

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC AND ECOLOGICAL PUSH/PULL AS SUSTAINING FACTORS INTO YOUTH GANG VIOLENCE IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The reoccurrence decimal of violent activities among the youth is a global concern because of the negating contributive indexes associated with the menace. The ever-increasing nature of youth involvement in violent activities had contributed to fear and tension among mankind which has negate effect in socioeconomic and political development. Extant literature was adopted to shed insight to submissions of scholars with the use of ecological theory by Shaw and Mckay. Mixed method was adopted while 347 of the sample size for the quantitative data were selected among inmates in Ikoyi and Kirikiri correctional facilities using Taro Yemane sample size formula 36 qualitative data were collected from gang members, correctional warders, community elders, police officers and vigilantes using key informant and in-depth interviews in Lagos. The study concluded that ecological characteristics ($B=0.094$; $t=4.010$; $P<0.05$) and community policing practice ($B=0.006$; $t=0.216$; $P>0.05$). play significant role influencing youths' involvement in gang violent activities while sociodemographic characteristics ($B=1.100$; $t=62.027$; $P<0.05$) does not influence youth gang violent activities. The composite contribution of the independent variables predicts gang violence at 0.05% of the total variance as the predictors of gang violence ($R=0.973$, $r\text{-square}=0.947$, Adjusted $R\text{ square}=0.947$; $F_{3,348}=2044.697$. The youth should engage in creativity rather wasting time on joining negating activities, family social network bonding system should be encouraged to ensure and restore societal value, the governmental agents and nongovernmental organizations should encourage development of entrepreneurship programmes to bring out hidden potential of the youths

Keywords- Sociodemographic, Ecological, Community Policing practice, youth gang violence

INTRODUCTION

The reoccurrence of global violent activities among youths in the developed and developing countries cannot be relegated to the background because of the negative threats experienced from the menace. According to De-Pedro et al. (2016); Das (2019); Decker et al. (2013) among others violent activities are frequently linked to high rates of crime and delinquency in both developing and developed countries. The uncontrollable reoccurrence of violent activities causes fear and tension among the populace, reduces social cohesion, and negatively impacts businesses. Therefore, preventive interventions should be planned to concentrate on juvenile social prevention and capacity building through the use of community policing to actively prevent or eliminate crime or violence among kids before it occurs. These preventive strategies can involve keeping young people out of gangs that will push them toward destructive behavior, cutting down on recidivism, or working to rehabilitate gang members outside of the criminal justice system

In Africa, numerous social vices have emerged as a result of the fast urbanization, including crime, which has spread to urban areas in both Nigeria and other African countries. The rise in crime was ultimately directly related to the rapid urbanization since unemployment rates have been rising, driving up living costs and causing housing issues (homelessness). All of these societal issues also contribute to a variety of urban crimes. (Usman et al., 2012; Ajaegbe, 2012; Soh, 2012; Abdullahi, 2016; Okafor, 2011). Urban environments, where conformity and criminal behavior can be found, are exceedingly varied in all of its socio-cultural and economic repercussions. According to Matzopoulos et al., (2019) all types of deviance thrive in urban settings because there are more people who support these subculture practices in order to satisfy their own desires. This will have an impact on the generally accepted culture of urban development,

Studies conducted by past scholars comprehensible emphasized on the importance of community involvement in security success. For example, Koleosho & Adeyinka 2006; Aborisade;

(2015) Aborisade & Adeleke, (2022) and Mundia, (2016), explained that transience weakens voluntary organization, reducing formal and informal sources of social control. But Aborisade. (2016), asserts that in maintaining effective security, membership in voluntary organizations including churches and mosques, vigilante groups, and landlord-tenant associations depends on attachments, which weaken in areas with high rates of transience. While Ogunmefun & Olawunmi (2024) posits that once there is or are decrease in the level of community monitoring, safety of its members or neighborhoods lacking community supports it will affect effective social control within the neighborhood. This is because the neighborhoods will continue to welcome visitors, making it difficult for the locals to recognize when someone doesn't reside in a building they are entering. In addition, occupant of a room or apartment may not be able to tell the exact number of other occupants of the same apartment. However, in a more stable neighborhood, it will be fairly simple to spot newcomers as long-term inhabitants can generally recognize one another.

