

Parental Perceptions of Child Abduction Phenomenon in Primary School (A Field Study of a Sample of Parents in the City of Touggourt)

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Abstract:

The phenomenon of kidnapping has affected society in general and families in particular, through the alteration of many values that have negatively impacted the community. Therefore, in this study, I attempted to identify the perceptions of guardians of students regarding the phenomenon of child abduction. Hence, we posed the following main question: What are the perceptions of guardians of students regarding the phenomenon of child abduction in the primary education stage?

To answer the main question, we relied on two sub-questions:

- What is the role of the family towards their children in light of the phenomenon of kidnapping?
- What is the nature of the relationship between academic performance in the primary education stage and the phenomenon of child abduction?

Keywords: perceptions, guardians of students, phenomenon of child abduction, Firstly, the problematic situation.

In the past, society was characterised by a sense of security, was distinguished by good morals and values, and was cohesive to a large extent. Its customs, accepted among people, acted as a documented law that was difficult to breach or surpass. Valour and modesty were deeply rooted among people, both men and women, young and old.

However, with the scientific progress and technological advancement that humanity has witnessed, many values in society have changed, negatively impacting it. This led to the disappearance of these values, their disintegration, and the prevalence of many unethical and illegal phenomena and crimes. Among the crimes that have recently plagued Algerian society is the phenomenon of child abduction.

Child abduction is defined as the act of forcibly or deceitfully taking a kidnapped person (male or female) from their place of presence and hiding them in another place away from their family members with the purpose of physically or sexually assaulting them.

This phenomenon has become a concern for various official and unofficial institutions and has created a state of unpredictability that threatens the security of Algerian society. Public life has become susceptible to shocks and traumas, affecting social cohesion. Individuals no longer feel secure or assured about themselves, their possessions, or their properties. Families have been affected as well, with the safety of children becoming the primary concern for parents, prompting them to accompany their children to school out of fear of abduction, standing daily in front of schools and educational institutions.

As a result of the spread of the phenomenon of child abduction in Algeria, unfortunately, we have ranked high on the list of Arab countries suffering from this type of crime. Statistics from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) indicate that Algeria recorded more than 900 cases of abduction between 2001 and 2012, involving individuals aged between 4 and 16 years. Additionally, Algeria recorded around 200 abduction cases during the years 2014 and 2015.

This has led many researchers and media professionals to study and analyse this phenomenon, attempting to understand its causes and mitigate its effects. Media outlets have allocated numerous social programmes, daily news coverage, and discussion sessions to address the issue of child abduction in Algeria, aiming to raise awareness about its dangers, its occurrence methods, and provide advice and guidance to parents on teaching children proper manners and behaviours when dealing with strangers and how to avoid becoming victims of abduction.

From here, we pose the following main question: What are the perceptions of guardians of students regarding the phenomenon of child abduction in the primary education stage

Secondly, study concepts:

Perceptions: Perceptions have become a significant focus in the field of social sciences due to the multiple fields of their application, as well as the studies and research that have been incorporated within the context

of this term. Some scholars have adopted this concept as a constant and independent variable. However, this academic effort has remained predominantly Western in origin, starting with Emile Durkheim, who addressed this concept and linked it to collective consciousness by considering perceptions as a set of beliefs and general feelings among members of a single society. These beliefs prevail regardless of geographical sectors and their various forms, thereby serving as a link between generations.

Procedural definition of perceptions: It is a cognitive and mental conception through which a person connects themselves to a subject. These are the conceptions that an individual believes in based on their beliefs and values.

Guardians: The singular form is "Wali," and it refers to anyone who is a guardian and takes care of someone. As mentioned in the Quran, "Allah is the Wali of those who believe. He brings them out of darkness into light." (Al-Baqarah 2:257)

Students: The singular form is "Talib" or "Talim," and it refers to someone who submits to a teacher to learn knowledge or a craft. The Al-Muajam Al-Wasit dictionary defines a student as the servant of the teacher in the field of knowledge, art, or trade.

