

Sociodemographic Background Predisposing Youths into Gang Violence in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The historical and constitutional responsibility of youths in any country cannot be underrated because youth remain one of the vital weapons for accelerating and harmonizing societal orderliness. Evidence gathered from extant publication shows that youth formed the larger percentage of people apprehended for violence activities in most correctional facilities in the world. In Nigeria, extant publications were reviewed while Anomie and rational choice theories were adopted for the study. Mixed methods were adopted for collections of data from the inmates in the Lagos correctional facility approved for the study. 400 hundred copied of structured questionnaires in the three approved corrections in Lagos. But 347 of the questionnaires were retrieved for the quantitative analysis while 36 out of 40 interviews conducted were found useful using In-depth interview for the inmates while key informant interviews were used for collection of verbal data from the member of the Nigeria Police Force, Correctional Officers, market men/women and community elders in Lagos. The concluded that gender positioning ($t=0.47$), family background ($t=0.83$) and marital status ($t=0.14$) significantly predisposed youths into violent activities compared with employment ($t= 816$), age ($t=123$) and level of education ($t=482$). In addition, the qualitative data indicated that immaturity and poor parental background influence youth gang violence. The social interventionist should encourage the family, youths and community members to get involved in decision making, adequate youth development programme should be encouraged and youth should develop act of self-creativity and innovation toward promoting self-image in Nigeria

KEYWORDS

Sociodemographic; background; predisposing; gang; violence;

INTRODUCTION

Globally the impact of youth in developmental activities cannot be underrated because youth all over the world are labelled as the catalyst for achieving positive manpower development if open to opportunities. But once they (youths) are denied the opportunity to showcase their hidden talent or potential skills they easily adapt subcultural activities that can easily negate the generally accepted societal norms and values leading to gang formation. Ajufo (2013) supported the claim and laments on the fact that young people in Africa have the capacity to significantly contribute to economic growth by entering the labour force. Additionally, young people have the potential to be a source of creativity that helps accomplish good governance and high-quality political reforms. In addition, World Bank Reports (2013), explains that over 200 million Africans between the ages of 15 and 24 account for 40% of the workforce and over 20% of the continent's population, but 60 percent of them are unemployed. The situational possibilities for such adolescents, however, may negate the

perspective of socioeconomic and political progress when such a huge percentage of the youth population is not gainfully employed. More so given that the World Bank Reports (2013) asserts that many people in Sub-Saharan Africa between the ages of 15 and 24 engage in self-employment or work in the informal and agricultural sectors in order to escape poverty and social vices.

The rate at which the youth are becoming gang member that carried out violent activities has gathered and gained it momentum among mankind in the 21st century which poses as threat to human-economic development and increase the level of awareness/concerns of scholars in several dimension. Youth gang violence is a widespread social menace that affects nation building and economic development (CDC, 2015; GREAT, 2014; Gottfredson, 2017; Khan and Tipu, 2016; Central Bank of Nigeria, 2011; Esiri, 2016; Haque and Munruzzaman, 2020) and undermines social cohesion among members of the public (Consulting and Bright, 2016; World Health Organization reports, 2020). The preceding view of WHO explains that the prevalence of youth involvement in gang violent activities has gained its momentum across the world, creating fear, tension, and trauma in both developing and developed countries. Accordingly, the WHO (2020) reports reveal that youth involvement in gang violence is a global health problem, which involves bullying, physical fight, assault (sexual or physical) and homicide. The WHO further reports that throughout the world, 200,000 cases of homicide occur among youths between the ages of 10 to 29 years yearly, resulting homicide the fourth among several causal factors of death among the specified ages of 10 to 29 years in the world

The trending nature of youth gang violence is alarming and imposes serious threats to human and societal development socially, politically, psychologically, and educationally. Without adequate knowledge of the socio-demographic characteristics that propel youths to engage in violent activities, any measures deployed or policies adopted may prove abortive and inadequate to effectively address the menace. While the socio-economic characteristics are unknown, the measure adopted to combat the menace may not be effectively applicable to youths of all ages, employment status, marital status, educational qualification economic and social background. Therefore, without proper knowledge of the variance in the socio-economic characteristics of youths involved in gang violence, adopted intervention programmes may not be effective. It is on this premise that the research is set to identify socio-demographic characteristics that propel youth to gang violent activities in Lagos State, Nigeria

