

**SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CRIME IN GBOKO METROPOLIS, GBOKO
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BENUE STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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**BEING A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation has been written by me. It has not been presented in any previous application for Master of Sciences (M.Sc.) degree. All citations are indicated and sources of information specifically acknowledged by means of references.

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DATE

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this thesis titled **“Sociological Analysis of Crime in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria”** meets the regulations governing the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Sociology, School of Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, Nasarawa State University, Keffi and is approved for its contribution to knowledge.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to Almighty God the giver of knowledge and wisdom for his love and care throughout the period of this study.

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ABSTRACT

Crime is the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited and punishable under criminal law. This study is a sociological analysis of crime in Gboko Metropolis; Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria with the objective of examines the causes of crime in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. Anomie and rational choice theories were used. A social survey design was adopted. A survey of 384 respondents was drawn, using clustered sampling techniques. Primary and secondary data were utilized in the study. The primary data were generated through the use of questionnaires and Focus Group Discussion. The questionnaires were analyzed quantitatively using tables; frequency, percentage, chi-square and Focus Group Discussion were transcribed verbatim. The result shows that there is high level of crime in Gboko metropolis and that peer group influence, poor socialization, economic hardship, drug abuse, crime infested environment, unemployment, parenting styles and partisan politics were the causes of crime in the study area. The study recommends that government should always provide the law enforcement agencies with an enabling environment to fight or combat crime by providing them with all the necessary equipment and not just the equipment but the sophisticated ones and there is the need for reorientation of the Nigerian value system in the prevention and control of crime in Nigeria. Deviant related values like “the end justified the means” must be promptly reprovred, so as to disabuse the minds of the people from adopting crime as an alternative means for actualizing their socio – political and economic aspiration or goals.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Crime is the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited and punishable under criminal law (Nirmala & Zegeye, 2006). A very important component of this understanding of crime here is the aspect that crime becomes crime because the state said so through instruments of law that are clearly and distinctly spelt out. Collaborating this, Morris (2002) held that crime is what society says is a crime by establishing that an act is a violation of the criminal law. Without law there can be no crime at all; although there maybe moral indignation which results in law being enacted.

Dambazau (1994) defined crime as an act or omission against public interest and which is prescribed by law enacted by the legislature in the overall interests of the society, and to which prescribed punishment is attached in the event of violation and it involves four major principles which are public wrong, moral wrong, law and punishment for the criminal. Crime is also seen as a violation of the rules agreed to be respected by all members of the society, and upon which the rest members of the society mete sanction upon those guilty of the violation. It is for the same reason that the legal system views crime as a public and moral wrong.

Jaja (2003) in Igbo (2006) believes that, in the beginning there was no differentiation between offences. The idea of crime and non-criminal wrongs as we have it today did not

exist originally. All wrongs without exception were generally called crimes conveying a simply a sense of wrongfulness. All acts were regarded as private matters, and wrongs were considered as private wrongs not requiring the official intervention of the king who was the ultimate political authority. Under the original dispensation and order, persons who were wronged were expected to take private revenge on the wrong doer or the latter's family. In essence, private revenge or family feuding (revenge by a wronged family against the family of the wrongdoer) was the order of the day. But as societies grew more complex and people became more mobile (social and geographical mobility), and family structure became altered, the system of private revenge and family feuding began to break down (Igbo, 2006).

Subsequently, the concept of crime developed but it was limited in application to acts committed against the king. Thus only acts committed against the king were defined as crimes while wrongs committed against individual members of the society were not regarded as crimes. At this time, the system of private revenge continued as the only form of punishment for wrongs committed against private individuals. Different types of crime includes murder, kidnapping, theft, robbery, assassination, bribery, arson, fraud, assault, burglary, embezzlement, extortion, forgery, larceny, gambling, and cultism (Anthony, 2013).

Crime is a global or worldwide problem because it exists in every country of the world. Crime as a concept is therefore widely used in all countries of the world. Although crime is a universal phenomenon and differs only in degree among the various nations of the world. Crime is a social problem that affects both the developed and developing societies in various dimensions owing to man's insatiable quest for wealth and other desirables of

life. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2011 reported that homicides globally were estimated at 468,000 and more than a third (36%) was estimated to have occurred in Africa, 31% in the Americas, 27% in Asia, 5% in Europe and 1% in the tropical Pacific region. According to the report, economic crisis; food insecurity; inflation; and weak or limited rule of law are factors that drive crime (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2011).

However, the drivers of crime are not restricted to the aforementioned causative factors. In the Americas, more than 25% of homicides are related to “organized crime and the activities of criminal gangs”; the same only true of approximately 5% of homicides in the Asian and European countries for which data are available. In 2015, police reported crime in Canada, as measured by both the crime rate and the Crime Severity Index (CSI), increased for the first time since 2003. The CSI measures the volume and severity of police reported crime in Canada, and has a base index value of 100 for 2006. The CSI increased 5% from 66.7 in 2014 to 69.7 in 2015. The change in the CSI was driven primarily by increases in fraud, breaking and entering, robbery and homicide.

According to the very latest available statistics of crime for Germany, specifically the first quarter of 2016, there were significant increases in number of crime category over 2015. These increases included; drug related crime 19%, pick pocketing 24%, homicide 33%, and burglary 43 percent. Africa has been on the forefront on global statistics on crime. South Africa and Nigeria have recorded high incidents of violent and non-violent crimes in recent times. According to Africa Check, that incident of murder increased from 15,609 murders in 2011/2012 to 16,259 murders in 2012/2013 in South Africa, with

increase of 650 murder cases or a 42% increase when comparing the total numbers of murders with the previous year (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2017).

In Nigeria, the upsurge of crime has been ongoing as it has been on the global crime map since 1980s. These throes of crime for decades are traceable to poverty, unemployment, corruption, poor leadership, poor parental upbringing, and greed amongst the youth; get rich quick mentality, inadequate crime control model of national security among others. The effects of crime are tangible and intangible, economic or social, direct or indirect, physical or psychological, individual or community (Anthony, 2013).

Crime is a threat to the economic, political and social security of a nation and a major factor associated with underdevelopment; because it discourages both local and foreign investments, reduces the quality of life, destroys human and social capital, damages relationship between citizens and the states, thus undermining democracy, rule of law and the ability of the country to promote development. It causes great personal suffering, vast material damage, and place enormous burden on the urban social network. Globally, every five years, 60% of city inhabitants have been victims of one type of crime or another while over half of these crimes have involved personal crime (arson, fraudulence, cheating, 419 syndromes, forgery,) (Aigbokan, 2000). Crime is a major concern in every society. Its costs and effects affect everyone to some degree. The types of costs and effects are widely varied.

In addition, some costs are short-term while others last a lifetime. The ultimate cost is loss of life; other costs to victims can include medical costs, property losses, and loss of income. Loses to both victims and non-victims can also come in the form of increased

security expenses including stronger locks, extra lighting, parking in more expensive secure lots, security alarms for homes and cars, and maintaining guard dogs as the case may be in United State of America. Though crime has always posed economic and social effects on U.S society throughout history, the actual costs of crime did not become a major political issue until the late 1920s. In Netherlands, for example, the costs of crime are estimated to be 20.2 billion euro in 2005, approximately 4.1 percent of the GDP.

Crime whether at the global, national or community level, is now widely considered to be a multidimensional problem. Despite the efforts put in place by law enforcement agencies to control crime, crime rate is still very high. This calls for a need to find out what why it remains a problem and how it is can be solved.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The problem is all about crime and its effects on Gboko residents. The problem of crime is worldwide because it is present everywhere. Crime is rampant to both developed and developing nations. Many scholars have conducted several studies on different aspects of crime ranging from its conceptualization, incidence, causes and effects on different communities of the world but no study covered Gboko metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Crime rate in Gboko metropolis has assumed a worrisome dimension. In the light of the worsening crime situation and the ineffectiveness of the crime control apparatuses. The most prominent crimes in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria include; armed robbery, assassination, thuggery, drug abuse, assault, and vandalism. Several criminal acts against individuals, groups and or organizations have

left many people injured, deformed or even dead. Cases of property loss are ensuing during various criminal events in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Cases of armed robbery in Gboko Metropolis are a direct attestation to the above argument. Eight man robbery gang were reported to have shot dead two police officers on arrival at Union bank in Gboko during the robbery operation. About six persons or more were hit and injured by stray bullets. A huge sum of money running into millions was lost to the robbers. Reflectively, the above robbery incident calls to mind the robbery attack on Mr. Erdiga Iorshaghe at Mese Gatie street, Gboko south in October, 2012. Three men and two ladies constituted the robbery gang. Again, on the 13th February, 2007, Pastor Orngunze encountered a gun-point robbery as his jeep car was snatched at a Filling station, Abagu. Burglary is also a frequent criminal activity in Gboko Metropolis (Yecho, 2010).

In April, 2014, Galaxy super market at Afo area market, Mkar was invaded or burgled and several items such as credit cards worth one hundred and twenty thousand naira (N120,000), a television and video set were stolen. Criminal act of vandalism is also high in Gboko as two supermarkets around Water Board Establishment were burgled and burnt down thereafter in December, 2011. Cases of assassination in Gboko Metropolis is also rampant, most recently is a case of a Chairman aspirant of Buruku local government and also a lecturer with University of mkar who resides at University staff quarters by name Hon. Tondo Wilfred Aondosoo was assassinated on the 4th August, 2016 at the quarters (Momoh, 2014).

Benue state crime statistics shows fatalities from armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, rape, domestic violence, assassination, thuggery, and hooliganism. An over 8516 deaths were recorded in 3,840 fatal incidents between June, 2006 and September, 2015. Armed robbery contributed 50% of the overall crime fatalities, seconded by cultism (28%), assassination, thuggery, hooliganism (8%), domestic violence (7%), kidnapping (5%) and rape (2%) (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2017). This indicates that crime rate in Benue state is high and invariably, Gboko which is a local government area in Benue will also record high incidence of crime activities making crime to be dysfunctional which may have socio-economic implications on the residents of Gboko. Thus, the ways Gboko residents are subjected to criminal activities constitute the problem of this study. Therefore, the study intends to fill the gap by investigating the causes of crime and the way forward for its control in Gboko Metropolis and Nigeria at large.

1.3 Research Questions

The study addresses the following research questions:

- i. What are the causes of crime in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria?
- ii. What are the types of criminal activities most prevalent in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria?
- iii. What are the effects of criminal activities on Gboko residents, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria?
- iv. What are the factors that hinder crime prevention and control in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria?

- v. What are the ways or strategies for controlling criminal activities in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective is to examine the factors responsible for crime in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria. However, specific objectives are;

- i. To examine the causes of crime in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria.
- ii. To examine the types of criminal activities most prevalent in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria.
- iii. To examine the effects of criminal activities on Gboko residents, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria.
- iv. To examine the factors that hinder crime prevention and control in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria.
- v. To identify ways or strategies for controlling criminal activities in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided this study:

- i. There is no significant relationship between poverty and increase in crime on Gboko residents.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between the attitude of Gboko residents towards crime and its effect on them.

- iii. There is no significant relationship between effort made by the law enforcement agents on crime control and its impact on Gboko residents.

1.6 Significance of the Study

There is no doubt that this study holds much significance for a good number of reasons. As an idea this study will contribute to a plan, thought or suggestions about strategies for crime control or reduction. It will serve as a base on which further studies will be carried out by other researchers and students who may want to study other areas related to this research work. The result of this investigation will provide more information for a better understanding of handling crime. In practical terms, the findings of the study will be utilized by law enforcement agencies and other crime control agents to further improve upon their efforts and strategies in crime reduction. The study will help the government and policy makers to formulate policies that would restructure the organizational structure of the Nigerian society which will enhance crime reduction.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was restricted to examining the factors responsible for crime in Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria. It involves identifying the causes of crime, the nature of criminal activities in Gboko Metropolis, the extent of criminal activities, the effects it has on the people and society and the measures taken by government and the Law Enforcement Agencies to reduce the trend. The geographical scope of this study was limited to Gboko Metropolis, one of the twenty three (23) local governments of Benue state. The town is inhabited by traders, transporters, farmers, students, public servants, paramilitary, craftsmen and many more.

This study covers a time frame of ten years (2006 - 2016) to enable the research have an in-depth and explicit approach. The choice of Gboko Metropolis, Gboko Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria as the study area is deliberate. This is based on the fact that crimes usually occur more in towns than in the rural areas, thus making crime in the metropolitan areas more rampant. Besides this, convenience and accessibility are other motivating factors for the choice of Gboko Metropolis as study location.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter explored the concept of crime, causes of crime, types of crime, effects of crime, factors affecting the effectiveness of crime prevention and control, suggested strategies for crime control, as well as theoretical framework that best explains criminality.

