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NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATION OF INSECURITY AND FARMERS' PERCEPTION OF THE IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Adegboyega Segun Ademola
Department of Mass Communication,
Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria.
segunademola2022@gmail.com

Adelabu Omowale, PhD
Department of Mass Communication,
Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria.
adelabuo@run.edu.ng, omwale2001@yahoo.com

Oluwakemi E. Akerele, PhD
Landmark University, Omuaran, Kwara State
akerele.oluwakemi@lmu.edu.ng

Abstract

Kidnapping and banditry are pervasive and alarming insecurity issues in Nigeria, with significant implications for national security, economic stability, and social well-being. It has affected the agricultural sector, compromising food security and livelihoods of rural communities. Based on this, the study aimed at examining media representation of kidnapping and banditry, their framing effects as perceived among farmers, their implications to food security. It sought to identify the policy implications of newspaper reports on kidnapping for food security. The study was anchored on Framing Theory and adopted the qualitative Content Analysis and In-depth interview research methodologies to explore *the Punch and Daily Trust* newspapers report (January, 2023 to December, 2023) on kidnapping and banditry with perception of selected 14 Farmers in Southwest Nigeria on the implications to food security in the country. Findings showed that newspapers made deliberate efforts to frame reports on insecurity having negative implication on food security as it was also confirmed among farmers. Many farmers that operate in security threatening areas are being affected as some have being killed. The study recommended that investigative journalism should be deployed by the media to assist the armed forces in apprehending the perpetrators of kidnapping, banditry and terrorism.

Keywords: Banditry, Farmers, Food Security, Insecurity, Kidnapping, Media Representation, Newspapers, and Nigeria.

Introduction

Nigeria's economy's ability to survive has been seriously threatened by security risks in the country's agriculture sector. Security encompasses all of the actions taken to defend a nation, structure, or individual against harm or peril. Insecurity is the phrase used to describe the absence of these actions. Banditry, kidnapping, long-standing conflicts between farmers and herdsmen, and the Boko Haram insurgency are all examples of insecurity that have caused farmers to abandon the agricultural work of producing food in order to achieve food security and eradicate the food insecurity that plagues Nigeria's economy. Since food security is essential to a country's sustainability and stability in economic development, it is crucial that a country have

the agricultural capacity to feed its own people. According to Food Insecurity State (2001), when everyone, everywhere, has physical, social, and financial access to enough safe, nourishing food that satisfies their dietary needs and food choices for an active and healthy life, there is food security.

Following from the above, protecting the agricultural sector from food insecurity precursors is crucial. This requires minimizing threats of banditry, kidnapping, farmer-herder conflicts, and Boko Haram insurgency. Given that rural, agrarian residents are disproportionately affected, insecurity would significantly impact food security, jeopardizing Nigeria's food security goals. Farmers' fear of violence leads to decreased food output, exacerbating food insecurity as they spend more time at home. According to Okoli and Agada (2014), kidnapping is an organized crime whose core component is the willful and illegal restriction of a person's freedom of movement with the goal of taking advantage of the circumstance to demand money or other benefits. It is the act of detaining the victim against their will, either by deceit or force, or with the goal of extorting money.

Kidnapping and banditry have developed a pervasive and alarming issue in Nigeria, with significant implications for national security, economic stability, and social well-being (Adesoji & Adebayo, 2022; International Crisis Group, 2022). The phenomenon has also affected the agricultural sector, compromising national food security and livelihoods of rural communities and media narrative of these insecurity activities is another issue in the country (Okoye & Okoye, 2022). However, media can still contribute in highlighting the plight of farmers as a result of insecurity, so as for the world to know and security to be enforced for the benefits of the affected farmers. But, the Nigerian media were known for their escalating of crisis in their framing of insecurity in the country (Akinwale, 2022)

Despite growing concerns, research on the media's role in influencing public perception and attitude towards banditry, kidnapping and its implications for food security remains limited (Alabi & Alabi, 2022). Most of the existing studies have focused primarily on socio-political and economic factors fueling kidnapping, overlooking the media's influence (Abdullahi, 2023). Media framing of kidnapping, farmers perception of food security and the policy implications of media reports on kidnapping for food security remain understudied (Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, 2022). This has resulted in inadequate public awareness and ineffective policy responses. Based on this, this study aims to bridge the knowledge gap by examining media representation of kidnapping, framing effects on public perception, and policy implications for food security.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The study aims to examine media representation of kidnapping and banditry and farmers perception of its implications to food security in Nigeria. The objectives are:

