

CRIME AND CRIME PREVENTION: A STUDY OF CRIME PATTERN IN IBA CULTURAL SETTING

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ABSTRACT

The incidence of crime exists in parallel with human existence. However, studies have shown its rising both in frequency and in intensity as well as occurring in different dynamics. This study added to such research work by adopting a sociological paradigm into the investigation of crime within a different context (study area). This research, within the interpretive perspective, attempts to understand the various crimes that occur, the time as well as location of occurrence and the method for preventing such crimes. To achieve this, a qualitative approach was adopted and in-depth interview was conducted for 20 participants who were purposefully selected within the study population. The responses from such interviews were contently analysed and themes were identified. Findings indicated more of crime against a person than property crime. Equally, streets happen to be the location with the highest crime rate. Different crime preventing method was discovered. Also, it is advised to be cautious during the daily routine activities, – places and time. Provision of employment as well as the reorientation of the youths is vital in reducing crime. This knowledge will assist in guiding individual daily routine, improve crime prevention and enlighten policy actions for a better society. In as much as this research has discovered certain aspect of crime, especially within the study area, there is still need for the application of different research approach for a better understanding.

Keywords: *crime, crime prevention, crime prevention method, crime deterrence, spatial and temporal analysis*

INTRODUCTION

The existence of crime in human society can be said to be as old a man itself (Nwankwo, 2013). As noted by Mari, Musa & Bukar (2014), the existence of crime in human society dates back to time immemorial. From the simplest human societies (hunting and gathering) to the most complex civilised nations, there is no known human society where there has not been a violation of norms and values (Nwankwo, 2013). This violation is evident in the documentation of crime in age-long manuscript such as the Bible (Kyegh, Inah, Chukwudi, Kyegh, Salemkaan, Tokunbo, & Ibiang, 2017). Hence, there is no society without crime.

Reports of crime studies concerning the pattern and variation of crime have shown that there is spatial variation in crime at the global level and that high rates of crime are associated with less developed regions of the world (Badiora et al., 2014). Therefore, one can rightly say that the composition and complexities of society have an enormous influence on the prevalence of crime in any particular area. As posited by the ecological school of criminology, the environment plays a significant role in causing and supporting criminal activities. From Adigun, Abolade, Ige, Akinbami & Okeyinka, (2016), it has been debated that there are complex relations and compounded interrelationships between the environment in which one lives, the incidence of crime and, by logical extension, their reaction to crime.

The increasing rate of crime is experienced in every part of the world. Findings in the last decades have made known that more than half of the cities dwellers have been victimised at least once regardless of what part of the world they live (Badiora, & Fadoyin, 2014). All over the globe, fear from terrorism, drug cartel and organised crime have been escalating at an alarming rate (Mishral, 2013). Crime rates are high all

over the world, and state apparatuses seem to be incapable of bringing them down (Ojebode, Ojebuyi, Onyechi, Oladapo, Oyedele, & Fadipe, 2016). Before this time, Japanese do have a common saying that water and safety are free in Japan, but such ideology has been eroded due to high rate of crime, causing fear among the people (Shibata, Hanyu, Asakawa, Shimada, & Omata, 2012).

With the aforementioned in mind, the crime situation becomes a persistent imaginary in mind. One indeed is likely to be weighted with the intention of providing a remedy. In this line, crime prevention becomes an unavoidable necessity to salvage the society, safeguard citizens and their property (Usman & Mansur, 2019). Crime prevention includes any action or technique which is used by either a person or public agencies to reduce the incidence of crime or the damages of actions statutorily specified as a crime (Brisman & South, 2017). Prevention of crime attempts to safeguard the people; raising the feelings of safety of the citizens and ensuring the protection of properties. One of the effects of crime is the deterioration of the living condition of the people, crime prevention, on the contrary, seeks to minimise such effects and at the same time enhances the people's living condition. The prevention of crime becomes an essential obligation for every society member.

As Badiora and Afon (2013) affirm, prevention of crime in the society cannot be overemphasised. The devastating effects of crime have made crime prevention to become a matter for everyone. To prevent or deter crime, a collective effort, of both the residents (Mari et al., 2014) and the various agencies, is needed. Individual members adopt different means of protecting and defending oneself. The frequent occurrence of crime has made people become more security conscious; safeguarding their property such as homes, cars, etc. and safety of oneself, such as being careful with where they go and when they make such moves. The government is also not left out, as it has established various agencies to fight crime in all of its forms.

