

**IMPACT OF CRIME ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN
NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF OVIA-NORTH EAST LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE**

BY

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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY**

JUNE, 2023

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by **Enofe Joy Iyekeoretin** with Matriculation Number: **SSC1713076** of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God Almighty, for his protection, provision and guidance throughout the course of my B.Sc. programme.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would be ungrateful to begin my roll calls without acknowledging the God that gave me life, wisdom, grace and strength to carry out this task.

It is usually said that when God wants to help, He does so through men, and one of those men who availed him-self is my project supervisor Prof. Stan O. Aibieyi, who was very apt and accurate with his fatherly role of supervision with so much patience and tutoring which lead me to come up with this project. This would have been a far cry if not for his immune contribution. To all my amiable lecturers in the department of public administration and my Godsent course adviser, I want to use this medium to appreciate you all for the unique roles played in ensuring the success of your students, I am proud to say I have gone through your tutelage.

My special gratitude goes to my late father Mr. Iyekeoretin Enofe, who played the foundation of my academic walk, I am happy that his wishes are coming through. To my lovely mother and my elder brothers that have shown relentless financial obligation towards me, I appreciate all your efforts and I am working hard to make sure you smile at the end of the day.

To my wonderful friend Gift Esohe Asubaja, I appreciate your self-less friendship. To Osagie Imadiyi, I thank you for your encouragement and care ,you were a major foundation in the building of this success.to everyone who God has used in one way or the other to make this project a success I want to say a big thank you and God bless you.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the impact of crime on socio-economic development in Nigeria at Ovia-North East Local Government Area. The researcher is concerned with the growing rate of crime, which is perceived to have affected community development.

Survey research methods were employed in this study and adhered to two techniques of data collection, namely, self-administered questionnaires and person-to-person interviews. The limitations of the study were economic and time factors.

Hypotheses were tested, confirmed that there is indeed a relationship between high crime levels and unemployment. The study found that the Ovia-North East District is fraught with problems of high unemployment, high crime levels and lack of physical infrastructure. Secondly, it was shown that the levels of crime like robbery and assault cases are the order of the day. Many crimes are committed either during the day or at night.

This study made several recommendations relating to what should be done to ensure that local residents, potential developers and investors feel safe at Ovia-North East areas. Among other recommendations put forward are the establishment of community relations with the police, like community policing forums (CPFs) and development community safety centres.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The escalation of crime in Nigeria, particularly in Edo state, Ovia North East Local Government Area has slowed down all forms of development in many parts of Nigeria. Social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The researcher is of the opinion that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing component of sustainable development, which is the framework for people's efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. It goes without saying that Ovia North East Local Government Area, like other areas in developed countries should share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our areas. This study seek to ascertain the impact of crime on the socio-economic development in Nigeria, Edo state, Ovia North East Local Government Area which includes Ekosodin, Isior, Ugbowo, Oluku, Ekiadolor, and Okada communities.

An examination of the historical meaning of crime shows that what is crime is varies, that crime is not absolute, crime is relative. By way of definition sociologist

define crime as the violation of norms, or values thought to threaten a society, Easton mark (2010). But it is instructive to note that that the Nigerian society cannot be singled out as the only society be-devilled with the growing rate of all manners of crime. Neither can one stop at labeling other developing countries as crime-infested societies as some theories in crime posit. Advanced countries like England, France, Germany, Japan, China, and the United States of America went through a high stage of crime rate in the 19th century as a result of rapid industrialization, urbanization, and other sectoral development. Therefore, any society planning for socio-economic and political development should expect an increase in various crime rates. Thus, in a society where much emphasis is placed on achievements, especially wealth, without resources to the sources and legitimacy, individuals who are caught in anomic conditions will be faced with the strain of inability of reconcile their aspirations with their disadvantage situations.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Crime is a universal social phenomenon in that it threatens the safety and security of people, their property, and their sense of well being, social order and importantly it reduces people's quality of life (ntuli 1998). If the quality of life experienced by the individuals and the community is affected by crime, then crime itself can be viewed as social problems. In the light of the above comments the researcher is concerned with the perceived escalation of crime at Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State Nigeria, which is earmarked for development. It has been argued that the criminal justice

system with its three components namely, police, courts and correctional service institutions are either doing little or helpless to combat or prevent crime in this country particularly in Ovia North East District of Edo state Nigeria.

It is an indisputable fact that where there is high rate of crime, one cannot expect viable infrastructure that is telecommunication, good roads, water, accommodation, electricity, businesses etc. It is the researchers concern that if crime prevails at these above mentioned areas and is not prevented by means of well thought of strategies, there will be unbeatable of high rate unemployment. Unemployment is one of the major causes of poverty, social disorganization, subculture, violations of human rights etc. police statistics shows that all stakeholders (that is taxi-men, businessmen, agricultural officers etc) are equally susceptible to crime and victimization should be prioritized at these areas as they are now perceived “as a no go areas”. The prevention of criminal victimization should be prioritized at these areas because it undermines the society and may handicap, menace and prevent its successful growth and viable development as well as preventing the inflow of monetary values/beliefs forthcoming from the above developers.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In view of the prevailing high crime rate in Edo state Nigeria. It then becomes necessary to highlight the impacts of crime on development as it probably exist in Ovia North East Area.