1. To analyze the content of newspaper reports on kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria.
2. To examine farmers perception of newspaper representation of kidnapping and banditry and their implications for food security.
3. To investigate the relationship between newspaper reports on kidnapping, banditry and farmers perception of food security.
4. To identify the policy implications of newspaper representation of kidnapping and banditry on food security.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kidnaping and Banditry

A person is considered kidnapped if they are taken by unlawful force, taken by fraud, and held against their will with a demand for ransom (Uzorma & Nwanegbo-Ben 2014). Modern slavery takes place within the framework of sophisticated human trafficking, which sometimes begins with kidnapping. Additionally, it was defined as "the unlawful taking, and detention of a person against that person's will" by Inyang and Abraham (2013). Furthermore, according to Fage and Alabi (2017), it is the coerced or dishonest kidnapping of a person or group of people for purposes that include financial, political, and religious goals in the pursuit of dominance. These definitions imply that terrorism, financial exploitation, forced labor, involuntary enslavement, and other horrible crimes that pose a threat to Nigeria's internal security are characteristics of abduction. As organized crime becomes more complex and centralized, kidnapping is one of the crimes that has a detrimental effect on security worldwide (Okoli & Agada, 2014).

Banditry is the term used to describe violent crimes or armed robberies. It entails intimidating someone with the intention of robbing, raping, or killing them by using force or threats of force. In modern societies, it has been a prevalent form of criminal activity and a source of violence (*Nigeria Watch*, 2011). People who live in Nigeria's Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Katsina states have been impacted by violence and banditry. Banditry has caused insecurity for about 2 million residents of these states (Pate & Jibril, 2018). Another conflict, which started as a farmer/herder conflict in 2011 and escalated between 2017 and 2018, appears to have a connection to the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast. It involves sexual violence in the form of gender-based violence and killings, cattle rustling, and kidnapping for ransom (Nigerian Watch, 2021, Abdullahi, 2023). Approximately 35 of the 92 local government areas in the four states have been impacted by the violence. Banditry had caused more than 210,000 internal displacements by March 2020 (*Nigerian Watch*, 2020; Abdullahi, 2023).

The decrease in food production is the foundation of the connection between food security and kidnapping. Due to inadequate security infrastructure, kidnapping is becoming more common in rural areas, and as a result, farmers who are primarily located in these areas are reluctant to visit their fields in order to plant or harvest crops. This leads to low food production, which in turn causes scarcity, which in turn drives up the cost and unaffordability of food. According to July 2021 reports from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), rising rates of armed banditry and kidnapping had caused Zamfara and Katsina State's agricultural production, wages, and other revenue-generating activities to drop by roughly 75% over the previous 12 months (FEWS NET, 2022). This indicates that kidnapping and food insecurity is detrimental to both individuals and national security.

Media, Kidnapping, Banditry and Food Security

The public's education, enlightenment, information, and entertainment are the duties borne by Nigeria's print media (Alasoluyi & Yusuf, 2016). Maintaining the truth in their publications and continuing to educate the public about social events, particularly security-related issues, are the main responsibilities of the print media. This role is carried out by thorough investigations when necessary to lessen public misunderstanding, uncertainty, and fear of specific threats.

Reporting factual facts as they occur should be the media's primary priority instead of popular myths and rumors (Othman & Yusoff, 2020). Informing citizens about acts of insecurity through the provision of helpful information that is utilized to shape opinions and alter attitudes is one of

the monitoring and correlation functions of the print media. Establishing a significant agenda that will interpret the ramifications and repercussions of bad behavior that tends to create insecurity in society is often how this goal is accomplished (Alasoluyi & Yusuf, 2016).

