

Street Trading and Juvenile Delinquency: Evidence from Major Motor Parks in Enugu State, Nigeria

Obinna J. Eze^{1,2}

¹Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6798-4954>

²Department of Planning, research and Statistics, Nigeria Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Abuja

Correspondence author E-mail: judez_24@yahoo.co.uk

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Abstract: This study examines street trading and juvenile delinquency drawing data from major motor parks in Enugu state, Nigeria. Street trading holds obvious implications to both adults and juveniles, but the situation of the juvenile remains critical in relation to unique factors such as socio-economic status, cultural, traditional, and economic circumstances, which impacts juveniles' experiences. This study was framed on Cloward and Ohlin's Differential Opportunity theory. Qualitative method was adopted, whereby thirty young persons aged 13-17 years were selected across six major motor parks in Enugu State using purposive sampling, and in-depth interview administered. Findings show that street trading was not the preferred choice for the young persons who engage in it; rather street trading is a function of poverty in which these juveniles find themselves.

Keywords: Hawking, Juvenile delinquency, Juvenile work, Motor Park, Street trading.

Introduction

Developing countries of the world are characterized by large informal economies, evidenced by the large number of street traders in many of their cities. This is typical in Africa where informal commerce is the major source of jobs for the growing urban poor (Brown, Lyons & Dankoco, 2009). The patterns in which street traders peddle their wares include display of wares by the roads for motorists' attention, under the trees, in kiosks or in buses (Ikechebelu, Udigwe, Ezechukwu, Ndinechi, & Joe-Ikechebelu, 2008). The wares are pushed around in wheelbarrows or carts, carried in flat trays or

pans on the sellers' heads (Oke, 2016). The wares on display for sale usually includes fruits and vegetables, household items, detergents and soaps, clothing material, food items, fresh meat, bread, and any other item as deemed fit. Street trading may involve children of all categories, either living with their biological or foster parents, guardians, caregiver, master or madam.

Nigeria's obvious indicators of poverty mark street trading and hawking as the hallmark of major cities in the country (Nsisong&Eme, 2012). Street trading has clear adverse implications not only for juveniles, but for adults as well. However, the situation of most Nigerian children remains critical due to the unique factors of their socio-economic, cultural, traditional, and developmental circumstances as dependents. As a result of poverty, young persons may be compelled by circumstances beyond their control to contribute to family income with associated implications. In major cities like Lagos, teenagers hawk shoes, electronic gadgets, books, clothing, and are also newspaper vendors (Ikechebelu et al, 2008). These teenagers who are inclusive of girls move from one point to another, often pursuing speedy vehicles to display and market their wares. Oke (2016) noted that, male adolescent hawkers who hawk around motor parks have high tendency of imitating the negative attitudes of touts. On the other hand, motor-park touts or *Agberos* as they are called in Nigerian parlance, motorcycle riders and commercial vehicle operators are very abusive and aggressive and engage in acts such as touching the breasts of female hawkers (Akpan & Oluwabamide, 2010). Therefore, street trading exposes adolescent hawkers to sexual abuse and in some cases, they end up being infected by HIV/AIDS (Sedgh, Bankole, & Okonofua, 2009). However, street trading has been resilient, and often on the increase in recent times in Nigeria due to various factors emanating from rapid population growth, high rates of unemployment, inflation, low wages, and deplorable working conditions (Sedgh, Bankole & Okonofua, 2009).

While there is nothing wrong with work, more specifically, juvenile work; what is wrong is the way the children are exploited (Cruzador, 1998). Taken differently, juvenile work is a good form of industry training given to children and should not be completely eradicated (Nsisong & Eme, 2012). The issue in juvenile work/trade points to the aftermath it holds for the juvenile to either become a delinquent or not, exposure to unpalatable adult life, and other forms of child abuse. Examining various cities and towns in Nigeria, would reveal a substantial number of boys and girls, who are supposed to be in school, but are engaged in menial or odd jobs such as newspaper vending, truck pushing, or other forms of labour (Ikechebelu *et al*, 2008), which expose the young person to delinquency and criminal behaviors, like prostitution.