When analyzing the concerns of violent crime committed by youths and its effects, on community safety, opinionated. Ogunmefun et al (2022) asserts that when violence permeates daily life, trauma frequently occurs and people start to alter their routines. For fear of being victimized, they may restrict their mobility or their investment in commercial ventures. If individuals feel unsafe engaging in some forms of solidarity, particularly in relation to their economic activity, they may also stop doing so (Aborisade & Sunday, 2018; Ogunmefun, 2020). Trauma can also develop a life of its own, spawning brand-new social norms in which victims basically re-enact the trauma by using violence against other members of their families or communities. The most fundamental trust in any general framework of shared values that may have existed is undermined and eroded by these cycles of violence. People who experience trauma frequently describe sentiments of being lost or losing faith in the fundamental rules of society (Lederach 2010). The end outcome is frequently a reduction in community involvement, especially in collective action.

For Ogunmefun & Okuneye (2020), unemployment and financial difficulties have led to a large number of "jobless youths, some of whom are graduates, into various deadly crimes." Katsina (2013) found that unemployment is the key factor contributing to "corruption and the escalation of crimes in urban areas throughout Nigeria." According to Soh (2012), unemployment and crime are inextricably linked, regardless of where in the world you are. He also contends that factors such as poverty, uncertain employment, high living expenses, financial hardships, a lack of educational possibilities, poor health and sanitization, and substandard housing have an impact on urban crime (Aborisade, 2017, Ogunmefun, 2020). Additionally, he goes on to explain that the weakening of the legal system makes it more likely for crimes to be committed in most developing nations.

According to financial hardships, the reasons why young people and adults engage in criminal behavior differ. However, compared to adults, many young people have more economic needs and criminal activity interests (Lochner, 2011; Das, 2019). However, there may be many other factors that determine youths' involvement in criminal activity, such as enjoyment, excitement, entertainment, and pleasure (Ogunmefun 2020). Although adolescents tend to report that the main motivation of their involvement in criminal activity is economic and financial benefits

Omede and Odiba (2010) state that one of the key elements that can contribute to growth and development in Nigeria is the amount of time parents invest in the moral and academic upbringing of their kids. They also assert that factors like family income, status, and prestige should have an impact on the behavior that kids exhibit at all levels. Therefore, it can be said that a child's attitude toward receiving a high-quality education is positively correlated with the educational level of their parents. When trying to learn about moral behavior, children from low socioeconomic backgrounds may be at a disadvantage due to differences in their parents' parenting techniques (Rwechumgura, 2010). Power, status, and social position are also taken into consideration in another review. According to Poipoi et al. (2011), social class is determined by factors like behavior, money, occupation, education, and lifestyle, all of which have significant

effects on parents' ability to raise their children in any given culture. However, rather than getting involved in a criminal act or crime scene, children of illiterate parents may come to grips with themselves and create circumstances that will finally alter their living situations to a better footing in terms of education.

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

Ecological theory is associated with different scholars, notable among them are Robert Park (1922) and Burges (1928) and Shaw and McKay (1942). According to Park, a city should not be examined as buildings in a particular geographic location nor as institutions. He further explains the importance of the ties between people and their community and how they interact brings about togetherness for the survival of all. For Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay (1942), ecological factor theory which adopts human ecology to study the relationship between urban ecological factors and crime or delinquent acts. They added value to the work of the ecological theory when they advance and measure the official levels of juvenile crime rates and records of environment where delinquent actors lived but not where the crime or delinquent activities was committed. On this premises the tenets of the theory were listed below:

- They are able to find that the rate of delinquency was consistent with an ordered spatial pattern – This is because the higher rate of delinquent or crime were prevalence in the city centre of the city or industrial locations.
- Spatial pattern in the urban centres were revealed by various other indexes of social problem
- Spatial pattern of delinquency rates is more stable in industrialized environment through the structure of the population in the inner-city area
- In the inner-city areas, delinquent behaviour will increase through the development of network of interpersonal relationships from either the family, gangs, and the neighbourhood.

