

## ATTITUDES OF THE UPPER BASIC SOCIAL STUDIES STUDENTS TO BANDITRY AND KIDNAPPING IN OYO STATE.

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### Abstract

*This study investigated the attitude of the upper basic students of Social studies student's Perception on banditry and kidnapping in Oyo State, Nigeria. The study adopted the descriptive research design. Ten public senior secondary schools were randomly selected from eleven public secondary schools in Oyo West Local Government Area of Oyo State. Thirty (30) SS II students were randomly selected for each school, making a total of 300 SS II students Oyo West Local Government Area of Oyo State. One instrument was used for data collection: Social Studies Students' Attitude to Banditry and Kidnapping Questionnaire ( $r=0.76$ ). Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentage scores, mean and standard deviation. Findings of the study revealed that Students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping was negative because the weighted mean of 2.38 was below the threshold set at 2.50. Also, it indicated that there was no significant difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping ( $t = .414$ ;  $df=148$ ;  $p>0.05$ ). This implies that gender did not cause a variance in students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping. Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that students should be sensitized to continue to have negative attitude to banditry and kidnapping, security operatives should be more proactive in curbing the menace of kidnapping and banditry, there should be effective community policing and government should provide employment opportunities for the unemployed youth.*

**Keywords:** Social Studies Students, Attitude, Banditry, Kidnapping

### Introduction

Violence had a far-reaching humanitarian and economic impact on the region and created series of security problems. Over the last decades, more than 8,000 people have been killed. Bandit groups, whose members are seen displaying automatic weapons, attack herders' settlements, farms, villages and highways with the mission of killing people, kidnapping and pillaging cows. In most cases, the bandits killed, maimed people and raped women. The concept of banditry has been changing over time, space and circumstances. A bandit in the 19th century, In Europe and America as a freedom fighter whose aim was partly to ensure the emancipation of the downtrodden from the upper class or colonized over the colonizer.

In Nigeria, it is pertinent to note that banditry is not novel. Anecdotal and scholarly accounts have it that the phenomenon predated Nigeria emergence as a political entity. In this regard, Jaafar (2018) opines that there were recorded instances of banditry in the colonial Nigeria as far back as the 1930s. Considering this claim from historical perspective, in those days, wayfarers and merchants travelling along our local economic roads usually faced the threats and dangers of ambush from nondescript bandits. Armed bandits and criminals were known to be targeting goods ferried on the back of donkeys, camels and ox carts. Those bandits on our trade routes would forcefully take those goods and disappear into the bush. That is just one dimension of the problem then. In other instances, the bandits would sometimes raid farming communities and villages with intention of willful killing and wanton destruction of property. During such raids, the bandits would destroy virtually everything in their path, including valuables, farm produce among others. This subculture has been in existence even before the coming of colonialists to the territory of northern Nigeria (Jaafar, 2018).

In view of this, violent crimes, such as banditry, have thrived in areas where there are forests. Most attacks occur in remote villages, close to regions where their forests in the north-west where there is little presence of security. Banditry occurs in large swathes of forest reserves that are generally out of the reach of the Nigerian security operatives. Most of the bandit activities take place in state-owned reserves such as the Kamuku, Kiyabana and Fagore forests in Northern Nigeria. The forests offer perfect locations as hide outs for criminals to evade arrest from security forces. The reluctance of the Nigerian security operatives to enter these forests seems to be largely due to inefficiency, connivance of the local people, lack of sophisticated weapons and poor motivation of the Nigerian security forces (Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016).

Another factor that promotes banditry in Nigeria is the high level of unemployment rate. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2019 puts Nigeria unemployment rate at 23.1%, of which youth unemployment was 55.4%. Equally, the poverty index in the Northwest was 77.7% (NBS, 2012). These figures have continued to drastically increase yearly as Nigerian institutions keep graduating batches of youths with the prior impression of getting better jobs and opportunities after graduation. The anxiety from Nigerian graduates that later turn to frustration, and then to aggression on the government is what has fueled emergence of most of these bandit attacks and security threats in the country (Mustapha, 2019).

Banditry attacks in numerous communities in the focal states led to death of 459 people, abduction of 390 people and raiding of tens of villages. About 279,000 persons were displaced in Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina by the end of 2020, while more than 2.6 million people across the three states faced food insecurity in 2021. Besides the killings and displacement, the bandits shot down an Air Force jet and engaged in retaliatory attacks on villagers for providing information about them to security operatives. Most importantly, their demands have now gone beyond demanding ransom from families of kidnapped victims to demand for the release of fellow gang members or their relatives and a call to end all military or community efforts against banditry (Kazeem, 2009).

