

**HOT-SPOTS AND COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING CRIME CONTROL STRATEGIES
AND INCREASING ARMED ROBBERY AND KIDNAPPING: A STUDY BETWEEN NIGERIAN
POLICE FORCE AND GHANA POLICE SERVICES.**

UCHENNA KALU UDUKA
Abia State University, Uturu, Nigeria.
martinluta2001@gmail.com & uchenna.uduka@absu.edu.ng) –
Corresponding Author.

&

PROFESSOR PAUL EKE
University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Rivers State, Nigeria.
paul.eke@uniport.edu.ng,

&

DAISY CHIOMA ONYIGE (PhD)
University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Rivers State, Nigeria.
chioma.onyige@uniport.edu.ng

Abstract

Researchers on policing have been worried on the most effective model of crime control strategy in checking the prevalence of crime. There is a great difference on the rate of violent crimes between Nigeria and Ghana due to the effectiveness of the police of these two countries; while it has been observed that the Nigeria Police is faced with fundamental and operational problems in her crime control strategies, Ghana Police have achieved greater result in their crime control strategy with lower rate and trend in armed robbery and kidnapping. The aim of this study was to identify and assess the crime control strategies of the police and their effect in checking the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in a comparative analysis between Nigeria and Ghana, from 2015 to 2018. It adopted a mixed research design of content analysis of crime data obtained from annual police report of Nigeria and Ghana between 2015 and 2018 and interview schedule. 20 respondents from the police headquarters of both countries were selected as sample, using sampling to redundancy technique and interviewed as key persons to give insight into the strategies, which have yielded different success rates and the prevalence, rate and trend of armed robbery and kidnapping in both countries. Findings revealed that the Ghana Police Service to a great extent adopt the hot-spots policing and community-oriented strategies and have more citizens who are willing cooperate with them in problem solving than the Nigeria Police Force. It is recommended that Nigeria should be adequately crime mapped into predominant crime zones with corresponding policing style and embrace state policing for ease of policing.

Key Words: Hot-spots, Community-oriented, Policing. Nigeria Police, Ghana Police

Introduction

Crime control has been at the fore front of policing in many societies of the world. According to Reid (2000), it refers to how to hold the volume of crime in effective check, to stop it from spreading, to restrict and prevent crime infection and contamination from breaking and spreading to new areas; and protect the society against the activities of habitual and abnormal offences.

Dambazau (2007) saw crime control as a pattern of attitudes and behaviours directed both at reducing the threat of crime and enhancing the sense of safety and security to positively influence the quality of life, and to develop environments where crime cannot flourish. He went further to state that “it is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some actions to reduce or remove it” (Dambazau 2007:235). He submitted that crime control involves the idea of solving crime problems, arresting suspects, prosecuting and incapacitating offenders.

There is a great emphasis by the United Nations on global benchmark standards and norms to prevent crimes among member states. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which is the guardian of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice have presented two sets of crime prevention or control guidelines which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council, in 1995 and 2002. They include the guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention and Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (www.unodc.org) together with more recent resolutions, they stress that crime prevention strategies must be established alongside criminal justice reform. In 2002, for example, “the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 56/261, invited States, inter alia, to support the promotion of close cooperation between sectors such as justice, health, education and housing to support effective crime prevention and work with civil society. In resolution 2008/24, the Economic and Social Council, encouraged Member States, inter alia, to integrate crime prevention considerations into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes in order to effectively address the conditions in which crime and violence emerge. The resolution also requested UNODC to explicitly address the crime prevention component in its programme of work and reporting, where relevant, including, good practices that integrate crime prevention and criminal justice”(www.unodc.org).

According to Tonry and Farrington (1995) in Sherman and Weisburd (1995) the problem facing many governments, especially in the developing countries however, is that the principal tools used to advance public safety-enactment and enforcement of criminal laws and punishment of offenders are increasingly understood to have modest effects on rates or patterns of serious crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping. This has prompted most western society governments, including those like the United States, France, England, Sweden and the Netherlands, to establish specialized agencies to develop, test, and evaluate crime control and prevention initiatives using other law enforcement tools.

However, in the African context, especially within the West-African sub- region, crime control techniques are predominantly a law enforcement tool, which mostly fall within the purview of the criminal justice system. According to Nweke (2004), the aim of the criminal justice system is to sustain the rule of law by preventing crime wherever possible, by detecting the culprit when a crime is committed, convicting the guilty, acquitting the innocent and dealing proper effect to the sentence and orders which are proposed. Nigeria and Ghana are among the developing countries of the world and both countries are experiencing a prevalence of rising crime waves, criminal intentions and varying degrees of delinquencies among the juvenile population. The nature of these crimes includes armed robbery, rape, drug trafficking, kidnapping and many other forms (UNIDOC 2010 report).

However, in Nigeria, the establishment of complementary crime control agencies like the Department of State Security (DSS), Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) are laudable efforts towards crime control and prevention, but their narrow focus and few personnel seems to inhibit them from functioning in a manner like the police. Some of them apart from the Department of State Security that is consigned to the gathering of security intelligence reports do not exist at the local government levels and this leaves the day to day policing of the entire country more at the door-steps of the police, who seems to be overwhelmed at the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in many parts of the country.