Procedural definition of students' guardians: It refers to any person who takes charge of a student by raising them, educating them, and spending on them.

Phenomenon: It is a social act practiced by groups of humans, or they are exposed to it, suffer from it, or suffer from its consequences.

Kidnapping (in Arabic): The term is derived from "Khifaf," which means snatching or seizing something quickly. The term is mentioned in the Quran in Surah As-Saffat, verse 10: "Except for one who snatches [some food] by theft, but then the fire burns his hand." (As-Saffat 37:10)

Kamal Abdulah Mohammed defined it as the rapid seizure using all forms of force, deceit, or lure of what could be a place for this crime, removing the victim from their place or changing their route, by gaining control over them without distinguishing between the act and the subsequent crimes, regardless of all motives.

Children: The singular form is "tifl," and it refers to a newborn as long as they are soft and delicate. It is used to describe a child until they reach adulthood.

Childhood is defined in the sociology dictionary as "the period of life that begins at birth and ends at maturity, varying from one culture to another. Childhood may end at puberty, marriage, or at a specified age. Secondly, study concepts:

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The procedural definition of child abduction: It is an inhumane phenomenon carried out by an individual towards a child and can be attributed to several purposes, which may be retaliatory, settling scores, material gain, or trafficking in organs.

Thirdly: Sociological Approach:

Any study must be based on theoretical landmarks that make it balanced in its presentation and aim to bring the researcher closer to the phenomenon previously identified. Based on this, the approach varies with the studied topics. The appropriate approaches for the study are:

1. Social Control Theory:

The social control theory is one of the most important and decisive approaches in the sociological context. This theory attributes crime, violence, and deviance to the failure of society to control its individuals through the constraints represented by social norms. The social control theory revolves around the basic assumption that the impulse for crime and deviance is a natural thing inherent in all individuals. This theory goes on to argue that obedience and compliance should be learned by the individual, and thus, social measures and adherence to standards and respect for them are the basic conditions and guarantees for control. Its absence leads to crime and deviance.

The scholar Travis Hirschi believes that the stronger the individual's relationship with society, the fewer opportunities for deviation, but not necessarily so. In summary, the social control theory looks at human nature through the assumption that crime and deviance are natural and equal. Thus, by having a traditional reference system in society, we find the social control theory through a moral system and social institutions that strengthen the bond that binds individuals to the moral system. Moreover, it also weakens this weak connection, thereby allowing for a mechanistic increase in crime and deviance.

Considering that the family is one of the social control institutions, it plays a significant role in shaping the behaviour of children and teaching them social principles and standards to achieve social harmony and adaptation. However, control methods vary from one family to another, and there are several classifications of control, the most important of which are:

- Rational Family Control: Based on love and justified by conscious rationality, it involves a significant degree of correct inference about situations and their requirements. This control does not rely on physical or bodily punishment but is replaced by depriving some rewards and privileges.
- Physical Control: Relies on punishment using violence or threats, often leading teenagers to deviance.

The fluctuating control between leniency and severity occurs when one parent adopts a certain approach while the other takes a contrasting approach.

Organised and inconsistent control relies on various methods that fluctuate between severity, leniency, and indifference. One parent may use more than one approach in each situation, without a beneficial purpose and without a specific coherence between different approaches.

According to this theory, respecting social standards and values is the basic condition for the process of control. Deviant and criminal behaviour is explained by the failure of society to evaluate and control individuals' behaviour in order to respect social principles and standards.

Pioneers of this theory: Ibn Khaldun, Émile Durkheim, Edward Ross, and Travis Hirschi.

Key terms of the theory:

- Religion is the greatest pillar capable of organising human affairs.
- Ethics: It is a system that emanates from religion and the nature of society.
- Custom: It is the result of people's experiences, where they accept their customs according to their beliefs, interests, and activities.
- Law: It takes the form of force and authority that deter violators, ensure rights for everyone, and provide security.