Ekhomu (2021) argues that since Nigeria's porous borders have made it hard for authorities to prevent infiltration of both the local and foreign terrorists into the country. The law enforcement agencies should detect and arrest these terrorists. Nduka (2020) noted that banditry techniques and its dimension have gradually penetrated its pores and claiming victims in hundreds. Many children are now orphans and women become widows overnight while the issues of food security as well as humanitarian tragedy further makes life unbearable for many Nigerians. This implies that Nigeria government needs to strengthen the country's security

infrastructure whereby members of the public could report bandits or suspected terrorist activities to the whistle blowers and they were equally required for protection and motivation.

The invasion of common citizens as enemy were the utmost priority among the banditry group and unleashed of agony on the victims, pain, emotional and psychological trauma as well as provocation in the society. Chris (2020) maintains that the infiltration of banditry and counter strategy involves series of advanced and well-articulated decisions formulated in a coherent plan to achieve policy objectives. The collaboration of security experts, law enforcement agencies, stakeholders and government are germane to nip the ugly phenomenon bedeviling human society in the country in bud.

Banditry is the code for organized crime like kidnapping, cattle rustling, mass abduction, arson and even armed robbery. Ekhomu (2021) and Chris (2020) maintain that the Jihad terror organisations linked to the network analysis, Boko Haram, Taliban and [ISIS] Islamic state of Iraq and ash-shams had common goals of repudiating western education and civilization. The ISIS is the most recent incarnation of these violent extremist organisations. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI 2021) defines organised crime as “any group having some manner of formalised structures and whose primary objectives is to collect money through illegal activities such groups maintain their position through the use of actual or threatened violence, corruption, public officials, gift, or extortion and generally have a significant impact on the people in their locale regions or in the country as a whole. Similarly, the United Nation convention against transnational organised crime (Article 2 (9) states that an “organised criminal group shall mean a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious criminal offences established in accordance with the convention in order to obtain directly or indirectly a financial or other material benefits. The problem requires robust structured analytical thinking, Security experts and law enforcement agencies needs intelligence gathering of analysts to use a powerful analytical tool to examine the analytical data (Howard, 2013; Michael, 2009; Jeffrey, 2009). About 1,100 people were murdered in 2018 in the Nigeria, over 2,200 were killed in 2019 and 1,600 were killed between January and June 2020. About 247,000 people had been displaced while their activities alone have led to the production of more than 41,000 refugees (Onyebuchi, 2020).

The safety of persons in Nigeria and their properties cannot be guaranteed. Kidnapping is an offence punishable under the law in Nigeria. Anybody caught involving in the act is expected to be imprisoned for 10 years as penalty for such bad act. Asuquo (2009) noted that the term “kidnapping” is difficult to define with precision, because it varies from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction. It is the forcible seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will. It is a common law offence and the key part is that, it is an unwanted act on the part of the victim. It is a restriction of someone else’s liberty which violates the provision of freedom of movement as enshrined in the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, where every other law takes its cue from. For this reason, Siegel (1986) sees it as a serious offence.

Abraham (2010) defined kidnapping as an act of seizing, taking away and keeping a person in custody either by force or fraud. However, it includes snatching and seizing of a person in order to collect a ransom in return or settle some scores of disagreements among people. Walsh and Adrian (1983) also noted that, kidnapping varies from country to country. Therefore, the term is uncertain and devoid of any straight jacket definition. That is, it depends on who is defining it and from what perspective and for what purpose. They viewed kidnapping as

unlawful seizure and detention of a person by force against their will. Also, it is an act of seizing a person and taking him/her to another place for involuntary servitude or compelling male into the military or naval service. Kidnapping as a crime of seizing, confirming abducting or carrying away persons by force or fraud and subjecting him or her to involuntary servitude in an attempt to demand a ransom or in furtherance of another crime. Thomas & Nta (2009) defined kidnapping as robbery of the highest rank. It is an organized and systematic robbery which is not as deadly as armed-robbery, but more profitable than the former.