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study is anchored on the use of rational choice theory by James Sunday Coleman and strain theory by Robert King Merton. According to Coleman rational choice theory is an extension of exchange theory by Herbert George Mead. The fundamental assumption of rational choice theory is that every human being is a rational calculator which simply implies that every behaviour demonstrated by individual person is or are product of benefits and punishment associated with behaviour. He further explains that every action demonstrated by individual person were calculated before preference of choice follows. To him, once the benefit associated with deviant behaviour outweigh the punishment, then the individual choice will be to follow deviancy at all time but once the punishment outweighs the benefits the choice of such individual will be to retrack away from carrying out such deviant activities. (Ritzer, 2016; Haralambos & Holborn, 2016) In relation to the inquiry, it is obvious that most youths that joined gang violent activities calculated the benefits and punishment associated with becoming a violent gang member. The enjoy been part of the gang those carryout violent activities because of the gain or benefits derived from the gang but if the

punishment or state authority sanction were put in place and followed to the later, then most youth that join gang violent members will desist from becoming a member of violent gangs. The rational choice theory is a micro theory that stand to explain deviant or criminal activities or actions from individual perspectives ignoring how other factors such as family failure, institutional failure and peer pressure can increase youth involvement in gang violent actions. This is the reason for adopting strain theory by Robert King Merton to explain other factors which tends to cover the lapses derived from the application of rational choice theory. Strain theory by Robert King Merton is an extension of structural functionalist theory. Merton's postulate was centred on latency nature derived from AGIL (Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration and Latency) Merton's argued that crime or delinquent increases because of the failure on the part of the political institution that lay down legitimate means of making the culturally accepted goals (Haralambos & Holborn, 2016) He further stressed that the elites are the major reason for increase in the youth involvement in violent activities because, the elite lay down legitimate means (hard work, dedication, commitment, training/education etc) of making culturally accepted goals (success). This lay down rules are expected to be carried out by the citizens but the same elite failed from distributing the resources of the societal or states member equally to the citizens which result to five mode of adaptation which equally pave ways for negative innovation of crime or delinquent actions. In relation to this research paper, it is obvious that the rate at which youth involved in gang violent action is rooted to the failure of the Nigerian government to create enabling environment for the Nigerian youths to display and discover their hidden potentials or skills. Extant literature on predictors of gang violence and crimes perpetrated by the youths in Nigeria shows that there is a great gap in the study of factors that propel youths into gang activities. The literature reviewed from CLEEN Foundation (2013); ILO Reports (2017); United Nation Reports (2015) and Adebakin (2016), among others, concentrated on the nature of crime, prevalence of criminality, pattern and causes of gang violence among youths in the State. In these studies, and reports, predisposing characteristics that propel youths to indulge in gang violence activities in Lagos State were not taken into cognizance. National Bureau of Statistics (2017) reports that the number of unemployed people in Nigeria between 2000 and 2016 was 31.1 percent in 2000, 13.6 percent in 2001, 12.6 percent in 2002, 14.8 percent in 2003, 13.4 percent in 2004, 11.9 percent in 2005, 13.7 percent in 2006, 14.6 percent in 2007 and 14.9 percent in 2008, 19.7 percent in 2009, 21.1 percent in 2010, and 23.90 percent in 2011. Furthermore, according to figures from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2012, 54% of Nigerian youth were unemployed. The 2016 National Baseline Youth Survey Report reflects this estimation. According to the data, the jobless rate for women was 51.9 percent, compared to 48.1 percent for men. According to data obtained from Nigerian unemployment statistics, rising young unemployment rates have a detrimental impact on the nation's ability to thrive. It is true that young people, regardless of their degree of intellectual capacity, can quickly turn to other ways of success without considering the long-term repercussions connected with criminal sanctions. There are various issues with violent crime-related matters in Nigeria,

