

**ASSESSING THE USE OF TWITTER FOR AWARENESS CREATION AND
PREVENTION OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA.**

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that this work was carried out by FAVOURITE DAVID OMOSA with matriculation Number 18020601030 at the Department of Mass Communication, Mountain Top University, Ogun State, Nigeria under my supervision.

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DEDICATION

This work is sincerely dedicated to God Almighty in appreciation of His love and mercies, which have supported me throughout this journey and phase of my life as a whole. I also dedicate it to My Father Pastor John Favourite and Dcns Ruth Favourite for their love as well and their financial support thus and also to all of the lecturers at Mountain Top University's Department of Mass Communication especially Dr Chinyere Mbaka for being a mother and a guardian enabling and ensuring to see that the perfection of this project is a great success and also who have had a significant influence on me as well as to my devoted parents for their dedication and support.

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ABSTRACT

This project examines how different social media platforms were used in the context of mass mobilization is social support. The main objectives of the use the research work is to examine how social media was used to generate reactions and support for various kidnapping cases in Nigeria. This work adopted the agenda setting theory that investigates how the media impacts the public's perception of a certain topic or issue. Methodologically, data collection was done through distribution of questionnaire which is a form of primary data in which the population size was 49,397 and the sample size was 397 which was generated through the use of Taro Yamane's formula. The data analyzed was based on the research question raised in the objectives. The study found out that the use of social media platforms has been somewhat effective in drawing support for people in an emergency. Therefore, the paper concludes that the internet-enabled communication has become an important Medium for easy mobilization for social support from any part of the world.

KEYWORDS: Kidnapping, Social media, mass-mobilization.

CHAPTER 1.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Since time immemorial, social media has been recognized for disseminating knowledge and enlightening the residents of any civilization. Since ancient times, the media has been the primary source of information. Bernard (2011) asserts that civic and political involvement is a critical component of modern democracy. It is widely considered that individuals should have enough opportunity to convey their choices on problems affecting them and their fellow citizens under a democratic political system. Of same relevance however, is the mobilization aspect. Social mobilization is a technique that increases public awareness and stimulates individuals to demand change for a certain goal. Political parties employ social mobilization to persuade citizens to vote for them during elections. Aleyomi and Ajakaiye (2012) argue, in support of their interpretation of social mobilization, that social mobilization is not restricted to government. According to them, "organizations use social mobilization to coordinate the efforts of members of institutions, civic organizations, religious groups, and community networks in order to accomplish certain objectives." Social mobilization affects change by promoting communication between disparate groups with shared interests. Similarly, social crusaders, human rights campaigners, right-wing organizations, and others seeking to effect change in society are turning to social media to accomplish their goals.

Social media platforms empower activists and social movements to 'self-mediate' and more quickly disseminate movement objectives or frameworks. Historically, social movements and activists have done so. This is true, however social media platforms are considered to significantly enhance the ability for transmitting textual and visual discourses. Also in Chile, social movement organizers enlisted the help of social media platforms to educate the public, recruit new members, and motivate people to engage in protests (Castells, 2013).

According to Aleyomi and Ajakaiye (2012), social media had a significant impact on the 2011 elections. Examples of social media technologies employed during this time period are

cited by the authors. EnoughisEnough (a non-partisan movement for accountability in government) has created a mobile app called ReVoDa, which includes social media-enabled tools for taking action. Clicktivists were the name given to a group of protesters who sought ways to voice their outrage while remaining safe from detection using methods that provided them with near-anonymity. People's anger could be channeled into collective forms of expression via social media, and the ability to report on protests in real time was majorly made possible by the medium, Twitter. It was in 2013 that the #SaveCitizen movement started in Nigeria, as stated by Aleyomi and Ajakaiye (2012). In the opinion of some, the usage of hashtags is superfluous. Ask the victims whose lives were spared because someone cared enough and created a #hashtag and online action", they should.

As a result, it was simple for residents to join a campaign that included aspects of citizen solidarity, a call for good governance, and concrete activities to take action on those demands. Boko Haram has already kidnapped 274 girls from Chibok before this latest incident. For those who live in Nigeria, it was easy to identify with the initial batch of #BringBackOurGirls tweets that appeared. In its normal fashion, the government has done nothing to stop the kidnapping of the #ChibokGirls. In the face of Boko Haram, citizens witnessed actual actions that challenged their sense of powerlessness. As the #BringBackOurGirls movement grows, so does the outcry from Nigerians who are organizing and voicing their frustration through social media. Citizenry responds to results-oriented leadership. #BringBackOurGirls is not a one-off "clicktivism" movement, but rather a symptom of a rising citizen mobilization movement. The abducted Dapchi Girls were subjected to a similar situation.

Similarly, there was a kidnapping at Lagos State Model College, Igbonla in Epe, Lagos State on May 24, 2017. Gunmen abducted students and instructors from the same Government Model College in Igbonla Epe on October 6, 2016, in a similar incident. Assailants breached the school's perimeter fence on May 24, 2017, and made their way to the boys' dormitories, where they abducted ten students from the Senior Secondary School. Four of them were able to flee. Since May 24, 2017, Nigerians have been pleading for the release of the kidnapped children. On May 25, 2017, the second day of the kidnapping, Nigerians started a countdown to the boys' return. #FREE EPE 6, #EPE 6, and other such hashtags have been used by Nigerians to begin the rally. The number of days the lads had spent in captivity was also a

factor in these operations. This is #FREE EPE's 6 second day of captivity; this is #EPE 6's fifth day of captivity. Nigerians took to social media to express their displeasure with the administration and its security forces. Among them was a public uproar from the family members of the stolen children. For the benefit of the boys, family members of the victims went to the media. On July 28, 2017, the 64th day after the kidnapping, these initiatives resumed. After their release, Nigerians were still keeping track of the number of days they had spent in captivity.

As of now, social media is able to connect more individuals than conventional media (Radio, Television, Newspaper and Magazine). As defined by Michael Haenlein and Kaplan, Andreas (2010:2), a category of Internet-based apps that build on the conceptual and technical underpinnings of Web 2.0 and that enable the production and sharing of user-generated content. Interaction is a key component of modern communication, and it's made possible by web-based and mobile-based technology. Public concerns in Nigeria have been scrutinized by social media users since they joined the social media platform. Social media has gained a loyal following among Nigerians due to its ability to provide rapid response and distribute messages, hence, creating awareness and prevention techniques to these vices in real time as shown in recent times. For example, the ENDSARS protest, the Lekki Toll Gate Massacre etc. Social media, especially via Twitter, served as a powerful tool during these times. It is of no doubt that Twitter #tag information generated by social media sites is one of the quickest modes/mediums of public health awareness (Chukwuyere, Nwanneka, Chukwudebelu, & Emenari, 2020).

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Social media are increasingly relevant to the basic right of communication, and also an aid to protecting human rights in general because of the opportunity they present in terms of information dissemination and freedom of expression (UN Human Right Council, 2015). Apart from this fact, majority of kidnapping incidents take place amongst the youth. Most youth are no longer glued to TV screens, talk less of newspapers. The major media through which their attention is drawn is via social media such as Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and more importantly to this study, Twitter, which has been a major source of

protest and widespread of information concerning such events posing as a menace to society.

