

**CYBER CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH IN  
OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE, NIGERIA**

**BY**

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Crime appears to be a permanent feature of modern society (Shehu, 2014). Despite efforts of criminologist, law enforcement agency, personal and criminal justice professionals to minimise it, the world is becoming a more terrible place. Where crimes such as terrorism, kidnapping, robbery, assault, sex offences, child molestation, burglary, environmental crime, arson (crimes without a victim), economic crime, political crime and cybercrime are the order of the day (Igba, Chimezie, Aja, Nnamani, Ogo, 2018). Crime appears to be a permanent feature of modern society. Despite efforts of social workers, law enforcement agency, personal and criminal justice professionals to minimise it, the world is becoming a more terrible place. Where crimes such as homicide, kidnapping, robbery, assault, sex offences, child molestation, burglary, environmental crime, arson are crimes without a victim, economic crime, political crime and cybercrime are the order of the day.

Shehu (2014) posits that the convergence of computing and communications, and the rapid growth of digital technology have brought immense benefits to society, but these benefits also come with greater risks both nationally and internationally. Today, many traditional crimes are now being aided or abetted through the use of computers and networks, and wrongdoing previously never imagined has surfaced because of the incredible capacities of the information system. Folashade and Abimbola

(2013) have argued that the information technology revolution associated with the internet has brought about two edge functions: it has on the one hand contributed positive values to the world; while on the other hand, it has produced so many maladies that threaten the order of the society and also producing a new wave of crime to the world.

As a developing country, Nigeria faces social, political, economic and cultural problems which have in no small measure affected the well-being of the populace. Such problems bedeviling the country include youth's unemployment and the rising wave of crime, which have serious implications for national development. Unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy (Okafor (2011), and Nigeria is not exempted. Its impact has been felt more by the youths. Nigerian youths from all corners of the country rush to Lagos state in search of white-collar jobs, especially, the graduates. It is believed that Lagos state, being the former Federal Capital State and centre of excellence has more job opportunities than other states (Alanana, 2003, Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010 and Okafor, 2011).

Unemployment rate in Nigeria has continued to be on the increase despite the abundant human and natural resources available in the country. Chronic youth's unemployment is evident in Nigeria. Every year, thousands of graduates are produced but there are no jobs for majority of them. Nigerian streets are littered with youth hawkers who ordinarily would have found gainful employment in some enterprise (Okafor, 2011). The large number of youths who are unemployed is capable of undermining democratic practice as

they constitute a serious threat if engaged by the political class for clandestine and criminal activities (Adepegba, 2011; Ibrahim, 2011; Lartey, 2011; Olatunji and Abioye, 2011; Okafor, 2011). Unemployment among youths as a worldwide challenge is more serious and challenging in underdeveloped states than the industrialized states.

Consequently, an unemployed person, according to Olakitan, (2015) could be regarded as someone without any physical means of livelihood but is actively seeking work. Unarguably, youth unemployment is a major issue in developing countries, including Nigeria where it affects young men and women with a potential for crime and social unrest. Youths also represent an important stakeholder in the society and constitute a major part of the labour force. Through their creative and innovative capacity, a nation makes giant stride. However, in the absence of regular income and means of livelihood to ensure life sustenance, the frustration of unemployed youths could be transformed into criminality in the society. A vast majority of these youths are energetic and possess the capacity for work, yet they are found roaming the street daily and searching for jobs that barely exist (Obaro, 2012).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Crime and delinquent behaviour are global social problems. However, their intensity and frequency varies from one society to another. Criminal behaviours, such as armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, cyber-based crime, banditry, electoral violence and ethno-religious violence are some of the contemporary social problems confronting Nigeria today. The prevalence of

youth crime and delinquent behaviour in the world today is a cause for serious concern for all and sundry; and has assumed a worrisome dimension in Nigeria (Namadi and Huruna, 2016). It is argued that unemployment influence youth crime and delinquent behaviour in Nigerian cities. Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle & Udaw (2013) posited that lack of employment opportunities has contributed to youth involvement in violence and other criminal behaviours Nigeria. Unemployment is linked with boredom, poor self-esteem and poor self-confidence which in turn lead to anti-social behaviour.

Rotimi (2011) noted that the increased rate of violent crimes is connected with unemployment. He further opined that youth unemployment leads to involvement of youth in crimes and armed conflict. According to Adebayo (1999) the youths supposed to be the driving force for development in Nigeria. Consequently, the youths are becoming volatile, because their energies are misdirected, since they do not have a better engagement to which they could apply their energy. Okafor, (2011) asserted that chronic youth unemployment is evident in Nigeria in that, every year thousands of graduates are produced but there are no jobs for majority of them. Available data show that youth unemployment is very rampant in Nigeria and this has contributed immensely to youth involvement in criminal activities. The high rate of unemployment can be blamed on the lack of adequate provision for jobs creation in the development plans, the ever expanding educational growth and the desperate desire on the part of youths to acquire University education irrespective of course and course contents. As a result, a number of skills

acquired from the University appear dysfunctional and irrelevant (Adebayo, 2013)

According to National Bureau of Statistics (2020), Nigeria's unemployment rate as at the second quarter of 2020 is 27.1% indicating that about 21,764,614 Nigerian remain unemployed. Meanwhile, for the period under review, the unemployment rate among young people (15-34 years) for the second quarter of 2020 is 34.9% from 29.7% in the third quarter of 2018. This unemployment figure will continue to rise in correlation to crime commission if efforts are not intensified to reduce the associated social problems. This has made youth unemployment to pose high risk to the Nigerian society. If there is one country in the world that needs as a matter of urgency to get more of its youth off the streets, positively engaged them in productive ventures is Nigeria. There has been increase in the involvement of youths in various anti-social activities and offences as a result of unemployment.

Igbo (2007) indicated that 18-34 years age group accounts for most crimes in almost all societies. Researches have also attributed this to the poor state and conditions youth find themselves in Nigeria (Odumosu 1999; Igbo 2007). The vulnerability of youth to unemployment and marginalisation is well illustrated by the number of adolescents working menial jobs to supplement family income in cities. The International Labour Organisation (2009) estimates that there are at least more than 15 million adolescents working in urban Africa, and that approximately half of these are between the ages of 6 and 19 years old (ILO, 2009). It is in this light, thus, to say that the intensity

and severity of criminal behaviour among youths are generally determined by the prevailing economic conditions in a country. In many African countries, there is evidence of increase in crime among youths taking place concurrently with economic decline, especially in the poor districts of large cities (Moser, 2006). It is against this backdrop that this study tends to assess cybercrime and unemployment among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

- i. What was the prevalence rate of cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
- ii. What are the causes of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
- iii. What are the effects of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
- iv. What are the solutions to cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

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

The main objective of this study was to assess cybercrime and unemployment among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Specifically, this study seeks to:

- i. Find out the incidence and prevalence rate of cybercrime in oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
- ii. Discover the causes of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

- iii. Ascertain the effects of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
- iv. Proffer Solutions to cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Youth unemployment and cybercrime unlike any other type of social ill is recognized as a serious social problem because of the implication it has on the society and without intervention and prevention, the society will not be a better place to live in. Therefore, the findings of this study will be of immense benefit to parents, youth, government, policy makers, law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations and future researchers in this study area. The study will be useful to relevant government organizations and law enforcement agencies on how best to effectively and decisively handle crime. It will also provide policy makers with information needed to further strengthening the existing legislations on crime prevention.