The police departments of the countries of Nigeria and Ghana are at the forefront of the basic crime control strategies, and their policing models vary with some degree of success on certain crimes like armed robbery, kidnapping, and other violent crimes (Tankebe, 2008). It is a common scene that in Ghana, the police are not as visibly armed as their counterparts in Nigeria, they seem to be more recognized, respected and supported by their citizens than that of Nigeria. Their police ratio which is about 1:1000 citizens based on their projected population figure of 30.42 million citizens from their (2010) last census exercise and about 30,000 police officers is a far cry from that of Nigeria, which is about 1:486 from the projected population of over 190 million citizens and about 400,000 police officers, based on the United Nations ratio of 1:400. The Ghana police distribution is as uneven as most developing countries of the world, yet the prevalence of serious crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping seems to be higher in Nigeria than in Ghana.

Historically, the Nigeria Police Force and the Ghana Police Services are colonially bequeathed police agencies by a common colonial master, Great Britain and it is observable that the structure, policing model and most often field experiences of both police departments are almost the same.

Researchers on policing are concerned on the varying degree of successes between these two countries police departments. Data obtained from the Nigeria data portal of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed a total of 90, 047 convicted cases of armed robbery that involved both male and female sexes between 2007-2014, while abduction (kidnapping) recorded a total of 12,808 occurrences within the same period. It continued in such progression till 2018 with over 100,000 reported and investigated cases of armed robbery and kidnapping, some of which involved police officers and numerous kidnapping cases (bbc.com). Total established cases of armed robbery in Nigeria in 2015 was 2,241; in 2016 it was 4,082, in 2017 it recorded 4,201 and 3,405 in 2018, respectively and kidnapping recorded 886 in 2015; 630 in 2016; 1,117 in 2017, and 3,901 in 2018. However, these troubling figures were not the same with Ghana.

In the summary of the above background, armed robbery, which the Ghana police categorized as one of the major offences recorded only 1,411 times representing 26.4 percent in the entire Ghana. Kidnapping which is not categorized as a major offence in Ghana was reported to have occurred only six (6) times all through the year 2015.

In 2016, there was a decline in the rate of armed robbery to 1,397 from the 2015, while only 12 recorded cases of kidnapping occurred in the entire region of Ghana. 2017 recorded a total of 1,742 cases of armed robbery which was a 26.8 percent change from that of 2016 indicating approximately five (5) cases of robbery daily in 2017. The Ghana police arrested a total of two hundred and forty one (241) suspected robbers nationwide as against, two hundred and thirty two (232) in 2016 which included 9 police officers. A total of 26 lives were lost through armed robbery as against 112 in Nigeria in 2017, while 79 lives were lost in 2016 as against over 50 lives in Nigeria in the same year (www.crimewatch.com). Moreover, a total of 54 kidnapping cases representing 3.6 percent from that of 2016 which was (56) occurred in Ghana in 2017, whereas within a space of 14 months, 2016 -2017, Nigeria recorded 1,177 cases of kidnapping and 525 cases were fully prosecuted and 652 cases were still being investigated at the end of 2017 (crimewatch.com).

Even though kidnapping cases are under-reported in Nigeria, in April 2018, UNICEF reported that over 1000 children have been abducted by Boko Haram since 2013, and with 3,901 established kidnapping cases as against only 44 reported in the first six months of 2018 in Ghana. Reports from local media released by a Nigeria based Security Company (Bulwark Intelligence) indicated that from January 2018 - September 2018 states like Kaduna, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Zamfara and Katsina recorded high numbers of kidnapping, whereas such statistics were not obtained in Ghana or any of its regions. Over the decades, armed robbery and kidnapping have evolved into lingering, pervasive security threat and fast paced and multifaceted criminal enterprise. It is now perpetrated by diverse armed groups and criminal gangs operating across Nigeria, on

land and at even at sea, pursuing different agenda and driven by different motivations, political, religious, ideological, financial, social and cultural concerns; and the police are yet to catch up with the pace at which they are evolving.

Therefore, this study sought to investigate the crime control strategy adopted by the police departments of both countries, that is Nigeria and Ghana with a view to put in check the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping through a review and analysis of basic data on the crimes and the adopted workable crime control strategies between 2015 and 2018.

Problem and Justification of the Study

The Nigerian police has been faced with many fundamental and operational problems in her crime control strategy, this include inadequate hot-spots policing, a strategy that involves the targeting of resources and activities to those places where crime is most concentrated. This strategy is based on the premise that crime and disorders is not evenly spread within neighbourhood, but clustered in small creations, yet this crime control strategy is not adopted by the Nigeria police department.

Another major problem of crime control which has invariably affected the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping is the absence of community-oriented policing. According to Eck and Spelman (1987) this strategy involves a combination of the community policing, which is changing the way police think in order to amend police philosophy and organizational strategies to bring the community and police organization together; and community-oriented policing, which is the pulling together of resources for the in-depth study of the community problem with a view to solving it and minimize police presence in the community. The concept of community-oriented policing which is a problem-solving approach of crime prevention and control is yet to gain acceptance in Nigeria. It is a common occurrence that many crime problems are problems the police can partner with communities to diagnose and work out possible solutions without the usual traditional policing approaches like arrests, seizures, raids and prosecutions. The community-oriented policing strategy is a police model that exist mostly theoretically within the police formations in Nigeria and the practical aspect of it are yet to be implemented and this continues to create a “we” against “them” relationship between the police organization and the various communities of their existence. The complete absence or low level of implementation of the above crime control strategies by the police department have affected the prevalence of many crimes among which are armed robbery and kidnapping.

However, findings from many literatures have not shown combination of the factors especially those that border on hot-spots and community-oriented policing in assessing the crime control strategy of the police, but rather many of such literatures have singled out the variables of income, working equipment, police deviance, training and retraining in assessing the performance of the police in crime prevention, mostly in developing countries of the world. However, the criteria or bases for the comparative study is premised on same colonial experience for both countries, cultural affinity and semblance, same governance experience – from military to democratic governance, frequent citizens contact, similar challenges facing police and policing, crime challenges in both countries, as well as differences in population and land mass.