Similarly, on a global scale, crime prevention is an issue of concern to almost all societies of the world, and this is due to the constant rise in the occurrence of crime (Abubakar et al., 2017). Nations of the world have risen to the challenges of crime by strategizing means of combating and preventing crime. With the varying conceptualisation of crime prevention at international and national contexts (Baeto & Silveira, 2018), there has been different approaches to crime prevention including specific police strategies or courts procedures, or specific programs and projects targeting schools, gangs, juveniles and periodic situational interventions (Tonry and Farrington, 1995 in Baeto & Silveira, 2018).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It is undoubtedly an irrefutable fact that the history of society started with the appearance of a man; likewise, the roots and shape of crime (Mari et al., 2014). As stated by Badiora & Fadoyin (2014), there is hardly any individual in the world today, who had not face a crime situation at a particular point in time or the other despite one's place of residence. This universality proves that crime is a universal phenomenon in all societies (Nwankwo, 2013; Usman, & Mansur, 2019) and it has become a significant challenge to countries of the world (Mogwe, & Kenosi, 2017).

It has been noted that the distribution of crime varies across space and time. As such various works have been conducted to discover this variation in different places and at different times (LaRue, 2013; Badiora et al., 2014; Adigun, et al., 2016; Ghani, 2017). These works have indicated that crime does not have a uniformity of occurrence. Findings have also shown that geographical differences affect the location, pattern and type of crime (Bottoms, 2007 cited in LaRue, 2013, Lasisi, & Olapeju, 2016). Various researchers have investigated this phenomenon at different places ranging from highly urbanised to less urbanised areas of the world (Lasisi, & Olapeju, 2016; Solymosi, 2017; Zhang & Peterson, 2007; Lee, Eck, SooHyun, & Martinez, 2017). In spite of the growing knowledge of the spatial distribution of crime, there are still vacuums in areas in which such studies are yet to be conducted. To the knowledge of the researchers, there is no existing literature that provides such knowledge about the study area. Therefore, could it be that these spatial and temporal variations can also be found in this study area?

Considering the huge damages of crime, its deterrence has become paramount. According to Oyinloye, et al. (2017), the deterrence of crime includes initiatives or policies which seek to minimise, avoids or eliminates victimisation by crime or violence. Different methods of crime prevention have been identified in the literature including instances from Nigeria in which various methods of preventing or deterring crime

has been recognized by different research work as they are being applied in different areas of the country, ranging from Traditional method, Personal method, Religious method, The Police Force and community policing, use of technology, Community-Based Prevention and so on (Tade & Olaitan, 2015; Inyang & Abraham, 2014; Adigun, et al, 2016; Kasali, & Otedola, 2016; Fagbohun, & Oni, 2016; Adepeju, 2016). But what method do residents of Iba community apply in deterring crime?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What crimes are committed in Iba community?

Where and when do crimes usually occur?

Which methods are used in deterring crime?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Document the various kinds of crime that occur in Iba Community.

Evaluate the location and time pattern of crimes at Iba community

Identify the methods used in deterring or preventing crime within Iba Community.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of crime has been widely used in human history, but its definition is still problematic even in present-day modern society. Similar to many concepts of the social sciences, a generally accepted definition is often out of view. In the same manner, Adebayo (2013b) declared that crime has no single definition that is generally acceptable. This definitional problem is caused mainly by the variation in the discipline and orientation of the scholar (Usman & Mansur, 2019) and by the perception of the constituents of crime. In the view of Mari, et al (2014), crime can be understood as a common word, with varieties of meaning to every individual; what we think of as crime depends on one personal experience. It follows that crime does not have a universal schema to everyone, but what anyone perceives as crime is a function of the experiences of such an individual with criminality. In this context, crime is seen as a dynamic and relative phenomenon.

For Ghani (2017), "crime refers to violation of state laws or deviant act prohibited by state laws that are subjected to punishment in accordance with the set of the laws." Crime is also seen as a violation of the rules agreed to be respected by all members of the society, and upon which the rest members of the society mete sanction upon those guilty of the violation (Adebayo, 2013b). Tenibiaje (2010) explained that crime is a "deviant behaviour that violates prevailing norms, which may be cultural, social, political, psychological and economic conditions". In addition, Osawe concluded that crime is an offense against the societal value system; an infringement of both the basic principle of law and the norms of civilized behaviour (Osawe, 2015).

The incidence of crime is detrimental to the human society. As such, the prevention of crime has become paramount in time and space. Crime prevention can be seen as a deliberate effort to minimize crime and ensure the safety of the citizenry. Attempts have been made at various points in time to minimize the occurrence of crime. In the general view of society, the most important duty of law enforcement agencies is to prevent crime and if this is successfully done before they occur, the cost and suffering of society associated with crimes will be completely avoided (Schwabe, Davis, & Jackson 2001). Logically, anyone who has been victimized by crime, either directly or indirectly, makes efforts to reduce future victimization. As such, crime prevention becomes a concern for every member of the society.