According to Ogunmefun (2020), which was also supported by Ajaegbu (2012). These issues were made worse by the high rate of unemployment and other economic hardships that drive young people to engage in antisocial behavior. Due to the high percentage of unemployment in Nigeria, for instance, a significant portion of those who engage in illegal or violent behavior are graduates from a variety of disciplines. As opposed to this, Soh (2012) argues that all types of people engage in illegal behavior, including those who bask in luxury and do so in order to further their own interests. It may be more plausible that other aspects of the stress of trying to make a living mitigate the link between unemployment and

aggression. As an illustration, Lamas and Hoffman (2010) pointed out that unemployment can cause boredom and depression, which are linked to substance addiction and violent behavior. Particularly, the kind of social connection made possible by employment opportunities can be crucial. According to research, there is a direct link between family financial hardship and societal crime. This is due to the correlation between criminal behavior and economic difficulties like unemployment, poverty, river erosion, a low standard of living, and environmental hazards. The strain theory of criminology could be used to illustrate how the economic crisis and crime are related. This is due to the fact that lower-class people frequently suffer strain, which is defined as being caused by a mismatch between their objectives and available options for accomplishing those objectives (Jang and Agnew, 2015; Omac-Sonner et al., 2017).

RESEARCH METHODS

This study was conducted in three major correctional facilities in Lagos state namely, the medium correctional facility for male inmates at Ikoyi, the male correctional facility at Kirikiri and the female correctional facility at Kirikiri. The aim of the study is to determine which of the sociodemographic characteristics propelled youth into joining violent gang member in Lagos states. Out of the five correctional facilities three of the correctional facilities were approved by the Lagos State Correctional Services situated at Alagbon in Lagos for the empirical study. Thus, Mixed method was adopted for the study (quantitative and qualitative) with the use of nonexperimental research design to carry out the study. As at 2020, the records or statistical population of the inmates in the five correctional facilities with their initial capacity, current holding and variance were demonstrated.

Table 1. The table below shows all the Correctional Facilities in Lagos State with initial capacity, current holding and variance

| S/N | Names of the Correctional Institutions in Lagos State | Initial Capacity | Current Holding | Variance |
|-----|---|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | Ikoyi Correctional Facility (Male Medium Prison) | 800 | 3,113 | 2,313 |
| 2 | Female Medium Correctional Facility at Kirikiri | 211 | 318 | 107 |
| 3 | Kirikiri Correctional Facility (Male Medium Prison) | 1,700 | 3,833 | 2,133 |
| 4 | Kirikiri Correctional Facility (Maximum Prison) | 1,056 | 1,645 | 589 |
| 5 | Badagry Medium Prison | 320 | 298 | -22 |

Source— Official Population Records of Inmates in Correctional Facilities in Lagos, 2020

The table below shows the three major approved correctional facility that the research was carried out which formed the point of inclusion criteria while the remaining two correctional facilities were excluded from the interview slated among the inmates selected purposely for the inquiry.

The second stage is centred on the negotiation and approval of the three correctional facilities by the Lagos State Correctional Service

Table 2. The table shows the three approved Correctional Facilities in Lagos

| S/N | Names of the Correctional Institutions selected for the inquiry | Initial Holdings | Current Holdings | Variance |
|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1 | Ikoyi Correctional Facility (Male Medium Prison) | 800 | 3,113 | 2,313 |
| 2 | Female Medium Correctional Facility at Kirikiri | 211 | 318 | 107 |
| 3 | Kirikiri Correctional Facility (Medium Prison) | 1,700 | 3,833 | 2,133 |
| Total | | 2,711 | 7,264 | 4,553 |

Table 3. Breakdown of the three selected correctional facilities based on different categories of inmates in both Ikoyi and Kirikiri Correctional Facilities in Lagos state

| S/N | Categories of inmates in the selected correctional facilities | Initial Holdings | Current Holdings | Variance |
|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1 | Ikoyi and Kirikiri Correctional Facility (Male Medium Prison) | 2,500 | 6,946 | 4,446 |
| 2 | Female Medium Correctional Facility at Kirikiri | 211 | 318 | 107 |
| Total | | 2,711 | 7,264 | 4,553 |

Source—Official population records of inmates in correctional facilities in Lagos, 2020