This study made effort to fill the gap in identifying and comparing the differentials in policing model, combing the above conceptualized problems of absence of hot-spots policing and community-oriented policing approach, which are indicators of adequate crime control strategies by the police or the criminal justice system between Nigeria and Ghana, who have highly visible differential rates of violent crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping. The study also identified Ghana policing system as prompt with the above identified problems and evolving towards those of Europe and America, who have less visible police presence on their roads, public places but focus more on the above sustainable crime control strategies, when compared with other West African countries, especially, Nigeria.

The main aim of this study was to identify and assess the crime control strategies and their effect in checking the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in a comparative analysis between Nigeria and Ghana from 2015 to 2018. It further sought to ascertain if *hot-spots policing* crime control strategy is significant to the reduction in the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana; and also to ascertain if *community-oriented policing* crime control strategy affects the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana.

Theoretical Framework

The study is framed on the social disorganization theory which links crime rates to neighbourhood ecological characteristics. It is a theory developed by the Chicago School in the 1920s. It seeks to explain why crime rates are so high in areas characterized by urban decay and a breakdown in the fabrics of social life, the theory suggests that among determinants of a person's later illegal activities, residential location is more significant than the person's individual characteristics (example, age, sex or ethnic group). For example, the theory opined that youths from disadvantaged neighbourhood participate in a subculture which approves of delinquency, and that these youths thus acquire criminality in this social and cultural setting.

However, Robert Ezra Park and Ernest Burgess in 1925 built on the assumption of this theory in their urban ecology approach, which proposed that cities are environments like those found in nature, governed by many of the same forces of Darwinian evolution, that is, competition, which affects natural ecosystems. According to them, people cluster in a particular area known as concentration when such a city is formed and grows. And that over time, the competition for and other scarce urban resources leads to division of the urban space into distinctive ecological niches called natural areas or zones, in which people share similar social characteristics because they are subject to the same ecological pressures. They argued that as a zone becomes prosperous and desirable, the facilities and rent rise and new sets of individuals are attracted more to there, while others move to new zones and those left behind in some of the run down zones are likely to resort to criminality.

Larry Gaines and Roger Miller in their book *Criminal Justice in Action* cited in Seigel (1992) stated that "crime is largely a product of unfavourable conditions in certain communities. Citing the social disorganization theory, they posited that there are ecological factors that lead to high rates of crime in these communities and these factors linked to constantly elevated levels of high school dropouts, unemployment, deteriorating infrastructure, and single-parent homes" (Gaines and Miller in Seigel 1992: 195).

Edwin Sutherland adopted the same concept of social disorganization to explain the increases in crime that accompanied the transformation of preliterate and peasant societies in which influences surrounding a person were steady, uniform, harmonious and consistent to modern western civilization, which he believed was characterized by consistency, conflict and lack of organization (Sutherland 1934). He believed that such disorganization causes and reinforces the cultural traditions and cultural conflicts that support antisocial activity. Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay in 1942 adopted the assumptions of Sutherland and claimed that delinquency was not caused at the individual level, but a normal response by normal individuals to abnormal conditions. Thus if for example, a community is not self-policing and if it is imperfectly policed by outside agencies, some individuals will exercise unrestricted freedom to express their dispositions and desires, often resulting in deviant (crime or delinquent) behavior.

The appreciation of this theory is premised on the background that the environment is a significant feature of criminality. This therefore propose and lay credence to the hot-spot policing model, where certain areas designated to be decayed and crime prone appears to be more policed than other zones. With the identification of these ecological niches and possible crime statistics emanating from these zones, through a detailed police geo-spatial distribution of crime, the hot-spots and community-oriented policing approaches serve as very functional crime control strategies by the police departments of both countries.

Moreover, the community-oriented policing crime control strategy which promotes citizens participation in a cordial relationship with the police, plays a very pivotal role in addressing the issue of armed robbery and kidnapping, through identifying the peculiar catalyst of such crimes within the identified ecological zone of a city or an area; and pulling resources together to address such fundamental factors in a problem-solving approach that do not require the overt police traditional roles that involves reactive policing like raids, shootings, arrests and citizens intimidations.

It is therefore observable that the police departments of Nigeria and Ghana in their crime control strategy adopt this social disorganization model at varying rates. With police concentrating her efforts to control crimes like armed robbery which is termed as a major crime and kidnapping which rarely occur in areas designated as hot beds for such crimes in Ghana more than that of Nigeria, who are involved in random patrol and barely concentrate her efforts and resources in areas prone to armed robbery and kidnapping, hence, the prevalence of these crimes in spite of the visible police patrols and their inability to demarcate the entire country or states into zones to address the problem.

Methodology

The study adopted a combination of both qualitative descriptive and quantitative survey which is referred to as *mixed research design*, to provide an assessment of the various crime control strategies as they affect the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping phenomena. It involved a content analysis of police crime report on armed robbery and kidnapping from 2015-2018 in Nigeria and Ghana, and other secondary sources like (newspapers, magazines and online reports) within the period under review, as well as structured interview of a purposely sampled research subject in the respective police headquarters of both countries.

The universe population of the study comprises of officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force distributed across the 36 States of Nigeria and its Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, 12 Zonal Commands, 10 specialized sections of (Ports Authority, Railway, Airport, DOps, Logistics & Supply, FCID, FHQ, NP Medicals, Police Press and Band) totaling 341, 231 and the sworn and unsworn officers of the Ghana Police Service distributed in the 12 Regional Commands and 84 Divisions and other specialized police units in the country totaling, 31,001.