It's also crucial to remember that the media has a huge impact on the fight against kidnappings. The media may inform Nigerians about kidnapping prevention techniques and the repercussions of this horrible crime by running campaigns to raise awareness and create sensitization (Alabi & Alabi, 2022). Additionally, investigative journalism could be used to help law enforcement by revealing the identities, tactics, and hiding places of kidnappers (*The Punch* Newspapers, March 7, 2022). To increase public trust in security organizations, media campaigns endorsing anti-kidnapping programs, such the Nigerian Police Force's "Operation Absolute Sanity," are employed (*Vanguard* Newspapers, February 4, 2022).

Additionally, the media supports victims' families emotionally while elevating their voices and promoting justice (*Daily Trust Newspapers*, February 9, 2022). The media humanizes the problem by presenting heartbreaking accounts of abduction survivors, which encourages empathy and sparks public indignation. Furthermore, the media is essential to promoting food security. Food production is improved by agricultural reporting, which provides farmers with information on market prices, government regulations, and best practices (Okoye & Okoye, 2022). While media efforts supporting sustainable agriculture foster ecologically friendly methods, regular updates on food costs enable consumers to make educated selections (*The Guardian* Newspapers, March 6, 2022).

Food insecurity issues are brought to light by investigative reporting, which leads to policy reactions and solutions (*Premium Times* Newspapers, March 15, 2022). The media encourages people to pursue farming by showcasing the achievements of agricultural inventors and entrepreneurs, thereby promoting food security. However, despite its crucial function, the media suffers many obstacles, including a lack of funding that reduces its efficacy and makes it difficult for outlets to continue doing investigative journalism and high-quality reporting (Akinwale, 2022). Undermining press freedom and making it difficult for journalists to carry out their jobs, censorship and intimidation by government officials and kidnappers muzzle journalists (Committee to Protect Journalists, 2022). However, the media remains a crucial ally in Nigeria's fight against kidnappings and food insecurity. By leveraging its influence, the media can enhance public awareness and education on kidnapping prevention and food security, support anti-kidnapping efforts and agricultural initiatives, promote sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly practices and advocate for policy changes addressing kidnappings and food insecurity.

Theoretical Framework

Framing theory is important to underpin this study because one of the ways through which the media can influence their target public is through News Framing. Framing involves selecting certain features of a perceived reality and making them more salient in a text ‘in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation’ (Entman, 1993 cited in Vladisavljević 2015).

This theory is relevant to the study as it outlines how the media frame or emphasis on an issue can cause public awareness and compel the government to take actions on that issue. This further implies that the manner in which the media reports on kidnapping and its implications to food security would not only create awareness on the issue but can also compel the government to take the necessary steps in ensuring the implementations of the necessary policies to ensure both human and food security.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the qualitative content analysis and in-depth interview research methodology to gain in-depth information about farmers' perception on media representation of insecurity implications to food security. Using this research methodology, the research explored how *The Punch* and *Daily Trust* newspapers report (January, 2023 to December, 2023) kidnapping issues and their implications on food security in Nigeria. This is because of the heightened reports on cases of kidnapping during those periods and comprised the planting and harvesting season. These newspapers are known to have wide coverage in both Southern and Northern Nigeria and were selected purposely for their wide readership and coverage of cases of kidnapping in Nigeria.

Sampling Technique

Purposive sample of news articles were selected from the newspapers relating to the case study. The sample included news articles focusing on kidnapping and food security and excluded editorials, opinion pieces and irrelevant content. A total of 10 newspapers stories were purposely selected from the newspapers and used for the qualitative analysis.

For the in-depth interview, 14 farmers in Southwest Nigeria who were affected by kidnapping and banditry were purposively selected through snowballing. Also, the interview was carried out on farmers who have firsthand knowledge about the media narrative on insecurity and the activities of kidnappers and banditry. The respondents were coded from Farmer One to Fourteen.

Content Categories and Unit of Analysis

The researcher conducted open, and selective coding to identify themes, patterns and narratives. Coding categories were developed to examine kidnapping reporting styles, food security implications, and policy responses. The coding categories were depicted as follows:

THEMES	CODES
Title and Date of Publication	TDP
Headline	HL
Kidnapping and Banditry Reporting Style	KRS
Food Security Implications	FSI
Policy Response	PR

Validity and Reliability of Instrument

To ensure inter-coder reliability, the data was coded independently by two researchers. Content validation was achieved through expert review of coding categories and themes.