Within the purview of the correctional institutions approved for the study, there are various categories of inmates with different types of offences such as rape, kidnapping, murder cases, cyber fraudster, forgery, terrorism and gang related offences among others. Moreover, some of the inmates interviewed were awaiting trial while others were convicted. The purpose of the inquiry was to select inmates that fall within the category of gang related offences or category needed for the study. This allows the researcher to use Taro Yemane formula for determining sample size which was summed to 400 copies of the structured questionnaires before 40 in-depth interviews were conducted purposively among the inmates, the correctional officers and the Nigeria Police Force. Out of the four hundred copies of the structured questionnaires given and collected back from the inmates in the corrections, three hundred and forty-seven copies were found useful for the quantitative analysis. While 36 interviews were carried out among the inmates, community elders, marketmen/women, security officers to include correctional officers and the Nigeria Police force using key informant technique. All ethical factors were considered by seeking permission from Lagos State Ministry of Justice at Alausa, Lagos State Correctional Service at Alagbon and Lagos Police Command at Ikeja, Lagos. Multinomial regression was used for the crosstabulation of various sociodemographic characteristics predisposing youths' involvement in gang violence while content systematic analysis was adopted for the translation of verbal information collected on the field to support the use of mixed method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age distribution result shows that 110 participants (31.7%) were within 23 to 27 years, 108 participants (31.1%) were between 28 to 32 years, 77 participants (22.2%) were within 33 to 37 years, 45 participants (13.0%) were within 18 to 22 years and 7 (2.0%) of them were recorded under 38 years and above category. Furthermore, the result for gender distribution of participants shows that there are more males than females with 311 (89.6%) of the participants being male while 36 (10.4%) were female. The findings show that more males are into gang violence compared with their female counterparts. Following the result of the family background of the participants, 182 (52.2%) were from monogamous families

165(47.5%) stem from polygamy family backgrounds while nothing was recorded under single parenting background.

The result showing whether the participants were born in Lagos State or not posits that 220(63.4%) of them were born outside Lagos State while 127(36.6%) were born in Lagos State. Large numbers of the participants were not born in Lagos State. For how long participants lived in Lagos, the result indicates that 125(36.1%) lived within 17 to 24 years, 84(24.1%) lived within 8 years, 83(23.9%) lived within 9 to 16 years, 34(9.8%) lived within 33years and above while 21(6.1%) lived within 25 to 32years in Lagos. Result gathered on marital status from the participants affirms that 204 (58.8%) were married 115 (33.1%) were not married 25 (7.2%) were separated from their partners (either husband or wife) while 3(.9%) of them were divorced already before arrest

Occupational status result shows that 146 participants (42.1%) worked with private firms, 101(29.1%) had personal businesses, 35(10.1%) were unemployed, 30(8.6%) were public officials, 28(8.1%) were classified as others and 7(2.0%) were either an Imam or a pastor. In place of the highest school qualification result of participants, 141(40.6%) have secondary school certificates, 65(18.8%) HND/BSc degrees, 62(17.9%) ND/NCE degrees, 34(9.8%) primary school, 16(4.6%) vocational skill, and no education and 13(3.7%) were categorised as others. Based on the type of religion practiced, 203 participants (58.5%) were Christians, 112(32.3%) were Muslims, 22(6.3%) were traditional worshippers and 10(2.9%) were specified as others such as Hinduism or Buddhism as religion. The result of ethnic group affiliation of the participants shows that 186(53.6%) were Yoruba, 98(28.2%) were Igbo, 22(6.3%) were Fulani/Hausa and 10(2.9%) were recorded as others which is not part of the three identified ethnic groups in Nigeria.

Given the place of birth, whether the participants were from Nigeria or not, the result indicates that 332 (95.7%) of the participants were Nigerians while 15(4.3%) were foreigners but are facing violence trials in Nigeria due to their involvement in gang violent activities.

Following the submissions of the participants on the number of wives of their fathers, the aggregate shows that 182(52.4%) claimed their fathers had one wife, 113(32.5%) affirmed more than two wives and 80(23.1%) of them explained that their fathers had two wives. On the premise of whether the parents or guardians of the participants arrested are alive, the result goes as follows; 270(77.8) parents or guardians of the participants are alive while 77(22.2%) claimed that their parents or guardians are not alive. The result of whether participants were born in Lagos states that 127(36.6%) were born in Lagos while 220(63.4%) of them were not born in Lagos. The finding shows that a large number of the participants who were not born in Lagos carried out gang activities in Lagos state Result states that 172 (78.2%) were born in South-East, Nigeria, 23(10.4%) in the South-South, 21(9.6%) in North-West, 2(.9%) were both born in North-Central, Nigeria, result was not covered under North Eastern part of Nigeria, while, others outside Nigeria (Togo, Ghana). The findings shows that over 78 percent of the inmates that carried out gang related activities were born and grew up in Lagos compared to 21 percent of the inmates that are born outside Lagos state.

