

**YOUTH VULNERABILITY AND URBAN CRIMES IN BENIN CITY**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by **Ikhualoghe Omoye** with Matriculation Number: **SSC1809917** of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

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## DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to the Lord Almighty and to my lovely parents, for their unrelented effort towards my academic success

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I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Almighty God for the special grace, mercy and love which he bestowed on me all through the programme.

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## ABSTRACT

*This study examined youth vulnerability and urban crimes in Benin City. The objectives of the study were to examine the impact of socio-economic background on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City; ascertain the impact of poverty rate on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City; investigate the impact of unemployment on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City; and examine the impact of education level on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.*

*The study employed the field survey research design. The descriptive method described the demography of respondents using frequency and percentage. A step wise regression techniques were adopted for the study with the help of Chi-square statistical tool ( $X^2$ ). In all cases alpha (significance value) were set at 0.05, to test at the 5% level. The findings from the study revealed that there is no significant relationship between socio-economic background and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City; there is no significant relationship between poverty rate and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City; there is no significant relationship between unemployment and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City; and there is no significant relationship between education level and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.*

*The study recommended that it is necessary for the government to create employment in order to reduce crime rate in the state, and Nigeria as a whole, it is important for the Nigerian government to look into the negative impact of poverty on youth vulnerability to crimes in Benin City, and Nigeria as a whole, and proffer possible solution to the issue of socio-economic marginalization, the Nigerian government should provide employment for the youths in order to discourage them from hostile habits and encourage them to be good citizens, it is important for the government to invest more on the education sector to improve efficiency; and role of the media in reporting violence is very crucial in curtailing the act of violence in Nigeria. The media shall transform crime and violence coverage to the plain of the authority. The media reporters shall engage in both mental and psychological re-conditioning. The reporter must critically re-examine the routine, conventional approach to coverage of crime and violence in favour of treating crime and violence stories as he will normally treat stories about an epidemic. In practical terms, demands that the reporter to include three classes of information in crime and violence stories (the perspectives or prevalence of the violence in Nigeria; the risk factors that expose people to victimization; and the cost of the violence in our midst). This is important since the media play roles in the structuring of perception of violence and conflict to community and authority by regular reflection on related incidences and suggesting way forward.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

## **1.1 Background to the Study**

Every society of the world has its peculiar problems and the same is true of Nigeria. Nigeria at the moment is experiencing series of social problem in the social, political, and economic sphere. Part of the socio-economic challenge facing the country at the moment is youth unemployment and the rising tide of criminal activities in urban centre (Oluwojodu, Blaauw, Grayling & Leynhans, 2019; Okafor, 2018).

Vulnerability suggest a state of being weak or poorly defended (Andrew, Skinner & Zuma, 2016). This with regard to young people connote they are exposed to risks. This vulnerability incident itself in terms of lack of good food, quality education, and proposal parental care, exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence. Arguably, it is a relative state of total helplessness (Andrew et al. 2016).

Youth vulnerability is a relative state with its degree and type varying between societies, and communities. Young people separated from healthy parental care and good mentorship are clearly vulnerable groups. Besides, extreme poverty, lack and want, lack of social support and education also make young people vulnerable to crime and violence (Andrew et al. 2016). This condition of vulnerability can predispose a youth to crime. Youth engagement to crime therefore is not far remove from their vulnerability in the social and economic sphere. Youth disposition to criminal activities is traceable to this reality in Nigeria, especially Benin City. Benin City is becoming an enclave of youth criminal activities (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014). Its occurrence and existence undermines and threatens the social security of the community. Apart from militancy in the Niger Delta region and acts of terrorism in North Eastern part of Nigeria, youth criminal acts and

violent activities include cultism, political thuggery, ransom, kidnapping among others (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014).

Studies have shown that persistent criminal activities and restiveness among youth people in Benin City is averse to socio-economic growth, and stifles social development in the society (Akpan, Onwuka & Onyeizugbe, 2012; Ewetan & Urhie 2014). Studies also show that apart from cruel destruction of properties, several lives have been lost to criminal incidence among youths in Benin City. Between 1999 till date, USAID (2005) noted that countless numbers of youth criminal activities in Nigeria has resulted in the death of over 9,000 young people and displaced over 200,000. In 2008, more than 600 people lost their lives and properties worth millions of naira was destroyed in Jos (Adinoyi, 2009; Balogun, 2009). In 2009, over 600 deaths were recorded in a series of youth related violence in Bauchi, Jos, Nasarawa, Lagos and Ibadan (Adinoyi 2009; Balogun 2009; Eya 2009). In 2011, Human Rights Watch (2012) estimated that over 15 000 youths were killed in violence since Nigeria transitioned to civilian rule in 1999.

Youth vulnerability to crime can also be alluded to unemployment in Nigeria. Unemployment has continued to be on the increase despite the effort made to arrest it (Alanana, 2019). National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2019) recorded 14.2% level of youth unemployment in the last quarter of 2019 compare to 13.9% in the preceding quarter (Longe, 2017). Data from Trading Economics (2021) revealed that youth unemployment has moved from 23.10 per cent to 22.70 per cent in 2020, also youth unemployment rate in Nigeria between 2019 and 2020, reached an all high of 23.10 percent in the third quarter of 2020, while the lowest record level was 5.10 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010 (Femi, Dada & Ayibaabi, 2020). The effect of this challenge is the

plunging of youths into crime and other form of social vices. The growing rate unemployment in Nigeria and particularly Benin City among the youths is a major concern to existing social order and national security. Every year, thousands of graduates are produced with no jobs (Okafor, 2018). This unemployed majority becomes an army of the proverbial idea hand that is the devil's workshop. In its truest form, these youths are capable of undermining democratic practice as they constitute a serious threat it (Adepegba, 2017; Ibrahim, 2020; Lartey, 2014; Olatunji & Abioye, 2019).

Aigbokhan (2016), is of the opinion that youth vulnerability to crime has become worrisome. In the last ten years, there has been increase in urban bound movement among several youth in search of economic relief. It is assumed that this movement will succor the perceived vulnerability experienced by most youth adults. However, the flipside seem unpredictable given that the lean socio-economic and urban space can accommodate only such as it has the capacity to.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The high rate of crime in Benin City in recent times is worrisome and disturbing. This is evident in report of various crime such as cybercrime, robbery, burglary, car theft, rape, kidnapping and other social media crimes (The Punch, 2019). Youths are often found to be culpable in the venture of crimes. Unemployment is one of the challenges bedeviling the Nigerian society today. In spite of thousands of graduates produced every year and an abundance of natural and human resources, the rate of unemployment seem unabated.

Kilishi, Mobolaji, Usman, Yakubu and Yaru (2019) argued that Nigerian tertiary education institutions produce up to 500,000 graduates annually. This is besides those who studies abroad. The growing rate of unemployment in Benin City among the youths

is a major challenge to economic stability. The inevitability of crime Benin City therefore, is definite and tied to this obtrusive condition of life. Hence, crimes and criminal activities among youth seem to be an immemorial feature of the society irrespective of the implementation of strict laws and the accompanying sanctions. Youth predisposition to criminal activities in Benin City causes harm not only to economic development, but also to social relationships and engagements. Also criminal activities in Benin City provoked by the seemingly vulnerable youths adds greatly to the costs of health and welfare services; reduces productivity, decreases the value of property and disrupts essential services while generally undermines the socio-cultural fabric of society (Ojukwu, 2018).

The problem of youth involvement in criminal activities cannot be viewed in isolation. It provoked by certain conditions within the social milieu. Vulnerable youths tend to commit a range of crimes due to poverty, corruption, peer influence, education level, socio-economic background unemployment, marginalization and deprivation (Igodo, 2017). Youth engagement in criminal activities seem to be a common experience in the Nigerian society, especially Benin City.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The following are the research questions of the study which would elicit answers:

1. Does socio-economic background influence youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City?
2. Does poverty rate influence youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City?
3. Does unemployment influence youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City?
4. Does education level influence youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City?

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective of this study is to examine youth vulnerability and urban crimes in Benin City. The specific objectives are to:

1. examine the impact of socio-economic background on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
2. ascertain the impact of poverty rate on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
3. investigate the impact of unemployment on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
4. examine the impact of education level on youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

#### **1.5 Research Hypothesis**

The following hypothesis have been formulated in the null form:

1.  $H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between socio-economic background and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
2.  $H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between poverty rate and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
3.  $H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between unemployment and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
4.  $H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between education level and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The importance of this research cannot be overemphasized in view of what the nation has witnessed in the areas of security, economic and social development due to the rising unemployment level, poverty rate, and other socio-economic challenges which has triggered criminal incidence and insecurity across many states in Nigeria, and Benin City in particular.

However, this study will form a theoretical focus as a basis for solving the problem of youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City. More so, the significance of this study lies primarily on the fact that it will:

1. Seek to provide an objective and honest investigation on the rationale behind the claims of youths to the action and response of the government to their socio-economic demands.
2. Identify the roles of both the Federal and State Governments and the security agencies in curbing the issues youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City and Nigeria in general.
3. Through this effort, useful recommendations will be made, that if adopted and implemented, will bring about peaceful co-existence among youths, and enhance national development and security of lives and properties in Benin City and Nigeria as a whole.
4. Researchers will benefit from the work. The indices of sustainable development through good government policies and security measures that can be put in place to tackle the issues of youth vulnerability to crime will help them in their research work, publications, conferences and seminars. This

study will also assist them to conduct further research in other areas as it relates to the subject matter.

5. The government will benefit immensely as they have the responsibility of providing enabling environment for its citizens. They will have to put all the various strategies into consideration in formulating policies and regulations for the economy for improved human capital development.

### **1.7 Operationalization of Terms**

**Crime:** This refers to a deliberate act that causes physical or psychological harm, damage to or loss of property, and is against the law.

**Cybercrime:** This refers to criminal activity that either targets or uses a computer, a computer network or a networked device.

**Marginalization:** This is the deliberate disempowerment of a group of people in the federation politically, economically, socially and militarily, by another group or groups, who during the relevant time frame wield power and controls the allocation of materials and financial resources at the centre of the federation.