Data Analysis

Data interpretation was done by the Researchers by analyzing the coded data to address research objectives. Here the open coding as used in analysis is concerned with identifying, naming, categorising and describing phenomena found in the text. This is done in order to answer the questions critically by reading and decoding responses.

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RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

DATA 1



TDL: The Punch, 21st May, 2023

HL: Bandits Kill Nine Farmers in Kaduna

ANALYSIS

KBRS: The report was an objective report on how suspected bandits have killed nine farmers and kidnapped three others in Unguwar Danko near Dogon Dawa village in Birnin Gwari Area of Kaduna State.

FSI: The implication of this incident is enormous as the killing and abduction of farmers will not only affect the victims' families but the food production of the area. Apart from the abandonment of the farms of the victims, other farmers would be discouraged to visit their own farms for fear of being killed or kidnapped. This further implies that the food and economic security of the communities supplied with food from Birnin Gwari Area of Kaduna State would be damaged. Also, it is noteworthy that economic and food insecurity was the main motive of the perpetrators, as only rural farmers were attacked.

PR: The policy response was that of some villagers, who were angry confronted the bandits, leading to some villagers sustaining gunshots injuries.

DATA 2



TDL: The Punch, 29th June, 2023

HL: 100 Farmers Killed in Six months, Says Report

ANALYSIS

KBRS: The report was an objective report on how 100 farmers have been killed between January and June in the year 2023, as the nation continues to contend with insecurity. Data from the Nigerian Security Tracker, a project of the Council on Foreign Relations, and news reports also showed that at least 37 farmers were also kidnapped within the period under review.

FSI: The implication of this incident is enormous as the killing and abduction of farmers will not only affect the victims' families but the food production of the area. This further implies that the food and economic security of the communities that are supplied food are at risk.

PR: The policy response is that the report calls on authorities to take action to stem the tide of insecurity in the country; otherwise, Nigeria will struggle with food sufficiency, and food security will remain a mirage

DATA 3



TDL: The Punch, 30th July, 2023

HL: Kaduna Bandits Kill Cleric, Five Farmers, Abducts 40

ANALYSIS

KBRS: The report was an objective report on the killing of 6 farmers, including the Vice-Chairman of the Jama'atul Izalatul Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus-Sunnah, Mallam Yakubu Bugai and abducting 40 villagers in the troubled Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

FSI: The implication of this incident is enormous as the killing and abduction will traumatize the farmers. "the bandits told the farmers to stop wasting their time going to farm in the area because even if they failed to obey, they would not allow them to harvest and may end up being killed or abducted".

PR: There was no policy response in the newspaper story

DATA 4



TDL: The Punch, 25th September, 2023

HL: B'Haram Insurgents Kill 10 Borno Farmers, Abduct Nine

ANALYSIS

KBRS: The report was an objective report on Boko Haram insurgents killing of 10 farmers and abduction of nine in the Mafa Local Government Area of Borno State. Although, it is a human-interest issue, the reporter tried to maintain objectivity in reporting.

FSI: The implication of this incident is enormous as the killing and abduction of farmers will not only affect the victims' families but the food production of the area. Apart from the abandonment of the farms of the victims, other farmers would be discouraged to visit their own farms for fear of being killed or kidnapped. This further implies that communities reliant on food supplies from Mafa Local Government Area of Borno State would face damage to their food and economic security.

PR: The policy response was that of security improvement for farmers as The Borno State Governor, Babagana Zulum warned farmers in the rural communities not to stay on their farms beyond 5pm and He also directed the troops of soldiers and the Agro-rangers to secure farmers in the fields. This is a clear indication that the Governor is well aware of the importance of farmers and their products to the success of the economy.

Farmer One, *Farmer Three* and *Farmer Six* claimed that they are aware of farmers that where killed by bandits in their houses and farms. While *Farmer Two* and *Farmer Eight* have recount how farmers in Niger, Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina and Kaduna have to pay levy imposed on them by the bandits before they can access their farms. While *Farmer Ten* testify that over 25 farmers were kidnapped in their communities within 2022-2023 with millions of naira being paid as ransom. Farmers in rural communities across the country were seriously affected by banditry and kidnapping, which invariably have implications for their productivity.