As regards where participants lived when growing up as a child, the aggregate indicates that 212(61.1%) grew up but were not born in Lagos State while, 135(38.9%) did not grow up but resided in Lagos State. The finding indicates that large number of participants grew up in Lagos. The result of whom participants lived with when growing up shows that 166(47.8%) lived with a parent, 67(19.3%) lived with single mothers, 56(16.1%) lived with relatives 49(14.1%) lived with single fathers while, 9(2.6%) were under others specify (living with friends).

The result of gang names shows that 62(17.9%) were Awawa, 60(17.3%) were Area boys/Political Thugs, 51(14.6%) were Supreme Eye, 45(13.0%) were Wonyabo, 43(12.4%) were One million boys, 31(8.9%) were Aye, 22(6.3%) were Area girls 19(4.0%) were buccaneer 10(2.9%) had no gang name and 4(1.2%) were lady's gangs. The position of participants in their associations indicated that 108(31.1%) did not response, 98(28.2%) were members, 87(25.1%) were followers, 32(9.2%) were officers, 12(3.5%) leaders and 10(2.9%) were controllers. As regards the locations where participants were arrested, the turnout indicates that 71(20.5%) in Ikorodu, 65(18.7%) in Mushin, 36(10.4%) in Lagos Island, 35(10.1%) in Alimosho, 32(9.2%) in Oshodi/Isolo and Agege, 23(6.6%) in the East and 21(8.1%) in the Northern part of Nigeria. The outcome of result on how long the participants have been a member of a gang group shows that over 80 percent of the inmates have joined gang members between 1 to 15 years ago while less than 20 percent of the inmates belong to gang members as at 16 years and above. The result on age at which inmates joined gang indicated that over 95 percent of the inmates interviewed that fall into the research age bracket are member of gang within less than 18 years and 38 years while less than 5 percent joined gang activities with the age bracket of 39 years and above.

Table 4. Summary of the Multinomial Regression on the effect of socio-demographic characteristics influencing gang violence in Lagos correctional facilities, Nigeria.

| | B | Std Error | Beta | t | Sig. level | Status |
|----------------------------|----------|------------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|---------------|
| Constant | 2.671*** | 4.261 | - | 7.667 | .000 | S |
| Age | .156 | .101 | .088 | 1.544 | .123 | NS |
| Sex | 5.675** | 2.850 | .118 | 1.991 | .047 | S |
| Family Background | 1.047* | .602 | -.095 | -1.739 | .083 | S |
| Marital Status | -1.367** | .552 | -.146 | -2.476 | .014 | S |
| Employment Status | -.081 | .347 | -.013 | -.233 | .816 | NS |
| Highest level of education | .242 | .343 | .041 | .705 | .482 | NS |

Note: * represents 05% and 10% significant levels respectively.

Table 4; --reports the determinants of gang violence among the participants which are family background; marital status and gender being major predictors of gang violence. This result is significant at 5 % or 0.10% since, a large proportion of the participants are male counterparts and married at the time the research was conducted in Lagos state correctional service. The outcome of the result implies that participants (male inmates) are more likely to engage in gang violence than their female inmates. The outcome of the result gathered from the research inquiry shows that there is no significant relationship sociodemographic factors such as age, employment and the level of education of the participants interviewed.

