

# The Analytics of Correlates of Crime and Youth Development Challenges in Warri South Local Council, Delta State, Nigeria

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**Abstract:** This study is a treatise of the correlates of crime and insecurity amongst youths in Warri South LGA, Delta State, Nigeria.. The study was guided by three research questions and three hypotheses. A descriptive survey research design was employed in the research. The sample size for the study was 100 respondents. The findings of the study indicated that drug violation or abuse, cybercrime, assault, armed robbery, prostitution, pipeline vandalism, kidnapping and rape are types of criminal and acts of insecurity perpetrated by youths in the area under study. The causative factors include; unemployment, lack of education, poverty, injustice, oppression and marginalization, use of illicit drugs, inadequate security, greed and peer influence. The high rate of crime by youths and general feeling of insecurity in the study area has also largely dampen the morale of investors, create doubt and inefficiency in the oil and gas industry, slowed down economic growth and development. It has caused massive decline in the activities of business men and women, reduced safety and created fear, disrupted order and created chaos and caused incalculable physical injuries and associated trauma. The study consequently recommended among others that the federal, state, and local governments of Nigeria should step up efforts to guarantee youth development, public safety, national security, political stability, economic stability, the provision of adequate welfare services, and other infrastructural development to stem this ugly scourge. It also recommended that there should be adequate engagement of the general public in the

identification and implementation of projects and programs that have an impact on their lives, as well as policies to safeguard the populace from hunger, disease, natural catastrophes, unemployment, poverty and general underdevelopment that will mitigate youth involvement in crime and acts of deviance.

*Keywords:* Youth, Development, Correlates, Crime, Warri South, Analytics.

## Background of Study

The general consensus in a time of profound insecurity and public safety threats, and indeed, unpredictability, where people's views of crime and the possibility of chaos are becoming more salient aspects of daily life in developed capitalist economies (Crawford 2002). This is related to a broader perspective on criminality that claims that ideas of insecurity and crime are negatively affecting social interactions, the growth of an overall sphere, trust among persons, and educational trust, as well as influencing national strategies for controlling crime and public security amongst scholars and analysts of social issues.

Furthermore, it is thought that a key hazard to any nation is the insecurity of life and property. Because of political brigandage, armed robberies, kidnappings, and other crimes, Nigerians have lost confidence in the power of their government protecting them. The need for security to maintain a free nation's entity is of utmost importance, and its fulfilment helps that nation gain respect and status from other nations. Crime, according to Osawe (2015), is defined as an unlawful conduct that is banned by law or the omission to take action that is mandated by law. Illegal behaviour that entails breaching the law is also characterized as immorality and is a humiliating, foolish, and regretful act. Security is the absence of fear, injury, disaster, tyranny, worry, and threats to people's lives and overall health. Safety and health are not in danger (Afolabi, 2015). As a result, insecurity denotes a lack of security. It is security's contrary. Any national government that experiences insecurity suffers devastating results since it tends to erode its peace and stability. Extreme situations of insecurity frequently result in unstable countries or disintegrating state institutions, which damage the nation's reputation abroad as evidenced in Nigeria.

Most studies of crime and insecurity around the world are beginning to point to a "youth factor" as a crucial component in the creation or maintenance of crime. This propensity frequently causes individuals to ignore youthful people's beneficial contributions to society, particularly their potential to uphold the fabric of society and fostering peace (Chiedu, Solaja and Olawunmi, 2015). Youths are referred to as a possible security danger by the United Nations High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change, which also claims that industrialization, lack of employment, and other

issues, as well as a growing younger population, can all contribute to conflicts and instability. There is an increase in consideration about youth and the circumstances that may encourage their involvement in carrying out crime and avoiding the integration of peace and stability as young individuals are increasingly having the challenges of limited educational opportunities and access to employment opportunities and economic development. In the same vein, the HIV/AIDS problem, lack of employment, war, and other forms of conflicts are critical underdevelopment factors facing contemporary youths in Nigeria (Olutayo and Okunola, 2008). In recent years, emerging nations have seen a noticeable increase in the number of young person's involvement in crime and deviant behaviours. Youth's violence has also been on the rise throughout Africa, most likely as a result of the downturn and rising economic hardship in several regions of the world. The prevalence of youth engagement in crime appears to be rising globally (Levine, 2007, Okaba & Nte, 2008). In Nigeria, it is even worse because young persons' engagement in crime has led to unquantifiable level of property destruction and massive loss of lives across the country.