2.1 Conceptual Clarification

Here some key concepts in this study are clarified as follows;

2.1.1 Concept of Crime

Crime is like other concepts in social sciences, which have no generally accepted definition. According to Abolurin (2010), crime in a non-technical sense is an act that violates a political or moral rule. He proposed that in many nations, governments have discovered that informal sanctions are ineffective to control some anti-social behaviour; therefore, the system of social control has to be formalized. To him laws are designed to regulate human behaviour and the state provides remedies and sanctions to protect its citizens if the laws are broken.

According to Dambazau (1994) defined crime as an act or omission against public interest and which is prescribed by law enacted by the legislature in the overall interests of the society, and to which prescribed punishment is attached in the event of violation and it involves four major principles which are public wrong, moral wrong, law and

punishment for the criminal. Crime is also seen as a violation of the rules agreed to be respected by all members of the society, and upon which the rest members of the society mete sanction upon those guilty of the violation. The prevalence of crime in the world today is a cause for serious concern for all and sundry. It undermines the social fabric by eroding the sense of safety and security, (Onoge, 1998). Nevertheless, not all breaches of the law are considered crimes, for example breaches of contract. The label of "crime" and the accompanying social stigma are usually reserved for those activities causing more serious loss and damage to the citizens of the state. As defined by law, a crime includes both the act, or *actus rea* and the intent to commit the act, which is *mens rea*. Criminal intent involves an intellectual apprehension of factual elements of the act or acts commanded or enjoined by the law. It is usually inferred from the apparently voluntary commission of an overt act (Encarta, 2009).

Criminal liability is relieved in the case of insanity. Legal minors are also relieved of criminal liability, as are persons subjected to coercion or duress to such a degree as to render the commission of criminal acts involuntary. In most countries, according to him, crimes are defined and punished pursuant to statutes. Punishments may include death, imprisonment, exile, fine, forfeiture of property, removal from public office, and the holder`s disqualification from holding such offices (Encarta, 2009). Under common Law, a crime was generally classified as treason, felony, or misdemeanor, but many offences could not be defined exactly, and the rule was adopted that any immoral act tending to the prejudice of the community was *per se* a crime and punishable by courts. Crimes are now usually classified as *mala in se* (crimes that are universally wrong) which includes acts such as murder, so offensive to morals as to be obviously criminal; and *mala*

prohibita (crimes which are not universal and depend on place and time), which are violations of specific regulatory statutes, such as traffic violations that may not be punished if there are no statutory enactments prohibiting the commission of such acts (Igbo, 2004 in Igbo, 2006).

Legally, crimes usually are defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment and/or fine. Murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving, child neglect, and failure to pay your taxes all are common examples. However, as several eminent criminologists recently have noted (Sampson and Laub 1993; Gottfredson & Hirschi 1990), the key to understanding crime is to focus on fundamental attributes of all criminal behaviors rather than on specific criminal acts. Instead of trying to separately understand crimes such as homicide, robbery, rape, burglary, embezzlement, and heroin use, we need to identify what it is they all have in common.

The behavioral definition of crime focuses on criminality, a certain personality profile that causes the most alarming sorts of crimes. All criminal behaviors involve the use of force, fraud, or stealth to obtain material or symbolic resources. As Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) noted, criminality is a style of strategic behavior characterized by self-centeredness, indifference to the suffering and needs of others, and low self-control. More impulsive individuals are more likely to find criminality an attractive style of behavior because it can provide immediate gratification through relatively easy or simple strategies. These strategies frequently are risky and thrilling, usually requiring little skill or planning. They often result in pain or discomfort for victims and offer few or meager long-term benefits because they interfere with careers, family, and friendships.

Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) assert that this means the “within-person causes of truancy are the same as the within-person causes of drug use, aggravated assault, and auto accidents.” Criminality in this sense bears a problematic relationship with legal crimes. Some drug dealers, tax cheats, prostitutes and other legal criminals may simply be business-people whose business activity happens to be illegal. Psychologically, they might not differ from ordinary citizens. Almost all ordinary citizens commit at least small legal crimes during their lives.

2.2 Types of Crimes

Below are types of crimes

2.2.1 Crimes against Persons

Murder

Murder is the willful killing of one human being by another. As a general rule, any death due to injuries received in a fight, argument, quarrel, assault, or commission of a crime is counted as a Murder. The definition of Murder excludes the following situations: deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are counted as Aggravated Assaults. It is important to note that Murders are counted based on the specific circumstances of the incidents, not on the criminal charges filed as a result of those incidents. For instance, situations where a victim dies of a heart attack as the result of a robbery or witnessing a crime do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Murder classification Tanimu (2006).

Kidnapping/Abduction

Kidnapping or abduction is the unlawful seizure, transportation and/or detention of a person against his/her will or a minor without the consent of a legal guardian or parent. Literarily, the word kidnap is coined from 'kid' meaning child and 'nabs' which means to snatch. According to Rubington and Weinberg (2010), kidnap or kidnapping means "to take somebody away illegally and keep them as a prisoner, especially in order to get money or something else for returning them". This implies that whenever a person is unlawfully taken away against his wish and with the intent to collect money or to extract some other benefit before his or her release, this is tantamount to kidnapping.

Kidnapping is a false imprisonment of an individual against his or her will by another individual in violation of the individual's fundamental human rights. Goldberg (2000) argues that kidnapping is a criminal act involving seizure, confinement, abduction, subjection, forcefulness, acts of threats, acts of terror and servitude. The characteristic behavioural actions of kidnapers are erratic (eccentric), egocentric, and dogmatic. These are situations that criminologists classify as freewill actions that are characteristically planned and executed by the criminal.

Generally, kidnapping occurs when a person, without lawful authority, physically transports (moves) another person without that person's consent, with the intent to use the abduction in connection with some other nefarious objective. Under the model penal code (a set of exemplary criminal rules fashioned by the American Law Institute), kidnapping occurs when any person is unlawfully and non-consensually transported and held for certain purposes.

Apart from the inhuman conditions the abductees are subjected to, to secure their freedom, their relations have been made to pay huge sums of money running into millions of Naira. Sadly, not all the victims return alive even with the payment of the demanded ransom (Nnaji, 2009). Owing to the spate of kidnappings, many people in the state sleep with their eyes half opened. Worse still, the menace has driven some businessmen and other well-to-do persons away from their original places of residence. Some have relocated to other states in Nigeria, especially Abuja and Lagos.

The human security threat of kidnapping is also seen in the drastic reduction in the number of Diaspora from the state coming home every year. It is common knowledge that people from the state relish the prospect of coming home during festive periods to celebrate and fraternize with their kith and kin. Regrettably, some of these people preferred staying put at their places of domicile to coming home to be kidnapped. To the people of the state, kidnapping is tantamount to a declaration of war on them (Nnaji, 2009).

Because of the palpable human security threat kidnapping poses in the state, most people whose family members have been kidnapped are reluctant to report the incidents to the Police for fear of a possible backlash arising from the criminal collusion of some police officers with the kidnappers. Overall, the human security threat arising from kidnapping has had a debilitating economic impact on the state. If anything, the menace has scared away potential investors. It has also led to the mass exodus of indigenous entrepreneurs from the zone. Moreover, the remittances from those in the Diaspora, a substantial part of which is used to develop the state, have decreased considerably. The foregoing has only

worsened the state's poor economic outcomes with their consequence of mass unemployment and grinding poverty.

According to Nnaji (2009), Kidnapping constitutes a veritable threat to Nigeria's sustainable development in the light of the following:

- i. it leads to loss of life, a threat to public safety
- ii. it sabotages economic growth and development by way of capital and investment flight
- iii. It results in negative perception of Nigeria on international scene, with its negative consequences on trade, tourism and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- iv. it creates an atmosphere of public insecurity, thereby endangering the prospects of societal progress
- v. it has often led to loss of investment capital, closure of businesses, and unemployment etc.

In effect, the rising trend of kidnapping in Nigeria has, more than anything else, created security and economic climate that impede sustainable national development. In the words of Raheeb (2008), In the midst of all these, the Nigerian economy is the ultimate victim. The country bears the greatest brunt of the whole saga. This include poor and negative image on the international scene, increase in unemployment rate, risk of a possible slide to a pariah state, huge loss of sources of resources from taxes, tourism, etc.

But the greater risk is the continued spread and degeneration of kidnapping activities across Nigeria.

The adoption of kidnapping as an instrument for terrorism and political vendetta has since complicated the awry scenario. This trend poses the question as to whether Nigeria is relapsing into the 'failed state' syndrome (Adibe, 2013). Worse still, public security agencies in Nigeria have so far seemed critically ill-equipped to combat the crime. Consequently, in its apparent dynamics of degeneration, kidnapping is fast becoming one of the most dreadful organized crime in contemporary Nigeria. It has so far taken a great toll on the high and low of society and, indeed, it is becoming rather endemic and intractable by the day.

Kidnapping operations have created a state of insecurity in the nation, which has by extension affected Nigeria's economic growth (Nwogwugwu et al, 2012). The activities of kidnapping, its planning strategies and execution, and the government actions in handling the resources of the nation, have consequential effects on the national economy. Lack of equity in revenue sharing from the oil has resulted to agitation by the youth for fair share; this has culminated into internal aggression against the oil workers and destruction of the oil installations in the region (Jamiu, 2009).

The Federal Government budget for police formation and command in 2009 was 195 billion naira, and the Lagos State Government was reported to have spent three billion naira in two years on security alone (Soyombo, 2009). The expenditures on security matters and law enforcement challenges have increased tremendously (Ezeibe & Eze, 2012). The politicians increased their physical expenditures on the use of private security

personnel, off-duty police officers, strong metallic bullet proof doors, bullet proof vehicles, and sophisticated security gadgets in efforts to evade abduction. The security cost for protection of government and private facilities in the country has escalated.

The social life of many people has changed due to human insecurity (Tzanelli, 2006), and some people are subjected to self-imprisonment in their homes and offices (David, 2009). Some people build nice houses and fail to finish the exterior walls, presenting themselves with the look of poverty in an effort to prevent popularity. Some people are afraid of buying new vehicles, and even some rich people resort to using commercial motorcycles called 'Okada' to market, school and social outings, as a means to elude hostage takers (Soyombo, 2009). Kidnapping has contributed tremendously to high level of mistrust among people; the traditional African hospitality to strangers is tarnished due to fear, and some people hardly return normal courteous greetings from strangers. Traveling to unknown destination requires Global Positioning System (GPS) directive equipment, otherwise, people in 'distress' and 'stranded' on the road would hardly find anyone willing to give directions, due to mistrust and fear of being whisked away by strangers on the road.

Intimidation

Intimidation is to unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through words or conduct but without displaying a weapon or attacking the victim.

2.2.2 Crimes against Property

Property crime is a category of crime, usually involving private property, that includes, among other crimes, burglary, larceny, theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, shoplifting, and

vandalism. Property crime is a crime to obtain money, property, or some other benefit. This may involve force, or the threat of force, in cases like robbery or extortion. Since these crimes are committed in order to enrich the perpetrator they are considered property crimes. Crimes against property are divided into two groups: destroyed property and stolen property. When property is destroyed, it could be called arson or vandalism. Examples of the act of stealing property is robbery or embezzlement. Property crimes are high-volume crimes, with cash, electronics (e.g. televisions), power tools, cameras, and jewelry often targeted. "Hot products" tend to be items that are concealable, removable, available, valuable, and enjoyable, with an ease of "disposal" being the most important characteristic (Tanimu, 2006). Here some crimes against property are discussed below;

Arson

Arson involves any intentional fire setting or attempting to set fire. It is also considered arson if one burns one's own property. A frequent motive for arson is insurance fraud, with the fire staged to appear accidental. Other motives for arson include desire to commit vandalism or mischief, for thrill or excitement, for revenge, to conceal other crimes, or as a hate crime. Arson is the willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc. (Encarta, 2009).

Bribery

Bribery is the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting of anything of value to sway the judgment or action of a person in a position of trust or influence. The expectation of a particular voluntary action in return is what makes the difference between a bribe and a

private demonstration of goodwill. To offer or provide payment in order to persuade someone with a responsibility is known as seeking undue influence over that person's actions (Encarta, 2009).

Burglary

Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as a burglary. No physical breaking and entering is required; the offender may simply trespass through an open door, there is usually no victim present during burglary.

Burglary of residences, retail establishments, and other commercial facilities involves breaking and entering, and stealing property. Attempted forcible entry into a property is also classified as burglary, in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) definition. As of 1999, there were 1.4 million residential burglaries reported in the United States, which was a record low number, not seen since 1966. Though, up to 50% of burglaries are not reported to the police. The clearance rate for burglary is low, with only 12.7% of cases being solved in the United States in 2005, and 23% in the United Kingdom.