DATA 5



TDP: The Punch, 21st August, 2023

HL: Farmers abandon farms, 23 Sokoto, Zamfara, Kebbi LGs under bandits

ANALYSIS

KBRS: the reporting style used here is objective but the reporter included a little bit of sensationalism to further express the report in a way that would arouse public interest. The exact figures of victims were not stated only estimates were given. Statements like "Residents of at least 23 local government areas in Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi states are battling to survive as kidnappers, cattle rustlers and bandits make life difficult for them." And "the situation in Kebbi State has already claimed the lives of at least 2,500 people". These statements show that the exact figures were not obtained and there is also a possibility that the figures do not accurately represent the number of victims affected.

FSI: the food security implication of this report is a very negative one as the report shows that "residents had been forced to abandon their farms, while some villages had been deserted across the affected LGAs". This means that food production had been obstructed in those affected communities. There is no food production, and even the farmlands with unharvested crops are deserted because of the insecurity. Those who wanted to farm had to sign agreements with the bandits. But this would mean that the profit of the farm produce, and even more, would be collected by the bandits, leaving only what would sustain the farmers themselves. However, the worst implication is that the news reports cases of "Internally Displaced Persons requiring urgent provision of relief materials, including food and toiletries, clothes and mats." This is because individuals and communities who are expected to produce food are now in need of food themselves.

PR: the response given was to improve the security measures as the then state governor, Governor Ahmed Aliyu, had put in place police armed forces to secure the citizens in the state. Also, free flow of a two communication between the citizen and the government security agencies were established to provide actionable information to address the insecurity.

Response from all the farmers interviewed complained bitterly on the adverse effects of insecurity to their farming activities. They lament how farmers in the affected environment across the country have abandoned their farm land. As confirmed by Farmer Seven, "my community have been deserted because of the constant attacks by bandits. Now, we don't cultivate our farmlands that are at far distance from the community".

DATA 6



TDP: The Punch, 8th October, 2023

HL: Insecurity claims over 531 lives in four months, farms deserted

ANALYSIS

KBRS: the reporting style used here is objective but the reporter included a little bit of sensationalism to further express the report in a way that would arouse public interest. The exact figures of victims were not stated only estimates were given. Statements like "**Over** 521 persons have been killed by terrorists, bandits and other criminal elements between July 1 and October 6, 2023, Sunday PUNCH can confirm, highlighting the worsening state of insecurity in the country." These statements show that the exact figures were not obtained and there is also a possibility that the figures do not accurately represent the number of victims affected.

FSI: the food security implication of this report is a very negative one as the report shows that "hundreds of farmers had been forced out of their communities, and as a result, more than 80 per cent of farmlands could no longer be cultivated this year". This means that food production had been obstructed in those affected communities. No food production and even the farmlands which may have unharvested crops are deserted because of the in security. "Only a few farmers, who chose to pay levies imposed by bandits, were currently allowed to farm in most of the rural areas. This situation, *Sunday PUNCH* gathered, had greatly affected food production and also resulted in an astronomical increase in the prices of foodstuffs." "Many of the farmers, who spoke to *Sunday PUNCH*, expressed fear, adding that unless something drastic was done, farming activities would no longer be carried out in the state in the near future".

PR: the response given was to improve the security measures as The Federal Government has handed over 40 housing units to victims of banditry in Zamfara State. In addressing this challenge, a joint operations outfit nicknamed, Operation Whirl Stroke, was inaugurated in that part of the country to curb the crisis and to enforce peaceful and harmonious coexistence

Response from all the farmers interviewed complained bitterly on the adverse effects of insecurity to their farming activities. They lament how farmers in the affected environment

across the country have abandoned their farm land. As confirmed by *Farmer Seven*, "a significant number of its members had been affected by the widespread insecurity in the country." Informants Ten noted that "quite a number of our farmers have fallen into the hands of bandits and kidnappers, especially in the North-East, North-West and the North-Central".

