

**SOCIAL CONTROL MECHANISM AND SOCIAL VICES AMONG YOUTHS IN
OLUKU COMMUNITY, EDO STATE**

BY

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research study titled ‘Social Control Mechanism and Social Vices Among Youth’ in Oluku community, Edo State was carried out by Okosun Idemudia Emmanuel with Mat No: SSC1909831 under my supervision in the department of Sociology and Antropology, Faculty of Social Science, University of Benin, Benin City Edo State, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God, who made it possible for me to achieve success in this research project. I also dedicate this project to my Families whose moral and financial support has brought me this far, and to all my esteemed teachers for guidance through the years.

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ABSTRACT

Social vices among youths pose a significant challenge in communities worldwide, and Oluku in Edo State, Nigeria, is no exception. This study investigates the social control mechanisms aimed at correcting such behaviors in Oluku community. Drawing on a survey methods approach, the research explored the effectiveness of various social systems, including education, family, mass media, religion, civil society and government, in mitigating youth deviance. Convenience and purposive sampling techniques were used for selecting data and SPSS was used for the data analysis. Findings from the study revealed a nuanced understanding of social control mechanisms and highlighted persistent challenges, such as unemployment and family breakdown, hindering their efficacy. Recommendations for enhancing social control strategies and fostering positive youth development were discussed, aiming to contribute to the formulation of evidence-based policies tailored to the specific needs of Oluku community.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1. Background of the study

The issue of social vices among youths is a pressing concern in many communities, including Oluku in Edo State, Nigeria. Upon reflecting on the ongoing social activities within the younger generation, Abdulhafis Adeyinka Hassan and Habibat Bolanle Abdulkareem (2023), observed that various social vices plague society, and not limited to prostitution, indecent dressing, theft, cultism, pickpocketing, drug abuse, exam malpractice, hooliganism, violence, gambling, smoking, rape, and illicit substance abuse. But corroborate with Sekh Nazimul Islam et al (2023), which explains that the escalation of social vices can be attributed to factors such as poverty, corruption, unemployment, inappropriate role models, broken families, juvenile delinquency, negative peer influence, ineffective governance, quick success syndrome, lack of marital counselling and societal trends.

Angelica Ortillo (2018), posit that peer pressure is the major cause of youth involvement in social vices, thus, making students spend more time with their friends in school or at home. Due to their weak nature and tender age, they can easily be influenced. Children have a high level of curiosity to learn, to have fun and practice new things, such as involving in violent shooting by unknown assailants, resulting in fatalities, sexual assaults among high school students, burglary, theft, and clashes between rival cult groups, leading to casualties. Pre-marital relationships have contributed to the breakdown of family structures and resulting in single parenthood, moral decay, abortions, and fractured households.

Additionally, Hassan Mohammadi Nevisi (2022), opines that the rise in juvenile delinquency and youth crime is a clear indication of the breakdown in family relationships, leading to a loss of unity within the family unit. When the bonds between family members deteriorate, the crucial role of the family in imparting social norms and values to children is compromised. Without a foundation of love and support in the home, teenagers are at risk of facing challenges in their mental, emotional, and social development. The absence of affection and stability within the family dynamics can contribute to the emergence of criminal behavior in young individuals. Whenever the emotional and moral foundation of the family is weakened, it affects the family order (divorce). And family disputes arising from inheritance conflicts has led to the unlawful disposal of family assets.

The unintended consequences of globalization, particularly the widespread use of social media, have facilitated the spread of false identities and cybercrimes. Onota Emmanuella (2021), explains the social reality in a way that the pursuit of livelihoods in the face of rising living costs has pushed young people towards criminal activities like hacking, cyberbullying, phishing, online scams etc. Also, car theft, hijacking peaceful protests, vandalizing public property, and even causing harm to innocent individuals. Substance abuse and excessive alcohol consumption among youths, often in a misguided attempt to seek inspiration, have proven to be self-destructive.

According to the insights of Thomas Hobbes, as discussed in greatthinkers.org website, two key concepts, the ("State of Nature") and the ("Social Contract,") are relevant to this discourse. The State of Nature posits that all individuals have equal rights and strive for self-preservation and prosperity. However, in the pursuit of these goals, there is a natural tendency towards competition, conflict, distrust, and the desire for dominance over others. To mitigate these

negative outcomes, societies establish social contracts to facilitate peaceful coexistence. Hence, the establishment of rules, regulations, laws, norms, and principles becomes essential for the maintenance of order and harmony within a community.

In line with the aforementioned arguments, Nijole V. Benokraitis (2018) referenced Emile Durkheim's concept of anomie, which describes a state of normlessness or confusion regarding societal expectations. Anomie can lead to an increase in social vices among the youth, underscoring the necessity for robust social control mechanisms. Social control, as defined in sociology, encompasses the various mechanisms employed by society to regulate individual and group behaviors, fostering adherence to norms while deterring deviant conduct. Diana Kendall (2020), elaborates on social control as a structured approach adopted by social groups to reinforce conformity to established norms and discourage deviant behavior.

A wealth of scholarly literature has explored the intricate relationship between social control mechanisms and youth deviance, shedding light on various theoretical frameworks and practical interventions. Studies by Ajayi and Akinboye (2016) and Oyewole and Adedokun (2019) have examined the role of social control mechanisms in curbing youth deviance in Nigerian contexts. Additionally, Okoh and Akinyemi (2018) conducted a qualitative study to uncover the root causes of social vices among youths in Nigerian communities, offering valuable insights into the complex dynamics at play.

Furthermore, research by Oni and Oladele (2015) delved into the impact of social control on youth delinquency in Edo State, Nigeria, highlighting the significance of community-level interventions. Ekhaton and Ighodaro (2014) explored the influence of family structures in preventing youth deviance, emphasizing the importance of familial support systems in deterring

social vices among young individuals. These studies collectively underscore the critical role of social control mechanisms in shaping the behavior and attitudes of youths in society.

In response to these challenges, the concept of social control mechanisms has gained significant attention as a means to address and correct such behaviors among young individuals. This research study aims to delve into the social control mechanisms utilized in Oluku community to tackle societal vices among youths, evaluate their effectiveness, and analyze the underlying causes of these social vices.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The prevalence of social vices among youths in the Oluku community of Edo State presents a complex challenge, marked by the intersection of socio-economic factors, cultural dynamics, and systemic inadequacies. As the fabric of society is threatened by behaviors such as substance abuse, cultism, theft, and violence, there is a critical need to evaluate and reinforce social control mechanisms aimed at correcting these destructive patterns.

While traditional methods of social control involving family structures, religious institutions, and educational systems have historically played crucial roles in guiding the behavior of young individuals, their current effectiveness and adaptability in the face of evolving societal vices need urgent assessment. Moreover, the rapid economic changes and external influences facilitated by globalization and technology have potentially altered the risk landscape for youths, necessitating a more robust and nuanced approach to social control.

Furthermore, the responses from authorities and community leaders in Oluku may not have been adequately documented or analyzed to determine their success rates or areas for improvement.

This gap in knowledge hinders the development of effective strategies to curb the negative tendencies among the youth population.

Therefore, this study seeks to examine the extant social control mechanisms within Oluku community, evaluate their effectiveness, and identify the root causes of social vices among its youths. By doing so, it aims to contribute to the body of knowledge required to build more resilient social structures and to provide evidence-based recommendations for policy and community action that are grounded in sociological theory and tailored to the specific cultural context of Oluku community, Edo State, Nigeria. This statement of the problem underscores the urgency of addressing this social issue and sets the stage for a detailed investigation into how a society can harness its own resources and wisdom to guide its youth toward positive and productive behaviors.

1.3 Research Questions

- What are the social control mechanism?
- How effective are the social control mechanism?
- What are the underlying causes of social vices among youths?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine the different social control mechanism in correcting social vices. While the specific objectives are;

- To examine social control mechanism for addressing societal vices among youths.
- The effectiveness of the social control mechanism.
- Examine the causes of social vices among youths.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study will examine the social control mechanism in correcting social vices among youths in Oluku Community, with a view in focusing on the roles of the various social system as social control agents or components. Namely; education, family, mass-media, religion, civil society and government in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research will help all components of social system saddled with the responsibility to effect social control to be more proactive to pending actions that may lead to threat or social vices. It will also help policy maker to measure the effectiveness of the social control mechanism available and needs to appropriate resources to maintain social order and stability. Additionally, it will contribute to existing body of knowledge, for reference purpose and educational training of human capacity for development.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Social Control: It refers to societal processes that regulate individual and group behaviours in an attempt to gain conformity.

Anomie: Anomie is a term used to describe the condition in which people are unsure of how to behave because of absent, conflicting or confusing social norms.

Deviant Behaviour: it's a behaviour representing a departure from social norms. It's an acts or violation of rules, regulation and laws governing a people, society or community.

Social Vices: This refers to deviant behaviours, evil or immoral actions such as illicit sex, drug addiction, stealing, murder and thuggery etc.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

Resource Constraints: Limited resources, including time and funding, may have constrained the depth and breadth of the research.

Temporal Constraints: The study was conducted within a specific timeframe, and societal dynamics, including social vices and control mechanisms, may evolve over time. Therefore, the findings may not fully capture long-term trends or changes in social behaviors and interventions beyond the study period.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

2.1 Social Control

Richard T. Schaefer (2016), opines that social control refers to the techniques and strategies for preventing deviant human behaviour in any society. For example, in the family we are socialized to obey our parents simply because they are our parents. Peer groups introduce us to informal norms such as dress codes, that governs the behaviour of their members. Colleges establish standards they expect of students and in bureaucratic organizations, workers encounter a formal system of rules and regulations. Finally, the government of every society legislates and enforces social norms.

Social control refers to the methods and strategies that societies use to regulate the behavior of individuals and maintain social order. It can take many forms, including formal mechanisms such as laws and regulations, as well as informal mechanisms such as social norms and values. In the context of correcting social vices among youths, social control mechanisms aim to deter negative behaviors and encourage positive ones through various means.

2.2 Social Control Mechanism in Edo State

According to Robert J. Brym & John Lie (2007), historically social control and punishment have changed. They opined that in pre- industrial societies there exist a strict social control and conformity, where as in industrial societies there are low conformity and less stringent social control. Much of the regimentation of modern life is tied to the growth of capitalism and the state. Institutions linked to the growth of modern state includes armies, police force, public schools, health – care system and other bureaucracies like strict work regimes, curricula and procedures.

Oluku Community precisely, is an emerging town, and a semi -urban environment. Rashidi Akanji Okunola & Adediran Daniel Ikuomola (2012), reports that, a traditional crime control

mechanism was implored to curtail the menace of social vices among youths. These traditional methods included the use of vigilante groups in community for neighborhood watch, it was also observed that a 'Festival of Curses' (Igi'Ohen) was brought to the fore in combating crime in Edo state. The E'Nigie (the traditional regional heads), the Egie Ohen (Traditional Voodoo priests and Herbalists) whose shrines are strategically located in the seven Bini speaking communities. The event which took place at the Urokpota hall (Kings Square) culminated in the invocation of the wrath of the gods by the offering of sacrifices and pouring of libations before curses were eventually placed on the hoodlums. It was said that before this event was performed in the open, series of rituals have been done at various quarters that did not need the presence of the public. This was made possible by all chief priest, town chiefs, palace chiefs, Enogie, Odionware of various communities to make a special declaration of curses on all those making the communities a lawless place for social vices and heinous crimes. Igie-ohen (Festival of Curses) is a cleansing ceremony where the gods are appeased, asking of forgiveness through incantations, and public declaration of war against criminals and evil in the kingdom. Additionally, For the rich, security of lives and properties is left in the hands of private security companies, while the poor rely on divine providence as the Nigerian police is seen as not living up to expectation.