The profitability has encouraged those that indulged in it to carry on with the act although there is a law prohibiting it. In criminal law, kidnapping is defined as taking away a person by force, threat or deceit with intention to cause him/her to be detained against his or her will (Asuquo, 2009). Nwaorah (2009) viewed kidnapping as an act of an angry man who wants to take any person of value hostage, and who could be rescued by loved ones. In most cases, victims are often released after payment of ransom. According to Ogabido (2009), “kidnapping” means to abduct, capture, carry off, remove or steal away a person(s). It is the seizing and holding of someone prisoned illegally, usually demanding for a ransom for his/her release. Dode (2007) saw kidnapping as a process of forcefully abducting a person or group of persons perceived to be the reasons behind the injustice suffered by another group. It is “a low-cost, high-yield terror tactics”. This was the initial case in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. In Nigeria, it was observed that level of insecurity has increased since the return to democratic governance more especially May, 1999. These insecurities are caused by communal clashes, ethnic tribal conflicts, religious riots, militancy ritual killing, cultism and ethnic militia attacks and farmers herdsman conflict. This violence has taken terror dimensions such that violent agitations claimed thousands of lives. Displaced and inestimable properties have been destroyed rendering the region one of the most dangerous zones to live in Nigeria today. Threats to human and national security ranges from the menace of separatist demands, illegal militia armies, ethnic religions, conflicts, terrorism, armed robbery, corruption and poverty to sabotage public properties, economic sabotage and environmental degradation. This predominant threats and security challenges in the area are emanating from un-abating attacks on arm proliferation, youth restiveness, kidnapping and hostage taking among others becomes order of the day.

Ahmed (2021), Yusuf & Abdullahi (2020) collaborated that crime thrives in context where there is little deference in most communities. This renders them vulnerable to banditry and worse by the absence of effective community policing mechanism capable of addressing the hinterlands security challenges. The incidence and prevalence of banditry and Kidnapping in Nigeria raises a fundamental question about the governments’ ability to govern effectively. The state security machinery has so far failed to tackle the scourge of banditry and kidnapping. This failure stems for lack of political will and operational challenges

As a way of addressing this problem previous studies have focused on rethinking security (Ammerdown, 2016). Social problem of kidnapping and its implication on socio-economic development (Abrahamm 2010), Causes and remedies of kidnapping in Nigeria (Dodo, 2010), how does insecurity affect the Nigerian education (Ezeibo, 2013), Causes of kidnapping in Nigeria and proposed solution (Ibrahim and Ahmed, 2020) and intelligence reports and kidnapping (Kyrian, 2009). All these studies came up with useful insights to solving the problem of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria but with less research focus on social studies students’ attitude to banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria.

Attitude is an internal state that moderates the choice of personal action made by the individual. This means that attitude regulates all behaviours. One's behaviour at a time is not caused but is the consequences of what is going on within the individual (Lengzakka, 2006). Ochonogor (2003) noted that an attitude may be thought as an expression of a person's values which results from the influence of the environment, past and present acting upon the personality of an individual. This appears to prove that attitude of individual is learned and somewhat emotional pictures of his personality. Mkpa (2001) assert that attitude forms a part of affective domain as one of the three generally classified educational objectives. Mkpa pointed out that attitude is measurable at different levels adopting suitable items and indices. Attitude can be measured by carefully accepting or rejecting opinions. It is the way of feeling, thinking or behaving towards something or a situation. Attitude is expressible in words or action which depicts one's positive or negative reaction towards something or a given situation (Mkpa, 2001). Obodo (2002) views attitude as a system of positive or negative evaluation of emotional feelings.

### **Statement of the problem**

One of the major problems affecting the educational development of the country is high banditry and kidnapping. Despite the effort of government and security operatives at solving the problem, success has not been recorded. As a way of addressing these problems, researchers and scholars have carried out studies on rethinking security, causes and remedies of kidnapping and how does insecurities affect Nigeria. All these studies came up with useful insights to solving the problems of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria but with less research focus on social studies teachers and students' perception of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria. Therefore, this study investigated Attitudes of the Upper Basic Social Studies Students to Banditry and Kidnapping in Oyo State.

### **Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the study is to know the attitude of students on banditry and kidnapping, major causes of banditry and kidnapping and the effect on the psychological, social and economic life of the victims.

### **Research Question**

The following research question was answered:  
What is the attitude of student to banditry and kidnapping?

### **Hypothesis**

**H<sub>0</sub>1:** There is no significant difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping

### **Methodology**

The study adopted the descriptive research design. Eleven senior randomly selected from eleven public secondary schools in Oyo West Local Government Area secondary schools were of Oyo State. Thirty (30) SS II students were randomly selected for each school, making a total of 300 SS II students Oyo West Local Government Area of Oyo State instrument was used for data collection: Social Studies Students' Attitude to Banditry and Kidnapping Questionnaire (r=0.76). Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentage scores, mean and standard deviation.