The problem of juvenile delinquency has continued to gain attention at the dawn of 21st century, with attendant numerous demands accompanying urbanization and capitalist economic system. Previous studies (Ikechebelu *et al*, 2008; Nsisong & Eme,

2012; Bassey *et al*, 2012; Oke, 2016; Eboh, 2018; & Akpotor, 2018) have made frantic efforts to dissect street trading with its associated consequences, but specific attention to the relationship between street trading/hawking and juvenile delinquency are still lacking. This presents a research gap. Also, rising juvenile delinquency portend serious security threat to any government if not sufficiently tackled. The genesis of tackling issues of juvenile delinquency through effective policies requires an understanding of the underlying cause. In the light of the foregoing, this study focuses on street trading as it bears on juvenile delinquency, drawing evidences from major motor parks in Enugu State, Nigeria. This was done in line with the following objective; to find out the predisposing factors to juvenile street trading; to ascertain the extent to which children who engage in street trading become delinquent; to find out the pattern of delinquent acts associated with street trading; and to find out the extent to which street trading can impact juveniles' adult life.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. First, I review literature on street trading, the Nigerian Child Right Act, implications of street trading for juveniles, and the theoretical perspective used to address the research question. Next, I present my methods, the study setting, sample and sampling methodology, and data analysis. Then I present my findings followed by a discussion and conclusions. My data shows that juveniles engage in street trading to alleviate extreme poverty and are further exposed to criminal elements that endanger them physically, emotionally, and socially and put them at risk for deepening criminal adult behavior. These findings have important policy implications. Specifically, this research shows that State authorities need to step-up actions to address this poverty gully across social strata, as a veritable tool to ameliorate juvenile delinquency associated with street trading.

Conceptual/Literature Review

Street Trade

Street trade which is variously referred to as street vending; peddling; hawking; petty trade, or informal trade is not a new occupation, rather it dates far back in history. Street trading is a global activity and is not restricted to any specific region(s) of the world (Ademola, 2015). Street trade existed since the ancient epochs (Matenga, 2018), and was quite popular back in the 79 A.D in the ancient city of Pompeii in Italy, while mobile vending took prominence in the 1850s where people could purchase food on buses and trains (Matenga, 2018). The rapid increase of street vending became prominent from the 1930s until it spread to cities of the global south (Matenga, 2018), but it started with travelling merchants who sold their wares door to door in the ancient epoch (Matenga, 2018). Within the corridors of the global south, the deepening economic

conundrum, coupled with increasing rates of poverty and unemployment exacerbated the uptake of street trading as a survival option (Marapira, 2013). This is typical in Africa, and specifically in Nigeria where business startups for street trading requires low human and financial capital unlike like other businesses in the open market (Amoo, Oluwayomi, Ogunrinola & Fadayomi, 2012). Street vending has been conceived as a precarious activity practiced by marginalized and disadvantaged groups (Graaff & Ha, 2015). This was because street hawking was identified as a common form of child labor in most developing countries (Ikechebelu *et al*, 2008). Also, the risks are high as juvenile hawkers are exposed to numerous hazards ranging from physical violence to loss of wares, risk of accident, robbery, kidnapping and even murder for ritual purposes (Ikechebelu *et al*, 2008), and sometimes hawkers may conspire in these acts.