They claimed that the crime rate of a particular area over time remained constant in spite of the vast changes in the inhabitants of that area. The central zones retained their high crime rate even when the ethnic origins of the inhabitants are completely changed. The implication is that the individual that live in high crime rate zone became more law-abiding as they moved away from the centre. From all these they concluded that the delinquency rate was more as a result of economic position and living environment than of racial or ethnic characteristics. In making this claim, they were not saying that the cause of criminality was location, but instead that it is prone to happen in certain types of areas or neighbourhoods. They certainly did not claim that all members of a neighbourhood would be criminal. They realised that factors other than the area affected individual decisions about participation in crime.

In relation to Nigeria, Shaw and McKay (1942) identified five aspects of urban neighbourhoods that characterise high deviance areas of cities, which are population density, poverty, mixed use, transience and dilapidation. The application of the neighbourhood characteristics to the Nigerian urban areas as regards the causes of deviance is one of the aims of Shaw and McKay. The urban areas in Nigeria, inadvertently, attract more manpower than it can actually control and cater for in term of human development. This is seen as a breeding ground with a surge in urban deviance, because of the desperate actions of some able-bodied youths for survival, which may degenerate into criminality and a high level of insecurity in the country.

In Nigeria, able bodied youths are willing to work but face the challenges of scarce job for maintaining survival. Such anomic situation may increase individual tendency to engage in crime or delinquent actions. Evidence gathered from past and recent publications suggests that Nigeria, as a country, is unable to maintain proper statistical records of her population size and distribution of societal resources equally to her societal members. The anomic situation will, hence, provide

cases of how congestion in the cities can facilitate the incidences of criminality and deviance within specific geographic environments. This is mainly due to the politicization of the several attempts by the government to initiate processes that would ensure that all citizens are registered and data on all persons are compiled. Consequently, there is very little knowledge of spatial distribution of the country, leading to the perennial failures of the government in checking the rural-urban migration, as the urban areas now accommodate a greater percentage of the population of the country. Not only are there no reliable statistics that document the precise residency of people within the urban areas, but the pattern of inter-city movements is hardly factored into projections.

The central argument of the ecological theory in the study is that gang violence activities were tied to some neighbourhood orientation rather than personal characteristics of people that live in them. This is because in some communities in Lagos state, Nigeria, some community elders and members gave support to some of the reasons behind the violence carried by the youths in their various community. This is because it is perceived as a community's right to fight against dominance and oppression by other communities in their various localities. Others may observe gang violence from the ethnicity point of view in their various cultural environments on a daily basis. It shows that in some areas, communities tied with youths sometime encourage criminal activity where the criminal or delinquent act of gang violence would not be considered as criminal or wrong within the cultural environment, where such activities were committed. To buttress this assertion, Ordway and Ogundele (2006) posit that the consequence of urban population whose size and composition are unknown is the development and growth of urban deviance and criminality as welfare measures of the state will be grossly inadequate in such areas. Consequently, the creation of criminogenic atmosphere as an outcome of unrecorded urban inhabitants, which has high rates of unemployment, heterogeneity, crowding, conspicuous consumption is inevitable (Ogunmefun, 2020). It is pertinent to also note that, within the Nigerian urban centres, there is a close relationship between children raised in densely populated slums and low level of education. This is a factor that maintains the cycle of poverty and, by extension, the strengthening of criminogenic atmosphere. In conclusion, the people that reside in dense neighbourhoods will serve as inferior role models to one another while, if they were to reside in less dense area, they will be more respectable, as their embarrassing 'secrets' will not become public knowledge. The most likely deviant behaviours that the kids can be exposed to as a result of such moral crisis include bullying, violent fight, use of abusive words, foul language and lack of respect for elders and low moral standard.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research method adopted for this study is anchored on the use of mixed methods (Qualitative and quantitative). Descriptive, (Frequency, percentages) inferential (Multinomial regression) and exploratory (In-depth interviews, key informant and content review) research designs were adopted for the collection of information from the inmates in the Ikoyi and Kirikiri correctional facilities in Lagos state. The study is carried out in Lagos state corrections namely Kirikiri and Ikoyi corrections while interviews were conducted in three local government namely Mushin, Oshodi and Alimosho Local government areas in Lagos state and some market zones in each of the local government areas selected for the study. (Ojuwoye market, Oshodi Answani market and Akowonjo markets) The total estimation of the inmates in Ikoyi and kirikiri corrections is 7264 as at 2020 in Nigeria. The sample size of the inmates sampled is taken from Taro Yemane sample size formula in 1963 which is summed to 400 but after screening, editing and coding 347 was found useful in the structured questionnaires served among the inmates at Ikoyi and Kirikiri corrections in Lagos while 10 percent of the 400 estimation for quantitative data was use to collect 40 qualitative semistructured samples from the inmates, community elders, market men and women in three different local government areas selected in Lagos state.. Probability (Simple

