

**YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND CRIME CONTROL IN UGBOWO AXIS,
BENIN CITY**

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THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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**A PROJECT WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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OCTOBER, 2025

DECLARATION

I, OLAYIWOLA ELIZABETH do hereby declare that this project is entirely my own work and composition. The work embodied in this project has not been submitted for any other degree. All references made to work of other persons have been duly acknowledged.

OLAYIWOLA ELIZABETH

DATE: _____

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by OLAYIWOLA ELIZABETH with matriculation number SSC2105966 from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor Degree (B.SC) in Sociology and Anthropology, University of Benin.

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Date

Date

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty, whose grace and enablement saw me through this period and to my beloved parents, Sgt (Mr) Sunday Olayiwola and Mrs. Folashade Olayiwola.

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This research work would not have been a reality without the unfailing and indescribable grace of God upon my life. In light of this, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Almighty God, the Owner of the universe, who stood by me and saw me through against all odds.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the issue of youth empowerment and crime control in the Ugbowo axis. Crime has been a serious factor hindering youth growth and development. Despite efforts to create empowerment programmes aimed at reducing the crime rate, several challenges still persist. These include insufficient financial resources and infrastructure, cultural and socioeconomic barriers to initiative success, the inability to sustain programmes, and other related factors affecting youths in the Ugbowo axis. The research aims to examine the relationship between youth empowerment and crime control in the Ugbowo axis. The study employed a survey method, using qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. Questionnaires were administered to youths in the Ugbowo axis, particularly in the Ekosodin area. The findings reveal that there is a significant relationship between youth empowerment and crime control, as the lack of youth empowerment initiatives can lead to a rapid increase in crime rates. The study recommends urgent attention to address these challenges. Some of which include providing financial support for youths, building infrastructure to aid training and skill acquisition, offering training to youth workers, volunteers, and youths themselves, and encouraging proper home upbringing. The study's findings and recommendations provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to improve the community and promote better livelihoods for youths and the general public.

Key Words: Youth, Youth Empowerment, Crime Control, Ugbowo axis.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There is an adage that says “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop”. The statement is true as unemployment and lack of empowerment among young people can lead to a rise in criminal activity. In Nigeria, prolonged unemployment, which is as a result of lack of empowerment, has contributed to various social vices and crimes such as armed-robbery, car snatching, pipeline vandalisms, cybercrime, oil bunkering, prostitution, kidnapping, and even social gossipers also known as “fake news carriers” and banditry. The relationship between youth empowerment and crime control is a complex and multifaceted one. Empowering young people with skills, knowledge, and economic opportunities is crucial in reducing their involvement in criminal activities (Nwokocha, 2019).

Conversely, the absence of empowerment programs can exacerbate social and economic problems, leading to increased crime rates. Youths play a vital role in societal development, contributing to both positive and negative outcomes. There is no universally agreed international definition of the youth age group. For statistical purposes, however, the United Nations without prejudice to any other definitions made by Member States—defines ‘youth’ as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. This definition, arose in the context of preparations for the international youth year in 1985. In Nigeria, the National Youth Development Policy adopts this definition in 2001. The Oxford Dictionary define crime as an action or omission which constitutes an offense and it is punishable by law. The Oxford Dictionary of Law defines crime as being: "An act (or sometimes a failure to act) that is deemed by statute or by the common law to be a public wrong and is therefore punishable by the state in criminal proceedings." The Oxford Dictionary of Sociology defines crime in a

more complex way: 'an offence which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority.

Youth energy, creativity, and orientation significantly impact a nation's development and security (Onyekpe, 2017). Globally, young people have driven socio-economic progress through innovation and physical strength (Ukwayi & Okpa, 2017). However, youth are also involved in criminal activities, with over 50% of crimes in Nigeria committed by individuals between 20 and 30 years old (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). These crimes, including fraud, kidnapping, and terrorism, undermine economic stability, peace, and security (Okoye, 2019).

Addressing youth criminality requires pragmatic approaches, including youth empowerment programs (Nwokocha, 2019). Empowerment initiatives provide training, funding, and equipment to help young people become self-reliant and productive members of society (Nkwocha, 2019). By supporting youth empowerment, governments and private organizations can prevent anti-social behavior and promote social cohesion. Unemployment and poverty are significant push factors that drive young people to engage in criminal behavior.

When young individuals lack access to education, job opportunities, and social support, they become vulnerable to exploitation by criminal networks. Empowerment programs that address these underlying issues can help to prevent anti-social behavior and promote social cohesion (Smith, 2012). Effective youth empowerment initiatives can take various forms, including vocational training, mentorship programs, and economic empowerment schemes (Tambari & Imoh-Ita, 2016). These programs can help young people develop skills, build confidence, and access economic opportunities, thereby reducing their reliance on criminal

activities. By providing young people with a sense of purpose and belonging, empowerment programs can help to reduce social tensions and promote peaceful coexistence.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The global rise in crime is a pressing concern that affects communities worldwide, with the Ugbowo axis in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, being no exception (Adegoke, 2017). Nigeria faces significant challenges in empowering its youth and controlling crime. A major obstacle is the inadequate education and skills training available to young people, which limits their employment opportunities and increases their vulnerability to involvement in criminal activity. Furthermore, the country's high unemployment, poverty, and social exclusion rates exacerbate the problem, driving young people to engage in criminal behavior (Adeyemi, 2016; Igbo, 2019). The Nigerian justice system's ineffectiveness, corruption, and bias also hinder efforts to address crime, eroding trust between law enforcement and the community (Akinsanya, 2017; Tambari & Imoh-Ita, 2016). This lack of trust, combined with inadequate resources and insufficient community engagement, undermines the effectiveness of crime control strategies (Nwokocha, 2019).

The interplay between youth empowerment and crime control is complex, with factors like limited opportunities, social and economic inequality, and inadequate support systems contributing to the cycle of crime and violence among young people (Onyekpe, 2017; Smith, 2012). Additionally, the absence of evidence-based policies and programs for youth empowerment and crime control exacerbates the problem (Eke, 2020). To address these challenges, it is essential to develop effective strategies for youth empowerment and crime control in Nigeria. This requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of crime, provides opportunities for education and employment, and fosters trust between law enforcement and the community.