The study will contribute to the advancement in the theoretical orientation in examining the impact of unemployment on crime. The study will serve as reservoir of knowledge and make significant contribution in empowering criminologists, security experts and governments on effective ways of reducing unemployment and crime in the society. The findings of this study will add to the existing body of knowledge on how to minimize the effect of unemployment and crime in Nigeria. Empirically, this study will be relevant as it will provide expository data, in that; it will generate information that will

help in creating public awareness about the scourge of unemployment and crime by raising the level of responsibilities of parents and government.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study examines cybercrime and unemployment among youth (male and female) of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The study was carried out in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo state. In Nigeria, youths are regarded as people between the ages of 18 and 35 years old both male and female (Second National Youth Policy Document of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2009). Hence, the study population comprised selected youths within the ages of 15-34 years in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo state.

### **1.7 Area of the Study**

Oredo Local Government Area can be regarded as the base of the ancient Benin Empire. From pre-colonial time, its capital, Benin City has been the seat of the Benin monarch the Chairman of Edo State Traditional Council. Benin City. The capital of Oredo Local Government Area, is also the capital of Edo State. This makes Oredo Local Government Area strategic and unique. The Council was founded in 1954, at that time it was known as the Benin City Council. It became Oredo Local Government in 1976. The Local Government is densely populated because of its metropolitan nature. Oredo Local Government is premier among the 18 Local Government Councils that makeup Edo State and serves as the commercial nerve centre of Edo State. Benin City is famous for its arts and culture which include plaques, carving Bronze and Elephant Tusk. Proudly, the symbol of the 1977 Second black Africa festival

has Idia as its symbol. Oredo Local Government Area parade the second largest Moat (Earth work) in the world according to records it is the seat of ancient Benin Customs and Tradition.

The Local Government Area is also rich in tradition and festivals. The ancient and historic palace of the Oba of Benin is built in Benin in Oredo Local Government Area, and as such Oredo always participate actively in the traditional festivals of the monarch, particularly the Igue Festival which has attracted international attention over the years. Oredo Local Government is made of twelve (12) political wards. Each ward is represented by an elected councillor. Finally, Oredo Local Government Council is blessed with natural agricultural resources, good soils, rain forest vegetation and equatorial climate. Her Agricultural products are cassava, cocoa, coffee, yams, rice, plantain, okra and vegetable. The climate is conducive to human habitation. The equatorial climate is marked by distinct dry and rainy seasons. The temperature is about 80°F with rainfall of about 2000mm per annum and loamy soil is generally found in the locality.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 Incidence and Prevalent Rate of Cybercrime

The rate of cybercrime is on the increase these ranges from fake lotteries to the biggest internet scams. According to Strassmann, (2009) Elekwe, a chubby faced 28-year-old man made a fortune through the scam after two years of joblessness despite having diploma in computer science. He was lured to Lagos from Umuahia by the chief of a fraud gang in a business center. He has three sleek cars and two houses from his exploits. Four Nigerians suspected to be operating a “419” scam on the internet to dupe unsuspecting foreign investors in Ghana were arrested by security agencies. Their activities are believed to have led to the loss of several millions of foreign currencies by prospective investors. Two young men were recently arrested after making an online purchase of two laptops advertised by a woman on her website under false claims. They were arrested at the point of delivery by government officials. Mike Amadi was sentenced to 16 years’ imprisonment for setting up a website that offered juicy but phony procurement contracts. The man impersonated the EFCC Chairman, but he was caught by an undercover agent posing as an Italian businessman.

The biggest international scam of all was committed by Amaka Anajemba who was sentenced to 2½ years in prison. She was equally ordered to return \$25.5 million of the \$242 million she helped to steal from a Brazilian bank. A recent internet scam case was reported on the Sunday PUNCH

newspaper of July 16, 2006 involving a 24-year-old Yekini Labaika of Osun State origin in Nigeria and a 42-years-old nurse of American origin by name Thumbelina Henshaw in search of a Muslim lover to marry. The young man deceived the victim by claiming to be an American Muslim by the name, Phillip Williams, working with an oil company in Nigeria and he promised to marry her. He devised dubious means to swindle \$16,200 and lots of valuable materials from the victim. The scammer later was sentenced to a total of 19½ years having been found guilty of eight counts against him. Incidences like these are on the increase. Several young men unabated are still carrying out these illegal acts successfully, ripping off credulous individuals and organizations. Recently, a report indicated that Nigeria is losing about \$80 million yearly to software piracy. The report was the finding of a study conducted by Institute of Digital Communication, a market research and forecasting firm based in South Africa, on behalf of Business Software Alliance of South Africa. The American National Fraud Information Centre reported Nigerian money offers as the fastest growing online scam, up to 90%. The Centre also ranked Nigerian cyber-crime impact per capita as being exceptionally high. Those involved are between 18-25 years mostly resident in the urban centers.

The internet has helped in modernizing fraudulent practices among the youths. Online fraud is seen as the popularly accepted means of economic sustenance by the youths involved. The corruption of the political leadership has enhanced the growth of internet crime subculture. The value placed on

wealth accumulation has been a major factor in the involvement of youths in online fraud.

## **2.2 Causes of Cybercrime**

The root causes of cybercrimes are not far-fetched. One only has to take a quick glance around the society to observe illicit wealth acquisition and its display. This is coupled with the fact that; the perpetrators are highly exalted. The problem is made worse by the high youth unemployment, the absence of enforceable prohibitive laws and the general laissez faire attitude of individuals and businesses regarding cyber security (Hassan, Lass and Makinde 2012). Evidence has also shown that, a significant proportion of these crimes are perpetuated by people in their youthful age. It is however worth noting that some of these attacks are also perpetrated within organizations. Many internet users are easily lured by unknown mails and web site addresses, falling victim to spyware and phishing.

Hassan et al. (2012) identified urbanization, high unemployment, quest for wealth, poor implementation of cybercrime laws, inadequately equipped law enforcement agencies, and negative role models as some of the causes of proliferated cybercrimes in Nigeria. Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle and Udaw, (2013), in their study examined the relationships among unemployment, poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. They found that unemployment causes poverty, and that a positive causal relationship exists between the latter and insecurity. Other causes of cybercrime according to them are: corruption, gullibility/greed, proliferation of cyber cafes and the vulnerable nature of the

internet. The main causes of cyber-crimes in Nigeria are briefly discussed below.

1. **Urbanization** – Rapid urbanization in Nigeria which manifests mainly through the fast population growth is a challenging issue for policy makers. Urban population grows at an annual rate of 4.3% (World Development Indicator, 2016). This is much higher than the Sub-Saharan Africa average and continues to put pressure on available resources in Nigerian cities. For instance, only 32.8% of urban population had access to improved sanitation facilities in 2015, and about 68.5% of urban population had access to potable water supply within the period (WDI, 2016). According to Meke (2012), urbanization is beneficial only to the extent of availability of good jobs that have been created in cities, amidst high population growth rate. The study held that urbanization is one of the major reasons that led to increases in cybercrimes in Nigeria. He also noted that urbanization and crime move in tandem.
2. **Unemployment:** Unemployment rate in Nigeria is high and stood at 23.1% in the fourth quarter of 2018. Youth unemployment rate is currently above 47%. According to Okafor (2011), high unemployment in Nigeria comes with socioeconomic, political and psychological consequences. This phenomenon encourages the development of street youths and urban urchins (“area boys”) that grow up in a culture that encourages criminal behavior.

3. **Quest for wealth:** Carnal instinct that quests for wealth is another cause of cybercrimes in Nigeria. For any business to succeed, it is expected that, the rate of returns on the investment grow at a geometric rate, with minimal risk. Cyber criminals desire to invest minimal capital in a conducive environment that would reap maximum gains as they strive to become rich using the quickest means possible.
4. **Poor Implementation of Cybercrime Laws and Inadequately Equipped Law Enforcement Agencies:** According to Laura (2011), African countries have received intense criticism for inadequately handling of cybercrimes due to inadequate infrastructure and competence of assigned law enforcement agencies. The private sector also lags behind in protecting itself from cyber savvy criminals, Nigeria inclusive. There is no sophisticated hardware to forensically track down cyber criminals. In some instances, the laws regarding cybercrimes are circumvented by criminals. It is worth noting that law enforcement agencies in Nigeria such as the EFCC and ICPC have successfully prosecuted cybercrime offenders over the years. Nevertheless, much improvement can still be made.
5. **Negative Role Models:** Youths are mirrors of the society. According to Meke (2012), many parents transmit criminal tendencies to their children via socialization. If this continues unchecked and the values are absorbed by the younger generation, they will see nothing wrong with cybercrime.