2.3 Types of Social Control

According to John (2017), noted that members of society try to influence each other behaviour through various kinds of social control mechanisms that can be used to address social vices among youths. This can either be formal or informal social control mechanisms.

The formal social control includes the following; the criminal justice system, organizations—police, courts, and prison officials—that respond to alleged violations of the law. Also, John

Macionis (2023) opines that formal social control is exerted by the government, religion, mass media, and educational systems.

2.3.1 Legal sanctions

This is one of the most common forms of social control, which involves the use of laws and regulations to punish individuals who engage in socially deviant behaviors. For example, drug possession and distribution are illegal activities that can result in criminal charges and imprisonment.

Informal social control: Informal social control refers to the norms, values, and expectations that are enforced by society without the need for formal legal intervention. For example, disapproving looks or gossip can act as informal social controls against behaviors such as cheating or bullying. Laws and regulations are put in place to prevent and punish deviant behaviors. Studies by Odiase (2017) and Aluede et al. (2019) identified the importance of effective law enforcement agencies in reducing social vices among youths. However, they also highlighted the need for a balanced approach that combines punishment with rehabilitation programs to address the root causes of deviance.

In Nigeria, the rule of law strengthens the rights of each citizens and helps to prosecute offenders who are convicted by law. Adigun (2019) and Okorie (2018), explains that the rule of law in Nigeria refers to the principle that all individuals, regardless of their status or position, are subject to the law, and legal procedures must be followed in investigating and prosecuting alleged criminal behavior. Typically, when a crime is committed or suspected, the law enforcement agencies, such as the police or anti-corruption agencies, are responsible for investigating the incident. They gather evidence, interview witnesses, and conduct inquiries to establish the facts surrounding the alleged criminal behavior. Once the investigation is completed,

the findings are submitted to the appropriate prosecuting authority, such as the office of the Attorney General or specialized prosecuting agencies. If the decision is made to prosecute, the suspect(s) are charged and brought before a court of law. The judiciary, which is responsible for interpreting and applying the law, ensures that legal procedures are followed during the trial process. Adigun (2019), added that the court process includes arraignment, pre-trial hearings, trial, and sentencing if the suspect(s) are found guilty or acquitted if there is not enough evidence. Throughout this process, it is essential that the rights of the suspect(s) are respected and guaranteed, including the right to legal representation, the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and the right to a fair and impartial trial.

Overall, the rule of law in Nigeria ensures that the legal system operates transparently, fairly, and without discrimination, thereby promoting accountability and justice for all individuals involved in criminal proceedings (Okorie, 2018).

The informal social control mechanism is the process of internalization of norms, values and beliefs of a people or society through the means of socialization. Socialization refers to the process by which individuals learn the norms, values, and behaviors of society. By instilling positive values and behaviors in youths from a young age, socialization can act as a preventative social control mechanism against social vices. The informal social control mechanism includes sanctions from family, peer groups, and community-level interventions.

2.3.2 Family as an Informal Social Control Mechanism

The family unit serves as an important socializing agent for youths, shaping their values and behaviors. Research by Iyamu (2016) and Okoh (2018) highlighted the role of parental monitoring, discipline, and communication in reducing the likelihood of youths engaging in social vices. Furthermore, these studies emphasized the importance of positive family

environments and strong parent-child relationships in fostering social bonds that deter deviant behavior.

2.3.3 Peer Groups and Education

Peer groups and educational institutions also play a significant role in shaping youths' behaviors and values. Studies by Egbon, Usiefesobi, & Adesanmi (2015) and Uzochukwu (2020) emphasized the impact of positive peer associations and quality education in deterring social vices among youths. Peer mentoring programs, extracurricular activities, and inclusive educational environments have shown promise in preventing deviant behaviors by fostering strong social bonds.

2.3.4 Community-Level Interventions

The community as a whole plays a crucial role in social control mechanisms. Studies by Okosun & Akinagbe (2017) and Aghoinamhe (2019) highlighted the importance of creating a sense of community ownership and involvement in tackling social vices among youths. Community policing, neighborhood watch programs, and youth empowerment initiatives were identified as effective strategies in preventing and managing deviant behavior.

Meanwhile this research will be focusing on the roles of the various social system as social control agents or components. Namely; education, family, mass-media, religion, civil society and government in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria.

2.4 The Role of Education Towards Correcting Youth Social Vices

Education has been defined by various scholars in different terms which involves the acquisition of knowledge, skillset and capacity development to fulfill personal and societal purpose. Micheal and Besley (2015), define education as "the development of the capacities of individuals so that they can fulfill their own potential and also participate in the ongoing life of their community".

John Dewey (2016), emphasized education as a process of growth and development, stating that "education is not preparation for life; education is life itself". Nel Noddings (2015), In her book "The Maternal Factor: Two Paths to Morality," Noddings argues that education is fundamentally about caring for and nurturing students. She defines education as "a constellation of activities, including formal schooling but not limited to it, intended to foster growth in students. Paulo Freire (2014), Freire's work on critical pedagogy continues to influence contemporary educational thought. In his book "Pedagogy of Indignation," he views education as a transformative process aimed at fostering critical consciousness and social justice. He defines education as "the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world". Ken Robinson (2015), In his book "Creative Schools: The Grassroots Revolution That's Transforming Education," Robinson emphasizes the importance of nurturing creativity and individual talents in education. He defines education as "a system designed to help students develop their natural talents and abilities to live fulfilling lives".

Also, according to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2014), defines education as a " fundamental human right, essential for the exercise of all other human rights. It promotes individual freedom, empowerment and yields important development benefits. Yet, millions of children and adults remain deprived of educational opportunities, many as a result of poverty. Rapid progress towards the Education for All (EFA) goals requires a much more focused and sustained effort, backed by substantial resources, which the international community has not yet been able to mobilize." From the aforementioned, education has a positive goal, which is to empower the individual to attain life skills and competence which he can deplore in solving a problem and realizing his or her needs. Thus, the United Nations

enlisted education for sustainable program in order to correct the social problem created by poor governance, unemployment and youth restiveness. Education is the basic building block of every society. It is the single best investment countries can make to build prosperous, healthy and equitable societies. Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “Everyone has the right to education.” However, today 57 million children remain out of school. Education is not only a right, but a passport to human development that opens doors and expands opportunities and freedoms. sustainable development goal 4, which include ensuring inclusive, equitable, quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. In view of the several impediments for universal education and attempts to address them through targets to increase the number of scholarships to students in developing nations and create educational facilities that are gender sensitive and disability inclusive. Sustainable and shared economic development increasingly depends on the capacity of governments to implement policies targeted at marginalized groups and remove barriers to ongoing learning and entry into the labor market. Notwithstanding the significant achievements over the past decade, women and girls still have the least access to education and training, and specific policies are urgently needed to address these challenges.

Those who leave school at an early age are vulnerable to unemployment, poverty, early marriage, and pregnancy. Some of the factors that fuel drop-out rates include poverty, gender, disability, family catastrophes, war and conflict, as well as perceived low return on investment for education. Developing alternative learning opportunities that take into account these reasons for high drop-out rates are necessary to provide young people appropriate opportunities to consolidate their basic knowledge and competencies, and equip them with the relevant skills needed to obtain employment, become business owners and entrepreneurs or engage in other productive work. Rolleston C. (2015), posits that education increases opportunities for young people with an additional pursue of

employment, higher education, and other productive activities. It can equip them with the necessary skills to break the cycle of poverty and engage in legal and constructive activities instead of resorting to social vices. Incidentally, UNESCO (2016), and Shami E. (2019), assert that education empowers individuals by promoting critical thinking, information processing, and problem-solving skills. And has raised conscientious awareness about the negative consequences of engaging in social vices and the importance of adhering to societal norms. Moosavi R. and Khosropanah A. (2015), says that education plays moral, ethical, and character development. It also instill values such as empathy, responsibility, and respect for others, fostering an environment less prone to social vices.

Dowd N. (2017) looks at the outcome and opines that education help to foster a sense of belonging and community participation. Through schools and educational institutions, young people can develop positive relationships, sense of identity and engagement in activities that contribute to the well-being of the community, reducing feelings of alienation and the likelihood of engaging in social vices. World Health Organization and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), opines that education provide access to critical information about health, sexuality, drug abuse, crime prevention, and other topics relevant to the reduction of social vices. When armed with accurate information, young people are better positioned to make informed choices and avoid risky behaviors. It is important to note that the effectiveness of education in reducing social vices can be influenced by various factors such as the quality of education, availability of resources, parental support, community engagement, and government policies. Additionally, Stella and Dunu (2019), corroborates that the Strategies towards managing social vices and youth restiveness in secondary schools include intensified moral education, posting security personnel to the school, strict sanctions for cultists, expulsion of non-conforming

teachers and students, recruitment of more competent teachers and sensitization of the public on the ills of social vices.

2.5 The Role of Family in Correcting Social Vices Among Youth

The family is an agent of socialization with positive and unintended actions toward child growth and development. Hassan Mohammed Nevisi (2022) argues that where there is disharmony or prolonged conflict in the family, it can impact the children negatively, and give rise to uncontrolled behaviour among youths. Also, if a person's values and the values of people who wield strong influence on him support criminal behavior instead of supporting positive behaviors, this can make the individual become a potential criminal. However, the family as a strong social institution contributes to social order and stability and has positive impacts which can help to control social vices among youths. Family support can play a crucial role in addressing social vices among youths by providing them with guidance, values, and a sense of belonging. According to Barnes (2012), espoused that families that exhibit positive behavior and values can serve as role models for their children, encouraging them to make better choices. Pierce (2019), opines that open communication and dialogue with family members, allows youths to express their concerns, enabling parents or guardians to guide and counsel them effectively, thus preventing them from engaging in social vices. Sanders (2015), posits that families can create awareness about the consequences of social vices by educating their children about the harmful effects, legal implications, and impact on their future opportunities. Thus, it can also help to prevent social vices among youths. Turner and Muller (2018), placed emphasis on a supportive family environment, which provides emotional stability, and reduce the likelihood of youths engaging in negative behaviors. Strong family bonds can serve as a protective factor against

social vices. Davis and Harper (2011), corroborate the points that families that instill strong moral and religious values can guide youths towards making positive choices and avoiding social vices.

2.6 Mass Media Impact in Correcting Social Vices Among Youths in Edo State

Mass media has played a crucial role in highlighting and addressing social vices in Edo State, Nigeria through the medium of disseminating information and raising awareness, has helped in correcting these issues and fostering positive social change. In a survey conducted by Osaghae, Ojeme, and Odiboh (2020), it was revealed that media campaigns played a significant role in reducing drug abuse and trafficking in Edo State. The authors noted that broadcasting anti-drug messages via radio and television helped in shaping public attitudes and discouraging people from engaging in illicit drug activities. According to Omoregie and Adu (2019), mass media campaigns have been effective in addressing gender-based violence in Edo State. Through television programs, newspaper articles, and social media campaigns, the media has raised awareness about the issue, challenged societal norms, and encouraged victims to speak out. Okunoye and Oshiname (2018) found that mass media interventions significantly contributed to the reduction of corruption in Edo State. By exposing corrupt practices through investigative journalism and reporting, mass media contributed to increased public distrust towards corrupt individuals and institutions, leading to a decline in corrupt activities. In a study by Ogiegbaen, Omoregie, and Ahmed (2021), it was observed that media coverage played a pivotal role in addressing human trafficking in Edo State. By shedding light on the dangers and consequences of human trafficking, mass media campaigns raised awareness, empowered potential victims to seek help, and encouraged community members to report suspicious activities. For example, Independent Television media channel is situated in Oluku community. They promote awareness,

sensitize the public on social realities, educate children with good moral ethical values on their sponsored programmes. The popular radio programme known as “people talk to people and man-around town” with others help to serve as the fourth realm of the estate with a view to reducing and preventing social vices among youths. Thus, contributing to social order and stability in Oluku community, Edo State and Nigeria at large.