A structure that takes into account the difficulties of the passage to maturity in oppressive societies is necessary to comprehend the participation of youths in crime. Youth criminality is therefore a problem that affects more than just youth; it is a symptom that underlines crass anomie within the larger society. Consequently, understanding the youths –crime nexus gives us an insight us to re-evaluate society and the developmental challenges and processes within the context of postmodernism. Millions of people worldwide live in continual fear of youth involvement in crime. Crimes that are often performed by adults older than 18 seem to be picked up by children. According to research, an increasing percentage of young people are committing extremely violent crimes (Levine, 2007). Youth engagement in crime is a problem that exists in all nations, and increases in youth criminal involvement over the past 20 years have raised serious concerns throughout the world. Changes in the way violent youth behaviour has been addressed in different societies have equally contributed to some of the rise in teenage crime levels across the globe (Levine, 2007).

### **Statement of the Problem**

It is quite a matter of serious concern over the high spate of in Nigeria in recent years. This is clear from daily news reports on a variety of crimes, including robberies, thefts, burglaries, car thefts, rapes, kidnappings, computer scams, and other crimes committed on social media (Ibrahim, 2019).

In the time past, Nigeria had enjoyed a tranquil and serene atmosphere with adequate protection of peoples' lives and property, however, recently, the nation has

been severely hit by insecurity (Ibrahim, 2019). Sadly, the energetic and vibrant class of youths, who make up more than half of Nigeria's population according to the 2016 census (Mbachu and Alake, 2016), and who should utilise their strengths to contribute to the growth and development of the country, are frequently at the centre of the nation's crime problem. Between the ages of 12 and 35, youths are active, inventive, innovative and hold the hope for the future of every civilization (Chiedu, Solaja and Olawunmi, 2015). Within the realm of psychology, there is a great likelihood that young people with so much dispensable may engage in criminal activity when they suffer social seclusion and are less involved in the development of society.

Adebayo (2013), has posited that crime poses a challenge to the development and advancement of society. It is a purveyor of terror carries in its trail needless suffering, agony, the loss of lives, and damage to property. The safety and stability of society is also negatively impacted. Nations are desirous to achieve long-term security and reduction in criminal activities to the barest minimum. Globally, teenage criminal behaviour has put a tremendous strain on the human race with catastrophic consequences. Even the so-called advanced countries are not spared as they battle with youth criminality in the forms of gun violence, armed robberies, rape etc. In the light of these realities, local, national, and international governments are working assiduously to curb this menace, and to reduce the threat of crimes committed by juveniles with law enforcement and security agencies. In Nigeria, the scourge of the rise in the incidence of youth criminality has remained a nagging social problem. Youths, are frequently detained for one offense or another virtually every day. Available crime data in Nigeria, according to Attoh (2012) claimed that in less than ten years, there has been a 75% rise in the cases of murder. From 1,629 in 1994, the number increased to 2,120 in 2001 and 2,136 in 2003. (Attoh, 2012). In a similar vein, from 1994 to 2002, there was a 52% rise in the number of armed robberies (Attoh, 2012). Out of these figures, the proportion of youths aged 17-35 remained quite significant.

Following the preparation for the 2022 general elections, political activities have taken centre stage with preparations and announced readiness of the nation's electoral umpire; INEC. With the commencement of political campaigns, the state is currently agog with political activities. They was alignment and realignment of political blocs aimed at positioning the candidates and parties for an eventual victory.

However, considering the widespread prevalence of cult groups and violent tussles between these cult groups which resulted in intra and inter cult rivalry that snowballed into politically motivated killings as most of the cult groups became loyalists of some

candidates of and political parties and willing tools in the hands of these political gladiators in the state, the stage was set for a violent political struggle that would eventually stretch the state's security apparatus. Furthermore, credible intelligence had revealed the proliferation of small arms and light weapons which were being acquired and distributed by unscrupulous politicians to their goons and foot soldiers during the period.