6. **Corruption:** Nigeria has continued to occupy despicable position in the global ranking for corruption. In 2018, Nigeria was ranked the 144th most corrupt nation in the world out of 176 countries surveyed by the Transparency International<sup>5</sup>. People celebrate wealth without questioning the source of such wealth. It is common to hear of people with questionable character and wealth being celebrated in society. This misguided disposition towards wealth encourages the get-rich-quick mindset that can be pursued through cybercrime.
7. **Gullibility/Greed:** Most victims of cybercrime express some degree of gullibility and/or greed. Some people carry out transactions hoping to make profits without thorough investigations. Such people are prey for the cyber criminals.
8. **Poverty:** According to Meke (2012), poverty refers to the inability to afford decent food, shelter, clothing and recreational activities. Hence, poverty is the absence of basic life essentials for survival and comfort of mankind. A poverty-stricken person may unwittingly turn to crime for survival. About 50% of Nigerians live in extreme poverty as at 2018.
9. **The Proliferation of Cyber Cafes and the Porous Nature of the Internet:** It is important to note that the nature of the internet is that geographical and political boundaries are not relevant as attacks can be generated by criminals from anywhere in the world and executed wherever the criminals deem fit. Also, the proliferation of cyber cafes has been another major cause of the rising cybercrime.

### **2.3 Effects of Cybercrime and Unemployment**

The financial problems which are rising from prolonged unemployment are one major effects of unemployment among youth in Nigeria. It is known that we cannot buy anything without money; the constant income buys basic needs food, clothing and shelter. Due to the loss of income, unemployed individuals will be unable to earn money to meet financial obligations (Okafor, 2011). As a result of the financial crisis and the reduced overall purchasing capacity of a country the unemployed individuals are unable to maintain the minimum standard of living. Consequently, this affects the national economy leads to poverty. There are many obvious and well-documented social problems which are caused by unemployment. Because of the increased spare time and stress there will be an increase in the rates of alcoholism, drug abuse and domestic violence. The militarization of these young people in violent crimes originates with the idea that youths constitute 'potential': a commodity that can be plundered alongside natural resources and public fund to serve the agenda of warfare (Ajaegbu, 2012).

Moreover, high unemployment often results in increased marriage breakdown, divisions and discrimination especially among the young. Unemployment also has been connected to the impaired family functioning as it affects the parents' interactions with their children and their spouse as well. Unemployment affects a person psychologically; numerous studies have revealed a relationship between unemployment and lack of self-esteem and confidence leading to depression. Similarly, the greatest challenge on youth

unemployment is their use for political and military ends. Deprived of employment opportunity and livelihood, youths are actively mobilized by politicians and armed groups alike. Youth unemployment also has security implications for almost every country in Nigeria, since desperation often leads young people to fall prey to warlords, criminal gangs, or illegal migration syndicates (Ajujo, 2013).

The effect of cybercrime manifest in various ways such as loss of life, loss of dignity and loss of employment. The impact of cybercrime is not only limited to the victim; it spreads its impact on the society. The consequences of cybercrime on the economy includes loss of revenue, wasted time, damaged the reputation and reduced productivity among youth (Ringwelski, 2008).

#### **i. Loss of Revenue**

One of the main effects of cybercrime on an economy is the loss of revenue. For example, in financial institutions or multinational co-operations, loss of revenue can be caused by an outside party who obtain sensitive financial information and uses it to withdraw funds from the account of such an institution. Cybercrime can occur when a business' ecommerce site become compromise while inoperable, valuable income is lost when consumers are unable to use the site.

#### **ii. Damaged Reputation**

In cases where customer's records are compromised by a security breach associated with cybercrime, a company's reputation can take a major hit. Customers whose credit card or other financial data become intercepted by

hackers or other infiltrators lose confidence in such an organisation and often begin taking their business elsewhere. Due to these problems, foreign investors often consider Nigeria as an unattractive market, and it has a detrimental impact on Nigeria citizenry when they travel outside to do business.

### **iii. Reduce productivity**

Due to the measures that many companies must implement to counteract cybercrime, there is often a negative effect on employee productivity. This is because, due to security measures, employees must enter more passwords and perform other time-consuming acts in order to do their jobs. Every second wasted performing this task is a second not spent working productively. The impact of cybercrime already has a detrimental influence on Nigerian Citizenry/Economy. Global anti-corruption body, such as Transparency International has listed Nigeria as one of the most corrupt countries in the world (Oyesanya, 2004). Private companies around the world are beginning to take steps geared to blocking email traffic originating from Nigeria. Nigerian financial instruments are now accepted with extreme due diligence around the world and some international banks have completely denied access to their website if the traffic originates from Nigeria.

### **vi. Reduces the Competitive Edge of Organisations**

Computer crimes over the years have cost a lot of havoc to individuals, private and public business organization within and outside the country, causing a lot of financial and physical damage. Due to cybercrime, there has been loss of billions of dollars annually globally speaking, such crimes may

threaten a nation's security and financial health, a company can suffer losses due to computer crime when a hacker steals confidential information and future plans of the company. And he simply sells the information to a competitor company; this will automatically reduce the competitive strength of the company.

#### **v. Slows Production Time and Add to Over Head Cost**

Computer crime reduces the productivity of a company, as a company will take measure to reduce cybercrime, by entering more password or other acts this will take time to do and therefore will affect productivity. Computer crime will increase the cost as to stop viruses and malware companies must buy strong security software to reduce the chances of attacks from such attacks.

#### **vi. Time Wastage and Slows Financial Growth**

Wastage of time is another problem because many IT personals may spend a lot of time on handling, rectifying harmful incidents which may be caused by computer criminals. The time spent should have earned a profit to the organization. One peculiar problem is that, when a hacker enters in an organization and steals confidential information from the company the people who entrust the company loses their confidence in the company as the company may contains confidential information like credit cards of customers and as the information is stolen the customer will not trust the company again and will move to someone else who could protect their confidential information.

#### **vii. Defamation of Image**

With high level of cybercrime in the nation, the slogan “good people great nation “by Nigerians will be tarnished and global community will view the other side of the coin. Other effect includes the consumption of computer and network resources and the cost in human time and attention of dismissing unwanted messages.

## 2.4 Prevention of Cybercrime

Cybercrime has grown rapidly in Nigeria following the introduction of modern telecommunication and broadband technologies. Nigeria was ranked 16th in cyber-attacks vulnerability in Africa in 2016 by Check Point (a cyber-security vendor). The prolific growth can be attributed to the availability of resources as well as the relative ease with which the perpetrators can acquire the skills for committing such crimes. Cyber-attacks will continue to rise as Nigeria becomes increasingly technology-driven, hence, the need for prompt corrective actions to prevent or mitigate them. Combating the threats of cybercrime and attendant reputational challenges has been high over the past decades. Despite the negative threats posed by cybercrimes to businesses, financial institutions, and the country, the advancement of cyber technologies has increased productivity levels and reduced cost of businesses. It is therefore imperative that certain measures are put in place to stem the growing menace. Such efforts would require inputs and active participation of all relevant stakeholders. Cybercrime cannot be easily and completely eliminated, but can be minimized. To reduce cybercrime to a minimal level in Nigeria, there would be a need for an active collaborative effort between individuals, corporate organizations and the government.