The extensive development and attention social media have garnered as social media apps have grown in popularity and reach over the last decade, they have played an increasingly important role in the dissemination of information. The proliferation of social media apps over the past decade has played a vital role in the dissemination of information. Social media programs such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Telegram, YouTube, and WhatsApp are examples of this kind of application. Each social media program has its own set of traits and limits when it comes to the types of material that may be shared, whether it's a video, a picture, or just plain text. The present global population of SM users is 3.6 billion, with this figure predicted to rise substantially by 2050, reaching a total of 4.41 billion users by 2050. (Clement, 2020). Social media contributes actively to marketing, sport, technology, healthcare, education, activism and social awareness. (Nirajan, 2020).

However, following the recent ban of Twitter, which is an app used by majority of Nigerian youths, by the Nigerian government, priorities seem to be displaced as to what issues should be given paramount attention. Twitter has served as a major platform via which the youth can show solidarity and protest towards the release of victims of kidnapping as history shows (the case of the Chibok girls; Bring Back Our Girls Campaign, the Epe School Kidnap etc amongst other major incidents). It should be given a fair reevaluation as a tool towards creating awareness and prevention of kidnapping in Nigeria, following the lifting of its ban in Nigeria.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are to;

- i. Investigate the extent to which Twitter as a social media tool has created awareness on kidnapping in Nigeria.
- ii. Examine how the use of Twitter as a social media tool provoked the government into action towards curbing kidnapping in Nigeria
- iii. Relatively ascertain the efficacy of Twitter as a social media tool in the dissemination of kidnapping information in Nigeria.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In order to achieve the objectives of this study, the following questions are to be answered;

- I. To what extent did Twitter as a social media tool create awareness on kidnapping in Nigeria?
- II. How does the use of Twitter as a social media tool provoke the government into action towards curbing kidnapping in Nigeria?
- III. How effective is Twitter as a social media tool in the dissemination of kidnapping information in Nigeria?

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study would be of significance to the following stakeholders:

1. The Academic Community as an academic material which updates the already existing body of knowledge that can be consulted when conducting research in line with the topic addressed.
2. The Government in the formulation of more policies that are effective towards the end of curbing this menace to society.
3. The Society as it is centered on social movements and would also serve the population at large awareness on the mechanism of this issue at hand.
4. The press as an eye opener for it to perform its social responsibility role more effectively.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is centered on examining the impact of Twitter as a social media tool towards spreading awareness and preventing kidnapping in Nigeria. Major incidents of kidnapping in Nigeria studied were The Epe School Boys kidnap (May 24, 2017) and The Chibok Girls incident in 2014 amongst others as they were memorable kidnapping incidents in Nigeria.

1.7 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following words are defined in the context of this study in order to provide a better understanding of the findings.

Awareness: The characteristic or condition of being aware. It is the knowledge and awareness that something is taking place or that something already exists.

Prevention: This is the act of stopping something from happening, putting in place an effective obstacle against the occurrence of an event.

Kidnapping: This is the act of taking someone away illegally and by force, and usually to hold them captive in order to demand something from their family, employer, or government.

Twitter: Twitter is a microblogging and social networking website based in the United States that allows users to publish and interact with messages known as "tweets". Users may choose to monitor certain subjects, resulting in a type of discussion between users and driving the number of followers in a given Twitter feed into the hundreds of thousands.

Social Media Tools: In this context, "new or generally attractive sites and apps" refer to sites and applications that enable users to produce and share material publicly, as well as engage in social networking, which is very popular among both young people and the elderly. Examples are, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, Twitter etc

CHAPTER 2.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews the past works of scholars to give more insight on the research topic. It would also discuss the conceptual, theoretical and empirical review of related subject matters to the researcher's topic. The key concepts of this study are social media (Twitter) and kidnapping as it poses an increasing threat to society. It would also highlight various theories that are in relation to the subject matter and which one this study abides by.

2.1.1 SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS

According to most scholars and practitioners who use the phrase "social media," blogs, social networking sites, micro-blogging, and the likes are often referred to as online services. Web2.0 refers to a class of web-based apps that enabled all users to create and contribute by uploading content and that could be accessible from a range of devices as a result of the introduction of these technologies and the particular applications that go along with them (Treem, Stephanie, Casey, & Diana, 2016).

Most popular social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat, are included in this list of platforms for social media. It will be evaluated in this research how successfully social media tools like Twitter have spread awareness and prevented incidents about kidnapping and created a feeling of knowledge, attitude, and practice among other users of these platforms. There are a lot of different players engaged in the communication process when it comes to social media. Involvement in collaborative media strands (Saheed & Otulugbu, 2020) is required. Social media is extending and expanding the traditional networks of word of mouth. To this day, word-of-mouth continues to be the most effective and dependable means of conveying information. Social media is open to anybody with an opinion and an internet connection. As a result of this cultural shift, companies face a formidable challenge (Sajithra&Rajindra,2013).

Governmental control over media information is being replaced by a global market where information is freely exchanged across national and regional borders thanks to social media and other associated new technologies. Today's media globalization is also notable because it is driven by corporate interests: the producers and distributors of modern global media include roughly twenty multinational firms, including Time Warner and Rupert Murdoch's News International (Elliott, 2009). Since current telecommunication platforms let campaigners organize support from a broad spectrum of the people in a short period of time and at a cheap cost, the social media campaign started by certain social activists was widespread. Unlike conventional media such as radio, television, newspaper fax, and landline telephones, internet-enabled social media outlets can mobilize enormous numbers of individuals in a short period of time compared to traditional media.

2.1.2 SOCIAL MEDIA AND AWARENESS CREATION

It is called social media when websites and computer programs let people connect and share information on the internet through a computer or a cell phone. It's not just Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, or LinkedIn that you can use for social media. There are many more. As a consequence of recent technological advances, individuals are now able to interact and share information through mediums that were either non-existent or difficult to access only around 25 years ago. To disseminate important public safety information in advance of, during, and after a variety of crises, social media is widely employed. Social media can also be used to connect with the public and provide customer service by asking for feedback on public safety-related issues. The media is frequently used as a source of information in times of crisis. Twitter is the name of a service that lets people send 140-character tweets to a group of people through the Web or a mobile app. When it comes to social media, Twitter's real-time nature sets it apart from other platforms. Users often post updates about what they're up to and what other people are up to, which keeps them coming back for more and keeps them interested.

The increasing usage of social media during disasters provides emergency responders with additional information sources. In the impacted regions, those who have survived the disaster may share first-hand accounts of what they saw, heard, and felt while it was happening. Near-real-time observations of catastrophe locations, such as aerial images and photos, may be provided by people in the local region. When there is a major power outage, people in blackout zones would have few

ways to communicate. The public's collective intelligence might be used by emergency authorities to better grasp "the big picture" during crucial emergencies and make the best, most informed decisions possible when deploying assistance, rescue, and recovery efforts. When there is a crisis, social media could be used to alert emergency workers to certain situations by monitoring the flow of information from different sources.