random) was use for the collection of quantitative data while nonprobability sample technique (Purposive and snowball) was used for the collection of verbal information from the respondents. All ethical approval was sorted from Lagos state Ministry of Justice, Lagos State Correctional Service, Alimosho local government, Oshodi/Isolo local government and Alimosho local government areas in Lagos state. The data collected from the distributed structured questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive (frequency and percentages) while in inferential statistic was analyzed using inferential (multinomial regression) For the in-depth and key informant information collected from the inmates at Ikoyi and kirikiri, market men and women, community elders in Alimosho, Oshodi/Isolo and Mushin Local government were analyzed using content systematic analysis in line with the stated research questions

RESULTS

The table below is anchored on various predisposing factors that propelled youth engagement in gang activities. In the inquiry data collected from the inmates were presented using dimensions frequency, percentages and Likert 5-point rating scales. More so, this section covers summary of rotated component, dimension reduction factor analysis, communalities, test of hypotheses and verbal data collected from the respondents were interpreted using content method of analysis in the study selected

Table 1; Propellant sociodemographic Characteristics of the Participants

S/N	Variables	Dimensions (A), (SA), (D), (SD) & (U) Frequency n=347 Percentages 100%					
	Option	(A) Agree	(SA) Strongly Agree	(D) Disagree	(SD) Strongly Disagree	(U) Undecided	Total
1	Age is one of the reasons that make youth join bad gang	123 35.4	39 11.2	105 30.3	54 15.6	25 7.7	347 100.0
2	People that join bad gang are from poor family backgrounds	66 19.0	82 23.6	99 28.5	73 21.1	27 7.8	347 100.0
3	Most youths that join gang has no job or business they are doing	119 34.3	85 24.5	85 24.5	33 9.5	25 7.2	347 100.0
4	People that join gangs do not go to Church or Mosque to worship God	69 19.9	69 19.9	121 34.8	67 19.3	21 6.1	347 100.0
5	Youths that join gangs have no wives or children at home	90 25.9	55 15.9	108 31.1	73 21.0	21 6.1	347 100.0
6	Bad behaviour that youth do today is learned from their friends	177 51.0	78 22.5	44 12.7	16 4.6	32 9.2	347 100.0
7	Youths join gangs because they want to be respected in their community	141 40.6	91 26.2	48 13.8	38 11.0	29 8.4	347 100.0
8	The main reason for joining a gang or group is because of protection	143 41.2	74 21.3	59 17.1	32 9.2	39 11.2	347 100.0
9	People want to be identified with a group that carries out gang activities	152 43.8	61 17.6	72 20.7	27 7.8	35 10.1	347 100.0
10	Youths join gangs because they want to make money from their violent actions	131 37.8	56 16.1	84 24.2	43 12.4	33 9.5	347 100.0
11	Youths join gangs because they have experienced abuse before in their lifetime	157 45.2	68 19.6	62 17.9	36 10.4	24 6.9	347 100.0

