

**ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
TOWARD INTERNET CRIME IN EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF
EDO STATE.**

BY

Ehis Kingsley OSIME

EDU1602649

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY

JULY, 2021

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY, FACULTY OF
EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION,
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.**

JULY, 2021.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, certify that the project was carried out by Ehis Kingsley OSIME with matriculation No. EDU1602649 in the Department of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Award of Bachelor of science Degree in Social Studies Education.

DR. L.O. AIMIYEKAGBON

Project Supervisor

DR. (MRS) F.N. OFUANI

Chief Project Coordinator

DATE

DATE

Prof. E.O.S. Iyamu

Dean, Faculty of Education

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty for His unconditional Love, Mercy, Kindness, Blessing and Grace towards me all through my stay in this prestigious institution.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My gratitude goes to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the breath of life and good health He has given me and His divine favor throughout the period of my academic career and this research work.

My solitary appreciation goes to my project supervisor Dr. L.O. Aimiyeagbon who has been a source of motivation for me right from the very start of this project and for his sincere and careful guidance in all aspect of this study. His readiness and willingness at all times despite his busy schedule had made him more of father than a project supervisor, God bless you and your family sir.

I also wish to appreciate the effort of my department, Department of curriculum and instructional technology and all my lecturers and course advisers especially in Social Studies course area; Prof. (Mrs) Okobia, Dr. John Egharevba, Chief (Dr.) Razak Uzamere, Dr. (Mrs) Odia, Dr. Lucky Aimiyeagbon, Dr. (Mrs) Agahowa, Dr. (Mrs) Omoregbe, Dr. Ahanor: for their impact in my academic career as an undergraduate student, God bless you all.

Special gratitude to my special woman, my course adviser, Dr. Mrs. Ozawaru for all her motherly love, care and advice.

I register a million gratitude to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Osime for single-handedly seeing me through school financially; you are indeed a blessing to me.

Special thanks to my family especially my brothers, Osime David and Osime Emmanuel also to my lovely sister, Osime Omohnigo, you guys are the biggest gifts our parent gave to me, you were the brain behind everything in my academics, thank you so much

And to all my course mates and friends; Jatto Joseph, Osas, Desmond, Esther Koyono, Eki Beauty, David, Henry, Monday, Uche, Andrew, Isibor, Prudence, Bernice and Lazarus. You guys have been a great motivation to me, I love you all. God bless you.

To all the beautiful souls who have in one way or the other helped me throughout my stay as an undergraduate, I am grateful.

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to identify the attitude of secondary school students toward internet crimes in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria. The research was carried out as a survey research using relevant literature from journals, magazines, books and the internet.

Four research questions were raised and analyzed for the purpose of the study. A sample random sampling technique was used in selection of two hundred (200) secondary school students from four secondary schools in Egor Local government area of Edo State. The data were collected with questionnaire instrument and analyzed using simple percentage.

The result revealed that; students in the study area has negative attitude towards cybercrimes, even though the students sees cybercrime as a quick money making scheme, their perception stands that it is very wrong, the reasons youths are involved in cybercrimes are Unemployment, peer pressure, family background, greed and the quest to live an imaginative dream life and to curb cybercrimes, there should be strict enforcement of legislation on cybercrime, Parents should be made to take responsibilities for training and providing for their children so that they cannot be easily influenced by peers, Government grants to unemployed youths can help stop cybercrimes, NGOs and religious bodies should join hands in fighting cybercrimes and parents should produce children that they would be able to cater for. Based on the results, it was recommended that students should be encouraged to be upright in behavior and made to understand that there's virtue in been honest, unemployment to a very great extent causes cyber-crimes. There is an urgent need for job creation in order to engage the idle but enlightened minds of youths in Nigeria. This strategy will boost the economy and also reduce cyber-criminality to the barest minimum, intervening socio-economic measures, such as social benefits for the youths (especially, the unemployed) should be put in place by the government. And agencies, such as the EFCC, put in place to eradicate the menace of fraudulent practices should be made truly independent of various political maneuverings in the country in order to enhance their performance.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Crime appears to be a permanent feature of modern society. Despite efforts of social workers, law enforcement agency personal and criminal justice professionals to minimize 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. Cybercrime is defined as (i) computer-aided crime originating in the Nigeria internet domain space (ii) computer-aided crime perpetrated by Nigerians located outside the Nigerian internet domain space in collaboration with Nigerians within the Nigerian internet domain space and crimes aimed at information and telecommunication technology (ICT), infrastructure in Nigeria, from any location (Nwannema and Unadia, 2004).

It goes without saying that criminal act, like a festering wound is spreading at a high decibel among the youths all over the world. Nigeria is no exception. Internet fraud, especially those involving youths in Nigeria, has grown in leaps and bounds, winning more souls from partner agencies, who now contribute to the successful execution of Internet fraud. In Nigeria, internet fraud has taken its toll on the youths and the international reputation of Nigeria as a nation is no doubt in jeopardy. Advanced Fee Fraud through the Internet has wrecked many homes, destroyed many businesses, and

dampened the joy of many through the chains of their nefarious activities. Many undergraduates in Nigerian universities have embraced Internet fraud as a way of life. Many of them have become rich while some others have been caught by the law. Computer fraud is one of the most rapidly increasing forms of computer crime.

Ige (2008) examined secondary school students' perceptions of incidences of Internet crimes among school-age children in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria. The study indicated that students are being initiated into Internet crime by their friends in the universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education. Furthermore, male students are more involved than their female counterparts, a reflection of what happens worldwide. Also, senior secondary school students' involvement in Internet crime is not a function of the socioeconomic status of their parents, as students from both rich and poor homes engage in the crime. In addition to this, the involvement of students in Internet crime has no effect on their academic performance, as the students' higher level of cognitive thinking being used to scam people on the Internet is being exploited to enhance their academic standard.

Crime remains pervasive and forever strives to hide itself in the face of development. As measures and techniques for detecting crimes and criminals advance, criminals also look for means of hiding from these measures. Different nations have adopted different strategies to contend with crimes depending on their nature and extent. Certainly, a nation with high incidence of crime cannot grow or develop. For Nigeria, a nation in the process of saving her face regarding cybercrime, efforts are now being

directed at the sources and channels through which cybercrimes are being perpetrated the most. It is difficult to deny youth support of the menace with yahooze shirts, yahooze dance steps, yahooze songs. Even some young people identify themselves as yahoo boys and girls. The high unemployment rate which is said to account for up to 50% of all youths in Nigeria has also been blamed on corruption. It is also estimated that up to 75% of graduates in tertiary institutions are jobless. Unemployment is even made worse as ameliorative programme designed to generate employment often fail due to gross mismanagement. Because unemployment is usually associated with general insecurity and high crime rate, it follows that individuals will do anything to make ends meet in order to survive. Given the high unemployment rate in Nigeria, crime rate is high and corruption is on the increase (Longe, 2013). Hence, cybercrime is popular among youths in Nigeria as an alternative means to survival and livelihood (Adebusiyi, 2008).

The internet has brought an astounding alteration in the behaviour patterns of Nigeria youths. Indeed, internet crime has emerged from the acceptance of the internet technology, especially among the youths in the country. Though, criminality among Nigerian youth is traceable to prevalent corrupt practices in the country, the proliferation of crime in the country thrives on super highway of the internet (Adebusuyi, 2008).