Keeping tabs on the flow of information may help people become more aware of their surroundings. Awareness is the capacity to recognize, and comprehend a significant quantity of information about what is going on around you. As the crisis progresses, emergency responders and people may be told about changes in the situation, changes in the circumstances, and new dangers. With real-time information, this can happen. It's also likely that social media will make it easier for citizens to connect with their government, according to Fugate et al. Social media has the potential to transform emergency communication systems since information may be sent in several ways, rather than only from one source to another. There are active Twitter accounts for almost every government figure, from the president to his special advisors and ministries, which they utilize to communicate with the general public. They now have quicker access to material that they can't pretend not to see because to the trending topic on Twitter.

2.1.3 TWITTER AS A SOCIAL MEDIA TOOL IN NIGERIA

Social media platforms include websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube, as well as participatory features on these websites, such as Twitter's "retweet" option. These devices are referred to as media since they are also employed for information storage and delivery. However, unlike conventional media such as television and radio, the majority of social media platforms enable user interaction, as seen by "re-tweeting" on Twitter and "comment" choices on Facebook.

Sweetser and Lariscy (2008) describe social media as a "read-write Web, in which the online audience evolves beyond passive browsing of Web information to actively contributing to it." One aspect that all of the definitions of social media examined in this paper have in common is the belief that they are based on user-generated engagement. The ability to engage in user-to-user contact separates social media from conventional media, which is defined by a top-down approach to news delivery. (Clark and Aufderheide, 2009).

Social networking sites and electronic messaging are two key technologies that have allowed individuals to mingle and communicate online. Nigerian internet users are projected to be 67,101,452 as of October 2014, representing a 16 percent increase over the 2013 number and accounting for 2.30 percent of the country's global online users (Internet Live Stats, 2014). Nigeria is also Africa's third most active Twitter user (Mejabi and Fagbule, 2014). The majority of individuals who use social media tools do so primarily through desktops and mobile devices such as smartphones and tablet computers. According to analysts, the bulk of phone purchases in the next years will be for online networking purposes rather than for making phone conversations (Baekdal, 2008). Politicians in Nigeria are using social media to engage with their constituents because they feel they represent a critical demographic that shapes and influences perception. Thus, phone communication is shifting away from the traditional one-to-one chat toward one-to-many sharing.

However, with the uprising of major event in Nigeria, the use of Twitter has been banned. The present Nigerian administration has long expressed reservations about the country's usage of Twitter. Local End SARS protests started on Twitter and gained momentum in 2020, when they received 48 million tweets in 10 days. Prior to banning Twitter, the present administration discussed the concept of social media control on many occasions. Attempts in the past to enact an anti-social media law have failed spectacularly owing to a big uproar on Twitter. Days before the suspension, the country's information minister deemed Twitter's actions in Nigeria dubious, noting the company's influence over the End SARS demonstrations. This ban has done more harm than good to Nigerians not only information wise but economically too as the prohibition has cost the government about 6 billion Naira and would exacerbate the country's already high unemployment rate. ExpressVPN recorded a surge in online traffic of more than 200 percent, and VPN searches skyrocketed throughout the nation, due to the fact that Nigerians are trying to find their way around the ban via the use of VPNs (Harold Li, 2021).

2.1.4 KIDNAPPING

Many academics have attempted to define kidnapping, with differing degrees of success. The first definition given by Inyang and Abraham (2013) is that of "the violent seizing, taking away, and illegal imprisonment of a person against his or her will. Common law offenses are

defined by the fact that they are "unwanted acts" by the victim. Kidnapping may also be defined as "forced or fraudulent abduction of a person or a group of people for causes ranging from economic, political, and religious to fight for self-determination," according to Fage and Alabi (2017). However, the writers eventually confirmed that those kidnapped by force or deception are used as hostages for ransom. ' The economic motive is the most prevalent predisposing factor for abduction, even if political and economic concerns may trigger the occurrence.

There are several definitions of abduction, including that of Uzorma and Nwanegbo-Ben (2014), who describe kidnapers as those who kidnapped someone and demanded a ransom. A hostage situation is one in which a person is kidnapped from their family and held as a captive for the purpose of profiting from their family. According to the above, there is no one ideal method to define kidnapping. However, it is evident that an act must entail the forcible removal of a victim from one location to another, detention or seizure of that person, whether it is a child or an adult. As a result, Inyang and Abraham (2013) argued that it is a violation of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, where every other legislation draws its cue, since it restricts someone else's liberty. The abduction of people for financial or political gain is also common. As a result, criminals and political dissidents alike might use abduction as a means of unlawfully obtaining financial advantages or achieving their goals.

2.1.5 KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA

Kidnapping is rising in Nigeria. Statistics show that over 1,000 kidnappings occur in Nigeria each year, with many more going undetected (Catlin Group, 2012). Since January 2007, at least 25 British and dual British citizens, as well as over 200 other foreign nationals, have been kidnapped in the Niger Delta. Because of this, kidnapping is an element of militancy and/or insurgency in the Niger Delta. Kidnapping has expanded throughout the nation due to the Niger Delta's instability. Kidnappings may be for monetary or political benefit. Victims used to be foreign oil workers, but now many are locals, often employed by international oil and oil service companies, and not necessarily wealthy. Kidnapped international player Christian Obodo was freed by authorities in June 2012. (Catlin Group, 2012). It's still quite likely that oil and gas personnel will be kidnapped. This includes ships and oil rigs off the Niger Delta's coast. In January 2012, kidnapers murdered a US citizen's security guard in the Delta. In April 2012, criminals

kidnapped a US citizen in Imo and a Spanish citizen in Enugu. Criminals abducted an Italian in May 2012 in Kwara State. On May 7, a Lebanese national was kidnapped in Kaduna State and his colleague was brutally murdered. In March 2012, two British and Italian engineers were killed by their captors when Nigerian security forces, aided by the UK, attempted to rescue them. They had been detained by Boko Haram for 10 months (Catlin Group, 2012). Boko Haram has also been accused of kidnapping westerners for ransom. In November 2013, a French priest, Georges Vandebeusch, was kidnapped, as was a seven-member French family, for a ransom of USD 3 million. Both kidnappings occurred in Cameroon (Barna, 2014). It has also attacked schools and universities, such as the February 2014 dormitory massacre (Barna, 2014). 250 female students from Government Girls Secondary School Chibok, Borno, were abducted on April 14. (Shuaibu, Salleh, & Shehu, 2015).