The consequences of crime are severe, disrupting community lives, limiting economic activities, and increasing security costs. Crime also has a ripple effect, impacting not only individuals but also families, communities, and the nation as a whole. Furthermore, crime can lead to a breakdown in social cohesion, eroding trust and confidence in institutions among many others. Based on this background, the study will therefore examine youth empowerment in crime control in Ugbowo axis.

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions will aid in generating data for the study:

1. Why is there a relatively high increase in crime rates in Ugbowo axis?
2. Are they effective youth empowerment strategies for preventing juvenile delinquency?
3. What are the impacts of youth empowerment programs in reducing crime rate among young people living in Ugbowo axis?
4. What is the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Ugbowo axis?
5. How effective is community-based youth empowerment programs in reducing recidivism activities?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine the relationship between youth empowerment and crime control in Ugbowo axis, Benin City. The specific objectives of the study include;

1. To determine the causes of the rapid increase in crime rates in Ugbowo axis.

2. To identify the most effective youth empowerment strategies for preventing juvenile delinquency.
3. To determine the impacts of youth empowerment programs on reducing crime rates among young people.
4. To assess the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in the area.
5. To evaluate the effectiveness of community-based youth empowerment programs in reducing recidivism.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

This study is significant because it aims to address the critical issues of youth empowerment and crime control in Ugbowo axis of Benin City, and in general Nigeria. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the effectiveness of youth empowerment programs in reducing crime among young people. The study's findings will also have practical implications for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders working in the areas of youth empowerment and crime control. For instance, the study's results will inform the design and implementation of effective youth empowerment programs that address the root causes of crime, such as poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion.

Furthermore, this study will contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8, which aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all (United Nations, 2020). Overall, this study has the potential to make a significant contribution to the fields of youth empowerment and crime control, and inform the development of effective policies and programs that promote the well-being and development of young people in Nigeria and specifically in Ugbowo axis.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study will focus on a youth-dominated areas in Ugbowo axis, called Ekosodin. This geographical scope will enable an in-depth examination of the issues surrounding youth empowerment and crime control within this specific context, irrespective of the respondents sex/gender, and other social demographic characteristics (bio data e.g nationality, state of origin e.t.c).

1.7 Definition of Terms

Youth: Is the time of life when one is young. The word, youth, can also mean the time between childhood and adulthood (maturity), but it can also refer to one's peak, in terms of health or the period of life known as being a young adult.

Crime: The intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited, and punishable under criminal law.

Youth Empowerment: A development programme aimed at creating opportunities that will encourage and develop the youths to be morally responsible, self-reliant and financially productive citizens. Youth empowerment includes all various ways of creating opportunity for youth to learn and prepare them for future roles and challenges for adulthood. It involves encouraging and developing the youth towards becoming self-employed and financially productive.

Crime Control: This term refers to the strategies, policies, and practices aimed at preventing, reducing, and managing criminal behavior in a given area. Penology often focuses on the use of criminal penalties as a means of deterring people from committing crimes and temporarily or permanently incapacitating those who have already committed crimes from re-offending.

Ekosodin: a popular neighborhood nicknamed the students' village, situated adjacent the University of Benin, Edo state. Located in Ugbowo axis.

Ugbowo axis: This term refers to the specific geographic area of Ugbowo, which is the focus of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 An Overview of Youth Empowerment and Crime Control

Youth, as a social category, has been extensively studied over the past four decades, particularly in developed nations. According to Honwana and De Boeck (2005), youth is a socially constructed concept shaped by societal expectations and responsibilities. The notion of youth has evolved over time, influenced by bourgeois ideals of juvenility, which other social classes have had to adapt to. In most cultures, adulthood is associated with responsibility, permanence, and duty. As individuals transition into adulthood, their personalities are shaped by various factors (Eriksen, 2009). Interestingly, the majority of young people reside in developing countries, with approximately 85% of 15-24-year-olds living in these nations, according to the United Nations.

Youth in developing countries often face challenges such as poverty, famine, and involvement in armed conflicts. Research such as youth rebellion and defiance, risk-taking behavior and social pathological phenomena etc has traditionally focused on youth in the context of education and leisure activities. However, certain attitudes and behaviors, including rebellion, defiance, and attraction to socially pathological phenomena, have also been studied (Smolik, 2010). Boudon, Bernard, Cherkkaoui & Lécuyer (2004) emphasize that youth identities vary significantly across societies and groups. Parents play a crucial role in shielding young adults from social risks, and the absence of one or both parents can exacerbate vulnerability. Understanding vulnerability among youth requires considering both transient problems, such as personal or relational issues, and marginalization, which describes youths experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect. In Nigeria, youth are perceived as

industrious, sociable, and influenced by tribal sentiments, but also face challenges such as unemployment, inequality in education, and religious fundamentalism (Uzoma, 2016).

Education plays a vital role in empowering youth to address development challenges. It gives them better legal opportunities rather than depending on crime. Although in our today's society, young people can be adversely affected by societal factors, peer pressure, and the need for belonging, which may lead to participation in gangs and other negative behaviors. In Nigeria and in Ugbowo axis, Benin City, Edo state, gang-related crimes have become a significant concern, prompting the government to introduce measures such as vigilante groups to enhance security.

Empowerment on the other hand is a multifaceted concept that transcends various disciplines, including community development, psychology, education, and economics. Despite its widespread use, empowerment remains a complex and debated term. Defining empowerment can be challenging, as it manifests differently across individuals and contexts (Rapport, 1984). Zimmerman (1984) cautions against adopting a single, rigid definition, as this may undermine the dynamic nature of empowerment. A shared understanding of empowerment is essential for effective program evaluation and implementation. According to Bailey (1992), empowerment definitions should be context-specific, taking into account the unique needs and circumstances of the individuals or communities involved. A general definition of empowerment might characterize it "As a multidimensional social process that enables individuals to exert control over their lives".