A combination of all the above snowballed into a challenge that security agencies still grapple with until date as a fall out of violent political activities that had pervaded the electioneering period.

With the decentralization of activities and distribution of responsibilities to the Local Government Chairmen, members of the State Executive Council and members of the State Legislative Chambers on one hand and the mobilization by purported "Abuja" Politicians on the other hand, mobilization of party supporters shifted to the grassroots (Local Government Areas). At the Local Government level where cult activities was more prevalent, cultism became a flourishing business that saw young people initiated into cult groups with the objective of having a share of "the pie" as provided by politicians.

Security at this stage became a burden as the state began to witness apprehension and hysteria amongst the populace with various incidents of cult related killings and politically motivated upheavals that once again created high level of insecurity in the various Local Government Areas.

Security during this period under review became tasking as youths used by unscrupulous politicians were abandoned to their fate with most of the weapons given to them by their "employers" being to be used freely to rob, kidnap, assassinate and threaten innocent members of the public.

With these trends, security agencies were challenged and were tasked to take hold of the security challenges and curb the activities of these hoodlums on rampage. This led to the formation of local vigilantes in some Local Governments and the eventual establishment of the "Operation Sting" by the State Government with the objective of dealing with incidents of incessant armed robbery, kidnapping, etc. it is important to note that during this period under review, Thirty Five (35) incidents of armed robbery was recorded with kidnapping and cult related violence/ crimes listing Forty One (41). Although other sundry crimes were also recorded, their number was negligible as compared with the trend recorded with respect to kidnapping, armed robbery and cult related violence/crimes. This was so because of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the hands of thugs and hoodlums used and dumped by politicians after the elections.