**Predisposition:** This is the tendency to do something. The state of being likely to behave in a particular way or to suffer from a particular challenge.

**Unemployment:** This is a condition in which skilled and abled individuals do not get gainful jobs at a decent wage.

**Vulnerability:** This refers to "the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.

**Youths:** An individual between the age of 16 and 45 years.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Vulnerability: An Overview

Turner (2008) refers to vulnerability as not just the potential of suffering from physical harms but also psychological, moral and spiritual damage. With this broad meaning, vulnerability has been used in reference to the ability to expose threats to human rights (human rights studies), natural hazards and disasters risks (disaster and risk management), computer vulnerability to attackers (security studies), social vulnerability to poverty and epidemics (social risk management – a developing academic field), vulnerability to health problems such as depression and lifestyles factors including smoking, physical inability, obesity and diabetes (public health studies) (Turner, 2008). In a recent summary, Wisner (2016) also confirmed that the concept of vulnerability has been widely used in many disciplines such as medical and health sciences, public health and food studies, social work, sociology and psychology, development studies, disaster and humanitarian studies, climate science, economic and political studies, ecological and engineering studies.

Chambers, (2003) defined vulnerability as the lack of safeguards against eventualities. Eventualities including social conventions, disasters, physical incapacity, unproductive expenditure and exploitation are unexpected events that cause the “irreversible loss or sale of assets” (Chambers, 2003). This means that vulnerability is the lack of individuals’ capacity to cope with future threats and as a result, they would experience the loss of property or assets, which could draw them into poverty or poorer circumstances.

Cutter (2016) viewed vulnerability broadly as “a potential for loss” that exists in terms of “place vulnerability” or the vulnerability of specific place. This vulnerability is a

combination of social vulnerability and biophysical/technological vulnerability. If social vulnerability is the potential of social groups for losses as a result of disaster, then biophysical vulnerability is the potential of biophysical environment for losses in interaction with disaster (Cutter, 2016). In the aforementioned study by Pelling (2013), vulnerability is called “human vulnerability”, which is a combination of physical vulnerability in the built environment and social vulnerability of people and social, economic and political systems. These viewpoints help understand vulnerability in the dynamic connection between the social system and biophysical environment.

## **2.2 Unemployment**

Unemployment according to Okafor (2018), describes the condition of people who are without jobs. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2017) sees it in terms of individual indices as opined the unemployed as the number of the economically active population who is without work but available and seeking work. This idea also capture people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 2013). Various forms of unemployment have been identified by scholars. These include seasonal, frictional, cyclical, and structural unemployment (Longe, 2017; Hough & Roberts, 2014).

Briggs (2003) termed unemployment as the difference between the amount of labour employed at current wage rate and working conditions, and the amount of labour hired at these levels. In the same vein, Gbosi (2018) sees unemployment as a situation in which people who are willing to work at the principal wage rate are unable to find jobs. Unemployment is as a result of the inability to develop and utilize the nations manpower resources effectively especially in the rural sector (Fadayomi, 2012; Osimubi, 2016).

In another perspective, Jimaza (2011) defined it as a situation whereby one has no job and is prepared to take a job at the ongoing wage rate but such job is not rightly available. However, the controversy over the problem of unemployment revolves around the distinction between voluntary, involuntary, visible and disguised unemployment. The voluntary unemployment is said to occur when persons choose not to work or accept job for which they are qualified at ongoing wage rate because they have means of support other than employment for instance affluent individuals (Arthur, 2016). Involuntary unemployment is when persons cannot obtain work even if they are willing to accept low real wages than qualified workers who are currently in employment (Arthur, 2016). Visible unemployment exist when persons is without work but are seeking at a given wage rate; while the disguised unemployment exist when persons are without work but not openly seeking for work, who will seek for work at ongoing wage rate if unemployment were much lower (Arthur, 2016).

Despite the contention in the above classification the taxonomy of unemployment includes a condition of being out of work, an activity of searching for work, an attitude of desiring a job under certain situation and needing a job (Levine, 1959).

### **2.3 Youth Unemployment in Nigeria**

Youth unemployment is becoming a pervasive problem. According to Longe (2017) most nations of the world grapples with this social problem. In Africa, the average unemployment rate is generally high. This is corroborated by Oluwojodu, Blaauw, Graling and Kleynhans (2015) when they argued that, unemployment in South Africa, Botswana and Angola was 21%, 17.5% and 25% respectively. According to the NBS (2010), Nigeria has one of the highest national unemployment rates in sub-Sahara Africa

between 2000 and 2009. In its report, unemployed persons constituted 13.6% in 2001, 12.6% in 2002, 13.4% in 2003, 13/7% 2006, 14.9% in 2008 of the population and 19.7% 2009 respectively. The figures above shows that 2000 - 2010 witness a vertical climb of unemployment rate in the country. Latest findings from the National Bureau of Statistic (NBS 2016) depicts that a total figure of 52 million peoples within the economically active population of Nigerians are without gainful employment.

There are factors that explains the increase in unemployment in Nigeria. The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPMN, 2018) relate the unemployment scenario in Nigeria to lack of national employment policy, sub-optimal quality of graduates, educational system not tailored and aligned to industrial needs and inappropriate educational curricula inter alia. In a related vein, Salami (2013) identify and enumerated five major factors that provokes it, namely: structural, cultural, lack of political will, skewed budgetary allocation and poorly coordinated intervention programmes. He further contends that the structural factors consist of the inadequacies in the current educational policies while the cultural factor has to do with get rich quick syndrome which discourages hard work and meritocracy. Worthy of amplification is the poorly coordinated interventionist schemes aimed at mitigating the unemployment problems, to which Salami (2013) stated that “most intervention programmes have been poorly coordinated and in some cases are either overlapped or contradicts one another.” Indeed, it has been observed that most of these unemployment mitigation measures have been implemented on an interim bases or have been abused by it handlers by making good with its proceeds and where implemented are marred by inefficiency (Salami, 2013).

Unemployment is an albatross in any society as well a social problem with unprecedented and uncomplimentary consequences. Oluwajodu, et al. (2015) states that unemployment reduces economic well fairs, output and erode human capital. The implication is that the economic benefit that should have accrued from the maximization of the human capital is usually lost. Also, unemployment leads to social vices like armed robbery, kidnapping, fraud etc. This is not to undermine gene wing and concerted efforts aimed at containing the ravaging monster unemployment that have colored the pages of history books in Nigeria as enunciated by many scholarly works and researches (Oluwajodu, et al. 2015).

### **2.3.1 Socio-Economic Background and Youths' Vulnerability to Crime**

Youth growing up in difficult social and economic circumstances can face significant challenges. Poor socio-economic background have an impact on child development, including children's health as well as their readiness to learn (Ferguson, Bovaird & Mueller, 2017; Thomas 2016). Studies has also showed that the socio-economic status of families and conditions in the environment where they live can result to the vulnerability to social delinquency (Cartwright & Allen 2012, Frenette 2017).

Many of the same social and economic factors have been found to play a key role in youth vulnerability to crime. A range of individual, family and community level factors either put youth at risk of criminal behaviour, or act as protective factors to inhibit that behaviour. The studies of Farrington and Loeber (2020) and (Shader 2021), identified various factors that can potentially influence youth vulnerability to crime, such as school attachment and aspirations, parental supervision, discipline, abuse or neglect, and delinquent peer groups, as well as neighbourhood factors related to low-income, crowded households and residential mobility. Altogether, the interaction and increasing nature of

these and other factors can negatively impact the prospects of youths from marginalized backgrounds, and in particular those who commit crimes.

According to Adebayo (2013), youth's socio-economic background could be a condition that leads the youth to crime. The poor are led to crime because of their relative deprivation and acute sense of want. The poor and jobless in Nigeria take to crime as a means of sustenance. Those with low socio-economic background in Nigeria experience low self-esteem, deprivation, frustration and acute want. This condition of low socio-economic background of youths leads them to criminal and deviant behaviour in the society (Adebayo, 2013).

Bassey (2021), is of the view that most youths involved in armed robbery, fraud, kidnapping and used for electoral violence are sometimes those with low socio-economic background. Poor socio-economic background is of the reasons why youths engage themselves in criminal activities in our present society. This is because most youths with lack of financial resources fend for themselves in school. Some end up earning their living in the street through obnoxious and criminal means they deem necessary to sustain their living (Benson, 2018; James, 2020).

### **2.3.2 Poverty Rate and Youths' Vulnerability to Crime**

Poverty, according to Mukhtar, Isyaku and Sani (2016), is a multidimensional state of deprivation involving lack of basic requirements, social and political exclusion and lack of education. Poverty is a condition of having insufficient resources or income. In its most extreme form, poverty is a lack of basic human needs, such as adequate and nutritious food, clothing, housing, clean water, and health services. Extreme poverty can cause terrible suffering and death, and even modest levels of poverty can prevent people

from realizing many of their potentials. The frustration for attaining one's potential is often expressed in form of violence. Poverty has always leads to immense social, political and economic constrains (Mukhtar et al. 2016).

Poverty is one of the causative spectrums that lead many people to turn out to be notorious criminal in Nigeria. Poverty is a financial incapacity or state of lacking basic requirement to live rational life. Basic requirement such as money, food, water and shelter among many others are the scourge of poverty which demoralized the less privilege to be inflicted with the wrath of anomaly (Suleiman, 2016).

Poverty has twisted many youths to have become disreputable kidnapers due to the implacable famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn. Adesina (2013) confirms that Nigeria is currently facing serious job challenge and widespread decent work deficits, a development that is capable of increasing the spread of poverty. Therefore, the high price of goods and service in Nigeria, has resulted in the greater number of poor people living under unrestricted famine and increased poverty in the society, and this has inversely resulted to the greater the number of crime and detrimental vices predominant in Nigeria today (Adesina, 2013).

In this respect, many people out of option concluded to kidnap a well to do people in the society because, the widespread of poverty in Nigeria has incurred outrageous predicament to the life of many Nigerian that is why Suleiman (2016) stated that poverty has triggered perilous spectrum to the life of people in Nigeria ever than before this current administration and thus, more than 60 percent were living in despicable famine, 20 percent were on the breadline, 10 percent were neither rich nor poor which as a result of this assessment only 10 percent can boast of their three time meals (Suleiman, 2016).