Nigerian Child Right Act

In the 1950s, prior to Nigeria's independence; legislations opposed to children street hawking were formulated and implemented by the colonial regimes (Akpotor, 2018). In the same vein, post-independence Nigeria has passed legislations prohibiting street hawking, most importantly, the Child Right Act (CRA) of 2003. One fundamental stipulation of the CRA is that utilizing children for hawking is a punishable offence under the Act. Also, Section 59 (b) of the Labor Act disallows the engagement of children under the age of 16 years in any work, which is hazardous and harmful to their general well-being (Akpotor, 2018). The pervasiveness of the phenomenon of street hawking in Nigeria despite these legislations is indicative of the severity of the problem, which is undisputedly fueled by poor policy enforcement, family size, socio-cultural beliefs, joblessness, and excruciating poverty (Akpotor, 2018). Arguably, child labor is more common in poorer homes and societies with extreme economic inequalities (Ekpenyong & Sibiri, 2011).

Bassey, Baghebo, and Otu (2012) noted that, Child labour remains a major source of concern in Nigeria, in spite of legislative measures taken by the government at various levels. In 1998, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that 24.6% of children between the ages of 10-14 in Nigeria were working (World Bank Development Indicators, 2000). Earlier, in 1994, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) had reported that approximately 24% (12 million) of all children under the age of 15 worked (UNICEF/FOS, 1995). These figures are most prominent by the sight in most big cities, as well as rural villages of children of school age trading food on the streets, herding animals, tanning and drying raw leather products, fetching water for commercial purposes, washing dishes at restaurants, serving as domestic hands, selling wares at kiosks, collecting firewood for business, harvesting crops in family farms or commercial plantations, amongst other activities (Ajah, 1990). Table 1 presents a

modified version Bassey *et al.*, (2012) tabulation of the pattern of child labor in four out of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria¹ as follows:

Table 1: Child labor in Nigeria by zone

<i>Southwest</i>	<i>Southwest</i>	<i>Northwest</i>	<i>Northeast</i>
Street trading	Street trading	Street trading	Street trading
Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships	Herding	Herding
Domestic service	Domestic service	Farming	Kiosk operating
Hotel attendants	Factory work	Shoe shinning	Shoe shinning
Vending	Vending	Begging	Begging
Car washing	Car washing	Garage boys	Garage boys
Hawking	Hawking	Hawking	Hawking
Vulcanizers	Vulcanizers	Vulcanizers	
Bus conducting	Bus conducting	Erating	
Prostitution	Prostitution		
Potage			
Weaving			

Note: Adapted from Source: Bassey, Baghebo, & Otu, 2012:150.

Implications of street trading for juveniles

Onuzulike (2007) classified the effects of street trading/hawking by juveniles into three categories, namely: Physical, Psychological and Social effects. The physical effects include traffic congestion, accidents, food poisoning and being infected with communicable diseases. The psychological effects include anger, fatigue, stress, depression, and resultant illnesses. While the social implications include unwanted pregnancies, prostitution, smoking, robbery, truancy, and dwindling academic performance among others. More so, juveniles who are exposed to street trading are disposed to problems such as low self-esteem, withdrawal syndrome, oppositional behavior, inattentiveness, and cognitive deficit (Onuzulike, 2007).

Theoretical Explanation

Differential Opportunity Theory was considered appropriate to explain this study. Cloward and Ohlin (1960) argue that to understand the different forms that delinquent and ultimately criminal behavior can take, we must consider the different types of illegitimate opportunities available to those who seek a way out of the underclass and where these opportunities lead. Different types of community settings produce different subcultural responses. Cloward and Ohlin (1960) suggest that three types of responses predominate, each one leading to its own respective subculture. The three subcultures are criminal subculture, conflict subculture, and retreatist subculture. *The*

1. South-south and North central were excluded

Criminal subculture exists in a neighborhood that is stable, and in which opportunity for crime exists, whereby the individual turns to crime as his or her alternative. Stability in this instance means that a hierarchy of criminal organization exists, and that the teen can move through the ranks to establish him or herself. *The Conflict subculture* is typical of disorganized areas of low socioeconomic opportunity. The area is characterized by a mix of groups trying to establish dominance, therefore, street fight to gain territory and prestige is inevitable in this category. *The Retreatist subculture* includes adolescents who fail in their efforts in both the legitimate and illegitimate opportunity structures. These “double failures” are often destined for drug abuse and other forms of escape.