Burglary at single-family home construction sites is an increasing problem in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, and Japan, and elsewhere in the world, with burglary of tools and equipment at residential subdivision construction sites comprising between 5 and 20 percent of building costs. In the United States, equipment worth \$300 million to \$1 billion is stolen each year. Large-scale tract developers are hardest hit by this form of crime. Distraction burglary is a form of burglary where the offender(s) trick or dupe the occupant or distract them, allowing co-offender(s) to gain access and commit burglary.

The elderly are particularly vulnerable to distraction burglary. Some crime prevention programs, such as Neighborhood Watch, have shown little effectiveness in reducing burglary and other crime, though can be effective when at least some community participants are home during the weekdays, thus avoiding any large gaps in the Neighborhood Watch during the peak residential property crime hours of 10am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm.

Criminal Mischief/Damaged Property

Vandalism involves acts that willfully or maliciously destroy, injure, disfigure, or deface any public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or person having custody or control by cutting, tearing, breaking, marking, painting, drawing, covering with filth, or any other such means as may be specified by local law. Attempts are included (Encarta, 2009).

Embezzlement

Embezzlement is the unlawful misappropriation or misapplication by an offender to his/her own use or purpose of money, property, or some other thing of value entrusted to his/her care, custody, or control Tanimu (2006). It is also seen as the act of withholding assets for the purpose of conversion (theft) of such assets, by one or more persons to whom the assets were entrusted, either to be held or to be used for specific purposes. Embezzlement is the unlawful taking of property by someone who it was entrusted to. For example, if a named person trusts their friend enough to allow them to hold their wallet, and the friend goes home without returning the wallet with the intention of keeping the money, the friend would have committed embezzlement.

Extortion

Extortion is to unlawfully obtain money, property or any other thing of value either tangible or intangible through the use or threat of force, misuse of authority, threat of criminal prosecution, and threat of destruction of reputation or social standing or through other coercive means. It is sometimes euphemistically referred to as a “protection racket” since the racketeers often phrase their demands as payment for protection from real threats from unspecified other parties. Extortion is the use of threats to obtain the property of another person. Some threats may include: future harm, destroying one's property, injuring one's character or reputation, or death.

Fraud

Fraud is the intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person or other entity in reliance upon it to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right. This offense includes the fraudulent conversion and obtaining of money or property by false pretenses. Confidence games and bad checks, except forgeries and counterfeiting, are included (Igbo, 2003).

2.3 Causes of Crime in Nigeria

Globally, the causes of crime are attributed to poverty, poor judgment, lack of love, bad leadership, corruption, poor parenting skills, greed, anger, revenge, jealousy, being a victim in a chain of events are the causes crime, economic and political stagnation, lack of economic opportunities, segregation, and unemployment, (Hollister & Goldstein 1994)

Sociologists and Criminologists (Sampson and Laub 1993; Gottfredson and Hirschi 1990) have identified three major factors that are responsible for the high level of crime in Nigeria. They include; economic, social and political factors.

Economically-Motivated Crime

This can also be known as employment-related crime. In some societies, unemployment is a factor responsible for certain criminal activities. People who suffer economic disadvantages can feel “disconnected” from mainstream society and its values and hence may feel less respect for the law. Further poverty in terms of need can also be a factor, particularly in property offences. Nigeria even though a country so blessed has one of the greatest populations of people living under very excruciating poverty because of the brigandage of its leaders, past and present. This has made about 70 percent of Nigerians to live below the poverty line of one dollar per day (Aremu, & Ahmed, 2011).

In this scenario, crime is bound to thrive in a population of over 150 million people. Those who have no legitimate means of making ends meet thus resort to petty crime to fend-off hunger. To understand the level of poverty Nigerians contend with one only needs to observe what happens during recruitment exercises organized by various government agencies. A case in point is the botched recruitment exercises organized by the Nigeria Immigration Service in March, 2014. Not less than 20 young Nigerians were stampeded to death when they turned-up for interview for this recruitment. This was due to the uncontrollable army of young people who turned up in their millions for job vacancies that were meant for only about 4000 persons.

Corruption and poor leadership have turned greater majority of Nigerians beggars in their fatherland. No one has captured a graphic picture of the contrasting scenario in Nigeria between the few rich and the many poor more than. Wilmot (2006) state that the rich he held move in expensive imported, air-conditioned limousines and sports utility vehicles through potholed, congested thoroughfares like the rest of Nigerians. But their cars wear tinted glasses and designer foreign perfumes that protect them from the sights and stench of impoverished fellow citizens and from the environmental squalor that often make our cities look like abandoned garbage areas.

Also, the rich eat imported delicacies that often make them easy preys to such diseases as gout, diabetes and obesity and often end up traveling abroad for digestive cures and “tummy tucks”. In this way, they drain the economy of their own country to promote foreign industries, hospitals, schools and hotels. The poor on the other hand, look like ghosts in an overcrowded, city. They drift like shell-shocked, skeletons across landscapes on the moon. To survive, they are compelled to compete with livestock for chaff and slink all the days of the short span allotted to their miserable lives by the harsh realities of life in Nigeria. If their children survive beyond the age of five they are condemned to face the prospects of poverty, depression and crime (Odey, 2012, pp. 52-53).

In 2014, the gap between the rich and the poor in Nigeria has only widened that the picture would be more graphic if Wilmot is to write again today and the prospects of poverty, depression and crime are more pronounced for the young. Poverty related crimes will definitely be reduced if the economic condition is made better for the greater number youth in this country.

Nigeria is among the developing countries of the world, and is experiencing a prevalence of rising crime waves, criminal intentions and varying degree of delinquencies on the global crime map since 1980s Dambazau, (2007). Nigeria has witnessed high rates of crime and victimization that have defied the measures, introduced by successive regimes, for its management during the past two decades.

Criminality has reached unprecedented proportions in contemporary discourse on Nigeria`s emerging democracy beginning from May 29th 1999 when the country recommenced democratic rule, Nigeria has recorded very bizarre experiences in the domain of crimes committed by young people. According to Mohammed (2010:12) these acts of criminality embrace murder, religious uprising, party clashes, cult clashes, shooting, stabbing, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, including armed bank robbery, theft, burglary, rape, rioting against government policies, vandalism, ethnic militancy, hostage-taking of prominent citizens and expatriate of oil workers, oil bunkering, arms insurgency and burning of worship centres as well as other sundry criminal tendencies. These criminal acts pose serious threats in all ramifications to human development.

Politics in Nigeria has been described as a do or die affairs. Lamenting, Asiegbu (2009:25) in Alemika (2016) posits that, the manner in which the 1999, 2003, 2007,2011 and 2015 political campaigns and elections were conducted justifies the above assertions. Thousands of precious lives were lost in almost every state of the federation during each of these elections as political parties clashed with one another in what could best be defined as gun boat political campaigns. The most deplorable aspect of this ugly situation is the way youths willingly hired themselves out to be used as thugs by these greedy

politicians in exchange for peanuts (Asiegbu, 2009: 29 in Alemika, 2016:8). There is a saying that youths are the live wire of a nation, now the question is what future does a state whose youths are thugs have? No doubt, that these states will be nothing but a home of gladiators in Hobbesian state of nature. Anarchy will be the order of the day while peace and democracy will be a far cry (Anthony, 2013).

According to Osalor (2009): “The scariest undertone of Nigeria’s socio-economic underachievement, by far, is the steady rise in youth crime, nurtured in a climate of increasing national income and the simultaneous failure of employment-generation and poverty alleviation programmes. Armed insurgencies ravaging the oil-rich and volatile Niger Delta region are now competing for space in international headlines with a proliferation of Islamic terrorist offshoots. The season of discontent has especial ramifications for a nation with unemployed millions, and the net effect has been a tragic precipitation of violent crimes: assault, burglary, extortion and kidnapping.

Furthermore, decades of social and political turmoil helped turn this strategically located African nation into an established junction for international drug smugglers. Other highlights of Nigeria’s prolific crime syndicates are economic fraud – usually in the form of innovative Internet schemes; money laundering and racketeering”. He stated further that Human development indices for Africa’s second largest economy continue to be appalling despite the country’s bountiful resources, escalating oil fortunes and a vigorous reforms programme initiated after the return of democracy in 1999.

He stated further that a 2007 UNDP survey on poverty and extreme deprivation of 108 countries ranked Nigeria at the 80th position, giving it a Human Poverty Index of 37.3 –

among the lowest for the entire continent Per capital GDP stands at a meager \$1,400 with 54% of the population living on less than \$1 per day, 50 million people, most of them women and children, suffer from nutritional deficiencies. 10% of Nigerians are malnourished and half the population does not have access to safe drinking water. 25% of children below the age of 5 are underweight and 42% display stunted growth. Over 3% of adults in the age group 15 – 49 are infected with HIV/AIDS.

In 1980, the poverty level in Nigerian households with a female head was 27%. The figure rose to 58% by 2015. For a country that earns an estimated \$2.2 Billion in daily petrodollar revenue, these figures reflect an impudent malaise that has invaded every aspect of Nigerian life.

There are several reasons adduced for increase in crime rate in the country. Akparanta (1994) attempted to provide reasons for urban violence/crime in post-civil war Nigeria, arguing that following the war, there was an abundance of guns in private hands and times were hard economically. Accompanied by deterioration in the standard of education, and the lack of specific training in areas relevant for sustaining both the agricultural and the industrial sector, many youths went astray. Another argument was that the continuously unpredictable political atmosphere and lack of progressive management of the economy brought about galloping inflation, and concentration of wealth in the hands of the few who were in positions of public authority fuelled a sense of hopeless desperation among the masses.

2.4 Effect of Crime

Globally, every five years, 60% of city inhabitants have been victims of one type of crime or another while over half of these crimes have involved personal crime (arson, fraudulence, cheating, 419 syndromes, forgery,) (Soyombo, 2003). Crime is a major part of every society. Its costs and perceptions touch just about everyone to some degree. The types of costs and perception are widely varied. In addition, some costs are short-term while others last a lifetime. Of course the ultimate cost is loss of life. Other costs to victims can include medical costs, property losses, and loss of income. Loses to both victims and non-victims can also come in the form of increased security expenses including stronger locks, extra lighting, parking in more expensive secure lots, security alarms for homes and cars, and maintaining guard dogs as the case may be in United State of America.

According to Soyombo (2003, 22), the general concern about crime can be attributed to the negative effects (physical, psychological, emotional, economic/material and social) it has on the society and the people (victims and non-victims). At the societal level, in addition to the economical/material effects, crime also has political implications and constitutes a direct threat to the legitimacy of government and leaders.

Armed robbery for instance, attracts certain negative socio - psychological, economic, and political effects. An armed robber stands very serious risks (Yecho, 2007). They may be jailed if arrested and serving long term prison sentence may lead to loss of future career and self-development. Some of them end up been killed in the process especially in their bid to escape from been apprehended by the law enforcement agents.

Involvement in any infamous activity like armed robbery and other crimes destroys family name and integrity.

The socio – psychological effects on the victims and that of their families are deeply rooted. Sometimes the financial loss that ensue in the process of armed robbery and other crimes may not bother the victims and their families but the fear that victims may be killed causes serious trauma. Thus, throughout the period, victims and their family members suffer serious torture and this may last for a very long period of time. Criminal activities undermine peace, order and stability in the society. As people live in the atmosphere of mutual suspicion and fear as a result of persistent occurrences of crime in the area, social and economic activities is slowed down and eventually crippled.

The negative impact of this on the domestic economy cannot be over emphasized. Further, foreign investment is a profound condition for rapid economic growth and development of society but no foreign investor would want to invest where there is insecurity. Hence, criminal activities discourage foreign investment and also erode traditional moral norms and values of the society. As law breakers perpetrate their dastard and infamous act with impunity, other societal members' especially young men may be encouraged to join so that with time normal ways are gradually substituted. Further, as a result of the rampant cases of criminal activities, colossal amount of human and material resources are usually expended by the government in the prevention and control of the problem. This amount would have greatly transformed the society if it was pumped into the economy. Armed robbery for instance, sometimes involves very sophisticated weapons and equipments which can only be imported into the country from abroad. The

amount of money involved in this importation mostly through smuggling constitutes capital flight, which further undermines economic growth and development.

In addition, crime causes unemployment because robbing of industries and other government establishments (companies) results to retrenchment of workers because of the inability to pay workers salary. Crime also increases the level of poverty in Nigeria. For instance, in a situation where armed robbers killed the breadwinner of the family, the robbers will subject the whole family into poverty (absolute poverty) and thus increase the level of poverty in the society. Again, Yecho (2010:23) summarized these effects thus:

There is also the social cost dimension. People no longer go out at specific periods to interact and carry out social activities/functions. Everybody becomes suspicious of one another. In a society where everyone is suspicious of each other, where movement is restricted for the fear of criminal victimization, there can be no meaningful development and progress. Finally, there is also a physical cost dimension to incidences of violent crimes. Robbery, rape and kidnap could result to death or permanent disability of the victim.