### Bar Chart Representation of Crimes within the Period under Review

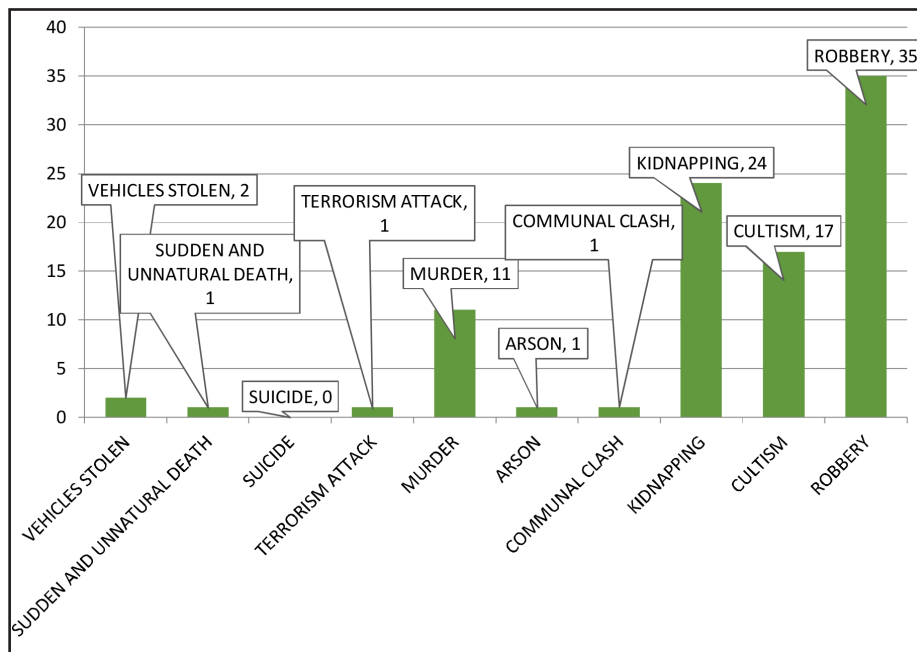


Figure 1: Bar Chart representing the crimes within the period under review

According to the United Nations, Nigeria has a severe crime problem apparently because of the high level of urban poverty, human trafficking and slavery, unemployment, high cost of living, social disorganisation, and moral decay pervasive in both rural and urban Nigeria (Adebayo 2013). In the same vein, of crimes preponderance in Nigeria is a consequence of poverty, social exclusion, and a decay in infrastructural foundation of the country. According to Ajaegbu (2012), the widening gap among the rich and the poor has a negative impact on society by raising the rate of crime and violence in Nigeria. Corroborating this position, Adebayo (2013) and Ajufo (2013) showed that youth unemployment has a significant impact on youth engagement in crime. This is due to the possibility that an unemployed adolescent may get depressed and, as a result, commit crimes or participate in immoral behaviour, endangering the socioeconomic peace and stability of any given society. The weakening of the extended family system, in which individuals or members of a community were communally parented, was recognized by Olutayo and Okunola (2008) as a major factor in the frequency of teenage criminality. Furthermore, it was found by Akwara, Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle, and Udaw (2013) that poverty is a situation that drives the majority of young people to engage in criminal activity such stealing, abduction, vandalism, aggravated burglary, murder, political thugs, and insurgency.

Youth engagement in crime is greatly influenced by a number of factors, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of education, as practically all of those shown in media as criminals in Nigeria are young people (Akwaru et al., 2013). In a similar vein, many of the victims recruited by terrorist organizations in Nigeria as suicide bombers are also young people. Additionally, the majority of those involved in insurgency are young people (Solaja and Atere, 2015). In light of this, it is unnecessary to reiterate the urgent need for action to address the rising trend of youth crime in Nigeria. This study sets out to examine the correlates of crime and insecurity amongst youths and the challenges of youth development in Warri South Local Council in Delta State.

### **Aims of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to investigate on correlates of crime and insecurity amongst youths in Warri South LGA, Delta State. Specifically, the aims of this study are to;

- (i) Find out the types of criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in Warri South LGA, Delta State.
- (ii) Establish the factors responsible for youths' involvement in criminal and insecurity acts in Warri South LGA, Delta State.
- (iii) Ascertain the effects of the criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in Warri South LGA, Delta State.
- (iv) Review the Challenges of youth development in Warri South LGA, Delta State.

### **Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- (i) What are the types of criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in Warri South LGA, Delta State?
- (ii) What are the factors responsible for youths' involvement in criminal and insecurity acts in Warri South LGA, Delta State?
- (iii) What are the effects of the criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in Warri South LGA, Delta State?
- (iv) What are the youth development challenges in Warri South LGA, Delta State?

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

The following null hypotheses are to guide the study:

- (i)  $H_{01}$ : There is no significant relationship between the types of criminal activities by perpetrated by youths and insecurity.

- (ii)  $H_{02}$ : There is no significant relationship between the factors of crime considered in this study and youths' involvement in criminal activities.
- (iii)  $H_{03}$ : There is no significant relationship between the effects of criminal activities and youth and national development.

## Methods of Study

The study adopted a descriptive survey research method which employed the use of structured questionnaire to elicit responses from a purposive sample made up of such community stake holders (Women, religious leaders, women leaders, youth leaders) from the population used for the research. In total a total of 100 questionnaires were returned from 125 administered.

## Presentation and Analysis of Data

### *Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents*

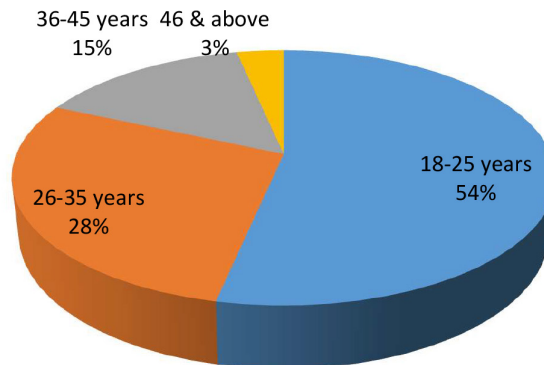
**Table 1: Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents N = 100**

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Age (years)	18 – 25	52	52
	26 – 35	28	28
	36 – 45	15	15
	46 & above	5	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Level of Education	Primary School	7	7
	Secondary School	13	13
	OND/NCE	35	35
	Degree/HND	42	42
	Postgraduate	3	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Religion	Christian	77	77
	Islam	15	15
	Traditional	8	8
	Others	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Marital Status	Single	85	85
	Married	15	15
	Divorced	0	0
	Widow	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Employment Status	Employed	30	30
	Unemployed	70	70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work (2022).