2.7 The Role of Civil Society in Curtailing Social Vices in Edo State

Civil society in Edo State, Nigeria, has played a significant role in addressing social vices among youths through various initiatives such as youth empowerment programs, educational campaigns, and community outreach activities. Organizations like the Edo Civil Society Organizations (EDOCSO) have been instrumental in advocating for policies and programs aimed at tackling issues such as drug abuse, unemployment, and crime among youths. Recent studies have highlighted the impact of civil society interventions in addressing social vices among youths in Edo State. For example, a study by Akpomera and Osazuwa (2020), emphasized the importance of community-based organizations in providing support and guidance to vulnerable youths, helping them steer away from negative behaviors. They also argues that civil society organizations in Edo State have been actively involved in advocating for policies and legislation that address the root causes of social vices among youths. Through lobbying efforts and engagement with policymakers, these organizations have contributed to the development and implementation of youth-focused policies and programs. Another study by Omorogbe et al. (2021) underscored the effectiveness of youth empowerment initiatives implemented by civil society groups in reducing unemployment and promoting positive social engagement among young people in the state.

They both opines that civil society groups organize community mobilization activities and awareness campaigns to educate youths about the dangers of engaging in social vices. These initiatives often involve workshops, seminars, and outreach events aimed at promoting positive behavior and empowering youths to make informed decisions. Akpomera & Osazuwa (2020), Many civil society organizations in Edo State run skill acquisition and training programs designed to equip youths with marketable skills. By providing opportunities for vocational training and capacity building, these initiatives empower young people to become self-reliant and less susceptible to engaging in criminal activities out of desperation.

Omorogbe et al., (2021), posit that civil society groups facilitate peer education and mentorship programs that pair at-risk youths with positive role models. Through mentorship relationships, young people receive encouragement, advice, and practical assistance in navigating challenges and making positive life choices.

Akpomera & Osazuwa, (2020), espoused that civil society organizations collaborate with law enforcement agencies to address social vices among youths. By working together, these stakeholders can identify hotspots of criminal activity, intervene early to prevent escalation, and provide support to young offenders seeking to reintegrate into society. Overall, civil society plays a multifaceted role in addressing social vices among youths in Edo State, Nigeria, by advocating for policy change, raising awareness, providing skills training, offering mentorship, and collaborating with relevant stakeholders to create safer and more supportive communities for young people.

2.8 The Role of Religious Organization in Reducing Social Vices

Religions play a significant role in addressing social vices among youths by providing moral guidance, support systems, and community involvement. Laurin et al., (2017), opine that religions often serve as moral compasses, offering ethical frameworks and teachings that discourage behaviors considered socially harmful or vices. For instance, religions commonly advocate for virtues such as compassion, honesty, and respect for others, which can counteract tendencies toward violence, substance abuse, and other social vices. Through religious teachings and scriptures, youths are often instilled with values that promote pro-social behavior and discourage deviance.

Additionally, Regnerus & Elder (2018), espoused that religious communities offer support systems that can help youths navigate challenges and resist the allure of social vices. Religious congregations provide a sense of belonging, connection, and accountability, which can serve as protective factors against engaging in risky behaviours. Moreover, religious leaders and mentors often offer guidance, counseling, and positive role modeling to youths facing temptations or struggles with social vices.

Furthermore, religions promote community involvement and service, encouraging youths to contribute positively to society. Engaging in volunteer work, charity activities and community service projects not only fosters a sense of purpose and fulfillment but also reinforces pro-social values and behaviors (Dentith et al., 2014). Religious institutions often organize outreach programs and initiatives aimed at addressing social issues, thereby providing youths with opportunities to make a meaningful difference in their communities.

The roles of religious organizations in Edo State, Nigeria, towards reducing social vices are multifaceted and vital to community well-being. Here are their precise contributions to the state.

1. Religious organizations provide moral and ethical guidance through their teachings and scriptures. They emphasize values such as honesty, integrity, compassion, and respect for others, which help to deter individuals, including youths, from engaging in social vices (Anderson, 2017).
2. Omosekejimi, (2020), says that churches and mosques in Edo State offer various forms of support, including counseling and pastoral care. Religious leaders provide guidance and mentorship to individuals, especially youths, who may be struggling with personal challenges, thereby helping to prevent or address issues that could lead to social vices.
3. Many religious organizations in Edo State-run youth-oriented programs, including educational initiatives, vocational training, and skill development workshops. These programs aim to empower youths, provide them with positive alternatives to negative behaviors, and equip them with the necessary tools to make informed choices (Oyebola, 2018).
4. Aghedo (2016), observed that religious institutions in Edo State, engage in community outreach activities aimed at addressing social issues and promoting positive change. They organize campaigns, seminars and awareness programs focused on topics such as drug abuse prevention, crime reduction, and violence mitigation.
5. Ibhawoh, (2014), observed that religious gatherings and events serve as platforms for fostering social cohesion and unity among diverse groups within Edo State. By bringing people together in worship and fellowship, religious organizations promote understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect, which are essential for reducing social tensions and conflicts that can contribute to social vices.
6. Meanwhile Ogbemudia (2019), posits that religious leaders in Edo State often advocate for good governance, social justice, and the protection of human rights. They may speak out against

corruption, injustice, and inequality, advocating for policies and initiatives that promote peace, equality, and social welfare.

7. Religious organizations in Edo State frequently engage in charitable activities and welfare programs to support the less privileged members of society. They provide food aid, healthcare services, educational support, and other forms of assistance to vulnerable individuals and families, thereby addressing underlying factors that can contribute to social vices (Edo State Government, n.d.).

In sum, the roles of religious organizations in Edo State are integral to efforts aimed at reducing social vices, promoting community well-being, and fostering a more harmonious and prosperous society. Religions play a multifaceted role in correcting social vices among youths, offering moral guidance, support systems, and opportunities for community involvement. By promoting pro-social values, fostering connections, and encouraging service to others, religions can help youths resist negative influences and contribute to building healthier and more cohesive societies.

2.9 Effectiveness of Social Control Mechanisms

Research has shown that social control mechanisms can be effective in correcting social vices among youths. For example, a study by Smith et al. (2018), found that peer pressure and parental monitoring were important social control mechanisms in deterring substance abuse among adolescents. Similarly, a meta-analysis by Jones et al. (2016), showed that the enforcement of laws and regulations on underage drinking was associated with reduced alcohol consumption among youths. However, social control mechanisms are not without their limitations. For example, some studies have found that the use of legal sanctions can have unintended consequences, such as increasing rates of recidivism among juvenile offenders (Klein et al., 2015). Additionally, social control mechanisms may be less effective in cases where youths face

systemic barriers to education, employment, and healthcare, which can contribute to their engagement in social vices (Petersen et al., 2017). Assessing the effectiveness of social control mechanisms is crucial in understanding how well they address social vices among youths. While limited research has been conducted specifically on Oluku community, studies from neighboring regions provide insights into the overall effectiveness of social control mechanisms. Okuyade (2019) conducted a study in neighboring Ovia North-East Local Government Area and found that a combination of formal and informal social control mechanisms, along with community involvement, significantly reduced deviant behaviors among youths.

Effective social control mechanisms in society can be observed through various indicators. Low crime rates, particularly for violent crimes and property crimes, suggest that social control mechanisms are effectively deterring individuals from engaging in unlawful behavior (Smith, 2019). Additionally, high levels of social cohesion, characterized by strong social bonds, trust, and cooperation among members of society, indicate that social control mechanisms are fostering a sense of collective responsibility and adherence to societal norms (Jones & Brown, 2020). Effective governance, represented by a stable and responsive government that enforces laws fairly and impartially, contributes to effective social control by promoting compliance with legal and ethical standards (Johnson et al., 2018). Respect for authority figures, such as law enforcement officers, judicial officials, and community leaders, reflects the legitimacy and effectiveness of social control institutions (Garcia & Martinez, 2021). Furthermore, minimal instances of social deviance, such as disobedience, rebellion, or nonconformity, suggest that individuals are internalizing and adhering to societal norms and values (Lee, 2017). Effective socialization processes, including education, family upbringing, and cultural influences, instill pro-social attitudes and behaviors, contributing to effective social control (Adams & White,

2022). Open and transparent communication channels between authorities and the public facilitate the dissemination of information, enforcement of regulations, and resolution of conflicts, enhancing social control mechanisms (Taylor, 2023). Finally, minimal instances of social disorder, such as riots, protests, and civil unrest, indicate that social control mechanisms are effectively managing societal tensions and conflicts (Robinson & Scott, 2016).

2.10 Causes of Social Vices among Youths

Understanding the causes of social vices among youths is essential for the development of effective social control mechanisms. The existing literature highlights various factors contributing to deviant behavior, including poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and weak social ties. Studies by Igbinosa et al. (2018) and Olumuyiwa (2021) recognized socio-economic factors as significant drivers of deviance among youths in similar Nigerian communities.

Ogunbameru, (2015) opines that poverty is a major cause of social vices among youths. He further espoused that poverty plays a significant role in pushing young people towards engaging in social vices, as it limits their access to basic needs, education, and employment opportunities. More also, the United Nations (2020), highlighted the lack of education as a hindrance to youth from acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge, thus, leading them to resort to criminal activities as a means of survival. Onyebuagu (2017), posits that peer pressure also contributes to the prevalence of social vices among youths, as individuals tend to imitate their friends' behaviors and actions to gain acceptance and belonging. This can lead to involvement in activities such as drug abuse, gang violence, or theft.

Family dysfunction, including broken homes, domestic violence, and inadequate parental guidance, has been linked to increased engagement in social vices among youths. Children

growing up in dysfunctional families often lack proper role models and support systems, which can result in seeking connection and validation through negative means. (United Nations, 2020). Brown & Manning (2020) corroborates that family dynamics which results in family breakdown, parental neglect and dysfunctional family relationships can expose youths to adverse environments, increasing their susceptibility to social vices. Research shows that inadequate parental supervision and inconsistent discipline are associated with higher rates of delinquency and substance abuse among adolescents (Johnson et al., 2017).

Peer Influence play a crucial role in shaping youths' attitudes and behaviors. Association with delinquent peers or involvement in deviant peer groups can normalize antisocial behaviors and facilitate their adoption (Peterson & Bates, 2021). The desire for acceptance and belonging may lead youths to engage in activities that are detrimental to their well-being.

Community environmental factor such as living in neighborhoods characterized by crime, violence, and social disorganization can expose youths to a range of negative influences (Anderson & Hughes, 2016). Limited access to recreational facilities, quality education, and positive role models can further exacerbate the risk of engaging in delinquent behaviors. Psychological Factors has been a fallout from Individual characteristics such as low self-esteem, impulsivity, and sensation-seeking tendencies can predispose youths to involvement in social vices (Vazsonyi et al., 2019). Mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, may also contribute to susceptibility to substance abuse and other forms of maladaptive behavior (Clark et al., 2018).

2.11 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is the Social Control Theory, developed by Travis Hirschi (1969), this theory emphasizes the significance of social bonds and their role in preventing individuals from engaging in deviant behavior. According to Hirschi, individuals with strong social bonds are less likely to engage in delinquency or other forms of deviant behavior. The theory focuses on four elements of social bonds, namely attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief. By exploring the effectiveness of various social control mechanisms in Oluku community, this study aims to contribute to the existing literature on social control theory, particularly in the context of addressing social vices among youths.

Social control theory posits that individuals are inclined towards deviant behavior, but various social mechanisms work to prevent or deter them from engaging in such behavior. When applied to correcting social vices among youths, social control mechanisms play a crucial role in guiding their behavior towards conformity and positive societal integration.