**Role of Individuals and Businesses:** Fighting cybercrime is a huge task. This is because, as technology advances to combat cyber threats, criminals get sophisticated by coming up with novel ways of perpetrating their acts. Government and organizations globally have come up with laudable ways of

addressing cyber related crimes, some of which are already being deployed within the shores of Nigeria. These include:

- i. The use of robust firewalls to prevent attacks and filter malware or suspicious malicious codes.
- ii. Consistent training of IT personnel to monitor and detect unusual traffic/intrusions within the deployed I.T infrastructure.
- iii. The enactment of stringent laws and prosecution of individuals in breach of same.
- iv. Deployment of secure user access interfaces to ensure that only authorized persons are given access to corporate networks.
- v. Frequent updating and upgrading of software and applications to be in line with recent global best practice.
- vi. There is the need for effective cooperation and collaboration among banking institutions: For example, when fraudsters use computers or other ICT infrastructure to transfer funds from an individual account, such funds are deposited or moved to an account in another financial institution. The institution involved should cooperate effectively when such fraudulent transfers are detected.
- vii. Enhanced Public Awareness: There is the need for adequate public awareness on the activities of fraudsters and consumer education on the usage of critical computer applications. Education is seen as the most vital weapon for literacy. There is the need for regular Seminars and Workshops to be organized from time to time with emphasis on cyber-safety so that individuals

will learn to keep their personal information safe. There is the need for proper consumer education on the need to:

- a. Observe simple rules such as ensuring the installation and usage of dedicated anti-malware protection/tool on each individual's computer systems, and avoid pirated software.
- b. Personal Identification Number (PIN), bank account and email access should never be shared to unknown persons as systems are fraught with security issues. Irrespective of design and sophistication.
- c. Confidential information should never be shared/ disclosed to anybody, as no network can 100% guarantee security from malicious hacking.

d. Ignore any unsolicited e-mail or SMS requiring any financial information.

Hassan, Lass and Makinde (2012) noted that, laws to enforce property rights work optimally when owners of property rights take reasonable steps to safeguard their property. Even with enabling laws and enforcement, institutions that operates wide network facilities, should take definite steps to secure their network, information and computer systems from malicious activities of cybercriminals. To achieve some success in reducing the level of cybercrimes in Nigeria, financial institutions and businesses should ensure the following:

- a. Frequent user awareness and sensitization of end-users on need to ensure cyber security at all times.
- b. Formulation and implementation of policies aimed at deploying and maintaining robust IT infrastructure on which the businesses thrive.

- c. Subjection of deployed IT infrastructure to simulated attacks in order to ascertain vulnerabilities with the aim to address them i.e. Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing.
- d. The acquisition of insurance cover for losses relating to cybercrimes and attacks.
- e. Create a forum for collaboration and sharing information on the nature, perceived origins and frequency of cyber-attacks experienced.
- f. Organizing workshops for the purpose of building capacity for public and security operatives on proactive and sustainable ways of countering cybercrime in Nigeria.
- g. Enhancing operational risk management practices at all levels of the business. It is only logical for institutions to build resilient risk management frameworks that can surpass the sophistication of the cyber fraudsters.
- h. Collaborative efforts of individuals, corporate organization and government would go a long way to reduce cybercrime to a minimal level.
- i. Telecommunication Regulatory Agencies should ensure adherence to policies, procedures and standards that facilitate security on the internet service providers' infrastructure so as to easily detect and trace activities of cybercrimes. The enforcement on use of Security Incidence and Event Management (SIEM) will strengthen the process.

### **Role of Government**

**The Cybercrime Act, 2015** as stated in its explanatory memorandum, the Cybercrimes Prohibition ACT 2015 “provides an effective, unified and

comprehensive legal, regulatory and institutional Framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of Cybercrimes in Nigeria”. The Act needs to be constantly reviewed to align with dynamic nature of the cyber environment to accommodate more crimes and address more cyber-related issues that are unique.

**The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation 2019** is also another regulation that is targeted at protecting both data in motion and at rest. Moreover, there are general laws that deal with financial crimes such as the Nigeria criminal code, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Act 2004, and the Advance Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Act, 2006. Okeshola and Adeta (2013) stated that for legislation on cybercrime to be relatively effective and efficient, government needs to empower graduates through employment and the provision of intensive training for law enforcement agencies on ICT to enable them in tracking down cyber criminals.

To reduce cybercrimes in Nigeria, there is the need to create job opportunities for the unemployed youths as well as the need for government, law enforcement, intelligence and security agencies to understand the technology and individuals engaged in the criminal acts in order to be able to curb their activities. The social impact of cybercrimes is so damming that various tiers of governments have come up with different programmes aimed at re-orientating the youth towards positive thinking. Several initiatives directed at protecting the interests of Nigerians in the cyberspace have been put forward. Agencies, such as the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA),

Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) have all worked towards curbing the menace of cybercrime in Nigeria. Other notable cybercrime control initiatives include the setting up of a National Cybercrime Working Group (NCWG) with stakeholders drawn from the law enforcement agencies, the financial sector and ICT professionals, and a pilot project of a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) centre by NCWG and NITDA. Cybercrime can however take place regardless of borders, but legislations and jurisdictions are based on a country-specific framework.

The upgrade of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) to a full-fledged Agency (NFIA) is also a great leap to strengthen the fight against cybercrime in the country. Notable amongst the areas of cooperation include:

- i. Prevention and recovery from malicious cyber-activities with significant threat to individuals and critical infrastructure, and one that can lead to indiscriminate/ systemic harm;
- ii. Check activities which substantially result in damages in availability or integrity of the internet for the majority of people;
- iii. Strengthen the collective capacity of all members to easily detect and trace any misalignment/ interference by foreign actors, especially as it relates to malicious cyber-attacks of country's electoral processes;
- iv. Put measure in place to stall theft of intellectual property garnered in ICT environment and this includes trade secrets and other confidential

business information. The aim is to encourage competitive advantages amongst companies or commercial sector.

- v. Competence should be enhanced in the areas of preventing the proliferation of malicious ICT tools and practices to stall its damaging effects;
- vi. There are identified needs to strengthen the digital security and processes, as well as products/ services, throughout the supply chain lifecycle;
- vii. Support efforts to strengthen advanced cyber hygiene for all actors;
- viii. Put measures in place that will check the activities of non-State actors, including the private sector, from conducting malicious hacking of systems, for own purposes or hired accomplices;
- ix. Efforts should be geared towards promotion and implementation of acceptable international norms, as well as institution of measures to build confidence in cyberspace.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

The theory that were adopted for this study are strain theory by Robert Merton. Merton in his social structure and anomie theory in 1938, revised the legacy of Durkheim's anomie theory and applied it to explain various deviant acts in United States of America. Like Durkheim, Merton intended to develop a sociological explanation for deviant behaviour and delinquency in a society. Thus, he stated that our primary aim lies in discovering how social structures exert a definite pressure upon certain persons in the society to engage in nonconformist rather than conformist conduct (Merton, 1938). Later in his

writings, he proclaimed that our perspective is sociological i.e. the aberrant behaviour may be regarded sociologically as a symptom of dissociation between culturally prescribed aspirations and socially structured avenues for realizing these aspirations.

Merton (1938) referred to anomie as a breakdown in the cultural structure, occurring particularly when there is an acute disjunction between cultural norms and goals and the socially structured capacities of members of the group to act in accord with them. This to him is the major cause of deviant and delinquent behaviour. Merton suggests five ways through which people show their adaptations to the achievement of social goals through socially approved means.

1. Conformity – person accepts the goals and means to achieve the goals set by society.
2. Innovation – individual accepts the goals but uses illegitimate means to achieve goal.
3. Ritualism – individual that rejects goals but will work towards lower standard goals that have been approved
4. Retreatism – person who rejects both the goals and the means.
5. Rebellion – person who in a sense creates his/her own society.