Against this background, this study aims to

1. Ascertain if there is any relationship between escalating crime levels and unemployment in Ovia North East Local Area of Edo state.
2. Determine the impact that crime has on development in Ovia North East Area
3. Determine what impact the political affiliation of traditional leaders has on community development in Ovia North East Local Government Area.

1.4 HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The following are tentative hypothesis have been formulated to be tested statistically.

H1. High unemployment level experienced in Ovia North East Local Government Area is related to the high crime level

H2. High levels of crimes are associated with poorly developed areas of Ovia North East District

H3. Political affiliation of traditional may have an impact on community development.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is conceptually delimited to the impact of crime on socio-economic development in Edo state, Nigeria. The study will be carried out in Ekosodin community

in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo state Nigeria. The study will cover crimes as it affects socio-economic development in the afore-mentioned area.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The value of this research reside in

- a) Providing knowledge, making recommendations and understanding a life of developers and local community members
- b) Facilitating greater safety and security for all local residents, developers and foreign developers
- c) Stimulating development by means of recommendations relating to the prevention of crime, the pursuance of community policing as a joint strategy between citizens and the police in the identification and solving of crime related problems.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Community Development: This connote the process by which the effort of the people themselves are united with those of government authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of the communities to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to the national progress.

Community: Community refers to the structure of relationship through which a localized population provides its daily requirements.

Social Development: Social development is a process of planned social change to promote the well being of the population as a whole in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development.

Economic Development: Economic development has to be accompanied by the equitable allocation and distribution of resources if it is to support social development.

Crime: Crime is an act defined by law. Behavior may be dealt with as criminal only when it violates a criminal.

Criminal: Literally, a criminal is a frustrated person who emerges in the society and violates the law.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the literature review and a theoretical framework of the impact of crime on socio-economic development in Nigeria, Edo state, Ovia North East Local Government. It also focuses on the theoretical framework of socio-economic development in relation to crime.

Crime as we have seen earlier in the course of this research, is more of spectrum of other related components of negative events in the society. Of the (11) eleven types of crime identified globally, seven are very prominent in Nigeria. These are predatory crime, that which does harm to another and benefits only the offender; occupational crime, committed by a person in the process of his occupation which utilizes his occupational skills, service crime, which encourages the purchase of illicit or illegal goods and services; organized crime, which has an administrative structure; companionate crime, which involves accomplices; and episodic crime, a type of crime with low probability of repetition by the same person. These types of crimes which ranges from armed robbery to advanced fee fraud popularly called 419, examination malpractices, tax evasion, abortion, child abuse, smuggling, bribery, theft, cultism and terrorism are concernitants of social change or development in a society. This despite the combine effort of law enforcement

agencies and some aggrieved members of the public, crime rate has yet to be minimized as new tactics as in such crime emerge daily in our society, (Attenborough, 2006).

Development on the other hand may mean different things to different people. It is therefore, important at the outset that there should be a working definition or core perspective on its meaning. Development is a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty (Todaro, 1997).

Todaro (1997), contends that the challenges of development is to improve the quality of life, especially in the world's countries. A better quality of life generally calls for higher incomes, but it involves much more. It encompasses as ends in themselves, better education, higher standards of health and nutrition, less poverty, a cleaner environment, more quality opportunity, greater individual freedom and a richer cultural life.

2.2 DEVELOPMENT AND CRIME

Development is both physical reality and a state of mind in which society has through some combination of social, economic and institutional processes, secured the means of obtaining a better life. Whatever the specific components of this better life, development in all societies must have at least the following three objectives as listed by Todaro (1997:18).

- i. To increase the availability and when the distribution of basic life.
- ii. To raise the levels of living including, in addition to higher incomes, the provision of more jobs, better education and greater attention to cultural and humanistic values.
- iii. In turn, social, economic and community development cannot be attained to Ovia North East Local Government Area crime statistics has an associates impact on socio-economic development.

2.2.1 Social Development

According to Midgley (1995:25), social development is a process of planned social change designed to promote the wellbeing of the population in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development. From the viewpoint of world summit (1995), social development is inseparable from the cultural, ecological, economic, political and spiritual environment in which it takes place. Social development is also clearly linked to the development of peace, freedom, stability and security, both nationally and internationally.

The characteristics of social development according to Midgley (1995:26) are as follows:

1. The process of social development is inextricably linked to economic development. Although social development is just like other approaches, since it

focuses on social problems and implements social policies and programmes' that enhance welfare, it does so in the context of development process.

2. Social development has an interdisciplinary focus – it does so on the insight of the various social sciences. This interdisciplinary focus helps social development to be able to cover if it was alone.
3. It involves a sense of process. Social development is a process of growth, change, evolution or movement.
4. Social development is progressive in nature. Briefly, there should be progress toward human betterment.
5. Social development is concerned with the population as a whole and it is inclusive or universalistic in scope.

2.2.2 Economic Development

It has been mentioned already that social development transcends the residual and institutional approaches, which have dominated social welfare thinking in the past, therefore, social development goes hand in hand with economic development. Social development according to Midgley (1995), cannot take place without economic development. It is meaningless unless it is accompanied by improvements in social welfare for the population as a whole. The concept of economic development cannot be discussed in isolation from social welfare. It is therefore the policy-makers responsibility

to integrate social and economic policies and programmes in order to promote people's welfare.