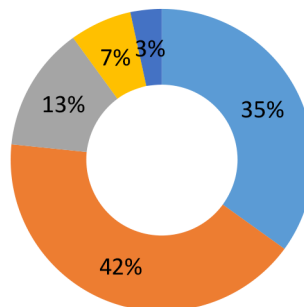
The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of respondents for this study as presented in table 1 and figure 1 shows that out of the 100 respondents used in this study, most of the respondents (52%) were between 18 - 25 years, next on the list (28%), are those between 26 – 35 years, followed by 15% of respondents between 36 – 45 years, while 5% of the respondents were 46 and above. This trend is a true representation of the composition of members of the society; in which young people are more than the old.



**Figure 1: Age Distribution of Respondents**

The distribution of respondents base on level of education as shown in table 4.1 and figure 4.2 shows that 35% respondents had OND/NCE, 42% were degree/HND holders, 13% have completed secondary school, 7% have completed primary school, while only 3% were postgraduates. This shows that most of the respondents have attained tertiary level of education. This is probably due to the presence of at least six tertiary institutions in Delta State, Nigeria.

■ OND/NCE   ■ Dgree/HND   ■ Secondary  
■ Primary   ■ Postgraduate



**Figure 2: Level of Education of Respondents**

The distribution of respondents based on religious affiliation as shown in table 1 and figure 3 revealed that 77% were Christians, 15% were of the Islamic faith and 8% practice African traditional religion. This implies that majority of the respondents in the study area are religions people, thus with good moral, discipline and fear of God.

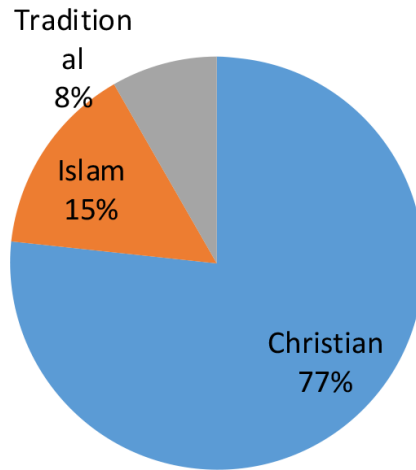


Figure 3: Religious Affiliation of Respondents

On the marital status of respondents as shown in table 1 and figure .4 below, 85% were single while 15% were married.

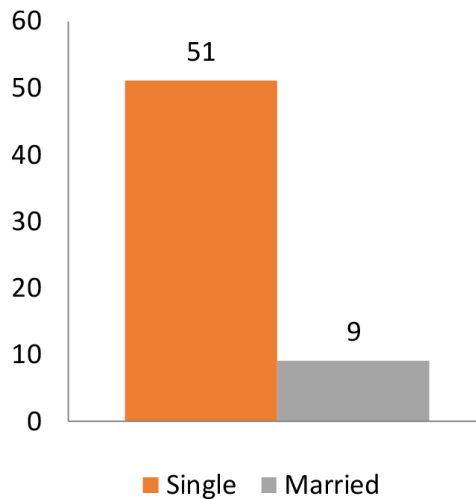


Figure 4: Marital Status of Respondents

On the employment status of the respondents as shown in table 4.1 and figure 4.5, 30% were employed while 70% were unemployed.