2.1.5.1 THE CHIBOK GIRLS KIDNAPPING INCIDENT

On the night of 14–15 April 2014, 276 mostly Christian female students aged from 16 to 18 were kidnapped by the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram from the Government Girls Secondary School at the town of Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria. Prior to the raid the school had been closed for four weeks due to deteriorating security conditions, but the girls were in attendance in order to take final exams in physics. 57 of the schoolgirls escaped immediately following the incident by jumping from the trucks on which they were being transported, and others have been rescued by the Nigerian Armed Forces on various occasions. Hopes have been raised that the 219 remaining girls might be released, however some girls are believed to be dead. Amina Ali, one of the missing girls, was found in May 2016. She claimed that the remaining girls were still there, but that six had died. As of 14 April 2021, seven years after the initial kidnapping, over 100 of the girls remain missing.

The laxity of the government to react promptly has added to the perception that neither the government nor the military was able to handle the security situation properly and efficiently (Barna, 2014). This belief was based on the continuation of violence perpetrated by Boko Haram. The activities have become more deadly, and increasingly indiscriminate of their targets. In 2014 alone, there were more than 1,000 deaths attributed to Boko Haram, including the killing of 59 schoolboys in February 2014 in Yobe State. In this regard, the social media campaign by the social

activists across the world raised voices on the abduction of the schoolgirls in Chibok caught the attention of the world, notably on Twitter. Following the international protests, mounting social media campaigns and pressure, Boko Haram released a video that showed more than 100 of the missing girls. Given the proficient public relations abilities of the self-aware organization, it can be surmised that the video released which showed Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau was linked to the response of the international community (Donnelly, et al., 2014).

At the peak of the campaign, they used Twitter and Facebook page. The choice of Twitter was because of its prominent personalities as its users across the world, who are influential in global politics, security and governance. Also, it is among the platforms which contributes in bringing government, international corporations, activists and philanthropists together to discuss, chat and comment on pertinent national and world issues. Similarly, the Twitter hashtags allow users to annotate tweets with metadata specifying the topic or intended audience of a communication. For instance, the #BringBackOurGirls movement played a key role in creating worldwide awareness about the plight of the abducted Chibok Secondary School female students. The campaign got its life, vitality, and vibrancy from the hashtag (Odeyemi & Mosunmola, 2014).

Furthermore, the movement quickly gained momentum on social media, and #BringBackOurGirls recorded the most tweeted hashtag of the time. Millions of Nigerians both in Nigeria and in the diaspora, as well as millions of social justice activists and ordinary people from many countries around the world, went to the streets with banners and posters that read Bring Back Our Girls. Celebrities, world leaders, foreign governments including President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama made videos for the Bring Back Our Girls campaign and spoke passionately for the safe release and return of the kidnapped Chibok schoolgirls (2017). This clearly showed the potency of social media in generating a response to social issues positively or otherwise among the target audience to achieve the aim of the movement.

2.1.5.2 THE EPE SCHOOL BOYS KIDNAPPING INCIDENT

On May 24, 2017, gunmen kidnapped about six children from Igbonla, Epe, Lagos State Model College. The abductors committed this atrocity after breaking into the premises at 6 a.m. through the stream behind the institution. They had scaled the school gate and made their way to the boys' dormitories, where they abducted ten Senior Secondary School students. Four of them

subsequently fled. The kidnappers then sought a ransom of N1 billion from their parents. Two parents were required to pay N400 million per head, while the other two were instructed to gather N100 million each kid.

Adamu Ibrahim, AIG in charge of Lagos and Ogun States, assured the public, especially the parents of the kidnapped students of Lagos State Model College, Igbonla-Epe, that all hands are on deck to ensure the safe return of their wards. Before leaving for a meeting with the governor, Ibrahim said that the state's security agencies were working round the clock to bring the students home to be reunited with their loved ones.

Three suspected members of the kidnap gang that stormed Lagos Model College, Igbonla, Epe, were arrested by operatives of the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team on June 1, according to Sahara Reporters, an online news outlet. Benin, the capital of Edo state, is where the suspects were detained. About 4 p.m., the trio of Egelu Endurance, Stanley Yomi Irabomini, and Endurance Bentel reportedly left the creeks where the kidnapped students were kept, according to reports. After leaving Ondo state, they took to the waterways to make their way to Benin, apparently to elude the attention of operatives posted strategically around the creeks where the students are believed to have been detained. However, they had no idea that IRT operatives who had seen them leave had been able to track them all the way back to Benin. On July 6, 2017, Sahara Reporters tweeted that the abductors of the six students contacted some of the victims' parents for the first time in weeks of silence. The kidnappers agreed to a N100 million ransom for the release of all the kidnapped children after a lengthy negotiation. On Wednesday, June 7, parents staged a protest outside the office of Lagos Governor Akinwunmi Ambode, accusing him of government indifference and pleading with him to help them get their children out of captivity. Some parents claim that the kidnappers have re-established contact with them, according to Sahara Reporters (June 07, 2017). It was claimed that the gang had given them permission and assurances of safety to speak with all of the children. "They have called again and promised to release our children soon," a parent who spoke to Punch said. Despite this, they didn't say when or where they'll be available for purchase. When we spoke to all the children, they assured their parents that they were in good hands.

When one of the parents revealed that some of them had been assigned to carry out the payments to the gang members in two separate tranches, TV Continental tweeted about it on July 15, 2017. A N31m ransom was paid by the parents of the six kidnapped students on July 16th to the kidnappers.

After 64 days in captivity, Sahara Reporters broke the news that most Nigerians and especially parents had hoped to hear in the last two months. The kidnapped students of Igbonla model school, Epe, have been released, according to Sahara Reporters. Ondo State's Ilaje local government area's Aboto creek is where the students were rescued. Their release was made possible thanks to a collaborative effort between the Lagos and Ondo governments and the Nigeria Police. The kidnappers handed them over to the Deputy Governor of Ondo state, Agboola Ajayi. Pelumi Philips, Farouq Yusuf, Isiaq Rahmon, Adebayo George, Judah Agbasi, and Peter Jonah were among the school's missing students. Deputy Governor of Ondo State took two of the boys to Lagos, where he handed them over to the Lagos State Government.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.2.1 Agenda Setting Theory

The agenda setting theory is a theoretical framework that investigates how the media impacts the public's perception of a certain topic or issue. The public agenda refers to the principal focus or key issue that members of society or the general public are concerned with, as determined by the media (McCombs & Valenzuela, 2007). This theory elucidates the relationship between the media's attention on a certain topic and media audiences' or the general public's response to or attribution to that subject in terms of correlations (Zain,2017).

The agenda-setting role of the news media entails not just drawing public attention to a certain collection of concerns, but also changing our knowledge and views about those issues (McCombs & Valenzuela, 2007). The agenda setting theory is a critical theory not just in mass communication but also in related social science domains such as political communication. The agenda setting hypothesis starts with a discussion of how the media affects political behavior patterns (Zain,2017).

According to Zhu and Blood (1997), the media's agenda setting theory is "the process by which the news media lead the public in assigning relative importance to various public issues." This is because the media's objective is to shape people's perceptions of what is significant, acceptable, or desired. Attention is focused to particular elements of reality while ignoring others, therefore, affecting how individuals think. Folarin (1998) in his own view notes that "Agenda setting implies that the mass media predetermines what issues are regarded as important at a given time in a given society".

