims. Hence, most families prefer to pay ransom to avoid losing one of their own.

### **Lack of Employment and Kidnapping of Expatriates**

Obviously, the increase in kidnappings in Nigeria is a result of unemployment, poverty, and, in many cases, moral decadence. Prior to the crisis of the militants in the Niger Delta, kidnapping as an organised crime was rare in Nigeria. The sudden rise in crime over the years has been attributed to the Niger Delta crisis. As the Niger Delta militancy degenerated, kidnapping became rather entrenched as one of the untoward legacies of the struggle. Expatriate oil workers were then targeted and kidnapped for a handsome ransom. Apart from the politicians, another set of people who are kidnapers' targets are businessmen. Several cases of businessmen who were kidnapped have been recorded recently, in which large sums of money were expected as ransom. This has affected many, especially the importers, who cannot stand on their feet anymore after spending time in the hands of the kidnapers. Associating problems of unemployment as one of the reasons why kidnapping in Nigeria is often associated with youth unemployment. He used the widely acknowledged adage, which says that "an idle mind is the devil's workshop," to present the situation of unemployment in Nigeria (Inyang, 2009).

In the view of Mukhtar, Mukhtar and Abdullahi (2014), poverty is a multi-dimensional and complex phenomenon, encompassing not only material deprivation but also other forms of deprivation such as unemployment, ill-health, and lack of education, vulnerability, powerlessness and social exclusion. This definition connects the concepts of poverty and unemployment, as well as other aspects of poverty that have serious consequences for people's living conditions and, as a result, the socioeconomic and political security of a nation, and may prompt some youth to engage in kidnapping. According to Farraro (2003), poverty is the state of

human beings who are poor; they have little or no material means of surviving, either with little food, shelter, clothes, healthcare, education, and other physical means of living and improving their lives. Nigeria, a sub-Saharan African country, has at least half of its population living in abject poverty (Ojo, 2008). The proliferation of kidnapping in Nigeria has scared a lot of local and foreign investors away, which has also affected the socioeconomic development of the country and given a chance to other social vices in Nigeria. Foreign investors as well as citizens are scared to operate businesses in Nigeria because no investment thrives in an atmosphere of insecurity and this contributes to the joblessness and poverty of some youths who before now were absorbed by some of the companies or factories that have been closed down in the country, which led to economic meltdown.

### **Strategies against Kidnapping of Expatriates**

**Job Creation:** The issue of the death penalty as a panacea to the menace of kidnapping in some affected states in the country is not peculiarly enough and the only solution because some criminals are willing to change, such as those that embark on the kidnapping act as the only means of survival (Ibrahim and Ahmad, 2020). Therefore, the government and other relevant agencies need to come up with a job creation scheme for idle-minded graduates and provide a productive business environment that will attract investors to invest in order to restructure and re-configure safety for a better and more productive society. Foreign and local investment into the Nigerian economy would provide jobs for the people and would re-energise the growth of a progressive economy.

**New Policy Adaptation and Implementation:** Ibrahim & Ahmad (2020) stated that the Nigerian government should endorse a strict anti-kidnapping law wherein kidnapping should be indicted as a capital offense, though kidnappings are of different types and levels. Therefore, punishment should be assigned accordingly. Relatively, government officials must avoid corruption and flashy wealth displays, and should provide the new policies that will economically sustain people's demand and empower them. The focus must be reenergized on good leadership with transparency, responsibility, and equality. By applying this, hostage-taking will be eliminated and replaced with patriotism, nation-building, and sustainable development. The Nigerian government should enact a stiff anti-kidnapping law that will make kidnapping a serious felony. A kidnapper should be charged with a capital offence if the kidnapping results in death. This is because kidnappings are of different types and levels. Therefore, punishment should be assigned accordingly (Dodo, 2010).

**Public Awareness and Empowerment Programs:** The three arms of government, particularly the federal government, should embark on a public awareness campaign on the need to shun kidnapping. Furthermore, Ibrahim and Ahmad (2020) stated that less-privileged inclusion in the poverty alleviation programs, especially in the rural areas, will ease the economic hardship as well as the establishment of micro-industries in the rural areas to empower the youth. This will re-direct the attention of youths away from kidnapping. According to Dodo (2010), poverty alleviation programmes should be fully extended to the less-privileged, especially in the rural areas to ease the economic hardship and not the urban areas where the already rich will benefit. When this is addressed, we strongly believe that kidnapping will be a thing of the past in Nigeria.



**SIM Cards Registration:** The service providers have to re-check their policy effectively to ensure every line is registered before it starts working. That will enable them to track in and out-going calls by every customer in the network, as well as track their location using GPS network, in order to trace and intercede every call from the kidnappers and track their location, which is detectable by the network provider. After all, the perpetrators used phone-based operations for the negotiation of ransom (Ibrahim and Ahmad, 2020).

**Consolidation and Adoption of a Re-Modified System of Community Policing:** According to Ibrahim and Ahmad (2020), the consolidation and adoption of a modified system of community policing ideas would be a veritable security information source for the security agencies. The new security forces formed to police the community should be patrolling the area and reporting any suspicious activity near kidnapper hideouts. They should be provided with vehicles, communication devices, and synergistic relations with the security agencies in order to attain their required operations. After all, the kidnappers are human beings, and the security forces are not supernatural; they require information to enable them to work properly and diligently.

- ❖ Any government official, public office holder, or politician set up-relations with kidnappers. Such traitor supposed to be ban from vying and contesting any governmental position, and it will be rest assured discourage others not to part-take in the criminal act.