Contrary to the level of poverty bedeviling Nigerian societies, this country is one of the nations blessed with natural resources such as oil, gas and other valuable raw-materials yet, while mysterious hunger are killing people in thousands every day, the politician are burying money in a sock away pit while some of them are procuring expensive property that is not functional to their daily needs (Olaiya, 2017). As a matter of vengeance, some youths ganged up in order to kidnap and demanding huge ransom from well to do people who are not ready to assist their immediate circumstances (Emanemua & Akinlosoty, 2020). It is therefore of great importance, that the federal government and all stakeholders to look in to the negative impact of poverty on youth predisposition to kidnapping in Nigeria and Edo State in particular, and its consequential shortcoming on the national security.

### **2.3.3 Unemployment and Youths' Vulnerability to Crime**

The occurrence of unemployment in Nigeria in this 21st century is geometrically increased and all proactive measure forwarded by the federal government to hold back its menace has failed woefully to the extent that the numbers of unemployed youths continue to increase every day. Hence, it is unbearable to pronounce how Nigeria graduates losing their lives searching for job in spite their professional achievement (Adesina, 2013).

Dishonorably, many of them were prancing as a sex hawker to the politicians in order to procure job, many others were taken into service as political propaganda to instigate havoc in their various society and the lucky one are serving as a political blogger on social media to disseminate bogus and counterfeit information in favor of political henchmen. As a result of this detrimental recruitment, these youths turn to monster which resulted to

the occurrence of incessant robbery and kidnapping (Kilishi, Mobolaji, Usman, Yakubu & Yaru, 2014).

It is imperative to be mentioned that, unemployment is one of the most serious problems facing Nigeria like many other countries in the world because it is a global phenomenon as simply put by Adesina (2013) who concludes that eligible workforce of a nation is disengaged in the service of the nation. Meanwhile, the state of unemployment among youths has become a critical and alarming issue in the whole world and Nigeria in particular (Ogwu, Omeje & Nwokenna, 2018).

To this effect, Kilishi et al. (2014) believes that the rising trend of criminal violence in Nigeria is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment. That is why Suleiman (2016) concludes that the problem of unemployment in Nigeria is one of the major syndromes that upturned youths to become atrocious actors. He pointed to the famous saying of the elder as known to us that devil works in idle's hand but Nigeria government underrate the negative impact of unemployed people.

However, it is evident that most of the convicted kidnappers has confessed that they were unemployed graduate looking for a way to survive and if there is no good way to stay alive the evil is the only option. Many youths have erred in joining criminal group because of unemployed ache (Oyewole, 2021). In order to reduce this menace with immediate effect, Nigeria government should provide employment for the youth not only to discourage them from hostile habit but also to encourage them as a good citizen.

Youth unemployment has been implicated as one of the strongest impediments for the solution of kidnapping behavior (Inyang, 2019, and Dode, 2017). In a study conducted by Adegoke (2015), unemployment was by a wide margin of 88% identified as the

contributory factor for the youths engaging in kidnapping operation. To solve this problem, job creation must be in the frontline as some of the unemployed youths are university graduates and able-bodied individuals who are virtually frustrated with lack of employment opportunities (Adegoke, 2015).

Inyang (2019) states that a graduate, who is unable to secure employment is bereft of possible means of economic survival. The aftermath of such deprivation is psychological developmental stage of negative behavior against the status-quo and socio-system. The negative developmental behavior emerges as resistant tool against the social norms that may demand individual social compliance of the normative rules of the society. Curing this social ill would close down the social destructiveness that kidnapers are trapped (Inyang & Abraham, 2020).

The perpetrators of kidnapping choose their victims based on their ability to cough out the money (Tzanelli, 2016). The problem of unemployment has become a national 'thorn in the flesh' in Nigeria. Ejimabo (2013) argues that Nigeria needs problem-solving skills of leaders to help fight fraud and corruption in the country, otherwise, issues such as job creation and worsening political crisis would continue to be impediments to the control of crimes and delinquencies in the country. Job creation, along with other economic incentives would magnetized the youths' interest to abandon the illegal commercialization of human commodity (Persson, 2014; Dode, 2017). Kidnapping has been commercialized, whereby, even the most revered clerics and clergies of religious bodies have fallen victims to the crime. Despite the fact that thousands of unemployed youth are looking for white cola job under federal or state government, since the federal government alone cannot cater for the existing unemployed youth let alone the new

graduates that is joining the labour force every day, it is of essence, that well-meaning people in the society should assist government in entrepreneurial advancement and creation of high-quality job for the youths in order to reduce the issues of crimes in the Nigeria and Edo State in particular.

#### **2.3.4 Education Level and Youths' Vulnerability to Crime**

Mismanagement and incessant academic strikes in Nigeria's post-independence educational sector have bred and institutionalized a legacy of a propensity to criminal violence for a large proportion of its youth. The increase effect is reflected in kidnapping, armed robbery, advanced fee fraud, cultism, political thuggery, theft, area boyism (street boys/men that typically are a menace around major parks in urban areas) and other social vices prevalent among youths. Although the nation has abundant natural resources (human and material, especially minerals), it is painfully understandable that these resources produce a paradox (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2016).

The complexity of this resource-curse paradox has been observed by Oni (2008); Artadi and Sala-i-Martin (2013), where resources inhibit further economic progress and militate against intellectual development. These social problems contribute to neglect and decay in the nation's educational sector (Artadi & Sala-i-Martin, 2013).

The Nigerian educational sector, unfortunately, seems ignored by the government, and inadequate, because the system seems to marginalize the majority of the citizenry from quality education. This has led to some predictable results in the sense that educational progress and efficiency, especially at the higher levels, are grossly constrained by educational administrators (Obi, 2018) and government agencies (Lasisi, 2020). Inefficiency and corruption among government educational administrators (Aiyetan,

2014) and strikes of university staff have led to progressive deterioration in both infrastructure (The Punch, 2018) and academic quality. Strikes and neglect have resulted in mass production of under-prepared graduates (Osabuohien & Ogunrinola, 2021) and at times, the untimely drop-out of undergraduates who then specialize in criminal activities. Most of the nation's proudly acclaimed universities are no longer comparable to other African universities (The Punch, 2018), let alone universities from the West. The once respected glory of these institutions is almost fading away; they have frequently been closed in reaction to student unrest, and at times professors were jailed (Fajana, 2020; Fashina, 2021). The result has been brain-drain, mass drop-out, and a low level of intellectual freedom (Adekeye, 2018), which were uncommon in the early universities in Nigeria. The politically favoured, who were aware of the educational decay, proactively diverted their children elsewhere to acquire Western education. This left the educational problems unabated (Yesufu, 2000), and the conditions worsened.

Migration of skill-deficient undergraduates from university campuses into the cities has increased and the unemployed have become a reserve armed robbers and kidnappers (Obe & Isine, 2018). A significant segment of undergraduates become informal vendors and/or hawkers (Ejeh, 2016) during the day.

Education constitutes a fundamental pillar for any nation's meaningful and sustainable economic development (Obikoya, 2012). Education also plays a pivotal role in emancipating and empowering people to achieve economic and social freedom (Yesufu, 2000). It helps in transforming human capital into the engine of economic revolution through resource mobilization from sectors of low utilization to economic productivity. These incidents of youth criminal violence have created some scenes at local and

international levels. The unwelcoming aspect of the episode is that the number of recruits, the density of active crime participants, and the sophistication of operations (Oni, 2008; Obi, 2018; Punch, 2018) create an atmosphere of apprehensiveness among the populace (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2016).

#### **2.4 The Impact of Crimes on Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria**

According to Emetan and Urhie (2014) after fifty three years of nationhood Nigeria still ranks among the poorest countries in the world, also ranks low in all socio economic indicators such as life expectancy, death rate, access to water, poverty rate, mortality rate, and crime rate, and still carries the tag of a developing economy. Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant human and natural resources and yet is classified among the poorest countries in the world. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Ewetan, 2013). This scenario has been attributed to amongst other factors, to the high rate of violent crime in Nigeria. The inability of government to provide a secure and safe environment for lives and properties has led to the disruption of the conduct of businesses and economic activities, retarding the economic growth and development of Nigeria. There is no investor whether local or foreign that will be motivated to invest in an unsafe and insecure environment. In a globalized world investors are not only looking for high returns on their investments but also safe haven for their investments (Ewetan, 2013). Thus the alarming rate of violent crimes in Nigeria has made the economy unattractive to foreign investors, and this has impacted negatively on economic growth

and development. Crime is dysfunctional as it threatens the stability of a Nation (Adebayo, 2013). Economic development does not thrive in an atmosphere of instability. Ivan and Ginkel (2019) argue that there is a complex but important connection between political violence and socio-economic development. Chandler (2017), have identified strong links between security and development since the cold war ended. He argued that development cannot be achieved in any nation where there are conflicts, crisis and war. In the same vein, Imobighe (2019) believes that everything about a nation revolves around the security trend of that country .It is a standard measurement of the viability of any Nation. He argued that no warring nation can boast of good health to her people or can build good, viable and sustainable economic development to her people, instead such Nation experiences destruction of the existing socio-economic infrastructure. The assertion of Imobighe (2019) could be seen manifesting in the activities of the Niger-Delta Militant whose actions have cost a lot of destruction to the oil facilities of the nation (vandalizing oil pipeline, causing oil spillage and environmental degradation). Again in the case of the Northern part of the country, where many productive Nigerian has been killed by insurgents, industries closed down and many investors both foreign and local has been sent away. All these are anti – development to National Economy (Imobighe, 2019).

More so, the Economics Council of European Union (2003), posits that the Sub-Saharan Africa is poorer now than it was 10 years ago in which the economic failure is linked to political problems and violent conflict. Even the huge amount of the Nation’s fund that could have been used for more socio-economic development is now committed to the fight against violent crime and replacement of destroyed infrastructures. Recently, the

National Assembly approved the whopping sum of one billion US Dollars for the fight against Terrorism. This money if not the problem of insecurity, could have been used for socio-economic development of the country.