The internet is the fastest growing technical infrastructure. Information and communication technologies are omnipresent and the trend of digitalization is expanding globally. The influence of the internet on the society goes far beyond establishing basic information. The availability of the internet is a foundation for the development in the

creation, availability and use of electronic based network services. The E-mail system has displaced traditional post office mail service, online web representation is nowadays more important for business than printed materials. Also internet-based communication and digital phones services are dislodging landline communications (International Telecommunication Union, 2009). Advancement in modern technology has helped countries develop their communication networks, enabling faster telecommunication services and massive data information exchange. According to Klynveld Peak Marwick Goedeler (2011) there are nearly 2 billion internet users and over 5million mobile phone connections worldwide. The growing popularity and convenience of digital networks communication system, however, came at a cost. As business and societies in general increasingly rely on computers and internet-based networking, cybercrime and digital ‘attack’ incidents have increased around the world. These ‘attacks’ include but are not limited to crime that involves the use of computers to perpetrate financial scams. Computer hacking, virus attacks e-mail stalking and creating websites that promote racial hatred among others. According to Message Lab Intelligence (2010), the first instance of cybercrime was reported in 2000, when a mass-mailed virus affected nearly 45 million computer users worldwide. Pokémon (2001) revealed that cybercrime do serious damage and harm to organizations.

Cybercrime can basically be divided into 3 major categories namely; cybercrime against a person which include various crimes like transmission of child pornography and harassment of anyone with the use of a computer, cybercrime against property which

include any form of vandalism against all form of property and the transmission of harmful computer programming and cybercrime against government. Cyber terrorism is one distinct kind of crime in this category. This crime manifests itself as terrorism when an individual ‘cracks’ into a government or military maintained websites. Alemika (2007) notes that in Nigeria today, cybercrime has found its root in the society. Like a cankerworm it has eaten deeply in the society and finally been accepted by the same society. Similarly, Asokhia (2010) asserts that cybercrime popularly called ‘YAHOO’ is an off-shoot of advance fee fraud which became popular in the early 90s. Today it has produced ‘YAHOO’ as its first offspring with mostly young people most especially the unemployed as its practitioners.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria according to Wikipedia is said to be 7th largest oil producing country in the world, but nevertheless, the majority of Nigerians are still living in poverty.

Nigeria is also rated amongst one of the most corrupt countries of the world. Internet usage in Nigeria has grown rapidly resulting in the explosion of Internet Service Providers (ISPS) and Internet Access Point creating an increase in the positive impacts on the socio-economic and educational developments in the country. Unfortunately, the country’s image has also suffered as a result of the unscripted activities of some Nigerians using the internet as a channel for the perpetration of criminal spamming activities.

Arowosaiye (2008) avers that fraudsters in Nigeria and their foreign counterparts are perfect exploiters of global financial growth and ICT advancement which renders traditional geographical expression meaningless. Today, it is possible to plan a crime in one country, carry it out in another and move the proceeds from one country to another or more countries, all from a personal computer. The categories of economic and financial crimes in Nigeria are too wide to be exhausted here. However, the recent phenomenon of phishing, identity theft, credit card fraud, which are closely related forms of cyber or internet frauds and internet piracy are emerging economic crimes which need to be addressed by the existing Nigerian criminal law. The major implication of the unconscious acceptance of this menace in the Nigerian society in the nearest future has created a high level of disinterest in education and tutoring among young people.

In Nigeria today, young people mostly youths are the ones who engage in this form of anti-social behavior for the purpose of living a life of splendor. In recent times Nigeria has been labeled as a corrupt nation. Could it be because the government has failed the youth? There are no white collar jobs? Peer pressure and poverty, or greed? There is a need for the Nigerian government to do something fast and urgent to curb this menace of cybercrime. This necessitated the research work into the attitude of youths towards internet crimes: a case study of secondary school students in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria.

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the attitude of youths towards internet crimes: a case study of secondary school students in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria. Specifically, the study intends to:

1. Determine the attitude of youths towards cybercrime.
2. Find out the perception of secondary school students towards cybercrime.
3. Determine the reason why cybercrime is mostly rampant among Nigerian youths.
4. Suggest measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions have been formulated to guide the study.

1. What are the attitudes of youths towards cybercrime?
2. What are the perceptions of secondary school students towards cybercrime?
3. What are the reasons cybercrimes are mostly rampant among Nigerian youths?
4. What are the measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria?

Significance of the Study

Findings of this study will really contribute towards computer literacy awareness campaign in Nigeria especially among the youths.

This study will provide a background for psychological approach in combating such crime among youths in Nigeria.

And also to the ministry of Education to strengthening the teaching of civic Education and social studies to help inculcate moral and societal discipline to secondary school students.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to the attitude and perception of youths towards internet crimes: a case study of secondary school students in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria. The study will determine the student's attitude to cybercrimes of all levels and their attitude and perception to it. The study is therefore delimited to secondary school students of Egor local government area of Benin City Edo state Nigeria.

Definition of Terms

Perception: The way students think or feel about internet crimes.

Attitude: the way student behaves or reacts about internet crime.

Internet crimes: this is a kind of crime that involves a computer or any other mobile device and the internet, with intent to scam or defraud another person, group or a government.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter focuses on the review of related literature. And it will be discussed under the following sub-headings:

1. Concept of Cyber crime
2. The attitudes of youths towards cybercrime
3. The perceptions of secondary school students towards cybercrime
4. The reasons cybercrimes are rampant among Nigerian youths
5. Measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria
6. Summary of Reviewed Literature

Concept of Cyber crime

The Internet can trace its roots to the late 1960s. It started as a U.S. government project, the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET). Designed, in part, to experiment with and to demonstrate decentralized computer networking, ARPANET eventually evolved into the Internet structure (Howard, in Mirabito & Morgenstern, 2001: 189). The Internet has its comprehensive impact on all aspects of one's life nowadays worldwide (Annenberg School of University of Southern California, 2000). In brief, the Internet can be described as a global data high-way. You can travel on

this electronic road to exchange information with sites scattered across the globe (Mirabito & Morgenstern, 2001:189)

The Internet also remains a decentralized entity. It can be viewed as a collection of independent computer systems that no one individual or organization owns. It is almost like the Wild West; an information frontier without boundaries that is primarily governed by technical standards. The Internet is an umbrella concept. There are other constituents of the Internet like electronic mail (e-mail), World Wide Web and several other features that make the functionality of the Internet possible.

Cybercrime is described as crimes committed gaining access to the internet and making use of the computer to carry out such act. Adeniran (2008) defines Cybercrime as an unlawful act where the computer is used a tool to carry out the criminal activities. Tade and Aliyu (2011), they both claim that the emergence of yahoo boys in Nigeria came because of failure on the part of the political leaders and corrupt practices. In the same vein the Nigerian youth, especially the undergraduates and the unemployed have embraced the ICT inventions wholeheartedly, some of these inventions include: mobile telephone, smartphones, tablets, pads and so on. The internet now constitutes a larger part of their time when compared to their other daily activities. Many prefer to toy with their phones and chat than to read their books even when they have an upcoming exam. The embrace of internet and electronic gadgets gave birth to the emergence of yahoo boys, particularly in the cities.

Nigerian youth are known to be idealistic, creative, adventurous, resourceful, inquisitive and proactive (Adalemo, 1999). With proper support and backing, Nigerian youths are ready to contribute positively to the development of the country (Mabogunje, 1998). Adeniyi (1999) sees the youths as the foundation for the growth and sustainable development of the nation, they are one of the key agents for social change; the inability of the leaders at the three levels of government in Nigeria to promote positive values for the youths has translated into having menace in the society. Every society has laid down norms that define acceptable behavior, and agents of socialization that transmit such norms. Adeniyi (1999) also asked a question “What happens when there is a discrepancy between what is taught and what is observed?” With this it is impossible to say that the youths can forgo fraud when they can see that fraudulent individuals have great affluence and society accords great respect to them instead of despising them for their questionable wealth. Ninalowo (2004) opines that in societies such as Nigeria where there is a huge display of structural inequalities, a weak sanctioning system and there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor, there is a huge tendency for the deprived to reject the norms and embrace illegal means of achieving success.

A primarily problem for the analysis of cybercrime is the lack of a consistent and statutory definition for the activities that may constitute cybercrime (PJCACC, 2004; Yar, 2005). According to Smith et al. (2004), defining cybercrime raises conceptual complexities. Varied definitions of cybercrime do exist. In addition to the difficult of definition, it is also called by variety of terms such as computer crime, computer-related

crime, digital crime, information technology crime (Maat, 2004), Internet crime (Wall, 2001), virtual crime (Lastowka and Hunter, 2004; Grabosky, 2001), e-crime (AIC, 2006) and net crime (Mann and Sutton, 1998). Cybercrime could reasonably include a wide variety of criminal offenses and activities.