This process fosters personal power, facilitating individuals to address issues they deem important, within their communities and society at large. Three core components underlie this definition: empowerment is multidimensional, social, and a process. It operates across various dimensions, including sociological, psychological, and economic, and unfolds at

individual, group, and community levels. Empowerment is inherently social, occurring in relation to others, and is a dynamic process that evolves over time (Rapport, 1984). This understanding of empowerment highlights the interconnectedness of individual and community, emphasizing the need for a nuanced and context-specific approach to empowerment initiatives.

The main goal of crime control in Nigeria is to reduce crime and keep people safe. This approach focuses on efficient systems and processes to achieve this goal (Alemika, 2013). It assumes that swift and fair punishment for offenders is necessary to protect society. Crime control in Nigeria involves making the justice process more efficient. This means prosecutors, law enforcement, courts, and corrections work together to punish offenders quickly and fairly (Ogundipe, 2018). This approach prioritizes public safety over individual freedoms. It assumes that victims' rights come first (Igbo, 2017). Supporters of this approach argue that punishment should fit the crime to deter others from committing similar offenses. This might include prison sentences, fines, or community service (Okonkwo, 2019). To speed up the justice process, plea bargaining might be used. This approach prioritizes efficiency and finality over lengthy trials (Uwakwe, 2018).

While crime control has its benefits, critics argue it can lead to unfair punishment, disregard for human rights, and inadequate rehabilitation. The focus on punishment can result in too many people being imprisoned, affecting marginalized communities disproportionately (Adeyemi, 2016). Efficiency can lead to shortcuts, potentially violating offenders' rights (Ijeoma, 2019). Punishment alone cannot address the root causes of crime, potentially leading to reoffending (Nwosu, 2018).

2.2 The Relationship Between Youth Empowerment and Crime Control

An overview of activities in Nigeria reveals how social vices have become the order of the day among youth. Therefore, empowering individuals through youth empowerment and providing access to resources can significantly reduce crime and criminal behavior. According to Ajuto (2013), youth empowerment can help people change their lives by taking action and gaining knowledge and relevant skills. This can keep them away from crime and focus their minds on positive activities. Aremu and Ahmed (2011) argue that empowering people through youth empowerment can help check crime by making individuals self-reliant and independent. Similarly, Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) note that youth empowerment programs can improve income status and make people aware of their potential, thereby keeping them away from poverty and criminal behavior. Empowering people through youth empowerment gives them control and ownership of their lives, discouraging them from engaging in criminal behavior. When youths are empowered, they see themselves as stakeholders in societal development.

Youth empowerment makes people powerful, able, and active participants in societal development. Creating a system where empowered people also feel the need to empower others can lead to poverty eradication and help fight crime. Youth empowerment is a crucial tool in eradicating crime and criminals in society. People who are empowered can achieve their goals better, breaking the poverty cycle and reducing the tendency for criminal behavior. Empowering individuals and communities through youth empowerment is necessary for equal distribution of resources. Youth empowerment provides people with choices, improving themselves and their surrounding society. Access to credit facilities is essential for economic empowerment and crime control. Providing credit facilities to empowered youths has reduced poverty and crime, improving their living standards.

According to Taga (2013), economically empowering individuals through youth empowerment makes them productive members of society, promoting participatory development and reducing crime. Empowerment creates responsibility and promotes social participation. Connecting individuals with social institutions (e.g., financial, education, economic, and political) can achieve empowerment and participation in society.

2.3 Identification of Youth Empowerment Initiatives in Edo State

Youth empowerment is crucial for sustainable development, economic growth, and social stability. Ugbowo, a community in Edo State, faces challenges related to youth unemployment, poverty, and limited opportunities. This project aims to identify existing youth empowerment initiatives in Ugbowo and Edo state in general and assess their impact.

Edo State has implemented various initiatives aimed at empowering its youth population. These initiatives focus on education, skills development, entrepreneurship, and employment. Some of the notable initiatives include:

1. Edo State Youth Empowerment Programme (ESYEP): Launched in 2020, ESYEP provides training, mentorship, and funding for young entrepreneurs. The program aims to support 1,000 young entrepreneurs in its first phase.
2. Edo State Skills Development Initiative: This initiative offers vocational training in areas like agriculture, construction, and ICT. The program is designed to equip young people with skills that are in demand in the labor market.
- 3.. National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Edo State: NYSC provides skills acquisition and entrepreneurship training for corps members. The program aims to equip young graduates with skills that will enable them to become self-employed or employable.

- 4, Youth Alive Foundation (YAF): YAF is a nonprofit organization that provides leadership development, mentorship, and entrepreneurship training for young people. The organization aims to empower young people to become active citizens and leaders in their communities.
5. Edo State Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Agency: The agency supports young entrepreneurs with funding, training, and mentorship. The agency aims to promote entrepreneurship and job creation among young people.
6. Benin Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub (BEIH): BEIH is a hub that provides co-working space, mentorship, and funding for young entrepreneurs. The hub aims to support the growth of start-ups and promote innovation among young people.
7. The Edo State Government's Agricultural Entrepreneurship Programme: The program trains and supports young farmers in agricultural entrepreneurship. The program aims to promote agricultural development and job creation among young people.

2.4 The Impact of Youth Empowerment on Crime Rate

The effectiveness of youth empowerment initiatives in Edo State, particularly in reducing youth involvement in crime, has been the focus of several studies. Research indicates that these programs have the potential to significantly decrease criminal activities among young people by providing them with alternative pathways and fostering a sense of purpose. For instance, the Edo State Youth Empowerment Programme (ESYEP) has been credited with reducing the youth unemployment rate in Ugbowo, Edo State, which is a critical factor associated with crime (Edeh, 2020).

Studies have also shown that initiatives focusing on skill development and entrepreneurship have been particularly effective in diverting youth from criminal activities. By equipping

young people with the skills needed for self-employment, these programs offer sustainable livelihood opportunities, which in turn reduce the likelihood of their involvement in criminal behavior (Adamu, 2021). For example, the Benin Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub (BEIH) has empowered hundreds of youths through training in various technical skills, leading to a decrease in the crime rate in the areas where these youths are active. Moreover, evidence suggests that participation in youth empowerment programs is associated with a reduction in violent behaviors and an increase in positive social attitudes among youth. Programs that involve community stakeholders and integrate cultural elements have been particularly successful, as they resonate more with the local population and address the specific needs of the community (Ogbu, 2019).