**Stoppage of Small and Light Arms Proliferation:** According to the African Union summit on gun control (2020), the rise and escalation of the light and small arms trade has implications for the safety of vulnerable society members such as children, women, and the elderly, as well as infrastructure. Additionally, the illegal flow of arms creates a culture of violence and an unstable society through criminal influence and illegal smuggling. Possession of small and light arms conveys power even before pulling the trigger. This weapon's coercive potency is exploited by the perpetrators to treat their kidnapes to compel them to comply with their demand without resistance and hesitation. The government needs to control its porous borders to stop illegal flows of weapons. Local blacksmiths must also be supervised and monitored in their production because they frequently produce weapons that end up in the hands of the wrong people or perpetrators such as kidnappers and other criminals (Ibrahim and Ahmad, 2020).

## Methodology

Expost-Facto survey design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in Akwa Ibom State. The population of the study consisted of all the youth in Akwa Ibom State. Stratified sampling technique was used in selecting 100 youths from each senatorial district. This gave a total of 300 sample size used for the study. The instrument used in this study for data collection was a questionnaire titled "Lack of Employment for Rural Dwellers and Youth Involvement in Kidnapping of Expatriates Questionnaire (LERDYIKEQ)". Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in testing, measurement, and evaluation to ensure that the instrument has the accuracy, appropriateness, and completeness for the study under consideration. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.89, and this was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical techniques such as percentage analysis. The test for significance was done at 0.05 alpha levels.

## Result/Discussion

**Research Questions 1:** The research question sought to find out the extent of unemployment in Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research question percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 1).

**Table 1: Percentage analysis of the extent of unemployment in Akwa Ibom State.**

EXTENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
VERY HIGH EXTENT	135	45**
HIGH EXTENT	84	28
LOW EXTENT	54	18
VERY LOW EXTENT	27	9*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*\* The highest percentage frequency

\* The least percentage frequency

**SOURCE:** Field survey

The above table 1 presents the percentage analysis of the extent of unemployment in Akwa Ibom State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage of the respondents affirmed (45%) that the extent of unemployment in the state very high, while the least percentage (9%) of the respondents stated that the extent of unemployment in the state very low. The result therefore means there is remarkable high extent of unemployment in Akwa Ibom State.

**Research Questions 2:** The research question sought to find out the extent of youth involving in kidnapping as a result of lack of employment in Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research question percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 2).

**Table 2: Percentage analysis of the extent of youth involving in kidnapping in Akwa Ibom State as a result of lack of employment.**

EXTENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
VERY HIGH EXTENT	96	32**
HIGH EXTENT	87	29
LOW EXTENT	61	20.33
VERY LOW EXTENT	56	18.67*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*\* The highest percentage frequency

\* The least percentage frequency

**SOURCE:** Field survey

The above table 2 presents the percentage analysis of the extent of youth involving in kidnapping in Akwa Ibom State as a result of lack of employment. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage of the respondents affirmed (32%) that the extent of youth involving in kidnapping as a result of lack of employment in the state is very

high, while the least percentage (18.67%) of the respondents stated that the extent of youth involving in kidnapping as a result of lack of employment in the state very is low. The result therefore means there is remarkable high extent of youth involving in kidnapping as a result of lack of employment in Akwa Ibom State.

**Research Questions 3:** The research question sought to find out the strategic solutions to kidnapping of expatriate in Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 3).

**Table 3: Percentage analysis of the strategic solutions to kidnapping of expatriate in Akwa Ibom State.**

STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Job Creation	77	25.67**
Public Awareness and Empowerment Programs	36	12
SIM Cards Registration	66	12
Stoppage of Small and Light Arms Proliferation	52	17.33
New Policy Adaptation and Implementation	25	8.33*
Consolidation and Adoption of a Re-Modified System of Community Policing	44	14.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*\* The highest percentage frequency

\* The least percentage frequency

**SOURCE:** Field survey

The above table 3 presents the percentage analysis of the strategic solutions to kidnapping of expatriate in Akwa Ibom State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that “Job Creation” 77(25.67%) rated the highest percentage of strategic solutions to kidnapping of expatriate, while “Consolidation and Adoption of a Re-Modified System of Community Policing” 25(8.33%) rated the least percentage of strategic solutions to kidnapping of expatriate in Akwa Ibom State. The result, therefore, is in agreement with the research findings of Ibrahim & Ahmad (2020), who opined that the consolidation and adoption of a modified system of community policing idea would be a veritable security information source to the security agencies.

### Conclusion

From the study, it is concluded that cases of unemployment need the attention of government authorities to resolve them, thus creating job opportunities in order to mitigate the impacts of unemployment. However, expatriates are immigrants on a specific duty, mostly for business purposes. The lack of employment and poverty are seen as the major causes of the kidnapping and abduction of expatriates. Most expatriates occupy important positions in organisations or even society, depending on their purpose. Youths make up a large percentage of kidnapping crimes, and the primary aim of their engagement in the crime is money. Different motives drive the young into crime; some are due to unemployment, poverty, and greed. If the youths had jobs

with a well-paid income, the thought of associating with the crime of kidnapping would not cross their minds. If the youths were empowered through skill acquisition that would help them survive financially and keep them busy, they would not have the time to consider the crime. Also, all strategic solutions to mitigate unemployment require cooperation and goodwill. The strategic solutions must, on the one hand, recognise the critical roles of state and municipal governments while also empowering rural residents.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations were suggested:

1. The kidnappee's family should refrain from paying ransom in desperation and delay a little longer or quit the ransom payment to the kidnappers because it often serves as a motivational element for the perpetrators to keep exploring in the vicious act.
2. Any complete or uncompleted house caught accommodating kidnap victims should be seized or destroyed for future occurrences and a better safe society.
3. The government should enact more strict and stiff laws concerning kidnapping.

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