At the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, in a workshop devoted to the issues of crimes related to computer networks, cybercrime was divided into two categories and defined thus:

1. Cybercrime in a narrow sense is any illegal behavior directed by means of electronic operations that targets the security of computers systems and the data processed by them.
2. Cybercrime in a broader sense is any illegal behavior committed by means of, or in relation to, a computer system or network, including such crimes as illegal possession and offering or distributing information by means of a computer system or network.

In the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime (2001), cybercrime is used as an umbrella term to refer to an array of criminal activities including offenses against computer data and systems, computer-related offenses, content offenses, and copy-right offenses (AIC, 2006). The convention covers cybercrime in four main categories:

1. Offenses against the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of computer data and systems such as illegal access, illegal interception, data or system interference, and illegal devices.
2. Computer related offenses like computer-related forgery and computer-related fraud
3. Content-related offenses (e.g. child pornography).
4. Offenses related to infringements of copyright and related rights.

A working definition along these lines is offered by Thomas and Loader (2000), who conceptualized cybercrime as those “computer-mediated activities which are either illegal or considered illicit by certain parties and which can be conducted through global electronic networks”. The working definition for cybercrime by the Canadian Police College has increasingly been accepted by Canadian law enforcement agencies; as a criminal offence involving a computer as the object of the crime, or the tool used to commit a material component of the offence (Statistics Canada, 2002). Maat (2004), proposed a definition for cybercrime which encompasses all illegal activities where the computer, computer systems, information network or data is the target of the crime and those known illegal activities or crime that are actively committed through or with the aid of computer, computer systems, information network or data. It is significant to note that there is no consistent and statutory definition for cybercrime. Cyber security is concerned with making cyberspace safe from threats, namely cyber-threats. The notion of

“cyber-threat” is rather vague and implies the malicious use of information and communication technology (ICT) either as a target or as a tool by a wide range of malevolent actors. Cyber security is often confused with national security while national security, according to the coordinator of NCWG, Udotai (2002) in Odumesi (2006) may often be implicated in some cases of cyber security. Cyber security as a term refers only to security of networks and systems- computers, electronics and ancillary devices. Typical cyber security issues, according to Udotai (2002) in Odumesi (2006) include: confidentiality of information; and integrity of systems and survivability of networks (CIS). Major objective of cyber security includes: protection of system/networks against unauthorized access and data alteration from within; and defense against intrusion from without. As commonly used, the term “cyber security” refers to three things:

1. A set of activities and other measures, technical and non-technical, intended to protect computers, computer networks, related hardware and software devices, and the information they contain and communicate, including software and data, as well as other elements of cyberspace, from all threats, including threats to national security;
1. The degree of protection resulting from the application of these activities and measures;
2. The associate field of professional endeavor, including research and analysis, aimed at implementing and those activities and improving their quality.

Cyber security is thus more than just information security or data security, but is closely related to those two fields, because information security lies at the heart of the matter. Information security refers to all aspects of protecting information. Most often, these aspects are classified in three categories: confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. Confidentiality” refers to the protection of information from disclosure to unauthenticated parties, while “integrity” refers to the protection of information from unauthorized changes. “Availability” means the information should be available to authorized parties when requested. Sometimes, “accountability” the requirement that the actions of an entity be uniquely traceable to that entity is added to the list.

The first goal of modern information security has, in effect, become to ensure that systems are predictably dependable in the face of all sorts of malice and particularly in the face of denial-of-service attacks.

The dominance of network topologies has implications for the shape of the protection policies and, subsequently, in determining appropriate protection efforts, goals, strategies, and instruments for problem solution:

1. Cyber security as an Information Technology issue: Cyber security can be approached as an IT security or information assurance issue, with a strong focus on Internet security. Policies are thus aimed at countering threats to the information infrastructure by technical means such as firewalls, anti-virus software, or

intrusion detection software. The main threats perceived range from accident, system failures, bad programming, and human failures to hacker attacks.

2. Cyber security as an economic issue: Cyber security is relevant to the business continuity, and especially to e- business, which requires permanent access to ICT infrastructures and permanently available business processes to ensure satisfactory business performance. The main actors are representatives of the private sector. The main threats are viruses and worms, human failures, but also hacker attacks of all sorts, and acts of cybercrime.
3. Cyber security as a law enforcement issue: Cyber security is seen as relevant to cybercrime. Cybercrime is a very broad term with various meanings, and definition can include everything from technology-enabled crimes to crimes committed against individual computers. The main actors are law enforcers. The main threats are acts of computer criminality, but also cyber terrorism.
4. Cyber security is a national security issue: Society as a whole and its core values are endangered, due to their dependence on ICT. Action against the threat is aimed at several levels (the technical, legislative, organizational, or international levels). The main actors are security specialists. The main threats are terrorists, but also information warfare threats from other states.

Types of Cyber Crimes

Cybercrimes simply put are crimes that are committed using the Computers and Networks.

There are several types of cybercrimes some of which include:

1. **Cyber Terrorism:** A cyber terrorist can be described as someone who launches attack on government or organization in order to distort and or access stored information stored on the computer and their networks. According to Wikipedia, a cyber-terrorist is someone who intimidates a government or to advance his or her political or social objectives by launching computer-based attack against computers, network, and the information stored on them. For instance, a rumor on the Internet about terror acts. In addition, Parker (1983) defined Cyber terrorism as an act of terrorism committed through the use of cyberspace or computer resources.

It means that any act intended to instill fear by accessing and distorting any useful information in organizations or Government bodies using Computer and Internet is generally referred to as

2. **Cyber Terrorism.** Another form of cyber terrorism is cyber extortion is a form of cyber terrorism in which a website, e-mail server, computer systems is put under attacks by hackers for denial of services, demanding for ransom in return. Cyber extortionists are increasingly attack in websites and networks, crippling their ability to operate and demanding payments to restore their service.

3. **Fraud - Identity Theft:** Fraud is a criminal activity in which someone pretends to be somebody and retrieve vital information about someone. For instance, making a false bank webpage to retrieve the account information of someone. The concept is simple; someone gains access to your personal information and uses it for his own benefit. This could range from a black-hat hacker stealing online banking account login and password to getting access to ATM using such people can make them a lot of money with personal information. In Nigeria people design web links forms requesting users to fill in their basic information including, unique details like pin numbers and use that to commit crimes.
4. **Drug Trafficking Deals:** Another type of Cyber Crime is Drug Trafficking; it is a global trade involving cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug law. Drug traffickers are increasingly taking advantage of the Internet to sell their illegal substances through encrypted e-mail and other Internet Technology. Some drug traffickers arrange deals at internet cafes, use courier Web sites to track illegal packages of pills, and swap recipes for amphetamines in restricted-access chat rooms. The rise in Internet drug trades could also be attributed to the lack of face-to-face communication. These virtual exchanges allow more intimidated individuals to make comfortably purchase of illegal drugs. (www.wikipedia.com).
5. **Malware:** Malware refers to viruses, Trojans, worms and other software that gets onto your computer without you being aware it's there. Back in the early part of

the century, most such software's primary aim was thrill. The people writing the software found it amusing to write a program that exploited security flaws just to see how far it could spread. Today the incentive for making such software is generally more dangerous. In some cases a piece of malware will be a legitimate piece of software. When such software is downloaded, it infects the computer system and destroys valuable information. The Trojan horse is also a technique for creating an automated form of computer abuse called the salami attack, which works on financial data. This technique causes small amounts of assets to be removed from a larger pool. The stolen assets are removed one slice at a time.

