

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AND IMPLICIT KIDNAPPING IN ABEOKUTA METROPOLIS

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Abstract

There are a number of responses to Covid-19 emergency across the globe. One reaction to mitigate the dastardly effects of Covid-19 such as massive loss of lives is imposition of lockdown. This action was a similitude of indirect kidnapping of the citizenry. In the normal kidnapping, victims` freedom of movement is truncated. In the same vein, the enforcement of lockdown denies citizens of their right to movement. This has negative consequences for the fundamental human rights to association, work and dignity of person. Hence, this paper assessed the Covid-19 and implicit kidnapping of citizenry as an elongation of abuse fundamental right of movement in Abeokuta metropolis. The study was cross-sectional, it adopted both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Data were sourced primarily and secondarily. It anchors on anomie theory by Emile Durkheim and betrayal trauma theory by Jennifer Freyd`s. The sample size was gotten through Taro Yamane sample size formula. The questionnaires were administered to 500 respondents. However, 440 was returned from the field, consequently the response rate was 88%. 312(70.90%) of the respondents were male, while 102(23.18%) were females. 102(94%). The results of the hypotheses tested: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The test statistic (0.1731 and 0.0980) exceeded the Tabulated value (0.000 and 0.000) for tested hypotheses. The alternative hypotheses that there are significant

relationships between lockdown and fundamental human right abuse was accepted. The paper recommends effective compensation for victims of lockdown. It will be useful to individuals, organisation, government agencies and researchers in social sciences.

Keywords: *Abduction, Conflict, Covid-19 Pandemic, Crimes, Crisis, Freedom, Frustration, Security*

Introduction

Emergencies are part of life occurrences which human beings live with. In recent time, one emergency situation that threatens human existence is coronal virus. The outbreak of the COVID-19 came with various actions. One of the actions towards mitigation of COVID-19 was lockdown. In the words of Berenson (2020), lockdown means restricting movement of people through curfew imposition. As argued by Mercola and Cummin (2021), lock down is another mean of latent kidnapping of people. Meanwhile, kidnapping is defined as capturing, transporting and incarceration of people. The duo actions have some elements of captivity. During Covid-19 lockdown, peoples` freedom of movement was restricted or totally denial. Most societies in the world experienced one form of lockdown or another. The ultimate goal of this action was to alleviate the spread of the pandemic. There is no action without immediate and remote consequences. The lockdown leads to instability in the social system. People were denied opportunities to earn their daily bread. The artisans, traders and other category of people who were self-employed were thrown into difficulty. Consequently, this raised serious social crisis like loss of jobs, hunger and domestic violence. Some breadwinners lost total control of their families. The lockdown has undesirable impacts on the freedom of movement of people (Mercola and Cummin, 2021). As result of this, social roles were limited during Covid-

19 lockdown, the people were denied opportunity to discharge their social roles. Implicit kidnaping is a situation whereby one is forced into captivity. This is usually initiated by a legitimate authority to achieve a set goal. Some of the features of kidnaping are denial of right of movement, social and economic rights. The flagrant abuse of human rights resulted in some security issues. These problems include loss of jobs, lives and valuable properties. In the prevailing global economic challenges (Monio-Liores and Ebi, 2021). Covid-19 lockdown worsened the difficulties people experienced (Bullinger, Carr, and Packhar, 2020). Implicit kidnaping resulted from death of millions of people across the world. Aside loss of lives, implicit lockdown instigated street crimes like theft, burglary, murder, truancy and other delinquent behaviour (Nivette, A.G. Zahnowy, and Eisner, 2021). There are a number of studies on Covid-19 pandemic. Berenson, (2020), examined unreported Truths about Covid-19 and Lockdown. Breslin, (2021), assessed lesson from lockdown: The Education Legacy of Covid-19. Santos, Masselti, Adam, Bezenra, Cheer and Abraham, (2021) Collision of Human Rights and the Right to Health Access During the Novel Corona Pandemic. However, to the best of knowledge of the author, none of these studies dealt with covid-19 and implicit kidnaping.