One key aspect of social control theory is the influence of informal social control, which includes family, peer, and community networks. Family serves as the primary agent of socialization, instilling values, norms, and behavioral expectations in youths. Research by Barnes et al. (2014), highlights the significant impact of parental monitoring and support in reducing youths' involvement in delinquent behaviors. Positive peer relationships also contribute to social control, as peers can reinforce prosocial behavior and discourage involvement in social vices (Akers, 2015).

Formal social control mechanisms, such as law enforcement and educational institutions, also play a vital role in correcting social vices among youths. The criminal justice system acts as a deterrent through the threat of legal sanctions for deviant behavior. However, Travis et al. (2014) argue that punitive approaches alone may not effectively address the root causes of youth

delinquency. Instead, Sherman & Strang (2017), posits that restorative justice practices focus on repairing harm, promoting accountability, and reintegrating youths into society should be considered.

Furthermore, educational institutions serve as sites for socialization and the transmission of cultural values. School-based interventions, such as mentoring programs and life skills training, have been shown to reduce the likelihood of youths engaging in social vices (United Nations, 2020). Moreover, educational curricula that promote critical thinking and conflict resolution skills empower youths to make informed decisions and resist negative peer influences (Catalano et al., 2014). The stronger the ties among congregation members the more difficult it is for anyone to involve himself in deviant behaviour. Smith, J. D. (2018), espoused the concept postulated by Clifford Geertz, an influential anthropologist, who opines that beliefs are not merely abstract concepts but powerful forces that influence and constrain human behavior, holding significance for understanding social life and cultural phenomena, this is true for the religious faithful who are constrained by their beliefs which serves as moral rectitude and sanctions for inappropriate behaviours.

In conclusion, social control theory provides a framework for understanding and implementing effective social control mechanisms to correct social vices among youths. By leveraging both informal and formal social control mechanisms, communities can guide youths towards positive behaviour and promote their healthy integration into society.

CHAPTER THREE

Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology employed in investigating the social control mechanism in correcting social vices among youths in Oluku community, Edo State. It outlines the research design, the target population, sample size, sampling technique, data collection instruments, data analysis techniques, and ethical considerations.

3.1 Research Design

To achieve the objectives of this study, the survey research design was employed. This design was purely quantitative, in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the social control mechanisms employed in correcting social vices among youths in Oluku community.

3.2 Area of the Study

This study was conducted in Oluku community in Ovia North East Local Government area of Edo State, Nigeria.

Oluku community is located in ovia north-east local government of Edo state along the Benin-lagos express way. It was founded in the year 2000, and it's situated close to Iguosa and idumwovina communities both under the ovia north-east local government. It's headquarters is in the town of Okada.

The total population of individuals residing in Oluku community is estimated to be about 153,849 individuals. The three main religions practiced by residents of Oluku community are Christianity, Muslims and Africa Traditional religion. Some occupations peculiar to Oluku community includes farming, fishing, trading, saw milling etc, making Oluku community integral to the economic growth of not just the local government but also the state at large.

3.3 Population of the Study

The population for this study included the youth, vigilante officers and others residing in Oluku community, Edo State. The focus were on individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 who had been affected by social vices in the community, in one way or the other. These individuals were selected based on their experiences with social vices such as drug abuse, gang activities, prostitution, and other forms of deviant behaviour.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size for this study was 100 respondents. The convenience and purposive sampling technique were used to select the respondents. Convenience sampling was used to identify key informants who had specialized knowledge and experience in dealing with social vices among youths in the community. The purposive sampling technique was used to select a representative sample of youths within the community.

3.5 Instruments for Data Collection

The instruments for data collection of this study was quantitative technique. For the quantitative data, a semi - structured questionnaire was developed and administered to the selected respondents to gather information on their experiences with social vices and the effectiveness of social control mechanisms in the community.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

The researcher administered the questionnaire personally to the respondents in the field. It was a one time process and a face-to-face method. The questionnaires were collected from the respondents the same day.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

For the quantitative data, statistical analysis was performed using computer software such as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The data was presented in frequency tables, charts and percentages, which were used to summarize the data.

3.8 Validity

Validity is crucial in ensuring that the research accurately captures the concepts and variables under investigation. A thorough literature review was conducted to understand established theories and concepts related to social control mechanisms and social vices among youths. This ensured that the research was built on a solid theoretical foundation. Also, a small sample size of 100 respondents was used for this study from Oluku community. This allowed for the identification of any flaws in the research instruments, such as interview questions, and helped refine them to ensure the validity of the data collection methods. Validity was strengthened by using purposive sampling technique to select a representative sample of the Oluku community. This allowed for the generalizability of the research findings to similar contexts and populations.

3.9 Reliability

Reliability is essential to ensure consistent and stable results. Firstly, the research instruments, such as interview guidelines, underwent a rigorous pilot testing phase to identify and rectify any inconsistencies or ambiguities in the questions. This helped to ensure that all respondents were interpreting the questions in the same way, thereby increasing the reliability of the data collected. The methods of data collection involved the use of questionnaires and participant observation. Thus, helping to cross-validate the findings and strengthen the reliability of the results. The data analysis was corroborated and compared with previous or existing literature.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter deals with the presentation of findings, the interpretation of result and the discussion of findings. The data presented below is for an assessment of Social Control Mechanism in Correcting Social Vices among Youths in Oluku Community, Edo State.

Socio - demographic characteristics

Table 1: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
46 and above	17	17.0
36 – 45	23	23.0
26 – 35	30	30.0
18-25	30	30.0
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 1, shows the ages of the respondents that participated in the survey. Out of the total respondents, 30% are within the ages of 18-25 years, 30% are within the ages of 26-35 years, 23% are within the ages of 36-45years and 17% are within the ages of 46 years and above which is also presented in the bar chart below.

Below is a bar chart showing the ages of respondents;

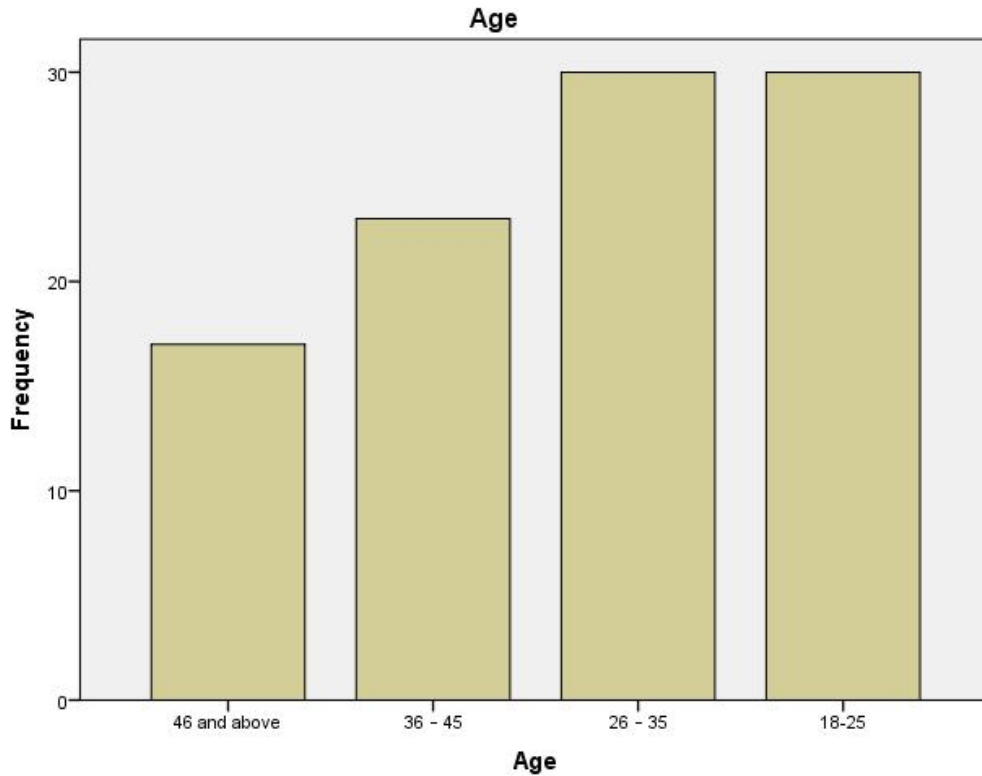


Table 2: Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	48	48.0
Male	52	52.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: field survey 2024

Table 2 indicates the percentage of each sex that took part in the test. It was observed that out of the total respondents that took the test, 52% are male and 48% are female.

Below is a bar chart showing the sex of respondents.

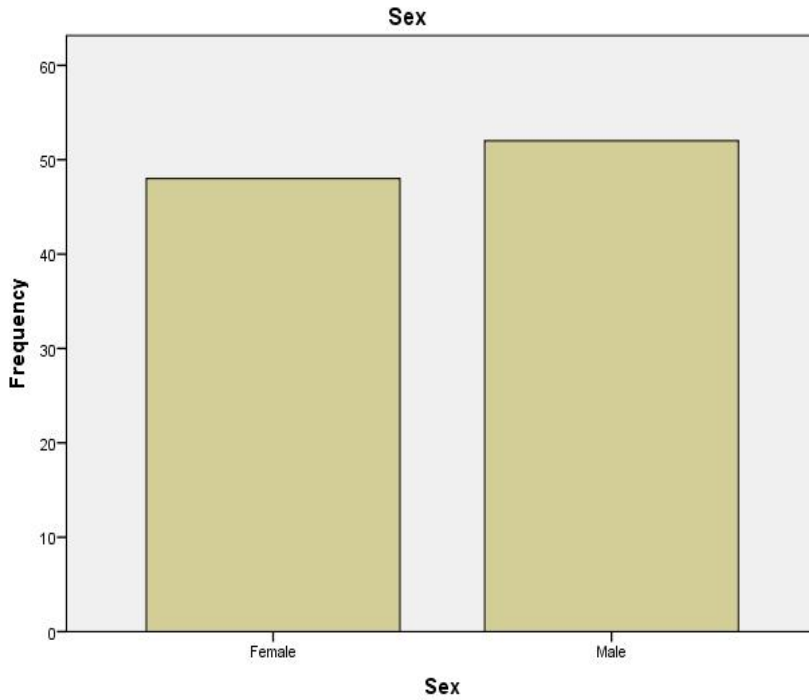


Table 3: Residents

Residents	Frequency	Percentage
No	51	51.0
Yes	49	49.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2024

Table 3 shows the respondents that participated in the survey are residents of Oluku community or not. From the table, it was observed that 49% of the respondents are residents of

Oluku community, while 51% are non-resident. However, these 51% also opines that they have commitment and social responsibility they carry out in Oluku community, frequently.

Below is a bar chart showing the residence of respondents.

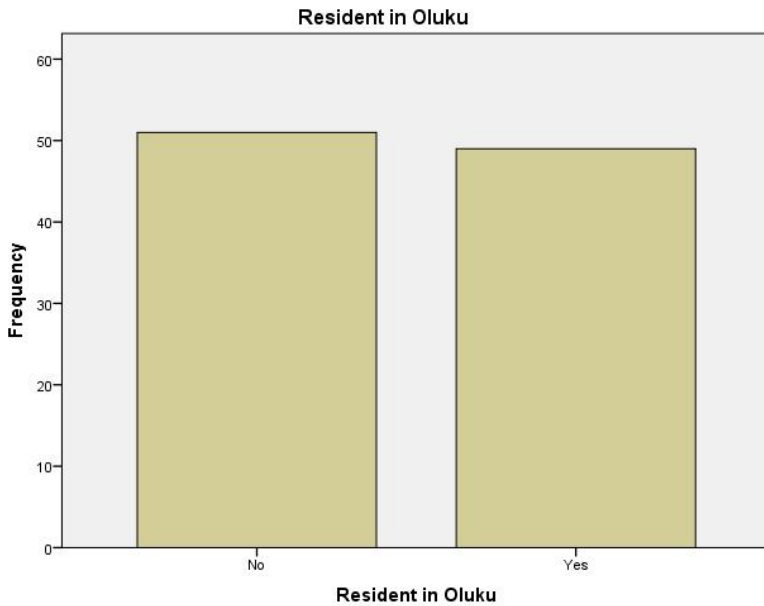


Table 4: Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
African Traditional Religion	25	25.0
Islam	37	37.0
Christianity	38	38.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 4 shows the religion of respondents that participated in the survey, which consists of Christians, Islamic and African Traditional religion. From the table, it was observed that 38% of the respondents are into Christianity religion, 37% are Islam and 25 are African Traditional Religion.