From existing literature, various methods of crime prevention have been identified including, the Police, Traditional method, Private guards, Community policing, Community-based method, use of Technology, and so on (Tade & Olaitan, 2015; Inyang & Abraham, 2014; Adigun, et al, 2016; Kasali, & Otedola, 2016; Fagbohun, & Oni, 2016; Adepeju, 2016). The police force is the instituted body of the state to fight against crime in the society. It is saddled with the constitutional right and duty of preventing crime, detecting crime, arresting criminals, apprehending offenders, assisting those in danger of crime, creating and maintaining feelings of safety in the community, etc (Danbazau, 2007). The traditional method of crime prevention emanates from the cultural practices in African societies. This method varies across societies but

its central element is the utilization of the people's cultural and religious beliefs in combating or preventing crime. The community-based method is a method of crime prevention that involves the coming together of members of the society to devise means of preventing crime in their neighbourhood. This method includes a Vigilante group, Watch-nights, community patrol, etc.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study will be based on the Crime Pattern Theory and Rational Choice Theory. These theories are relevant to this study based on their theoretical assumptions. These theories are deemed appropriate for the study because they comprise more elements of environmental criminology.

Crime Pattern Theory addresses the issue of the temporal and spatial dynamics of crime; accounting for where crime occurs and as well as the time of occurrence. Nodes in this study correspond to locations of crime, which are those places where crime takes place. For this study, the nodes include places like, homes, transit, church/mosque, streets, and other such places where crime can take place. The study also considers the time of crime. This time is the period of the day when people are actively engaged in their daily activities and when such overlap with that of potential offenders.

For this study, Rational Choice Theory explains crime as a rational act of offender to obtain that which is pleasurable from its victim. In the course of daily activities, criminals rationally plan out their targets and carefully execute such crime plans whenever there are crime opportunities. Targets, however, are also aware of this, thus move around within the activity space with caution. Although, most times, the criminal outsmart the targets and still execute their criminal intents despite the targets caution.

On crime prevention, Rational Choice Theory explains it as a rational act of minimizing the effects of crime and reducing victimization. This is because humans are rational beings that always act in terms of their good, to gain pleasure. In their daily activities, efforts are rationally made to safeguard their lives and properties. Valuables are kept in secured places (bags, purse, pockets, etc) during the days work. They are thus brought out to serve one purpose or the other and are kept under close watch.

METHODOLOGY

For this study, the qualitative research design was employed. The constructivist paradigm was adopted to investigate and understand the people's assessment of the various kinds of crime in Iba and where, as well as when such crimes occur. The constructive paradigm allows for the creation of knowledge and the creation of meanings that people hold about the phenomenon under study. Since the study seeks to understand the prevalence of a social phenomenon in the area, the study only included adult residents in this area. For the purpose of this study, an individual is considered to be an adult, eligible to participate in this study, if such a person aged 15 years and above. In selecting the sample of participants for the study, the researcher adopted a purposive sampling technique. This research comprised of 20 participants. The Inclusion condition was based on participants who are currently residing at Iba for a period not less than a year. In conducting this study, the researchers decided to interview only residents who are above 15 years of age to allow for a better understanding of the subject matter.

Research data were obtained using an interview guide as the instrument of data collection. Along with the In-depth interview was conducted, audio recording and fields note, were taken to facilitate and provide an alternative for cross checking the research data. Descriptive analysis was performed on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents using frequency table. Content analysis was carried out, where quotes and phrases from the interviews that were significant to the research questions were highlighted. These quotes and phrases were constantly compared for consistent, yet distinct ideas which were categorised and coded (Grudmeyer, 2012). Thematic analysis was conducted, bringing together the categories and code to derive common themes that jointly answer each research questions appropriately.

FINDINGS

The result of this qualitative study was based on 20 In-depth Interviews with respondents who are residents of Iba.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

Table of socio-demographic characteristics of Respondents

Table 4.1: The socio-demographic distribution of the research respondents			
Variable	Categories	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	12	60
	Female	8	40
	Total	20	100
Age	15 – 24	5	25
	25 – 34	8	40
	35 – 44	4	20
	45 and above	3	15
	Total	20	100
Education	Primary	5	25
	Secondary	9	45
	Tertiary	6	30
	Total	20	100
Religion	Christian	13	65
	Muslim	5	25
	Traditional	2	10
	Total	20	100
Marital status	Married	15	75
	Single	5	25
	Total	20	100
Ethnicity	Yoruba	9	45
	Igbo	8	40
	Others	3	15
	Total	20	100
Duration of stay	1 – 5 years	3	15
	6 – 10 years	7	35
	10 and above	10	50
	Total	20	100
Area of stay	Iba town	4	20
	Iba new site	5	25
	Victory estate	4	20
	Iba housing estate	4	20
	First gate	3	15
	Total	20	100

Source: Researcher's Field study (2020)

Objective 1: To Document the various kinds of crime in Iba community.