Ewetan and Urhia (2014) pointed out that insecurity in Nigeria has retarded socio economic development in Nigeria in the following ways: Social dislocation and population displacement; heightens citizenship question which encourages hostility between indigenes and settlers; dislocation and disruption of family and communal life; general atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy; dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as instruments of war; deepening of hunger and poverty in the polity; discourages local and foreign investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people; halts business operations during period of violence and outright closure of many enterprises in the areas or zones where incidence of insecurity is rife and are on daily occurrence; increases security spending by business organizations and governments; migration of people from area or region where there is prevalence of insecurity. Socio economic development is the primary goal of every well-meaning government, and it is essentially dependent on the level of economic activities in a country; the level of economic activities is in turn enhanced by peaceful co-existence by people. In the absence of security, socio-economic development cannot be sustained as it destroys economic, human and social capital (Ewetan & Urhia, 2014). Nevertheless, the relationship between security and development has also been conceived to be bilateral in nature. There will be no development without security and no security without development. And both

development and security also depend on respect for human rights and the rule of law (Salawu, 2015).

Klingebliel (2016) argued that in an increasingly interconnected world, progress in the areas of development, security and human rights must go hand in hand. Development is necessary for security to thrive while security on the other hand is a precondition for development.

## **2.5 Empirical Review**

According to Okeshola and Adeta (2013) there are characteristic features associated with the youths who engage in crime some of which are as follows: age, sex and level of education among others. Most criminal incidences are perpetrated mostly by youths between the ages of 20-35 years. This may be due to the early exposure of youths to hardship in the society without proper guidance, which is why crime is more among youths.

Furthermore, there are encouraging factors that drive adolescents into crime which according to Okeshola and Adeta (2013) abound, such as financial gain, recognition/fame, low rate of conviction or even being caught, easy to perpetrate, frustration/vengeance, display of wealth by corrupt politicians and yahoo yahoo boys laziness and quest for wealth (Muraina & Muraina, 2015). Unemployment, weak implementation of penal laws, inadequate equipped law agencies, and negative role model propels the increasing rate of youth vulnerability to crime (Hassan, Lass & Makinde, 2017).

Hough and Roberts (2020) in their research, found out there had been an increase in the number of crime perpetuated by the youths. Nearly two-thirds (64 per cent) of these respondents cited media reports as their chief source of information. Similarly, in his

study of 354 respondents on perception of crime among Nigerian youths: a study of caritas university Umeozulu (2017) found out that 20 respondents choose radio as their source of information representing 5.6%, 47 respondents choose television representing 13.3%, 87 respondents choose the internet representing 24.6% and 200 respondents choose other source representing 56.5%.

Otti (2015) identified urbanization as a major factor in the increase and involvement of youths in crime to a large extent plays a significant role in the way the youths perceive crime. According to the study, the urban population pressure result in a heavy competition amongst the growing populace more especially the youths, as such the youths find it lucrative to result to crime because it is a business that requires less capital to invest.

Meke (2019) in his article “urbanization and crime in Nigeria” reiterated urbanization as one of the major causes of crime in Nigeria and urbanization will be beneficial if and only if good jobs can be created in the cities where population growth is increasing, in his article, he emphasized that urbanization without crime is really impossible.

In the research of Umeozulu (2018) 75 of the 354 respondents representing 21.2% choose unemployment as the determinant of crime. In Nigeria, the unemployment rate is worrisome. It has consistently increased in the last few years. Unemployed youths are readily available for anti-social criminal activities that undermine the stability of society.

Femi, Dada and Ayibaabi, (2015) in their study of 133 Landmark University students on students' perceptions of impact of unemployment on crime found out that 83.19% (94) of the respondents perceived that youths are involved in crime as result of unemployment; while 16.8% (19) perceived they are not involved because of unemployment.

Muraina and Muriana (2015); Ndubueze, Igbo, and Okoye, (2020) identified desperate quest for wealth and peer pressure as a major determinate and catalyst to the youth engagement in crime. The studies found out that there exists a large gap between the rich and the average, as such many strive to level up using the quickest means possible, since for any business to thrive well, the rate of return in the investment must be growing at a geometric rate with a minimal risk. Most crime requires less investment. Most youths engage in crime due to societal demand and expectations. The frequent interactions with peers, particularly with deviant peers sometimes lead to the adoption of antisocial behavior for group conformity (Jackson, 2015; (Okeshola & Adeta, 2013).

## **2.6 Review of Relevant Theories**

### **2.6.1 Relative Deprivation Theory**

This classical theory explains why people engage in criminal violence (rebellion, coups, kidnapping, criminal activities etc.). According to Gurr (1970), this is the tension between your actual state, and what you feel you should be able to achieve. It examines the psychological causes involving frustration and aggression as the primary source of human capacity for criminal violence. Frustration is neither necessary nor sufficiently leads to violence but greed may drive to criminal violence.

Frustration is a much stronger motivating force and prolonged frustration may cause greater probability for aggression. Relative deprivation is the discrepancy between what people think they deserve and what they actually think they can get (Gurr, 1970). Deprivation therefore occurs when your value expectations exceed your value capabilities. Values expectations include welfare, security, self-actualization etc., while value capabilities are those legitimate means of achieving the expectations – employment for

instance. Here, incentives for success are provided by the established values of the culture, and the avenues available for moving toward this goal is largely limited by the class structure. It is the combination of the cultural emphasis and the social structure which produces intense pressure for deviation (Gurr, 1970).

Relative deprivation is generally considered to be the central variable in the explanation of social movements and is used to explain the quest for social change that inspires social movements; social movements emerge from collective feelings of relative deprivation (Morrison, 2000).

It is noteworthy that Gurr (1970) does not look to a more absolute or objective indicator of deprivation as the source of violence. People can get used to a bad state of affairs, even one that offers so little access to life-sustaining resources that members of the group are starving or dying of remediable diseases or exposure. However, if there is a significant discrepancy between what they think they deserve and what they think they will get, there is a likelihood of rebellion.

Gurr (1970) posits this to be the case because there is a feeling that their expectation cannot be met if the current status quo is maintained. The first situation may be a desperate one, but it is the second that will be frustrating. So frustration produces aggression at individual, group and societal levels. This theory could be used to link rising number of unemployed youths and violent crimes in Nigeria. The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, sect. 16(1)(a) states that: the state shall control the National economy in such a manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity This constitutional responsibility of the state has far been abandoned by the

government. In Nigeria, many of the qualified youth have been deprived of their employment opportunity. A country that produce thousands of university graduates every year without commensurate employment opportunities may be creating a fertile ground for a feeling of frustration among these unemployed graduates. Naturally, there is a feeling of joy and great expectations when a student graduates from a university- these expectations gradually fades away and is replaced by feeling of frustration after some years of joblessness caused by little opportunities the society offers the young graduates. This condition have placed most of our youths idle, creating more frustration in the life wire of the society. As frustration prolongs and the feeling of deprivation of what that is expected increases, there is a greater probability that the individual or people can resort to illegitimate activities in order to actualize their expectations in the society.

### **2.6.2 Systems Theory**

When general systems theory's hierarchy of systems was introduced in the 1950s, theoretical and empirical gaps existed for levels 4 and above in Boulding's hierarchy. That is, much less was known about the mechanism of self-maintenance in the social world. Undoubtedly, applications of systems approaches to organizational communication cover a wide range of theories, including structural functionalism, communication network models, structuration theory, chaos theory, complex adaptive systems and self-organizing systems theories, social systems theory, and self-reflective systems theory (Poole, 2014).

Systems theory aims to explicate dynamic relationships and interdependence between components of the system and the organization–environment relationships. A system is established based on the structure and patterns of the relationships emerging from

interactions among components. As a result of these emergent patterns and relationships, each system is different from another. In other words, unlike biological systems, components of social organizations have their own wills and intended purposes (White, 2014).

In general, systems theory focuses on three levels of observations: the environment, the social organization as a system, and human participants within the organization. This multi-level focus can be traced back to the original pursuit of initiating dialogue among disciplines through systems theory. It is argued that this pursuit can be accomplished through different ways. One of them is to find general phenomena that are observable across many disciplines. For instance, it is common to find in any social systems where aggregations of individuals interact with one another and with the environment and develop interdependent relationships (White, 2014).

It is an approach that sees an organization or society as a dynamic open system or as an entity consisting of a set of elements in interaction with one another which maintains itself in a state of relatively stable equilibrium by experiencing a dynamic and constant interchange of energy and information with its environment (Makinde, 2017). Systems theory views social organizations as a complex set of dynamically intertwined and interconnected elements. Every system includes inputs, processes, outputs, feedback and the environment in which it operates and with which it continuously interacts.

In relating this theory to this study, it views government as a system with input coming from the masses in the form of demands for empowerment scheme for self-reliant and increases in income status as well as job creation by the government for the overall benefit of the youth. The government serves as the processing unit which takes inputs in

form of demands from the people for employment and empowerment scheme, processes them and sent out outputs which are the N-Power scheme geared towards job creation, skill acquisition scheme and poverty reduction among the youth. The theory shows how the government reacts to people's plight in terms of the provision of the necessities of life. The theory highlights the demands of the peoples as presented to government, government actions on the said demands and the output is the program that will enhance the well-being of the peoples.

### **2.6.3 The Marxist Theory of Unemployment**

This theory is also known as “reserved army of labour theory”. It is a conflict theory that derived its roots from Marxian school of thought. It was propounded by Karl Marx according to white (2004). The theory refers to “the unemployment in the capitalist society” or “relative surplus population”. The word “Army” refers to the workers who queue up at company's gate and websites in search of available job vacancies and those workers who are conscripted and regimented in the work place in a hierarchy under the command and the authority of the circulation in the British labour movement in 1830's. During this time, big industries usually require the services of the reserve army of unemployment workers for times of overpopulation with the aim of having cheap labour. Therefore, over population is only for the benefit of bourgeoisies but it create social and psychological effects on the proletariat, especially the youths that constitute the majority of working population even those who are working are under employed, under paid that they cannot pay their bills and take care of other necessities and those who are ready to work but could not find jobs, find themselves in devastating situations that is very destructive to societal development (Maganey, 2006).