Below is the bar chart showing the religion of respondents.

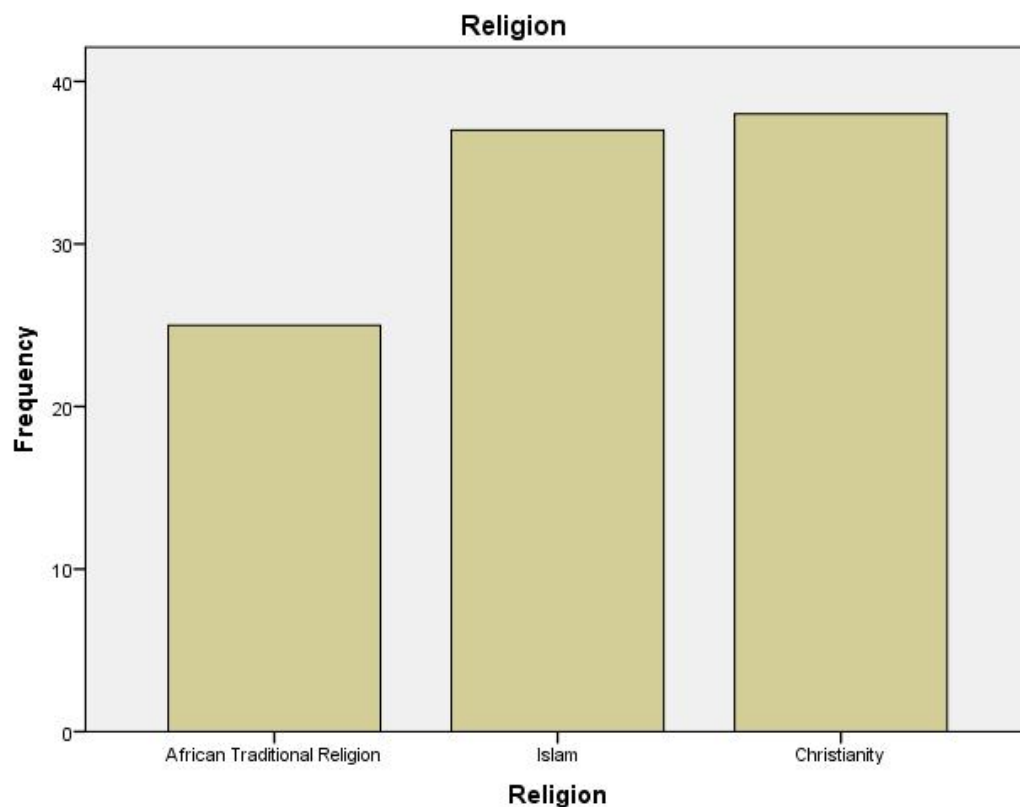


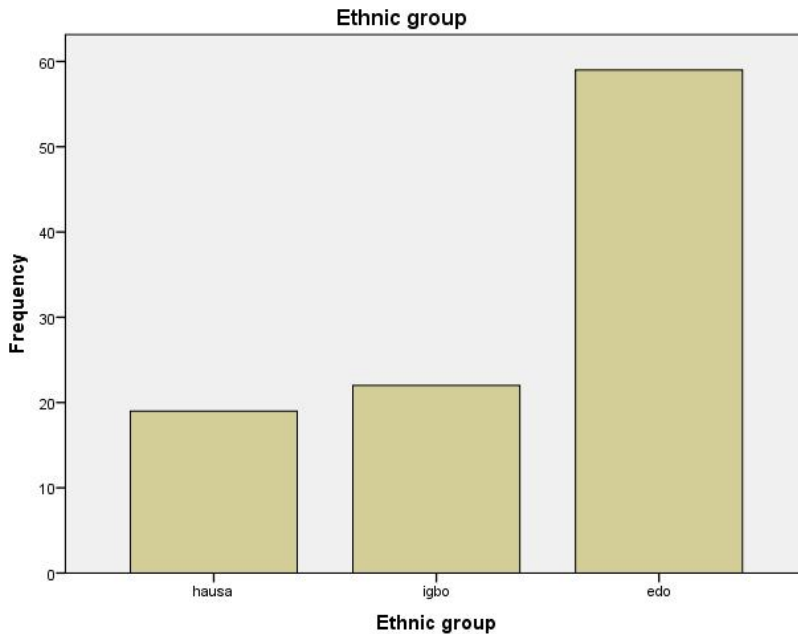
Table 5: Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage
Hausa	19	19.0
Igbo	22	22.0
Edo	59	59.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: field survey, 2024

Table 5 shows the ethnicity of respondents that participated in the survey. According to the table majority of the respondents that took the test are Edo ethnic group with a percentage of 59% while 22% are Igbos and 19% are Hausa’.

Below is a bar chart showing the ethnicity of respondents.



Research Question 1: What are social control mechanisms?

Table: 6: Examines the meaning of social control mechanism

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Do you know what social control mechanism mean?	25(25%)	27(27%)	24(24%)	24(24%)
2.	Social control mechanism is a method that involves the use of rules, values, norms and regulation to enforce positive behaviours and to punish negative behaviour in the society.	25(25%)	28(28%)	22(22%)	25(25%)
3.	Do you agree that social control mechanism primarily regulate behaviour within Oluku community?	23(23%)	28(28%)	21(21%)	28(28%)

4.	Would you say that family, community vigilante, educational institutions, mass-media, civil society, government and the court of law in Nigeria has been a social control mechanism in Oluku community?	27(27%)	27(27%)	21(21%)	25(25%)
5.	Social control mechanisms are essential for maintaining order and stability in communities.	25(25%)	27(27%)	28(28%)	20(20%)

Source: field survey, 2024

Table 6 above represents the meaning of social control mechanism according to the various respondents that participated in the survey. According to the table, it was observed that 25(25%) and 27(27%) knows what social control mechanism mean, while 24(24%) and 24(24%) disagree respectively.

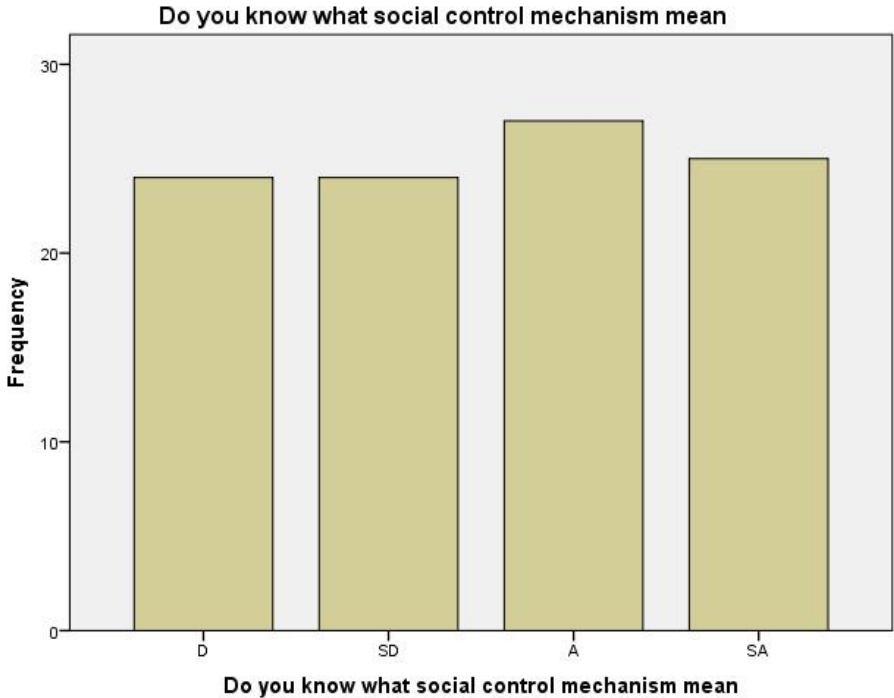
Again, 25(25%) and 28(28%) of the total respondents agreed that social control mechanism is a method that involves the use of rules, values, norms and regulation to enforce positive behaviours and to punish negative behaviour in the society. While 22(22%) and 25(25%) disagreed respectively.

Thirdly, it was observed from the analysis of the respondents that 23(23%) and 28(28%) agreed that social control mechanism primarily regulate behaviour within Oluku community, meanwhile 21(21%) and 28 (28%) disagreed.

Also, it was observed from the analysis of the respondents that 27(27%) and 27(27%) accepted the facts that family, community vigilante, educational institutions, mass-media, civil society, government and the court of law in Nigeria has been a social control mechanism in Oluku community, while 21(21%) and 25(25%) disagreed respectively.

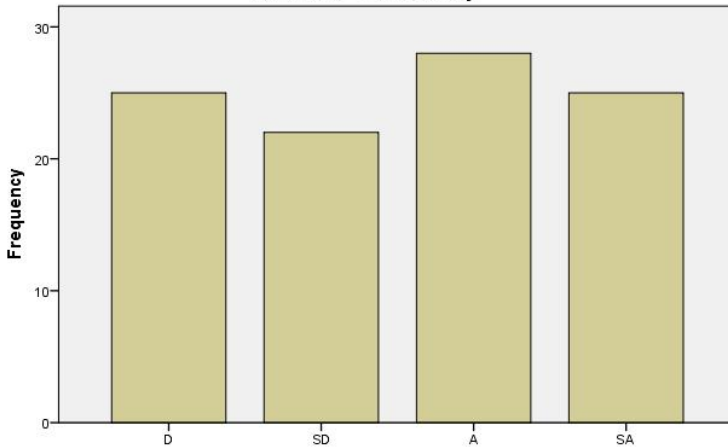
Lastly, 25(25%) and 27(27%) of the total respondents that took the test agree that social control mechanisms are essential for maintaining order and stability in communities. While 28(28%) and 20(20%) disagreed respectively.

Below is a bar chart showing the responses to the questions.