2.5 Causes of Crime Among Youths in Ugbowo Axis

Youth crime is a complex issue with various root causes, and understanding these underlying factors is crucial for developing effective crime prevention strategies. According to Ali (2008), the causes of crime can be understood through a multifaceted approach. These can be broadly categorized into:

Economic Factors

Economic factors significantly contribute to youth crime. Poverty and inequality can lead to financial crises, driving individuals to crime. Unemployment is another critical factor, as lack of opportunities pushes individuals toward crime. Political instability creates insecurity, contributing to crime. Limited access to resources and opportunities fuels desperation. Economic instability affects families and communities. The struggle to meet basic needs can lead to crime. Financial stress impacts mental health and well-being. Economic empowerment programs can help. Job creation and skills training are essential. Addressing

poverty reduces crime likelihood. Economic stability promotes community safety. Investing in economic development is crucial. Economic factors are interconnected with other crime causes. Understanding these dynamics is vital.

Social Factors

Social factors play a crucial role in shaping youth behavior. Inequality and lack of power sharing contribute to crime. Inadequate support systems lead to social isolation. School environments influence behavior and opportunities. Community cohesion and organization impact crime rates. Social connections and networks matter. Lack of social support increases vulnerability. Positive role models and mentors are essential. Community-based initiatives promote social cohesion. Social programs addressing inequality help. Building strong social bonds reduces crime. Investing in social development is vital. Social factors intersect with economic and family dynamics. Understanding these complexities is key. Effective social interventions require nuanced approaches.

Family Structures

Family dynamics significantly influence youth behavior. Parental involvement in crime increases likelihood. Poor parental supervision leads to lack of guidance. Family conflict and violence create dysfunction. Parental support and guidance are crucial. Family environment shapes values and norms. Positive family relationships reduce crime likelihood. Parental involvement in education matters. Family stability promotes resilience. Addressing family conflict helps. Supporting families reduces crime risk. Investing in family programs is essential. Family dynamics intersect with economic and social factors. Understanding these connections is vital. Strengthening family bonds is a key strategy.

To develop effective crime prevention strategies, it's essential to address these underlying factors. By targeting these root causes, we can reduce the likelihood of youth crime and promote safer communities.

2.6 Ways to Reduce Crime Rate in Ugbowo axis

To fight the rising tide of youth crime, it's essential to address the underlying factors that drives people to engage in criminal behavior. A youth employment approach can play a vital role in this effort (Ali, 2008). Some of them include:

1. Promoting Economic Empowerment and Reducing Poverty

Poverty and unemployment can drive young people to engage in criminal behavior. Promoting economic empowerment and reducing poverty can help address these underlying factors. This can be achieved by providing access to employment opportunities and vocational training, which can equip young people with the skills they need to secure decent jobs. Supporting small-scale industries and entrepreneurship initiatives can also help create jobs and stimulate economic growth. Furthermore, implementing policies to reduce poverty and inequality, such as fair taxation and social welfare programs, can help ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive.

2. Eliminating Corruption and Strengthening Law Enforcement

Corruption within law enforcement agencies can undermine efforts to combat crime. Eliminating corruption and strengthening law enforcement agencies can help restore trust and deter criminal behavior. This can be achieved by implementing transparency and accountability measures within law enforcement agencies, providing training and resources to law enforcement officials to enhance their skills and effectiveness, and encouraging

community engagement and participation in crime prevention efforts. By working together, law enforcement agencies and communities can build trust and work towards reducing crime.

3. Empowering Youth through Education and Awareness

Education and awareness are critical components of youth empowerment. By highlighting the importance of education and providing opportunities for skill development, young people can be empowered to make positive choices and avoid criminal behavior. This can be achieved by implementing youth awareness programs to highlight the importance of education and its role in reducing crime, providing access to quality education and skill development opportunities, and encouraging community involvement in education and crime prevention efforts. By investing in education, we can equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

4. Addressing Drug Abuse and Addiction

Drug abuse and addiction can contribute to criminal behavior. Addressing these issues through targeted interventions and support services can help reduce crime. This can be achieved by implementing drug awareness and education programs to prevent drug abuse, providing access to treatment and support services for drug addicts, and targeting drug trafficking and organized crime groups. By addressing drug abuse and addiction, we can help individuals overcome their struggles and reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior.

2.7 Challenges and Limitations of Youth Empowerment and Crime Control Initiatives

Initiatives aimed at empowering young people and preventing crime are essential for fostering positive youth development and reducing crime rates. However, these initiatives often face numerous challenges and limitations that hinder their success.

Insufficient Financial Resources and Infrastructure

One of the primary obstacles facing youth empowerment and crime prevention initiatives is a lack of financial resources and infrastructure. Many organizations rely on unpredictable and unsustainable funding sources, such as grants and donations (Kempf-Leonard & Peterson, 2017). This can lead to inadequate staffing, insufficient resources, and poor infrastructure.

Inadequate Community Involvement and Support

Youth empowerment and crime prevention initiatives require active community engagement and support to be effective. However, many communities lack the necessary resources, infrastructure, and social capital to support these initiatives (Barton & Baldrige, 2017). This can result in a lack of trust, poor participation, and limited impact.

Inadequate Training and Capacity Building for Youth Workers

Youth workers and volunteers often require specialized training and capacity building to effectively engage with young people and address their needs. However, many organizations lack the resources and expertise to provide adequate training and capacity building (Gould, 2018). This can lead to poor program delivery, inadequate support, and limited impact.

Cultural and Socio-Economic Barriers to Initiative Success

Youth empowerment and crime prevention initiatives must be culturally sensitive and responsive to the socio-economic needs of young people. However, many initiatives fail to address these needs, leading to cultural and socio-economic barriers that limit their effectiveness (Mauer, 2011). This can result in poor engagement, limited participation, and inadequate support.