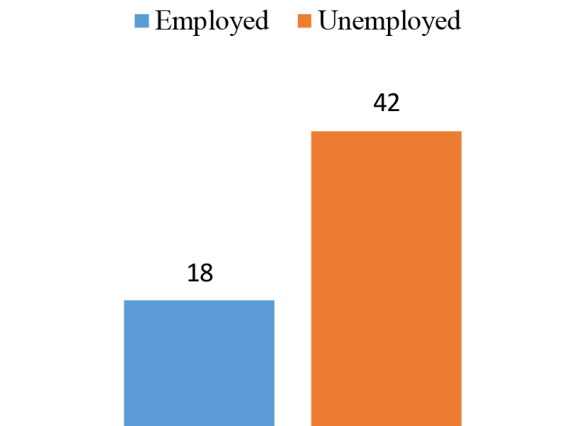


Figure 5: Employment Status of Respondents

### *Analysis of Research Objectives*

#### *Research Objective One*

Table 2: Types of Criminal and Insecurity Acts Perpetrated by Youths  
N = 100

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Score	Percentage	Score	Percentage
1.	Drug violation or abuse	90	90%	10	10%
2.	cybercrime	87	87%	13	13%
3.	Assault	83	83%	17	17%
4.	Armed Robbery	78	78%	22	22%
5.	Prostitution	73	73%	27	27%
6.	Arson and vandalism of property	70	70%	30	30%
7.	Kidnapping	67	67%	33	33%
8.	Rape	58	58%	42	42%

Source: Field work (2022).

Table 2 shows the divergent views of the respondents on the types of criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area. Based on the result, it can be seen that drug violation or abuse (90%), cybercrime (87%) and assault (83%) are the major types of criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area. These were closely followed by armed robbery (78%), prostitution (73%), arson and vandalism property (70%), Kidnapping (67) and rape (58%) were also seen as types of criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area.

*Research Objective Two***Table 3: Factors Responsible for Youths' Involvement in Criminal and Insecurity Acts  
N = 100**

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Scores	Percentage	Scores	Percentage
1.	Unemployment	90	90%	10	10%
2.	Lack of education	85	85%	15	15%
3.	Poverty	80	80%	20	20%
4.	Injustice, oppression and marginalization	77	77%	23	23%
5.	Use of illicit drugs	70	70%	30	30%
6.	Inadequate security	63	63%	37	37%
7.	Greed	58	58%	42	42%
8.	Peer influence	45	45%	55	55%

Source: Field work (2022).

In Table 3, the opinion of the respondents varied on the factors responsible for youths' involvement in criminal and insecurity acts in the study area. Considering the results, unemployment (90%), lack of education (85%) and poverty (80%) were seen as the major factors responsible for youths' involvement in criminal and insecurity acts in the study area. These were closely followed by injustice, oppression and marginalization (77%) and use of illicit drugs (70%). Inadequate security (63%), greed (58%) and peer influence (45%) were also seen as factors responsible for youths' involvement in criminal and insecurity acts in the study area.

*Research Objective Three***Table 4: Effects of the Criminal and Insecurity Acts Perpetrated by Youths  
N = 100**

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Score	Percentage	Score	Percentage
1.	Dampen the morale of investors	98	98%	2	2%
2.	Create doubt and inefficiency in an industry	93	93%	7	7%
3.	Slows down economic growth and development	90	90%	6	10%
4.	Declines the activities of business men	85	85%	9	15%
5.	Reduces safety and create fear	82	82%	18	18%
6.	Disrupts order and create chaos	75	75%	25	25%
7.	Causes physical injuries and associated trauma	72	72%	28	28%

Source: Field work (2022).

Table 4 shows the divergent views of the respondents on the effects of the criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area. Looking at the scores and percentages, it can be seen that most of the respondents are of the view that the observed criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area dampen the morale of investors (98%), create doubt and inefficiency in an industry (93%), slows down economic growth and development (90%), declines the activities of business men (85%) and reduces safety and create fear (82%). Other respondents also accepted that the observed criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area disrupts order and create chaos (75%) and causes physical injuries and associated trauma (72%).

### *Test of Hypotheses*

The study correlated variables using the Pearson correlation analysis to determine the relationship between the variables.