The Police Annual Crime Reports of 2015-2018 for Nigeria and Ghana were purposely used for the study. Furthermore twenty (20) senior management police officers were also purposively sampled from the police headquarters of the two countries. This set of officers served as key persons in the interview schedule. Following the technique of sampling to redundancy, "saturation" (see Durrheim (1999), the twenty (20) management and senior police officers sampled were presumed to be sufficient to provide the relevant information deemed necessary and adequate for the purpose of this study. Total sample of 8 document sources and 20 interviewees were drawn. The primary instrument used in the collection of data was the key persons structured interview schedule, KPIS, while the secondary data were the content analysis of the statistics on Police Annual Crime Reports of Nigeria and Ghana to ascertain the trend, prevalence rates of armed robbery and kidnapping published in the 4years period of 2015-2018. The data from this study were presented and interpreted using simple percentage and descriptive statistics such as bar and pie charts, while the trend, rates, scale of armed robbery and kidnapping were employed as measures to answer the research questions from the specific objectives. The in-depth interview were presented with verbatim transcription and analyzed using the Deductive Thematic Analysis for Interview Transcripts Software - QDA Miner for qualitative data.

Result and Discussion of Findings

Table 1 below shows the total number cases of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria for the years 2015 to 2018

Nigeria					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Armed Robbery	2,129	2,342	3,436	2,928	10,835
% Change (Armed Robbery)	111%	10.0%	46.7%	-43.9%	
Kidnapping	1,019	1,123	1,133	1,660	4,935
% Change (Kidnapping)	138%	10.2%	0.9%	-41.7%	

Source: NPF Headquarters, Abuja.

Figure 1 below shows the rate of armed robbery in Nigeria for the years 2015 to 2018.

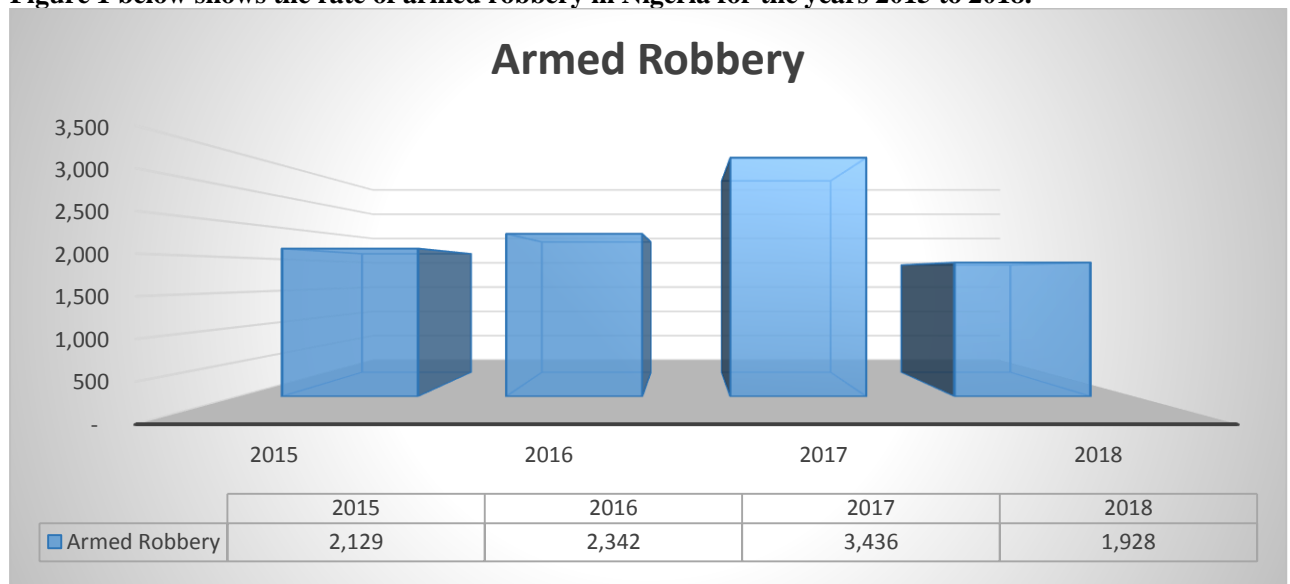


Figure 2 shows the rate of kidnapping in Nigeria for the years 2015 to 2018.