Research Question: What are the various kinds of crime that happen at Iba?

The analysis of the responses for this question reveals different kinds of crime. However, certain crimes were more frequently reported. The variation in the composition of the study population both in age and ethnicity signify a likelihood of disorganization. The resultant is in the rate of crime reported for the study area. From the research findings, certain crimes were reported to occur in the area. Among which includes phone theft, smoking or drug abuse and fighting, stealing and other kinds of crime.

Themes:

1. **Phone theft.**
2. **Smoke and fight**
3. **Stealing**
4. **Other kinds of crime**

Theme 1: **Phone theft.**

Phone theft happens to be most reported form of crime in Iba. Most of the respondents reported of a victim at a point in time or the other.

Participant 1 reported,

“Those guys snatched my phone. My guy, it was not funny”.

(IDI/26/Iba town/Jan, 2020)

Participant 9 also reported.

Most of these guys you see here have nothing doing. They just go around stealing people phone, especially, when the phone is an android phone. Worst of all, those phone will just be auctioned at a very cheap price.

(IDI/42/male/Iba Newsite/Jan, 2020)

Narrating his experience, participant 15 explain that

I was just coming back from work one night. A guy came to me. Before I could know what was happening, he was talking about cultism, asking if I was a member. He was just making all efforts to threaten and scared me. Inside of me, I was already shivering. The next thing I heard was ‘give me your phone.’ I was just about handing over the phone to him when I heard someone calling my name. As God would have it, it was my neighbour. His sudden appearance was what delivered me.

(IDI/28/female/Iba new site/Jan, 2020)

Theme 2: **Smoking and Fighting**

Smoking, drug abuse and fighting (especially street fight) was another crime that was reported to be more rampant in Iba.

According to participant 3

Looking around, you will see all these guys going round from place to place with nothing meaningful to do. All what they know is to smoke. Most of them have all these funny hairstyles like Naira Marley, believing that since they do imitate all these celebrity’s hairstyle, they will also become celebrity someday.

(IDI/Male/41/Iba Town/Jan, 2020)

The response of Participant 18 also confirms this;

Another crime that is common in this area is street fight. It is common to see these guys fighting even when you find it difficult to comprehend the cause of the fight. Most fights are associated with these ‘agberos.’

(IDI/female/36/Iba Newsite/Jan, 2020)

Theme 3: **Stealing (Theft)**

Further explanation on the various kinds of crimes in Iba reveals that theft is another major kind of crime that is common in Iba. Most of the respondent reported of having experience theft of their properties. Participant 10 explained that

“Although I am new to this area (just a year plus), I have not personally experienced any theft but I have been told that it is common in this area.”

(IDI/female/32/Iba Town/ Jan, 2020)

Participant 3 further expatiate on this

“In this area, they steal a lot. Recently, my children switch off the generator when Nepa brought light, but forget to bring in the generator. Within 10 -20 minutes, before I could notice and run back to carry it, it was long gone. Also, many years ago while I was still single, there was a time when these boys when to our church, break it and took away the keyboard”.

(IDI/male/41/Iba Town/Jan, 2020)

However, participant 14 gave an opposite position when he acknowledged that theft does not frequently occur. According to him, it is difficult to hear of such things. The claim was attributed to presence of security guards in the area.

“In this area, we are very much satisfied with the level of security and safety. Particularly, theft, to a very extent, I can say it’s very rare. We hardly hear of reports of theft, even from our neighbours. This I believe is due to the fact we in this area employed security guards to watch the area both during the day and night”.

(IDI/male/40/Victory Estate/Jan, 2020)

Theme 4: **Other forms of crime**

Apart from those crimes that are frequently reported, those that were seldom reported include crimes such as vehicle theft, kidnapping, burglary and domestic violence. This shows that although these crimes happen, they are very less frequent.

Participant 8 highlighted some of these crimes;

“Other crimes that we do experience or heard of in this area are cultism. Some of them even take pride in and sometimes uses it to boast among themselves”.

(IDI/male/32/First Gate/Jan, 2020)

Participant 6 also added that

“Although, they hardly steal cars, but sometimes, if you park your car outside, they might just come steal certain parts of the car; like tires, side mirror, wiper, or any part that they can easily remove

(IDI/17/male/Iba New site/Jan, 2020)

Narrating an incidence of domestic violence that took place over 5 years ago, Participant 14 reported that

“There was a time when a very terrible incidence of domestic violence happened. There was this woman that had a housemaid. Although I don’t know the full story, all I know is that, one day, the women beat the housemaid mercilessly, tearing her face with blade. The incidence was reported to the police and the woman was taken to police station. Since then, we didn’t hear anything about the incidence anymore”.