According to Merton delinquent youths are usually found among innovation group. These are robbers, pocket pickers, drug dealers, and prostitutes etc who disapproved the social means (legitimate ways) of achieving cultural goals. Youths in retreatism group are living in the society

but not for the society. They have totally segregated themselves from the rest of the society because they believe that society have nothing good to offer them. These are the youths that have taken into alcohol, drugs etc. Finally, youths who are political activists fall under the category of rebellion. They do not believe the goals of the society and the approve ways of achieving them but rather create their own goals and means in replacement (Jones, 2008)

In applying the strain theory to this study, crime is caused by the difficulty those in poverty and unemployed have in achieving socially valued goals by legitimate means. As those with for instance, the educated or graduates have difficulty securing well paid employment, they are more likely to use criminal means to achieve their socially or culturally approved goals. The theory explains the reasons why unemployed youths from poor families and drop out youths may eventually venture into criminal business to achieve the social goals like youths from economically rich families and those who have sound education have achieved.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study adopted two types of research design. The cross-sectional design also known as one-shot or status studies which was based on the number of contacts and in-depth interview. The cross-sectional was used to assess the causes of cybercrime on unemployment among youth in Oredo local government area by taking a cross-section of the population of the study at a time. On the other hand, this study used in-depth interview which retrospectively linked the cause of one variable (cybercrime) to the outcome of another variable (unemployment) without controlling any of the variables by the researcher.

Survey research design which inherently makes for the identification of a sample of the research population involved the application of both quantitative technique and qualitative techniques. The quantitative technique was utilized with the administration of questionnaires, while the qualitative technique was utilized with the conducting of in-depth interviews.

#### **3.2 Population of the Study**

The populations of this study were youths between the ages of 15-34 years in Oredo Local Government Area. However, there are 12 wards in Oredo Local Government Area. The names of the wards are Etete, Ibiwe, Ihogbe, Ikpema, New Benin I, New Benin II, Ogbe, Ogbelaka, Oredo, Unueru, Urubi, and Uzebu ward. For the purpose of this study, New Benin I, Ogbelaka, Urubi,

Ihogbe, Etete, and Ikpema ward were randomly selected. Therefore, the total population of the study is youth between the ages of 15-34 in the six selected area in Oredo Local Government Area, which is **148,118**.

**Table 3.2.1 Distribution of Population of the six selected wards between 15-34 years in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State**

| Wards        | Sex           |               | Total          | Percentage of total population |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
|              | Males         | Females       |                |                                |
| New Benin I  | 12,893        | 13,515        | 26,408         | 17.8                           |
| Ogbelaka     | 15,252        | 16,078        | 31,330         | 21.2                           |
| Urubi        | 14,799        | 14,558        | 29,357         | 19.8                           |
| Ihogbe       | 10,468        | 9,753         | 20,221         | 13.7                           |
| Etete        | 9,344         | 10,108        | 19,452         | 13.1                           |
| Ikpema       | 10,582        | 10,768        | 21,350         | 14.4                           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>73,338</b> | <b>74,780</b> | <b>148,118</b> | <b>100</b>                     |

**Source:** National Population Census Headcount of Nigeria Projection 2025

### 3.3 Sample Size

The sample size for this study was **496**; this figure was derived using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size formula due to the fact that the target population is known.

Using the formula below:

$$S = \frac{X^2 NP(1-P)}{d^2(N-1) + X^2 P(1-P)}$$

Where:

S= Required Sample Size

X= Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 99% confidence level)

N= Population size

P= Population proportion (expressed as decimal) (assumed to be 0.5 (50%))

D= Degree of accuracy (5%), expressed as a proportion (0.5); It is margin of error

In using the KreJcie and Morgan (1970) for known population, the study population was **148,118** for the six selected wards in Oredo local government area. The study used the population sample size of **496**; due to the fact that the difference in the table value for 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error is very minimal. This means 496 respondents were administered using the questionnaire and 12 respondents were administered the interview guide within the study area.

**Table 3.3.1 Distribution of Sample Size of the respondents in the Selected Wards in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State**

| <b>Wards</b> | <b>Percentage of total population (PN<sup>1</sup>)</b> | <b>Proportion of sample size (496*PN)</b> |
|--------------|--|---|
| New Benin I  | 17.8   | 80  |
| Ogbelaka     | 21.2   | 97  |
| Urubi        | 19.8   | 90  |
| Ihogbe       | 13.7   | 75  |
| Etete        | 13.1   | 68  |
| Ikpema       | 14.4   | 86  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100</b>   | <b>496</b>                                |

**Source:** Researcher's Computation, 2025

### **3.4 Sampling Techniques**

In selecting the sample for the respondents from the research populations, the study used multi-stage sampling techniques. The six wards were selected from the twelve wards in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State using the simple random technique. The youth in Oredo Local Government Area were stratified according to age bracket. The scope of the research were youths in the age bracket of 15-34 within the study area. This sampling technique was most

suitable because it recognized the fact that this age group was the most active population. The questionnaire was then administered to the members of the stratum with the aid of the purposive sampling technique.

### **3.5 Instrument of Data Collection**

The research instrument that was adopted for this study was the structured questionnaire for the respondents which were used to collect primary data. The questionnaire was made up of opened and closed ended questions for detailed responses. The questionnaire and interview guide will be divided into section A, B, C, D, E and F. Section A focused on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents; section B elicited information on the incidence and prevalence rate of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. More so, section C was drawn questions on forms of classification of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; section D focused on causes cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State and section E elicited information on the effects of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; section. Section F elicited responses on the relationship between cybercrime and unemployment among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State and section G generated questions on the solutions on cybercrime. The quantitative made use of administering of questionnaires while the qualitative dealt with interviews giving of consent forms, use of audio or voice recorder.

### **3.6 Sources of Data Collection**

The primary data of this study were collected through the questionnaire and interview guide which was the main source of data collection for the study. Secondly, the secondary data were literatures related to the study from journals of Social Sciences and humanities, library books, online articles and materials, monograph and statistical records.

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

This was both quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative was through survey and statistical evidence to create valid and reliable general claims. The qualitative was interview through direct communication with the participants /respondents to stress contextual subjective accuracy over generality. Both methods stress elements of triangulation.

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

The study adopted quantitative and qualitative methods for data analysis since the study was basically quantitative and qualitative. The descriptive statistics such as tables, charts, frequency distribution, and percentages were used in analyzing data gathered from respondents while the inferential statistics, specifically the Chi Square was used to test the stated hypotheses to determine the relationship between the variables in the study. The quantitative data analysis was done with the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 22.0 version, and the confidence of 0.05 p- value was adopted as benchmark for test of significance. The qualitative data were transcribed and analyzed through use of manual content analysis.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains the analysis and interpretation of data. This is the hub of the study as it gives meaning to the entire study, since it summarizes the analysis of raw data collected in the field. In this survey, two aspects of data analysis were used. The first is the general description of socio-demographic distribution of respondents. The second is the analysis of the themes and substantive issues in the study.