Additionally, the Agenda Setting Theory has been interpreted from a variety of perspectives. McCombs et al. (1997) define agenda setting on a first and second level. The first level of agenda shaping is concerned with issues that are currently on the media and public agenda. This is the conventional realm of agenda setting research, in which the media are believed to have a significant influence on which subjects are placed on the public agenda. The second level of agenda setting, on the other hand, focuses on the characteristics of these things. At this level, the media not only propose what the audience should think about, but also shape how they think about it.

According to Folarin (1998), agenda establishing factors include the following:

- i. The quality or frequency of reporting;
- ii. The prominence given to stories – through headlines, display, photographs, and layout in newspapers, magazines, films, graphics, and tuning on radio and television.
- iii. The extent to which the stories produce conflict and;
- iv. The cumulative media-specific impacts over time.

This theory brings to light how social medial platforms especially Twitter, as it is the focus of this study, generated reactions from different groups and foundations to render assistance for various victims of kidnapping over the years as it created an agitation towards the dread of this social menace in society.

2.3 EMPIRICAL REVIEW

When Nigerians contributed to the Epe School Kidnap incident, the government and its agencies responded quickly, according to Andrew Asan ATE and Moses Ogunlade (2019) in their

paper on the use of social media in mobilizing support for abductees in Nigeria, using the Epe School Kidnap incident as a case study. The contributions of Nigerians and the social media outcry forced the government and its agencies to take swift action on the abduction of the Epe school boys. According to the findings of this research, social media has the ability to reach a big number of Nigerians far more quickly than traditional modes of communication. According to the findings of the research, civil society organizations in Nigeria, as well as human rights organizations, should investigate the benefits of using social media to reach both the general public and the government. According to the findings of the survey, Nigerians are still in need of guidance on how to make the most of social media's potential. The survey approach was chosen, and data was collected via the use of a questionnaire. According to the findings of Muhammad Maigari Abdullahi and Uthman Abdullahi Abdul-study Qadir's on - Social Media in an Emergency: Use of Social Media in Rescuing Abducted School Girls in Nigeria - published in 2019, The results demonstrated that internet-based social media platforms have the ability to broadcast information around the world in real time to millions of linked users and followers, without the need for a physical medium. It also revealed that the majority of individuals in other areas of the globe were made aware of the kidnapping of the Chibok schoolchildren via social media, particularly Twitter and Facebook. As part of this same vein, they utilized the same means to show their sympathy with those held captive, to urge unconditional release of those held captive, and to aid the victims in starting a new life. In accordance with the principle of philanthropy, a variety of organizations, groups, and people came to the rescue of those who had been victimized. As Hadji (2016) found in his research on the opportunities for using social media in civil society networking, activism, and civic engagement, social media, new media enabled by the internet revolution and infrastructure, such as YouTube and Facebook, as well as emails and blogs, have provided a platform for increasing the visibility of activists and facilitating the organization of protests and other forms of civic engagement.

Apuke, Oberiri, Omar, and Bahiyah (2020) did a research on "Fake News Proliferation in the Social Media Era: Combating the Menace in Nigeria Through Awareness Strategies," which was published in the journal Fake News Proliferation in the Social Media Era. The majority of research on false information have come from developed nations. Despite the Anti-faux information marketing effort that was launched in Nigeria, the spread of false information continues to be alarmingly widespread. Nigerians are seen as helping to societal cohesiveness via the

dissemination of information. Users are motivated to do so by the perceived emotional impact of the news, the possible relevance of the news for the recipient, and the sender's intention to offer advice or a warning to the recipient. The majority of Nigerians place more faith in information provided by family and friends than they do in information offered by strangers. They are significantly more likely to spread inaccurate information about entertainment, political information, activity advertisements, abduction, and other topics that have elements of patriotism and emotional arousal in them. Furthermore, religious or ethnic business enterprises, as well as a person they hold in high regard and proportion, will help to stimulate such giving.

A study conducted by Simeon Edosomwan et al (2011), entitled *The History of Social Media and its Impact on Business*, described social media as a "emerging phenomenon" that has revolutionized people's connection and communication all over the globe. However, social media is not a new concept; it has been there since the beginning of human interaction as a means of communication. As social media has grown in popularity in recent years, it has had a tremendous influence on many facets of human communication, including business. For many users, social networking has become an integral part of their everyday lives. They also spoke about the nature and development of social media, as well the most significant social networking sites that have developed in this twenty-first century, according to their article. Facebook, You-Tube, Twitter, MySpace, and other social networking sites are among the sites listed in the article.

Social media and disasters: current uses, future options, and policy considerations, according to Bruce R. Lindsay (2011) in an article titled *Social Media and Disasters: Current Uses, Future Options, and Policy Considerations*, has played an increasing role in emergencies and disasters over the last five years. Social media platforms are the fourth most prevalent source of disaster information, according to the FEMA data. These items have been used by individuals and communities to inform people about potentially harmful places or circumstances, to notify friends and family that someone is safe, and to solicit money for disaster relief efforts. Among the groups that Facebook sponsors are the Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM), the Humanitarian Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) Project, and several institutions that provide disaster-related degrees.

CHAPTER 3.

METHODOLOGY

This section deals with the methods adopted to address the research goals. The section covers the research design, population and sample methods, the data collecting instrument, the data analysis method and analytical software utilized for the study.

3.1 Research Design

Survey Research Design is being employed in this study. Survey Research can be seen as a technique whereby a researcher studies the whole population with respect to certain sociological and psychological variables therefore, Investigations are selected according to the purpose of the investigation. Surveys examine the sampling of each unit from a given population and its associated survey data gathering techniques, including how surveys may be carried out and the quantity and accuracy of survey answers improved.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this research covers the University of Lagos (UNILAG) Yaba in Lagos state.

Convenience sampling method was being used in this project to select the respondents of the sampling size.

3.3 Sampling size and sampling technique

Sampling size determination is defined as the act of choosing the number of observations or replicate to include in a statistical sample. Sample size refers to the number of participants or observation included in a study. This number is usually represented by n . The sample size influences the two statistical properties which are, (1) The precision of our estimates. (2) The power of the study to draw conclusions. The sample size is a very useful feature of any empirical study in which the goal is make inferences about a population from the sample. However, the Sample size of my project is being determined with the use of Taro Yamane's formula. According to Taro Yamane's formula which is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)}$$

$$n=49,397/1+49,397(0.005)$$

$$n=49,397/1+49,397(0.0025)$$

$$n=49,397/1+123.4475$$

$$n=49,397/124.4475$$

$$n=396.7$$

$$n=397$$

The sample size for this study is 397 students from the University of Lagos (UNILAG) out of 49,397 students in the University of Lagos (UNILAG).