Discussion of Concepts

COVID-19 Pandemic. This was an outbreak of disease in the late 2019 and early 2020. It created serious confusion around the world. According to World Health Organisation, 2021 (over one million lives have been lost to the pandemic. In the history of pandemic in the world, Covid-19 recorded unprecedented deaths (Huskins, Quinn and Egan, 2021).

Effects of Covid-19 Lockdown

Loss of Lives. One of the dangerous effects of Covid-19 lockdown is the loss of lives. The number of lives lost to Covid-19 is unprecedented. According to International Agency for Disease Control, (2021).. The loss of lives created serious uproar in the various sectors; In the family, most breadwinners were lost to Covid-19. This subjected some families to perpetual mourning and financial crisis (Huskins, Quinn and Egan, 2021).

Loss of Financial Resources. The pandemic brought serious financial resource leakages. The financial demands cover diagnoses, treatment and re-integration of covid-19 patients. The most crucial aspects of increased financial responsibility is the social costs of maintaining locked down people. The financial demand to meet the social and economic responsibilities of government led to diversion of attention from critical infrastructures (Nweke, 2015).

Job Loss. Covid-19 resulted in the loss of jobs in the critical sectors. The private sectors depend continuous production for profit maximization. Covid-19 prompted temporary closure of companies and business ventures. The companies were forced to laid off staff. This worsened unemployment in the country (Kareem, Ojonugwa and Adah, 2021). Unemployment has been linked to upsurge in crime rate.

Pressure on Health Sector. The health sector is one of the critical sectors directly affected by covid-19 lochdown. Some of the forefront health workers were lost to the pandemic. This worsens inadequate manpower resources in the health sector (Ezemenaka, 2018). Some health workers were compelled to work without corresponding payment.

Worsened Corruption. According to Amnesty International (2020), corruption is an act of using one's official position to satisfy selfish interests. Corruption is one of the challenges of management of palliatives to ease the burden of lockdown. Systemic corruption undermines effective and impartial distribution of palliatives to curtain difficulties emerged from lockdown. Nigeria is a typical example of a country bedeviled by corruption.

High Cost of Living. One side effect of Covid-19 lockdown is high cost of living. During Covid-19, the transport and other service sector experienced sudden disruption. This motivated increase in the prices of food items and other valuables. The high costs of food items instigated galloping inflation. This worsens the living conditions of the masses, and their propensity to engage in criminal acts.

Lockdown. This is an act of restricting the movement of people. It refers to as a false imprisonment (Breslin, 2021). During lockdown, people are usually denied movement from one place to another. They are denied opportunity to assume other social roles in the social system. They could not go out to do normal work.

Implicit Kidnaping. This is referred to as capturing, transport and incarcerating individuals. It is an indirect form of kidnapping. Men are subjected to various actions whose consequences are implicit kidnapping (Howie, 2018).

Features of Implicit Kidnapping. The following features of implicit kidnapping have been established by (Lunglais, 2016). The first feature of implicit kidnapping is implicit abduction, this is a situation whereby kidnap victims are held hostage. In this scenario, the fundamental human rights of movement of victims is suspended. Aside abduction, other salient feature of

implicit kidnapping is transportation. In a bid to further encroached on the rights of kidnap victims, abductors do move kidnap victims into hidden places. This is to deceive the security operatives or the victims` relatives. Incarceration is the third aspect of implicit kidnapping. In the course of this, kidnap victims are subjected to curfew. The victims are kept in thick forests, abandoned buildings and other hidden places. Under this circumstance, kidnap victims experienced serious hardship. The victims are usually forced to eat poorly cooked food, drink dirty water and prolonged days without bathing. These subhuman conditions resulted in contrasting diseases. (Cunningham, 2012).

Figure 1: Kidnap Scene of a Student of Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta



Adapted from google search on kidnapping in Abeokuta, 26 November 2021

From Figure 1 above, a kidnap victim was tied to a pole. This is a replica of lockdown because people movement was restricted during lockdown. During kidnapping people movement is usually limited to kidnapper`s den.

Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown. As part of measures to mitigate the undesirable effects of COvid-19. The authorities in the health sector recommended lockdown. The governments responded by imposing total lockdown on the masses.

Figure 2: A Popular Itoku Market in Abeokuta was Deserted During Covid-19 Lockdown



Adapted from google pictures on Covid-19 on Abeokuta, culled on 13 December, 2021

From Figure 2 above, the popular Itoku Market in Abeokuta was deserted in compliance with covid-19 lockdown. Likewise, other busy business centres were closed down during covid-19 lockdown. In response to lockdown directives, traders, artisans, transporters and other category of people who rely on their daily activities for their livelihood stayed at home. Lockdown imposed serious economic hardship on the masses.

Some Fundamental Human Rights.

These are the citizens claims which the law allows. As part of struggle to improve human conditions. There were various conventions to instill fundamental rights of the citizens. The following are examples of fundamental human rights of the citizens (Henn and Ibhawoh, 2019).

Right to Freedom of Movement. Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every human being possesses the fundamental human rights to move from one place to another. The movement could be national or international (Barges, 2018).

Right to Freedom of Expression. Express human being has the fundamental human rights of expression. That is on no account somebody should be denial the right to express his or her thoughts. However, the expression should not undermine the dignity of another person's.

Right to Freedom of Religion. It is the basic right of everybody to worship God or gods. There is no compulsion or force in worshipping God of one's choice. One could decide to be traditionalist, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist or any other religious follower (Santos, et al , 2021).

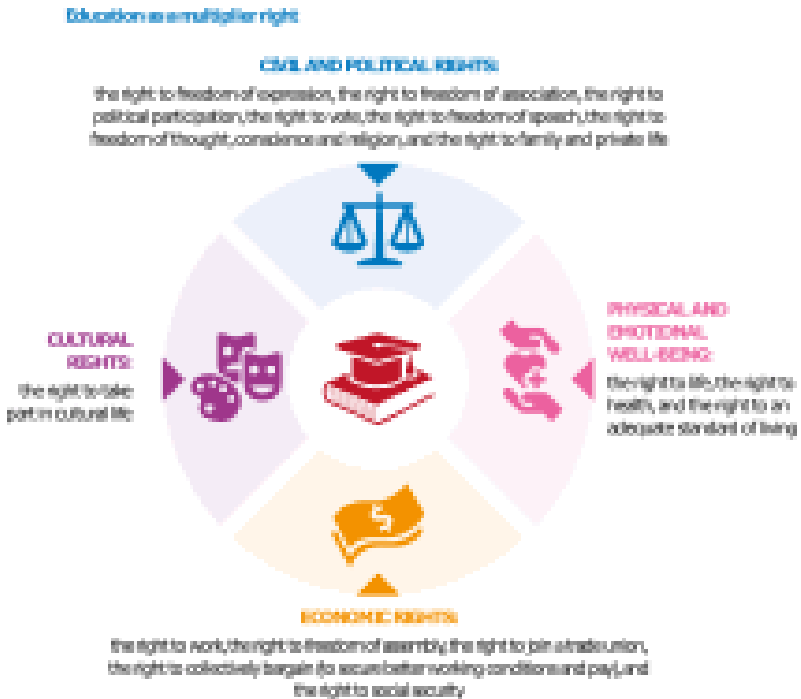
Right to Freedom of Association. As part of the fundamental human rights, everybody has liberty to join or leave any association. One can also be a facilitator of any association of his or her choice. The limitation here is that the association activities must be in line with the law.

Human Rights Abuse in Abeokuta

Human rights are the legitimate claims which the law allowed. During Covid-19 lockdown, there are incidences of physical confrontation between security agents and the masses. The unarmed citizens were brutalized by the security operatives

(Kareem et al. 2021). In the students concentrated areas, they engaged in the free-for-all fights with the security agents. The security agents were attempting to enforce the stay-at-home restriction.