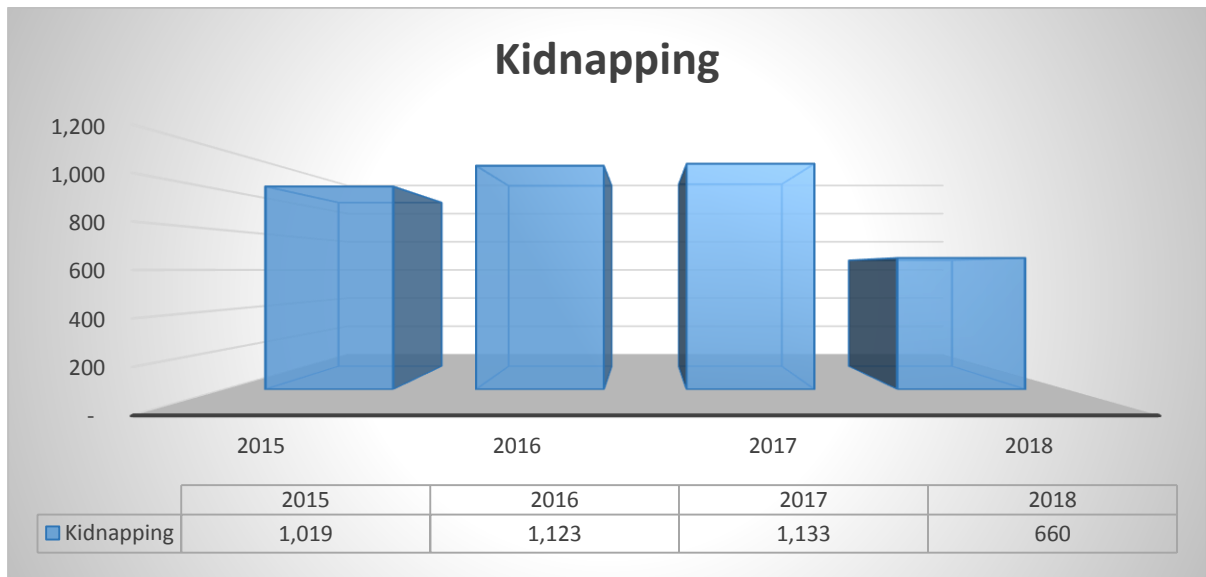


Figure 3 below shows the trend of armed robbery and Kidnapping in Nigeria for the years 2015 to 2018.

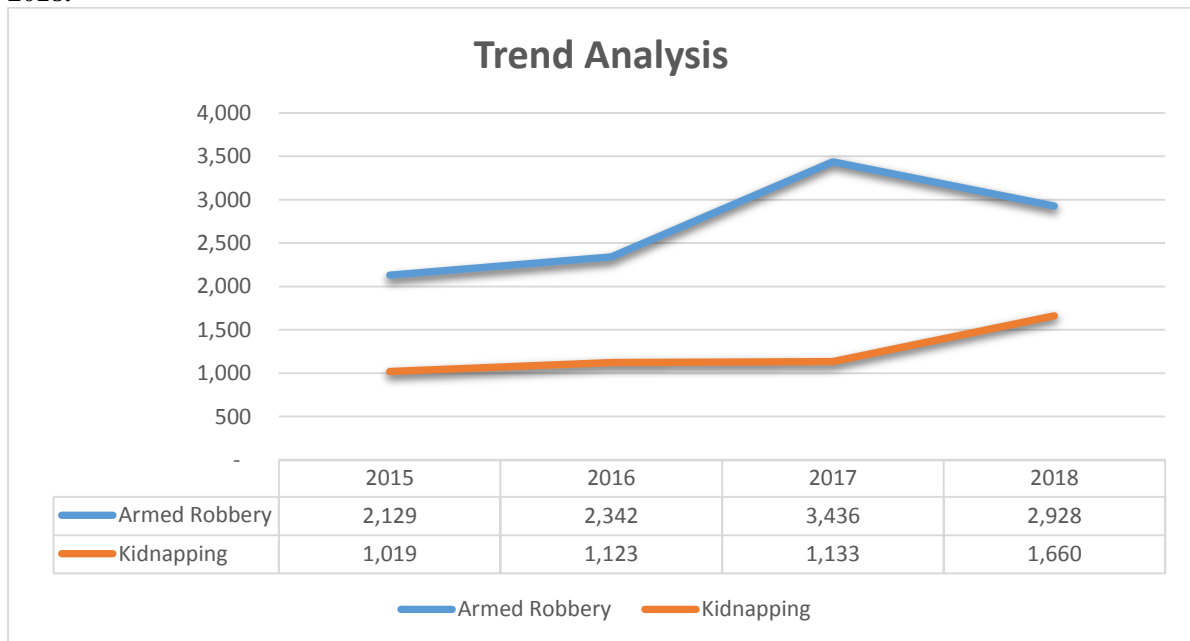


Table 2 below shows the total number cases of armed robbery and kidnapping in Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018

Ghana					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Armed Robbery	1,411	1,397	1,772	2,074	6,654
% Change (Armed Robbery)	26.4%	-1.0%	26.8%	17.0%	
Kidnapping	43	56	54	59	212
% Change (Kidnapping)	-47.6%	30.2%	-3.6%	9.3%	

Source: Ghana Police Service, Annual Crime Report.

Figure 4 below shows the rate of armed robbery in Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018.