2: Functionalist Theory:

Through our presentation of tables and the extraction of results from them, it became apparent to us that functionalism and its contained terminology are compatible with the studied sample, so we decided to rely on them.

Functionalists view society as a complex system where all its parts work together to achieve stability and solidarity among its components. Based on this, functionalism emphasises the importance of moral consensus in maintaining order and stability in society. This moral consensus is manifested when the majority of people in society share the same values. Functionalists believe that order and balance represent the normal state of society. Social equilibrium relies on the existence of moral consensus among members of society. For example, Durkheim believed that religion emphasises people's adherence to fundamental social values and thus contributes to maintaining social cohesion.

Functionalists believe that the phenomenon of crime and deviance results from tensions and aspects of structural dysfunction and the lack of social organisation and control mechanisms in society. If the aspirations of individuals and groups are not balanced and met with what society offers in terms of rewards or incentives, then the gap between desire and achievement may lead some members of society to deviate. Durkheim introduced the concept

Alienation or loss is used to describe the feeling of despair and lack of purpose that arises in individuals due to the processes of change in the modern world, leading to the loss of social standards' ability to regulate individual behavior. It is also noted that traditional standards in modern societies may deteriorate and erode without being replaced by new measures. From this perspective, Durkheim believed that this situation, where guiding influences in society are falling away, would lead to various phenomena, including suicide. Durkheim considered crime and deviance as social realities and elements inherent to the development of modern societies, where people are liberated from many of the constraints and restrictions that were influential in traditional societies.

Pioneers of this theory include Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, and Robert Merton.

Some of the most important terms of the theory include social construction, functionalism, value consensus, and equilibrium.

Fourthly: Methodological Procedures for Field Study:

1. **Methodology Used in the Study:** The descriptive method was employed, which is one form of organised scientific analysis and interpretation to describe a specific phenomenon or problem and depict it quantitatively by collecting certain data and information about the phenomenon or problem, classifying it, analysing it, and subjecting it to a detailed study.
2. **Sample:** It refers to a partial group from the study population that is selected in a specific manner, and if the study is conducted on it, then those results are generalised to the entire original study population. In our research, we chose the stratified sample, a type of sample where the original study population is divided into layers or categories according to a certain criterion, which is considered one of the important elements or variables of the study. Then the sample is selected from each category or layer randomly and in proportion to the size of that category in the original study population. The stratified sample ensures representation of all categories of the original study population or its segments. However, it sometimes requires considerable effort and high cost from the researcher, as well as the necessity of knowing and counting the number of elements in each category or segment of the original study population.

3: Study Domains:

- **Spatial Domain:** This study was conducted specifically in the area of Touggourt, within the municipalities of Nuzha, in the neighbourhoods of Nasr 1, Nasr 2, and Future 2.
- **Temporal Domain:** The current study was conducted in the academic year 2022-2023 and was divided into two sections:
 - **Theoretical Section:** Scientific material was collected, and initial readings were conducted to form a general idea about the topic and build its problematics. The concepts and theoretical framework of the study were then identified.
 - **Field Section:** A reconnaissance visit was made to obtain information about the abduction site. A questionnaire was then prepared, adjusted as necessary, and taken to the field for exploratory study. This questionnaire was presented to six parents of students on February 2, 2023, and finalised after adjustments. The official start of the field research was on February 5, 2023, when 30 questionnaires were distributed to parents. One questionnaire was lost, and 29 were retrieved on February 16, 2023.

- Human Domain: A sample of parents of students who were willing to cooperate and respond to the subject matter was used.

4: Data Collection Tool: Questionnaire: A form containing a set of questions directed at individuals to obtain information about a subject, problem, or facility. The questionnaire can be executed through personal interviews or sent to researchers by mail. The questions were formulated and divided into main axes, with a variety of closed, semi-closed, and open-ended questions.