The legacy of the past, the current economic crisis and social changes have generated great social costs, which have had to be borne by individuals, family disorganization, domestic violence, mental health problem, rising crime, illegal drugs, substance abuse and an illicit arms trade which contributes to growing societal and other manifestations of violence are a threat to the security of individuals, families and communities (Draft white paper, 1996). Welfare Draft white paper (1996:7) states clearly that economic development has to be accompanied by the equitable allocation and distribution of resources if it is to supported social development. Social development and economic development are therefore interdependent and mutual reinforcing. Welfare Draft white paper (1995) lists issues which can be addressed by economic development.

- i. Equitable allocation of funds between provinces to address all disparities.
- ii. Allocation of resources to address rural development needs.
- iii. Structural efficiency in the welfare delivery system.
- iv. Re-allocation to resources to identify social priorities, and to achieve a better in the financing of programme to meet the wide range of needs.
- v. Mobilization of development sponsorship for social welfare.

2.2.3 Community Development

Before discussing community development in detail, it is important to define the concept community in which the development is taking place.

Cloete et al. (1995:3) define this term in various ways namely:

- a. A group of people who live in a confined geographical area, for example a specific town or even a neighborhood within that town.
- b. A group of people that share the same basic interest for example a group of businessmen or the parents of children in a specific school.
- c. A group of people who can be defined in terms of needs for single parents. The specific groups of people that are implicated in human development are known as the target group. Community development should therefore empower the members of the community; poorest marginalized groups should be involved with the aim of enabling them to develop their potential and to give them opportunity of becoming involved in the life of their community.

Community development may be defined as organized effort to improve the conditions of community life, primarily through enlistment of self-help and co-operative effort from the villagers, but with technical assistance from government or voluntary organization (Dunham, 2003). Community development can also be defined to connote the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of government authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural condition of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them

to contribute fully to the national progress. This complex of processes is, therefore, made up of two essential elements: the participation of the people themselves in effort to improve their living with as much reliance as possible on their own initiative and the provision of technical and other services in ways which encourage initiative, self-help and mutual help and make those more effective. It is expressed in programmes designed to achieve a wide variety of specific improvement (United Nation, 1963, in Cloete, Groene Waid and Van Loyk, 1995:7). In the light of the above discussion about community development, it must be mentioned that crime has a direct impact on community development. The study reveals that there are many different types of crimes that occur at Ovia North east Local Government Area of Edo State.

2.3 CRIME IN RELATION TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This is a theoretical exposition of two main categories of crime, that is violent crime (Murder, Terrorism, rape, abduction etc) and property crime (theft, all others of theft, housebreaking, robbery, other forms of robbery is vandalism arson and so on), in relation to socio-economic development at Ovia North East Local Government Area.

2.4 VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIME

The nature and extent of violent (personal) and property crimes in Nigeria have proliferated out of all proportion during the past decade. Edo state in particular is no exception to the rule. Crime in this region has tended to directly affect development.

2.4.1 Violent Crime

Brown, Esbensen and Geis (2006), argue that people mostly fear violent crimes (such as murder, rape, robbery and assault). Victims may be deeply angered when they are swindled or their houses are broken into, but these emotions pale in comparison to the fear of death or serious injury that can be inflicted by a violent crime. Sheley (2005), maintains that violent crimes are more personal than any other type of crime because victims of violent crimes are often fatally injured or physically injured or at least threatened with physical injury. In addition, victims of violent crimes often suffer psychological trauma that can last for months or years after their encounter with criminals (Ntuli, 1998). Many people have been violently victimized in the past in this country, either means of murder, attempted murder, robbery, rape, terrorism or insurgency, riots, and so on.

2.4.1.1 Murder

Dekerserdy and Schwartz (1996), maintained that the seriousness of crime and murder usually reflects something like the willful killing of one human being by another. In the United States jurisdictions tends to divide murder into first-and-second-degree

murder. First degree murder requires planned and deliberate action. Holmes and Holmes (2004) add that it involves malice. Further, murder (homicide) that occurs while the offenders are committing crimes such as rape, robbery, burglary, kidnapping and arson, are also typically defined as a first degree murder. Second degree murder involves malice but without premeditation or deliberation. A common example of such a crime is an act of passion in which a person may be totally overcome with anger at an insult or irrationally upset with jealousy at seeing his lover dancing with another man (stranger).

2.4.1.2 Rape

Cloete and Stevens (1995) defined rape as unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman, with the use of violence and force without her consent. Rape in Nigeria has reached epidemic proportions. It occurs in all spheres of the society and all women are potential victims. In many instances, agricultural project officers, community workers, social worker and so on are females, if these women who render such essential services to the communities are raped, it means there will be no development.

2.4.1.3 Assault

Assault encompasses normal (common) assault which is unlawful and intentional violence (or threat of it against the body of another) and assault with aggravating circumstances, which is a deliberate attempt to do serious bodily harm or cause the death of the victim. It should be remembered that Ovia North East in study area is rural place;

different types of liquor are available, where liquor is abused, and conflict always takes place.