Source- Fieldwork Reports 2020

The result from the table above deciphers some of the factors that predisposed youths into gang violent activities. The first factor inquired is on how age propels youths to join gang activities, the result shows that 123(35.4%) agree 105(30.3%) disagree 54 (15.6%) strongly disagree, 39 (11.2%) strongly agree and 26(7.5%) were undecided on individual interest. To identify if gang members are from poor families, the result shows that 99 (28.5%) disagree, 82 (23.6%) strongly agree, 73(21.0%) strongly disagree, 66 (19.0%) agree and 27 (7.8%) were recorded undecided. On whether unemployment is a factor for joining gangs, the aggregate indicates that 119(34.3%) agree, 85(24.5%) strongly agree and disagree respectively, 33(9.5%) strongly disagree and 25(7.2%) were recorded as undecided.

To examine if people who join gangs do not attend church or mosque, the result is as follows; 121 respondents (34.9%) disagree 69(19.9%) both agree and strongly agree respectively, 67(19.3%) strongly disagree and 21(6.1%) of them were recorded undecided. The turnout on whether youths who joined gangs have no wife or children at home shows that 108 participants (31.1%) disagree, 90(25.9%) agree 73(21.0%) strongly disagree and 21(6.1%) stand undecided during the research inquiry. The result of whether bad behaviour learned from their friends shows that 177(51.0%) agree 73(22.5%) strongly agree, 44(12.7%) disagree, 32(9.2%) were recorded undecided, and 16(4.6%) strongly disagree that bad behaviour is not learned from friends.

Considering the quest for respect as a factor for joining gangs, the aggregate shows that 141(40.6%) agree, 91(26.2%) strongly agree 48(13.8%) disagree, 38(11.0%) strongly disagree while 29(8.4%) were recorded undecided. The outcomes of the result shows that the inmates join gangs for protection indicates that 143(41.2%) agree, 74(21.3%) strongly agree, 59(17.0%) disagree 39(11.2%) were undecided and 32(9.2%) strongly disagree that youths do not join a gang because of protection. The question on whether youths join gangs to be identified with the group or gang, shows that 152(43.8%) agree, 72(20.7%) disagree, 61(17.6%) strongly agree 35(10.1%) were recorded as undecided and 27(7.8%) strongly disagree.

The result of whether people join so as to earn money from violence shows that 131(37.8%) agree, 84(24.2%) disagree, 56(16.1%) strongly agree, 43(12.4%) strongly disagree and 33(9.5%) were recorded under undecided in their choice of decision. On the premise of participants who indulged in violent activities have experienced abuse, the turnout shows that 157(45.2%) agree, 68(19.6%) strongly agree, 62(17.9%) disagree, 36(10.4%) strongly disagree and 24(6.9%) were recorded undecided.

Testing of Research Hypothesis formulated for the research inquiry

In testing the research hypothesis formulated for this research work, multinomial regression was adopted to measure the relationship between independent and dependent variables established on predictors of youth gang violence and crime outcomes in Lagos, Nigeria among the inmates in Lagos state correctional facilities

Ho- Socio-demographic, Ecological and Community policing practice have no effect on membership of violent gang

H!- Socio-demographic, Ecological characteristics and Community policing practice affect the membership of violent gangs.

Table 2: Multinomial regression of joint community policing practice, socio-demographic and ecological characteristics influence gang violent activities in Lagos

Model	Unstandardised Coefficient		Standardised Coefficient		Sig	Status
	B	Standard error	Beta			
Constant	9.555	1.578	-	6.056	.000	Sig or Not Sig
Socio-demographic Characteristics	.028	.043	0.031	.650	.516	Not Sig
Ecological Characteristics	.161	.056	.144	2.857	.005	Sig
Community policing practice	.877	.068	.594	12.959	.000	Sig
R=0.973, r Square = 0.947, Adjusted R-Square = 0.947, F 3.348=2044.697						