Meaning of social control mechanism

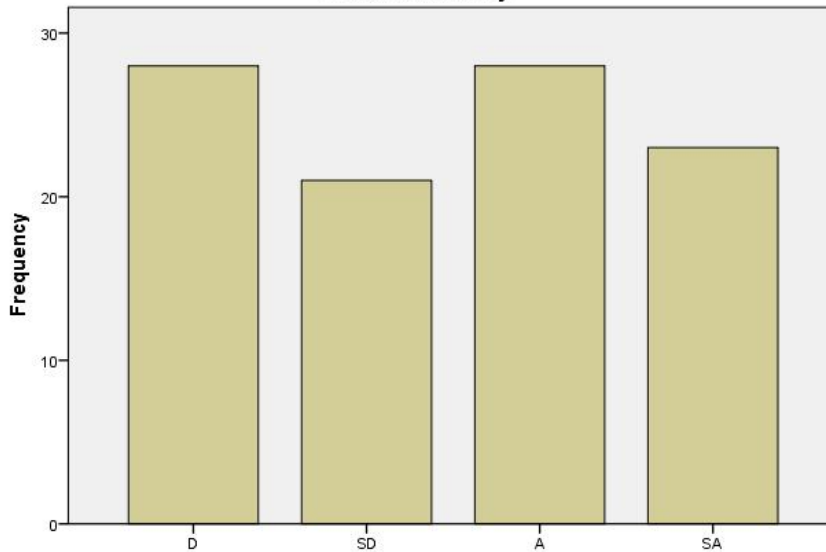
Social control mechanism is a method that involves the use of rules, values, norms and regulation to enforce positive behaviours and to punish negative behaviour in the society



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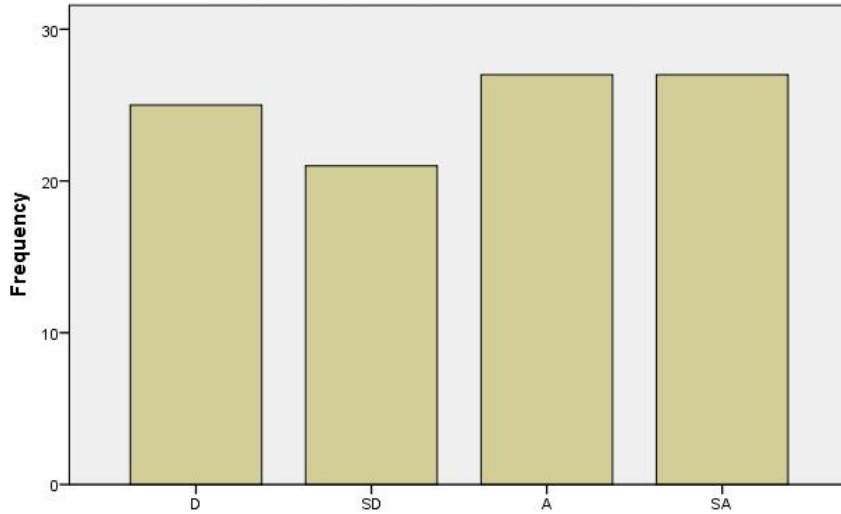
Do you agree that social control mechanism primarily regulate behaviour within Oluku community



Do you agree that social control mechanism primarily regulate behaviour within Oluku community

Social control mechanism primarily regulate behavior within Oluku community

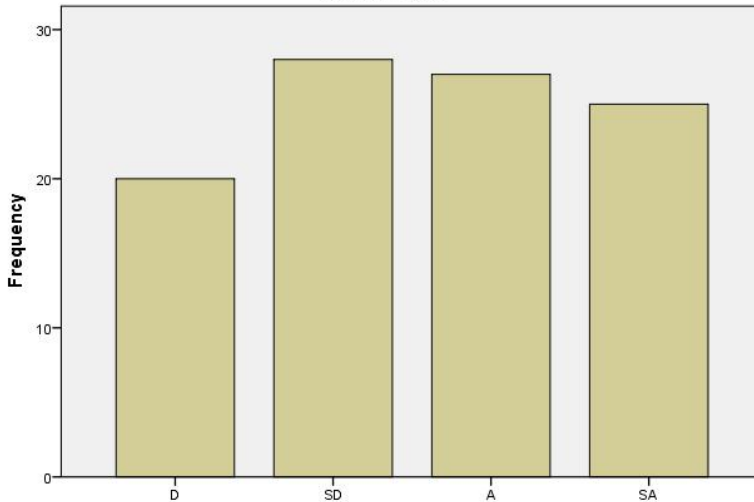
Would you say that family, community vigilante, educational institutions, mass-media, civil society, government and the court of law in Nigeria has been a social control mechanism in Oluku community



Would you say that family, community vigilante, educational institutions, mass-media, civil society, government and the court of law in Nigeria has been a social control mechanism in Oluku community

Family, community, vigilante, educational institutions, mass-media, civil society, government and the court of law in Nigeria has been a social control mechanism in Oluku community

Social control mechanisms are essential for maintaining order and stability in communities



Social control mechanisms are essential for maintaining order and stability in communities

Social control Mechanisms are essential for maintaining order and stability in communities

Research Question 2: How effective are the social control mechanism?

Table 7: Determining the effectiveness of social control mechanism

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Are there instances where social control mechanism fails to prevent antisocial behaviour effectively?	17(17%)	30(30%)	20(20%)	33(33%)
2.	Has the school lectures, radio/television programs, community vigilante, parental care, police services and court services in Edo State, effectively reduced social vices in Oluku community?	20(20%)	31(31%)	19(19%)	30(30%)
3.	Do you believe that individuals generally adhere to social control mechanism because of perceived effectiveness?	31(31%)	26(26%)	26(26%)	17(17%)
4.	There is a strong social bonds, trust and cooperation among members, people living in Oluku community in relation to community laws, norms and values.	10(10%)	30(30%)	36(36%)	24(24%)
5.	There has been an increase in the respect for authority among youths in Oluku community.	23(23%)	11(11%)	6(6%)	60(60%)

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

From the table above, 17(17%) and 30(30%) of the total respondents who took the test agreed that there are instances where social control mechanisms failed to prevent antisocial behaviour effectively, while 20(20%) and 33(33%) disagreed respectively.

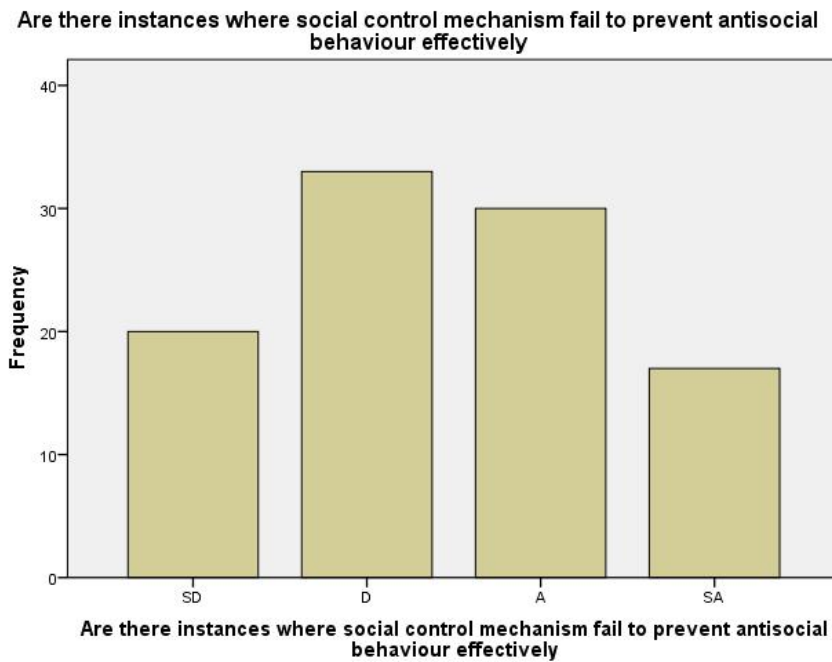
Secondly, it was observed from the analysis of the respondents that 20(20%) and 31(31%) of the total respondents agreed that school lectures, radio/television programs, community vigilante, parental care, police services and court services in Edo State, effectively reduced social vices in Oluku community, while 19(19%) and 30(30%) disagreed respectively.

Again, 31(31%) and 26(26%) believed that individuals generally adhere to social control mechanisms because of perceived effectiveness, while 26(26%) and 17(17%) do not believe.

Fourthly, 10(10%) and 30(30%) of the total respondents agreed that there is a strong social bonds, trust and cooperation among members, people living in Oluku community in relation to community laws, norms and values. While 36(36%) and 24(24%) disagreed respectively.

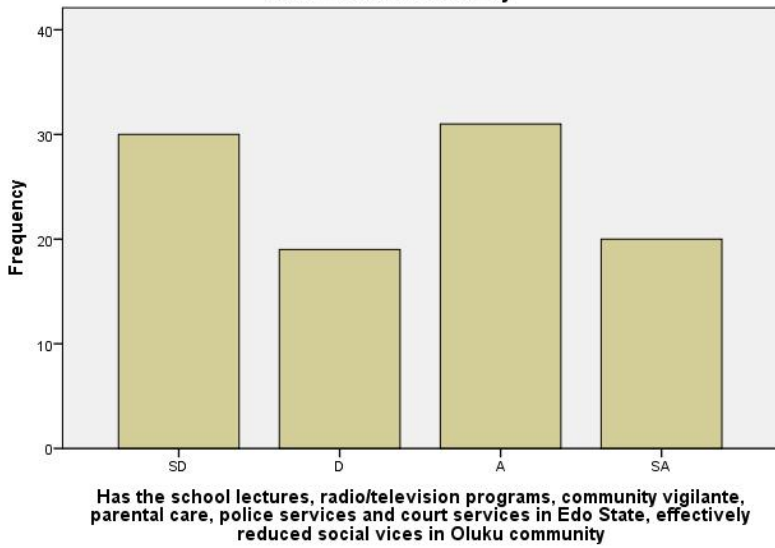
Lastly, 23(23%) and 11(11%) of the total respondents agreed with the opinion that there has been an increase in the respect for authority among youths in Oluku community. While 6(6%) and 60(60%) disagreed respectively.

Below is a bar chart showing responses to the questions.



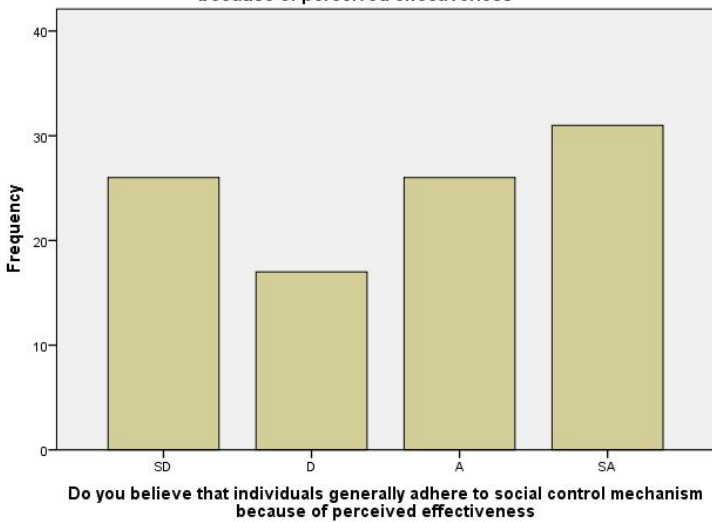
Instances where social control mechanism fail to prevent antisocial behavior effectively

Has the school lectures, radio/television programs, community vigilante, parental care, police services and court services in Edo State, effectively reduced social vices in Oluku community



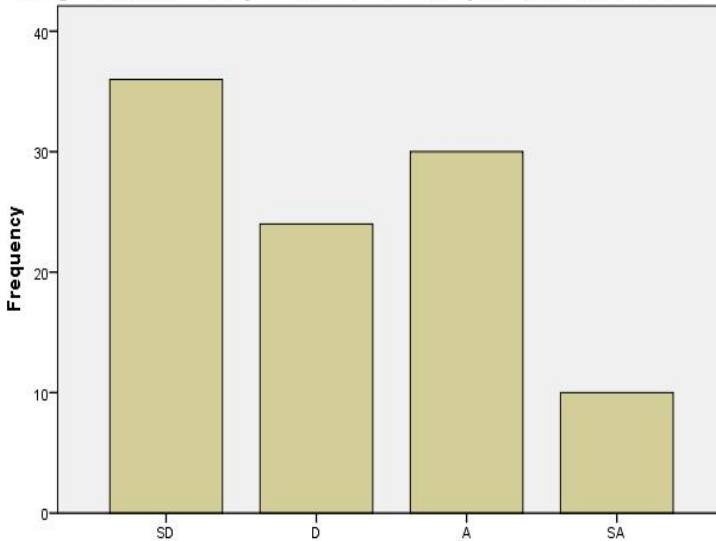
School lectures, radio/television programs, community vigilante, parental care, police services and court services in edo state, effectively reduced social vices in Oluku Community