Qualitative Data Analysis on how Socio-demographic Characteristics Compel Youth to Gang Violence

The outcome of the collected verbal data from inmates on how socio-demographic factors can propel youths into gang violence. The submission is stated as follows:

Most of us today were in this because of ignorance. The painful part of it is that my group members forgot me as well as my immediate family members. I was very young when I was introduced to the group. I thought it is good to belong to a group that fights for the interest of its members. Becoming a member of a gang does not have anything to do with age, sex, level of education, or employment among others but what we look out for is your state of mind before joining the group. Some people are small or young in age but they are very strong at heart especially in decision-making. We do have

girls in our group especially our girlfriends who are part of us. The group is not just for males only but females are also part of us. Some who are seniors had good jobs they are doing before they were arrested. For example, I am a cobbler at the Agege Local government area before I was arrested due to the supremacy fight between my group and another group but the painful part of it is that some policemen belong to the other group but as at that time were employed as policemen. Hence, this used as an advantage for the other group to arrest our group members. This is the reason why I found myself where I am today.

IDI/Male Inmate/28yrs

In line with the in-depth interview conducted with an inmate, a gang coordinator was interrogated and this is the coordinator's explanation:

I know that my family did not tell me to fight or join gangs that fight. The problem I have is that, I believed so much in my friends and this is why I found myself here. I joined this group when I was 21yrs at Ire Polytechnic in 2004. I graduated and later in my community I was made the zone coordinator. But most times when fights occur between our group and other groups, I use to solicit for my group until the last street fight in 2018 that led to the vandalization of properties on my street. This attack was not done by my group but by the other group. However, the landlord association called Nigeria Police and we were arrested. One of the things that influence people to join gangs is the desire for self-recognition and societal respect

IDI/Male gang coordinator/32yrs

At the Kirikiri facility a female inmate arrested and detained for gang-related case was interviewed and this is what she said concerning socio-demographic characteristics as a propelling factor for youth's involvement in gang violence.

Age and family are the major reasons for joining gangs. Most people today in Nigeria joined from their younger age while some of them are products of broken homes. These two factors are the reasons for what we are seeing in Nigeria today. As for me, I am from a good family and I have a good job. But my greatest regret is that I followed the ideas of friends which landed me in prison. If I have a better opportunity, I will never follow advice from friends. A lady, I fought ran away and I am in jail close to 10 months ago because the lady we beat died along the way in the hospital

IDI/Female member/29yrs

The submission of the community elders corroborates with that of the market men but is different from the research findings and the result derived from the reviews of publications. However, the following submissions were collected and interpreted as follows;

Age is important when discussing the reason for youth's involvement in gang violence in our community. Most of those who carry out these fights are very small and are not even Lagosian. They are people who ran out of their mother's care from Ibadan, and Abeokuta among others and stayed in Lagos for survival. The rate of girls' involvement in gang violence is rare and the study on it is limited to academic rigorous work. The second problem is poverty and poor parental upbringing. Most families are morally, mentally and financially poor. Once this continues, it will pave way for the growth and development of illegal businesses for illegal people.

KII/Community leader/57yrs

More so, during the research inquiry, Nigeria police were also interviewed and this is what they submitted concerning socio-demographic characteristics that propel youth's involvement in gang violent activities.

To be candid, I am a police officer and I know that youths are more interested in the destruction of lives and properties in this community. They are always happy when they see fights in their community. Also, most youths who engaged in violent activities in Lagos state are not Lagosian but they found their way into one of the streets or areas in Lagos, lived and worked in Lagos state. Since I have been working in this police station, a large number of these boys who engage in fight and destruction are underaged young adults. I think the increase in streets fights in Lagos can be associated with ignorance because after they are arrested, they start crying. If you have thought ahead that this might happen when you are caught by law enforcers then why? The menace of gang violence mostly has nothing to do with age, gender, ethnic and religious affiliation but largely peer pressure from their friends or role models. They allow their levels of ignorance to override their reality of life.

KII/Policeman/Mushin/52yrs

Investigating this issue further, an interviewee (Correctional Officer) in Kirikiri correctional facility opines that:

The Nigerian youths are prone to destruction rather than the construction of the society. We have seen more than enough from the youths in the facilities. I think age is one of the factors that propel them to engage in violent activities in Nigeria. This is because a large number of the inmates arrested for gang violence are very young and they are mainly male inmates that have a greater connection with violent actions. Most of them know how to read and write perfectly. Based on the question you asked I will conclude that most youths who indulge in gang violence are stupid and not also wise. I know some of them are regretful but others are hardened criminals who never want to change because of what they are gaining from returning into the prison in Lagos state. I don't know the reason for joining bad gangs which will destroy their lives from their humble beginning

KII/Correctional Warder/37yrs

The study outcome of the study was discussed based on the analysis of the five specific research objectives and questions set out for the research inquiry. Thus, all the objectives or research questions were set out to give rational meaning to the outcomes of the research work. It is on this premise that the researcher adopts the following variables for the discussion of findings predisposing factors (socio-demographic factor, ecological factor and community policing practices) on gang violence and crime outcomes in Lagos, Nigeria.