#### 4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

**Table 4.1 Percent distribution of the socio demographic characteristics of respondents**

| Variable                  | Response            | Frequency  | Percentage % |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Age group of respondents  | 15-20years          | 120        | 24.2         |
|                           | 21-25 years         | 190        | 38.3         |
|                           | 26-29 years         | 100        | 20.2         |
|                           | 30-34 years         | 86         | 17.3         |
|                           | <b>Total</b>        | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b>   |
| Sex                       | Male                | 300        | 60.5         |
|                           | Female              | 196        | 39.5         |
|                           | <b>Total</b>        | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b>   |
| Marital status            | Never Married       | 320        | 64.5         |
|                           | Married             | 164        | 33.1         |
|                           | Separated/Divorced  | 10         | 2.0          |
|                           | Widowed/Widower     | 2          | 0.4          |
|                           | <b>Total</b>        | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b>   |
| Educational Qualification | University Degree   | 100        | 20.2         |
|                           | Diploma/NCE/A-Level | 90         | 18.1         |
|                           | Secondary school    | 253        | 51.0         |
|                           | Primary school      | 50         | 10.1         |
|                           | No formal education | 3          | 0.6          |

|                       | <b>Total</b>        | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Religious Affiliation | Christianity        | 376        | 75.8       |
|                       | Islam               | 50         | 10.1       |
|                       | African Traditional | 70         | 14.1       |
|                       | Others              | 0          | 0          |
|                       | <b>Total</b>        | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2025

**Age of respondents:** Table 4.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, from the table above and Figure 4.1, the result showed that most of the respondents fall within ages 21-25 years with 190 (38.3%), followed closely by those belonging to the age group of 15-20 years with 24.2%, while those within the age group of 26-29 years and 30-34 years constitute 100 (20.2%) and 86 (17.3%) respectively.

**Sex of respondents:** On the sex of respondents, the result from figure 4.2 above revealed that of the 496 respondents, 300 of the respondents representing 60.5 percent were male, while 196 of the respondents representing 39.5 percent were female. It is obvious from the result that majority of the respondents in this research were male.

**Marital status:** From the table 4.1 showing the marital status of the respondents above, the result indicated that majority of the respondents were never married with 320 (64.5%), followed by the married category with 164 (33.1%), while the separated/divorced and widow/widower category recorded 10(2.0%) and 2(0.4%) respectively.

**Education Qualification:** On the Educational level of respondents, of the 496 respondents who participated in the research, the result from the table above revealed that most of the respondents had secondary school education with 253

(51.0%), followed by those with University degree 100 (20.2%), and those with Diploma/NCE/A-Level with 90 (18.1%), while respondents with primary school and non-formal education recorded 50 (10.1%) and 3(0.6%) respectively.

### Religious affiliation:

The result revealed that of the 496 respondents, 376 of the respondents representing 75.8% were Christians, 70 of the respondents representing 14.1% were from the African Traditional Religion category, while 50 of the respondents representing 10.1% were Muslims. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of respondents in this study were from the Christian religion affiliation.

### 4.3 Analysis of Thematic/Substantive Issues of the Study

The section represents the thematic/substantive issues of the study and was analyzed using the various objectives and themes of the study.

**Table 4.2. Incidence and Prevalence Rate of Cybercrime**

| Variable   | Response     | Frequency  | Percentage % |
|--|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Do think you that<br>cybercrime is rampant<br>among youths in Oredo<br>local Government area?              | Yes          | 300        | 60.5         |
|  | No           | 106        | 21.4         |
|  | Don't know   | 90         | 18.1         |
|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b>   |
| Do you think<br>unsuspecting members of<br>the public do fall victim<br>of cybercrime in this<br>locality? | Yes          | 306        | 61.7         |
|  | No           | 100        | 20.1         |
|  | Don't know   | 90         | 18.1         |
|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b>   |
| To what extent can you<br>rate the incidence and<br>prevalence?  | Very high    | 116        | 23.4         |
|  | High         | 250        | 50.4         |
|  | Moderate     | 80         | 16.1         |
|  | Low          | 50         | 10.1         |

| Total | 496 | 100 |
|-------|-----|-----|
|-------|-----|-----|

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2025

The table above shows the responses of respondents on the incidence and prevalence rate of cybercrime. Of the 496 respondents, 300 (60.5%) think that cybercrime is rampant among youths in Oredo local Government area, and 106 of the respondents representing 21.4% do not think that cybercrime is rampant among youths in Oredo local Government area, while 90 of the respondents representing 18.1% affirmed that they do not know if cybercrime is rampant among youths in Oredo local Government area. Most of the respondents who affirmed that cybercriminal activities were rampant in their locality shared the same line of thought; for them, youth engage or indulge in cybercrime just to alleviate the untold economic hardship they find themselves in.

From the table above, the result revealed that of the 496 respondents, 306 of the respondents representing 61.7% affirmed that unsuspecting members of the public do fall victim of cybercrime in their locality, more so, 100 of the respondents representing 20.1% do not think that unsuspecting members of the public can fall victim of cybercrime in their locality, while 90 (18.1%) of the respondents do not know unsuspecting members of the public can fall victim of cybercrime in their locality.

Furthermore from the table above, it showed that of the 496 respondents that participated in the research, 250 of them representing 50.4% believed that the incidence and prevalence rate of criminality in their locality is high, 116 of

the respondents representing 23.4% rated the incidence and prevalence of cybercrime activities in their locality very high as opposed to 80 (16.1%) as well as 50 (10.1%) of the respondents who rated the rate of incidence and prevalence of cybercrime in their locality as moderate and low respectively. Participants of the study opined that the high incidence and prevalence rate of cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area is tied to the spate of unemployment ravaging these young actors who are in their prime.

**Table 4.4. Causes of Cybercrime among Youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.**

| <b>Variable</b>   | <b>Response</b>       | <b>Frequenc<br/>y</b> | <b>Percentage %</b> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Do you think that unemployment leads to cybercrime among youths in Oredo local Government area? | Yes                   | 306                   | 61.7                |
|   | No                    | 140                   | 28.2                |
|   | Don't know            | 50                    | 10.1                |
|   | <b>Total</b>          | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Do you think that quest for wealth contributes to cyber-crime involvement in the state?         | Yes                   | 310                   | 62.5                |
|   | No                    | 146                   | 29.4                |
|   | Don't know            | 40                    | 8.1                 |
|   | <b>Total</b>          | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Identify other factors that cause cybercrime in your locality                                   | Corruption            | 12                    | 2.4                 |
|   | Government failure    | 150                   | 30.2                |
|   | Inadequate industries | 70                    | 14.1                |
|   | Poor Education        | 80                    | 16.1                |
|   | Poor parental care    | 184                   | 37.1                |
|   | <b>Total</b>          | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |

|   |              |            |            |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|
| Does lack of education and the attendant lack of opportunities causes cybercrime? | Yes          | 300        | 60.5       |
|   | No           | 126        | 25.4       |
|   | Don't know   | 70         | 14.1       |
|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b> |
| Does weak law encourage cyber-crime?  | Yes          | 310        | 62.5       |
|   | No           | 136        | 27.4       |
|   | Don't know   | 50         | 10.1       |
|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>496</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2025

Table 4.4 shows the causes of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government in Edo State. The result from the table above revealed that of the 496 respondents, 306 of the respondents representing 61.7% affirmed that unemployment does lead to cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area, more so, 140 of the respondents representing 28.2% do not think that unemployment leads to cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area. In addition, 50 (10.1%) of the respondents are of the opinion that they do not know if unemployment leads to cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area.

Furthermore, from the table above, it showed that 310 of the respondents representing 62.5% think that the quest for wealth contributes to youth involvement in cybercrime in the state as opposed to the responses of 146 of the respondents representing 29.4% who affirmed that the quest for wealth do not contribute to youth involvement in cybercrime in the state, while 40(8.1%)

of the respondents do not know if the quest for wealth contributes to youth involvement in cybercrime in the state.

The table above also revealed that of the 496 respondents, most of the respondents representing 187(37.1%) identify poor parental care as one chief factor and cause of cybercrime in their locality, followed by 150 (30.2%) of the respondents who identified government failure as another cause of cybercrime in their locality. While poor education, inadequate industries and corruption were also identified by the respondents as factors too that can cause cybercrime in their locality. However, poor education, inadequate industries and corruption constitute 80(16.1%), 70(14.1%) and 12 (2.4%) respectively.

The result from the table also revealed that 300 of the respondents representing 60.5% affirmed that lack of education and opportunities can cause cybercrime as opposed to 126 (25.4%) of the respondents who said no to the fact that lack of education and opportunities can cause cybercrime, while 70 (14.1%) of the respondents do not know if lack of education and opportunities can cause cybercrime.