Figure 3: Fundamental Human Rights



Adapted from google search on fundamental human rights pictures, 13 November 2021

From Figure 3 above, the basic fundamental human rights of people were depicted. These rights are political, cultural, social and economic rights. During Covid-19 lockdown, firstly, economic rights of the people was denied because people were prevented from engaging in economic activities. The social

[rights of the people were denied through total lockdown. The lockdown inflicted serious social and physiological hardship on the people.](#)

Problem Statement

Before the outbreak of Covid-19 in the late 2019 and its subsequent spread to other parts of the world in the early 2020. There were relative peace and stability in world. However, the outbreak of Covid-19 resulted in emergencies like death, loss of jobs, income and resources. According to World Health Organisation WHO (2020), over five million, five hundred and six-sixty thousands and fifty-six (5,566,056) deaths have been recorded. At the national level, over three thousand people have died of Covid-19 in Nigeria (National Centre for Disease Control, 2022). The ugly incident threw families, organizations into shambles. Many countries embarked on travel bans. This instigated negative diplomatic relations among countries in the world. For instance, Nigeria is having diplomatic rows with Saudi Arabia, Britain and South Africa. The imposition of lockdown has implications for social and economic activities. At the extreme, the lockdown instigated criminal activities such as theft, robbery and domestic violence. These criminal activities resulted loss of lives and properties. As argued by Akinola (2020), over 20% of the workforce were rendered jobless as a result of Covid-19 lockdown. The lockdown puts pressure on the government at various levels. One of the actions put in place to alleviate the effects of lockdown was distribution of palliatives. In some African countries especially Nigeria, the management of palliative was characterized by corruption. The problem of corruption also manifested in the enforcement of lockdown. The law enforcement agents engaged in gross abuse of peoples` fundamental human rights. Therefore, this paper focuses on Covid-19 and implicit kidnapping in Nigeria.

Significance of the study

This study fills the gaps in literature on Covid-19 lockdown and human rights abuse in Abeokuta metropolis. It broadens the existing knowledge on Covid-19 lockdown. The effects of covid-19 lockdown cover different areas of human endeavors. However, there is a limited literature on how lockdown affects human rights. It will also improve the practical knowledge on covid-19 lockdown. this aid policy makers. Also, the researchers in the field of social and management sciences will find this study useful to them.

Methods and Materials

The research design is descriptive and cross-sectional in nature. It combined both qualitative and quantitative data. Data were sourced from primary and secondary sources. The study was conducted in Abeokuta metropolis. Abeokuta is the capital of Ogun State. It is the among the six Southwestern States. It shares boundary in the North with Oyo State, west with Lagos State. It has `Olumo Rock`, as one of the well-known tourists centres in Nigeria.

Scope of the Study. This study is limited to Abeokuta metropolis in Ogun State. It concentrated on covid-19 lockdown and implicit kidnapping. Other places in Ogun State were not covered.

Study Population. According to National Population Commission (2006), National Population and Housing Census, the Abeokuta metropolis has a population of 3,550 people. Presently, its human population estimate is 4,000 people. The study location was chosen because the presence of the Federal Medical Centre in Idi-Aba, Federal University of Agriculture

Sample Size: The sample size was gotten by using Taro Yamane, $n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$, $n = \frac{400}{1 + 400(0.05)^2} = \frac{400}{11} = 440$

Limitation of the Study: This study was limited by COVID-19 lockdown however, the administration of questionnaires was possible after the lockdown was relaxed. The field assistants were strictly adhered to COVID-19 Safety protocols. The field research was conducted in the four zones. These were Abeokuta North, East, North and West. One hundred and twenty-five (125) questionnaires were distributed in each zone