The basic tenets of Differential Opportunity Theory posit that poor children growing up in the slums might take to crime because of the lack of opportunity in their environment but if the environment is reversed and they are put in an opportunity rich environment they will move away from a life of crime. Conversely, if a wealthy child from a privileged background is forced to live in a deprived environment, they will gravitate towards a life of crime. Therefore, Differential Opportunity suggests that one's socio-economic environment serves to impact the likelihood of achieving financial success through legitimate or illegitimate means. Differential Opportunity Theory is useful in this study because it can explain the disadvantaged situations which exposes a juvenile to street trading and consequent exposure to unpalatable adult life and participation in the subculture. Thus, Cloward and Ohlin's (1960) Differential opportunity theory is considered adequate to this study.

Methodology

Study setting

The study setting is Enugu State. Enugu State is one of the States in the South-East geo-political zones of Nigeria. Enugu State has three senatorial zones, namely, Enugu North, Enugu East, and Enugu West. Motor parks are found in major cities in Enugu State across its senatorial zones. The motor parks are also sighted alongside mini or major markets. The major motor parks in Enugu State according to the senatorial zones are; Enugu East senatorial zone: Ogbete motor park, Gariki motor park, Abakpa motor park, and four corners motor park. Enugu North senatorial zone: Enugu road motor park, Obollo-afor motor park, and Opi motor park. Enugu west senatorial zone: Oji-river motor park, and 9th mile motor park.

Sample and Sampling

This study adopts qualitative method, using purposive sampling. Six major motor parks were selected across the three senatorial zones in Enugu state. In each senatorial

zone, two motor parks were selected. Five juveniles, between the ages of 13 to 17 who hawk wares were selected from each motor park for in-depth interview (IDI). The selected motor parks are; Ogbete motor park, Gariki motor park, Enugu road motor park, Obollo-afor motor park, Oji-river motor park, and 9th mile motor park . Thus, a total of thirty (30) respondents were selected for the IDI. The major instrument for data collection was in-depth interview guide. Respondents were selected based on their availability and willingness to participate in the study. The interviews were administered after informed consent has been sought from the respondent and from their guardian. Each interview lasted between 30 to 40 minutes.

Data Analysis

Data collected through the IDI were transcribed and thematically presented in line with the recurrent themes following the objectives of the study. This involves the use of direct quotes from the respondents.

Results

Socio-demographics

There were more female hawkers in the study sample. Also, it was found that only 4(13.3%) of the respondents attempted formal education, while 26(86.7%) did not attempt formal education. It was also revealed that 17(56.7%) of the respondents were living with guardians who are not their biological parents, while 13(43.3%) live with their biological parents. Findings also show that all the respondents are single and admit to the class of extreme poverty, as their household cannot afford two-square meals on a two-day stretch in a single week. None of the respondents has ever enjoyed 3 square meals in a single day.

Predisposing factors to juvenile street trading

To understand the popularity of street trading in Nigeria, respondents were asked the motivation behind such business hustle. Extracts from the respondents' responses are hereby presented:

We do this [street trading/hawking] to survive in harsh economic condition we found our self in this country. There is no body to run for help and nobody is willing to help. Everybody is trying to survive. It is better to die trying than to die not doing anything. I am in this to support my parents and family because we are poor [IDI, 16-year-old male, Gariki motor park].

I am selling cashew nuts. We have cashew trees much in our buses and farm. It is easier for us in this location to make business out of cashew nut because it naturally grows in

this area of Nsukka. We cannot sell the processed cashew nuts in the village because it is not profitable. So, we prefer to utilize the motor park close to our village where we hope to see travelers who cherish this product and are willing to pay handsomely for it [IDI, 13-year-old female, Obollo-afor motor park].