The effect of crime can also be incurred as a result of actual experience of criminal activities, when there is physical injury, when properties are stolen, damaged or destroyed. It could also be in the form psychological and emotional pains as a result of shock due to the crime done against the victim. Also the effect of crime can be incurred in an attempt to prevent or control crime. As a consequence of the prevalence of crime in society, the demographic composition may be altered through mass movement of people from crime-prone areas to areas perceived to be relatively crime – free. This can also lead to brain – drain and other socio – economic problems, (Onoge, 1998).

2.5 Factors that hinder Crime Prevention and Control

Section 4 of the Police Act No 23 of 1979, specified the functions of the Nigeria Police Force as: the Police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property, and due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged, and perform military duties within or without Nigeria as may be required of them by, or under the authority of this or any other Act. According to Critchley (1978) the police was founded to deal with social problems. However, the following are some of the factors militating against the efficiency of the police as required by these provisions of this Act.

Inadequate equipment

The police lack modern equipment to effectively combat crime in Nigeria. A former Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, in 2008 observed that infrastructural facilities and the much needed equipment are in short supply in the police force. Vehicles, communication equipment, scientific tools for investigation, intelligence gathering control equipment are grossly inadequate. Less than 5% of policemen in the States and Federal Capital Territory have walkie-talkie for communication during patrols. Less than 20% of the Police Stations have telephones to respond to distress calls from the public during emergencies. In terms of vehicles, about 5% of the commands have one or no lorry and other operational vehicle. The situation has not really changed till now. According to Michael Askew (2008), retired Superintendent, Metropolitan Police, at a training workshop for senior officers of the Nigeria Police in Uyo “Inadequate funding

can hamper Police efforts in Nigeria. If they do not have the necessary tools to work; you will be providing room for what will aid corruption in the sector.

The police officers in UK and Nigeria do the same job, they want to save the community, deal with crime, terrorism but the difference is that there is great infrastructure in the UK, every officer has a radio, have access to vehicles, petrol but here, a police officer does not even have enough money to put petrol in the police cars. The basic job is the same but Nigeria has less resource that is needed on the ground inadequate resources and infrastructures have made the Police less effective, and is responsible for the corruption experienced in the force government must rise to the responsibility of providing sufficient resources to make the Nigeria Police effective in fighting crime as well as efficient in service delivery” (Critchley, 1978: 23).

Lack of motivation for the police

Motivation is a serious factor as far as efficiency in any endeavour is concern. Motivation goes a long way to encourage a worker to work to maximum capacity. There are policemen who have been on the same rank for fifteen (15) years. It is a fact that less than 25% of the policemen in Nigeria have Barrack accommodation. Also a visit to some of the barracks will reveal the sorry state of the barracks. Some of the barracks are in various states of dilapidation and squalor and are in dire need of renovation to make it habitable for decent conditions of living for the policemen.

Also, Sulaiman Musa noted in a Saturday column of Weekly Trust, 4-10 March 2006, page 48 that “the Nigeria police cannot be said to be functional. Apart from the fact that they are underfunded and reduced to mere object of degradation with meager salaries, they also have to operate in less habitable places as offices in addition to poor shelters (barracks). Our police are demoralized and yet they are the ones assigned the tedious and dangerous jobs of patrolling our highways, chasing armed robbers, fishing out criminals,

as well as restoration of peace. And are quick to blame them once they perform below our high expectation; unmindful of the condition under which they have to operate. Though this has improved slightly over the years, but much more still needs to be done in order to motivate the rank and file of the police.

Lack of co-operation from the public and negative perception of the police

Okafor (2011), asserted that Crime prevention and control is a collective responsibility. The police cannot do it alone. But the vast majority of Nigerians do not believe in the saying that 'police is your friend', either because of past experience with police or for some other reasons known to them. The public perception of the police in Nigeria has greatly affected the level of support given to the police in combating crime. As a result of this, many refrain from giving valuable information which could have helped to checkmate crime to the police. Public participation is very important in assisting the police to achieve the desired effective crime prevention and control (Yebo, 2007).

Poverty

Poverty in absolute terms refers to a state in which the individual lacks the resources necessary for subsistence. In other words, poverty is the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. Absolute poverty or destitution refers to the deprivation of basic human needs, which commonly includes food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter, health care and education. Relative poverty is defined contextually as economic inequality in the location or society in which people live. According to Ekpo, (1994) Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many

dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity.

Again, poverty encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life (Ezeh, 1998). Poverty may also be understood as an aspect of unequal social status and inequitable social relationships, experienced as social exclusion, dependency, and diminished capacity to participate, or to develop meaningful connections with other people in society. The poverty level in Nigeria is very high and this has resulted in an increase in criminal activities. Many have taken up to crime to make ends meet and as a result, the police are over-stretched both in personnel and equipment (Aigbokhan, 2000).

Unemployment

In Nigeria, the unemployment rate is worrisome. It has consistently increased in the last few years. Recently, a former presidential aspirant in Nigeria, Pat Utomi, wonders why Nigeria experiences rising rate of unemployment despite its rating as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Unemployed youths are readily available for anti-social criminal activities that undermine the stability of society. The rising rate of unemployment has further affected the effectiveness of the police to combat crime. The police are most time overwhelmed with the enormity and frequency of crime committed. Because unemployment readily creates a large army of potential criminals, effective policing has remained a mirage in Nigeria (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

Family Breakdown

The role of the family in maintaining a stable and crime free society cannot be over-emphasized. The increasing rate of family marriage breakdown and its attendant effect on the children and the society at large has become ticking time-bomb because it has given rise to increase in criminal activities by the children of the broken homes. For Iain Duncan Smith, UK Work and Pensions Secretary (2011) it is important that we recognize the role of marriage in building a strong society, especially if we want to give children the best chance in life. Children from broken homes are nine times more likely to commit crimes than those from stable families. Seven out of 10 offenders come from broken homes.

According to the Centre for Social Justice Estimate United State, the direct cost of family breakdown is up to £24billion...but research indicated that the extra costs brought about by the effects of broken homes could quadruple that figure. This is not some abstract debate. Family life affects all of us – what happens on our streets; in our communities; and in our economy. What you learn from a very early age has a great deal to say about the person you will eventually become and the life you lead (Ityavyar, 2010).

Bribery and Corruption

The Nigeria police are well known for its rottenness as many of the police officers are known to be corrupt. Bribery and Corruption are twin cankerworms that have eaten deep into the fabrics of the Nigerian society. The police are known not to be exempted from this reckless orgy of financial ignominy. Funds released to the police are known to have been diverted into private pockets. Also, criminals are known to usually bribe their way

through and escape the long arm of justice. This has led to the increase in criminal activities since the criminals know that the police could be bought at a price. Arrested criminals are back on the streets again the next day if they or their god-fathers can negotiate and pay an agreed sum. This has greatly affected the effectiveness of the police in crime prevention and control in Nigeria (Anthony, 2013)

2.6 Approaches to Crimes Reduction and Control

It is generally believed that although crime cannot be completely eliminated in the society, it can however be reduced. It is on the basis of this that there is the need to device crime control measures, strategies or approaches. Yecho (2007:37) has however identified some major approaches to crime reduction. They include the following among other approaches:

Elimination Approach

People who are in the low income cadre within undesirable condition may be forced into committing crimes for survival because of their poor economic condition. Their criminal behaviours are reflections of the economic and related circumstances that determine opportunities, influence behaviours and motives as well as shape attitudes towards societal norms. The elimination approach according to Ubwa (2003) identifies reasons for committing crimes and suggests structural changes and elimination of such factors that are likely to motivate individuals to commit criminal acts. This implied that unemployment, poverty among other problems can force many people to commit crimes.

Therefore the elimination of those conditions will reduce criminality. This means that the provision of employment will go a long way in controlling and reducing crimes among the people.

Target Hardening Approach

The target hardening approach deals with the opportunity to commit crime and the availability of the object of crime. This approach argues that environment permits the commission of any crime. The opportunity to commit crime is presented to the criminal by the environment. Thus, crime commission depends on the opportunity presented by the environment, (Yangeve, 2007:26). This approach emphasizes the elimination of the opportunity to commit a crime, even if the desire is present. The regular environment in which a criminal hopes to operate successfully has to be changed to a more sophisticated one which gives the criminal minded person no opportunity to carry out his criminal act and which may frustrate criminality. This implies that the capitalist mode which places emphasis on individual pursuit of wealth or goals attainment rather than the means for achieving it provides an opportunity for criminal tendencies among the people.

In other words, the capitalist mode of production as obtainable in Nigeria with its unique features of exploitation, frustration, deprivation and its attendant consequences are a fertile environment that offer opportunity for crime commission especially among the people. This has to be changed to a more sophisticated one that emphasizes collectivity which gives more opportunity to crime, (Yangeve, 2007:27). In addition, Zumve (2005:35) suggests that the political structure which provides a fertile environment for

crime commission has to be changed too as this will facilitate reduction in criminality in Nigeria.

Modification Approach

This approach emphasizes value re-orientation; in other words, it emphasizes socialization that explains the values and norms that guide everyday behavior in the society. This approach believes that socialization is achieved because the individual understands himself as a personality functioning in orderly manner within his culture. Hence, to Anthony (2013) value re-orientation will help in reducing crimes among the people.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

This study adopted two theories namely; Anomie Theory and Rational Choice Theory

2.7.1 Anomie Theory

In the field of criminology, Robert K. Merton is best known for advancing and popularizing the anomie perspective on crime. This perspective highlights the ways in which the normal features of the social organization of American society ironically contribute to high levels of crime and other forms of deviant behavior by producing anomie, a breakdown in the culture. This anomie or cultural breakdown is characterized by a very strong emphasis on the importance of success goals (especially monetary success) and a comparatively weak emphasis on the importance of using the normatively approved means to achieve these goals. Merton further argues that such a strain toward anomie arises when the culture encourages virtually everyone to aspire to lofty goals,

while those located at the lower ends of the class hierarchy have limited access to the legitimate means for success. People in such circumstances experience pressures to “innovate”—that is, to substitute technically expedient but often illegal means in the pursuit of their goals.

Merton introduced his initial formulation of the anomie perspective in a brief article titled “Social Structure and Anomie,” which was published in the *American Sociological Review* in 1938. He was a little-known instructor at Harvard University at the time, and his article did not create much of a stir at first. This would change dramatically. Over the course of subsequent decades, Merton's arguments as introduced in the initial article and as subsequently elaborated, most significantly in his book *Social Theory and Social Structure*, have inspired an extraordinary volume of empirical studies on crime and deviance, as well as numerous theoretical extensions, exegeses, and critiques.

Anomie is conceived as a breakdown in the cultural structure due to disjunction between the cultural norms and goals and the socially structured capacities of members of the group to act in accord with them (Merton, 1968). In this conception, cultural values may help to produce behavior that is at odds with the mandates of the values themselves. Anomie gives birth to aberrant behavior and non-conformity, which is a symptom of dissociation between culturally prescribed goals and socially prescribed means for realizing these goals. A society that places exceptionally strong emphasis on goal achievement without a corresponding emphasis on institutionalized means of achieving these goals is bound to exert pressures on some members of the society that may eventually resort to the use of any technically expedient means in achieving these goals irrespective of whether the means employed is legitimate or not. The process whereby

exaltation of the end generates a de-institutionalization of the means to the end occurs in many societies where the two components of the social structure are not highly integrated.

Contemporary Nigerian society places great emphasis on success goals without equivalent emphasis on institutional means of attaining these goals. The society is characterized by a heavy emphasis on success and wealth without a corresponding emphasis on legitimate means and avenues to be used in achieving success. Everything in Nigeria these days is driven by the desire for success irrespective of the means used in achieving success. The country has become a commercial venture and no longer a place for selfless service. Everyone is out to make quick money and patriotism is endangered. There is a disjunction between the culturally acclaimed goals and the institutional procedures for achieving these goals. The attenuation of this over time is the anomie that now characterizes the Nigerian society. The society, as it is constituted today, is founded on faulty/fragile education, political, economic, physical and social environment that cannot produce a better tomorrow (Ojeikere, 2004). The country is bedeviled with social and economic ills such as robbery, drug abuse, cultism, moral decadence, embezzlement, social injustice, corruption, and so on. It has become a society where the custom is to decorate miscreants, knaves, scam artists and violators of national trust with national honors and appoint them to exalted public offices (Ndibe, cited in Ojeikere, 2004).

The social vices bedeviling the society have permeated the entire segments of the society. The manifestations are moral decadence, drug abuse, loss of family values, cultism and examination malpractice that has become endemic of the country. The societal emphasis on success-goals, irrespective of the means employed in achieving these goals, has

pressurized some participants in the society to strain toward anomie. Such participants have resorted to the use of illegitimate procedures in achieving success in crime. The disjunction between culturally acclaimed goals and the institutionalized means of achieving these goals coupled with the cultural context of great emphasis on success-goals without equivalent emphasis upon institutional means of attaining these goals have created an environment that predisposes people especially youths to drug abuse. Youths are involved in crime because they want to achieve success

Crime is sustained by whatever sustains corruption in the country. Capitalism has eroded the moral values of the Nigerian society. Social, economic, political, religious and educational vices are celebrated and rewarded in the country while virtue is punished. How can people shun drug abuse when they “see criminals being set free through legalisms and court room gymnastics or worse, through wretched and criminal influence peddling?” (Aminu, 2006).