3.4 Sampling Technique

A sampling technique is a process used in statistical analysis in which a predetermined number of observations are taken from a larger population. The methodology used to sample from a larger population depends on the type of analysis being performed but it may come along side with simple random sampling or systematic sampling. Sampling techniques are divided major into two namely: Probability sampling and Non- probability sampling. Probability sampling refers to the selection of a sample from a population, when this selection is based on the principle of randomization, that is more complex, more time consuming and mostly more expensive than non-probability sampling. However, convenience sampling method was used in this research

3.5 Instrument/ Method of Data Collection

This study uses a basic source of data which is primary. Data was collected using questionnaire related to the primary source. The questionnaire is a 5-point rating scale (Likert scale) starting with Strongly agree (SA) agree (A), neutral (N) Disagree(D) and (SA) Strongly disagree. The questionnaire was used to link all the items in the study's research objective. The questionnaire items were also utilized to address concerns from research.

3.6 Method of Data Collection:

The bio-data of the respondents and the research questions answered were analyzed using the frequencies and percentages on demographic variables of the respondents. Meanwhile, percentage

was computed for the calculated 'Agreed', 'disagreed' and 'neutral' statements. Also, the percentage was calculated from the frequency of respondents to the items.

3.7 Reliability and Validity of Data

When questionnaire items were analyzed for research purposes, content validity is employed to confirm the validity of the instruments. The professional opinion of supervisors whose help with data validation is to be sought. Validity aids in the identification of survey items that need to be repeated and those that may be eliminated since they are not essential to the research. Statistics was also consulted to test for validity of the instrument by conducting a pilot study and the data collected was analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha, which tests to see if multiple-question Likert scale are available.

CHAPTER 4.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the presentation and analysis of the results of the questionnaire. The data collected were presented in accordance with the order established in the study questions, the sample proportion and the pie diagrams were used to evaluate the respondents' demographic information.

4.2 PRESENTATION OF DATA

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 4.1: Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	182	45.8	45.8	45.8
	Male	215	54.2	54.2	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.54			
	Std. deviation	.499			

From the table 4.1, the following data can be deduced. 45.8% of the respondents are female. And 54.2% of the respondents are male.

Table 4.2:Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	16-20	187	47.1	47.1	47.1
	21-30	210	52.9	52.9	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.53			
	Std. deviation	.500			

Table 4.2, shows that 47.1% of the respondents are from ages 16 to 20 and 52.9% of the respondents are from 21 to 30 years of age.

Table 4.3 :Religion

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Christian	255	64.2	64.2	64.2
Muslim	142	35.8	35.8	100.0
Total	397	100.0	100.0	
Mean	1.36			
Standard deviation	.480			

Table 4.3 shows that. 64.2% of the respondents are Christians. And 35.8% of the respondents are Muslims.

Table 4.4: Level of education in the University

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 100	17	4.3	4.3	4.3
300	95	23.9	23.9	28.2
400	253	63.7	63.7	91.9
500	32	8.1	8.1	100.0
Total	397	100.0	100.0	
Mean	2.76			
Std. deviation	.658			

The table 4.4 shows that 4.3% of the respondents are in 100 level, 23.9% are in 300 level, 63.7% in 400 level, and 8.1% are in 500 level.

4.3 Analysis of research questions:

Research question 1: To what extent did Twitter as a social media tool create awareness on kidnapping in Nigeria?

Table 4.5 :Are you a social media user?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	397	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean	1.00			
Std. deviation	.000			

The table 4.5 shows the responses of the respondents on the question, are you a social media user? From the table, all the respondents which sum up to 100% are social media users.

Table 4.6: What social media do you mostly use?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Facebook	1	.3	.3	.3
Instagram	61	15.4	15.4	15.6
Twitter	192	48.4	48.4	64.0
Twitter, Facebook	61	15.4	15.4	79.3
Twitter, Instagram	82	20.7	20.7	100.0
Total	397	100.0	100.0	
Mean	3.41			
Std. deviation	.990			

The table 4.6, points out the responses of the respondent on the question, what social media do you mostly use? From the table, 0.3% of the respondents are Facebook users, 15.4% of the respondents are Instagram users, 48.4% of the respondent use Twitter. 15.4% of the respondents use both Twitter and Facebook and 20.7% of the respondent use both Twitter and Instagram.

Table 4.7: Kidnap cases are often seen on Twitter

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	254	64.0	64.0	64.0
	Disagree	49	12.3	12.3	76.3
	Strongly Agree	29	7.3	7.3	83.6
	Strongly Disagree	65	16.4	16.4	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.76			
	Std. deviation	1.146			

The table 4.7: shows the responses under such question, “Kidnap cases are often see on Twitter”. From the data, 64% of the respondents agree. 12.3% of the respondents disagree. 7.3% of the respondents strongly agree. 16.4% of the respondents strongly disagree.

Table 4.8:Cases of kidnapping attract more followers on twitter

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	94	23.7	23.7	23.7
	Strongly Agree	221	55.7	55.7	79.3
	Undecided	82	20.7	20.7	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.97			
	Std. deviation	.666			

The table 4.8 shows the responses of the respondents on the statement. “Cases of kidnapping attract more followers on Twitter”. From the data above, 23.7% of the respondents agreed. 55.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, and 20.7% of the respondents neither agree nor disagreed.

Table 4.9: Without Twitter, the case of the kidnapped and killed Umoren Iniubong would have not been discovered

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	127	32.0	32.0	32.0
	Disagree	36	9.1	9.1	41.1
	Strongly Agree	185	46.6	46.6	87.7
	Strongly Disagree	17	4.3	4.3	91.9
	Undecided	32	8.1	8.1	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
Mean		2.47			
Std. deviation		1.209			

The table 4.9 shows the responses on the statement without twitter, the case of the kidnapped and killed Umoren Iniubong would have not been discovered. Thirty-two percent of the respondents Agreed Nine point one percent of the respondents disagreed, forty-six point six percent of the respondents strongly agreed, four point three percent of the respondents strongly disagreed, and eight point one of the respondents are Undecided.

Table 4.10: Twitter acted as a means of enhancing peoples vigilance in the society about kidnapping in the society

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	185	46.6	46.6	46.6
	Disagree	17	4.3	4.3	50.9
	Strongly Agree	130	32.7	32.7	83.6
	Undecided	65	16.4	16.4	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
Mean		2.19			
Std. deviation		1.190			

The table 4.10 shows the responses of the respondents on the statement. Twitter acted as a means of enhancing people’s vigilance in the society about kidnapping in the society. From the table. It can be seen that 46.6% of the respondents agree, 4.3% of the respondents disagree. 32.7% of the respondents strongly agree and 16.4% of the respondents are undecided.

Table 4.11: Without twitter the issue of Epe kidnap case would have not been heard

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	62	15.6	15.6	15.6
	Disagree	101	25.4	25.4	41.1
	Strongly Agree	217	54.7	54.7	95.7
	Undecided	17	4.3	4.3	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	2.48			
	Std. deviation	.806			

The table 4.11 presents the data for the research question. Without Twitter, the issue of equipped kidnap case would have not been heard. The findings as follows. 15.6% of the respondents agree, 25.4% of the respondents disagree, 54.7% of the respondents strongly agree, and 4.3% of the respondent are undecided.

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: How does the use of Twitter as a social media tool provoke the government into action towards curbing kidnapping in Nigeria?