Do you believe that individuals generally adhere to social control mechanism because of perceived effectiveness



Individuals generally adhere to social control mechanism because of perceived effectiveness

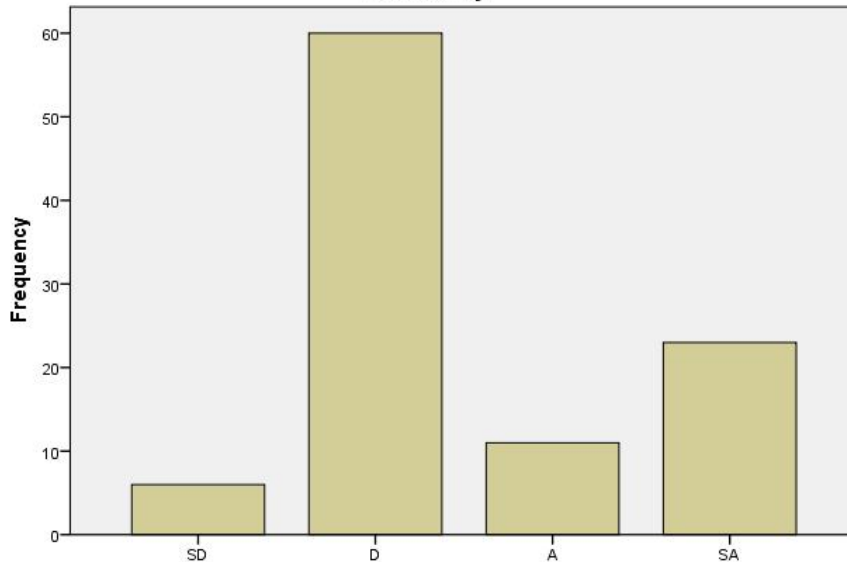
There is a strong social bonds, trust and cooperation among members, people living in Oluku community in relation to community laws, norms and values.



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There is a strong social bonds, trust and cooperation among members, people, living in Oluku community in relation to community laws and values.

There has been an increase in the respect for authority among youths in Oluku community



There has been an increase in the respect for authority among youths in Oluku community

Increase in the respect for authority among youth in Oluku Community

Research Question 3: What are the underlying causes of social vices among youths?

Table 8: Underlying the causes of social vices among youths

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Have you been a victim of social vices?	20(20%)	25(25%)	23(23%)	32(32%)
2.	Do you agree that lack of access to quality education contributes to social vices among youths?	14(14%)	28(28%)	31(31%)	27(27%)
3.	Do you agree that unemployment is a major underlying cause of social vices among youths?	31(31%)	25(25%)	22(22%)	22(22%)
4.	Would you say family breakdown and lack of parental guidance plays a role in the emergence of social vices among youths?	17(17%)	27(27%)	30(30%)	26(26%)
5.	Do you agree that societal pressure & unrealistic expectations contribute to the prevalence of social vices among youths?	17(17%)	26(26%)	28(28%)	29(29%)
6.	Will good governance and equitable resource allocation help to reduce or stop social vices among youths?	24(24%)	24(24%)	31(31%)	21(21%)

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 8 above underlined the causes of social vices among youths with 20(20%) and 25(25%) of the total respondents agreeing that they have been a victim of social vices while 23(23%) and 32(32%) disagreed respectively.

Secondly, 14(14%) and 28(28%) agreed that lack of access to quality education contributes to social vices among youths, while 31(31%) and 22(22%) disagreed respectively.

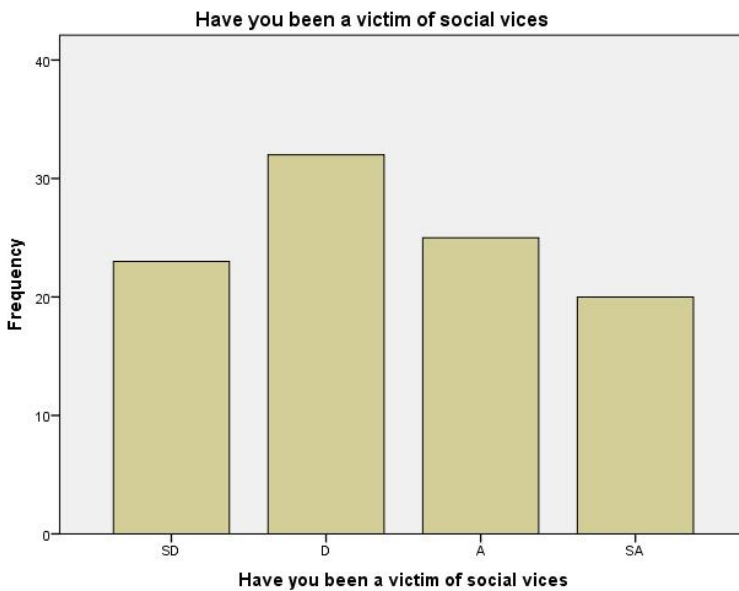
Thirdly, 31(31%) and 25(25%) agreed that unemployment is a major underlying cause of social vices among youths. While 22(22%) and 22(22%) disagreed respectively.

Also, it was observed from the analysis of the respondents that 17(17%) and 27(27%) agreed that family breakdown and lack of parental guidance plays a role in the emergence of social vices among youths, while 30(30%) and 26(26%) disagreed respectively.

Again, 17(17%) and 26(26%) of the total respondents agreed that societal pressure & unrealistic expectations contribute to the prevalence of social vices among youths, while 28(28%) and 29(29%) disagreed respectively.

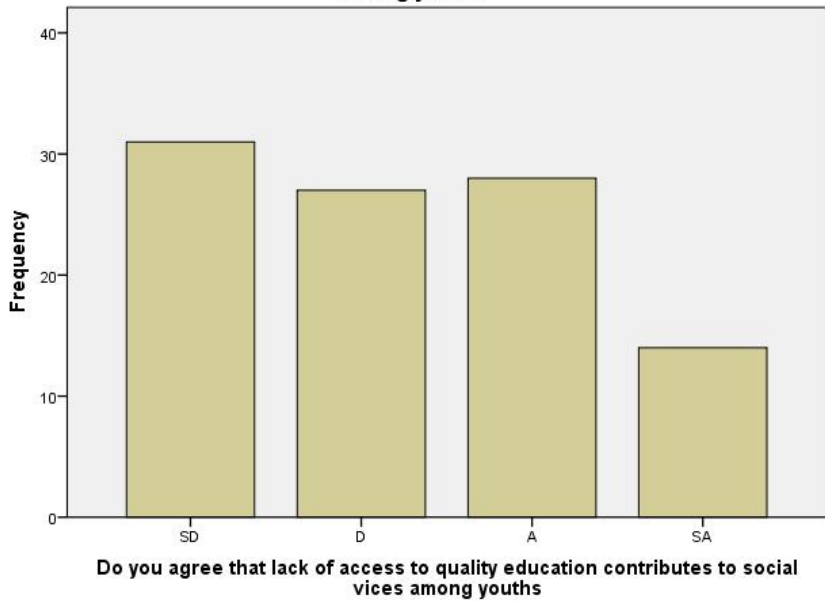
Lastly, it was observed from the analysis of the respondents that 24(24%) and 24(24%) of the total respondents agreed that good governance and equitable resource allocation helps to reduce or stop social vices among youths, while 31(31%) and 21(21%) disagreed respectively.

Below is a bar chart showing responses to the questions.



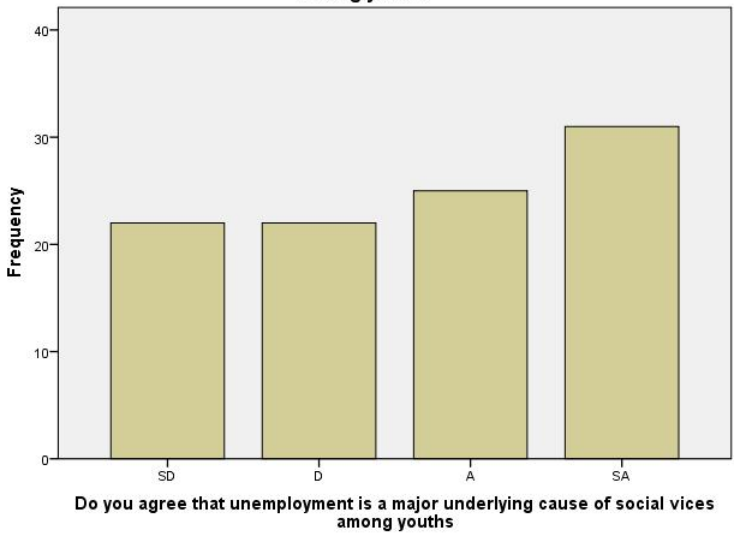
Victims of social vices

Do you agree that lack of access to quality education contributes to social vices among youths



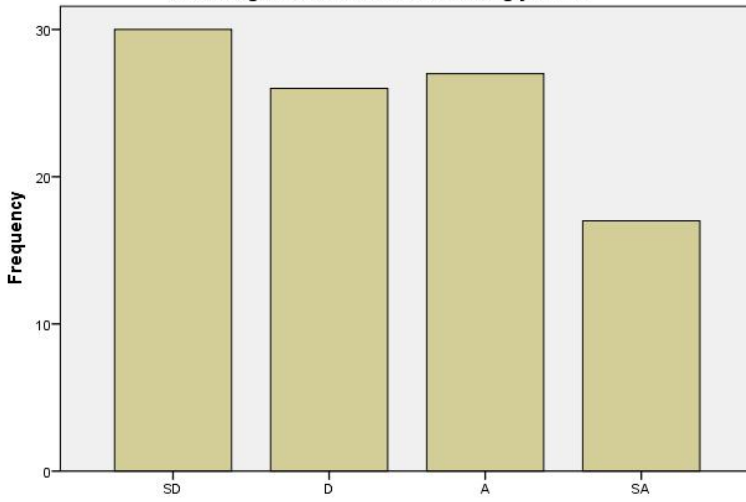
Lack of access to quality education contributes to social vices among youths

Do you agree that unemployment is a major underlying cause of social vices among youths



Unemployment is a major underlying cause of social vices among youth

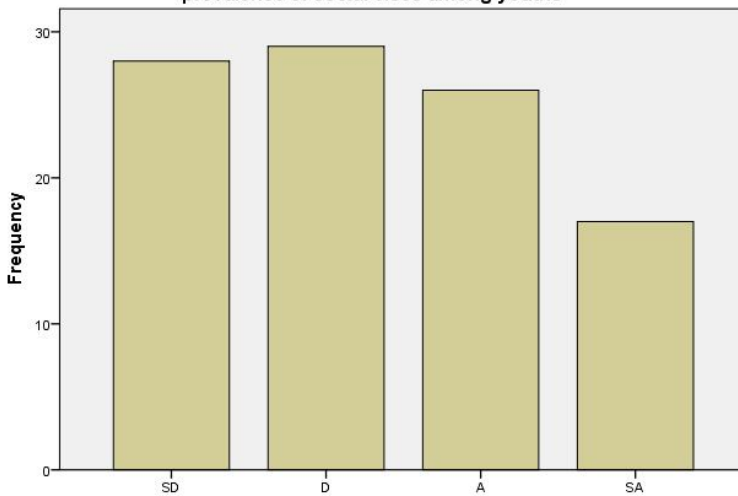
Would you say family breakdown and lack of parental guidance plays a role in the emergence of social vices among youths