Closely related to the moral decadence in the society is the greed for money. Merton also suggested that for some, they drop out of society becoming drug addicts realizing the “American Dream” is unattainable for them and this can lead to deviant behavior.

Merton believed that there are two criteria that promote deviant behavior.

- i. A motivation of the person to adhere to cultural goals
- ii. A persons belief in how to obtain these cultural goals.

Merton model of individual adaptation to Anomie mode of adaptation

Merton believed that there are five types of deviance based on his criteria:

Mode of adaptation	Cultural goals	Institutionalized means
Conformity	+	+
Innovation	+	-
Ritualism	-	+
Retreatism	-	-
Rebellion	#	#

Criticism of Merton Anomie theory

- i. Merton has been criticized for assuming that there is a value consensus in America society and that people only deviate as a result of structural strain. His theory fails to explain why some people experience the effects of anomie do not become criminals or deviants.
- ii. Critics have attacked Merton work for neglecting the power relationship in society as a whole, within which deviance and conformity occur. Laurie Taylor (1971) criticized Merton for not carrying his analysis far enough, for failing to consider who makes laws and who benefits from them. In Taylor analogy, the whole game may have been rigged by the powerful with rules that guarantee their success: the laws in society.
- iii. Some critics believe that Merton theory over-predicts and exaggerates working-class crime, and under-predicts and underestimates middle-class or white-collar crime.

The anomie perspectives believed that society is not a flat collection of equally resourceful and fortunate individuals. It is constructed in a complex hierarchy where people are discriminatively positioned with differential access to power, status, capital and opportunities. In some areas people are so deprived of legitimate resources that they take socially disapproved means as their sensible ways of survival. During some periods of time, people are so mercilessly denied opportunities by both conventional and unconventional world that they turn to substance use as their ultimate retreat from productive life. Among some social classes of people, mainstream norms and values seem to be so remote and irrelevant that sub cultural and unconventional rules and beliefs become guiding principles in daily behaviour.

The anomie perspective looks at substance use as resource, opportunity, or means in people's reaction to their specific social structural conditions. As resource, substance may be used to achieve material success.

To this theory, when the rules of how people ought to behave, have been broken down thereby, making the society to become a state of normlessness, crime or criminal activities will definitely be on increase and when crime rate becomes rampant in such a society, the residents or dwellers are the ones it affects or suffer most in various degrees as it has negative effects (physical, psychological, emotional/material and social implications on the people which at times are short-term while others last a lifetime or even lead to their early grave as the case may be.

The aptness of this theoretical orientation was underscored by the increasing realization that government and other organizations have failed in their duties of providing the

necessities of life like creating jobs for the unemployed youths, infrastructures, social amenities which would have made the environment conducive for the inhabitants thereby reducing or controlling the rate of criminal activities in Gboko metropolis. Also both the government and the people of Gboko have parts to play towards crime as they are the major people that suffer the risk.

Anomie theory can be a very useful theory when addressing crime. It focuses on the behavioral pattern of the individual when the necessities of life are lacking in the environment thereby making it look normless. In as much as Anomie theory is very good and fit for crime, there are still some limitations. The main limitation is that it does not take into account that there are people who are in environment where they do not lack anything and the societal norms are strictly observed but yet indulge in criminal activities. However, Anomie theory of crime provides a framework upon which crime reduction strategies may be built in that it addresses crime from a perspective and this perspective of crime determines the kind of strategies that could be used in reducing it. This study therefore adopts Anomie theory of crime as a framework of analysis.

Furthermore, anomie theory of crime has also showed adequate utility in crime issues given its clear explanation of cause's crime in every human society. This is because criminal activities frequently thrive in urban areas where basic necessities of life are lagging behind due to poverty, moral decadence, in Gboko Metropolis.

2.7.2. Rational Choice Theory.

The rational choice theory has its root in the classical school of criminology. At the heart of this school of thought is the philosophy which holds that human beings have freewill,

and that behaviour is guided by hedonism or the principle of utilitarianism. Since the classicists made their point between the late 18th and early 19th centuries, other criminological developments which can be described as the spinoffs of the classical school of criminology have emerged. They include but not limited to deterrence theory (Gibbs, 1975), Zimring and Hawkins, (1973) social context theory (Miethe & Meier, 1994), rational choice perspective (Clarke and Cornish, 1983), life-style theories of victimization (Hinderland et al., 1978).

Although these theories vary in their approaches to the explanation and control of crime, they all share a common image of criminals in which they argue that temptation and opportunity are crucial to the explanation of crime (Cao, 2004, p.32). To all these theorists, law violation is a social action, and violators are purposive, calculus and goal oriented so that decision making practices on what to enhance this goal attainment is considered paramount.

The broad rational choice theory focuses on criminal involvement as a process, through which individuals, from the onset, make choices to become involved in particular forms of crime, to continue, and to desist. According to Cornish and Clarke (1986), the decisions of offenders are based on the expected effort and reward against the likelihood and severity of punishment and other costs of the crime. This is the classical case of the cost-benefit analysis or the economic man theory so that armed robbers are seen as not just purposeless and psychopathic agents of some inexorable social forces acting aimlessly. Offenders seek to benefit in their criminal exploits which involves making decision and choices, however, constrained by time, cognitive ability, and information, resulting in a limited rather than normative rationality (Akers, 1990; Cao, 2004, p.33).

According to Akers (1990), rationality may also be limited by lack of information (for example, lacking an accurate appreciation of the probability of arrest, or underestimating the likely sentence), by values and by other "non-rational" influences.

The rational choice models as developed by criminologists have not been based upon the assumption that offenders only take account of all relevant factors on every occasion when an offence is contemplated (Clarke, 1983). Instead of assuming perfect utility maximization, these models have tended to work with the concept of "bounded," or "limited," rationality (Simon, 1955). Thus, a number of factors that are unrelated to the decision to commit an offence can influence an offender's behavior. Such factors may include alcohol intoxication or the desire to stave off the unpleasant withdrawal symptoms associated with certain drug addictions to accommodate. After all, researches have shown that discounted factors are as much a component of rational decision making as are positive factors (see for example, Harding, 1993).

Furthermore, deterrence, a very key strand of the rational choice theory, is based on the assumption that the costs of committing a crime will be weighed against with much zeal as the benefits to be gained. So, it is important to determine whether present attempts at armed robbery prevention are being appreciated by those they are aimed at (and if so, why, in the case of these convicted robbers at least, they have clearly failed to have the desired deterrent effect). Walsh's (1986) discovery of "free-range negative thinking" is interesting in that it suggests that economic criminals such as armed robbers do often assess the reasons for *not* committing an offence.

However, the bulk of the analysis reported by Walsh appears to rest on the practical considerations of the crime rather than on the decision to commit a crime. Within the

broad context of the rational decision making practices described above, there is the specific one which consists of a sequence of three important elements about robbery as an event. This decision involves making choices and perceived alternatives on the basis of the individual armed robber's set of characteristics and the context in which the robber operates. The sequences are (1) deciding to rob mainly for financial gain, (2) deciding what target to rob, and (3) deciding and planning the robbery strategies (Conklin, 1972; Cook, 1990).

Rational Choice Theory shows that individuals tend to commit crime when they believe that where, when and how to commit crime will either be at their advantage or disadvantage. Also, their acts of crime are premeditated. It is their inordinate ambition to look like other high class people in the society that makes them to engage in criminal activities.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Chapter three covers the following: Research setting, Research design, Population of the study, Sample size determination formula, Sampling techniques, Method of data collection, Method of data analysis.

3.1 Location of the Study

Gboko is a fast growing town in the Benue State of North-Central Nigeria. The name Gboko also refers to a Local Government area in Benue state. It is the traditional capital of the Tiv ethnic group and it has the official residence of the Tor-Tiv, who is the paramount traditional ruler of the Tiv people that spread across Benue, Taraba, Plateau, Nasarawa. Gboko was also the headquarters of the Tiv Native Authority. Many prominent Tiv Sons and Daughters have a home in Gboko where they visit often.

Gboko is nicknamed “Gboko-yuwa” which means “heavy town” owing to the rebellion attitude of its youths. The town is also called “G-Town” by many today. Important annual events in Gboko are the Kwagh-hir festival and Tiv day celebration. Kwagh-hir is the Tiv traditional theater. It is the festival of storytelling and it usually includes Big animal puppets. It is staged at any time of year and on special occasions. The Tiv day celebration is the day when all Tivs sons and daughters resident in all other parts of the world converge in Gboko to celebrate the cultural heritage of the Tivs and also deliberate on developmental issues affecting the Tiv people. Until recently, Gboko was also home to the BCC lions football club (formerly owned by Benue cement company PLC Gboko), the winners of the confederation cup (Mandela cup) in 1990 who

defeated the prominent “club African” of Tunisia in the final of the confederation cup to clinch the coveted trophy.

Gboko Local Government Area has sixteen (16) Electoral wards to include Mbakpegh, Igyoro, Mbatan, Gboko-South, Mbatser, Mbakwen, Gboko-North-West, Mbaanku, Mbadim, Gboko-Central, Yandev-South, Ukpekp, Mbatyu, Mbadam, Gboko-East and Mbaaverakaa.

The local government area houses University of Mkar, College of Agriculture Yandev, General Hospital Gboko, Micro Finance Bank, Nigeria Police Division, Nigeria Immigration Service office, National Orientation Agency, Federal Road Safety Corp unit, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp Division, Government Secondary Schools and numerous primary schools which include both private and public schools.

3.2 Research Design

The study employed a social survey research design to collect and analyze data collected from the field. Survey research design was adopted/ used for this study due to its wide scope, this research design is extensive and its findings will be generalized on the entire town. .

3.3 Population, Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The population of the study for this study was underlined by the number of the metropolitan areas which include Local Government Secretariat Gboko Divisional police Station Tor Tiv Palace Street and Gboko Market. Gboko Metropolis is one of the populous areas in Benue state, however not all populations are likely to be affected by crime or have the greater tendency to be affected by crime or even have that higher

tendency to commit crime due to their age, behavior, occupation and so on (not all persons are precipitated to crime and are prone to commit crime based on their age, status, behavior, occupation and so on) as such the study focus on the population of youths and adults who are highly precipitated to crime or are prone to commit crime. According to the distribution of population by five year age based on local Government areas in Nigeria from the 2006 population census in Nigeria by National Population Commission gazette in 2010, those from age bracket 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54 and 55-59 where those found by the researcher to be precipitated to crime or likely (prone) to commit crime.

Table 3.1: Population of the study Area

Name	Female	Male	Total
Local Government Secretariat	6,300	6,650	12,950
Police Station	803	1,115	1,918
Tor Tiv Palace Street	5,551	6,003	11,554
Gboko Market	4,607	5,250	9,857
Total	17,261	19018	36,279

Source: Computed by Researcher, (2018)

Applying Cochrum (1963) statistical formulae for determining sample size for the study population of thirty six thousand, two hundred and seventy nine, a sample size of 384 respondents was drawn from the total population of the Cochran(1963) formula: $\Pi^0 = \frac{Z^2}{E^2}$

Pq

E^2

Below is the calculation of how the sample size was determined.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &: \Pi^0 = \frac{(1.96)^2 (.5)(.5)}{(0.5)^2} \\
 &= \frac{3.8416 \times 0.25}{0.25} \\
 &= \frac{0.9604}{0.25} \\
 &= 384
 \end{aligned}$$

This provides 95 confidence level and 5 precision.

The study adopted cluster sampling techniques where the areas were clustered. The researcher selected groups or cluster, selection was done randomly given equal representation to the respondents. The table below clearly reveals how the cluster sampling was used in determining the sample of the respondents

Table 3.2: Selected Wards and their Population

Name	Population	Desired Sample Size
Local Government Secretariat	12,950	$\frac{12,950 \times 384}{36,279} = 137$
Police Station	1,918	$\frac{1,918 \times 384}{36,279} = 20$
Tor Tiv Palace Street	11,554	$\frac{11,554 \times 384}{36,279} = 122$
Gboko Market	9,857	$\frac{9,857 \times 384}{36,279} = 105$
Total	36,279	384

Source: Computed by the Researchers (2018)

3.4 Method of Data Collection

The study used two methods of data collection, which include primary and secondary sources. The study generates data via the primary source using questionnaire which was structured and unstructured pattern. The questionnaire was divided into three (3) sections:

Section 'A' deal with the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. Section 'B' centered on the Residential & spatial pattern of criminal victimization, 'C' revolves around issues bordering on the Public perception of crime and Police Performance in Gboko metropolis. The secondary data on the other hand, involves sourcing for relevant information from reliable literatures, texts, journals, newspapers, reports and statistics from government publication on the study area, which enables reviewing of relevant literatures to the study.