Theoretical Framework

Theories are the related concepts, ideas, principles, ideologies and propositions that are used to explain social phenomenon (Kushner, 2020).. In social sciences and other related disciplines, theories are products of research. On the other hand, research are the products of theories. To shed more light on Covid-19 lockdown, anomie theory by Emile Durkheim and betrayal trauma theory by Jenifer Frye. According to Emile Durkheim, anomie is a state of lawlessness. A situation whereby rules and regulations of society does not hold ground. Under this condition, the norms and values of a society are suspended (Sep and Ferraira, 2018). During Covid-19, the norms and values of a social structure were disjointed. The normlessness led to lockdown this warranted unprecedented increase in crime rate. The betrayal trauma theory expresses the proposition in every abnormal situation one goes against the confidence imposed in him or her(Kushner, 2020; Gaignon, Lee, and Depreneener - Anne, 2017). Before Covid-19, there were relative peace and harmony in the social system. However, Covid-19 lockdown resulted in the unwarranted loss of orderliness. As a result of Covid-19, governments at various levels betrayed the confidence imposed in them. The confidence loss resulted in

corruption. The corruption was manifested in the mismanagement of COvid-19 palliatives. The law enforcement agencies engaged in gross abuse of fundamental human rights by maltreating the masses. The two theoretical dispositions best explained the concepts of Covid-19 lockdown and implicit kidnapping. Anomie theory does not explain betrayal of trust. However, betrayal trust theory gives broad explanation of the subject matter.

Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents
N= 440 years

1.Age(years)	Socio Demographic Characteristics	N	Percentage (%)
	18---25	43	9.77
	26---33	87	19.77
	34---41	112	25.45
	42---49	104	23.64
	50---57	57	12.95
	58---65	24	5.45
	66yrs and above	13	2.95
	Total	440	100.0
2. Sex		N	%
	Male	312	70.90
	Female	102	23.18
	No Response	26	5.90
	Total	440	100
3.Educational Attainment		N	%
	No Formal Education	77	17.5
	Primary School leaving Certificate	103	23.41

	Secondary School Leaving Certificate	121	27.5
	Ordinary National Diploma	17	3.86
	Higher National Diploma	64	14.55
	First Degree	43	9.77
	Post graduate	15	3.41
Total		440	100s
4.Marital Status	Responses	N	%
	Single	66	15
	Married	247	56.14
	Divorced	72	16.36
	Cohabited	55	12.5
	Total	440	100
5.Employment Status	Response	N	%
	Unemployed	125	28.41
	Employed	93	21.14
	Underemployed	222	50.45
	Total	440	100.0
6.Monthly Income	Income from various sources	N	%
	Below #30,0000	15	3.41
	#30,000--#50,000	112	25.45
	#50,001---#70,000	191	43.41
	#70,001--# 90,000	98	22.27
	# 90,000--- #110,000	24	5.45
	Total	440	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

From Table 1 above, the age distribution of the respondents showed that majority of the respondents, 112 (25.45%) were in the active labour age (34—41) years. On the other hand, 66 years (2.95%). This category of people has retired from active service and depends on the working class for livelihood. The lockdown instigated serious social and economic problems for the working class such as increase in the number of dependents. The sex distribution of the respondents showed that out of 440, 314(70.90%) were male. While, 102(23.28%) were females. In the same van, 26(5.90%) gave no response to the question. The implication of this is that more men experienced implicit kidnapping. In the area of educational attainment, the majority of the respondents 121 (27.5%) were secondary school leavers. This was followed by the 103(23.41%) who had the First School Leaving Certificate. In the area of marital status, 247 (56.14%) of the respondents were married. This showed that men and women with responsibilities were locked down. 72(16.36%) of the respondents were divorcees. In the area of unemployment, the majority of respondents 222(50.45%) were underemployed. Also, 125 (28.41%) of the respondents unemployed. The income status of the respondents showed that 191(43.41%) earned the income brackets (#70,001--# 90,000). However, 24(5.45%) of the respondents earned the income bracket (90,000--- #110,000).