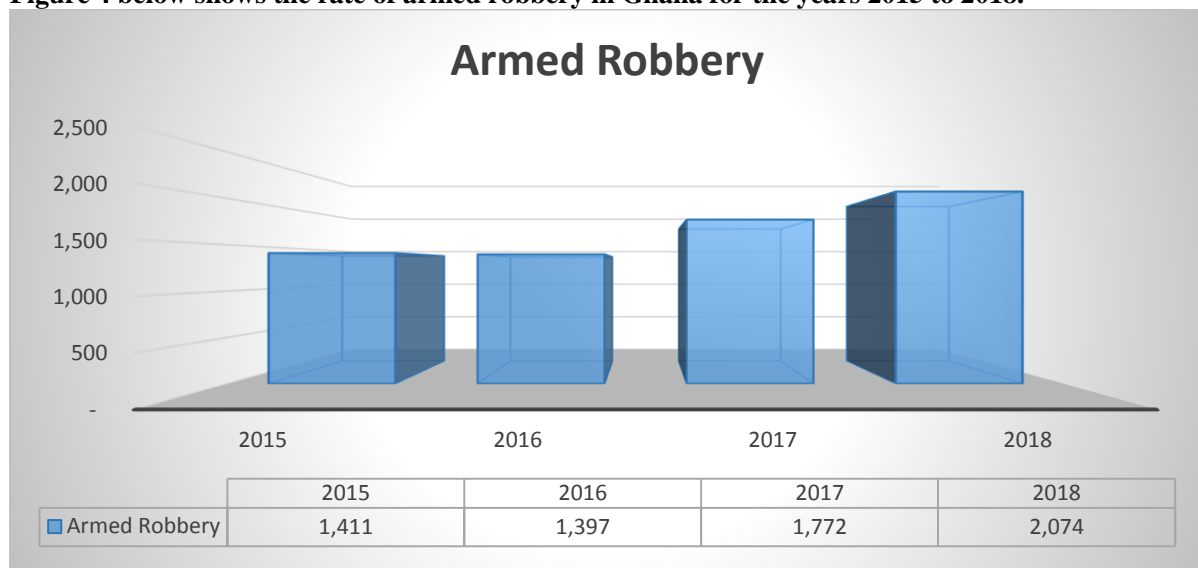


Figure 5 below shows the rate of kidnapping in Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018.

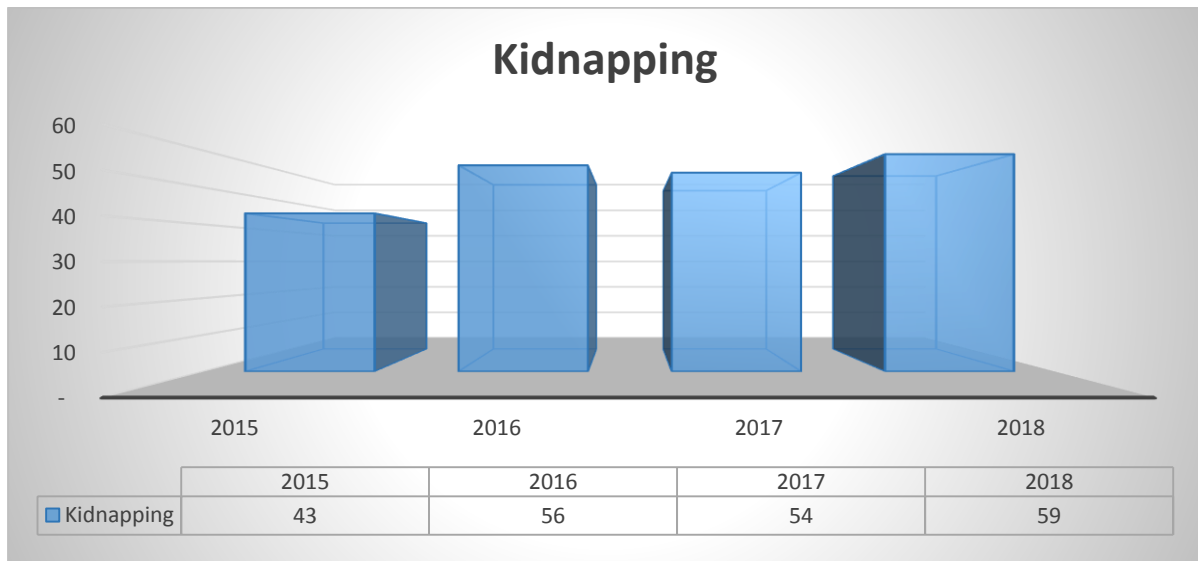


Figure 6 below shows the trends of armed robbery and Kidnapping in Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018.

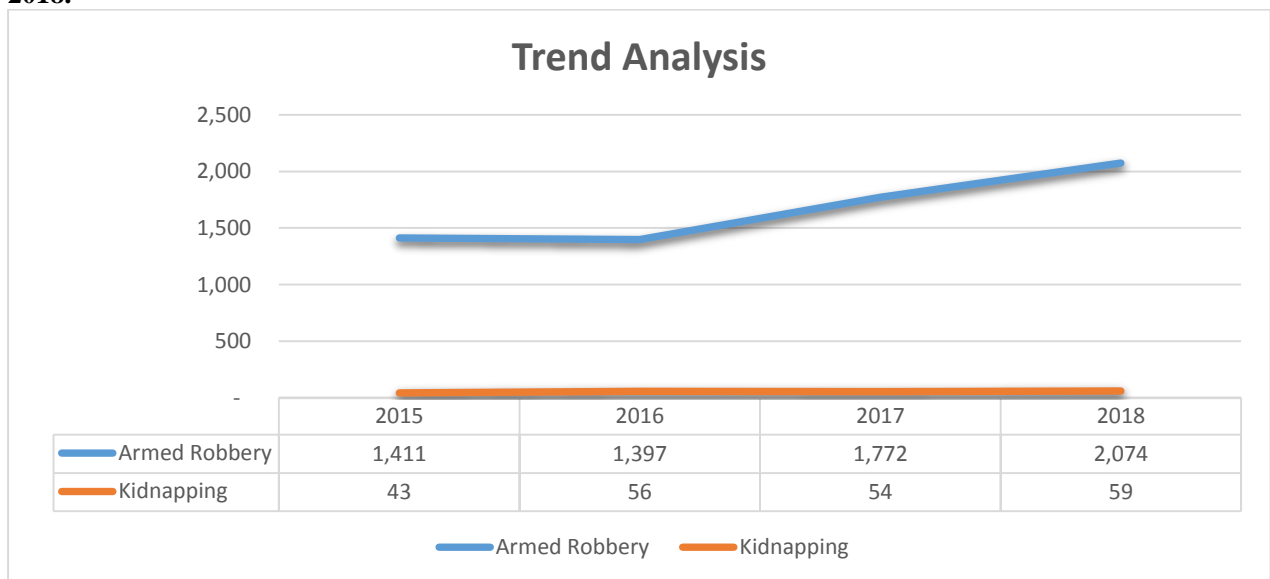


Figure 7 below compares the trend of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana for the years 2015 to 2018.