Haralambos (2000) stated that unemployment result from the capitalist system. He believed that unemployment is an endemic problem of capitalism. To him, the capitalist economy always has the highest level of unemployment and period of crisis when unemployment arises. The bourgeoisie compete in order to succeed, they invest their profit to acquire new machineries for more efficient production of goods thereby accumulating capital in form of machinery for production. The exploitative tendencies of the bourgeoisie are such that capitalist economy has no good intention for the worker. Workers in private companies are denied job securities and their welfare is not in agenda. The goad of bourgeoisie is maximization of profit and surplus values. That is why Karl Marx predicted that workers will eventually realize that they are being exploited develop class-consciousness and over throw the capitalist system and Marx postulated that capitalism perpetrates unemployment.

## **2.7 Theoretical Framework**

This present research is premised on the general systems theory's hierarchy of systems developed by Ludwig Von Bertalanffy (1940). Undoubtedly, applications of systems approaches to organizational communication cover a wide range of theories, including structural functionalism, communication network models, structuration theory, chaos theory, complex adaptive systems and self-organizing systems theories, social systems theory, and self-reflective systems theory (Poole, 2014).

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each system is different from another. In other words, unlike biological systems, components of social organizations have their own wills and intended purposes (White, 2014).

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skill acquisition scheme and poverty reduction among the youth. The theory shows how the government reacts to people's plight in terms of the provision of the necessities of life. The theory highlights the demands of the peoples as presented to government, government actions on the said demands and the output is the program that will enhance the well-being of the peoples.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the procedure to be followed in realizing the goals and objectives of the research, it lays out the methods employed in the study to obtain relevant data for the study. In addition, methodology outlines research design, population of the study, sample and sampling sizes, types and sources of data, instrument of data collection, reliability validity of the research instrument and methods of data analysis.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study was designed to make a survey of youths' vulnerability and urban crimes in Benin City, with reference to Ugbowo community in Egor L.G.A, Edo State, to this end, the field survey research design was employed for the purpose of this study.

#### **3.3 The Population of Study**

The population of this research study comprises of selected residents of Egor LGA, Edo State, Nigeria. It has a population of 754,189 at the 2006 census (Nigerian Population Census, 2006).

#### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques**

The purposive sampling technique was adopted for this study. The sample of this study was drawn from the respondent within the research location. However, in the view of the financial and logistics constraints 100 respondents were sampled using questionnaire. This was done to gather detailed data from the respondents.

### **3.5 Research Instrument**

The main research instrument to be used for this study is the ‘questionnaire’. The research questionnaire was therefore be constructed in line with the research questions in chapter one. The questions was presented in a simple language to elicit responses from the respondents and for those respondents who cannot fill the questionnaire. The questionnaire was draft in two sections, ‘A’ and ‘B’.

Section A covers the demographic data of the respondents. Section B contained items and response on youths’ vulnerability and urban crimes in Benin City, with reference to Ugbowo community in Egor LGA, Edo State.

### **3.6 Validation and Reliability of Research Instrument**

Validity refers to the extent to which an instrument is measured. To determine the validity of the instrument, the draft copy of the questionnaire were given to my supervisor for scrutiny, and two other experts in social work to also validate the instrument.

The reliability of the instrument was determined by subjecting data collected to Crobach Alpha formula and the reliability coefficient was obtained.

### **3.7 Method of Data Collection**

The questionnaire was personally distributed to the respondents after obtaining their permission. The respondent were advised to answer the questions honesty after administering the questionnaire to them. The researcher equally guide the respondents with regards to filing the questionnaire and those who cannot fill the questionnaire were interviewed by the researcher. All questionnaires to be distributed were collected from the respondents after completion for the purpose of analysis.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

Data analysis has to do with converting a series of recorded information (data) into descriptive statement and inferences about relationships. The responses from the questionnaire administered were analyzed using descriptive statistic. The descriptive method described the demography of respondents using frequency and percentage. A step wise regression techniques were adopted for the study with the help of Chi-square statistical tool ( $X^2$ ). In all cases alpha (significance value) were set at 0.05, to test at the 5% level.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter is on the presentation and analysis of data gotten from distributed questionnaires. The variables analyzed for this study is youth vulnerability and urban crime in Benin City. The chi-square technique as discussed in chapter three will be used to analyze our result. For the purpose of this research work, 100 questionnaires were administered to respondents in the study area, and only 83 questionnaires were properly filled and found valid, and this were used for the analysis.

#### 4.2 Analysis of Respondents' Personal Information

**Table 4.1: Frequency Table showing the distribution of Gender of respondent**

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Male	47	56.6
Female	36	43.4
Total	83	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

Table 4.1 above shows the gender categories of 83 respondents who returned usable copies of the distributed questionnaire of which 36 (43.4%) were females, while 47 (56.6%) were males.

**Table 4.2: Frequency Table showing the distribution of age of the respondent**

<b>AGE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
18 - 27 years	9	10.8
28-37 years	24	28.9
38 – 47 years	35	42.2
48 years and above	15	18.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source Field Survey, 2023**

Table 4.2 above shows the analysis of Age categories of the 83 respondents who returned usable copies of the questionnaire distributed. 10.8% of the respondents fall within the age bracket of below 18 to 27yrs., 28.9% was between 28-37yrs, and 42.2% of the respondents fall between the age bracket of 38 – 47 years, while the remaining 15 respondents, which accounts for 18.1% are between the age of 48 years and above. This shows that the majority of the respondents were matured.

**Table 4.3: Frequency Table showing the distribution of the educational qualification of the respondent**

<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
OND/HND	31	37.3
B.Sc. and above	52	62.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

Table 4.3 above shows the analysis of educational qualification of the 83 respondents who returned usable copies of the questionnaire distributed, of which 31 respondents, which account for 37.3% obtain the Ordinary National Diploma and Higher National Diploma Level, while 52 respondents, which accounts for 62.7% obtain B.Sc. and higher Degrees”. This shows that majority of the respondents were educated enough.

### **4.3 Data Analysis and Presentations (Section B: Field Questions)**

In this section, the responses to the questions were analyzed using Likert-Scale point.

#### **SECTION B**

SA = Strongly Agree

A = Agree

U N = Undecided

D = Disagree

SD = Strongly Disagreed

**Table 4.4: Level of Crime among Youths in Benin City**

S/N	Description	SA	A	SD	D	UN	TOTAL
1	There is a high rate of crime among youths in Benin City.	37 (44.6)	21 (25.3)	7 (8.4)	12 (14.5)	6 (7.2)	83 100%
2	The ineffectiveness of Nigerian security has led to the prevalence of crime among youths in Benin City.	49 (59.0)	17 (20.5)	3 (3.6)	14 (16.9)	- (-)	83 100%
3	Rising level of youth vulnerability has resulted in the sharp increase of crime Benin City.	47 (56.6)	31 (37.3)	- (-)	- (-)	5 (6.1)	83 100%
4	Any society where socio-economic marginalization prevails is bound to witness an increase in crime and delinquency among the youths.	33 (39.8)	34 (41.0)	9 (10.8)	4 (4.8)	3 (3.6)	83 100%
5	The antecedents of youth's vulnerability to crime in Benin City is traceable to socio-economic background of the youths.	38 (45.8)	30 (36.1)	7 (8.4)	- (-)	8 (9.6)	83 100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

From the table 4.4 above, in item one, respondents were asked if there is a high rate of crime among youths in Benin City. “In response to the question, 37 respondents strongly agreed, 21 agree, 7 strongly disagreed, 12 disagreed, while 6 were undecided. Thus, due to the high percentage of respondents who agreed with the issue raised, it can therefore be concluded that there is a high rate of crime among youths in Benin City.

In item 2 of whether the ineffectiveness of Nigerian security has led to the prevalence of crime among youths in Benin City. In response to the question, 49 respondents strongly agreed, 17 agreed, 3 strongly disagreed, and 14 of the respondents disagreed respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that the ineffectiveness of Nigerian security has led to the prevalence of crime among youths in Benin City.

In statement 3, 47 respondents strongly agreed that rising level of youth vulnerability has resulted in the sharp increase of crime Benin City; 31 respondents agreed, none of the respondents strongly disagreed nor disagreed, while 5 respondents were undecided. Therefore, it can be concluded that the rising level of youth vulnerability has resulted in the sharp increase of crime Benin City.

For statement 4, respondents were asked if any society where socio-economic marginalization prevails is bound to witness an increase in crime and delinquency among the youths. In response to the question asked, 33 respondents strongly agreed, 34 agreed, while 9 respondents strongly disagreed, and 4 respondents disagreed with the question asked, then 3 of the respondents were undecided. Hence, from the responses above, it can be deduced that in any society where socio-economic marginalization prevails is bound to witness an increase in crime and delinquency among the youths.

As for statement 5, out of the 83 respondents, 38 of them strongly agreed that the antecedents of youth's vulnerability to crime in Benin City is traceable to socio-economic background of the youths; 20 respondents agreed, while 7 of the respondents strongly disagreed, and the remaining 8 respondents were undecided. Thus, it can construed with the responses that the antecedents of youth's vulnerability to crime in Benin City is traceable to socio-economic background of the youths.

**Table 4.5: The Impact of Poverty on Youth Vulnerability to Crime in Benin City.**

S/N	Description	SA	A	SD	D	UN	TOTAL
1	Poverty is a major factor that predispose youths to crime in Benin City	28 (33.7)	35 (42.2)	8 (9.6)	10 (12.1)	2 (2.4)	83 100%
2	Poverty has always leads to immense social, political and economic constraints.	32 (38.6)	37 (44.6)	4 (4.8)	8 9.6)	2 (2.4)	83 100%
3	Poverty is one of the causative factor that lead many youths to turn out to be notorious criminal in Benin City	33 (39.8)	35 (42.2)	8 (9.6)	7 (8.4)	- (-)	83 100%
4	Poverty has twisted many youths in Benin City to have become disreputable criminals due to the cruel famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn.	20 (24.1)	41 (49.4)	6 (7.2)	- (-)	16 (19.3)	83 100%
5	It is important for the Nigerian government to look into the negative impact of poverty on vulnerability to crime in Benin City.	43 (51.8)	31 (37.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (10.8)	83 100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2023.**

From the table 4.5 above, in items 1, it can be seen that 28 respondents strongly agreed that the poverty is a major factor that predispose youths to crime in Benin City. Also, 35 respondents agree with the question asked, while 8 respondents strongly disagreed and 10 disagreed, the remaining 2 were undecided. Hence, it can be concluded that poverty is a major factor that predispose youths to crime in Benin City.