Research Hypothesis: From the literature review and statement of the problem, the following hypothesis will be formulated:

Hypothesis One

H₁: {There is a significant relationship between covid-19 lockdown and human right abuse }

H₀: {There is no significant relationship between covid-19 lockdown and human right abuse }

Hypothesis Two

H₁: {There is a significant relationship between covid-19 lockdown and indirect abduction }

H₀ :{ There is no a significant relationship between covid-19 lockdown and indirect abduction }

Hypothesis Testing

Table 2: There is correlation between Covid-19 Lockdown and human rights abuse in

Variabl e	Mea n	Standa rd Deviati on	Samp le Size	R	P	REMA RK
COVID-19 lockdown and human right abuse	16.86 19.09	2.960 2.79	440	0.1731	0.00	SIG.
Significant at 5%						

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From Table 2, in testing the hypothesis that states that there is a significant relationship between covid-19 lockdown and human right abuse in Abeokuta Metropolis. The table value, R = 0.1731, is more than the Pvalue, 0.00, at 5% level of significance. The decision rule states that reject the null hypothesis if the table value exceeds the Pvalue, Hence, in this

regard, the Table value, $R= 0.17314$ is more than Pvalue, 0.00. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between Covid-19 lockdown and human right abuse. During Covid-19, there were gross abuse of fundamental human rights during Covid-19 lockdown. The lockdown created a situation of normlessness in the process of enforcing Covid-19 safety rules and regulations. Law enforcement agents such as police, civil defense, army and others subjected people to serious malpractice.

Table 3: There is a correlation between Covid-19 lockdown and latent abduction

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Sample Size	R	P	REMARK
There is a significant relationship lockdown and latent abduction	13.95015790	2.450231	440	0.098	0.00	SIG.
Significant at 5%						

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From Table 2, in testing the hypothesis that states that there is a significant relationship between Covid-19 lockdown and latent

abduction. The table value, $R = 0.0980$, is more than the Pvalue, 0.00, at 5% level of significance. The decision rule states that reject the null hypothesis if the table value exceeds the Pvalue, Hence, in this regard, the Table value, $R = 0.0980$ is more than Pvalue, 0.00. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between Covid-19 lockdown and latent abduction. Covid-19 lockdown, is synonymous with abduction of people. The people were locked in without effective palliative measures.

Discussion of Findings

From Table 1, the majority of the respondents were males and in terms of educational attainment. The secondary school holders held the day. The majority of the respondents 112(25.4%) felt within the age brackets of (34—41) years. This is in line with the submission of Berenson (2020) that majority of the active working population were badly affected during Covid-19 lockdown. The economic rights of the respondents were also affected. They were prevented from going about daily source of livelihood. From Table 1, in terms of the sex of the respondents. The male had 312(70.9%) of the respondents. The marital status of the respondents revealed that 247(56%) were married. This in line with the study conducted by Ezemenaka (2018), on the effects of kidnapping on security in Nigeria. The results of the two-hypotheses tested showed that there were positive significant relationships between covid-19 pandemic and human right abuse. The second hypothesis showed that there is a significant relationship between covid-19 lockdown and indirect abduction in the Abeokuta metropolis. From the Figure 1, a kidnapping scene was demonstrated. During kidnapping, the fundamental human right of the citizens are usually restricted (Huskins, Quinn and Egan, 2021). During covid-19 lockdown,

the economic and social rights of the people were restricted. This resulted in the social and economic problems. This led to emergence of criminal activities like theft, burglary, street hooliganism and murder.

Conclusion

From the empirical findings, there is a significant relationship between Covid-19 lockdown and human rights abuse in Abeokuta Metropolis. The lockdown resulted in latent abduction in Abeokuta. This resulted in job loss, with its consequential social and economic hardship on the masses. This study will be significant to individuals, government at various levels and non-government organizations, and researchers in social and management sciences.

Recommendations

The study recommends effective preparation for emergency situations by individuals. This mitigates effects of lockdown on individuals. Through micro savings and subsistence farming. This will discourage kidnapping because when people are engaged, they will not be involved in kidnapping.

The government should put in place workable social security systems. This prevents confusion and minimizes corruption during emergency intervention schemes.

The concerned orientation agencies like Ministry of Disaster Management, National Orientation Agency should embark on human rights education.

The government at various levels should embark on a massive campaign against human rights abuse in Nigeria. In the process, authorities should play a role model.

The law enforcement agents who violated the fundamental rights of individuals should be brought to justice.

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