Furthermore, the table above also revealed 310 (62.5%) of the respondents affirmed that weak law encourages cybercrime as opposed to the 136 respondents representing 27.4% who affirmed that weak law does not encourage cybercrime; while 50 (10.1%) of the respondents do not know if weak law encourages cybercrime. Hence, the result indicated that most of the respondents identified unemployment, quest for wealth, poor parental care,

poor education, inadequate industries and corruption as the causes of cybercrime among youths in their locality.

**Table 4.5. Effects of Cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.**

| <b>Variable</b>   | <b>Response</b> | <b>Frequenc<br/>y</b> | <b>Percentage %</b> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Do you think cybercrime is inimical to the progress & development of this locality? | Yes             | 300                   | 60.5                |
|   | No              | 126                   | 25.4                |
|   | Don't know      | 70                    | 14.1                |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Do you think Cybercrime to leads to loss of revenue of the state in this locality?  | Yes             | 196                   | 39.5                |
|   | No              | 150                   | 30.2                |
|   | Don't know      | 150                   | 30.2                |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Do you think Cybercrime Tarnishes the states reputation?                            | Yes             | 305                   | 61.5                |
|   | No              | 146                   | 29.4                |
|   | Don't know      | 45                    | 9.1                 |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Do you think cybercrime causes lack of trust on online transaction?                 | Yes             | 310                   | 62.5                |
|   | No              | 106                   | 21.4                |
|   | Don't know      | 80                    | 16.1                |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2025

Table 4.5 above presents the effect of cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government to the progress & development in their locality, while 70 of the respondents representing 14.1% affirmed that they do not know if cybercrime is inimical to the progress & development of this locality.

From the table above, the result revealed that of the 496 respondents, 196 of the respondents representing 39.5% think cybercrime can lead to loss of revenue of the state in their locality, while, 150 (30.2%) of the respondents do not think that cybercrime can lead to loss of revenue of the state in their locality; more so, 150 (30.2%) of the respondents do not know if cybercrime can lead to loss of revenue of the state in their locality.

Furthermore, from the table above, it showed that of the 496 respondents that participated in the research, 305 of them, representing 61.5% think that cybercrime tarnishes the states reputation as opposed the 146 (29.4%) of the respondents who do not think that cybercrime tarnishes the states reputation; while 45 of the respondents representing 9.1% do not know if cybercrime tarnishes the states reputation.

In addition, the result also revealed that 310 (62.5%) of the respondents think that cybercrime causes lack of trust in online transaction as opposed to 106 (21.4%) of the respondents who do not think that cybercrime causes lack of trust in online transaction, while 80 of the respondents representing 16.1% do not know if cybercrime can cause lack of trust in online.

**Table 4.7. The way forward in tackling cybercrime and unemployment**

| <b>Variable</b>   | <b>Response</b> | <b>Frequenc<br/>y</b> | <b>Percentage %</b> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Do you think that creation of jobs will help reduce unemployment and incidence of cybercrime among youths in Oredo local Government area?                           | Yes             | 300                   | 60.5                |
|   | No              | 150                   | 30.2                |
|   | Don't know      | 46                    | 9.3                 |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Do you think that sensitizing of youths on the negative consequences of cybercrime will help reduce youth involvement in cybercrime in Oredo local Government area? | Yes             | 250                   | 50.4                |
|   | No              | 200                   | 40.3                |
|   | Don't know      | 46                    | 9.3                 |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Do you think that enforcing effectively the existing laws that will punish offenders will help reduce cybercrime among youths in this locality?                     | Yes             | 300                   | 60.5                |
|   | No              | 160                   | 32.3                |
|   | Don't know      | 20                    | 4.0                 |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |
| Do you think that creating an enabling environment for youths will help reduce cybercrime in Oredo local Government area?   | Yes             | 300                   | 60.5                |
|   | No              | 160                   | 32.3                |
|   | Don't know      | 36                    | 7.2                 |
|   | <b>Total</b>    | <b>496</b>            | <b>100</b>          |

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2025

Table 4.7 presents the way forward in tackling cybercrime and unemployment in Oredo Local Government Area. From the result above, it indicates that 300 of the respondents representing 60.5% affirmed that creation

of jobs will help reduce unemployment and incidence of cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area as opposed to 150 of the respondents representing 30.2% who do not think that creation of jobs will help reduce unemployment and incidence of cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area, while the remaining respondents representing 46(9.3%) do not know if think that creation of jobs will help reduce unemployment and incidence of cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area.

Furthermore, the result above also revealed that 250 (50.4%) of the respondents think that sensitizing of youths on the negative consequences of cybercrime will help reduce youth involvement in cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area, on the other hand, 200 of the respondents representing 40.3% do not think sensitizing of youths on the negative consequences of cybercrime will help reduce youth involvement in cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area, while 46 (9.3%) of the respondents do not know if sensitizing of youths on the negative consequences of cybercrime will help reduce youth involvement in cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area.

In addition, the result from the table also revealed that 300 of the respondents representing 60.5% affirm that enforcing effectively the existing laws that will punish offenders will help reduce cybercrime among youths in their locality as opposed to 160 (32.3%) of the respondents who do not think enforcing effectively the existing laws that will punish offenders will help reduce cybercrime among youths in their locality, while 76 (7.2%) of the

respondents do not know if enforcing effectively the existing laws that will punish offenders will help reduce cybercrime among youths in their locality.

More so, the result above indicated that 300 (60.5%) of the respondents affirmed that creating an enabling environment for youths will help reduce cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area, on the other hand, 160 of the respondents representing 32.3% do not think that creating an enabling environment for youths will help reduce cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area, while 36 (7.2%) of the respondents do not know if creating an enabling environment for youths will help reduce cybercrime in Oredo Local Government Area.

#### **4.4 Discussion of Findings**

This study portrays the nexus between cybercrime and unemployment among youth in Nigeria. Findings on the socio-demographic composition of the respondents showed that most of the respondents who participated in the study fall within the age range of 21-25 years, this is partly because they are the vibrant youth population who are exposed to the modern technology and also because they are at the crucial stage of their lives where they want to explore and are not patient. The sex of respondents revealed a disproportionate representation, where male accounted for majority (60.5%) of the sampled population, while female respondents constituted 39.5% in the study. The marital status distribution of participants showed that majority of the respondents (64.5%).

The educational attainment of respondents who participated in the study depicted that most of the respondents (51.0%) were secondary school leavers, while respondents who had university education, Diploma/NCE/A-Level, primary school education and non-formal education recorded 20.2%, 18.1%, 10.1% and 0.6% respectively. The religious affiliation depicted that majority (75.8%) were Christians.

The findings from Table 4.2 revealed that there is a high incidence and prevalence rate of cybercrime among youths in the area of study. In addition, most of respondents (50.4%) believed that cybercrime is rampant among youths in their locality; the reason they posited was that cybercrime and its forms is a quick pathway out poverty and untold economic hardship. Most youths engage in it just that to alleviate their sufferings and that of their family members, and also because of their continuous state of joblessness. Majority of the respondents are of the opinion that unsuspecting members of the public do fall victim of cybercrime in their locality as a result of the quest for wealth. These present findings are in tandem with that the study conducted by Adesina (2017), she opined that “many unemployed graduates in the country are involved in cybercrime, most often out of desperation in the bid to survive or to rescue their families out of the grip of poverty”.