Fifthly : presentation and analysis of statistical Tables

1.First Axis : Personal Data:

Table (1): Illustrates the number of parents.

The guardian	Frequencies	Percentage
Mother	15	51%
Father	6	21%
Both mother and mother	8	28%
Total	29	100%

Coment : The above table represents the percentage of parents who responded to the quetionnaireindicating that the majority of them are mothers at 48%, followed by the number of those who responded together at 28%, and finally the number of fathers at 24%.

The table (2) shows the educational level of the sample individuals.

Educationallevel	Mother		Father		Total	
Elementary	3	13%	0	0%	3	8%
Intermediate	3	13%	3	21%	6	16%
Secondary	8	35%	8	57%	16	43%
University	9	39%	3	21%	12	32%
total	23	100%	14	100	37	100%

Coment : The above table represents the educational level of their mothers. The levels were as follows: elementary and intermediate level (13%), secondary level (35%), and university level (39%). As for the fathers' educational level, the highest percentage was at the secondary level (57%, followed by the university and intermediate levels (21%), while the elementary level was nonexistent.

The general observation is that all parents, regardless of their educational level, feel the seriousness of this phenomenon and its impact on the overall school environment. This is evident from the fact that parents personally accompany their children to school on a daily basis

Table (3) : shows the diqtribution of sample individuals according to ccupations

Father's occupation	Mother		Father		Total	
Employee	8	35%	6	43%	3	8%
Retired	1	4%	5	36%	6	16%
Self-Employed	5	22%	3	21%	16	43%
Unemployed	9	39%	0	0%	12	32%
Total	23	100%	14	100%	37	100%

Comment : The above table represents the occupation the occupations of the sample individuals as follows: Regarding mothers, 35% are employed compared to 43% of fathers, and 4% of mothers are retired compared to 36% of fathers. Meanwhile, 22% of mothers are engaged in freelance work compared to 21% of fathers. Additionally, 39% of mothers are unemployed, compared to the absence of unemployed fathers.

Second Axis: The role of families towards their children in light of the spread of the phenomenon of kidnapping.

Table 4: Shows parental accompaniment of their children.

Accompaniment of children	Mother		If the Answer is "Yes"	Total	
	frequency	percentage		frequency	percentage
Yes	1	3%	Fear of Kidnapping and Other Incidents	1	100%
NO	9	31%	Total	1	100%
Sometimes	19	67%			
Total	29	100%			

Comment : From the above table it can be observed that 3 % of parents accompany their children to school 31 3 % do not accompany them and 66% accompany them occasionally. Through statistical analysis of the table, it becomes evident that the majority of parents stated that they occasionally accompany their children. This indicates a certain level of concern about this phenomenon, even though, according to their statements, the area is safe.

Taking Children to School	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	6	21%
NO	16	55%
Sometimes	7	24%
Total	29	100%

Comment: Through the above table, we see that the percentage of parents who do not always accompany their children to school is 55%, while the percentage of those who always accompany them is 21%. Meanwhile, those who accompany their children occasionally make up 24%. It becomes clear that there is a strong relationship with the preceding table, as parents stated at a rate of 55% that they do not accompany their children to school. This, if anything, indicates that this phenomenon does not affect the overall stability of these parents. According to their statements, the area experiences solidarity and mutual support among its residents, which almost eliminates such social problems in this area.

Table 6 : Explains the importance of social relationships within the social environment.