## Results

### Research Question 1: What is Social Studies Students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping?

**Table 1:** Social Studies Students' Attitude to Banditry and Kidnapping

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Std. D.
1	I hate banditry and Kidnapping because they are harmful to the society.	-	7 (28%)	7 (28%)	11 (44%)	1.84	.85
2	I don't like talking about banditry and kidnapping because they affected many lives.	3 (12%)	7 (28%)	6 (24%)	9 (36%)	2.16	1.06
3	I dislike banditry and kidnapping because they affect the unity of the country.	4 (16%)	7 (28%)	9 (36%)	5 (20%)	2.40	1.00
4	If I have my way, I will put an end to banditry and kidnapping because they have negative impacts on education	1 (4%)	9 (36%)	10 (40%)	5 (20%)	2.24	.830
5	I enjoy talking about banditry and kidnapping because they affect the peace of the country	4 (16%)	5 (20%)	5 (20%)	11 (44%)	2.08	1.15
6	I dislike banditry and kidnapping because they restrict people's movement to some parts of the country	6 (24%)	3 (12%)	11 (44%)	5 (20%)	2.40	1.08
7	I hate banditry and kidnapping because they make many people not to believe in their country	13.6%)	5 (22.7%)	10 (45.5%)	4 (18.2%)	2.31	.945
8	I like banditry and kidnapping because they make many people not to be patriotic	7 (28%)	7 (28%)	9 (36%)	2 (8%)	2.76	.969
9	I do not enjoy listening to news on banditry and kidnapping because they make the country to lose good people	9 (36%)	3 (12%)	10 (40%)	3 (12%)	2.72	1.10
10	I do not like anything that has to do with banditry and kidnapping because they disallow investors from coming into the country	2 (8%)	11 (44%)	10 (40%)	2 (8%)	2.52	.770
11	I like banditry and Kidnapping because they make people not to trust one another.	2 (8%)	9 (36%)	6 (24%)	8 (32%)	2.20	1.00
12	I dislike banditry and kidnapping because they make people not to be willing to help one another	1 (4%)	10 (40%)	10 (40%)	4 (16%)	2.32	.802
13	I hate banditry and kidnapping because they affect people's thinking	5 (20%)	4 (16%)	6 (24%)	10 (40%)	2.16	1.17

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14	I don't see anything good in banditry and kidnapping because they make many people to be selfish	3 (12%)	7 (28%)	5 (20%)	10 (40%)	2.12	1.09
15	I advise people to dislike banditry and kidnapping because they promote hatred among people	4 (16%)	7 (28%)	5 (20%)	9 (36%)	2.24	1.12
16	I educate people to know that banditry and kidnapping are bad sources of income	5 (20.8%)	6 (25%)	7 (29.2%)	6 (25%)	2.41	1.10
17	I discourage people about banditry and kidnapping because they affect health of many people	4 (16%)	10 (40%)	6 (24%)	5 (20%)	2.52	1.00
18	I dislike banditry and kidnapping because they affect how people perceive the world	5 (20%)	8 (32%)	8 (32%)	4 (16%)	2.56	1.00
19	I discourage youths not to take part in banditry and kidnapping because they do not make people to have good plans	6 (24%)	6 (24%)	11 (44%)	2 (8%)	2.64	.952
20	I do not like banditry and kidnapping because they do not make people to be focus	7 (28%)	10 (40%)	7 (28%)	1 (4%)	2.92	.862
	<b>Weighted mean = 2.38; Threshold = 2.50</b>						

Table 1 shows students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping. Students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping was negative because the weighted mean of 2.38 was below the threshold set at 2.50.

### Hypothesis

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping

### Difference between male and female students' attitude to kidnapping and banditry

Group	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean Difference	T	Df	p-value	Remarks
Male	120	51.5652	2.72969	.21906	.414	148	.680	Not sig.
Female	180	51.3462	3.09641					

Table 2 shows the difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping using the independent samples t-test analysis. The result indicates that there was no significant difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping ( $t = .414$ ;  $df=148$ ;  $p>0.05$ ). This implies that gender did not cause a variance in students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping.



## Discussion of findings

Table 1 revealed that students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping was negative. This may be because the students are aware of the negative impacts of banditry and kidnapping on them and the society as a whole. This is similar to the study of Jimada (2021) who reported that students have negative attitude to banditry and kidnapping. This is against the finding of Inyang (2009) who reported that unemployment problem is one of the driving factors that make people have positive attitude to banditry and kidnapping. Table 2 revealed that there was no significant difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping. This is in line with the study of Jimada (2021) who revealed that there was no significant difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping. This is against the study of Echeburua, Corral & Armor (2018) who reported that there was significant difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping.

## Conclusion

The study has shown that students have negative attitude to banditry and kidnapping. The study has provided a better understanding of difference between male and female students' attitude to banditry and kidnapping.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following are recommended:

1. Students should be sensitized on banditry and kidnapping have negative attitude to banditry and kidnapping.
2. Security operatives should be more proactive in curbing the menace of kidnapping and banditry
3. There should be effective community policing
4. Government should provide employment opportunity for the unemployed youth.

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