2.4.1.4 Abduction

Literally, abduction is intentional and unlawful taking a person forceful without his/her consent and keep that person in hostage for indefinite period without the knowledge of the relatives of such person or without being seen. This type of crime used to take during apartheid days or during public violence or riot when members of a certain political organization took members of a certain party to destroy the evidence against them.

2.4.1.5 Robbery

Although robbery case falls into both categories, that is violent and property crime, robbery has been arbitrarily included in violent crimes category for comparison purposes. Robbery includes car-hijacking, bag snatching, armed robbery and attempted robbery. Robbery is the unlawful, intentional taking away of another movable property without the consent of the person entitled to it. In Ovia North East where robbery is the order o the day, one cannot expect viable infrastructure, that is, telecommunication, roads, water supply, project etc.

2.4.1.6 Terrorism

Terrorism is an aspect of violence/political crime. It is that aspect however, that has elicited great interest and concern from the general public and particularly from criminologists. Terrorism is the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear for brings about political change. All terrorist acts involve violence. These violent acts are committed by governmental groups or individuals. Terrorist attempt not only to sow panic but also to undermine confidence in the government and political leadership of their target country. A very good example is our present nightmare and greatest problem in Nigeria today which is “Boko Haram”. Through the publicity generated by their violence, terrorists seek to obtain the leverage, influence, and power they otherwise lack (P.E. Igbinovia and O.O. Osunde, 2005).

2.4.1.7 Causes of Violence Crime

In general, violent offenders are not professional criminals. Steven (2009) identified the following causes of violent crimes.

- a. Provocation and alcohol
- b. Was a victim of violence a victim himself/herself
- c. Way of solving problems
- d. Subculture of violence
- e. Violent and aggressive behavior is learned.

2.4.2 Property Crimes

In this study, property crimes include theft (larceny), burglary, housebreaking, property damage (including cattle maiming), arson, vehicle broken into, vehicle theft, theft out of motor vehicle, vandalism, corruption and other forms of theft such as stock theft. Brown et al (2006), contend that not all human beings have the desire to acquire things that belong to other people. Jealousy of the property of others, must for personal goods, and the competitive striving for material possession derive from cultural emphasis, which also give rise to the crime of theft (taking of goods from another by stealth or force). These authors further maintain that people who are unable to obtain these tokens of self-value, money and goods in a legitimate manner may be impelled to resort to criminal behavior to acquire wealth (that is stealing, breaking into immovable structures, for example, houses, schools, churches, shops and so on, and robbing other people). The political parties may have a role to play in attacking robbing and stealing which may create a negative impact on development.

2.4.2.1 Theft

Sheley (2005) defines theft (larceny) as the unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of movable property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are; theft of vehicle, bicycle, automobile accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking or stealing of any property or articles which are not taken by force and violence or by means of fraudulent actions.

2.4.2.2 Housebreaking (Burglary)

Gardner (2001) defines burglary as a crime committed by amateurs as well as professional. The offence of housebreaking (burglary) is usually carried out with the explicit intention of committing a specific crime, namely: theft, murder, rape and so on.

2.4.2.3 Property Damage (MT TO P)

Malicious injury to property (Mi to p) also known as “malicious mischief” or “criminal mischief” refers to the willful and unlawful injury to or destruction of the property belonging to another with the malicious intent to injure the owner.

2.4.2.4 Arson

Arson is generally regarded as a crime against property and refers to the willful and malicious burning of a house or out house of another (Brown et al. 1996:67).

2.4.2.4 Vandalism

The term, literally, refers to unlawful damaging, demolishing or depreciation of value of another’s property with intent to do the person damage. It is alleged that telephone, booths, water supply pipes, borehole, pumps are vandalized in Nigeria. Vandalism normally takes place during public violence or unrest in the area, where people vandalize properties to pay revenge to other political parties; the youth vandalize the telephone booths, water supply pipes, oil-pipe and so on for money and for personal reasons.

2.4.2.6 Corruption

Corruption in general, can be associated with theft by false presents where a person received something with intent to do something but he/she does not do or abuse it. Poor development is caused by corrupt officials that receives huge sums of money from either the government or non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and abuse that money. Although corruption is associated with white collar crime, it needs to be addressed. In many communities especially underdeveloped countries, this type of offence is not reported whereas it has a direct impact on development.

2.4.2.7 Causes of Property Crime

Stevens and Chloete (1990:51) identifies the following causes of property crimes.

- a. Socio-economic factors like unemployment, urbanization, squatting and population explosion, together with an influx of illegal immigrants who are often unemployed, all contribute to property crime.
- b. Other factor influencing the commission of property crimes are that the criminal nowadays has access to increasingly, sophisticated technology.

This hampers the arrest of suspects. Briefly, if violent and property crimes are not prevented by legislation, with punishment as a different , improved social conditions, pressure by community and so on, there will be no sustainable development in Ovia

North East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. This study is interested in finding a relationship between sustainable development and crime.

2.5 FACTORS THAT HINDER SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There are a number of factors that can hinder or hamper the socio-economic development in any country or community. But for the purpose of this study, the research will focus on crime and ineffectiveness of criminal justice system.