In item 2, 22 respondents strongly agreed that poverty has always leads to immense social, political and economic constraints. Also 27 respondents agreed, 4 respondents strongly disagreed, and 8 respondents disagreed, while 2 of the respondents were undecided with the term respectively. Thus, in line with the responses above, it can be

concluded that poverty has always leads to immense social, political and economic constraints.

Statement 3 shows that 33 respondents strongly agreed, and 35 respondents agreed that poverty is one of the causative factor that lead many youths to turn out to be notorious criminal in Benin City; while 8 respondents strongly disagreed, and 17 disagreed with the question asked, while none were undecided. Therefore, it can be concluded that poverty is one of the causative factor that lead many youths to turn out to be notorious criminal in Benin City.

For statement 4, respondents were asked if poverty has twisted many youths in Benin City to have become disreputable criminals due to the cruel famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn. In response to the question asked, 20 respondents strongly agreed, 41 agreed, 16 of the respondents were undecided, while the remaining 6 respondents disagreed with the question asked. Thus, it can be taken that poverty has twisted many youths in Benin City to have become disreputable criminals due to the cruel famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn.

Furthermore, in statement 5, out of the 83 respondents, 43 strongly agreed, and 31 agreed that it is important for the Nigerian government to look into the negative impact of poverty on vulnerability to crime in Benin City; while 9 of the respondents were undecided about the question asked, but none of the respondents disagreed with the statement. Therefore, it can be said from the responses that it is important for the Nigerian government to look into the negative impact of poverty on vulnerability to crime in Benin City. These findings are in line with the studies of Adesina (2013) who posited that poverty has twisted many youths to have become disreputable kidnapers due

to the implacable famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn. He further stated that the high price of goods and service in Nigeria, has resulted in the greater number of poor people living under unrestricted famine and increased poverty in the society, and this has inversely resulted to the greater the number of crime and detrimental vices predominant in Nigeria today (Adesina, 2013).

**Table 4.6: Unemployment and Youth Vulnerability to Crime in Benin City.**

S/N	Description	SA	A	SD	D	UN	TOTAL
1	Unemployment rate contribute to youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City.	47 (56.6)	28 (33.7)	1 (1.2)	4 (4.8)	3 (3.6)	83 100%
2	Unemployment is one of the most serious problem facing Nigeria youths.	48 (57.8)	31 (37.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (4.8)	83 100%
3	Unemployment among youths has become a critical and alarming issues in Benin City.	42 (50.6)	24 (28.9)	3 (3.6)	8 (9.6)	6 (7.2)	83 100%
4	The rising trend of crime in Benin City is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment among the youths.	35 (42.2)	15 (18.1)	19 (22.9)	7 (8.4)	7 (8.41)	83 100%
5	The Nigerian government should provide employment for the youths in order to discourage them from hostile habits and encourage them to be good citizens.	51 (61.4)	27 (32.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (6.0)	83 100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2023.**

From the table 4.6 above, in items 1, of whether unemployment rate contribute to youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City. It can be seen that 47 respondents strongly agreed, and 28 respondents agree with the statement. But 5 respondents disagreed, while 3 were undecided about the issues raised. Hence, it can be concluded in line with the responses that unemployment rate contribute to youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

In item 2, majority of the respondents which accounts for 48 strongly agreed unemployment is one of the most serious problem facing Nigeria youths; this is followed by 31 respondents who are also in agreement with the issues raised. None of the respondents disagreed with the statement, while only 4 respondents were undecided. Thus, it can be taken that unemployment is one of the most serious problem facing Nigeria youths.

Statement 3 shows that 42 respondents strongly agreed that unemployment among youths has become a critical and alarming issues in Benin City; and 24 respondents agreed also. But 3 respondents strongly disagree, and 8 respondents also disagreed with the issue raised, while 6 respondents were undecided with the statement. Therefore, it can be concluded that unemployment among youths has become a critical and alarming issues in Benin City.

For statement 4 of whether the rising trend of crime in Benin City is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment among the youths. In response to the statement, majority of the respondents, which stands at 35 strongly agreed, and 15 respondents also agreed with the statement, while 7 of the respondents were undecided, 19 respondents strongly disagreed, and 7 respondents disagreed with the statement. Thus, from the responses to the statement above, it can be concluded that the rising trend of crime in Benin City is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment among the youths.

More so, in statement 5, out of the 83 respondents, 51 of them strongly agreed that the Nigerian government should provide employment for the youths in order to discourage them from hostile habits and encourage them to be good citizens; and 27 respondents also agreed with the statement. None of the respondents disagreed, but only 5 of the

respondents were undecided with the issue raised. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Nigerian government should provide employment for the youths in order to discourage them from hostile habits and encourage them to be good citizens. The findings above is in line with the studies of Kilishi, Mobolaji, Usman, Yakubu and Yaru (2014) who posited that the rising trend of criminal violence in Nigeria is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment.

More so, Suleiman (2017) concludes that the problem of unemployment in Nigeria is one of the major syndromes that upturned youths to become atrocious actors. He pointed to the famous saying of the elder as known to us that devil works in idles minds, but Nigeria government underrate the negative impact of unemployed people.

**Table 4.7: The Impact of Education Level on Youth Vulnerability to Crime in Benin City**

S/N	Description	SA	A	SD	D	UN	TOTAL
1	Education level impact positive on youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City	33 (39.8)	20 (24.1)	8 (9.6)	4 (4.8)	18 (21.7)	83 100%
2	The incessant academic strikes in Nigeria education sector have bred a legacy of a propensity to crime among youths in Benin City.	27 (32.5)	20 (24.1)	12 (14.5)	21 (25.3)	3 (3.6)	83 100%
3	Migration of skill-deficient undergraduates from universities into the society has increased the incidents of youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City	37 (44.6)	41 (49.4)	- (-)	- (-)	5 (6.0)	83 100%
4	The incidents of crime among youths in Benin City is prevalent among the uneducated.	21 (25.3)	11 (13.3)	35 (42.2)	15 (18.1)	1 (1.2)	83 100%
5	Education plays a pivotal role in emancipating and empowering people to achieve	33 (39.8)	37 (44.6)	2 (2.4)	5 (6.0)	6 (7.2)	83 100%

economic and social freedom.						
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**Source: Field Survey, 2023.**

From the table 4.7 above, in items 1, 33 respondents strongly agreed that education level impact positive on youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City; and 20 respondents agreed also. Moreso, 8 respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, and 4 respondents disagreed also. But 18 of the respondents were undecided. Hence, in agreement with the responses above, it can be concluded that education level impact positive on youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

In item 2 of whether the incessant academic strikes in Nigeria education sector have bred a legacy of a propensity to crime among youths in Benin City. In response to the question, 27 respondents strongly agreed, and 20 respondents agreed with the statement, but 3 respondents were undecided, and 12 respondents strongly disagreed, and 21 respondents disagreed with statement respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that the incessant academic strikes in Nigeria education sector have bred a legacy of a propensity to crime among youths in Benin City.

Statement 3 shows that 37 respondents strongly agreed, and 41 respondents agreed that migration of skill-deficient undergraduates from universities into the society has increased the incidents of youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City. While 5 respondents were undecided, and none of the respondents disagreed with the issue raised. Therefore, in line the responses above, it can be concluded that migration of skill-deficient undergraduates from universities into the society has increased the incidents of youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

For statement 4, 21 respondents strongly agreed, and 11 respondents agreed that the incidents of crime among youths in Benin City is prevalent among the uneducated. Then,

35 respondents, which accounted for 42.2%, and 15 respondents, which accounted for 18.1% disagreed and stated that the incident of crime among youths in Benin City is not only prevalent among the uneducated. While 1 respondent, which accounted for 1.2% was undecided. Hence, in correlation with the responses, it can be concluded that the incidents of crime among youths in Benin City is not only prevent among the uneducated. Finally, in statement 5 of whether education plays a pivotal role in emancipating and empowering people to achieve economic and social freedom. Out of the 83 respondents, 33 strongly agreed, and 37 agreed with the statement, while 6 respondents were undecided, then 5 respondents disagreed, and 2 of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement. Therefore, it can be concluded that education plays a pivotal role in emancipating and empowering people to achieve economic and social freedom. These findings however, correlates with the studies of Aiyetan (2004) who stated that the inefficiency and corruption among government educational administrators and strikes of university staff have led to progressive deterioration in both infrastructure and academic quality. Strikes and neglect have resulted in mass production of under-prepared graduates (Osabuohien & Ogunrinola, 2017) and at times, the untimely drop-out of undergraduates who then specialize in crime and social vices. Furthermore, this findings is also in line with the study of Obe and Isine (2018) who posited that the migration of skill-deficient undergraduates from university campuses into the cities has increased and the unemployed have become a reserve armed robbers and kidnappers.

### **4.3 Statement of Hypotheses**

Hypothesis could be described as a statement of logical guess, which are to be verified and tested using scientific approach. Hence, this section treat the four (4) hypotheses

stated in chapter one of this study as a criteria for determining the acceptance or rejection of either the null or the alternative hypothesis using chi-square ( $X^2$ ) statistical test.