Social Relationship within the Social Environment Where You Live	frequencies	Percentage	If the Answer is "Yes"		
			Human Nature is Social	frequencies	percentage
Yes	27	%90	Cooperation and Communication	9	
NO	3	%10	Caution against Strangers	2	
Total	30	%100	Total	27	

Comment : The table above illustrates that social relationships within the social environment are present at a rate of 90%. These relationships vary among individuals in the sample; some assert their sociability, citing the inability of humans to live in isolation from society, constituting 43%. Conversely, others emphasize the significance of social relationships in fostering a virtuous society, emphasizing values of cooperation and positive social interaction, comprising 30% of the sample. Additionally, there are individuals who highlight that social relationships provide children with a sense of security within their family circle, fostering trust towards strangers, representing 7% of respondents. Moreover, some attribute the existence of such relationships to work conditions, with a percentage of 10%. The table indicates that individuals in the sample possess interconnected social relationships due to their adherence to local customs, traditions, and values, thereby enhancing their quality of life and mitigating social issues prevalent in other regions, such as child abduction.

The table 7 : Illustrates the impact of the phenomenon of kidnapping on value

the Effect of the Kidnapping Phenomenon on Values	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	28	97%
No	1	3%
Total	29	100%

The table (8) represents the family's concern about hearing repeating news about the phenomenon of kidnapping.

Concern about Repeated News about the Kidnapping	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	21	72%
No	0	0%
Sometimes	8	28%
Total	29	100%

Comment: The above table represents the reactions of families to topics discussed in the media about the phenomenon. The percentage of those who feel worried is estimated at 72%, which is the highest percentage, while those who sometimes feel worried constitute 28%. The percentage of those who do not feel worried is nonexistent. Despite the region's solidarity and social cohesion, living in safety and respect for values, this phenomenon remains a source of concern for parents due to the recurring dissemination of information and statistics about it through the media and communication channels.

Table (09) illustrates the impact of the phenomenon of kidnapping on the social stability of the family.

of the Kidnapping Phenomenon on Family Social Stability	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	27	93%
No	2	7%
Total	29	100%

Comment: The above table shows that the phenomenon of kidnapping can affect the social stability of the family, according to the researchers, with a percentage of 93%. On the other hand, there are those who deny the impact of this phenomenon on the social stability of the family, with a percentage of 7%. Most of the sample members believe that this phenomenon has affected all aspects of family life, economically, socially, and educationally. This has led to individuals in the community refraining from living their normal lives due to the repercussions of this phenomenon on their family lives.

The third axis is the nature of the relationship between academic performance and the phenomenon of child abduction.

Table 10: Explains the lack of desire to study as a result of the spread of the phenomenon of abduction.

Lack of Desire for Studying Due to Kidnapping	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	9	31%
No	5	17%
Sometimes	15	52%
Total	29	100%

Comment: The above table explains that the majority of the researchers stated that sometimes the fear of abduction leads to a lack of desire to study among the children of the sample members, with a percentage of 52%. If anything, this indicates the impact of this phenomenon on academic engagement within schools, potentially weakening the academic performance of the children. However, there are those who affirm that abduction leads to a lack of desire to study, with a percentage of 31%, while there are others who deny it, with a percentage of 17%.

Table (11) clarifies the reason for the frequent absence of children from school.

Frequent Absence Due to Kidnapping	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	13	45%
No	16	55%
Total	29	100%

Comment: The above table indicates that fear of abduction does not lead to frequent absences, as affirmed by the majority of the sample members, with a percentage of 55%. Conversely, there are those who confirm this, with a percentage of 45%. What the media constantly promotes and communicates almost daily directly or indirectly affects parents and their children. This could be a strong incentive for their fear of this phenomenon and explains the absence of children from school, especially when parents are preoccupied with other matters and cannot accompany their children to school.

Table (12): Illustrates some reasons for academic failure.

Academic Failure Due to Fear of Kidnapping	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	13	52%
No	16	48%
Total	29	100%

Comment: The table above indicates that most of the sample members confirm that

fear of abduction leads to academic failure, estimated at 52%, compared to 48% of the sample members who deny it. We notice a division among the researchers into two groups, one supporting and the other opposing the idea that fear of abduction, which may lead to academic failure, could also result in improper performance of school duties and frequent absence from school. Additionally, it affects the daily work attendance for parents. As for the other group who stated that fear of abduction does not lead to academic failure, they are always convinced that the area is safe.