The inquiry into socio-demographic characteristics and gang violent activities among youths in Lagos state correctional facility indicated that gender, marital status and family background of the gang member play significant roles in becoming or joining gang activities in their various communities. For this discussion, the finding of this research work deduced that over 80 percent of the inmates are males, and 50 percent of them claim that their fathers had one wife. Over 60 percent of them were not born in Lagos State but grew up in Lagos. Over 50 percent of the inmates interviewed are Yoruba, over 50 percent of them are not yet married before they were arrested but they have children out of wedlock or in cohabitation marriages. Also, over 50 percent of the inmates are Christians compared to other religions. But several researches and literature reviewed over a long period again opine that age is one

of the contributing factors to youths' involvement in gang violent activities. According to Cornell and Huang, (2016), there are several factors that tend to increase youths' involvement in gangs and maladjusted behaviour which makes to be accentuated through membership of gang, thereby making the concept of policing youths at higher risk of deviating from generally accepted culture of the society. Also, youths who were dropped out from school prior are more likely to join gangs' activities for maintaining survival in the society. (Melde and Esbensen, 2011, Ogunmefun, 2020). In addition, the outcome of the research inquiry on employment status proves not to be significant but Lamas and Hoffman (2010), in their research findings concluded on how lack of employment opportunities for the youths can lead to boredom and depression, which, may also illegally direct them towards substance abuse for perpetration of violent activities. Likewise, a scholar in Nigeria named Ajaegbu (2012; Ogunmefun & Okuneye, 2020) reports that the occurrence of crimes in Nigeria is associated with ever-increasing nature of unemployment and economic hardship.. While Soh (2012) explains antisocial behaviour in different forms of people; even who people that swim in wealth are also found committing crimes. According to Ogunmefun (2020), which was also validated by Ajaegbu (2012), there are several problems associated with crime-related matters in Nigeria leading youths into antisocial behaviour in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The research inquiry was concluded based on the finding derived from the work after rigorous work. The study was concluded as follow

The outcome of the qualitative and quantitative data collected on the sociodemographic characteristics from the inmates in Lagos state correctional services both at Kirikiri and Ikoyi shows diverse submission. The study indicated that out of all the sociodemographic characteristics tested in the hypotheses such as sex, age, marital status, level of education, family background, and marital status. The quantitative study concluded that only sex/gender characteristic, family background and marital status were greatly and positively significant to gang violence experienced in Lagos compared with employment, age and level of education which proved not significant to gang violent activities in the study.

The qualitative data collected from gang leaders, correctional officers and the Nigeria police on the impact of sociodemographic characteristics show negative relationship. The interviewees especially the correctional officers and the police conclude that immaturity was largely responsible for the rate at which indulge or are initiated to youth gang violence while the gang leaders were also regretting their actions and want to live another life if opportunities come

The market women submitted that lack of quality educational system and the use of thugs by the political elite contribute immensely to the increasing nature of youth's involvement in gang violence in Lagos state. Therefore, several reconstruction and repairs were expected from the Nigerian government across all levels in the country

Recommendations

Within the purview of this research paper and the set specific objectives of the study, the following recommendations were stated

- i) The Youths should develop creative sense of belonging and not allow to be used by any politicians that cannot allow or train their children to be involved in violent activities
- ii) The social interventionists should develop an accurate measure policy that will practically deal with violent activities by developing a football field, educational and

other relevant institutions where youths can equally go and attend developmental programme

- iii) Social interventionists should develop a friendly atmosphere where parent, guardian and community members should encourage to be part of planning and policy formulation in any decision-making process
- iv) The Nigeria government should develop another measure to treat inmates and adopt a deterrence measure that will deter youths from getting involved in violent actions through creation of unemployment benefit

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