### Hypothesis I

**H<sub>1</sub>:** *There is no significant relationship between socio-economic background and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.*

### Using Research Question 1

**Table 4.8**

S/N	SA	A	SD	D	UN	TOTAL
1	37	21	7	12	6	83
2	49	17	3	14	-	83
3	47	31	-	-	5	83
4	33	34	9	4	3	83
5	38	30	7	-	8	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	204	133	26	30	22	415

Calculation of the expected frequency

TR X TC

TC = Total Column

TR = Total Row

Grand Total

$$\therefore SA = \frac{83 \times 204}{415} = 40.8$$

$$\therefore A = \frac{83 \times 133}{415} = 26.6$$

$$\therefore SD = \frac{83 \times 26}{415} = 5.2$$

$$\therefore D = \frac{83 \times 30}{415} = 6.0$$

$$\therefore UN = \frac{83 \times 22}{415} = 4.4$$

Chi - square ( $X^2$ )

$$= \sum \frac{(f_0 - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

SCALE	FREQUENCY OBSERVED	FREQUENCY EXPECTED	$(f_0 - f_e)$	$\frac{(f_0 - f_e)^2}{f_e}$
SA	37	40.8	21.16	0.65
	49	40.8	-30.8	-0.95
	47	40.8	213.16	6.57
	33	40.8	-18.8	-0.58
	38	40.8	31.36	0.96
A	21	26.6	-18.0	-0.6
	17	26.6	361.0	12.03
	31	26.6	1.0	0.03
	34	26.6	-2.0	-0.06
	30	26.6	-20.0	-0.66
SD	7	5.2	-0.4	-0.05
	3	5.2	-8.4	-1.16
	-	5.2	7.2	1.0
	9	5.2	3.24	0.45
	7	5.2	96.04	13.33
D	12	6.0	1.96	0.18
	14	6.0	11.56	1.09
	-	6.0	10.6	1.0
	4	6.0	70.56	6.65
	-	6.0	-5.2	-0.49
UN	6	4.4	10.24	3.65
	-	4.4	2.8	1.0
	5	4.4	4.84	1.72
	3	4.4	0.04	0.01
	8	4.4	2.8	1.0

$$\text{Calculated } X^2 = 46.77$$

$$D F = (\gamma - 1) (C - 1)$$

$$= (5 - 1) (5 - 1) = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

Where:

DF = Degree of Freedom

r = Row

C = Column

$\therefore X^2$  Table Value at 0.01 level significance is = 32.000

### **Decision Taken**

Since the chi-square ( $x^2$ ) calculated value 46.77 is greater than the table value of 32.000, we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, which states there is a significant relationship between socio-economic background and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City. This finding correspond with the study of Ewetan, (2013) who posited that Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant human and natural resources and yet is classified among the poorest countries in the world. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt. This scenario has been attributed to amongst other factors, to the high rate of violent crime in Nigeria. More so, Ewetan and Urchia (2014) pointed out that insecurity in Nigeria has retarded socio economic development in Nigeria in the following ways: Social dislocation and population displacement; heightens citizenship question which encourages hostility between indigenes and settlers; dislocation and disruption of family and communal life; general atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy; dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as

instruments of war; deepening of hunger and poverty in the polity; discourages local and foreign investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people; halts business operations during period of violence and outright closure of many enterprises in the areas or zones where incidence of insecurity is rife and are on daily occurrence; increases security spending by business organizations and governments; migration of people from area or region where there is prevalence of insecurity. Socio economic development is the primary goal of every well-meaning government, and it is essentially dependent on the level of economic activities in a country; the level of economic activities is in turn enhanced by peaceful co-existence by people”.

## Hypothesis 2

**H<sub>0</sub>:** *There is no significant relationship between poverty rate and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.*

### QUESTION 2: Hypothesis Testing

**Table 4.9**

S/N	SA	A	SD	D	UN	TOTAL
1	28	35	8	10	2	83
2	32	37	4	8	2	83
3	33	35	8	7	-	83
4	20	41	6	0	16	83
5	43	31	0	0	9	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	156	179	26	25	29	415

Calculation of the expected frequency

TR X TC (Total row x Total column)

Grand Total

$$\therefore SA = \frac{83 \times 156}{415} = 31.2$$

$$\therefore A = \frac{83 \times 179}{415} = 35.8$$

$$\therefore SD = \frac{83 \times 26}{415} = 5.2$$

$$\therefore D = \frac{83 \times 25}{415} = 5.0$$

$$\therefore UN = \frac{83 \times 29}{415} = 5.8$$

*Chi – square ( $X^2$ )*

$$= \sum \frac{(f_0 - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

SCALE	FREQUENCY OBSERVED	FREQUENCY EXPECTED	$(f_0 - f_e)$	$\frac{(f_0 - f_e)^2}{f_e}$
SA	28	31.2	-19.2	-0.97
	32	31.2	5.76	0.29
	33	31.2	-3.2	-0.16
	20	31.2	-7.2	-0.36
	43	31.2	153.76	7.84
A	35	35.8	21.16	0.69
	37	35.8	-6.8	-0.22
	35	35.8	-10.8	-0.35
	41	35.8	112.36	3.69
	31	35.8	-12.8	-0.42
SD	8	5.2	-7.2	-0.62
	4	5.2	5.76	0.49
	8	5.2	129.96	11.20
	6	5.2	-11.2	-0.96
	0	5.2	-9.2	-0.79
D	10	5.0	84.64	4.50
	8	5.0	-1.6	-0.08
	7	5.0	-3.6	-0.19
	0	5.0	1.44	0.07
	0	5.0	-15.6	-0.82
UN	2	5.8	-1.2	-0.46
	2	5.8	-1.2	-1.46
	-	5.8	2.6	1.0
	16	5.8	2.6	1.0
	9	5.8	40.96	15.75

$$\text{Calculated } X^2 = 39.29$$

$$D F = (\gamma - 1) (C - 1)$$

$$= (5 - 1) (5 - 1) = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

$\therefore X^2$  Table Value at 0.01 level significance is = 32.000

### **Decision Taken**

Since the chi-square ( $x^2$ ) calculated value 39.29 is greater than the table value of 32.000, we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, which states that there is no significant relationship between poverty rate and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City. This findings correlates with the study of Mukhtar, Isyaku and Sani (2016), who asserted that extreme poverty can cause terrible suffering and death, and even modest levels of poverty can prevent people from realizing many of their potentials. The frustration for attaining one's potential is often expressed in form of violence. Poverty has always leads to immense social, political and economic constrains. More so, Suleiman, (2016) added that poverty is one of the causative spectrums that lead many people to turn out to be notorious criminal in Nigeria. Poverty is a financial incapacity or state of lacking basic requirement to live rational life. Basic requirement such as money, food, water and shelter among many others are the scourge of poverty which demoralized the less privilege to be inflicted with the wrath of anomaly.

### Hypothesis 3

$H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between unemployment and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

#### QUESTION 3: Hypothesis Testing

**Table 4.10**

S/N	SA	A	SD	D	UN	TOTAL
1	47	28	1	4	3	83
2	48	31	0	0	4	83
3	42	24	3	8	6	83
4	35	15	19	7	7	83
5	51	27	0	0	5	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	223	125	23	19	25	415

Calculation of the expected frequency

TR X TC (Total row x Total Column)

Grand Total

$$\therefore SA = \frac{83 \times 223}{415} = 44.6$$

$$\therefore A = \frac{83 \times 125}{415} = 25.0$$

$$\therefore SD = \frac{83 \times 23}{415} = 4.6$$

$$\therefore D = \frac{83 \times 19}{415} = 3.8$$

$$\therefore UN = \frac{83 \times 25}{415} = 5.0$$

Chi – square ( $X^2$ )

$$= \sum \frac{(f_0 - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

SCALE	FREQUENCY OBSERVED	FREQUENCY EXPECTED	$(f_o - f_e)$	$\frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$
SA	47	44.6	16.0	2.28
	48	44.6	4.0	0.57
	42	44.6	-8.0	-1.14
	35	44.6	0.0	0.0
	51	44.6	-4.0	-0.57
A	28	25.0	14.44	1.01
	31	25.0	7.84	0.55
	24	25.0	-12.4	-0.87
	15	25.0	0.64	0.04
	27	25.0	-2.4	-0.16
SD	1	4.6	1.0	0.02
	0	4.6	-10	-0.27
	3	4.6	49.0	1.36
	19	4.6	-18.7	-0.51
	0	4.6	225.0	6.25
D	4	3.8	-15.6	-0.71
	0	3.8	0.04	0.00
	8	3.8	4.84	0.22
	7	3.8	174.24	7.99
	0	3.8	-15.6	-0.71
UN	3	5.0	-2.0	-0.5
	4	5.0	0.0	0.0
	6	5.0	4.0	1.0
	7	5.0	9.0	2.25
	5	5.0	4.0	1.0

Calculated  $X^2 = 49.5$

$$D F = (\gamma - 1) (C - 1)$$

$$= (5 - 1) (5 - 1) = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

$\therefore X^2$  Table Value at 0.01 level significance is = 32.000

### Decision Taken

Since the chi-square ( $x^2$ ) calculated value 49.5 is greater than the table value of 32.000, we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, which states that there is no significant relationship between unemployment and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City. This findings correlates with the study of Kilishi et al. (2014),

who stated that the rising trend of criminal violence in Nigeria is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment. Also, Suleiman (2017) added that the problem of unemployment in Nigeria is one of the major syndromes that upturned youths to become atrocious actors. He pointed to the famous saying of the elder as known to us that devil works in idle mind but Nigeria government underrate the negative impact of unemployed people. More so, the finding also correspond with the study of Kilishi, et al. (2014), who posited that dishonorably, due to unemployment many of the youths are prancing as a sex hawker to the politicians in order to procure job, many others were took into service as political propaganda to instigate havoc in their various society and the lucky one are serving as a political blogger on social medial to disseminate bogus and counterfeit information in favor of political henchmen. As a result of this detrimental recruitment, these youths turn to monster which resulted to the occurrence of incessant robbery and kidnapping

#### **Hypothesis 4**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** *There is no significant relationship between education level and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.*

#### **QUESTION 4: Hypothesis Testing**

**Table 4.11**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>UN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	33	20	8	4	18	83
2	27	20	12	21	3	83
3	37	41	0	0	5	83
4	21	11	35	15	1	83
5	33	37	2	5	6	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	151	129	54	45	33	415

Calculation of the expected frequency

TR X TC (Total row x Total Column)