DATA 7



TDP: Daily Trust, 11th May, 2023

HL: Bandits Kidnap Many Farmers in Niger

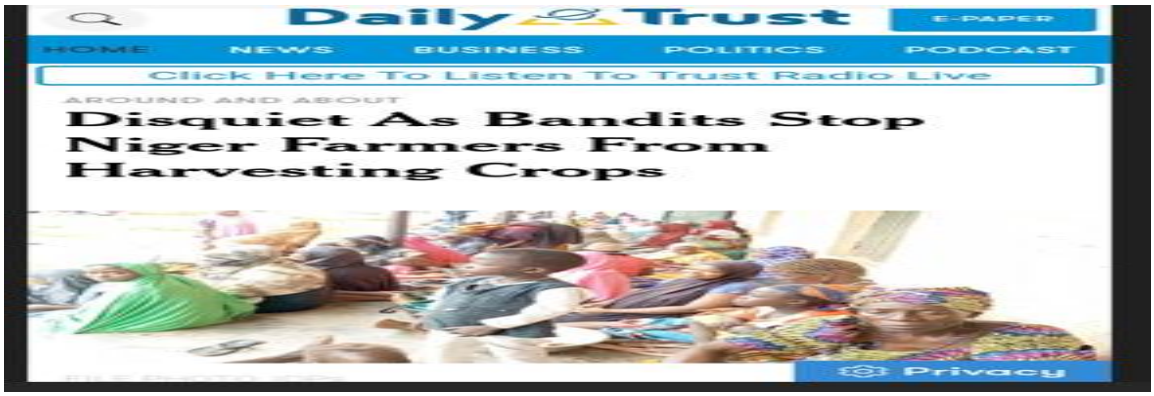
ANALYSIS

KBRS: the reporting style used here was subjective and sensational as the reporter only relied on heresy by the flying residents as indicated "**Bandits have reportedly abducted many farmers in Kaffin-Koro and adjoining communities in Paikoro Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State while many others have fled".**

FSI: the food security implication of this report is a very negative the farmers within **Paikoro Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State and environ will be filled with fear. These farmers will not be free in going to their farms. This will have great implication on food security.**

PR: The reports was not able to get government response as such the farmers will not have confidence in going back to their villages and farms if no security assurance.

DATA 8



TDP: Daily Trust, 14th October, 2023

HL: Disquiet as Bandits Stop Niger Farmers from Harvesting Crops

ANALYSIS

KBRS: this reporting style was objective as the reporter was able exclude prejudice from the report. However, the report focused more on the agricultural and food implication aspect of the incidents rather than the kidnapping or human security angle. The report stated that the bandits attack was targeted at farms and farmers resulting to the deaths, abduction of farmers and destruction of their farms.

FSI: the report stated that how on multiple occasions farmers were attacked, killed and even levied. "They even tax our people to bring their farm produce for settlement, yet they will still come back to attack them. Right now, crops, especially maize, that are due for harvesting are wasting in the farms because farmers cannot access their farms to harvest them. If they go, they get kidnapped." This implication on food security would be devastating as an end would be put on farming activities in those affected communities, none of the remaining farmers would risk going out to their farms for fear of their lives.

PR: The report indicated the response of the authority. "The Police and the military, with other security agencies, are working together to ensure adequate security of lives and property in the state, while tactical teams deployed around those identified volatile areas are still being maintained to ensure that no untoward incident occurs in such areas".

The response of the Informants is that the implication of banditry and kidnapping in farming communities is that it has affected agricultural activities. Many farmers are afraid to cultivate all the farms that they used to plant crops on because there are areas that no security for the people.

DATA 9



TDP: Daily Trust, 21st June, 2023

HL: Farmers Desert Farmlands In Kaduna Due To Increased Bandits' Activities

ANALYSIS

KBRS: this reporting style was objective as the reporter was able exclude personal emotions or prejudice from the report. However, the report focused more on the agricultural and food implication aspect of the incidents rather than the kidnapping or human security angle. The report stated that the bandits attack was targeted at farms and farmers resulting to the deaths, abduction of farmers and destruction of their farms.

FSI: the report stated that the attack took place around 11:30 am, catching the locals off guard while they were diligently working on their farms and that even fleeing farmers were still targeted. This implication on food security would be devastating as an end would be put on farming activities in those affected communities, none of the remaining farmers would risk going out to their farms for fear of their lives.

PR: however, there were no reports on policy response, government actions or collective social actions to effect a change on the occurrences. This lack of action can serve as an encouragement for the continuation of these crimes.