Source- Fieldwork Reports 2020

Table 2 above shows the parameter of the relative contributions of socio-demographic characteristics, ecological characteristics and community policing practices on gang violence in the study areas. The outcome of the tested relationship between predictors and gang membership shows that there is a significant relative contribution among the predisposed characteristics (demographic, ecological and community policing practice) on gang violence. The composite contribution of the independent variables to predict gang violence as indicated in the table above says that they jointly accounted for 0.05% or 0.010% of the total variance as the predictors of gang violence ($R=0.973$, $r\text{-square}=0.947$, Adjusted $R\text{ square}=0.947$; $F_{3.348}=2044.697$. As Demographic characteristics ($B=1.100$; $t=62.027$; $P<0.05$), ecological characteristics ($B=0.094$; $t=4.010$; $P<0.05$) and community policing practice ($B = 0.006$; $t =0.216$; $P > 0.05$), however, the joint contribution of community policing practices, demographic characteristics and ecological characteristics to the prediction of gang violence are relatively significant at 0.05 level of significance. The findings derived from various publications on the topic of interest show that several factors can predispose youth's involvement in gang violence and criminality.

Qualitative Data Analysis on how Predisposing Characteristics (socio-demographic, ecological and community policing practice) effect on Membership of Violent Gang

Qualitative data were collected through interviews from the inmates, community members and security apparatus (Nigeria Police and correctional Officers) . They submitted different views on the question asked on predisposing characteristics effect on gang membership. To corroborate the importance of the mixed methods, the outcome of the qualitative result derived from the interviews conducted among the inmates in the Lagos state correctional facilities is as follows:

One of the major things that lead to street fight is how some groups often want to oppress other groups in terms of sharing money allocated to different communities. Some boys always feel they are superior while others are weak. Most times, the major reason for gang fight because of oppression and domination. Some groups take advantage of the fact that they have people working among security men (Nigeria Police force) and they use the opportunity to arrest others. This is one of the reasons why some sets are many here compared with other groups

IDI/Male Gang Leader/Male/32yrs/

Another inmate submits his view on predisposing characteristics that propel youths to gang violence which is presented as follows;

I became a member at a tender age. I knew nothing until when I became a member. The area or community I lived is one of the reasons that influenced me to join gang. Although, I thought we were fighting to protect our community but when I was arrested and finally detain in this place. I feel lost and not happy about the situation. I strongly believe that lot of the people arrested for gang activities are not happy about their situations but there is nothing they can do to save the situation until we are released from the prison.

IDI/Male Gang Member/Male/24yrs

One of the comments of a female participant at the correctional facility.

I was arrested with some of my friends because we beat one woman who is dating my friend's husband. I didn't know the woman will die. Later in the afternoon, I saw the police with two of my friends. I have been locked up for about 8 months and the case was not put on trial at all. I believe the places where people live when they were growing up determine the behaviour they demonstrate later in life. I lived in Mushin and I grew up on Lagos Island. Some of my friends are in Mushin but large numbers of them are from Lagos Island. The case was in Mushin and now I am in Kirikiri prison.

IDI/Female Inmate/28yrs/

In an interview conducted with the correctional officers on predictors of youth gang violence, the submission is stated as follows;

I can tell you that most of the factors mentioned by the gangs are not genuine because from my perspective, It is stupidity! In the first place why did they join gangs? Is it for money? Is it for popularity or fame? Is it for protection? Until they answer these questions raised, I will believe what the gangs submitted. Now they are here and cannot move out of the facilities until they are released. Where are the other gang members in this case? I am sure that it is total nonsense and immaturity or inferiority complex that makes them join gangs so that they can be oppressing and dominating others who are not related to gang violence in their various communities.

KII/Correctional Warder/36yrs

A policeman was interviewed on the same topic. This is his perspective

Most of these boys are young and they are meant to be in school studying their books to become future leaders of tomorrow. But it is always sad to see them on the roads regularly carrying cutlasses and bottles in a wheelbarrow to fight and vandalize properties worth millions. They are young, some are educated and from a well-known family background. I equally know that they have girls among them who assist in perpetrating the violent activities. We know them but once they are arrested you will be surprised that the boys or gangs have influential people backing them up in the acts

KII/Policeman/42yrs

The result derived from the quantitative analysis indicates that ecological characteristics and community policing practice are the leading factors that propel most of the youths into gang violence. However, socio-demographic characteristics do not propel youths into gang violence. But the analysis derived from the qualitative data also corroborates with some of the responses

in the structured questionnaire in which one of the participants asserts that the friends she grew up with in her locality are important in moulding mentality and learning process.