2.6.1 Crime

Where there is high rate of crime, there is no normal life. Crime as a social problem that affects the lives of people, lowers the dignity of people, it affects people psychologically, physically, emotionally, socially. Where the level of crime are high, community development is likely to be affected.

2.6.1.1 Poverty and Crime

Poverty according to writers/authors may play a role in the causation crime in spite of the fact that there are poor people who never resort to crime. Poverty is a universal factor in susceptibility and increases the probability of crime. Where there is poverty, there is crime and there is no development. The study by Cawker and Whiteford (2003) points out that poverty may play certain role in the causation of crime and they regard poverty as contributing to crime and encouraging some people to turn to crime in an attempt to satisfy their needs for basic items such as food, clothing and shelter.

As articulated in the African common position on Human and Social sector in Africa (UNECA, 1994), there is a massive under-investment in the social sector in Africa, typified especially by neglect of areas such as poverty alleviation and unemployment generation which should have priorities.

2.6.1.2 Crime and Unemployment

Higher levels of unemployment are associated with higher levels of arrests for crime. Britt (2004) mentions two main views concerning the relationship between unemployment and crime, namely the motivation perspective and the opportunity perspective.

Motivation Perspective – According to this view, there is likely to be a positive relationship between poor economic conditions (unemployment) and crime. There are two possible sources of motivation. Firstly, motivation for crime may arise from frustration because people are unable to stay employed and cannot maintain or improve their standard of living. One may therefore expect that more people will become frustrated as economic conditions deteriorate. The effect of level of crime (Britt, 2004:100). The second source of motivation is the result of the rational choice process; here individuals weigh the benefits and costs of crime against the legal expectations. This means that unemployed people have little to lose in any case should they be caught and imprisoned. Many young people are unemployed and have a need for recreation and that crime then becomes an attractive option. Under those conditions, there is no development.

Opportunity Perspective – According to this perspective, crime results from the availability of potential offenders and suitable victims. In contrast the motivation perspective, the explanation in this case is that as unemployment increases, more people are staying at home, and the opportunity to burglaries and similar offences should therefore decrease. Unemployment parents would also be home to supervise their children, which should again reduce the opportunities for crime. If young people are unemployed and away from the direct supervision of their parents, they may have more opportunities for crime (Britt, 2004:101).

In view of the debate on the relationship between unemployment and crime, Meyers and Simms (1988:190) point out that there are still some incongruities in respect of the reciprocal influence of these issues and that the relationship between the two is not always obvious or simple. They are undoubtedly related, but the nature of the relationship varies from one type of crime to the next. Where there are conditions related to crime and unemployment, there is no likelihood of development.

2.6.2 Ineffectiveness of Criminal Justice

Criminal justice has three inherited departments (that is police, justice and correctional services). If these three departments are not effective and efficient enough, will crime always go up and affect any social services in the community? If the police are

corrupt and accept bribery from criminals, crime goes up and affects any community development. The present study reveals that the community of Ovia North East (study area) is not satisfied with the performance of the Nigeria police service.

2.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Emile Durkheim and Robert Merton contributed of strain and anomie (Siegel, 2001; Barkan, 2006 and Vold, Bernard and Snipes, 2002). Strain results in times of change, as society becomes more organic and complex. Strain also results where a culture places a strong emphasis on the achievement of wealth and material possessions. The structure of the society may limit the possibility of poor-individual to achieve success through institutionalized and socially acceptable means. The clarity of norms breaks down. Strain results from its theoretical component, such as poverty lack of opportunity and formation of lawless groups.

Anomie leads individual to develop alternatives value often rebelling against societal norms to achieve success through illegitimate means. Strangely, during periods of economic prosperity, crime rates may actually increase. According to relative deprivation theory, greater success by some, motivates the lower-class even more to commit crime for their own benefit. Relative deprivation is more of a perception, a comparative process in the mind of an individual concerning his surroundings, than it is a theory (Webber, 2007).

Social disorganization descended from the Chicago school (Williams and Meshane, 1999). Shay and McKay articulated social disorganization, concepts, attempting to prove that slum life created an inclination to commit crime (Siegel, 2001). This is especially true for property crimes, as the individuals in these neighborhoods have few material possessions and may feel the only way to gain possessions is to steal them. In criticism of their research, higher crime rates could be a reflection of police presence in a given neighborhood or the notion that police make the decision to arrest in part based upon a suspect's social status. Similar studies on social ecology indicate that ecological conditions predispose individuals to crime, such as substandard housing, low income and improper socialization within a family. Further, neighborhoods with empty housing, transient residents, lacking in social organization, and lacking in social control tend to increase in crime rates. More recent studies on social disorganization still holds that social organization leads to delinquency because of a key anti-dote for social disorganization and is identified by cleaned neighborhoods, crime watch groups, agencies to help individuals, discipline in or out of the lane, and other alternative punishments to incarceration for offenders.