Table 4.1:Government and its agencies take Twitter users reports seriously

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	286	72.0	72.0	72.0
	Strongly Agree	29	7.3	7.3	79.3
	Undecided	82	20.7	20.7	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.49			
	Std. deviation	.815			

The table 4.1 shows the responses of the respondents on the question. Government and its agencies take Twitter users reports seriously. The results are as follows. 72% of the respondents agree. 7.3% of the respondents strongly agree. 20.7% of the respondents are undecided.

Table 4.2:Abductors make use of twitter

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	29	7.3	7.3	7.3
	Disagree	44	11.1	11.1	18.4
	Strongly Agree	254	64.0	64.0	82.4
	Undecided	70	17.6	17.6	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	2.92			
	Std. deviation	.758			

From the table 4.2, the interpretation are as follows. 7.3% of the respondents agree, 11.1% of the respondents disagree, 64% of the respondents strongly agree, and 17.6% of the respondents are undecided.

Table 4.3: The government and the people take abductors response on social media seriously

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	92	23.2	23.2	23.2
	Strongly Agree	288	72.5	72.5	95.7
	Strongly Disagree	17	4.3	4.3	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.81			
	Std. deviation	.489			

The table 4.3 shows the responses of the respondents on the question the government and people take abductors responses on social media seriously. From the table, it's can be seen that 23.2% of the respondents agree, 72.5% of the respondents strongly agree, and 4.3% of the respondents strongly disagree.

Table 4.4: Twitter as a social media tool gives an avenue for social media discussions that affect the government and its actions towards the issue of kidnapping

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	185	46.6	46.6	46.6
	Disagree	44	11.1	11.1	57.7
	Strongly Agree	98	24.7	24.7	82.4
	Undecided	70	17.6	17.6	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	2.13			
	Std. deviation	1.185			

The table 4.4 shows the opinion of the respondent on the question. twitter as a social media tool gives an avenue for social media discussions that affect the government and its actions towards the issue of kidnapping. The data as follows. 46.6% of the respondents agree. 11.1% of the respondents disagree. 24.7% of the respondents strongly agree. And 17.6% of the respondents are undecided.

Table 4.5: Twitter in a way helps the government to track kidnapping related issues and suspects

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	135	34.0	34.0	34.0
	Strongly Agree	245	61.7	61.7	95.7
	Strongly Disagree	17	4.3	4.3	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.70			
	Std. deviation	.543			

The table 4.5 shows the responses on the question. Twitter, in a way, helps the government to track kidnapping related issues and suspects. From the table above. 34.0% of the respondents agree. 61.7% of the respondents strongly agree. And 4.3% of the respondents strongly disagree.

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: How effective is Twitter as a social media tool in the dissemination of information in Nigeria?

Table 4.1: What social media broke out the news of the Chibok girls' kidnapping case?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Facebook	29	7.3	7.3	7.3
	Instagram	80	20.2	20.2	27.5
	Twitter	288	72.5	72.5	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	2.65			
	Std. deviation	.611			

The table 4.1 represents the data for the questionnaire item what social media broke out the news of the Chibok girls kidnapping case? The findings are as follows: 7.3% of the respondents chose Facebook. 20.2% of the respondents chose Instagram and 72.5% of the respondents selected Twitter.

Table 4.2: Chibok girls and Epe school boys kidnap case story was broken on twitter.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	230	57.9	57.9	57.9
	Disagree	17	4.3	4.3	62.2
	Strongly Agree	123	31.0	31.0	93.2
	Strongly Disagree	27	6.8	6.8	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.87			
	Std. deviation	1.071			

The Table 4.2 represents the responses for the statement “Chibok girls and Epe school boys kidnap case story was broken on twitter. 57.9% of respondents agree. 4.3% of the respondents disagree. 31% of the respondents strongly agree and 6.8% of the respondents strongly disagree.

Table 4.3: You frequently saw stories on chibok girls kidnap?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	186	46.9	46.9	46.9
	Strongly Agree	194	48.9	48.9	95.7
	Undecided	17	4.3	4.3	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.57			
	Std, deviation	.575			

The table 4.3 represents the data for questionnaire item. You frequently saw stories on Chibok girls kidnapped. The data as follows. 46.9% agreed. 48.9% strongly agreed. 4.3%. are undecided.

Table 4.4: Twitter as Social media tool creates a platform for robust discussion on abduction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	227	57.2	57.2	57.2
	Disagree	27	6.8	6.8	64.0
	Strongly Agree	126	31.7	31.7	95.7
	Strongly Disagree	17	4.3	4.3	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.83			
	Std. deviation	1.017			

The table 4.4 shows the responses on the research statement “Twitter as social media tools create a platform for robust discussion on abduction”. From the table, 57.2% agree, 6.8% disagree, 31.7% strongly agree, and 4.3% strongly disagree.

Table 4.5: Twitter as a social media tool has helped the law enforcement agencies to track down suspects of kidnapping cases

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	195	49.1	49.1	49.1
	Strongly Agree	158	39.8	39.8	88.9
	Undecided	44	11.1	11.1	100.0
	Total	397	100.0	100.0	
	Mean	1.62			
	Std. deviation	.677			

The table 4.5 shows the responses and the statement. “Twitter, as a social media tool, has helped the law enforcement agencies to track down suspects of kidnapping cases. The findings are as follows, 49.1% of the respondents agreed, 39.8% of the respondents strongly agree, 11.1% of respondents neither agree, disagree, strongly agree, or. Strongly disagree.

4.4 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study examines the data collected was presented in a tabular form showing the frequency, cumulative percentage, mean and standard deviation.

From the research, it was found out that all the respondents are social media users who use Twitter as their most preferred platform, who agrees that there is always a kidnap case on twitter that attracts a new follower on each case. Moreover, it was also found out that Twitter serves as an informative platform that has helped in hearing the news of some kidnapped cases like; the kidnap of Umoren Iniubong and another case in Epe, this will also help in making people to be more vigilant about kidnap case around them. The findings under this research drew out the fact that government and its agencies uses twitter as a tool when it comes to related cases, and it was also agreed by respondents that abductors uses Twitter and government also uses as a tool for tracking kidnappers and they also take the response of abductors on twitter seriously.

From the findings under this research, it was learnt that, the Chibok girls and Epe boys kidnap broke out through the Twitter platform and that robust discussion do take place on twitter, moreover, it has also helped law enforcement agencies to track down kidnappers.

This study showed the relevance and the power of social media especially Twitter in Awareness creation and prevention of kidnapping in Nigeria Using the typical example of the kidnap case of the Chibok girls which occurred in the year 2014 and how it was handle via the #BringBackOurGirls on Twitter which was used to prompt the government in taking necessary actions towards the rescue the of the Chibok girls. Same applies to the issue of the Epe boys school.

So therefore this platform Twitter which was not just for the benefit of sharing information but it has also been a medium which awareness can be raised towards basic and certain issues and therefore results in beneficial and meaningful results. In the data presentation of Table 4.1 under demographic characteristics it was shown that male respondents are more than the female respondents.