Grand Total

$$\therefore SA = \frac{83 \times 151}{415} = 30.2$$

$$\therefore A = \frac{83 \times 129}{415} = 25.8$$

$$\therefore SD = \frac{83 \times 54}{415} = 10.8$$

$$\therefore D = \frac{83 \times 45}{415} = 20.0$$

$$\therefore UN = \frac{83 \times 33}{415} = 6.6$$

$$Chi - square (X^2) = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

SCALE	FREQUENCY OBSERVED	FREQUENCY EXPECTED	$(f_o - f_e)$	$\frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$
SA	33	30.2	60.84	1.10
	27	30.2	249.64	4.52
	37	30.2	-36.4	-0.65
	21	30.2	282.24	5.11
	33	30.2	-44.4	-0.80
A	20	25.8	-8.4	-0.34
	20	25.8	-24.4	-1.00
	41	25.8	282.24	11.66
	11	25.8	-26.4	-1.09
	37	25.8	163.84	6.77
SD	8	10.8	4.4	1.0
	12	10.8	8.4	1.0
	0	10.8	0.4	1.0
	35	10.8	23.4	1.0
	2	10.8	1.56	6.4
D	4	20.0	2.10	2.04
	21	20.0	1.18	33.8
	0	20.0	0.8	1.0
	15	20.0	3.48	21.0
	5	20.0	0.64	11.05
UN	18	6.6	11.7	18.44
	3	6.6	0.42	1.25
	5	6.6	2.02	3.18
	1	6.6	1.2	0.48
	6	6.6	3.04	19.2

$$\text{Calculated } X^2 = 84.93$$

$$D F = (\gamma - 1) (C - 1)$$

$$= (5 - 1) (5 - 1) = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

*∴ X<sup>2</sup> Table Value at 0.01 level significance is = 32.000*

### **Decision Taken**

Since the chi-square ( $x^2$ ) calculated value 84.93 is greater than the table value of 32.000, we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, which states that there is no significant relationship between education level and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City. This finding correspond with the study of Alemika and Chukwuma, (2016), who posited that the mismanagement and incessant academic strikes in Nigeria's post-independence educational sector have bred and institutionalized a legacy of a propensity to criminal violence for a large proportion of its youth. The increase effect is reflected in kidnapping, armed robbery, advanced fee fraud, cultism, political thuggery, theft, area boyism (street boys/men that typically are a menace around major parks in urban areas) and other social vices prevalent among youths. Although the nation has abundant natural resources (human and material, especially minerals), it is painfully understandable that these resources produce a paradox

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter considers the summary, conclusion and recommendations for this research work which premise on youth vulnerability and urban crimes in Benin City.

#### 5.2 Summary of Findings

From the analysis in chapter four above, the findings of the study revealed that there is a high rate of crime among youths in Benin City; the ineffectiveness of Nigerian security has led to the prevalence of crime among youths in Benin City; the rising level of youth vulnerability has resulted in the sharp increase of crime Benin City; in any society where socio-economic marginalization prevails is bound to witness an increase in crime and delinquency among the youths; the antecedents of youth's vulnerability to crime in Benin City is traceable to socio-economic background of the youths; poverty is a major factor that predispose youths to crime in Benin City; poverty has always leads to immense social, political and economic constraints; poverty is one of the causative factor that lead many youths to turn out to be notorious criminal in Benin City; poverty has twisted many youths in Benin City to have become disreputable criminals due to the cruel famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn; and it is important for the Nigerian government to look into the negative impact of poverty on vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

Furthermore, the findings from the study revealed that unemployment rate contribute to youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City; unemployment is one of the most serious problem facing Nigeria youths; unemployment among youths has become a critical and

alarming issues in Benin City; the rising trend of crime in Benin City is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment among the youths; the Nigerian government should provide employment for the youths in order to discourage them from hostile habits and encourage them to be good citizens; that education level impact positive on youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City; the incessant academic strikes in Nigeria education sector have bred a legacy of a propensity to crime among youths in Benin City; migration of skill-deficient undergraduates from universities into the society has increased the incidents of youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City. However, the major findings from the hypotheses tested revealed that;

1. there is no significant relationship between socio-economic background and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
2. there is no significant relationship between poverty rate and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
3. there is no significant relationship between unemployment and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.
4. there is no significant relationship between education level and youths' vulnerability to crime in Benin City.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The presence of insecurity in any environment constitutes threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities, and discourages local and foreign investors, all of which stifles and retards socio-economic development of a country. In Nigeria there has been rising wave of insecurity since the country attained independence in 1960. This rising wave has not decreased but has assumed a dangerous dimension which is even

threatening the corporate existence of the country as one geographical entity. The issue of the criminal violence and kidnapping can be link to socio-economic marginalization which result to poverty. The elimination of these threats should be the number one goal of governments in Nigeria at all levels as the country cannot achieve any significant development amidst insecurity and violence.

Government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, and intelligence sharing, training, logistics, motivation, and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges. And also put in place strategies to increase the living standard of its citizens by way of employment creation and reducing the incidence of socio-economic marginalization, and make sure everyone benefit from the nation's resources.

The real remedy for solving insecurity and criminal violence in Nigeria is for government to accelerate the pace of development. Development in this context consists of creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, high level of educational facilities, and medical care for the people. Governments at all levels should ensure that rising poverty indices are reversed and a realistic social security programme is pursued and systematically implemented to ensure that the populace meets their basic needs.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

To address the issue of socio-economic marginalization and the evil of poverty and its tendency for instigating criminal violence activities, as well as establishing an ideal democratic system, the study therefore made the following recommendations:

1. It is necessary for the government to create employment in order to reduce crime rate in the state, and Nigeria as a whole.
2. It is important for the Nigerian government to look into the negative impact of poverty on youth vulnerability to crimes in Benin City, and Nigeria as a whole, and proffer possible solution to the issue of socio-economic marginalization.
3. The Nigerian government should provide employment for the youths in order to discourage them from hostile habits and encourage them to be good citizens.
4. It is important for the government to invest more on the education sector to improve efficiency.
5. Role of the media in reporting violence is very crucial in curtailing the act of violence in Nigeria. The media shall transform crime and violence coverage to the plain of the authority. The media reporters shall engage in both mental and psychological re-conditioning. The reporter must critically re-examine the routine, conventional approach to coverage of crime and violence in favour of treating crime and violence stories as he will normally treat stories about an epidemic. In practical terms, demands that the reporter to include three classes of information in crime and violence stories (the perspectives or prevalence of the violence in Nigeria; the risk factors that expose people to victimization; and the cost of the violence in our midst). This is important since the media play roles in the structuring of perception of violence and conflict to community and authority by regular reflection on related incidences and suggesting way forward.
6. Nigerians at all levels and in all structures from family level to community settings, marketplace to workplace, in the places of worship, law enforce,

judiciary officials are as a matter of national security participate in national security crusade by becoming productive and desist from laziness in order to live a sustainable life, fight violence of all kinds, become patriot citizens, avoid lawlessness and each citizen to become his/her brother's keeper". In order for Nigeria to develop and be salvaged from the shackle of poverty, violence and conflict, the principle of the rule of law must be obeyed by leaders and followers.

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**APPENDIX**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY**

**RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE**

**TOPIC:  
YOUTH VULNERABILITY AND URBAN CRIME IN BENIN CITY**

Dear Respondent,

**REQUEST FOR COMPLETING RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am a final year student of the above department. As part of the requirements for my B.Sc. Degree in Sociology and Anthropology, I am conducting a research investigation on “*Youth Vulnerability and Urban Crime in Benin City.*”

Kindly respond to the items by ticking your response in the spaces provided below. Your response will be treated with strict confidence and used for the stated purpose only.

Thanks for your anticipated co-operation.

**Ikhualoghe Omoye**  
*(Researcher)*

**SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Please tick [√] one option relevant to you.

1. Gender: Male [ ], Female [ ]
2. Age: 18 – 27yrs [ ], 28 – 37yrs [ ], 38 – 47yrs [ ], 48yrs and above [ ]
3. Educational Qualifications: OND/HND [ ], B.Sc. [ ]

**SECTION B:**

**Instruction:** Please, answer the following questions by using this scale. Please take note of the meaning of the following abbreviations: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (UN), Disagreed (D), Strongly Disagreed (SD)

**The Level of Crime among Youths in Benin City?**

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1	There is a high rate of crime among youths in Benin City.					
2	The ineffectiveness of Nigerian security has led to the prevalence of crime among youths in Benin City.					
3	Rising level of youth vulnerability has resulted in the sharp increase of crime Benin City.					
4	Any society where socio-economic marginalization prevails is bound to witness an increase in crime and delinquency among the youths.					
5	The antecedents of youth’s vulnerability to crime in Benin City is traceable to socio-economic background of the youths.					

**The Impact of Poverty on Youth Vulnerability to Crime in Benin City.**

S/N	QUESTION	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1	Poverty is a major factor that predispose youths to crime in Benin City					
2	Poverty has always leads to immense social, political and economic constraints.					
3	Poverty is one of the causative factor that lead many youths to turn out to be notorious criminal in Benin City					
4	Poverty has twisted many youths in Benin City to have become disreputable criminals due to the cruel famine and deficient means to survive economic downturn.					
5	It is important for the Nigerian government to look into the negative impact of poverty on vulnerability to crime in Benin City.					

**Unemployment and Youth Vulnerability to Crime in Benin City.**

S/N	QUESTION	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1	Unemployment rate contribute to youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City.					
2	Unemployment is one of the most serious problem facing Nigeria youths.					
3	Unemployment among youths has become a critical and alarming issues in Benin City.					
4	The rising trend of crime in Benin City is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment among the youths.					
5	The Nigerian government should provide employment for the youths in order to discourage them from hostile habits and encourage them to be good citizens.					

**The Impact of Education Level on Youth Vulnerability to Crime in Benin City**

S/N	QUESTION	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1.	Education level impact positive on youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City					
2	The incessant academic strikes in Nigeria education sector have bred a legacy of a propensity to crime among youths in Benin City.					
3	Migration of skill-deficient undergraduates from universities into the society has increased the incidents of youth vulnerability to crime in Benin City					
4	The incidents of crime among youths in Benin City is prevalent among the uneducated.					
5	Education plays a pivotal role in emancipating and empowering people to achieve economic and social freedom.					