Broken windows theory relates to social disorganization as it links neighborhood decay to a decay in crime. If petty offenses are not prosecuted or decaying facilities not maintained, it signals a disinterest in the community by residents and serves to invite worse crime. This may lead to an increase in vandalism, gangs and the sale of narcotics, but will also lead to an increase in burglary, robbery, and theft. There is a perception that

no one is watching and no one cares. Crimes and social disorganization are believed to derive from poverty, unemployment, population density and low collective efficacy (Harms, 2000). Social meaning, social influence, and social construction make up the social conception of deterrence (Harcourt, 1998). Broken windows theory views urban deterioration as a cause of crime, and it is a supporting argument for community policing. Through community policing, enforcement efforts are strengthened and directed at target areas (Faggins, 2001). However, if the police spend too much time and energy, they may generate hostility, according to macro-level theory from those neighborhoods that feel they are being unjustly targeted.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter shows the research method that will be used for this study. This includes the research design, the study area of the population of study, sampling and methods of data collection and analysis.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design for this study is the sample survey. This research is an exploration research and survey will be carried out to know the extent in which people react to crime and its impact on socio-economic development in the research location or study area. Quantitative method of research data collection and analysis will be used which included the structured questionnaire, sampling and statistical techniques for analyzing and interpretation of data.

3.3 THE STUDY AREA

This study will be conducted in Ovia North East Local Government Area share boundary with Egor Local Government Area which is grouped into Edo South Senatorial District.

3.4 THE STUDY POPULATION

The study population will be made up of males, females, adult, dependent, independent age group between the ages of 18 years and above. The sample chosen should be limited to those characteristics that are relevant to the substantive interests of the study (Babbie, 1990).

3.5 SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The sample of this question will be drawn from the respondent within the research location. Sample will be drawn from three locations in the local Government area in these locations. However, in the view of the financial and logistics constraints 100 respondents will be interviewed using questionnaire which will include 2 sections. This will be done to gather detailed data from the respondents.

3.6 INSTRUMENTS FOR DATA COLLECTIONS

This involves the use of a structural questionnaire and statistical techniques for the collection of quantitative data. The questionnaire is made up of 2 sections: the first is the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and the second section focuses on the impact of crime on socio-economic development in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo state.

3.7 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

The questionnaire which will be used for this study will be collected personally by the researcher two days after distribution

3.8 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

This study will be conducted using a structural questionnaire. In analyzing the structured questionnaire, the statistical package for social science (SPSS) will be used, with a simple frequency and percentage.

3.9 VALIDITY OF INSTRUMENT

Since the instrument which will be used for this project is the questionnaire and statistical technique, validating or ascertain whether they both adequately measures what they are supposed to measure, will be done by project supervisor, who is an expert in the field of research and therefore raises vast knowledge on the rigors soliciting data for research purpose.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents and interprets the quantitative data generated through questionnaire among respondents from Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State. A total number of 100 questionnaires were administered among the respondents. The data is presented with tables and bar chart to explain adequately the impact of crime on socio-economic development in Nigeria, a study of Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State. Only the questions that are relevant to the objectives and hypothesis of study were analyzed. The headings for this analysis and presentation of data are divided into two and are as follows: socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and the testing of formulated hypothesis.

4.2 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Table 4.1.1 -Distribution of the respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	53	53.0
Female	47	47.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field work, 2023.

From the table above, the results shows that 53.0% representing 53 respondents are males and the table further shows that 47.0% representing 47 respondents are females. This reveals that the male respondents are more than the female respondents.

Table 4.1.2 -Distribution of the respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-29yrs	54	54.0
30-39yrs	21	21.0
40-49yrs	18	18.0
50 and above	7	7.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

From the table above, it can be observed that 54.0% representing 54 respondents are within 20-29yrs interval. The table further shows that 21.0%, 18.0% and 7.0% representing 21 respondents, 18 respondents and 7 respondents respectively are within the following age intervals 30-39yrs, 40-49yrs and 50 and above. From the table, the result shows that respondents between the age interval 20-29yrs have the highest number of frequency, this is due to the fact that majority of respondents fall within this age bracket.

Table 4.1.3- Distribution of the respondents by Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Christianity	75	75.0
Islam	20	20.0
Traditional	5	5.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

From the table above, the results shows that 75 respondents which represent 75.0% from the total respondents that were administered questionnaires are Christians while 20 respondents which represent 20.0% are Muslims by religion and 5 respondents which represent 5.0% are traditionalist.

Table 4.1.4- Distribution of the respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentages
Married	39	39.0
Separated	7	7.0
Widowed	10	10.0
Single	42	42.0
Divorced	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: fieldwork, 2023.

The results above reveals that 39.0% representing 39 respondents are married while 7.0% representing 7 respondents are separated, more so, 10.0% representing 10 respondents are widowed, 42.0% representing 42 respondents from the total population are single while 2.0% representing 2 respondents are divorced. The table further shows that majority of the respondents are single.

Table 4.1.5 Distribution of the respondents by educational level

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
No education	10	10.0
Primary	9	9.0
Secondary	17	17.0
University	64	64.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: fieldwork Oct 2023.

From the table 4.1.5, it can be observed that 10 respondents which represent 10.0% of the total population have no education while 9 respondents which represent 9.0% of the total respondents had primary education. The results further show that 17 respondents which represent 17.0% of the total respondents had secondary education while 64 respondents which represents 64.0% of the total population had university education. The results therefore reveals that majority of the respondents have tertiary education.

Table 4.1.6 Distribution of the respondents by occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	12	12.0
Civil servant	15	15.0
Business man	24	24.0
Student	49	49.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: fieldwork Oct 2023.