(IDI/male/40/Victory Estate/Jan, 2020)

Objective 2: To evaluate the location and time pattern of crimes at Iba

Research Question: Where and when do crimes usually occur?

Locations of crimes occurrence

The analysis of the responses for this question reveals different kinds of crime. However, certain places were more frequently reported, such as Streets, Dark areas, Homes, Shops, Place of worship. The brightness of a place also influences the criminality of such place. Again, participant also reports of crime at place of worship.

Themes:

1. **Streets**
2. **Dark areas**
3. **Homes / Shops/Places of worship**

Theme 1: **Streets**

On the locations in which crimes occurs, majority of the respondents reported the street to be the main location for crime. This is due to the high degree of human population along the street which are mostly anonymous.

Participant 13 reported that

“The place they do carry out most of the criminal activities is on the street. You know the street serve as a place of general ownership. Anyone can just do anything they like”.

(IDI/37/female/First Gate/Jan, 2020)

Participant 18 went further to explain that

“It is common for crime to occur in the street than any other place because, the street is characterised by high level of anonymity. Moreover, most people in the street are either involved in

a busy activity trading or in a hurry journey. The resultant effect of this is that they become overwhelmed by their current activities making them less conscious and vulnerable”.

(IDI/36/female/New Site/Jan, 2020)

Theme 2: **Dark Places**

Participant 13 reported that

“Dark places are most vulnerable areas where one can easily be victimized. The worst of all is that most places in Iba are not lighted. So these culprits will just stay at such places, or perhaps just be gallivanting, waiting for innocent victims”.

(IDI/37/female/First Gate/Jan, 2020)

This was also affirmed by participant 16

“If it is possible to put light everywhere, most crimes will be reduced, because most crimes, especially in this area take place at night. Dark place is as a safe haven for crime. Most of these criminals will stay at the dark to commit crime. its even surprising that most times, they will just stay at certain part of the street that is not well illuminated”.

(IDI/23/male/Housing Estate/Jan, 2020)

Theme 3: **Homes/Shops/Place of Worship**

Participant 20 reported that,

“Sometimes, these guys can go into people’s houses and make away with their valuables. That was how they entered my house and steal some of my properties while my wife was sleeping. I just thank God they did not hurt my family.”

(IDI/43/male/Iba Newsite/Jan, 2020)

Participant 3 also added that

“it is so surprising to see that nowadays, people don’t even have the fear of God anymore. How can someone break into a church and take the musical instruments? Something that is in the presence of God. No fear!”

(IDI/41/male Iba Town/Jan, 2020)

Time of Crimes Occurrence.

Findings of this study identified three of such times; late evening/night, very early in the morning (dawning of the day), and festive period. Out of these, late evening/night and dawn is reported to be times with highest frequency of time than festive period.

Themes:

1. Late evening/Night
2. Dawning of the day
3. Festive periods

Theme 1: **Late Evening/Night.**

Participant 19 reported that,

“evening is when most people return from work and that is when the traffic is usually at its peak. The pressure and the urge to quickly get home makes it easy for certain crimes especially theft. Secondly, at this time, due to stress, so many people becomes aggressive. That is why you are more likely to see fight during these times

(IDI/33/female/First Gate/Jan, 2020)

The report of participant 13 also supported this

“Crimes happen at almost any point in time. But most often, especially in this area, night is when you will see all manners. The night is when some people do come out; some goes to bar or any of such gatherings. Others might just be walking on the streets with the purpose of victimizing others”.

(IDI/37/female/First Gate/Jan 2020)

Theme 2: **Dawning of the Day.**

Participant 18 reported that

“There was this day that I had to travel. So I decided to leave very early in the morning because of the traffic. On my way to the bus stop, certain guys just rallied around me and rob me of all my valuables.”

(IDI/36/female/Iba New site/Jan, 2020)

Theme 3: **Festive Period.**

Concerning festive period, Participant 1 reported that,

“This period is when people want to show off even when they do not have the means. That is why, festive periods has increased crime rate because some people will do just ‘anything’. That is when some guys will steal just to satisfy a lady, and some of these ladies will go the extreme just to acquire festive clothing and make ups”.

(IDI/26/male/Iba Town/Jan, 2020).

Objective 3: Identify the methods used in deterring or preventing crime within Iba Community

Research question: What methods do you use in preventing crime?

Prevention of crime has become paramount, tantamount to the enormous effects of crime. Various methods of preventing crime have emerged over the years in response to the dynamics of crime. The findings from this study on the methods of crime prevention adopted by residents of Iba has shown that's different methods of crime prevention are adopted. The study identified methods such as Personal method, Community-based Policing (Vigilante/Guards), Formal Policing, Technology and Traditional method.