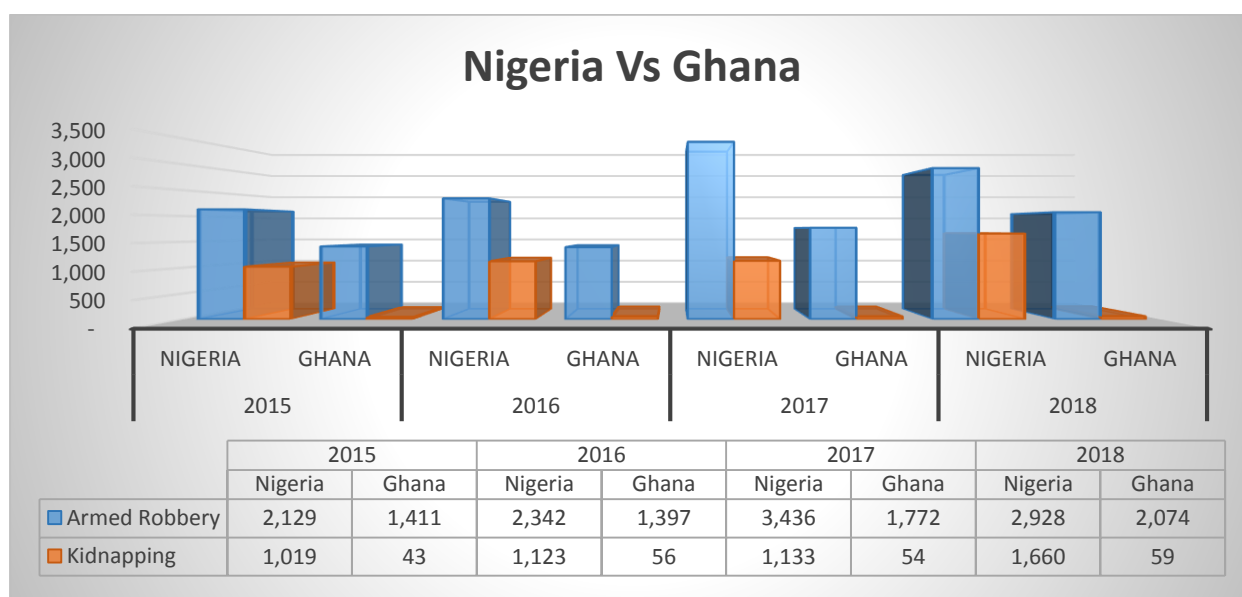


Table 3 below shows the summary interview response from key persons who served as the respondents from Nigeria and Ghana.

S/N	Item	Nigeria		Ghana	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Police force have full understanding about hot-spots policing?	X		X	
	1a. Geo-mapping of cities to delineate crime hot-spots?		X	X	
2	Willingness of the victims and witnesses to report to police when they are victimized or involved or witness crime?		x	X	
3	Police have good relationship with the community in which they are	X		X	
	3a. Always have meetings with the community for problem solving, other than arrests and conviction		X	X	
Policing mindset:					
4	Proactive mindset	X		X	
	Reactive (traditional) mindset	X		X	
Motivation of personnel:					
5	Adequate remuneration		X	X	
	Adequate working equipment		X		X
	Promotions at when due	X		X	
	Training/retraining of personnel	X		X	
	Recognition for extra jobs	X		X	
	Compensation due to loss	X		X	
6	Do the strategies deployed by the police effective on prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping	X		X	

The study compared the crime control strategies of both Nigeria and Ghana Police departments using the variables of hot-spots policing and community-oriented policing to check the prevalence of most common crimes of armed robbery and kidnapping in both countries. It is clearly observable that findings from the contents analyzed revealed that a total 10,835 armed robbery cases were recorded by the Nigeria Police for the four years period under study, while kidnapping had a record of 6,654 occurrences under the same period, whereas in Ghana armed robbery had 4,935 recorded cases while kidnapping only occurred 212 times from the Ghana Police records. The trend also showed an average 38% increase in armed robbery and 49% increase in kidnapping for the four years period, while Ghana had average increase of 17.3% in armed robbery with an average decrease of 2.9% in kidnapping within the same four year period. The findings clearly shows that the two police departments, Nigeria Police Force and Ghana Police Services adopt the same crime control strategies but at different rates, in checking the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in their respective countries. While that of the Ghana is to a great extent applied and are successful, Nigeria to a very low extent adopt such strategies as well and have been unsuccessful in the control of the prevalence of the crimes of armed robbery and kidnapping.

During the interviews, the respondents from both countries fully understood hot-spots policing though it reveals that Nigeria and Ghana adopt this hot-spots policing using different strategies. According to the respondents in Nigeria police force:

Hot spots policing is a police strategy that makes police focus on a particular area prone to criminal activities. These involves rapid response and steady surveillances of the area.

According to the respondents in Ghana police force:

Hot spots policing is a policing model that requires the concentration of police, deployment and deep policing of areas suspected to have high criminal incidents.

The responses from the interviewed respondents is in line with Sherman and Weisburd (1995) strategy on hot spot policing. On the variable of geo-mapping of the country which is a fundamental aspect of hot-spots policing, the responses from Nigeria police force interviewees revealed that Nigeria is not geo-mapped while responses from Ghana police force revealed that Ghana is fully geo-mapped.