From the table above, the result shows that 12 respondents representing 12.0% are farmers while 15 respondents representing 15.0% are civil servants. The results further show that 24 respondents representing 24.0% are business men while 49 respondents representing 49.0% of the total respondents are students. Therefore, majority of the respondents are students.

Table 4.1.7- Distribution of respondents by socio-economic status

Socio-economic status	Frequency	Percentage
High	18	18.0
Middle	48	48.0
Low	34	34.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: fieldwork, 2023.

From the table above, it can be observed that 18.0% which represents 18 respondents have high socio-economic status while 48.0% which represents 48 respondents are within the middle class; the table further reveals that 34.0% which represents 34 respondents of the total population have low socio-economic status. It can therefore be deduced that majority of the respondents fall within the middle class socio-economic status.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF THE OBJECTIVES AND TESTING OF THE FORMULATED HYPOTHESES

In the research, three hypotheses were generated to determine the impact of crime on the socio-economic development of Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State, the chi-square(χ^2) statistical method will be adopted.

Table 4.3: Hypothesis one- High unemployment level experienced in Ovia North East Local Government Area is related to the high crime level.

To test this hypothesis, question 10 and 12 were generated from the questionnaire.

Question 10- Rate how serious you feel the level of crime is in your community;

Question 12- Do you feel unemployment is the major cause of crime in your community.

Table 4.3.1– Analysis of responses of question 10 and 12

	Responses	Observed	Expected	Residual
Question 10–level of seriousness of crime	Very serious	44	25.0	19.0
	Serious	31	25.0	6.0

	Uncertain	24	25.0	-1.0
	Not serious at all	1	25.0	24.0
Question 12- unemployment as a major cause of crime	Strongly agree	51	25.0	19.0
	Agree	35	25.0	26.0
	Disagree	10	25.0	-15.0
	Uncertain	4	25.0	-21.0

Source: fieldwork, 2023.

Table 4.3.2- chi-square test statistics

	Question 10	Question 12
Chi-square	38.960	57.680
Df	3	3
Asymp.sig	.000	.000

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table shows that chi-square =38.960 and the critical value =.000 at 0.05 level of significance and chi-square =57.680 and the critical value =.000 at 0.05 level of significance for question 10 and 12 respectively. On the basis of this, we therefore accept the hypothesis that states that high unemployment level experienced in Ovia North East Local Government Area is related to the high crime level. We accept it because the chi-square table value is greater than the critical value for both questions. Additionally, the respondents also affirmed to this in their responses as 51 .0% which represents 51 respondents of the total respondents strongly agree to the fact that unemployment is the major cause of crime in their community while 44.0% which represents 44 respondents

from the total population also affirmed the to the statement that the level of crime is very serious in Ovia North East Local Government, Edo State.

Table 4.4: Hypothesis two- High levels of crime are associated with poorly developed areas of Ovia North East District. To test this hypothesis, question 10 and 16 were generated from the questionnaire.

Table 4.4.1 –Analysis of responses of question 10 and 16

	Responses	Observed	Expected	Residual
Question 10–level of seriousness of crime	Very serious	44	25.0	19.0
	Serious	31	25.0	6.0
	Uncertain	24	25.0	-1.0
	Not serious at all	1	25.0	24.0
Question 16- poor development	Strongly agree	14	25.0	-11.0
	Agree	25	25.0	.0
	Disagree	33	25.0	8.0
	Uncertain	28	25.0	3.0

Source: fieldwork, 2023.

Table 4.4.2- chi-square test statistics

	Question 10	Question 16
Chi-square	38.960	7.760
Df	3	3
Asymp.sig	.000	.051

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The result shows that chi-square =38.960 and the critical value =.000 at 0.05 level of significance for question 10 and chi-square =7.760 and the critical value =.051 at 0.05 level of significance for question 16. On the basis of this, we therefore accept the hypothesis that states that high levels of crime are associated with the poorly developed areas of Ovia North East District. We accept it because the chi-square table value is greater than the critical value for both questions.

Table 4.5- Hypothesis three- Political affiliation of traditional rulers may have impact on community development. To test this hypothesis, question 10 and 16 were generated from the questionnaire.

Table 4.5.1 –Analysis of responses of question 10 and 16

	Responses	Observed	Expected	Residual
Question 16- poor development	Strongly agree	14	25.0	-11.0
	Agree	25	25.0	.0
	Disagree	33	25.0	8.0
	Uncertain	28	25.0	3.0
Question 17- commission of crime is ascribed to political inclination	Strongly agree	31	25.0	6.0
	Agree	41	25.0	16.0
	Disagree	18	25.0	-7.0
	Uncertain	10	25.0	-15.0

Source: fieldwork, 2023.

Table 4.5.2- chi-square test statistics

	Question 16	Question 17
Chi-square	7.760	22.640
Df	3	3
Asymp.sig	.051	.000

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The result shows that chi-square =7.760 and the critical value =.051 at 0.05 level of significance for question 16 and it further shows that chi-square =22.640 and the critical value =.000 at 0.05 level of significance for question 17. On the basis of this, we therefore accept the hypothesis that states that political affiliation of traditional rulers may have impact on community development. We accept it because the chi-square table value is greater than the critical value for both questions. More so, it can be deduced from the responses of the respondents that 72.0% representing 72 respondents affirmed to the statement that the commission of crime can be ascribed to political inclination while 18.0% representing 18 respondents disagree to the statement and 10.0% representing 10 respondents are uncertain.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From the position of the research topic “Impact of crime on socio-economic development in Nigeria”, several issues were found to be appalling in the process up to last chapter which deserves recommendations in this chapter. However, the summary of these issues and conclusion as deduced from the revealing aspects of the study are to be discussed with priority.