Themes

1. Personal method
2. Community-based
3. Formal policing
4. Technology
5. Traditional

Theme 1: **Personal method**

Participant 16 noted that

“one way in which one can prevent crime is to do it personally. Take care of yourself and your properties. Mind the places you go and when you go there”.

(IDI/23/male/Iba Housing Estate/Jan, 2020)

Equally, Participant 10 supported this by adding that

“you are the only one that can prevent crime. Nobody will prevent crime for you. That is why if there is anything that I cannot allow to go wrong, its padlock. Although it does not guarantee full security, but we have to do our own part”.

(IDI/32/female/Iba Town/Jan, 2020)

Theme 2: **Community-based method**

Participant 3 reports that

“In this area, we also have vigilante. I do often hear them at night”.

(IDI/male/Iba Town/Jan 2020)

Participant 8 also added that

“Vigilante is common in this area. We see them both in the morning and at night. Although we cannot fully depend on them, yet they are trying.

(IDI/32/male/First Gate/Jan, 2020)

Theme 3: **Formal method**

Participant 15 reported that

“we also report crime to the police. And I can say that the police are trying. At least for the few times that I’ve reported crime to the police, the reaction of the police has been good”.

(IDI/18/female/Iba New Site/Jan, 2020)

The report of Participant 20 further negates the police

“There is no need of reporting crime to the police. Besides, what would they do than to give you paper to write statement? After that, they can just come to the crime scene and go round the place thereafter, then, go back to station. It is just a fruitless effort involving the police; just a waste of time and money”.

(IDI/43/male/Iba New site/Jan, 2020)

Theme 4: **Technological Method:**

Participant 12 reports that

“Looking around, there is no technological device used in this area to prevent crime. Those things are expensive and cannot be easily afforded

(IDD/32/male/Iba New site/Jan, 2020)

Participant 14 reported that

“there are some houses in this area that has technological device. Some has barbwire around the fence of the building. Again, another technological device used is street light. Those street lights are always lighted at night making the place very bright”.

(IDI/40/male/Victory Estate/2020)

Theme 5: **Traditional method**

Whereas participant 3 reported that

“Personally, I don't use any traditional means in preventing crime. But the community do engage some traditional means in preventing crime, for instance, whenever, they suspect that criminals have entered the community, the community will do 'Oro' to scare them away”.

(IDI/41/male/Iba Town, Jan 2020)

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This section discusses the findings of the study on the various kinds of crimes that happen at Iba and the preventive method. This discussion shall be outlined based on the objectives of the study and the various themes of each study

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS ON THE KINDS OF CRIMES THAT OCCUR IN IBA

The crime of phone theft has been identified as ravaging crime that persists in most contemporary societies. On a wider scope, the various researches on crime have shown variations. Findings of this study indicate that theft is more prevailing crime in Iba. Findings of this study further indicate that other kinds of crime that occur in Iba include smoking, drug abuse and street fight, theft and others. Generally, property crime was found to be more prevailing than crime against a person.

This finding of the study supports that of Lasisi, & Olapeju (2016), who conducted a quantitative research using questionnaires to obtain responses from a sample of 300 respondents that were selected using cluster sampling technique in Abeokuta. The study findings indicate high rate of property crime in the area. However, the finding of Lasisi & Olapeju (2016) differs from the findings of this study as vandalism was reported to be more frequent than phone theft. This is likely to be as a result of differences in study area and perhaps change in time, as phone more appealing nowadays than in 2016.

The findings of this study was also consistent with that of Badiora, et al., (2014), who conducted a study in Osun state using secondary data collected from the Osun State Police Command. In the report of Badiora, et al., (2014) crime against property was also reported to be more prevailing, than crime against a person. This was also supported by the findings of the study; where theft was mostly (property crime) against crime domestic violence (crime against a person). Synonymously, the report of Ghani (2017), in a comparative study of urban crime between Nigeria and Malaysia, using secondary data also confirm that property crime is more prevailing than crime against a person.

The prevalence of crime has been attributed to different factors which determines, among other things the kinds of crime prevailing in any particular area; the socio-demographic distribution of the study area (mainly youthful population), as earlier confirmed by previous studies long ago (Hirschi, & Gottfredson 1983; Adebayo, 2013), a more likely reason for a high rate of crime in the study area. This is consistent with the

findings of Ayodele, et al (2018), whose report of findings from a qualitative study of drug abuse and violence among youths in Lagos shows that youth are more prone to substance abuse as well as violent crime. This position is also further established by this study. Therefore, the high population of youths in Iba is a major determinant of crime Iba.