From table 4.5 The study shows that all the respondents in this research are social media users. After proper calculation which still summed up to 100% because the study is based on social media and it can only be of benefit to the users of social media.

This study enables the use of Twitter for of information dissemination targeted at the general awareness of Kidnapping in Nigeria and how to avoid the act in order to ensure safety in the society at large.

Twitter as a social media tool creates avenue for social media discussion was validated after being stated in chapter 2 that also, Twitter is also among the platforms which contributes in bringing government, international corporations, activists and philanthropists together to discuss, chat and comment on pertinent national and world issues.

Table 4.6 under research question 1 clearly points out that the responses of the respondents in this question were mostly from Twitter because it deals with Twitter majorly meanwhile, respondents from other social media users were in a small percentage.

The extent to which Twitter spread Twitter as a social media tool spread awareness on the issue of kidnapping in Nigeria was indeed on a very high rate because via the #tags on different issues which involves connection between different users of Twitter, It thus achieved its aim of spreading information far and wide with the result of getting a positive feedback from the government and even other foreign external bodies who could be of help as a result of the information reached out to them.

The findings under research question 2 which deals with the use of Twitter towards provoking the government in action towards curbing the act of kidnapping could be said to be achieved because the responses under table 4.1 of research question 2 showed that 72% agreed with the statement which means that the government in a way has taken action in curbing the act of kidnapping because suspects of any kidnapping issue are always put in custody so as to investigate the cause of the action thereby punishing the culprits appropriately to serve as an example for others to learn from.

The use of Twitter helps the government in making necessary actions towards ensuring the orderliness of custody documents.

Based on the fact that the world is a global village, the government is fully aware that all eyes are on them so they make quick efforts towards this issue so as to not sabotage their government.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.5 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this research work was to examine the, ACCESSING THE USE OF TWITTER FOR AWARENESS CREATION AND PREVENTION OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA

Survey research design adopted for this work was questionnaire and interview which was used for data gathering. Conclusive statements and recommendations are made which will help in understanding the response of audience in accepting the use of twitter for awareness creation and prevention of kidnapping in Nigeria.

4.6 Summary of findings

The findings among others showed that;

1. Majority of youths in the country uses twitter as their most preferred social media platform because most youths are no longer glued to Television screens like the olden days but with their mobile phones they can access every information they want to just with the tip of their fingers.
2. They also prefer using the platform mostly for information purpose.
3. twitter is the most popular platform for information purpose is still believed that it's a means of communication between government and abductors.

4.7 Conclusion

The findings in this research work concludes that are twitter is a powerful media tool for information, and orientation; The study showed that most twitter users also have other social media platforms that they use to express themselves. The study also shows that government are actively involved in twitter because politicians who have social media accounts are also able to pass across information's picked from their various social media accounts and pass it across to the higher authorities for necessary actions to be taken.

4.8 Recommendations

The study therefore recommends that:

1. Users of the platform should not hesitate to share any relevant information that could be helpful to any society.
2. Online campaigns should be made concerning safety and security in order to enhance individual consciousness.
3. The government should bridge the gap between the youth and themselves, this will facilitate smooth and effective communications.
4. Online orientations should be carried out concerning individual consciousness about their environment and its happenings also about the situation of kidnapping in the country.
5. Parents should set boundaries for their wards so as to set a clear and monitored watch over them.
6. The Government should make online safety a top choice.
7. The Government should also make platforms and access individual unique ID numbers for the purpose of easy reach when the need arrived or tracking purposes.

4.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

1 It cannot be denied the fact that this study did not face various challenges or limitations. One of the major limitations that this study was short time frame that was given for the completion of this research. Also monetary resources were also limited in the accomplishment of this research and for the researcher.

2 Another basic challenge was the delayed response of individuals in given feedback to the questionnaire of which some were not able to fill it for one reason and on the other hand some questionnaires were returned back.

3 Another limitation was the fact that a lot of stressful efforts were made in order to enable the respondents have broad understanding of what action they were supposed to carry out which was a major determinant for my data analysis.

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APPENDIX

Dear Respondent,

I am Favourite David Omosa, a final year student of Mountain Top University. I am carrying out research captioned **“ACCESSING THE USE OF TWITTER FOR AWARENESS CREATION AND PREVENTION OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA”**. ,In partial fulfilment of my Award of Bachelor of Science .(B.Sc.)Degree in Mass Communication,

Since this is an academic project, we much value the authenticity with which you respond.

You have my assurance that the information you submit will be kept strictly private.

Please accept my sincere appreciation.

Please all the information given will be treated as confidential and used for academic purposes alone. Thank You.

Your Faithfully Favourite David.O.

SECTION A: Bio Data

INSTRUCTION: please tick your response where appropriate.

1. Gender.
 - a. Male ()
 - b. Female ()
2. Indicate your age bracket.
 - a. 16 – 20 ()
 - b. 20 – 30 ()
 - c. Above 30 years ()
3. Religion: Christian() Muslim () Others ()
4. Level: 100 () 200() 300 () 400() 500 ()

SECTION B: Questions:

5. Are you a social media user?
 - a. Yes ()
 - b. No ()
 - c. Not sure ()
 - d. Never ()
6. What social media do you use mostly use?
 - a. Twitter
 - b. Facebook

c. Instagram

others _____

Note, kindly indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement about kidnapping:

Key: SA= strongly agree, A= Agree, N=Neutral, D= Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	Every day there must be a case of kidnapping on twitter					
2.	Cases of kidnapping attract more followers on twitter					
3.	Without twitter, the case of the kidnapped and killed Umoren Iniubong would have not been discovered					
4.	Twitter brought about the case of the Chibok girls kidnap p issue					
5.	Twitter acted as a means of enhancing peoples vigilance in the society about kidnapping in the society					
6.	Without twitter the issue of Epe kidnap case would have not been heard					

Note, kindly indicate the extent to which you Agree to the following statement about kidnapping:

Key: SA= Strongly Agree, A= Agree, N=Neutral, D= Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	Government and its agencies take Twitter users reports seriously					
2.	Abductors use make use of twitter					
3.	The government and the people take abductors response on social media seriously					
4.	Twitter as a social media tool gives an avenue for social media discussions that affect the government and its actions towards the issue of kidnapping					
5.	The government has social media watchdogs that check about updates kidnapping on twitter as a social media tool					
6.	Twitter in a way helps the government to track kidnapping related issues and suspects					

What social media broke out the news of the Chibok girls` kidnapping case?

- a. Twitter ()
- b. Facebook ()
- c. Instagram ()
- d. Others _____

Note, kindly indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement:

Key SA= Strongly Agree, A= Agree, N=Neutral, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	Chibok girls and Epe school boys kidnap case story was broken on twitter					
2.	You frequently saw stories on Chibok girls kidnap					
3.	Twitter as Social media tool creates a platform for robust discussion on abduction					
4.	Twitter as a social media tool has helped the law enforcement agencies to track down suspects of kidnapping cases					

Thank you.