The study has made serious observations and revealed, among others, that in Ovia-North East Local Government Area, a large percentage of the populace are unemployed. The socio-economic condition is frustrating to the community members of these areas. This situation is associated with high crime levels at Ovia North East Local Government Area. Robbery and assault are the order of the day. Furthermore, the study reveals that there is poor development in Ovia-North East Local Government Area, also the high levels of crime are associated with poor development found in the area. The communities in Ovia North East Local Government were found to lack clinics, sanitation system, community halls, and police stations. The infrastructure found were however, not evaluated if they were in good condition, accessible not over or underutilized and usable.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This study sought to investigate the impact of crime on socio-economic development in Nigeria, using Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State as a

case study. The impacts have been discussed in detail in chapter four and summarized in chapter five. To conclude this study as well as the chapter, the researcher would like to point out that unless government or those in authority tackles earnestly the socio-economic problems, criminal activities will not abate, for example, raising living standard, increasing incomes, eliminating unemployment, providing social welfare services, improving housing and medical or psychiatric services, where necessary, will reduce crime or at least will prevent the commission of more crimes.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this study indicate that violent and property crimes pose a threat to the people of Ovia North East Local Government Area. The most important aspect of the recommendation is one way to reduce high level of crime in order to boost development. The recommendations of this study are put forward as follows:

- 1. Police – Community Relations** - improved the image of the police. This study reveals that the community is not satisfied with the performance of the police. The image of the police has been tarnished by media report of police bias and police involvement in political violence. This image needs to be rectified before the public can trust the police.
- 2. Increased foot patrol** – visibility of the police is deterrent to criminal activity. Ovia North East Local Government Area needs to be patrolled day and night. However, acknowledgement must be made of the serious manpower and resources shortage faced by the police force.

- 3. Community hall** – this hall can be used by local people for training project such as sewing, indoor recreation and other community meetings. Young people will find a place and shelter to keep them busy and therefore stay away from troubles. The provision of community halls, welfare centres, clinics and other recommended facilities will improve the living standard of the people within the study area. The provision of these facilities will create job opportunities for many local people. As soon as the majority of the people are employed, it is the opinion of the researcher that crime levels will decrease.
- 4. Provision of infrastructural facilities** – infrastructural facilities should be made available and maintenance culture should be adopted. This will lead to more development opportunities, as more investors and developers will be attracted into the region.
- 5. Clinic** – where victims of crime will receive treatment before being referred to a far away hospital.

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APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY

Dear Respondent

This questionnaire is designed to find out Impact of Crime on Socio-Economic development in Nigeria (Ovia North East Local government Area of Edo State). This study is strictly an academic exercise. It will be appreciated if you give honest response to the questions below. All volunteered information will be treated in strict confidence and your identity will never be disclosed.

SECTION A

Please, tick only one from the options provided

1. Sex: Male () Female ()
2. Age: 20-29 () 30-39 () 40-49 () 50 and above ()
3. Religion: Christian () Moslem () Traditional beliefs ()
4. Marital Status: Married () Single () Separated () Widowed () Divorced ()
5. Educational Level: No Education () Primary () Secondary () University ()
6. Occupation: Farming () Civil Servant () Businessman () Student ()

7. Socio-economic status : High () Middle () Low ()

SECTION B

8. Indicate types of crime that have been committed in your area. Violent crime()

Property crime()

9. Indicate time when crime ticked above are committed: Early morning() Day time ()

Evening () Late Night ()

10. Rate how serious you feel the level of crime is in your community: Very serious ()

Serious () Uncertain () Not serious at all

11. Poor development in your area can be ascribed to the inefficiency of the Nigeria

Police Force towards crime prevention: Strongly agree () Agree () Disagree ()

Uncertain ()

12. Do you feel unemployment is the major cause of crime in your community: Strongly

agree () Agree () Disagree () Uncertain ()

13. Do you feel poverty is the reason why people commit crime in your community:

Strongly agree () Agree () Disagree () Uncertain ()

14. In the past three years have you been a victim of crime in your community: Strongly

agree () Agree () Disagree () Uncertain ()

15. Has corruption retarded development in your community: Strongly agree () Agree ()

Disagree () Uncertain ()

16. Poor development in your area can be ascribed to traditional rulers: Strongly agree ()
Agree () Disagree () Uncertain ()
17. The commission of crimes in your area can be ascribed to political inclination:
Strongly agree () Agree () Disagree () Uncertain ()
18. Does your community have a neighborhood crime watch (vigilante): Strongly agree ()
Agree () Disagree () Uncertain ()
19. It is necessary to have a community development committee in your area: Strongly
agree () Agree () Disagree () Uncertain ()
20. Do you feel there is need for more police patrol in your area: Strongly agree () Agree
() Disagree () Uncertain ()