However, a mere demographic characteristic of a large youthful composition of an area is not automatically a determinant of crime. The report of Ghani, (2017) refuted this position when he highlighted unemployment (among other factors) as the major cause of crime. The findings of this study also aligned to this most respondent's reports of high unemployment among the youths. Consequently, despite the differences in causes attributed to crime, this study merge these two positions and establish that the two positions are correct. Moreover, unemployment of youths can only be said when and where the population is youthful. Theoretical underpinnings of crime as posited by the research findings can be understood within the assumptions of Rational Choice Theory (RCT). The theory posits that crime is an intentional act whereby the criminal make logical calculation to act in such a manner that minimizes cost and maximize benefit. As such, criminal perpetrate crime especially when a victim is vulnerable as it will allow for ease of acts. For instance, phone theft is common because it does not incur much cost on the criminal rather than outsmarting the victim either by threatening the victim or snatching the phone or by pick-pocketing without the victim's awareness. Crime Pattern Theory elucidates the findings on crime as a result of the relationship between victim's activities space overlapping with criminal activity space. These findings have enabled the researcher to answer the research question one and to achieve objective one as well.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS ON LOCATION AND TIME PATTERN OF CRIME IN IBA

The spatial analysis of crime emerged as an alternative understanding to crime dynamics. The comprehensiveness of spatial analysis of crime data has elaborated the scope of criminological studies and generates severally researches. Most previous studies on spatial analysis have considered the definition of geographical coordinates in conceptualizing crime. However, this study adopts a sociological conceptualization of crime location. The resultant of this is the identification of crime locations such as streets, homes, and others; based on their human activities rather than geographical coordinates.

The findings from this study identified streets as the location with the highest crime rate as reported by the majority of the participants. This finding supports the findings of Lee, et al., (2017), whose findings from a systematic review of literature on crime location, identified crime to be more concentrated on the streets. However, a quantitative study conducted by Patel (2013) in India, contradicts this finding. According to the study, the homes and shops were reported to be the location with the highest crime rate. These differences in finding are likely to be influenced by certain factors such as differences in study area, characteristics of the study population and the general socio-economic condition of the study population.

Also, the findings of this study indicate the existing relationship between environmental characteristic and crime. The research findings show that luminosity of a place is an essential factor of crime. This finding supports the report of other research on environmental criminology. One of such reports is that of Birks et al, (2012) which clearly shows that among other things, the nature of the physical environment is a major determinant of crime. Similarly, this finding is also consistent with that of Shariatti & Guerette (2017), whose findings shows the existing relationship between luminosity and crime occurrence and also suggested an improvement in lighting up areas. Although Shariatti & Guerette (2017) also reported this to be influenced by the kind of crime and the nature of the place, however, it can still be said that lighting up places is essential in preventing crime as supported by the findings of this research. The finding on temporal analysis of crime reveals that crime occurrence varies at every point in time. The finding of this study indicates that crime occurs more frequent between late evening and night.

The theoretical evidence of the effect of location and time of crime is evident in Crime Pattern Theory (CPT). The theory posits that crime will occur at a place where a criminal meets a vulnerable and unguided victim during the course of their daily activities. Such place as streets, dark places and place of worship were

identified in this study. The finding shows that vulnerable places, such as dark place, one is more likely to fall victim especially if such a person is alone. CPT explains this as the absence of a guardian for the victim in the presence of a potential offender. These findings of the study have enabled the researcher to answer research question two and to achieve objective two.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS ON THE METHOD OF CRIME PREVENTION IN IBA

The deterrence or prevention of crime is essential, to ensure the inhibition of criminal activities and safety of lives and properties. The findings of this study shows that, crime can be prevented through various methods including personal method, community-based method, technological method, traditional method, religious method and the use of formal institutions such as the police and LNSC.

The research of Abraham & Inyang (2014) shows the evidence of the use of personal method in crime prevention. The findings of this study also support such findings as majority of the respondents reported that crime prevention and security is everyone's job. The respondents also further explain that they prevent crime (especially theft) by ensuring that their home is always locked.

The application of community-based method of crime prevention is also another method of crime prevention that is used by the residents of Iba in preventing crime as shown by the findings of this research. Findings of this study show that Community-based method of crime prevention as applied in Iba, is through Vigilante and/or Night Guards and the installation of Street Gates. Majority of the respondents reported of having vigilante group in their area, some other areas have both night and day guard. This finding is consistent with the finding of Ojebode, et al. (2016) in a quantitative study of community-base crime prevention at Ibadan. From their findings, community-based method such as vigilantism and neighbourhood watch was reported to be an effective and highly utilized method of crime prevention among the residents of Ibadan.

Also, the findings from this study identified street gates as another means by which the community collectively attempt to prevent crime. Street Gates are fixed at the entrance of most streets in Iba. This finding of the study is a proof of the attitude of being security conscious by the residents, not just at the individual level but at the communal level as well.