Would you say family breakdown and lack of parental guidance plays a role in the emergence of social vices among youths

Family breakdown and lack of parental guidance plays a role in the emergence of social vices among youths

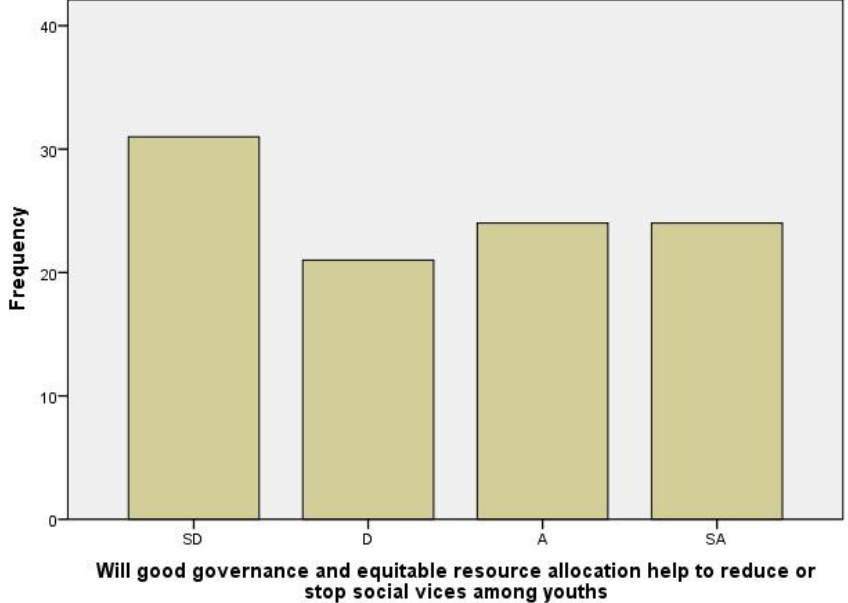
Do you agree that societal pressure & unrealistic expectations contribute to the prevalence of social vices among youths



Do you agree that societal pressure & unrealistic expectations contribute to the prevalence of social vices among youths

Societal pressure and unrealistic expectations contribute to the prevalence of social vices among youths

Will good governance and equitable resource allocation help to reduce or stop social vices among youths



Good governance and equitable resources allocation help to reduce or stop social vices among youths

Discussion of Findings

From the findings, it was discovered that the meaning of social control mechanism is well known and recognized. Also, majority of the respondents support the phenomenon that social control mechanism is a method that involves the use of rules, values, norms and regulation to enforce positive behaviours and to punish negative behaviours in the society, and need to be put into practices. This is in accordance with Diana kendall (2020), which elaborates on social control as a structured approach adopted by social groups to reinforce conformity to established norms and to discourage deviant behaviours. A wealth of scholarly literature has explored the intricate relationship between social control mechanisms and youth deviance, shedding light on various theoretical frameworks and practical interventions.

It was also discovered from the finding that there is a strong social bonds, trust and cooperation among members, people living in Oluku community in relation to community laws, norms and values. Also, school lectures, radio/television programs, community vigilante, parental care, police services and court services in Edo State, effectively reduced social vices in Oluku community. In response to these challenges, the concept of social control mechanisms has gained significant attention as a means to address and correct such behaviors among young individuals. This research study delved into social control mechanisms utilized in Oluku community to tackle societal vices among youths, and evaluated their effectiveness, and analyzed the underlying causes of these social vices. This is in agreement with Odiase (2017) and Aluede et al. (2019) identified the importance of effective law enforcement agencies in reducing social vices among youths. However, they also highlighted the need for a balanced approach that combines punishment with rehabilitation programs to address the root causes of deviance. In Nigeria, the rule of law strengthens the rights of each citizen and helps to prosecute offenders who are convicted by law. Adigun (2019) and Okorie (2018), explains that the rule of law in Nigeria refers to the principle that all individuals, regardless of their status or position, are subjected to the law, and legal procedures must be followed in investigating and prosecuting alleged criminal behaviours. Also, Egbon, Usiefesobi, & Adesanmi (2015) and Uzochukwu (2020) emphasized the impact of positive peer associations and quality education in deterring social vices among youths. Peer mentoring programs, extracurricular activities, and inclusive educational environments have shown promise in preventing deviant behaviours by fostering strong social bonds. Additionally, Okoh and Akinyemi (2018) conducted a qualitative study to uncover the root causes of social vices among youths in Nigerian communities, offering valuable insights into the complex dynamics at play. It was also discovered that social control

mechanisms are essential for maintaining order and stability in communities, as majority of the respondents bided for the opinion.

Lastly, it was discovered from the finding, that some of the respondents have been victims of social vices and agreed that lack of access to quality education contributes to social vices among youths. In other words, family breakdown and lack of parental guidance plays a role in the emergence of social vices among youths, societal pressure & unrealistic expectations contribute to the prevalence of social vices among youths. This aligns with Abdulhafis Adeyinka Hassan and Habibat Bolanle Abdulkareem (2023), which observed that various social vices plague society, and not limited to prostitution, indecent dressing, theft, cultism, pickpocketing, drug abuse, exam malpractice, hooliganism, violence, gambling, smoking, rape, and illicit substance abuse. But corroborate with Sekh Nazimul Islam et al (2023), which explains that the escalation of social vices can be attributed to factors such as poverty, corruption, unemployment, inappropriate role models, broken families, juvenile delinquency, negative peer influence, ineffective governance, quick success syndrome, lack of marital counselling and societal trends. Angelica Ortillo (2018), posit that peer pressure is the major cause of youth involvement in social vices, thus, making students spend more time with their friends in school or at home. Due to their weak nature and tender age, they can easily be influenced. Children have a high level of curiosity to learn, to have fun and practice new things, such as involving in violent shooting by unknown assailants, resulting in fatalities, sexual assaults among high school students, burglary theft, and clashes between rival cult groups, leading to casualties. Pre-marital relationships have contributed to the breakdown of family structures and resulting in single parenthood, moral decay, abortions, and fractured households.

Additionally, Hassan Mohammadi Nevisi (2022), opines that the rise in juvenile delinquency and youth crime is a clear indication of the breakdown in family relationships, leading to a loss of unity within the family unit. When the bonds between family members deteriorate, the crucial role of the family in imparting social norms and values to children is compromised. Without a foundation of love and support in the home, teenagers are at risk of facing challenges in their mental, emotional, and social development. The absence of affection and stability within the family dynamics can contribute to the emergence of criminal behavior in young individuals. Whenever the emotional and moral foundation of the family is weakened, it affects the family order (divorce). Family disputes arising from inheritance conflicts have led to the unlawful disposal of family assets.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The research investigates social control mechanisms in correcting social vices among youths in Oluku community, Ovia North East local government area of Edo State, Nigeria. The study explores three research questions: the understanding of social control mechanisms, their effectiveness, and the underlying causes of social vices among youths. Findings indicate a general awareness of social control mechanisms, with emphasis on their significance in maintaining order. However, challenges persist, including instances where social control mechanisms fail, pointing to underlying issues like unemployment and family breakdown.

5.2 Conclusion

Social vices among youths in Oluku community require a multi-faceted approach, which includes education, employment, family support, good governance and community engagement. While there is a notable awareness of social control mechanisms, their effectiveness is hindered by various challenges, including unemployment, family breakdown, and inadequate governance. By implementing the recommendations outlined below, stakeholders can work together to create a supportive environment that nurtures positive youth development and reduces the prevalence of social vices. Through collective action and sustained efforts, Oluku Community can empower its youths to become productive members of the society, contributing to the overall well-being and prosperity of the community.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made to address the challenges identified and enhance the effectiveness of social control mechanisms in correcting social vices among youths in Oluku Community, Edo State.

1. **Overhauling Social Control Mechanisms:** Collaboration among stakeholders to establish vigilante groups, organize community forums, and implement service programs.
2. **Education and Awareness:** Integrating values into education, conducting workshops, and utilizing mass media to promote positive behavior.
3. **Employment Opportunities:** Collaborating with stakeholders to create job opportunities, vocational training, and entrepreneurship promotion.
4. **Family Support and Guidance:** Providing family counseling, strengthening parental guidance, and fostering positive peer associations.
5. **Policy and Governance:** Advocating for policy reforms, constitutional amendments, and enhancing law enforcement capacity.

Suggestions for Further Studies

Moving forward, there are several areas for future research on social control mechanisms in correcting social vices among youths. One important area is the role of technology in social control, such as the use of social media to monitor and regulate online behaviors among youths. Additionally, more research is needed on the effectiveness of restorative justice approaches in addressing social vices, as well as the impact of socioeconomic factors on the success of social control measures. In conclusion, social control mechanisms play a vital role in correcting social

vices among youths, by utilizing a combination of legal sanctions, informal social controls, and socialization. Societies can promote positive behaviors and deter negative ones among the younger generations. While social control mechanisms are not without their limitations, research suggests that they can be effective in reducing social vices and promoting social order. Further research is needed to explore the role of technology and socioeconomic factors in shaping the effectiveness of social control mechanisms in the future.

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RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE,
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, NIGERIA.**

SOCIAL CONTROL MECHANISM IN CORRECTING SOCIAL VICES AMONG YOUTHS IN OLUKU COMMUNITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA.

Dear respondent,

My name is Okosun Idemudia Emmanuel, a student of the department of Sociology and Anthropology, from the faculty of social sciences, University of Benin. I am embarking on a research study on “social control mechanisms in correcting social vices among youths in Oluku Community”, Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. Every response gotten in the course of this research will be handled with confidentiality.

SECTION A - Social Demographic Data

Instruction: *Kindly tick () the option appropriate to you in the spaces provided*

Age: 18 -25 () 26 – 35 () 36 – 45 () 46 and above ()

Sex: Male () Female () **Resident in Oluku:** Yes () No ()

Religion: Christianity () Islam () African Traditional Religion () others specify _____

Ethnic group _____

SECTION B *Key to ensure the questionnaire*

SA = Strongly Agreed, A = Agreed, SD = Strongly Disagree, D = Disagree,

Research Question 1

What are social control mechanism?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Do you know what social control mechanism mean?				
	<i>Social control mechanism is a method that involves the use of rules, values, norms and regulation to enforce positive behaviours and to punish negative behaviour in the society.</i>				
2.	Do you agree that social control mechanism primarily regulate behaviour within Oluku community?				
3.	Would you say that family, community vigilante, educational institutions, mass-media, civil society, government and the court of law in Nigeria has been a social control mechanism				

	in Oluku community?				
4.	Social control mechanisms are essential for maintaining order and stability in communities.				

Research Question 2

How effective are the social control mechanism?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Are there instances where social control mechanism fail to prevent antisocial behaviour effectively?				
2.	Has the school lectures, radio/television programs, community vigilante, parental care, police services and court services in Edo State, effectively reduced social vices in Oluku community?				
3.	Do you believe that individuals generally adhere to social control mechanism because of perceived effectiveness?				
4.	There is a strong social bonds, trust and cooperation among members, people living in Oluku community in relation to community laws, norms and values.				
5.	There has been an increase in the respect for authority among youths in Oluku community.				

Research Question 3

What are the underlying causes of social vices among youths?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Have you been a victim of social vices?				
2.	Do you agree that lack of access to quality education contributes to social vices among youths?				
3.	Do you agree that unemployment is a major underlying cause of social vices among youths?				

4.	Would you say family breakdown and lack of parental guidance plays a role in the emergence of social vices among youths?				
5.	Do you agree that societal pressure & unrealistic expectations contribute to the prevalence of social vices among youths?				
6	Will good governance and equitable resource allocation help to reduce or stop social vices among youths?				

Thank you for your participation in this questionnaire. Your responses will remain confidential and will be used for research purposes only.