### *Hypothesis One*

$H_{01}$ : There is no significant relationship between the types of criminal activities by perpetrated by youths and insecurity

**Table 4.5: Pearson correlation analysis of Hypothesis One**

<i>Types of criminal behaviours</i>		<i>Insecurity</i>
Drug violation or abuse	Pearson Correlation	1.00
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.05
cybercrime	Pearson Correlation	0.731
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.007
Assault	Pearson Correlation	0.611
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Armed Robbery	Pearson Correlation	0.835
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
Prostitution	Pearson Correlation	<b>0.625*</b>
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.002
Pipeline vandalism	Pearson Correlation	0.742
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
Kidnapping	Pearson Correlation	0.584
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Rape	Pearson Correlation	0.457
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.001

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

From the above correlation table, all the variables have a relationship with each other at 0.05 significance level. We can therefore derive that there is significant relationship between the types of criminal activities by perpetrated by youths and insecurity in the study area.

### *Hypothesis Two*

H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the factors of crime considered in this study and youths' involvement in criminal activities.

**Table 6: Pearson correlation analysis of Hypothesis Two**

<i>Factors responsible for crime</i>		<i>Involvement in Crimes</i>
Unemployment	Pearson Correlation	0.857
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.04
Lack of education	Pearson Correlation	0.962
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.005
Poverty	Pearson Correlation	0.324
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Injustice, oppression and marginalization	Pearson Correlation	0.827
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.001
Use of illicit drugs	Pearson Correlation	0.562
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.002
Inadequate security	Pearson Correlation	0.832
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.005
Greed	Pearson Correlation	0.831
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.003
Peer influence	Pearson Correlation	0.325
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

From the above correlation table, all the variables have a relationship with each other at 0.05 significance level. We can therefore derive that there is significant relationship between the factors of crime considered in this study and youths' involvement in criminal activities.

### *Hypothesis Three*

H<sub>03</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the effects of criminal activities and youth and national development.

**Table 7: Pearson correlation analysis of Hypothesis Three**

<i>Effects of Criminal Activities</i>		<i>Youth and National Development</i>
Dampen the morale of investors	Pearson Correlation	0.922
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.05
Create doubt and inefficiency in an industry	Pearson Correlation	0.632
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.02
Slows down economic growth and development	Pearson Correlation	0.569
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Declines the activities of business men	Pearson Correlation	0.428
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
Reduces safety and create fear	Pearson Correlation	0.389
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.005
Disrupts order and create chaos	Pearson Correlation	0.639
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Causes physical injuries and associated trauma	Pearson Correlation	0.781
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.005

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

From the above correlation table, all the variables have a relationship with each other at 0.05 significance level. We can therefore derive that there is significant relationship between the effects of criminal activities and youth and national development.

### ***Discussion of Findings***

The findings from this study revealed that drug trafficking, consumption or abuse, arson and vandalism of property and assault etc. are the major types of criminal acts perpetrated by youths in the study area. These are closely followed by armed robbery, prostitution, cybercrime, kidnapping and rape. This result is in accordance with the findings of Jonathan *et al.* (2021) which noted that various types of crimes such as kidnapping, burglary, murder, rape, arson which were generally subsumed into crime against persons, property and society. Also, Ribera *et al.* (2019) asserted that the strongest correlates of youth violence are male sex, impulsivity, conduct problems, early sex, smoking, alcohol use, use of hard drugs, being bullied, suffering criminal victimization, having deviant/delinquent peers, and watching violent television. Adegun (2013) also added that youths commit such offences as stealing, loitering around, burglary and violent behaviour among others.

Also, findings of this study revealed that unemployment lack of education and poverty are the major factors responsible for youths' involvement in criminal and insecurity acts in the study area. These were closely followed by injustice, oppression and marginalization, use of illicit drugs, inadequate security, greed and peer influence. With respect to this result, Oluwaleye (2021) discovered a close link between unemployment and crime. He posited that the youths who are at the active stage to use their talents and strength, in absence of profitable engagement, divert it to various crimes.

Ejo-Orusa (2020) also opined that a significant relationship exists between unemployment and insecurity (cultism, armed robbery, kidnapping and militancy/political violence) in Rivers State. Also, Jonathan *et al.* (2021) identified unemployment, income inequality, poverty, hereditary factors and influence of peer groups among others as some of the causative factors of crime in society. Udelue *et al.* (2020) also noted that factors drive youths into Cybercrime in the area include: unemployment, peers influence, quest for wealth/get rich quick syndrome, poverty, greed, lack of internet security and poor parental supervision, among others.