On the other hand, the result gathered from the Nigeria Police and correctional officers opines that most of the participants interviewed submitted that they were ignorant of what they were doing also; inferiority complex is the reason for joining gang violent activities

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The outcome of the research on various predisposing characteristics of gang violence indicated that the ecological factor and community policing practices in their various communities are significant to the outcome of the study while socio-demographic characteristics have no significant effects. This implies that among the three variables tested for the first hypothesis, socio-demographic factor does not have effects on youths' involvement in violent acts while ecological and community policing practices in the community have a great effect. The outcome of the findings negates the general documentation of different scholars especially those from the western world that submit that socio-demographic factor is responsible for youths' involvement in violent actions. For example, Olayiwola (2012) explains that gang violence in Nigeria is one of the major objects that negate the growth and developmental stages in Nigeria since 1960. However, most groups formed in Nigeria are rooted to ethnicity, religion and educational background. It is also agreed that the current gangs which have been fomenting trouble since 2010 in Nigeria are the Almajiri groups also known as the Boko Haram group in Northern Nigeria. In addition, Daniels and Adams (2010) report that youths that indulge in gang violent activities are products of poverty, exclusion etc. They stressed further that gangs are known struggle to gain access or rights to meet their personal needs without supervision. The finding of the research inquiry shows that literature has also confirmed that most people who indulge in gang violence relate it to the protection of their various communities, ethnic groups, religions among others.

Conclusion

The study is concluded based on the set research questions designed to guide the outcome of the inquiry. Three independent variables were designed and used to test the dependent variable. But the outcome of the inquiry shows that sociodemographic factors does not act as pull and push factor towards youth involvement in gang violence in Lagos. But extant literature review such from Ogunmefun (2020) opines that increase in high rate of unemployment in Nigeria increases the rate at which youths are propelled to join gang activities to be able to meet their daily needs and achieve their purpose in their life style. Moreover, Aborisade (2017) also asserted that increase in crime rate among the youth is as a result of high level of poverty rate experienced by large number of Nigerian graduates who are not employed and needs to meet their daily needs on a regular basis.

The conclusion drawn from the second research question which intends to know how ecological factor influence gang violent activities in Lagos. The study was concluded that ecological factor propelled youth to join gang activities in their various location. This is because societal value has been eroded because of ever increasing nature of urbanization and weaken nature of the societal bonding system. This result was supported by scholars such as Soh, 2012; Aminu et al., 2014; Okafor, 2011). They argued that ecological factors plays a vital role on how to determine factor that propelled youths to gang violent activities in Lagos state, Nigeria.

The last conclusion was drawn from the research question that intend to evaluate how community policing practice influence youth involvement in gang violent activities in Lagos state, Nigeria. The study concluded that community policing practice play a significant role as propelling factors that influence youth to join violent activities. The result of this result outcomes was supported by the findings of Usman et al., 2012; and Ajaegbe, 2012 that found out in their result that the integration and mode of selection of members of the society into community form of

policing in communities in Lagos state, Nigeria needs adequate transparency in the mode of selection and other forms of security measures to ensure community safety

Recommendations

There are several recommendations derived from the set research questions guiding the research outcome

- 1) The youths should purge themselves from embracing subcultural practices as mean of meeting their self -desire and creativity
- 2) The community members should constantly report unknown activities or strange conditions or activities notice in their area to the nearest security apparatus for immediate resolutions by either using proactive or reactive measures
- 3) The security personnel should constantly train and retrained on a regular basis to checkmate the occurrence of violent activities in Lagos state, Nigeria
- 4) Federal, state and local government representative should create enabling environment for youths to display their hidden potentials or skills in them towards positive development in the society
- 5) The family bonding system should be encouraged through family support by the government representation and the help of nongovernmental organizations
- 6) Entrepreneurship programme should be encourage and loan should be disburse among youths that have passed through training in the workshops in various communities

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