Challenges in Evaluating and Sustaining Initiatives

Evaluating the effectiveness of youth empowerment and crime prevention initiatives can be challenging due to limited resources, inadequate data, and poor evaluation methods (Rossi 2019). Additionally, sustaining these initiatives over time can be difficult due to funding uncertainties, staff turnover, and changing community needs.

2. 8 Theoretical Framework

2.8.1 Relevant Theories

The following theories will be used in examining the topic under study. These are, the Merton's Strain Theory developed by Robert .K. Merton (1938) and Opportunity Theory was developed by Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin (1960).

2.8.2 Merton's Strain Theory

The study adopted Merton's (1938) strain theory, which posits that societal pressures can drive individuals to engage in criminal behavior. Building on Émile Durkheim's(1897) work, Merton(1938) argues that the disparity between culturally approved goals and the means to achieve them creates strain. As Cole (2016) notes, strain theory suggests that individuals may turn to crime or deviance when they are unable to achieve their goals through legitimate means. In contemporary society, success is often measured by material achievements and social standing, leading to a competitive job market and pressure to succeed.

Merton's theory suggests that society exerts pressure on individuals to achieve socially accepted goals, despite lacking the means to do so. This strain can lead individuals to engage in criminal behavior, such as selling drugs or prostitution etc, as a means to achieve financial security. Strain can be categorized into two types:

Structural strain: This refers to the societal-level processes that influence an individual's perception of their needs and opportunities. Inadequate social structures or regulation can contribute to structural strain.

Individual strain: This refers to the personal frustrations and pains experienced by an individual as they seek to satisfy their needs. When societal goals become important to an individual, achieving them may become more important than the means used.

Merton's theory also draws on Durkheim's anomie theory, which suggests that societal instability and lack of regulation can contribute to deviant behavior. In contemporary society, success is often prioritized over virtue, leading some individuals to question the value of taking honest paths to achieve financial success. This theory is particularly relevant to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who may feel that they cannot achieve financial success through legitimate means. As Daramola (2007) notes, some individuals may see crime as a means to achieve financial success after realizing that their hard work and skills may not be enough to guarantee success. This theory suggests that cybercrime, for example, may be seen as a means to achieve financial success through illegal means. Merton (1938) proposes that individuals adapt to strain in five ways. In the vibrant community of Ugbowo Axis, the lives of young people are influenced by a complex interplay of factors that can either propel them towards success or steer them towards the path of crime. Robert Merton's Strain Theory offers a valuable lens through which we can understand the various ways in which youth respond to societal pressures. According to this theory, individuals adapt to strain in five distinct ways:

1. **Conformity:** Some youth conform to societal norms and expectations, embracing the values and rules that govern their community. They work hard, pursue education, and strive to achieve their goals through legitimate means.

2. **Innovation:** Others may innovate, finding new and sometimes unconventional ways to succeed. While innovation can be a positive force, it can also lead to deviant behavior, particularly if youth feel that legitimate opportunities are unavailable to them.
3. **Ritualism:** Some youth may go through the motions, adhering to societal expectations without necessarily believing in or being committed to the underlying goals. This can lead to a sense of disconnection and disillusionment.
4. **Retreatism:** A few youth may retreat from society altogether, rejecting both the goals and means that are expected of them. This can lead to a range of negative outcomes, including substance abuse and social isolation.
5. **Rebellion:** Finally, some youth may rebel against societal norms and expectations, seeking to create new goals and means that better align with their values and aspirations. While rebellion can be a powerful force for change, it can also lead to conflict and social unrest.

These strains can significantly impact youth behavior and contribute to crime. Limited access to education, job opportunities, and social support can lead to strain, causing youth to adapt in ways that may increase their likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. By understanding these adaptations, we can develop targeted interventions that address the root causes of crime and empower youth to make positive choices. The goal is to create an environment where youth in Ugbowo Axis can thrive, achieve their goals through legitimate means, and contribute to building a safer, more empowered community. By addressing the strains and providing support, we can reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior and foster a brighter future for the youth and the community as a whole.

2.8.3 Opportunity Theory

Opportunity Theory, also known as Differential Opportunity Theory or Cloward-Ohlin Theory (1960), proposes that criminal behavior is influenced by the availability of opportunities for crime (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960). This theory was first introduced by Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin in 1960, as an extension of Robert Merton's Strain Theory (Merton, 1938).

Types of Opportunities

Opportunity Theory identifies two types of opportunities:

Structural Opportunities: These refer to the opportunities that are available to individuals due to their position in the social structure. For example, individuals from disadvantaged neighborhoods may have limited access to legitimate opportunities.

Cultural Opportunities: These refer to the opportunities that are available to individuals due to their cultural background and social networks. For example, individuals who are part of a criminal subculture may have access to illegitimate opportunities. Opportunity Theory suggests that youth in rural areas may have limited access to opportunities (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960). As a result, youth in rural areas may be more likely to engage in criminal behavior due to the lack of opportunities.

Opportunity Theory suggests that access to opportunities is a crucial factor in shaping youth behavior. When youth in Ugbowo Axis are faced with limited opportunities, they may feel compelled to seek alternative paths, sometimes leading to crime. The availability of opportunities is influenced by a complex interplay of individual factors (age, education , skill), social factors (social class, neighborhood, cultural background, social network), economic factors (poverty, unemployment, economic inequality) and environmental factors (rural or urban, access to resources).

In Ugbowo Axis, the reality of limited access to quality education, employment, and resources can create an environment where youth are more likely to engage in criminal behavior. However, by understanding the root causes of these limitations, we can develop targeted interventions that empower youth and provide them with the opportunities they need to thrive. Youth empowerment programs that focus on increasing access to education, job training, and economic opportunities can help bridge the gap and reduce crime. By investing in the potential of Ugbowo Axis' youth, there can be create a safer, more prosperous community where young people can make positive choices and reach their full potential (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research design for this study will be quantitative in nature, using exploratory survey design. This approach will enable the study to explore the experiences of the respondents and the understanding of their perception towards, Youth Employment and Crime control in Ugbowo Axis. The study will be conducted in two phases, the first phase will be data collection, while the second phase will be data analysis. The reason for quantitative method is that, it will provide a detail insight into the issue, because it requires the opinions of the respondents.