6. Spam: Spam is the use of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited bulk messages indiscriminately. While the most widely recognized form of spam is e-mail spam, the term is applied to similar abuses in other media: instant messaging spam, Usenet newsgroup spam, Web search engine spam, spam in blogs, wiki spam, online classified ads spam, mobile phone messaging spam, Internet forum spam, junk fax transmissions, social networking spam, television advertising and file sharing network spam. Some of these address harvesting approaches rely on users not reading the fine print of agreements, resulting in them agreeing to send messages indiscriminately to their contacts. This is a common approach in social networking spam such as that generated by the social networking site (Saul, 2007).

Spamming remains economically viable because advertisers have no operating costs beyond the management of their mailing lists, and it is difficult to hold

senders accountable for their mass mailings. Because the barrier to entry is so low, spammers are numerous, and the volume of unsolicited mail has become very high.

A person who creates electronic spam is called a spammer.

The attitudes of youths towards cybercrime

Nigeria as a nation is a well gifted country, considering her human and natural resources among the nations of the world. Unfortunately, the country is ranked among the underdeveloped nations of the world with declining human conditions over the years (Adeniran, 2008). “Unemployment, lack of social support and worsening extent of general deprivation has affected the youths in the country. The political, economic, education and other social institutions, reflect varying degrees of decadence caused by fraudulent acts in Nigeria” (Bammeke, 2005). As opined by Achebe (1984), Nigeria was regarded as one of the most corrupt places in the world due to political recklessness. Years after this, this opinion is still being reemphasized by the yearly Corruption Perception Index of the Transparency International in which Nigeria has been occupying one of the lowest positions in Africa and in the world. As it is, Nigeria has been noted to be in a state of normlessness’, where anything goes; there is a breakdown of law and order and people no longer feel remorse for evil committed, shameful acts are celebrated and success is given a new definition, as wealth becomes more important than the means of obtaining it (Tade and Olaitan, 2015). Sudden wealth is normally celebrated among Nigerians populace regardless of its source; In fact, it is mostly associated with cleverness and no punishment is melted out where necessary (Adeniran, 2008).

Indeed, ours is a society that glorifies wealth. This attitude of glorifying wealth by the Nigerian society is further buttressed by the lifestyles of the so called ‘celebrities’. Popular Nigerian hip-hop songs such as “Maga don Pay” and “Operation” all glorify the Yahoo boys’ lifestyle (Zulu, 2008). Also, music videos produced by artists such as Olu Maintain and Kelly Handsome show them driving exotic cars, drinking champagne, partying with young women and displaying large amounts of money amassed by conducting internet fraud. The general themes in both the lyrics and the music videos are the positive benefits which serve as inducements into being a yahoo boy (Doppelmayr, 2013:19).

In Nigeria, kleptomania acts are not characteristics of only the ruling class but of leadership at all levels, in this kind of situation, values of integrity and honesty are scorned, as there is lack of compliance to laid down procedures and non-conformist is more of a surprise (Bammeke, 2005). “For instance, at both household and community levels in Nigeria, respective agents of socialization taught the young ones to value hard work and integrity, but most often it is at variance with what they observe” (Adeniran 2008:371). Technological advances, especially in information and communication technology, however, have brought major alteration to our cultures, our patterns of socialization, our social institutions, and our day-to-day social interactions. Such technological innovations are, in fact, being accepted with remarkable speed by the Nigerian youths, hitherto grossly unengaged at both social and economic spheres. As noted by Adeniran (2006), the internet has brought an astounding alteration in the

behavioral patterns of Nigerian Youths. Indeed, Yahoo boys sub-culture has emerged from the consensual acceptance of the internet technology, especially among youths in the country. Though, criminality among youths in Nigeria could be traced to the prevalent corrupt practices in the country, the ‘modernization of criminality’ through the electronic superhighway has been serving as the platform for the emergence and sustenance of Yahoo boys sub-culture in Nigeria (Adeniran, 2008).

Ordinarily, the Nigerian Youths are noted for being idealistic, adventurous, resourceful, inquisitive and proactive (Adalemo, 1999). In the face of proper motivation, the Nigerian youth is prepared to contribute to the development of the nation (Mabogunje, 1998). According to Adeniyi (1999), since the youths are taken as the foundation for the future growth and sustainable development of a nation, they are the key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Hence, the failure of leadership at all levels in Nigeria to promote positive values for the youths has often translated into social incongruence. Every society has norms that define acceptable behavior, and agents of socialization socially transmit such norms; but it becomes an issue when there is a discrepancy between what is taught and what is being observed. How do we expect the Nigerian youths to eschew fraud when all they see around them is fraudulent individuals wielding so much affluence and still command high respect from the society that is supposed to question the source of their wealth? Ninalowo (2004), argues that in society such as Nigeria with gross structural inequalities, weak sanctioning system and wide gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots”, there is a tendency for the

deprived to reject and embrace illegal means of achieving culturally prescribed goals. The involvement of the Nigerian Youths, therefore, in online fraudulent practices such as yahoo-yahoo cannot be divorced from the value that the society places on wealth accumulation (Adeniran, 2008).

The perceptions of secondary school students towards cybercrime

The upsurge of yahoo-yahoo in this 21st century in Nigeria calls for disquieting attention because more than 40% undergraduates and up to 60% graduates without dependable job are overwhelmingly recruited into kleptomania and fraudster industry. Therefore, the impact of cybercrime in Nigeria is alarming to the extent that the incursions of the government in curbing cybercrime are of no avail because Nigeria was ranked as the 3rd crime perpetrating country in the world (Manbe et.al 2014). This sinister guile has been extended to underage students in elementary school of between 15-22 years. This research discovered that, both male and female, preschooler and graduate, adolescent and aged, educated and even uneducated people have been initiated into the game as bogus dilettante if only they can browse internet either through high-speed phone or Laptop.

The new Social Studies and Civic Education curriculum that was put together in year 2007 reflect depth, appropriateness and interrelatedness of the contents of the curriculum. Emerging issues which covered value reorientation, peace and dialogue including human rights education, family life HIV/AIDS education, entrepreneurial skills, crime prevention themes and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) were

infused into the relevant contents of the new 9-year basic education curriculum (NERDC, 2007). Adesina and Adeyemi (2007) stated that the field of Social Studies has come to stay in Nigerian primary and secondary schools, as such the importance attached to its study cannot be exaggerated. It is believed to be the correct drug that can be used to heal the ailment of moral decadence (Cyber Crime) and instill in the youth a sense of decent behavior (Cyber Crime Prevention). To this end, the objectives of Social Studies specifically are to enable the children develop an understanding of their immediate surroundings; develop certain skills which will enable the children to deal with and manage the forces of the world in which they live; and learn how to live harmoniously where many different groups co-exist (Obidoa, 1991). Adesina and Adeyemi (2007) further clarify that Social Studies can be seen as a programme of study in Nigerian secondary schools which is used to inculcate in learners the knowledge, skills, attitude and actions considered important in human relationship in society. These are reasons why Action Cyber Crime Prevention Programme will best be taught through Social Studies and Civic Education. Comparative Education Study and Adaptation Centre (1993) defines Social Studies as a subject concerned with the way man lives in and interacts with his social and physical environments and how science and technology, for instance, computer, help him to live well in those environments.

Ten years ago, most of the world knew little or nothing about the Internet. It was the private enclave of computer Scientists and researchers who used it to interact with colleagues in their respective disciplines (Kahn and Cerf, 1999). The emergence and

growth of new technologies for communication over the latter decades of the twentieth century is often regarded as information society'. The enormous growth of internet connectivity in association with the development of other electronic communication technologies has resulted in changes in many spheres of the society. The internet has become a key element in what is seen as globalization of society, providing technology that recognizes no national boundaries, that has no single owner, and that is not regulated or controlled by any single national or international legal framework. Yet, the internet is found in every nation, providing information and contact instantaneously to anybody at any point on the globe. All major businesses have adopted it as a means of communication and non-governmental organizations have found it to be an invaluable tool. Most recent estimates suggested that the total number of internet users worldwide by 1999 was between 150 and 180 million with estimates that the expected numbers would rise to one billion by 2005 (Slavin, 2000).