For the purpose of soliciting for more information for this study and to further provide a robust finding for this study, information was also generated by conducting a Focus Group Discussion (FGD); the participants were drawn purposively from the sample elements for this study. Twelve (12) participants were selected which was made up of major stakeholders in the area of study.

FGDs were carried out in each of the settlement. The groups were formed based on the sex of the participants so as to know the gender difference in the matter under consideration and to ensure that participants are comfortable in discussing the issue. Each FGD comprise of four discussants making a total of six FGD were conducted. Participants were chosen using a non-probalistic random fashion from the different settlement so as to ensure a wide coverage of the study area.

Focus group discussions was conducted by the researcher and a female research assistant who is a post graduate student of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences Nasarawa State University Keffi who was trained to moderate the female groups. The choice of the research assistant is because he has a fair knowledge of the

research and was trained. Notes were be taken by the researcher and the research assistant and also, the discussion was recorded using a tape recorder. Also, undergraduate students of the Department of Sociology 400level were employed as time keepers and recorders during the research.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

Data generated in the course of this study was first collated, coded and analyzed using both the descriptive and the inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics was presented in tables showing frequencies and percentages.

The qualitative data were transcribed verbatim into English, together with observational notes. Furthermore, the data were sifted and sorted after which a thematic analysis was conducted in relation to the research objectives.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this chapter data is presented, analyzed and discussed according to the objectives of this study. This chapter presents the views and responses of respondents. The chapter takes a look at the socio-demographic data of the respondents, analysis and test of hypotheses of this study and the contribution of the research work to knowledge. In the survey area, three hundred and eighty four (384) questionnaires were administered; three hundred and seventy four (374) were answered and retrieved, valid and so are been used for analysis. The qualitative data generated from the FGDs were presented to supplement the quantitative data as appropriate. Discussion was also made on the major findings and attempts were made to relate findings to other literatures and theories.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Attributes of Respondents

The socio-demographic features/characteristics examined include age, sex, marital status, religion, educational attainment, and occupation. The distribution of respondents was examined in this sub-section.

Table 4.1: Distribution of Socio-demographic variables of respondents

S/No.	Attributes of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	SEX		
	Male	316	84.4
	Female	58	15.5
	Total	374	100
2.	AGE		
	18-27 years	83	22.2
	28-37 years	166	44.4
	38-47 years	69	18.4
	47 years above	56	15
	Total	374	100
3.	MARITAL STATUS		
	Married	188	50.3
	Single	148	39.6
	Widow	32	8.6
	Divorced	6	1.6
	Others	-	-
	Total	374	100
4.	RELIGION		
	Christianity	326	87.2
	Islam	42	11.2
	Others	6	1.6
	Total	374	100
5.	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
	No schooling	-	-
	Primary	46	12.3
	Secondary	196	52.4
	Tertiary	112	29.9
	Others	20	5.3
	Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The table above represented the socio-demographic attributes of respondent. According to the data obtained from the field, among the 374 questionnaires that were answered and returned 316 respondents representing 84.4percent were male and only 15.5percent were females. The wide disparity in gender among the respondents was not deliberate but goes

a long way to show that males were more involved in the research than females. This entails that much data was gotten from males then females on the research work.

With regard to the age of respondents, study finding revealed that 22.2 percent of the respondents were of the age bracket of 18-27 year while 44.4 percent of the respondents fell within the age range of 28-37 years were of the age of 38-47 years and 15percent 56 fell within the age category of 47 years and above. The distribution in the age of respondents showed that youths were more involved in the research work than the aged as the highest percentage of respondents 44.4percent fell within the youthful ages of 28-37 years.

Concerning the marital status of respondent, findings indicated that 50.3percent of the respondents were married, 148 representing 39.6percent were single while 8.6percent were widowed and 1.6percent of the respondents were divorced.

On occupation of respondents, data collected showed that 27.3 of the respondents were public/civil servants 8.6percent were students while 192 representing 51.3percent were involved in business, 5.6percent were farmers and 7.2 percent) were artisans.

Similarly, on the religious affiliation of respondents, data indicated that among the 374 questionnaires that were returned 326 representing 87.2 percent were Christians while only 11.2 percent were Muslims. The wide disparity in religion affiliation between Christians and Muslims is based on the study location which is dominated by Christians.

4.2 Section B: Data on Sociological Analysis of Crime

This section sought to analyze crimes sociologically.

Table 4.2: Distribution of respondents, on whether they have witnessed crime in their area

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	339	90.6
No	20	5.3
Undecided	15	4.0
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Majority of the respondents 90.6 as indicated by table 4.2 indicated they witnessed crime in their area. This showed that there exists crime in the study area as indicated by majority of the respondents. This showed that crime was eminent and pronounced in the study area since majority indicated that the area was not devoid of crime.

Findings from FGD indicated that crime existed in the study area. Participants so much emphasized that crime was eminent and pronounced in the study area. The area to them was not devoid of crime and was a phenomenon to reckon with in the area. This was their position:

There is no society without crime, we are having our own share of it. These days we are experiencing different forms of crime in this community.

Table 4.3: Distribution of respondents based on the type of crime witnessed

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Armed robbery	157	41.9
Drug abuse	151	40.4
Prostitution	56	14.9
Burglary	10	2.7
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From table 4.3 above, majority of the respondents 41.9 percent indicated that arm robbery was prominent in the study area. This showed that arm robbery was the most pronounced crime in the study area as indicated by majority of the respondents. A significant majority 40.4percent of the total respondents also indicated that they have witnessed drug abuse in their area signifying that drug abuse was also eminent or pronounce in the study area. The indication by the respondents showed that crime was eminent in the area which was capable of disrupting socio-economic activities in the area which could also bring about unemployment, reduction in income which could further lead to poverty as this can scare away investors or those ready to carry out economic activities in the metropolis. This can cause hardship among the people found in the area or metropolis since economic activities will be discouraged by criminals

Findings from FGD revealed that robbery, burglary, drug abuse were the most pronounced the area (metropolis). It further revealed that such has been a problem to investors in the study area and has discouraged business men who are ready to invest

especially those who are not indigenes. The position of the participants was captured as thus:

We have witness different types of crime in this town. Robbery, burglary, drug abuse are the most pronounced the area. We are really in trouble. Now people don't want to do business in this area. See we are blessed but criminal activities are on the increase.

Table 4.4: Distribution of respondents based on the causes of Crime

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Poverty	179	47.9
Poor parenting	88	23.5
Crime infested environment	87	23.3
Drug abuse	13	3.5
Undecided	7	1.9
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Result from table 4.4 below indicated that majority of the respondents 47.9 percent of the respondents indicated that poverty was responsible for crime in the area, 23.5 percent of the respondents indicated poor parenting was responsible for crime, 23.3percentof the respondents indicated that crime infested environment was responsible crime in the area. While 3.5percent of the respondents indicated drug abuse was responsible for crime in the area and 1.9percent of the respondents were undecided.

Finding from FGD revealed that poverty as well as crime infested environment was responsible for increasing rate of crime in the area. Poverty was the most prevailing factor leading to crime. This was agreed with one voice by participants in Focus Group Discussion as:

Poverty is responsible for high crime rate in this community. People find it very difficult to meet their basic needs. People are living below one dollar per day. Poverty is a key factor in this.

Table 4.5: Distribution of respondents based on whether they been victims to crime

Victim to Crime	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	307	82.1
No	46	12.3
Undecided	21	5.6
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Results from Table 4.5 showed that majority of the respondents 82.1 indicated being victims to crime. This indicated that crime was conspicuous in the area and was a phenomenon in the area. This was capable of thwarting socio- economic development and creating other vices.

Table 4.6: Distribution of respondents on the type of crime was victim to:

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Theft	222	59.4
Burglary	77	20.6
Armed robbery	55	14.7
Drug abuse	14	3.7
Undecided	6	1.6
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Majority of the respondents 59.4 indicated that they been victim to theft which was pronounced in the area. This signifies that stealing was pronounced in the area. A significant majority of the respondents 20.6percent also indicated that they have been victim to burglary which was pronounced in the area just like a significant number of the respondents 14. 7percent also indicated they have been victim to arm robbery which was also pronounced in the area. This shows that crime was prominent in the area and was capable of affecting socio-economic development like commerce, industrial activities, and social activities to mention. This could scare away investors and also create unemployment in the area.

Result from FGD showed that theft, arm robbery, and burglary were pronounced in the area as a significant number of them have been victims to such crimes. FGD result further showed that socio- economic development has been hampered because of these vices.

This was captured as:

I have been a victim of armed robbery and burglary several times. I have lost so many things as a result of this. There are many other people in this area that are victims of theft, burglary, armed robbery and other forms of criminality.

Table 4.7: Distribution of respondents, on whether crime has effect on residents

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	339	90.6
No	20	5.3
Undecided	15	4.0
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Majority of the respondents 90.6percent as indicated by table 8 indicated crime has effect on residents. This showed that there exist crime in the study area as indicated by majority of the respondents and it takes toll on the residents of the area, this showed that crime was eminent and pronounced in the area and it has affected the residents.

Result from FGD showed that the residents had experience a decline in socio-economic development as a result of a decline in investment among residents since robbery has increased in the area, Social amenities that turn to boost economic activities has been discouraged as a result of robber creating poverty and unemployment. Participant unanimously agreed as thus:

People don't want to come for business here again because of the increased in armed robbery and other forms of crime in the community and it is affecting our socio-economic development. Social amenities that turn to boost economic activities have been discouraged as a result of robber creating poverty and unemployment.

Table 4.8: Distribution of respondents on the effect of crime on residents:

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Decline in socio-economic activities	149	39.8
Loss of assets/lives	77	20.6
Financial loss	71	18.9
Poverty	70	18.7
Undecided	7	1.9
Total	374	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2018

From table 4.8 above, majority to the respondents 39.8percent of the respondents indicated a decline in social and economic activities among the residents as an effect of crime in the study area as such poverty and unemployment is further entrenched. This is chiefly as a result of a decline in socio-economic activities as elicited by the respondents. This can create hardship among the residents consequently also leading to a decrease in growth among the residents and a decline in Gross Domestic product.

Table 4.9: Distribution of respondents on how long crime has been prevalent in the area

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
More than 15 years	339	90.6
More than 10 years	20	5.3
Recently	15	4.0
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

From table 4.9 below, majority of the respondents 90.6percent of the respondents indicated that crime has been an existing social problem in the area for a long period of time. This shows that crime as a social problem or vice in the area deserves attention or solution since it is a problem for an extended period of time. This is capable of creating hardship and underdevelopment of people found in this area.

Table 4.10: Distribution of respondents on factors hindering crime prevention and control

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	363	97.1
No	7	1.9
Undecided	4	1.1
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Majority of the respondents 97.1percent of the respondents indicated “Yes” on factors hindering crime prevention and control. This shows that there are factors hindering the control of crime in the area as elicited by the respondents. This is capable of creating a tensed atmosphere and discouraging development in the since the environment is infested with crime.

Table 4.11: Prevailing factors hindering crime control and prevention:

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Uncooperative attitude of the public with police force	132	35.3
Unfriendly attitude of the police force	42	11.2
Bribery and corruption	32	8.6
Inadequate equipment	84	22.5
Lack of motivation	82	21.9
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Majority of the respondents 35.3percent of the respondents indicated Uncooperative attitude of the public with police force as a factor hindering crime prevention and control.

This situation is capable of escalating the crime rate in the area due to lack of harmonious relationship between the police and the general public. This could further create pandemonium in the area as the environment will be highly infested with crime. This will affect economic activities creating hardship, poverty and unemployment since the environment will not be stable for economic or commercial activities that will improve the economy of the area.

Results from FGD revealed that uncooperative attitude, inadequate equipment are the prevailing factors hindering crime prevention and control in the area. The public were noted not cooperating with the security apparatuses in revealing vital information that could help curb crime in the area. Major reason cited was fear of criminals for victimization as a factor. Participant spoke with one voice as thus:

Our challenges include uncooperative attitude, inadequate equipment, fear of victimization and low workforce. These have affected crime prevention and control in the area.

Table 4.12: Views of Respondents on the understanding of the word crime

Responses	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Violation of acts that are legislated against	150	52.1
Deviation from societal norms and values	134	46.5
Deviation from ethics and code of conduct	4	1.4
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

In table 4.12 above, 52.1 percent said they understand crime to mean violation of the acts that legislated against, 46.5 percent said crime means deviation from societal norms and

values while the remaining 1.4 percent said crime means deviation from ethics and code of conduct. This implies that, Gboko residents understand crime to mean violation of acts legislated against and deviation from societal norms values showing a good understanding of crime.