On the effects of the criminal and violent acts perpetrated by youths in the study area, the findings from this study revealed that the observed criminal and acts of security perpetrated by youths in the study area dampen the morale of investors, create doubt and inefficiency in business environment, slows down economic growth and development, attenuates the activities of business men, reduces safety and create fear, disrupts order and create chaos and causes physical injuries and associated trauma. In accordance with this result, Oluwaleye (2021) asserted that the security of the citizenry and development of the country is at stake and as such, people continue to live in fear and scare away investors.

Furthermore, Jonathan *et al.* (2021) opined that crime hinders economic growth, instils fear and tension. Other adverse effects of crime include the cost of repairing various kinds of damages caused by crime, loss of revenue used in the maintenance and rehabilitation of prisons and the huge resources allocated for the arrest, investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of crimes. In addition, a study by Onwuka *et al.* (2015) concluded that youth unemployment affects negatively economic growth in Nigeria due to high increase in violent crime such as, kidnapping, robbery, thuggery and terrorism which hinders business investment and economic growth.

## Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

### Summary

The findings of the study include:

- (i) Drug violation or abuse, cybercrime, arson and vandalism of property, assault, armed robbery, prostitution, arson and vandalism of property, kidnapping and



rape are types of criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area.

- (ii) Unemployment, lack of education, poverty, injustice, oppression and marginalization, use of illicit drugs, inadequate security, greed and peer influence were seen as factors responsible for youths' involvement in criminal and insecurity acts in the study area.
- (iii) The observed criminal and insecurity acts perpetrated by youths in the study area dampen the morale of investors, create doubt and inefficiency in an industry, slows down economic growth and development, declines the activities of business men, reduces safety and create fear, disrupts order and create chaos and causes physical injuries and associated trauma.

## Conclusion

The study looked into the types, causes, and impacts of youth crime on society's socioeconomic advancement. According to the study, among other things, peer pressure, hereditary factors, poverty, income inequality, and unemployment all contribute to crime in society. There were recognized several different forms of crimes, including kidnapping, burglary, murder, rape, and arson, which were commonly classified as crimes against people, property, and society. Crime impedes economic development and creates tension and dread. Other negative repercussions of crime include the expense of fixing different types of damage brought on by crime, loss of revenue used to maintain and renovate prisons, and the enormous resources allotted for the capture, investigation, and conviction of criminals.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends the following as mechanisms to combat crimes and ensure security in Nigeria;

- (i) To discourage young people from turning to crime, the public and private sectors should create employment opportunities for young and fresh graduates, as well as programs to help them launch their own businesses.
- (ii) Making poverty alleviation an explicit constitutional provision and incorporating it into the country's broader development/policy management framework should be given some thought.
- (iii) The government should work to create institutes of technology for the youth population who were unable to enrol in universities and other intermediate level colleges, as well as provide requisite social amenities for the communities.

- (iv) The government should provide information and counselling to young people in the study region about the risks of committing crimes, with the assistance of significant ministries, departments, and other non-governmental organizations.
- (v) The federal, state, and local governments of Nigeria should step up efforts to guarantee national security, political stability, economic stability, the provision of adequate welfare services, and other infrastructural development.
- (vi) There should be adequate engagement from the general public in the identification and implementation of projects and programs that have an impact on their lives, as well as policies to safeguard the populace from hunger, disease, natural catastrophes, unemployment, poverty, etc.
- (vii) In order to effectively lower crime to a minimal level for improved security, the government should provide security agencies with current crime fighting resources including equipment and staff development training for security personnel.
- (viii) In order to lessen tensions, hostilities, bloodshed, and criminality of all kinds, political leaders around the world should also secure equal distribution of the common wealth and resources among their expanding populations. This will promote peace and development.
- (ix) Governments at all levels should work together to provide higher wages and family support services that will raise the standard of living for people all across the world.
- (x) Finally, In order to create an environment that is conducive to development, policymakers should also make a deliberate effort to implement measures, policies, and strategies for crime reduction. This is because no society can advance in an environment marked by disorder and crime.

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