Internet crime is the unlawful conduct carried out with the use of computers, electronic and ancillary devices. It is unauthorized access, system interference, data inception, intellectual property theft, fraud and using computers to abuse data and sabotage networks. It also includes disruption of network traffic, denial of service attacks or e-mail bombing, creation or distribution of viruses, identity theft, cyber stalking, cyber pornography and cyber-squatting etc. Internet crime is a crime committed on the internet, using the internet and by means of the internet (<http://www.wikipedia.com>). Computer crime is a general term that embraces such crime as: phishing, credit card fraud, internet

bank robbery, illegal downloading, industrial espionage, child pornography, kidnapping children via chat rooms, scams, creation and distribution of viruses, and spam.

All over the world today, so many people have embraced cyber-crime as a means of livelihood at the expense of others physical and mental wellbeing. Tade and Aliyu (2011) affirmed that many have become rich through cybercrime while some others have been caught by the law. Folorunso, Vincent, Adekoyo and Ogunde, (2010) conducted a study at university of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria on the „Diffusion of Innovation in social Networking sites among university students.“ One of the major findings of the study shows that the respondents had attempted to try social networking sites before adopting its uses. Thus, the users of the sites often examine it and probably know the gratifications they could derive from the media before accepting to use any of them Folorunso, et al, (2010).

Chawki (2005) states that educating young people would help decrease the risk of students in cyberspace. Asokhia (2010) finds that the level of education contributes significant differences to the students“ perceptions of cybercrime. Knowledge helps people to be more aware on cybercrime (Levin et al., 2008). The number of cybercrime victims could be reduced by introducing proper awareness activities such as training programs, sufficient resource for compliance, develop policies & regulations and sufficient protection of personal information (Choi, 2008; Levin et al., 2008; Chawki, 2005; Bougaardt and Kyobe, 2011).

Odo & Odo (2015) investigated the extent of involvement in Cybercrime activities among students in tertiary institutions in Enugu state of Nigeria. Their findings showed that students of higher institutions in Enugu state are involved in cybercrime. It also showed that students' involvement in cybercrime is dependent on gender and Institution type.

Bamatraf and Al Anouti (2014) investigated the level of knowledge about cybercrimes among young adults within the United Arab Emirates, and found a statistical significant difference in the level of knowledge in terms of student major but not gender. Students specializing in Computer Information Technology (accounting for 21.5% of the participants) had the highest levels of knowledge as compared to all other students from other majors. This was in concordance with another finding in the study which revealed a strong correlation between the level of knowledge and the use of the internet/digital technology. Participants with heavy use of internet technology had a high level of knowledge about cybercrimes.

In Nigeria today, most of the criminal activities being experienced are perpetuated by the youths especially the educated ones (Olaide & Adewole, 2004, Ayodele & Wilson, 2014).

The reasons cybercrimes are rampant among Nigerian youths

In recent times, our society is increasingly relying on the internet and other information technology tools to engage in personal communication and conduct business activities among other several benefits. While these developments allow for enormous gain in productivity, efficiency and communication they also create a loophole which

may totally destroy an organisation. The term cybercrime can be used to describe any criminal activity which involves the computer or the internet network (Okeshola, 2013). This term is used for crimes such as fraud, theft, blackmail, forgery, and embezzlement, in which computers or networks are used.

In (Maitanmi, 2013) cybercrime was defined as a type of crime committed by criminals who make use of a computer as a tool and the internet as a connection in order to reach a variety of objectives such as illegal downloading of music files and films, piracy, spam mailing and the likes. Cyber-crime evolves from the wrong application or abuse of internet services. The concept of cybercrime is historical. It was discovered that the first published report of cybercrime occurred on the mainframe computer in the 1960s (Maitanmi, 2013). Since these computers were not connected to the internet or with other computers, the crime was committed by the employers (insider) in the company, hence it was referred to as computer crime rather than cybercrime.

According to (Lakshmi, 2015) as at 2003, the United States and South-Korea have the highest cyber-attacks of 35.4% and 12.8% respectively. With the population of Nigeria placed at 160 million from the last census carried out in 2006, a recent statistics revealed that about 28.9% have access to the internet (Hassan, 2012). It was also proven that 39.6% African users of internet are actually Nigerian, hence, the high increase in the rate of internet crime in Nigeria (Hassan, 2012). Presently, cybercrimes are performed by people of all ages ranging from young to old, but in most instances the young. Presently,

cybercrimes are performed by people of all ages ranging from young to old, but in most instances the young.

Cybercrime is a new trend that is gradually growing as the internet continues to penetrate every sector of our society and no one can predict its future. The crime usually requires a hectic task to trace. Generally, cybercrime may be divided into one of two types of categories:

1. Crimes that affects computer networks and devices directly. Examples are malicious code, computing viruses, mal-ware etc.
2. Crimes facilitated by computer networks or devices, the primary target of which is independent of the computer networks or device. Examples include Cyber Stalking, Fraud and identity theft, phishing scams and information warfare.

The following are some of the reasons cybercrimes are rampant among Nigerian youths (Hassan, 2012)

- a. Unemployment is one of the major causes of Cybercrime in Nigeria. It is a known fact that over 20 million graduates in the country do not have gainful employment. This has automatically increased the rate at which they take part in criminal activities for their survival.
- b. Quest for Wealth is another cause of cybercrime in Nigeria. Youths of nowadays are very greedy, they are not ready to start small hence they strive to level up with their rich counterparts by engaging in cybercrimes.

- c. Lack of strong Cyber Crime Laws also encourages the perpetrators to commit more crime knowing that they can always go uncaught. There is need for our government to come up with stronger laws and be able to enforce such laws so that criminals will not go unpunished.
- d. Incompetent security on personal computers. Some personal computers do not have proper or competent security controls, it is prone to criminal activities hence the information on it can be stolen.

Measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria

The modern age can best be described as the youth age. Everything about the socio-technological composition of the world promotes the acceleration and improvement of standard of life for both living and the unborn generations. Ironically, despite the manifold conveniences provided through scientific innovative efforts, the youth-crime participation in this technological age is on the increase for several reasons.

Many factors were noted to be promoting this trend. Apart from the fact that youths of contemporary times are privileged to have varied technologies at their disposal, they are equally at vantage ground to benefit from their outputs. Notwithstanding, these advantages are with one hiccup or the other. With so many of them utilizing the medium for self-development, it is uncontestable that so many others have adapted the medium for nefarious activities. The major causes of this development are both structural and

socio-psychological when measured in terms of their predispositional effects on youths and invariably capable of jump-starting youths to adapt technologies into non-conventional uses. The implication of this may be devastating if left unchecked. Consequently, this paper proffers three antidotes to the increase in youth technological crime participation.

First, value reorientation that is directed at the youths is quite central to curbing the menace of crime that is becoming rife among the youths. Globally, things are mainly falling apart; the yesteryears morality is consistently paving way to internet-based morality among the youths. This form of morality is not supportive of the coerciveness that is germane to living in a harmonious society that will benefit all and sundries. A risk free society is also a prerequisite to enhancing development needed to forge the world ahead. The rearticulating of values, its dissemination and spontaneous assimilation is quite important to producing a desired society. The advocacy in this context is moral rebirth.

Second, the role of administrative authorities in revamping national economies 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.

Confidence building among the youths is the third component for eradicating youth-crime participation in the modern society. The thought of destined failure and the over blown perception of impossibility directed at venturing towards achieving the goals of life should be discouraged by implementing the former two strategies explained above religiously. Confidence building in the youths commences from the grass-roots and at the micro level; it should constitute part of the national core value. The slogan should be ‘you can make it positively, tell yourself you can.’ By constantly affirming this, it will give the youths a sense of direction and their actions will not only become positive, but progress oriented.