3.2 Area of Study

The study will be carried out in Ekosodin community, Ovia north-east of Benin City.

3.3 Population of Study

The target population under study is all the youth in Ekosodin, a part of Ugbowo axis. According to the Ekosodin Youth leader as of 2025, said that, there are over 7,000 youths in Ekosodin. These people are selected because they are resident in Ekosodin, and it is plausible that these young people whose life experience will provide relevant information useful for the study.

3.4 Sample Size

The sample size for the study will be (100) respondents residing in the community of Ekosodin. And it will not be gender biased, as both female and male youths or respondent will be under the study.

3.5 Sampling Technique

The random sampling and convenience sampling techniques will be used to select respondents from the large population, thereby enhancing the representativeness of the sample. Random sampling is utilized to minimize bias and ensure that every individual in the population has an equal chance of being selected, which would increase the generalizability of the findings. On the other hand, convenience sampling will be used to leverage readily available and accessible participants, allowing for efficient data collection, particularly in situations where time and resources might be limited. These methods are adopted to ensure equal chances of selection for all potential participants and to accommodate the convenience and availability of the respondents, ultimately facilitating a more efficient and effective data collection process. From Edo street respondent 20, Newton street respondent 20, JB street respondent 20, Market road respondent 20, and Boundary road respondent 20 respectively.

3.6 Instrument of data collection

The instrument of data collection is a well structured questionnaire that will be administered to the respondents to react to each items on the structured questionnaire. The questionnaire is divided into two distinct sections: the first section solicits sociodemographic information from the participants, while the second section dwells more on the study's core objectives, probing youth employment and crime control.

3.7 Method of data collection

This study will use a structured questionnaire with closed-ended questions to collect data from respondents. The study will use closed-ended questions to get precise data on the research topic, allowing for effective analysis of respondents' views. The use of the structured questionnaire ensures that all participants are asked the same questions in the same order, reducing bias and increasing the reliability of the data.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

This study will use a combination of primary and secondary data collection methods. A questionnaire is designed and administered to collect original data directly from respondents. Additionally, existing literature will be reviewed, including books, journals, and articles, to gather secondary data that provide context and background information. The collected data will be analyzed and presented using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages. This will help present the findings in a clear and concise manner, facilitating easy understanding and interpretation of the results.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 Data Analysis and Presentation

In the quest to determine the relationship between youth empowerment and crime control in the Ugbowo Axis of Benin City, a research gap was identified. This gap is the need to examine youth empowerment and crime control in the area. To address this, data were collected from respondents and subjected to analysis. This chapter presents the analysis of the demographic characteristics of the respondents, as well as other variables relevant to the research objectives.

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

TABLE 1

SEX	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Male	44	44
Female	56	56
Total	100	100
AGE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
15-19	33	33
20-24	53	53
25-29	10	10
30 above	4	4
Total	100	100
RELIGION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Christian	90	90
Mulism	8	8
Others	2	2

Total	100	100
EDUCATION QUALIFICATION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Non-formal	3	3
Primary	5	5
Secondary	12	12
Tertiary	80	80
Total	100	100
OCCUPATION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Student	73	73
Employed	17	17
Unemployed	5	5
Others	5	5
Total	100	100
ETHNIC GROUP	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yoruba	15	15
Hausa	8	8
Igbo	20	20
Bini	36	36
Esan	7	7
Urhobo	5	5
Isoko	2	2
Ijaw	2	2
Owan	1	1
Igala	1	1

Itsekiri	2	2
Ibibio	1	1
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2025.

As indicated in Table 1, the study surveyed 100 participants, with 44% being male and 56% female, showing a slightly higher representation of females.

In terms of age distribution, the majority were between 20–24 years (53%), followed by those aged 15–19 years (33%). A smaller proportion were in the 25–29 age group (10%) and 30 years and above (4%). This shows that most respondents are young people in their late teens and early twenties.

With regard to religion, the sample was predominantly Christian (90%), with Muslims accounting for 8% and other religions making up 2%.

Educational qualification data reveals that the majority of respondents (80%) had tertiary education, while 12% had secondary, 5% had primary, and 3% had no formal education. This suggests that most participants are well-educated.

Considering occupation, most respondents were students (73%), followed by the employed (17%), with a small percentage being unemployed (5%) or engaged in other activities (5%).

In terms of ethnic composition, the dominant group was Bini (36%), followed by Igbo (20%), Yoruba (15%), Esan (7%), Hausa (8%), and smaller proportions from Urhobo (5%), Itsekiri (2%), Isoko (2%), Ijaw (2%), Enwan (1%), Igala (1%), and Ibibio (1%). This reflects the cultural diversity of the area.

SECTION B:

OBJECTIVE ONE: TO DETERMINE THE CAUSES OF THE RAPID INCREASE IN CRIME RATES IN UGBOWO AXIS

TABLE 2

The rapid increase in crime rate in crime rate in Ugbowo Axis is due to unemployment among youths.	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	74	74
No	14	14
Undecided	12	12
Total	100	100
Poverty is a major cause of crime in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	75	75
No	14	14
Undecided	11	11
Total	100	100
Lack of parental guidance is a significant contributor to crime among youths in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	70	70
No	19	19
Undecided	11	11
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2025.

The analysis of responses for objective one, have shown that a large proportion of respondents (74%) agreed that unemployment among youths is responsible for the rising crime rate in the area, while 14% disagreed and 12% remained undecided(uncertain or not sure). This shows that the majority of the population believes that joblessness creates conditions that push many young people toward criminal behaviour.

Also 75% of respondents agreed that poverty is a major cause of crime in Ugbowo, with only 14% disagreeing and 11% undecided. This suggests that economic hardship is widely viewed as a driving force behind criminal acts, as individuals may resort to illegal activities to meet basic needs.