I am in the park here selling because of desperation arising from poverty. In a situation I find myself, I thought of a venture I can start with little capital. Small capital is required to start phone accessories business which is what I sell here. I had not one to train me in school. I was wandering in the village until my cousin brother who has been in the township suggested that I should travel with him to the city. When I arrived Oji-river, I followed him a while where he repairs phones at Oji-river junction, until I discovered that people frequently ask of earphones, phone charger, battery, phone cover, screen guard, etc. I solicited my cousin's financial help, and he gave me five thousand naira. I added one thousand, five hundred naira which I had saved to purchase the first set of phone accessories and business started [IDI, 17-year-old male, Oji-river motor park].

My madam does send me to go and get the bottled water packs along Okpara Avenue. She stays in her shop in one of the shops around the park at Holy Ghost where those bottled water and other beverages are refrigerated. I will load the drinks in a plastic basin while my madam takes record of the goods I am carrying. I will then proceed inside the park, moving from one passenger filled bus to another to sell the products. This is the only venture that assures me of at least a meal daily. I intend to go to school if I had the means but no body to train me, and I jumped on it when one of my aunties in the village told me that someone wants to take me to the city. This is how I came to Enugu [IDI, 14-year-old female, Ogbete motor park].

Hardship and poverty drove me to this park. Most times, I do think that my family is the poorest in the whole world. My father married four wives and my mother is the fourth wife. We have a very large family with no one to carter for the teeming number. My mother begets me and my four other siblings, but we are up to fifteen that my father born. I sell *Okpa* – an indigenous food delicacy in the parks around this area. I had to do this to support my mother to train one of my brothers in school while others are sent to do apprenticeship elsewhere [IDI, 17-year-old female, Enugu road motor park].

My madam has shop around here and I assist her in the shop. One of my aunties in the village brought me here to stay with my madam because I am an orphan and no one to care for me in the village. The nature of this place is that customers who are passengers in moving vehicles do call out to buy some snacks while on traffic. So, we do sell to them while on traffic. However, to be very alert, we do take some of the products we sell and along the traffic so that we run along the moving vehicles to transact and quickly collect our money [IDI, 15-year-old female, 9th mile motor park]

Rate of delinquency amongst juveniles who engage in street trading

One of the objectives of this study is to explore the extent to which street trading expose juveniles to delinquency. Extracts from the IDI are presented thus:

I have lost goods to passengers when selling to them on a moving vehicle on traffic. Most of them go with the goods, while some others threw the goods from the car window spoiling the goods. To make up, most times, balances are not returned to some passengers while the vehicles they are inside speed off. It is not that we want to steal from the passengers because they are our customers, but this is hustling and we have to survive [**IDI, 16-year-old male, 9th mile motor park**].

Most of the goods we sell to the passengers are not the best. They are in a moving vehicle, and they buy goods hurriedly. But this is because the passengers price products too low. So, we package the products in a way to suit the prices that they offer. I hawk cashew nuts, what we do is to arrange the full nuts round the water-proof nylon, then fill pieces of cashew nuts inside and wrap up with full round nut. With this we can sell at a give-away price which is what the passengers on transit are willing to offer [**IDI, 16-year-old female, Obollo-afor motor park**].

We receive counterfeit money almost on a daily basis, and we also exchange it. We cannot be too gently while selling on a highway like we are, unless we want to starve after suffering under the harsh weather. Learning tricks to deal with passengers while transacting with them on traffic is one of the requisite skills to master to survive on this road. We run, as fast as we can to catch up with vehicles, push in goods as fast as we can through the window, receive money and push in money. This process involves, returning torn monies and counterfeit monies. This has nothing to do with morality. It is business [**IDI, 15-year-old female, Oji-river motor park**].

I knew some of my friends who have been sacked and banned from selling around the parks here because they stole from the passengers. The most recent was a boy who slipped-off a passenger's phone on a Sunday evening. We sleep in one of the parks around here at night, and I will say that people are not what they are in the morning at night. Do not look at the size, a small boy or a girl hawking in these parks knew more deviant tricks than a regular adult elsewhere [**IDI, 15-year-old female, Ogbete motor park**].