The response of the Informants is that the implication of banditry and kidnapping in farming communities is that it has affected agricultural activities. Many farmers are afraid to cultivate all the farms that they used to plant crops on because there are areas that no security for the people.

DATA 10



TDP: Daily Trust, 31st December, 2023

HL: Dry Season Farmers seek Action Against Bandits, Say Production in Jeopardy

ANALYSIS

KBRS: the reporting was more of human interest and policy response based. The report was aimed at arousing public interest, sympathy and action as it emphasized on the implications of bandits atrocities to food productivity. "Some farmers who spoke with *Daily Trust on Sunday* said the spate of killing and kidnapping in parts of Lau, Ardo-Kola, Bali and Karim-Lamido LGAs called for urgent action to secure the areas and enable for irrigation farming and other activities to go unhindered." This style is effective in arousing the interest of other individuals to take action when what has befallen others is made known to them.

FSI: the food security implication as reported in the paper is a negative one, owing to the fact that residents abandon their villages, relocating from one village to another and most of the rural farmers no longer having access to their farmlands, even when some of the produce are due for harvest. There was "fear was the activities of bandits in some LGAs and that if care was not taken the bandits would disrupt farming activities." Displacement of farmers, hindrance to food production and wastage of already cultivated crops can only lead to a high level of food insecurity.

PR: however, no action was taken to respond to the incidents; however, there was "called on the security agents and the state government to take urgent steps to address the situation".

Discussion of Findings

The data above show that specific implications of these kidnappings on food security are emphasized by the newspapers. The implications of the kidnappings especially on farmers and on food security in the nation were practically emphasized by the newspapers. Deliberate effort to frame the reports on kidnappings to show their food security implications were made. The way the reports were framed also suggested that the current issue is the increasing number of kidnappings in rural areas, which have disrupted food chains nationwide as farmers are afraid to visit their farms for fear of being kidnapped. It is also important to note that the kidnapping reports were mostly framed in the human interest and economic view point as specific details of individuals killed, abducted and in cases where applicable the amount of ransom demanded were stated.

The data presented on the newspaper reports presented agree with the literature and the newspapers reviewed were intentional about showing that kidnapping which endangers human security also endangers food security. It showed that when the farmers who are expected to produce the food supplied to society are kidnaped or placed in insecurity, the production of food would be tampered with. And so, the reports move for public and policy actions against kidnappings.

Based on the data analyzed the major policy responses given is that of security improvement for farmers. The reports on the issues of kidnapping by the media arouse both public and government interest. It is this interests that ensure that the right precautionary measures are taken. As claimed by Alabi & Alabi (2022) through sensitization and awareness campaigns, the media can educate Nigerians on kidnapping prevention strategies and the consequences of this heinous crime. Also, investigative journalism could also be deployed to expose kidnappers' identities, methods, and hideouts, aiding law enforcement efforts (*The Punch* Newspapers, 2022). All these are expected measures for the media to take in combating kidnapping and food insecurity. From the data, it is shown that measures like deployment of armed troops, increased security measures, establishment of communication links between the people and the government agencies and distribution of relief materials are the responses government make on such incidents. However, that is to exclude events where no action is taken at all.

Conclusion

Population growth must substantially translate into food production that is adequate to guarantee both national and household food security in Nigeria in order to achieve sustainable food security (Abdulrahaman, 2013). However, this is met with the challenge of insecurity in the country, especially that of kidnapping. According to Beetseh et al. (2021) the unprecedented spike in insecurity has dislocated farming communities and hampered agriculture. Food production which is the key factor for food security has disrupted by kidnappings and displacement of farmers who abandon their farms for fear being victims themselves. This situation requires the media to use its agenda setting power to influence public and policy actions to combat these incidents of kidnapping and foster food security.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. Better framing strategies should made by the media on kidnapping reports so as to ensure effective public and policy response.
2. Investigative journalism should be deployed by the media to assist the armed forces in apprehending the perpetrators of the kidnappings.

3. Government policies against kidnapping and food insecurity should be proactive and not just as response to already carried out crimes.
4. An effective communication system between the masses, the media and the government security agencies should be created to aid free flow of information that could help in disrupting the activities of these kidnappers.

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