Still on table 2, 70% of respondents agreed that lack of parental guidance is a significant contributor to crime among youths, while 19% disagreed and 11% were undecided. This indicates that many believe weak family supervision, guidance and poor moral upbringing leave young people more vulnerable to engaging in crime.

The findings implies that the rapid increase in crime rates in the Ugbowo axis is largely attributed to socio-economic challenges and weakened family structures, with unemployment, poverty, and lack of parental guidance emerging as the most significant perceived causes.

OBJECTIVE TWO: TO IDENTIFY THE MOST EFFECTIVE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

TABLE 3

Vocational training is an effective way to prevent youth delinquency in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	76	76
No	8	8
Undecided	16	16
Total	100	100
Entrepreneurship development programs can reduce crime among youths in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	85	85
No	2	2
Undecided	13	13
Total	100	100
Mentorship programs can help prevent youth delinquency in Ugbowo axis	RESPONENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	77	77
No	8	8
Undecided	15	15
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2025.

The responses from the 100 participants showed that a large percentage (76%) agreed that vocational training can prevent youth crime, 8% disagreed, while 16% were undecided. This suggests that many respondents believe providing young people with practical and marketable skills can keep them away from crime.

Entrepreneurship development programs received the highest level of agreement, with 85% of respondents supporting it, 2% opposing, and 13% undecided. This strong level of support indicates that most participants see the creation of opportunities for self-employment and financial independence as an effective method for preventing juvenile delinquency.

Mentorship programs were also highly rated, with 77% of respondents agreeing they can help prevent delinquency, 8% disagreeing, and 15% undecided. This shows that many believe guidance from responsible and experienced individuals such as elderly ones, parents etc, can positively influence youths and reduce their involvement in criminal activities.

This implies that vocational training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship programs are all important in reducing juvenile delinquency in Ugbowo axis.

OBJECTIVE THREE: TO DETERMINE THE IMPACTS OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS ON REDUCING CRIME RATES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

Table 4

Youth empowerment programs have reduced crime rate among youths in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	63	63
No	15	15
Undecided	22	22
Total	100	100
Youth empowerment programs have improved the economic situation of youths in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	56	56
No	19	19

Undecided	25	25
Total	100	100
Youth empowerment programs have increased the self-esteem of youths in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
No	71	71
Undecided	15	15
Total	14	14
	100	100

Source: Field work, 2025.

Youth empowerment programs are designed to equip young people with skills, resources, and opportunities that enable them to live productive lives and avoid criminal activities.

From the data collected, a significant proportion of respondents (63%) agreed that youth empowerment programs have reduced crime rates among young people in the Ugbowo axis. A smaller percentage (15%) disagreed, while 22% were undecided. This indicates that most community members perceive these programs as effective tools for crime prevention.

Regarding economic benefits, more than half of the respondents (56%) stated that youth empowerment initiatives have improved the economic situation of young people in the area. However, 19% disagreed, and 25% were undecided. This finding suggests that the programs have contributed to economic development, though there is still a section of the population who do not see such improvements.

On the issue of self-esteem, the responses were highly positive. A large percentage (71%) believed that these programs have enhanced the self-esteem of young people, 15% disagreed, and 14% were undecided. This shows that, beyond reducing crime and creating economic

opportunities, youth empowerment initiatives are also helping to build confidence and self-worth among participants.

OBJECTIVE FOUR: TO ASSESS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND CRIME RATES IN THE AREA.

TABLE 5

There is a significant relationship between Youth unemployment and crime rate in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	80	80
No	7	7
Undecided	13	13
Total	100	100
Youth empowerment programs can reduce crime rate among youths in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	79	79
No	9	9
Undecided	12	12
Total	100	100
Lack of youth empowerment opportunities contributes to high crime rate in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	71	71
No	9	9
Undecided	20	20
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2025.

The analysis of data on the relationship between youth empowerment and crime rates in the Ugbowo axis reveals a strong link between unemployment, lack of empowerment opportunities, and the prevalence of crime.

From the responses, a significant majority of participants (80%) agreed that youth unemployment is directly related to crime in the area, with only 7% disagreeing and 13% undecided (meaning they were not sure or had no opinion). This implies that the absence of stable jobs leaves many young people vulnerable to engaging in criminal activities.

Also, 79% of respondents believed that youth empowerment programs such as skills training, entrepreneurship support, and mentorship can help reduce crime rates among young people in Ugbowo. Only 9% disagreed, while 12% were undecided. This indicates strong public confidence in the effectiveness of empowerment initiatives in tackling youth crime.

And 71% of respondents agreed that the lack of youth empowerment opportunities is a major factor contributing to the high crime rate in the area. Only 9% disagreed, and 20% were undecided. This finding highlights the need for increased investment in sustainable empowerment programs to address the root causes of youth involvement in crime.

OBJECTIVE FIVE: TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS IN REDUCING RECIDIVISM

TABLE 6

Community- based youth empowerment programs are effective in reducing crime rate in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	74	74
No	11	11
Undecided	15	15
Total	100	100
Community-based youth empowerment programs have improved the lives of youths in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	55	55
No	19	19
Undecided	26	26
Total	100	100
Community-based youth empowerment programs should be sustained to prevent crime in Ugbowo axis	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	75	75
No	9	9
Undecided	16	16
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2025.

This part focused on assessing how well community-based youth empowerment programs have worked in reducing reoffending and improving the lives of young people in the Ugbowo axis. These programs aim to engage youths in skill-building, education, and positive activities within their communities, thereby reducing their chances of returning to criminal behavior.

The survey result shows that 74% of respondents believe these programs are effective in reducing crime rates, while 11% disagreed and 15% were undecided (not sure or had no opinion). This suggests that the majority of the community sees them as helpful in addressing crime.

Regarding their broader impact, 55% agreed that these programs have improved the lives of youths in Ugbowo, 19% disagreed, and 26% were undecided. This indicates that while many have noticed positive changes, a fair number still have doubts or are neutral.