Although Cybercrime cannot be easily and completely wiped out, but can be reduced. However, collaborative efforts of individuals alongside with government intervention could go a long way to minimize it to a reasonable level. Measures to take can be categorized into two (Maitanmi, 2013):

- a) Government’s intervention: Although the country has found her in great mess by the inability of the government to provide basic necessary amenities such as jobs, security and the likes for her citizens which indirectly has led to high rate in cybercrime, there is still need for the nation to come up with adequate laws to tackle this issue. These laws should be formulated by the government and should strictly be adhered to. However, it is worthy to note that a bill was recently passed in year 2015 that would protect and punish electronic fraud and other cyber

related crimes. The full implementation of this bill will hopefully bring a strategic approach to fight against cybercrime. Some of the bills are highlighted below:

- There will be seven years jail term for offenders of different types of computer related fraud, computer related forgery, cyber-pornography, cyber-stalking and cyber-squatting.
 - Defines the liability of service providers and ensures that the use of electronic communications does not compromise national interest. It provides a legal framework to punish cyber criminals thereby improving electronic communication.
 - It specifies all criminal acts and provides guidelines for the investigation of such offences. If these laws are effectively enforced, cybercriminals will be deterred and penalized. This will indirectly reduce the incident of cyber-crimes, increase customer's confidence while transacting business online and also correct the negative impression about Nigeria and the citizens.
- b. Individuals on their part should ensure proper security controls and make sure they install the latest security up-dates on their computer systems. In addition, they should observe the following (Lakshmi, 2015):
- Carefully select the sites you visit. Do not visit an un-trusted site. Avoid visiting a site by clicking on a link you find in your email, found on a Facebook page, or on an advertisement

- Avoid pirated software and never disclose your Personal Identification Number (PIN), bank account and email access code to unknown persons.
- Always ignore any e-mail requiring your financial information. Do not send sensitive information in an email since its security cannot be guaranteed.
- Use strong passwords that are difficult to guess and employ a combination of characters (upper case and lower-case letters), numbers and symbols.
- Avoid inputting your information in a pop-up. If you have interest in any offer you see on a pop up, it is always safer to go directly to the website of the retailer.

Summary of Reviewed Literature

An attempt has been made in this research to utilize the relevant literature to examine the attitude of youths towards internet crimes: a case study of secondary school students in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria. Cybercrime is a term that covers a broad scope of criminal activity using a computer. At an organizational level, cybercrime may involve the hacking of customer databases and theft of intellectual property. Many users think they can protect themselves, their accounts, and their computers with anti-spyware and antivirus software only. Cyber criminals are becoming more sophisticated and are targeting consumers as well as public and private organizations.

The effects of a single, successful cybercrime can have far reaching implications including financial losses, theft of intellectual property, and loss of consumer confidence and trust. The overall monetary impact of cybercrime on society and Government is estimated to be billions of dollars a year. The risks that children may encounter when

online are numerous and rather serious: exposure to inappropriate conversation; unwittingly becoming the subject of sexual fantasy; being sent indecent or obscene images; being asked to send indecent images of themselves or their friends; being engaged in sexually explicit talk; and being encouraged to perform sexual explicit acts on themselves or their friends. All these activities and risks form the new reality of cyberspace, where everyday hundreds of children are approached for sexual abuse. As it can be seen in the findings, 95% of respondents declared that cybercrimes affect children through pornography.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the research methodology that was used in the study under the following sub-headings:

1. Research Design
2. Population of the Study
3. Sample and Sampling Technique
4. Research Instrument
5. Validity of the Instrument
6. Reliability of the Instrument
7. Method of Data Collection
8. Method of Data Analysis

Research Design

The survey method of descriptive research would be adopted to enable the researcher carry out systematic investigation and obtain information across population of the study. This study was designed to examine the attitude and perception of youths towards internet crimes: a case study of secondary school students in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria.

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises of all thirteen (13) government public secondary school in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State with a population of thirteen thousand eight hundred and twenty one (13,821)

Sample and Sampling Technique

Four (4) public senior secondary schools would be selected from the 13 public secondary schools in Egor local government area of Edo state as the sample for the study using simple random sampling technique. A total number of 200 students would be selected from the thirteen thousand eight hundred and twenty one (13,821) secondary school students through simple random sampling technique.

S/N	Name of school	Number of sample
1	Uselu secondary school	50
2	Evbareke secondary school	50
3	Federal government girls college	50
4	Benin technical college	50
	Total	200

Research Instrument

The research instrument was a questionnaire designed by the researcher called "the attitude and perception of youths towards internet crimes: a case study of secondary school students in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria". It is divided into two sections: A and B. Section A contains the demographic data of the respondent. While section B contains twenty items, the questions contained in the questionnaire revolves round the research questions raised in the chapter one of this study, the items in section B is rated in likert scare of strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree. The response obtained from the respondent will help to validate the research questions.

Validity of the Instrument

In order to ascertain the validity of the instrument, the questionnaire designed by the researcher would be given to the supervisor and two lecturer in the department of Curriculum and Instructional Technology (C.I.T) to scrutinize and for necessary corrections to ensure content as well as face validity. Corrections made on the draft would be incorporated in the final draft.

Reliability of the Instrument

A test re-test reliability method will used to establish the reliability of instrument. The copies of the questionnaire would be administered to the respondents, after two weeks the same instrument will be re-administered to the same group of students. The data collected after both administration would be analysed using Pearson Product

Correlation Coefficient, the reliability of the instrument is expected to be established at 0.75

Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire would be administered personally to the respondents sampled for the study. The researcher will take permission from the principal of the schools. The respondents would be assured of confidentiality and urged to answer the questions honestly in the best of their knowledge. Instructions would be given to the respondents on how to fill the questionnaire and the copies of the questionnaire would be collected the same day to avoid loss.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected would be properly organized and tabulated. The responses would be statistically analyzed by the use of simple percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The purpose of this chapter is to report, analyze and discussed the findings of the research.

Presentation of Data

Table 1: Distribution of Respondent by Gender

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Female	36	18
Male	164	82
TOTAL	200	100%

Source: Researcher's fieldwork, 2021

Table 2: Distribution of Respondent by school type

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Single	49	24.5
Mix	151	75.5
TOTAL	200	100%

Source: Researcher's fieldwork, 2021

Answering of Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the attitudes of youths towards cybercrime?

Table 5: Showing the attitudes of youths towards cybercrime

S/N	ITEM	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL
1.	Cyber-crime has come to stay and Nigerians must learn to live with it	31 (15.5%)	25 (12.5%)	139 (69.5%)	5 (2.5%)	200
2.	Cybercrime is evil and dangerous to the youth	126 (63%)	19 (9.5%)	40 (20%)	5 (2.5%)	200
3.	People that involve in cybercrimes are evil	165 (82.5%)	10 (5%)	11 (5.5%)	14 (7%)	200
4.	If I had the opportunity to learn cybercrime I will gladly do	14 (7%)	21 (10.5%)	133 (66.5%)	12 (6%)	200
5.	People engage in cybercrime just to meet up with their peers	126 (63%)	19 (9.5%)	41 (20.5%)	13 (6.5%)	200

Researcher Fieldwork 2021

Table 5 shows the attitudes of youths towards cybercrime. The view of the respondents were 139(39%) and 5(2.5%) strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively that Cyber-crime has come to stay and Nigerians must learn to live with it, while 31(15.5%) and 25(12.5%) agreed and strongly agreed respectively.

Similarly, 126(63%) and 19(9.5%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively that cybercrime is evil and dangerous to the youth, but. 40 respondents representing (20%) and 5(2.5%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively

Seeking opinion of the respondents on whether people that involve in cybercrimes are evil, 165 of the respondents representing 82.5% strongly agreed, 10 respondents representing 5% agreed, while 11(5.5%) and 14(7%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

On the other hand, 133 of the respondents representing 66.5% strongly disagreed, 12 respondents representing 6% agreed, that if they had the opportunity to learn cybercrime they will gladly do while 14(7%) and 21(10.5%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively

Lastly, 126 respondents representing 63% and 19(9.5%) agreed that people engage in cybercrime just to meet up with their peers, 41(20.5%) agreed, while 13(6.5%) strongly agreed.