Table (13): Explains the negative impact of the phenomenon of abduction.

What do you think of the negative dimensions caused by the kidnapping phenomenon?	Frequencies	Percentage
Social Disintegration	29	81%
Underachievement and Lack of Desire for Studying Academic	7	19%
Total	36	100%

Comment: The table above explains that the phenomenon of abduction has several negative effects, as indicated by statements from some sample members. These effects include the social disintegration of the community, with a percentage of 81%, due to the lack of trust among its members and doubts about the relationships between them, leading to an imbalance within the region. Some also believe that it leads to academic underachievement and a lack of desire to study, with a percentage of 7%. From this, it becomes clear that society consists of integrated, interactive elements and a network of social relationships, where each aspect influences the other. Preserving the prevailing values within it contributes to its cohesion and balance. Any disruption in these functions leads to their disintegration and lack of ability to evolve. Any deviant or criminal behaviour results in the loss of social balance, as emphasised by structural-functional theory.

Table 14 shows possible solutions to mitigate the phenomenon of kidnapping .

What are the possible solutions to mitigate the kidnapping phenomenon?	Frequencies	Percentage
Legal Solutions	19	39%
Religious Solutions	6	12%
Social and Family solutions	21	43%
% Scientific Solutions	3	6%
Total	49	100%

Comment: The table above illustrates the suggestions proposed as solutions to reduce this phenomenon according to the sample individuals. Most of them stated that the eradication of this foreign phenomenon from Algerian society is necessary, and all efforts must unite from the family to the community in order to combat such afflictions that affect both the individual and society, leading to weakening its structure and disrupting its balance. Their percentage was 43%, achieved through raising awareness and coordinating among members of society, educating children not to trust strangers, as well as promoting a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence among communities, which plays an effective role in limiting the phenomenon. Breaking taboos and discussing them on familial, media, and educational levels, and teaching children proper methods when feeling threatened, such as running away, screaming, etc. Among them are those who stated the necessity of legal deterrence to limit the spread of this phenomenon and punish its perpetrators, reaching a percentage of 39% by imposing the maximum penalties on those who commit this crime or applying

retribution when necessary. Some emphasise that spreading moral and religious values is the correct and ideal solution to alleviate the severity of this phenomenon, estimated at 12%, through good upbringing and following the teachings of our true religion, instilling them in the youth. The fundamental factor for creating integration and balance in society is maintaining values, and the moral system increases the strength of the bond that connects individuals. When this bond weakens, it allows for an automatic increase in kidnapping incidents. Meanwhile, some have stated that there are solutions to the phenomenon by involving scientific institutions, amounting to 6%, where these institutions, namely academics and specialists, must conduct objective field studies to research the main causes of the spread of this phenomenon in order to understand its causes and how to confront it.

Sixthly: drawing study results.

A. Results related to the first axis (personal data): The field study results indicate that the majority of the respondents are mothers, accounting for 51%, and that most of the sample individuals have a secondary level of education, at 43%, followed by university education at 32%, where most of them are employed, indicating a reasonable standard of living, with a percentage of 38%.

B. Results related to the second axis: It is evident that the majority of the respondents do not accompany their children to school, with a percentage of 31%, which is attributed to the cohesion among the sample individuals. The stronger the individual's relationship with society, the lower the deviation rates, as indicated by the adopted theory (Social Control Theory). The study also shows that most respondents are not affected by accompanying their children to school on a daily basis for work, with a percentage of 55%. 97% confirmed that the phenomenon of kidnapping affects values in society, evidence that social values play a vital role in maintaining societal integrity, as confirmed by Durkheim's role in the adopted theory in the study (functional structuralism). It is necessary to organise rules of compatibility between individual self-standards and social values, which is a fundamental basis of the Social Control Theory. Furthermore, increased unemployment and poverty lead youth to lack social values and standards, driving them to commit such crimes. Here, according to the Social Control Theory, it becomes clear that social measures, represented by compliance with and respect for standards, are the basic condition for control, and their absence leads to crime and deviation.