In terms of sustainability, 75% of respondents supported keeping these programs to prevent future crime, 9% opposed, and 16% were undecided. The high level of support shows that the community values these initiatives as a long-term solution to youth crime.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study was designed to examine youth empowerment and crime control in Ugbowo axis, Benin city. Chapter One focused on the overview of the study and laid the foundation on which the research was conducted. Chapter Two reviewed the available literature as well as relevant concepts. It also presented the theoretical framework on which the research was centered. Chapter Three explained how data were collected, the population of the study, the sample size, the sampling technique, and the method of data collection. Chapter Four analyzed the data gathered from the respondents using questionnaires.

After analyzing the data, it was revealed that there is a significant relationship between youth empowerment and crime control. The study found that little or no youth empowerment often leads to an increase in crime rates in Ugbowo axis. Furthermore, it was discovered that the major causes of crime in the area include poverty, lack of parental guidance, and lack of opportunities for young people.

In addition, the study showed that the majority of the respondents strongly believe that when youths are empowered through skills acquisition, education, and gainful employment, they are less likely to engage in criminal activities. The findings also indicated that most community members see youth empowerment programs as an effective strategy not only for crime reduction but also for promoting peace, stability, and sustainable development in Ugbowo. Lastly the findings of this study indicate that youth empowerment serves as a sustainable strategy for crime control in the Ugbowo axis, it plays a significant role in achieving long-term crime control in Ugbowo axis

5.2 Conclusion

This study has been able to examine youth empowerment and crime control in Ugbowo axis. Also it has been able to determine the causes of the rapid increase in crime rates in Ugbowo axis, identify the most effective youth empowerment strategies for preventing juvenile delinquency, determine the impacts of youth empowerment programs on reducing crime rates among young people, assess the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in the area and to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based youth empowerment programs in reducing recidivism.

From the findings obtained through the respondents' feedback, it is evident that youth empowerment and crime control remain issues of significant concern in the Ugbowo axis. If not properly addressed, these challenges could adversely affect the individual, social, economic, political, religious, educational, health, security, and cultural sectors of the area.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations have been drawn from the result of the data that were analyzed through the questionnaires, responses from respondents and questions asked during the field work.

1. Parents and guardians should raise their children to be morally upright, instill discipline, and encourage them to embrace hard work from an early age. They should also guide them to start small and remain diligent, with the understanding that consistency and perseverance eventually lead to success.
2. Expand vocational training centers in Ugbowo axis to equip youths with practical skills that will make them employable and reduce crime.

3. Provide job placement schemes alongside training, so empowered youths can immediately apply their skills in the labour market.
4. Increase funding and support for community-based empowerment initiatives, since they are closer to the grassroots and more effective in curbing crime.
5. Introduce entrepreneurship development programs with access to start-up grants or loans so that youths can establish small businesses.
6. Government and NGOs should collaborate to create more empowerment opportunities that target unemployed youths in Ugbowo.
7. Organize regular community-based training workshops in areas like ICT, carpentry, tailoring, and catering to build youths' capacity.
8. Integrate empowerment programs into schools and religious centers, ensuring youths are engaged early before they drift into crime.
9. Promote awareness campaigns about the benefits of empowerment programs, encouraging more youths to participate actively instead of resorting to delinquent activities.

Based on these recommendations, policymakers and authorities should strive to incorporate more youth empowerment programs to improve the well-being and prospects of young people. Likewise, youths should consciously choose to avoid involvement in criminal activities and actively take advantage of any available legal empowerment initiatives to foster their personal development.

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APPENDIX

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

Dear Respondent,

REQUEST FOR THE COMPLETION OF QUESTIONNAIRE.

I am a 400 level student from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Benin, conducting a research study on "Youth Empowerment and Crime Control in Ugbowo axis" as part of the requirements for the completion of my program. In order to gather relevant data for this study, your participation is kindly requested. Please respond to the questions objectively and sincerely. All information you provide will be strictly used for the purpose of this study and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

SECTION A: BIO-DATA

Please TICK (✓) the options that best suits your description.

1. Age Range: 15-19 () 20-24 () 25-29 () 30 and above ()
2. Gender: Male () Female ()
3. Religion: Christian () Muslim () others ()
4. Education Qualification: Nonformal (), Primary () Secondary () Tertiary ()
5. Occupation: Student () Employed () Unemployed () others()
6. Ethnic Group_____

SECTION B

I. Causes of Rapid Increase in Crime Rate

1. The rapid increase in crime rate in Ugbowo axis is due to unemployment among youths.

Yes No Undecided

2. Poverty is a major cause of crime in Ugbowo axis.

Yes No Undecided

3. Lack of parental guidance is a significant contributor to crime among youths in Ugbowo axis. Yes No Undecided

II. Effective Youth Empowerment Strategies

1. Vocational training is an effective way to prevent youth delinquency in Ugbowo axis.

Yes No Undecided

2. Entrepreneurship development programs can reduce crime among youths in Ugbowo axis.

Yes No Undecided

3. Mentorship programs can help prevent youth delinquency in Ugbowo axis.

Yes No Undecided

III. Impact of Youth Empowerment Programs

1. Youth empowerment programs have reduced crime rate among youths in Ugbowo axis.

Yes No Undecided

2. Youth empowerment programs have improved the economic situation of youths in Ugbowo axis. Yes No Undecided

3. Youth empowerment programs have increased the self-esteem of youths in Ugbowo axis.

Yes No Undecided

IV. Relationship between Youth Empowerment and Crime Rate

1. There is a significant relationship between youth unemployment and crime rate in Ugbowo axis. Yes No Undecided

2. Youth empowerment programs can reduce crime rate among youths in Ugbowo axis.

Yesterday No Undecided

3. Lack of youth empowerment opportunities contributes to high crime rate in Ugbowo axis.

Yes No Undecided

V. Effectiveness of Community-Based Youth Empowerment Programs

1. Community-based youth empowerment programs are effective in reducing crime rate in Ugbowo axis. Yes No Undecided

2. Community-based youth empowerment programs have improved the lives of youths in Ugbowo axis. Yes No Undecided

3. Community-based youth empowerment programs should be sustained to prevent crime in Ugbowo axis. Yes No Undecided