The study therefore concludes that the students in the study area has negative attitude towards cybercrimes.

Research Question 2: What are the perceptions of secondary school students towards cybercrime?

Table 6: Showing the perceptions of secondary school students towards cybercrime.

S/N	ITEM	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1.	Personally is nothing wrong in involving in cybercrime	24 (12%)	21 (10.5%)	157 (78.5%)	8 (4%)	200
2.	People make quick money involving in cybercrimes	154 (77%)	19 (9.5%)	22 (11%)	11 (10.5%)	200
3.	The present government encourages the participation of cybercrime by youths	31 (15.5%)	27 (13.5%)	124 (62%)	8 (4%)	200
4.	Do you think Education is a scam, making money is better	43 (21.5%)	12 (6%)	125 (62.5%)	20 (10%)	200
5.	Since people don't have jobs after graduation, going into cybercrime is the way out	36 (18%)	29 (14.5%)	116 (58%)	19 (9.5%)	200

Researcher Fieldwork 2021

The above Table 6 shows the perceptions of secondary school students towards cybercrime. The responses of 157 of the respondents representing 78.5% and 8(4%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that Personally is nothing wrong in

involving in cybercrime, while 24(12%) and 21(10.5%) strongly agree and agree respectively. 154 respondents representing 77% and 19(9.5%) agreed that people make quick money involving in cybercrimes, while 22(11%) disagreed, and 11(5.5%) strongly disagreed. also 31 of the respondent representing 15.5% strongly agreed and 27 representing 13.5% established that the present government encourages the participation of cybercrime by youths, while 124(62%) and 8(4%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively

Correspondingly, 43 of the respondent representing 21.5% strongly agreed and 12 representing 6% agreed that they think Education is a scam, making money is better, while 125(62.5%) and 20(10%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively

Finally, the respondents disagreed that Since people don't have jobs after graduation, going into cybercrime is the way out, with 116 of the respondents representing (58%) strongly disagreed, 19(9.5%) disagreed, while 36 of the respondents representing (18%) agreed and 29(14.5%) strongly agreed.

From the analysis of the table 6, the research from table 6 therefore concludes that even though the students see cybercrime as a quick money making scheme, their perception stands that it is very wrong.

Research Question 3: What are the reasons cybercrimes are mostly rampant among Nigerian youths?

Table 7: Showing the reasons cybercrimes are mostly rampant among Nigerian youths.

S/N	ITEM	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1.	People engage in cybercrime to live their dream life	123 (61.5%)	31 (15.5%)	35 (17.5%)	11 (5.5%)	200
2.	Unemployment encourages the youth to cybercrime	157 (78.5%)	22 (11%)	13 (6.5%)	8 (4%)	200
3.	Peer pressure is a factor associated with cybercrime	122 (61%)	30 (15%)	39 (19.5%)	9 (4.5%)	200
4.	Family background encourages youths to engage in cybercrimes	158 (79%)	12 (6%)	20 (10%)	10 (5%)	200
5.	Greed to earn more has pushed many youths into cyber crimes	143 (71.5%)	19 (9.5%)	22 (11%)	6 (3%)	200

Researcher Fieldwork 2021

The above Table 7 shows response for the reasons cybercrimes are mostly rampant among Nigerian youths. A cursory look at table 7 revealed that 123(61.5%) and 31(15.5%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively to the statement that people engage in cybercrime to live their dream life, while 35 of the respondents representing 17.5% and

11(5.5%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. 157 respondents representing 78.5% and 22(11%) revealed that Unemployment encourages the youth to cybercrime, while 13(6.5%) and 8(4%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Similarly, the respondents agreed with the statement that Peer pressure is a factor associated with cybercrime. This was evidenced by the respondents opinion which showed that 122 of the respondent representing (61%) and 30 representing (15%) strongly agree and agree respectively, while 39(19.5%) disagreed and 9(4.5%) strongly disagreed respectively. 158 respondents representing 79% and 12(6%) bare that Family background encourages youths to engage in cybercrimes, while 20(10%) and 10(5%) disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Finally, the respondents affirmed that Boys in my class always perform better chemistry exams than girls, as 143 of the respondents representing (71.5%) strongly agreed, 19(9.5%) agreed, while 22 of the respondents representing (11%) disagreed 6(3%) and strongly disagreed.

In the third objective, the study seeks to find the reasons cybercrimes are mostly rampant among Nigerian youths. Based on the result in table 7, the study therefore concludes that the reasons youths are involved in cybercrimes are Unemployment, peer pressure, family background, greed and the quest to live an imaginative dream life.

Research Question 4: What are the measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria?

Table 8: Showing the measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1.	The reduction of birth rates can help reduce cybercrime	123 (61.5%)	11 (5.5%)	31 (15.5%)	35 (17.5%)	200
2.	Enforcing strict legislation on cybercrime can help to stop cybercrimes	134 (67%)	21 (10.5%)	41 (20.5%)	4 (2%)	200
3.	Government grants to unemployed youths can help stop cybercrimes	153 (76.5%)	10 (5%)	12 (6%)	15 (7.5%)	200
4.	Parents should be made to take responsibilities for training and providing for their children so that they cannot be easily influenced by peers	141 (70.5%)	21 (10.5%)	19 (9.5%)	19 (9.5%)	200
5.	NGOs and religious bodies should join hands in fighting cybercrimes	134 (67%)	20 (10%)	30 (15%)	16 (8%)	200

Researcher Fieldwork 2021

Table 8 shows response for measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria. It reveals that 123(61.5%) and 11(5.5%) strongly agreed and agreed that the reduction of birth rates can help reduce cybercrime. while 31 of the respondents representing 15.5% and 37(17.5%) agreed and strongly agreed respectively. Similarly, 134 respondents representing 67% and 21(10.5%) agreed that enforcing strict legislation on cybercrime can help to stop cybercrimes, 41(20.5%) disagree, while 4(2%) strongly disagreed.

To check for government efforts, 153 respondents representing 75.5% and 10(5%) agreed that Government grants to unemployed youths can help stop cybercrimes, 12(6%) disagree, while 15(7.5%) strongly disagreed.

The respondents affirmed that Parents should be made to take responsibilities for training and providing for their children so that they cannot be easily influenced by peers. This was evidenced by the respondents opinion which showed that 141 of the respondent representing (71.5%) and 21 representing (10.5%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively, while 19(9.5%) disagreed and 19(9.5%) strongly disagreed respectively.

Finally, majority of the respondents agreed that NGOs and religious bodies should join hands in fighting cybercrimes, with 134 of the respondents representing (67%) strongly agreed, 20(10%) agreed, while 30 of the respondents representing (15%) disagreed and 16(8%) strongly disagreed.

In the fourth objective, seeking answers on measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria. Based on the result in table 8, the

study therefore concludes that to curb cybercrimes, there should be strict enforcement of legislation on cybercrime, Parents should be made to take responsibilities for training and providing for their children so that they cannot be easily influenced by peers, Government grants to unemployed youths can help stop cybercrimes, NGOs and religious bodies should join hands in fighting cybercrimes and parents should produce children that they would be able to cater for.

Discussions of Findings

The result of this study has been quite instructive, informative and revealing. Based on the analysis of data or information collected from the opinion of the respondents on: **the attitude and perception of secondary school students towards internet crimes in Egor local government of Edo state.**

The analysis of research question one reveals that the students in the study area has negative attitude towards cybercrimes Ordinarily, the Nigerian Youths are noted for being idealistic, adventurous, resourceful, inquisitive and proactive. In the face of proper motivation, the Nigerian youth is prepared to contribute to the development of the nation. According to Adeniyi (1999), since the youths are taken as the foundation for the future growth and sustainable development of a nation, they are the key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Hence, the failure of leadership at all levels in Nigeria to promote positive values for the youths has often translated into social incongruence. Every society has norms that define acceptable behavior, and agents

of socialization socially transmit such norms; but it becomes an issue when there is a discrepancy between what is taught and what is being observed.