The findings from the FGD participants on their understanding of crime among Gboko residents of Benue State indicate that crime means violation of acts that are legislated against, followed by deviation from societal norms and values and deviation from ethics and code of conduct. It was glaring from their behavior and responses that the meaning of crime is well known to them in the area. Participants agreed that:

Crime is deviation from societal norms and values and deviation from ethics and code of conduct. Any breach against the rule and regulation of the society.

Table 4.13: Crime is inevitably present in Gboko

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	229	79.5
Agree	59	20.5
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	-	-
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.13 shows the presence of crime in Gboko. 79.5 percent strongly agreed that crime is inevitably present in Gboko. 20.5 percent agreed that crime is present in Gboko. It is very clear that crime is present in Gboko metropolis.

Table 4.14: Respondents view on major causes of crime in Gboko Metropolis

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Peer group influence	50	17.4
Poor socialization	32	11.1
Economic hardship	94	32.6
Drug abuse	25	8.7
Crime infested environment	45	15.6
Unemployment	42	14.6
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Respondents were asked the major causes of crime in Gboko metropolis. Their responses were categorized shown in table 4.14 above. The table shows that 17.4 percent respondents pointed at peer group influence as being the major cause of crime in Gboko Metropolis, 11.1 percent respondents said poor socialization was the cause of crime in Gboko, 32.6percent pointed at economic hardship as being the cause of crime in Gboko,8.8 percent sees drug abuse as a cause of crime, 15.6 percent said crime infested environment was the cause of crime in Gboko, while the remaining 14.6 percent were of the view that unemployment is also a major cause of crime in Gboko Metropolis. By implication, the table clearly points to economic hardship as the prime cause of crime in Gboko metropolis.

Findings from the FGD participants on the causes of crimes among Gboko residents of Benue State

A male participant from Gboko West opined that:

The socio-economic organization of the Nigerian society is the root cause of crime. The Nigeria socio-economic relations are characterized by high level of social stratification, competition and exploitation.

Another participant, a female from Gboko North added that,

The Nigerian capitalist economy creates a situation which warrants wealth accumulation and control of resources by few individual to the detriment of the masses who are the majority. The masses who are the majority are continually exploited and relegated to the background discriminated against on the basis of social class relations. She went further that, the frustration and dilemma or the predicaments created by the unfavorable capitalist economic conditions like unemployment, retrenchment; inflation etc. has been the driving force for people involvement into criminality which is the case of Gboko Metropolis.

Another participant, a male from Gboko central asserts

That broken relationships amongst families have been seen as a major factor responsible for criminal behavior among youths. Children who grew up in a broken home, are more prone to crime in an environment because they lack the parental care and supervision, hence this is view as major cause of crime in Gboko Metropolis.

Table 4.15: Nature of Relationship between Crime and socio-economic implication on residents

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Positive	282	97.9
Negative	5	1.8
No relationship	1	0.3
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Respondents were asked the kind of relationship that exists between crime and socio-economic implication on residents in Gboko. The perceived responses were categorized as shown in table 4.15 above. The above table illustrates the kind of relationship that existed between both. 97.9 percent said the relationship between crime and socio-economic implication is positive, 1.8 percent said the relationship is negative while 0.3 percent respondent said there is no relationship existing between both. By implication, this is an affirmative that there is actually a relationship existing between crime and socio-economic implication and that this relationship is positive.

A female participant from Gboko central ward believed that

Crime has a very strong positive relationship with the socio –economic nature of a place in that when crime is at high rate, the economic activities of such a place cease to function as everyone is faced with fear and as a result find it difficult to invest much in his/her business.

Another male participant of the FGD from Gboko north ward said

Crime have a strong nexus and bond with socio-economic implication because most of the crime committed in Gboko like thuggery, drug addition, prostitution, arm robbery, kidnapping, assassination, pilfering shoplifting, phone snatching, vandalism of public properties, battering and other shady deals causes economic hardship and retards development

Almost all participant in the FGD session concurred that there exists a strong positive relationship between crime and socio – economic implication i.e. crime is very much related to the socio – economic nature of a place and vice versa. To them, crime is one of the many consequences of economic hardship.

Table 4.16 Attitude of Gboko Resident towards crime

Attitudes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Extravagant lifestyle	283	98.2
Laizerfare attitude	5	1.8
Total	288	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.16 shows that 98.2 percent respondent attributed their crime effect to their attitudes which is manifested in their extravagant lifestyle while there maining 1.8 percent where of the notion that Gboko residents have a laizerfare attitude towards crime. By implication, the result indicates that Gboko resident are being affected by crime as a result of their extravagant lifestyle.

Table 4.17: Responses on the kind of criminal activities most prevalent in Gboko Metropolis

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Drug Abuse	20	6.9
Robbery	73	25.4
Kidnapping/ Abduction	56	19.5
Murder	40	13.9
Theft	28	9.7
Assault	22	7.6
Arson	24	8.3
Vandalism	25	8.7
Total	288	100.0

Source: (Field Survey, 2018)

Respondent were ask the most criminal activities in Gboko metropolis. Their responses in table 4.17 shows that 6.9 percent respondent sees drug abuse as one of the criminal activities going on in Gboko Metropolis, 25.4 respondent attest to the fact that robbery also prevalent in Gboko Metropolis, 19.5 percent respondent pointed out kidnapping/Abduction as a prevalent crime in Gboko, 13.9 percent of the respondent also sees murder to be a most prevalent crime in Gboko , theft had 9.7 percent respondent, assault 7.6 percent respondent, arson 8.3 percent respondents while the remaining 8.7 percent of respondents were also of the view that vandalism is also the most prevalent crime in Gboko metropolis. By implication, the table point to robbery, kidnapping/abduction and murder as the most prevalent crimes in Gboko metropolis.

FGD finding on the most prevalent crime in Gboko Metropolis, A female participant from Gboko Central said that:

Robbery in Gboko Metropolis has become every day and almost ten houses are robbed every night and yet the security agents do nothing about it, The perpetrators of this act are thugs who were given guns during elections and those who gave them guns to snatch election boxes have failed to give them jobs and now they are using those guns to make ends meet.

Another male participant from Gboko West said that

These days robbers go to banks and join queue as if they want to withdraw on ATM and they keep watching on who withdraws large amount of money and thereafter they follow the person to his or her destination and the moment you stop, they point guns at you and ask you to give them your money.

Table 4.18: Responses on the effects of crime on Gboko residents

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
It turns Gboko into a fearful area	72	25
It hinders growth and development	63	21.9
It wastes public funds	53	18.4
It leads to loss of lives and properties	33	11.5
It leads to civil unrest	25	8.7
It creates tension	42	14.5
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.18 shows the major effect of crime on Gboko residents. 21.9 percent said crime is hindering growth and development in Gboko, 14.5 percent said it is creating tension in Gboko, 25 percent of respondents said it has turned Gboko Metropolis into a fearful area, 8.7 percent said it is leading to civil unrest in Gboko, 21.8 percent said crime is wasting funds meant for general public, while 11.5 percent said it leads to loss of lives and properties in Gboko Metropolis. By implication, the major effect of crime in Gboko is that, it seriously turns Gboko metropolis into a fearful area.

On the effect of crime, the people of Gboko who were interviewed have these to say:

Crime has affected me so much. My husband was killed during a robbery attack and I was raped at the same time. I'm now a widow with five children to take care of. Catering for these children and making sure they acquire good education without their father is not a small task. Each time I flash back over that incident; I feel it would

have been better to join the husband because I'm always heartbroken and fear grips her heart always.

Another participant, a man from Gboko Central said:

I was not born with paralyzed legs, but I'm on wheel chair today because of an armed robbery incident that took place some years ago and also took two of his sons' lives. For me to be alive today has cost him much money and pains which has greatly affected my business as much money was spent for the treatment of his legs. The death of his two sons and my inability to walk makes me cry and think of evil plans in his heart.

Other FGD participants who were mostly businessmen have this to say:

Crime has dealt with us to such an extent that nobody has trust on the other as everybody lives in fear as nobody knows what will happen next, to them, their stores have been broken and made away with goods worth billions of naira put together on several occasions without the security agents doing nothing about it. This has made them not to invest much in their stores which they feel is a set back to Gboko to when talking about development.

Table 4.19: Response on factors that hinder crime prevention and in Gboko metropolis

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Uncooperative attitude of the public with police force	46	15.1
Unfriendly attitude of the police force	42	14.6
Bribery and corruption	34	11.9
Inadequate equipment	84	29.2
Lack of motivation for the police	82	28.5
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.19 above shows responses that prevent crime in Gboko metropolis. 15.1 percent of the respondents said there is an uncooperative attitude of the public with the police, 14.6 percent said that the police officers have unfriendly attitude, 11.9 percent emphasized much on bribery and corruption, 29.2 percent of the respondents also made mention of inadequate equipment as a factor hindering crime control, while the remaining 28.5 percent are of the opinion that the police are not well motivated to carry out their job effectively. By implication, the table shows that inadequate equipment and lack of motivation for the police are the reasons why crime prevention proves abortive

Table 4.20: Response on the effort made by the law enforcement agents on crime control

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
High	20	6.9
Average	130	45.2
Low	138	47.9
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.20 shows clearly the views of respondents over the effort made by law enforcement agencies on crime control, 6.9 percent said the effort made by the law enforcement agents was high, 45.2 percent said their effort was average, while 47.9 percent said their effort was low. By implication, the result implies that efforts made by law enforcement agencies are not encouraging and by so doing, crime thus prevails.

Table 4.21: Suggested approaches to crime prevention/control in Gboko

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Elimination approach	192	66.7
Target hardening approach	21	7.3
Modification approach	46	15.1
Security consciousness	15	5.3
Building of fence with burglary wires	14	4.7
Total	288	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Respondents were asked on how crime can be prevented or controlled in Gboko. Responses were categorized as shown in table 4.21 above. The result indicates that 66.7 percent said crime can be controlled in Gboko through elimination approach, 7.3 percent said target hardening approach is the right way of controlling crime in Gboko, 15.1 percent of respondents stands for modification approach, 5.3 percent said residents should always be security conscious, 4.7 percent of respondents were of the notion that houses should be fenced with burglary wires. By implication, the people of Gboko suggest that elimination approach is the right mechanism to be applied in controlling crime in Gboko.

Test of Hypotheses of the Study

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between poverty and increase in crime in Gboko metropolis.

This hypothesis is tested using table 4.14, 4.15, 4.6 and 4.20

Decision Rule: Accept the null hypothesis (H_0) if X^2_{cal} is less than X^2_{tab}

From table 4.14 it has shown that economic hardship 32.6percent has led to increase in crime in table 4.13 with 79.5percent which is one of the major causes of crime in Gboko metropolis. A chi-square test of significance at .05percent revealed that the calculated chi-square is 145.08 while the table chi-square is 7.81. We reject the claim that there is no relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime in Gboko metropolis. The finding therefore proves that, there is a relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime. Table 4.15 discusses the nature of the relationship. The responses showed that 97.9percent were in agreement that the relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime in Gboko is positive. A chi-square test of significance at .05percent revealed that the calculated chi-square 460.3 while the tabulated chi-square is 5.99. We reject the claim that there is no relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime in Gboko metropolis. The finding therefore proves that, there is a relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime. The three tables used here clearly indicate that the respondents have seen a relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime. The chi-square tests confirm the significance of the relationship.

One of the female FGD participants from Gboko Central ward believed that:

Crime has a very strong positive relationship with economic meltdown because in an environment where there is hardship, people are left with no choice than to indulge in crime as the fastest and available means for survival.

Another male participant of the FGD from Gboko North ward said

Crime has a strong nexus and bond with economic meltdown because most of the crimes committed in Gboko like thuggery, drug addiction, prostitution, armed robbery, kidnapping, assassination, pilfering, shoplifting, phone snatching, 419, vandalism of public properties, battering and other shady deals is as a result of economic hardship.

Almost all participants in the FGD session concurred that there exists a strong positive relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime i.e. crime is very much related to the socio-economic nature of a place and vice versa. To them, economic hardship is one of the major causes of crime.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between the attitude of Gboko residents towards crime and its effect on them.

This hypothesis is tested using table 4.16

Decision Rule: Accept the null hypothesis (H₀) if X^2_{cal} is less than X^2_{tab}

From table 4.16 it has shown that 98.2percent respondents attributed their crime effect to their attitudes which is in their extravagant lifestyle, spending above their income during ceremonial functions. A chi-square test of significance at .05percent revealed that the calculated chi-square is 463.2 while the table chi-square is 7.81. We reject the claim that there is no significant relationship between the attitude of Gboko residents towards crime and its effect on them. The finding therefore proves that, there is a relationship between the attitude of Gboko residents towards crime and its effect on them.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between effort made by the law enforcement agents on crime control and its impact on Gboko residents.