72% of families who are anxious about repeated news about the phenomenon of kidnapping and who are governed by educational and moral values may consider them regulatory laws in such local communities. Any behaviour contrary to their standards leads them to a state of imbalance.

93% of those who stated that social stability affects the family as a result of the spread of the phenomenon of kidnapping, it becomes apparent, as confirmed by Functional Structuralism, that the more stable the society, the more cohesive and socially compatible it will be, thereby eliminating social ills. And when one or some functions are disrupted, it may lead to a state of social imbalance and instability.

C.Results related to the third axis: The majority of the respondents stated that kidnapping sometimes leads to a lack of desire to study and academic underachievement, with a slightly higher percentage exceeding half at 52%. Sample individuals emphasised that kidnapping has negative dimensions that may lead to the disintegration of the social structure of the local community and its social networks, disrupting the basic functions of society, with a percentage of 81%. Some of them confirmed that one of its results is academic underachievement and a lack of desire to study, indicating an academic mismatch.

They also stated that the reasons for kidnapping could be material (for financial gain), retaliatory (due to family disputes), sexual (sexual assault), or for trafficking purposes (organ trafficking).

One of the researchers added that excessive protection measures and constant excessive control of children and their continuous supervision may limit their ability to perform their roles as independent personalities and may generate aggression towards society.

The researchers also clarified that there are many solutions to eliminate this phenomenon, including social, familial, legal, religious, and scientific solutions, with a percentage of 43%, which aligns with the findings of a study by Abd al-Tawab Jabir Ahmad Muhammad al-Makki entitled "Sociological Analysis of the Crime of Human Kidnapping," which stated that social and familial factors are among the most important motivating factors for committing kidnapping crimes.

39% proposed legal solutions, which align with the findings of a study by John Domingo entitled "The Problem of Kidnapping as a Social Problem and Its Impact on the Economic and Social Situation at Oyu University," which stated that lax law enforcement is a driver in the spread of the kidnapping phenomenon.

12% offered religious solutions due to the absence of religious deterrents and the collapse of moral values. Some suggested conducting academic scientific research and studies to reduce this phenomenon, accounting for 6% of the proposals.

General Results:

Based on the aforementioned and the presentation of the findings derived from the field study, which revolve around the topic of parental perceptions of the phenomenon of child kidnapping, and given the stability and integration among the members of the study community to the extent that they have become like one family, all types of crime and deviation, particularly kidnapping, have disappeared. Additionally, since the sample individuals know each other well, any strange phenomenon in the area will be reported and dealt with, thanks to the prevailing social values and standards among them, which are the main factors creating integration and continuity in the general social structure. The study also showed that fear of kidnapping may lead to academic mismatch and social disintegration, with these repercussions extending to affect the entire social environment, impacting all social components of the social structure.

According to statements from the security authorities in the city of Touggourt, it has become apparent that they attempt to conceal the term "kidnapping" and replace it with the term "escape" to avoid any exaggeration and mitigate the severity of the phenomenon, thereby avoiding societal imbalance and preserving security and stability within the city.

Conclusion: Kidnapping has emerged as a crime threatening the safety of children in Algeria, instilling fear and caution among individuals due to its repercussions not only on children but also on the entire society and nation. This prompted me to undertake a study on this topic and delve into parental perceptions of this phenomenon. I discovered that the region is striving to uphold the security and stability of family and social structures while maintaining social values and standards. Moreover, my findings indicate that kidnapping may contribute to social disintegration, potentially leading to academic discrepancies. We aspire to uncover the true indicators through the insights and perspectives of parents, as the study was not conducted in areas that have experienced such incidents.

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