According to the respondents in Nigeria Police Force:

No, the cities are not geo-mapped but as police officers we know cities that are more peculiar to certain crime and we match them with corresponding actions.

There is no need to map the cities because we know places that are hot beds and how to deal with such areas, posited another respondent in Nigeria.

According to the respondents in Ghana Police Service:

For sure the country is completely geo-mapped and it is policed according to the needs in all geographical zones, region and local communities starting from Accra here to all parts of Ghana. That is the common response of all the respondents in Ghana.

Qualitative data gathered from responses on the specific objective which sought to ascertain if community-oriented policing crime control strategy affects the prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana indicated that both countries police relates with their respective communities. Findings also revealed that both police departments have other mechanisms of crime control that involve community engagement, dialogue and problem solving approach without the usual traditional policing model of raids, arrest, seizure and stop and search.

A management team member of the Nigeria Police Force stated that:

The Nigeria Police has a formidable Police-Community Relations Committee across the state and zonal commands of the force. And these

groups are made up of civilians in the community who assist the police as interface between the communities”.

A corresponding response from Ghana revealed thus:

We have police-community relations units and they oversee our relationship with our communities in any region or zone of Ghana. We have a very cordial group with our Ghana community”.

Findings however indicated that in spite of the various community relation intervention programmes which is aimed at building trust and confidence in the police, adopting a problem solving approach in crime management between the police and community, greater citizens of the Nigeria communities seems not to have the required support and confidence in the police, which some of the respondents affirmed that the community sometimes are friends to the police and foes in some other times.

The Ghana Police reaffirmed that the citizens of their country have good confidence in their police and this can be a factor where the citizens willingly provide the police with the required information and where they make good use of the interaction between the police and the community in solving crime problems, because there is good *partnership* in the words of Skogan 2006.

Summary and Conclusion

This paper which was premised on the variables of hot-spots and community-oriented policing crime control strategies showed that the Ghana Police successfully adopt these strategies in checking the prevalence of crime including armed robbery and kidnapping than Nigeria whose rate of the application of the strategy is relatively unsuccessful given the rate, trend and percentage change in armed robbery and kidnapping in both countries within the period under study. However the paper was able to identify that some other variables like funding, working equipment, literacy levels of the police officers may have some bearings on the prevalence of the studied crimes and these variables has preoccupied many literatures as determinants of effective policing in many societies. However, this paper filled up the gap by combining these two variables to ascertain its effectiveness as crime control measures of the police to check the prevalence of identified violent crimes of armed robbery and kidnapping in Nigeria and Ghana.

Recommendations

1. There is the need for intensified crime mapping of Nigeria like that of Ghana and many other developed countries, so that certain geographical areas can easily be identified with peculiar crimes and this can go a long way to assist the police to deploy adequate resources needed to curb such criminality.
2. Since Ghana is politically structured into regions which is likened to states in Nigeria, police in Nigeria can be structured along this line for ease of coverage area so as to adequately manage incidences of crime in these geographic areas.
3. The peculiarities of policing in Nigeria requires a paradigm shift toward state police, where state commands can adequately handle problems peculiar to their states and can only request for external support on cases that appears beyond them. That way, states can recruit the required number of officers that can put such peculiar crimes in check.
4. There should be an effective and flexible legislative framework for the statutory amendment of police structure and functions to suit the societal needs, rather than such rigid approach to changes that requires modifications in the functions of the police in our modern society.

References

- Aning, E. (2002). An Historical Overview of the Ghana Police Service in K. karikari, (ed). *The Face and Phases of the Ghana Police*: Accra: Media Foundation for West Africa.
- Dambazau, A. B. (2007). *Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited
- Eck, J. E., & Spelman, W. (1987). *Problem-Solving: Problem-Oriented Policing in Newport News*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice and Police Executive Research Forum, USA.

- Retrieved from www.ncjrs.gov/APP/publication/abstract.aspx?ID=111964 on 7/7/18.
- Mitchell, R. J. (2019). Hot Spot Policing Made Easy. In Reene J. Mitchell and Laura Huey(Eds.), Evidence Based Policing An Introduction. pp 161 – 172. Bristol, UK: Policy Press
- Nweke, A. N. (2004). Principles of Crime Prevention and Detection in Nigeria. Enugu: Ebenezer Production Limited.
- Otubu, A. K., & Coker, S. A. (2008). Police and Crime Prevention in Nigeria. *SSRN Electronic Journal Research Gate*. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228190858_police_and_crime_prevention_in_Nigeria
- Sherman, L.W., & Weisburd, D. L. (1995). General Deterrent Effects of Police Patrol in Crime ‘Hot-Spots’: A Randomized Control Trial. *Justice Quarterly*, 12(4), 624-648.
- Siegel, L. J. (1999). *Criminology*. 4th Edition. New York: West Publishing Company.
- Sutherland, E. H., & Cressey, D. R. (1978). *Criminology* (10th ed.), Philadelphia: Lippincott.
- Tankebe, J. (2008b). Police Effectiveness and Police Trustworthiness in Ghana: *An Empirical Appraisal Criminology and Criminal Justice, Vol. 8*, 185-202.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2010). Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making Them Work: Criminal Justice Handbook Series, New York.
- Visher, T. A., Weisburd, D. L., Morris, N. A., & Groff, E. R. (2009). Hot Spots of Juvenile Crime: A Longitudinal Study of Street Segments in Seattle. *Washington Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 25, 443-467.