This hypothesis is tested using table 4.20

Decision Rule: Accept the null hypotheses (H_0) if X^2_{cal} is less than X^2_{tab}

From table 4.20 it has shown that 47.9percent respondents said the effort made by law enforcement agents is low. A chi-square test of significance at 05percent revealed that the calculated Chi-square is 98.2 while the table chi-square is 7.81. We reject the claim that there is no significant relationship between effort made on crime control and its impact on Gboko residents. The finding therefore proves that, there is a relationship between effort made by the law enforcement agents on crime control and its impact on Gboko residents.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

The study examines the causes of Crime in Gboko Metropolis of Benue State. One of the findings of this study shows that males were in majority with 54.5percent while the remaining 45.5percent were females. This shows a good representation of both sexes. The findings further indicate that married people were in majority with 68.8percent while the remaining 31.2percent fell in other marital status categories. It was discovered from occupational status of respondents that those with work constituted 86.1percent while the remaining 13.9percent fell under unemployed. This result indicates clearly that most of the respondents were working class people.

The study proves that HND/B.sc holders were in majority with 27.8percent while 23.6percent have M.sc and above. Looking at table 4.5 and 4.6 above one can conclude

that the 87.5percent are educated and are involved in trading/farming while others are civil servants.

This study shows that Gboko residents understand the meaning of crime and the fact that crime is inevitably present in the study area. Table 4.7 revealed that 52.1percent which is majority sees crime to mean violation of acts that are legislated against while the remaining 47.9percent sees it otherwise. Table 4.8 with 100percent is in affirmative that there is crime in Gboko. This finding proves that the people understand the meaning of crime and that crime is inevitably present in Gboko. Alemika (2011) uphold that crime means violation of acts/rules which are legislated upon and are agreed to be respected by all members of the society, and upon which the rest members of the society mete sanction upon those guilty of the violation.

The study indicates that the major cause of crime in Gboko is the economic hardship with 32.6percent while poor socialization, peer group influence, employment and crime infested environment are other causes. Ityavyar (2010) and Anthony (2013) believed that the family institution underwent many changes during industrialization and the present technological advancement coupled with recession that force mothers from the comfort of being home care taker into the public sphere leaving the children in the hands of care givers, where less care and inadequate socialization occurs resulting to criminalities in most cases.

This study also discovered that the major effect of crime on Gboko people is turning Gboko into a fearful area with 25percent, while others are loss of lives and properties with 11.5percent, civil unrest, waste of public funds, creates tension and it hinders growth

and development in the study area and beyond. Zumve (2005) argued that crime pose double tragedy for instance, armed robbery constitutes taking away one's property and also has the possibility of causing bodily injury or even death. Apart from this, the further asserts, crimes waste public funds, creates high tension/fear, brings about civil unrest, hinders growth and development and is very devastating, compounding and difficult to manage. The study revealed that the perceived major suggested approaches to crime control in Gboko are elimination approach with 74.4percent, modification approach and target hardening approach. Yecho (2007) holds that for crimes in Nigeria to be well controlled and adequately managed, the elimination, modification and target hardening approaches must be adopted since one approach may not effectively handle it.

It was revealed from table 4.9 that there exists a relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime on residents with 79.5percent in affirmation and table 4.10 further confirms with 97.7percent in agreement that the relationship is positive. Therefore, this study has proven that there is a strong positive relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime and on Gboko residents. It was revealed in table 4.11 that there exist a relationship between the attitude of Gboko residents towards crime and its effect on them as 98.2percent attributed their attitude towards their way of life of extravagant lifestyle in the area. It was also revealed in table 4.15 that there exists a relationship between effort made by the law enforcement agents on crime control and its impact on Gboko residents , because since the effort on crime control is low, crime seems to have taken over and the residents of Gboko are the ones suffering it.

The finding further revealed that factors such as uncooperative attitude of the public with the police force, bribery and corruption, inadequate equipment's to fight crime and lack

of motivation for the police are hindering crime prevention and control in Gboko local government.

All the three hypotheses tested for this study were rejected. The first hypothesis proved that there is a relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime on Gboko residents. The second hypothesis revealed that there is a relationship between the attitude of Gboko residents towards crime and its effect on them. The third hypothesis shows that there is a relationship between effort made by the law enforcement agents on crime control and its impact on Gboko residents.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter covers the summary of findings, conclusion and made some useful recommendation on how crime can be managed and controlled among the Gboko residents.

5.1 Summary of Findings

This study is based on the factors responsible for crime in Gboko metropolis, Benue State. The general objective is to examine the causes of crime in Gboko metropolis, to examine the kind of criminal activities most prevalent in Gboko metropolis, to examine the effects of criminal activities on Gboko residence, to examine the factors that hinder crime prevention and control in Gboko metropolis, to identify ways or strategies for controlling criminal activities in Gboko metropolis.

The literature reviewed for this study centered on the concept of crime, the types of crime, causes of crime in Nigeria, effects of crime, manifestation of crime, factors that hinder crime prevention and control, suggested strategies for crime control, Anomie theoretical perspective and rational choice theory where adopted for the study. The methodology discourse covered the research setting, research design, and sample size determination formula, population of the study, sampling techniques, method of data collection, and method of data analysis.

The following were the major findings of the study: Majority of the Gboko residents that responded to the interviews admitted that there is high level of crime in Gboko

metropolis. They conceived crime to mean violation of acts legislated against and deviation from societal norms and values which implies that they already have the idea of what crime is.

They attributed the causes of crime to peer group influence, poor socialization, economic hardship, drug abuse, crime infested environment and unemployment, other factors from the FGD session includes parenting style, partisan politics and socio economic influence.

From the findings, the rate of occurrence of major form of crime in Gboko can be ranked as follows – Armed Robbery –Kidnapping /abduction, Murder, Arson, Burglary, theft, assault and rape. Incidence of crime against person is also found to be higher than on properties in Gboko for the period under study. This finding is at variance with some finding in other studies. Clarke (1993) position that economic development increases criminal opportunities with respect to property crime, e.g., theft, robbery, burglary, etc. because personal property is now more valuable and portable. And as the valuable good become more widely distributed in society, the consciousness of risk and need for protection become more generalized. However, this finding will be understood from the point that most people tend to resist being dispossessed of their property to leading to grievous harm or even death in some cases.

The major effect of crime on Gboko residents were loss of lives and properties, fear, tension, slow pace of growth and development and wastage of both public and private funds.

It was observed that there exists a very close relationship between economic meltdown and increase in crime is a nexus (i.e. it has a direct link). The finding also proves that the

relationship between economic hardships is that it increases the level of crime. This is so because the finding proved that there is a very strong positive relationship between both.

It was further revealed that factors such as uncooperative attitude of the public with the police force, unfriendly attitude of the police force, bribery and corruption, inadequate equipment's to fight crime and lack of motivation for the police are hindering crime prevention and control in Gboko local government.

In suggesting measure to manage and control crime, the government should always provide the law enforcement agencies with an enabling environment to fight or combat crime by providing them with all the necessary equipment's and not just the equipment's but the sophisticated ones.

5.2 Conclusion

From the finding of this study, majority of the respondent attested that crime has negative effect on Gboko residents. they posits that the high level of economic hardships in the area has led to high level of crime, which in turn has led to poverty, slow pace of development, hunger low aspiration, and death; high level of debt, vandalisation of public properties, brought about sorrow and unhappiness to some home as the incidence keep flashing in their mind, made some married couples widows, widowers and children orphans, and some residents relocated to other places. Measure suggested in managing and controlling the problem of crime in this study be seen as valid statement and as such, it should be considered as solution to the problem in order to accomplish the major aim and objectives of this research.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the finding of this study, the following recommendations were made by the researcher with the hope that their implementation will help managed and control the phenomenon of crime in Gboko Metropolis.

- i. A revisit of the Nigerian value system from the behaviouralist perspective is of paramount importance in the prevention and control of crime in Nigeria. Deviant related values like “the end justified the means” must be promptly reformed, so as to disabuse the minds of the people from adopting crime as an alternative means for actualizing their socio – political and economic aspiration or goals.
- ii. Unemployment is also seen as one of the causes of crime in Gboko Metropolis and the country at large, provision of loans to unemployed youths/ graduates to start up as small and medium term entrepreneurs (SMEs), education for self- reliance, expansion of agriculture by introducing mechanized farming will entice the youths into farming diversify the economy and create jobs, promoting youths initiative programs like You-WIN, N-power and youths lottery programme (YLP) will keep most unemployed youths busy and reduce both unemployment and crime; building skill acquisition on apprentice on graduation like sure-p will drastically reduce unemployment and crimes.
- iii. The government should always provide the law enforcement agencies with an enabling environment to fight or combat crime by providing them with all the necessary equipment and not just the equipment and not just the equipment but the sophisticated ones.

- iv. Law enforcement agents who have served in a particular place for about five years should be transfer in order to avoid familiarity as it was observed that robbers gain familiarity with police officers who have stayed in a particular place for years and as such allowed robbers to rob even at broad day light.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

This research work is an addition to already existing literature on the effects of crime on the people of Gboko metropolis Benue State. The findings from this work confirmed that, there exists a strong positive connection between economic hardships and crime which has negatively affected the people of Gboko. That there are certain characteristics associated with Gboko residents that have made crime to be rampant which in turn has much effect on them.

Theoretically, the study will add to the body of knowledge on effective strategies for managing or controlling crime problems in Gboko and beyond. It will also serve as a platform on which further studies will be built upon by other scholars, researchers, writers and students who may desire to focus on other related areas to this research work. The findings from this research endeavor will serve as a blue print for crime management or control across the globe

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APPENDIX I

Nasarawa State University, Keffi

P.M.B. 1022

Keffi

Nasarawa State Nigeria.

Dear respondent

I am an M.Sc student of the Department of Sociology, Nasarawa State University, Keffi currently carrying out a research on the topic “**Analysis of Factors Responsible for Crime in Gboko Metropolis, Benue State.**” In partial completion for the award of M.Sc Sociology Degree. Your information will help achieve this purpose and as such it will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used specially for the purpose of this research. You are kindly requested to provide answers to the following question by filling in your option in the respective spaces provided.

Thanks.

Yours faithfully,

Ishaya Dogara

QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: Socio – Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex: Male :() Female: ()
2. Age (in years): Less than 25 () 25-34 () 35-54 () 55 and above ()
3. Marital status : Single () married () separated / divorced ()
4. Education attainment: No formal education () primary education () secondary ()
Tertiary Education ()
5. Employment status: Employed () Unemployed () others
Specify.....
6. Religion: Christianity () Islam () African Traditional Religion ()

Section B: Data on Sociological Analysis of Crime

7. Is there crimes in this area (a) Yes () (b) No () Undecided ()
8. What is the common type of crime in the area? Armed robbery () Drug abuse ()
Prostitution () Burglary ()
9. Perceptions of crime trends among residents in Gboko Metropolis, crime rate in the
past five years (a) Increase () Decrease ()
10. Decrease in incidence in types of crime in past five years Violent crime ()
Property crime ()

Section C: Public perception of crime and Police Performance in Gboko Metropolis

11. Public perception of safety in Gboko Metropolis (a) Feel safe walking alone in Neighborhood after dark () (b) Feel safe at home after dark ()

12. Perception of most common Crimes in Gboko Metropolis (a) Theft of motor vehicle () (b) Theft of property () (c) Pick pocketing / Bag snatching () (d) Home breaking () (e) Murder () (f) Robbery () (g) Assault () (h) others ()

13. Most feared crime in Gboko Metropolis (a) Theft of property () (b) House breaking () (c) Murder () (d) Robbery () (e) Assault () (f) Others ()

14. Public perception of police performance in crime control (a) Very good () (b) fairly good () (c) fairly poor job () (d) very poor job

15. Police helpfulness to citizens in crime control (a) Strongly agree () (b) Agree () (c) Strongly disagree () (d) Disagree

16. Police performance in past five (5) years (a) Improved () (b) worsened () same level, no change () (c) don't know ()

17. Percentage of victims who reported their victimization to the police and type of crime (a) Murder () (b) Automobile robbery () (c) Auto mobile theft () (d) Theft or stealing () (e) Sexual offences (f) Assault () (g) Cheating () (h) others

18. Reasons for reporting crime to the police (a) Insurance claim () (b) To recover lost property () (c) Crime is a serious problem that should be reported () (d) Apprehension and punishment of offender () (e) To stop it happening again () (f) To get help from the police

19. Reasons for not reporting victimization (a) Incident not very serious () (b) solved it knew offender () (c) Family solved it () (d) police wouldn't do anything – no sufficient evidence () (d) Police would not do anything ()

20. Satisfied with police handling of report of crime (a) yes (b) no

21. Reasons for dissatisfaction with police handling of report (a) Did not do enough to solve the crime () (b) Did not recover good () (c) Did not inform me of progress in investigation () (e) Impolite to me () (f) Slow to respond or arrive ()