The findings of this research also show that aside the application of personal method and community-based method in prevention of crime, the residents of Iba also acknowledge and utilise the formally instituted means of crime prevention. The research findings indicate the use of Police and LNSC in preventing crime. Nevertheless, the utilization of the police in prevention of crime was reported to be ineffective and undesired method of crime prevention. Majority of the respondents reported of not wanting to do anything with the police. This finding of the study is in agreement with that of Kasali & Odetola (2016), whose report also confirmed the ineffectiveness of the police. The ineffectiveness of the police in preventing crime, as reported by the respondents is likely to be associated with the cost of crime reporting as most respondents said that they do not involve the police in preventing crime because it will only results in wasting of time and money. This finding of the study is consistent with that of Ayodele (2015), in a mixed method (qualitative and quantitative) study on the correlates of crime reporting among victims in Lagos. His findings show that crime reporting is associated with cost.

However, the finding of this study on police as a method of crime prevention as applicable in Iba is contrary to that of Nwankwo (2013). His report from the findings of the study indicates that the police are effective in crime reduction. These differences in findings might be likely due to differences in study location and the current circumstance of relationship between the police and the public as at the time the studies were conducted.

The application of technology as a method of crime prevention was also found in Iba. The means of technological method of crime prevention identified in Iba includes Barbwire and Streetlights. The finding of this study indicates that these technological gadgets are effective in preventing crime as reported by most of the respondents of the study. This finding is seen to be consistent with that of Mongwe & Kenosi (2017) who also reported of the effectiveness of the use of technology in preventing crime. Mongwe & Kenosi

(2017) conducted a mixed method study in Botswana. The report of their findings shows that the use of technology to foster communication is effective in crime prevention. However, this study differs from that of Mongwe & Kenosi (2017) in type of technological gadget used. Synonymously, this finding is also consistent with that of Shariatti & Guerette (2017) who reviewed existing literatures on the use of technology in crime prevention (especially, the use of CCTV camera in prevention of crime) and reported it to be effective.

Traditional method of crime prevention was found to be very lowly applied in Iba. Most of the research respondents reported of not having to use traditional means in preventing crime as most respondents were either Christians or Muslims. The finding of this research shows that traditional method of crime prevention is not widely used in Iba. This finding contradicts that of Tade & Olaitan (2015), whose report of a qualitative study at Epe, shows a high rate of application of traditional method of crime prevention. This is likely a resultant of the difference in perceptions and characteristic of the study population.

However, traditional method of crime prevention was found at the communal level. The finding from this study indicates that, occasionally, Iba community perform 'Oro' (a kind of masquerade rituals perform at night). Findings further explain that, this ritual is performed at a suspicion of invasion of criminals into Iba. It was also revealed from the research responses that the voodoo of this rituals scare away criminals due to its devastating effects.

Likewise, the findings of this research on religious (or Faith-based) method of crime prevention in Iba also reveals very low rate of application. Some of the respondents did not actually see their application of religion in crime prevention. Others, that reported of applying religion to prevent crime report of only having to do so by prayers. This finding is not regular with that of Adigun, et al., (2016) in a research conducted in Ifo, Ogun State. Their findings show a high rate of application of religious means in preventing crime among the respondents in that area. According to their findings, Christians makes more use of the Bible in crime prevention while the Muslims mostly use the 'Turari', and 'Eti-agbeko' is mostly used by Traditionalists. These were all reported to be effective in preventing crime.

SUMMARY

The study sets out to actualise a general objective of understanding the prevalence of crime and its prevention. In the subset of this, the study provides a documentation of the various crimes in Iba, where and when such crimes occurs and the kind of preventive methods applied by the residents. Given that, unemployment is a major determinant of crime in Iba, the engagement of the populace especially the youths, in productive enterprise will further reduce crime. In the same way, the study also concludes that a more favourable relationship between the police and the residents of Iba community is needed to further ensure security and safety of lives and property. Synonymously, reorientation of the youths is very vital to ensure a change of mindset and cultivation of positive thoughts and right attitude. Concomitantly, crime has been found to occur more on the streets and in dark places. Conversely, this is as a result of absence of adequate security personnel along the street as well as the absence of street lights and the malfunctioning of some of the street lights in areas where they are present. Thus, the study recommends the deployment of security personal along the streets.

The following are recommended: first, this study only focuses on the residents' perspective. Further studies should include the police and members of the vigilante, for an elaborate understanding of crime. Second, given the high rate of phone theft, further studies should specifically examine the crime of phone theft in Iba. Third, with the consistency in findings on the use of traditional method in preventing crime, this study also suggest that an ethnographic study should be conducted in Iba, for among other things, further investigate the use of traditional method.

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