The results of research question two shows that even though the students sees cybercrime as a quick money making scheme, their perception stands that it is very wrong. All over the world today, so many people have embraced cyber-crime as a means of livelihood at the expense of others physical and mental wellbeing. Tade and Aliyu (2011) affirmed that many have become rich through cybercrime while some others have been caught by the law.

The results of research question three shows that the reasons youths are involved in cybercrimes are Unemployment, peer pressure, family background, greed and the quest to live an imaginative dream life. According to (Hassan, 2012) the following are some of the reasons cybercrimes are rampant among Nigerian youths. Unemployment is one of the major causes of Cybercrime in Nigeria. It is a known fact that over 20 million graduates in the country do not have gainful employment. Quest for Wealth is another cause of cybercrime in Nigeria. Youths of nowadays are very greedy, they are not ready to start small hence they strive to level up with their rich counterparts by engaging in cybercrimes. Lack of strong Cyber Crime Laws also encourages the perpetrators to commit more crime knowing that they can always go uncaught. Incompetent security on personal computers. Some personal computers do not have proper or competent security controls, it is prone to criminal activities hence the information on it can be stolen.

Research question four revealed that to curb cybercrimes, there should be strict enforcement of legislation on cybercrime, Parents should be made to take responsibilities for training and providing for their children so that they cannot be easily influenced by peers, Government grants to unemployed youths can help stop cybercrimes, NGOs and religious bodies should join hands in fighting cybercrimes and parents should produce children that they would be able to cater for. Value reorientation that is directed at the youths is quite central to curbing the menace of crime that is becoming rife among the youths. Globally, things are mainly falling apart; the yesteryears morality is consistently paving way to internet-based morality among the youths. This form of morality is not supportive of the coerciveness that is germane to living in a harmonious society that will benefit all and sundries. A risk free society is also a prerequisite to enhancing development needed to forge the world ahead. The rearticulating of values, its dissemination and spontaneous assimilation is quite important to producing a desired society. The advocacy in this context is moral rebirth.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of this research was designed to find out the attitude of secondary school students toward internet crimes in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria. Two hundred (200) secondary school students from secondary schools in Egor Local government area of Edo State were used as samples. The researcher made effort in analyzing the attitude of youths towards cybercrime, the perception of secondary school students towards cybercrime, the reason why cybercrime is mostly rampant among Nigerian youths and Suggest measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria. All of which have been discussed in details under the review of literature.

The collection of data was carried out through the administration of questionnaire to two hundred (200) students from secondary schools in Egor Local government area. The data were analyzed, interpreted and discussed using percentages and frequency table. The sampling technique used for the research is the stratified random. The finding of the study reveals that as follows:

Findings

Following the analysis of the data collected and findings were made:

1. Students in the study area has negative attitude towards cybercrimes.
2. Even though the students sees cybercrime as a quick money making scheme, their perception stands that it is very wrong.
3. The reasons youths are involved in cybercrimes are Unemployment, peer pressure, family background, greed and the quest to live an imaginative dream life.
4. to curb cybercrimes, there should be strict enforcement of legislation on cybercrime, Parents should be made to take responsibilities for training and providing for their children so that they cannot be easily influenced by peers, Government grants to unemployed youths can help stop cybercrimes, NGOs and religious bodies should join hands in fighting cybercrimes and parents should produce children that they would be able to cater for.

Conclusion

Taking cognizance of the nature and effects of cybercrime among undergraduates in Nigerian Universities, there will always be new and unexpected challenges to stay ahead of cyber criminals and cyber terrorists, but we can only do this successfully by partnership and collaboration of both individuals and government. There is much we can do to ensure a safe, secure and trust worth computing environment. It is crucial not only to our general sense of wellbeing but also, to our national security and economy. The remarkable development in human history through computer technology has no doubt brought transformation in all aspects of life, especially in communication and information technology. Nevertheless, the embracement of the internet has come with a lot of mixed feelings despite its numerous advantages to the undergraduates, and people are valued regarding what they possess and command economically. Conversely, those without economic success are undervalued, and the pressure to achieve success is intensified despite the harsh financial condition such as unemployment amongst others. This necessitated the ability of individuals to devise survival strategies and attain economic success by indulging in cybercrime. The perpetrators of cybercrime are not far-fetched; they are our brothers, friends, colleague, distant relatives and neighbors who can be tamed under appropriate circumstances with the right and positive communication, orientation, education, and empowerment.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of the study, the following recommendations are made;

1. Students should be encouraged to be upright in behavior and made to understand that there's virtue in being honest.
2. Unemployment to a very great extent causes cyber-crimes. There is an urgent need for job creation in order to engage the idle but enlightened minds of youths in Nigeria. This strategy will boost the economy and also reduce cyber-criminality to the barest minimum.
3. Intervening socio-economic measures, such as social benefits for the youths (especially, the unemployed) should be put in place by the government. And
4. Agencies, such as the EFCC, put in place to eradicate the menace of fraudulent practices should be made truly independent of various political maneuverings in the country in order to enhance their performance.

Suggestion for Further Studies

This study investigated the attitude of secondary school students toward internet crimes in Egor local government of Edo state, Nigeria, using 200 respondents. The future researcher may repeat this study by using larger population such as more than one local government area.

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APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

(C.I.T)

FACULTY OF EDUCATION,

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION OF YOUTHS
TOWARDS INTERNET CRIMES: A CASE STUDY OF SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF EDO STATE.**

Dear Respondents,

This questionnaire is designed for academic purposes. It is structured to find out **the attitude and perception of youths towards internet crimes of secondary school students in Egor local government of Edo state.**

Please kindly respond sincerely to the questions by ticking [] where applicable. Your responses which are needed for research purposes only will be treated with high level of confidentiality. Thank you.

Section A

Instructions: Please tick () where applicable.

1. Type of School: Single () Mixed ()
2. Gender: Male () Female ()
3. Age: 12 – 14 () 15 – 17 () 18 – 20 () 20 above ()
4. Class: J.S.S 1 () J.S.S 2 () J.S.S 3 () S.S.S 1 () S.S.S 2 () S.S.S 3 ()

SECTION B

Instruction: Tick [✓] the column that best express your response.

S/N	ITEM	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree
A	What are the attitudes of youths towards cybercrime				
1.	Cyber-crime has come to stay and Nigerians must learn to live with it				
2.	Cybercrime is evil and dangerous to the youth				
3.	People that involve in cybercrimes are evil				
4.	If I had the opportunity to learn cybercrime I will gladly do				

5.	People engage in cybercrime just to meet up with their peers.				
B	What are the perceptions of secondary school students towards cybercrime?				
6.	Personally is nothing wrong in involving in cybercrime				
7.	People make quick money involving in cybercrimes				
8.	The present government encourages the participation of cybercrime by youths				
9.	Do you think Education is a scam, making money is better				
10	Since people don't have jobs after graduation, going into cybercrime is the way out				
C.	What are the reasons cybercrimes are mostly rampant among Nigerian youths?				
11	People engage in cybercrime to live their dream life				
12	Unemployment encourages the youth to cybercrime				

13	Peer pressure is a factor associated with cybercrime				
14	Family background encourages youths to engage in cybercrimes				
15	Greed to earn more has pushed many youths into cyber crimes				
D.	What are the measures that can be taken by the federal government to curb cybercrime in Nigeria				
16	The reduction of birth rates can help reduce cybercrime				
17	Enforcing strict legislation on cybercrime can help to stop cybercrimes				
18	Government grants to unemployed youths can help stop cybercrimes.				
19	Parents should be made to take responsibilities for training and providing for their children so that they cannot be easily influenced by peers				
20	NGOs and religious bodies should join hands in fighting cybercrimes				