Findings from Table 4.4 revealed majority of the respondents representing 61.7% affirmed that unemployment does lead to cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area. More so, 62.5% of the respondents also affirm that the quest for wealth contributes to youth

involvement in cybercrime. In addition, respondents identified poor parental care, poor education, inadequate industries and corruption as the cause of cybercrime in their locality in the order of preference. Similarly, majority of the respondents representing 60.5% affirmed that lack of education and opportunities can cause youth involvement in cybercrime. Furthermore, 62.5% of the respondents also affirmed that weak law encourages cybercrime in their locality. From the findings, most of the respondents identified unemployment, quest for wealth, poor parental care, poor education, inadequate industries and corruption as the causes of cybercrime among youths in their locality. The findings also indicated that there is significant relationship between unemployment, quest for money and cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This study's finding is in line with the causal factors of cybercrime identified by Hassan *et al.* (2012), he opined that urbanization, high unemployment, quest for wealth, poor implementation of cybercrime laws, inadequately equipped law enforcement agencies, and negative role models as some of the causes of proliferated cybercrimes in Nigeria.

Findings from Table 4.5 also revealed the effect cybercrime has on the different facets of social life. The result showed that cybercrime is inimical to the progress and development within a society; it can also lead to loss of revenue for a state or country. In addition, the finding revealed that 61.5% of the respondents opined that cybercrime can tarnishes the reputation of a state or country as it is seen in our present day Nigeria. Most young persons are

involved in cyber-criminality, and this is damaging the image of the country around the globe. In addition, the result also revealed that majority (62.5%) of the respondents affirmed that cybercrime causes lack of trust in online transaction as people are now becoming more meticulous or treading with caution so they do not become victims of internet fraud. This is in tandem with McAfee Inc. (2014), he purported that the cost of cybercrime or effect of cybercrime includes the effect of hundreds of millions of people having their personal information stolen. The most important cost of cybercrime, however, comes from its damage to company performance and to national economies (McAfee Inc., 2014). Cybercrime damages trade, competitiveness, innovation, and global economic growth as well as the reputation of a nation.

Findings from Table 4.7 suggest innovative ways in tackling cybercrime and unemployment in Oredo Local Government Area. 60.5% of the respondents believed that government playing their role by creating jobs will help reduce unemployment and incidence of cybercrime among youths. In addition, most of the respondents (50.4%) believe that awareness creation on the negative consequences of cybercrime as well as sensitization campaign will do justice towards reducing youth involvement in cybercrime.

The result also indicates that proper and effective enforcement of existing cybercrime laws as well as conviction of offenders will help reduce cybercrime drastically among youths in Oredo Local Government Area. The result revealed that 60.5% of the respondents believe that government creation of an enabling environment (job opportunities, provision of basic social

amenities, good education, and development of sustainable policies) for youths to coexist will help in the reduction of cybercrime a great deal. This finding is in consonance with the findings from the study of Igba *et.al* (2018) and Adokiye (2015). They opined that creating of job opportunities for the teeming unemployed youths as well as improving security on internet service providers' server so as to detect and trace cybercrime will go a long way in minimizing the menace. More so, there is a dire need for government, law enforcement, intelligence and security agencies to understand the technology and individuals engaged in the criminal acts in order to be able to curb their activities.

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.0 Introduction**

This study critically examined the nexus between cybercrime and unemployment among youth's resident in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; it also addressed some salient factors responsible for the incidence and prevalence of cyber-criminality amongst youths which were identified in the course of study. The major findings highlighted in the study were summarized as analyzed in the previous chapter. Based on the findings; conclusion was reached and insightful recommendations were made to holistically proffer solutions to the issue of cybercrime in the state as well as across the nation.

**5.1 Summary of Findings**

Findings from this study revealed that most of the respondents who participated in the study were male and they fall within the age range of 21-25 years. More so, majority of the respondents' educational attainment were depicted to be secondary school leavers. The religious affiliation depicted that majority were Christians. The findings also revealed that there is a high incidence and prevalence rate of cybercrime among youths in the area of study, this was shown in the responses of the respondents who opined that unsuspecting members of the public do fall victim of cybercrime in their

locality by individuals who have strong desire to alleviate their poverty or social condition.

The result from the study further revealed that unemployment does lead to cybercrime among youths in Oredo Local Government Area. In addition, the findings from the study indicated that unemployment, quest for wealth, poor parental care, poor education/ lack of opportunities, weak laws inadequate industries and corruption can cause youth involvement in cybercrime in their locality. the order of preference. Similarly, majority of the respondents representing 60.5% affirmed that lack of education and opportunities can cause youth involvement in cybercrime. Furthermore, 62.5% of the respondents also affirmed that weak law encourages cybercrime in their locality.

In addition, the findings from this study showed that cybercrime has grave effect on the different facets of social life. Cybercrime thus lead to setback in economic progress and development, tarnishes the reputation/image of a state or country, breeds lack of trust amongst people engaging in online transaction as well as damages trade, competitiveness and innovation. The findings also revealed that there is a significant relationship between unemployment and cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State as cybercrime can be associated with high rate of unemployment, harsh economic conditions, and poor educational system.

Findings from the study also showed that government playing the role of creating an enabling environment and jobs opportunities will help greatly in reducing unemployment and incidence of cybercrime among youths. In

addition, awareness creation on the negative consequences of cybercrime as well as sensitization campaign will also help in reducing youth involvement in cybercrime. The result also indicated that proper and effective enforcement of existing cybercrime laws as well as conviction of offenders will help reduce cybercrime drastically among youths in Oredo Local Government Area.

In addition, the result revealed that there is a strong correlate between unemployment, quest for wealth, weak cybercrime laws, role of government agencies and the incidence and prevalence of cybercrime among youth of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Cybercrime problem has become a global problem and so is the plight of its victims. The rising incidence and prevalence of cybercriminal activities calls for a prompt attention. The cyberspace is an ever evolving environment that comes with both negative and positive consequences. It is no longer newsworthy that as technology advances, cybercriminals innovate and adopt new approaches and forms in perpetrating their crime. Nigeria as a country is not immune to these attacks. However, with collaborative effort from critical stakeholders and actors such as the government, law enforcement agencies, businesses and individuals, we can drastically reduce the spate of cybercrime in the country. The government should make conscious effort at creating an enabling environment for youths who are major actors of this crime as well as take proactive steps to curbing this menace; hence it will cause grave damage to the repute of nation and also put the nation's economy at great risk.

Therefore, we should all brace up and challenge the status quo as we all know that national security and economic vitality to a great extent depend on a resilient, stable and safe cyberspace.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

From the foregoing findings of this research work, it can be observed that unemployment and myriad of other factors play a pivotal role in the spate of cybercrime in Oredo Local Government of Edo State. Going forward, in tackling these challenges, a multi-dimensional and holistic approach will help a great deal in addressing the challenges. Consequently, the following recommendations are made to address this situation:

- i. To reduce cybercrimes in Nigeria, there is the need for the government to create job opportunities for the unemployed youths as well as the need for government, law enforcement, intelligence and security agencies to understand the technology and individuals engaged in the criminal acts in order to be able to curb their activities.
- ii. Consistent and deliberate messages should be disseminated at ensuring adequate public enlightenment and value re-orientation campaign for citizens through various media, against falling prey to cyber-criminality. Efforts should also be channeled to value re-orientation against the high premium that the society places on wealth.
- iii. The role of government in rejigging the national economy that will be supportive of full capacity utilization leading to the maximization of production that will reduce poverty, unemployment and negative

experimentations among youths should be vigorously pursued. The challenges of mal-governance, citizens' plight insensitivity, policy failures, uncoordinated programmes and several other problems fanning insecurity, hopelessness and crime must concertedly be checked to pave way to sporadic development in all the affected societies.

- iv. Cyber ethics and cyber laws should be duly enforced by law enforcement agencies to stop cybercrimes and prosecute cybercriminals in Nigeria and all over the world. It is a responsibility of every individual to follow cyber ethics and cyber laws so that the increasing cybercrimes will reduce. Enforcement agencies against cyber-crime in Nigeria such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) should be strengthened with more power and independence. This is very vital to their being able to lord it over the challenging and fast evolving world of the Internet.