Pattern of delinquent acts associated with street trading

Around this motor park, there is a place called *Leja-Park* it is a place where core-girls are domiciled. Some of the young girls who sell around this place also engage in transactional sex at *Leja-Park*. My neighbour's daughter died 6 months ago when she drank some concoctions to abort pregnancy. She used to persuade me to come and join her in the sex business at night [**IDI, 17-year-old female, Enugu road motor park**].

I learnt how to smoke since I started selling in this motor park. The thing is that most of the times we stay late in the night and sometimes sleep in the park to meet up with passengers who will arrive at the early hours of the day. Cold use to be chilling on some of these nights, so, I started smoking to keep warm, but it has become habitual for me.... I smoke hemp too [IDI, 16-year-old male, 9th mile motor park].

We pay loyalties in the form of money to the park managers for us to sell goods in some of the parks around. But the tax collector also bully some of the girls so that they be-friend or have sex with them; some of the girls has become prostitutes in the process. More so, some of the madams who be-friend the drivers also utilize the girls who sell goods for them for transactional sex too [IDI, 15-year-old female, Oji-river motor park].

Juvenile street traders' and their psychology of adult life

I had wanted to a trader, but not the type I am now, hawking in the motor parks. At times I think that my life has been broken into pieces with the harshness I go through night and day trying to get daily bread. I feel withdrawn when I see other kids from well to do families or those who have the opportunity to go to school. No matter how I wish, I may not be able to go to school, and my future seems bleak except for God's miracle occur [IDI, 16-year-old male, Gariki motor park].

Dreams have been shattered here, and lives cut shot. I can recount about two boys and a girl who has been hit by speedy vehicle while on they are on the run to sell goods in a moving vehicle. But we cannot stop the practice of selling in a moving vehicle. There is often fun to catch from it. This is the life we live. I may not be able to go to school because I do not think that I can fit in. I hope to be a bus driver with time. I am more comfortable with living a lousy life [IDI, 14-year-old male, Obollo-afor motor park].

The only thing I can engage in is something that can give instant money. I have been raped twice, and nobody cares. Sometimes I feel rejected in this world, and I think that men are after what they will benefit than what they can offer. If I had been enrolled in school by my uncles in the village after the demise of my late parents, I wouldn't have been here suffering. I don't think I can forgive those of my uncles on how they exposed me to this side of life [IDI, 17-year-old female, 9th mile motor park].

For me anything goes I can't say this or that but with time I may stop selling in this park. I want to travel abroad; I hope I will be able to make the money. May be one day someone may forget something of great value, and I stumble on it, I will sell it and use the money to travel abroad. I will make a better life there even if I am a beggar in the abroad country [IDI, 14-year-old male, Enugu road motor park].

I am thinking of jumping into one of these trailers and disappear to wherever they are travelling to, just to be free from my madam. Whether I die or not, I do not care, after all I have seen some of my mates who died after they were hit by moving vehicle. I have not been shown love, which makes me question its existence. I feel totally forgotten. I have never received a gift before and most times I question my existence. My life is to shout morning and night selling things to people in cars. You have to shout because of the noise from the cars and blaring of horns. When I sleep, those noise recoil in my head [IDI, 14-year-old male, Obollo-afor motor park].

Discussion

Findings from this study suggest there is poor educational attainment amongst juveniles who are engaged in street trading on a full-time basis. It was also found that majority of the juveniles who hawk around motor parks in the study areas were mostly living with guardians who are not their biological parents and are driven by life of poverty towards the role they currently engage in. This agrees with Nsiong and Eme (2012) who observed that poverty is the major cause of the proliferation of street hawkers in many cities in Nigeria. A study conducted by Sedgh, Bankole and Okonofua (2009) also identified economic downturn as a pull factor to street trading in developing countries. To this extent, this study agrees with the studies of Sedgh, Bankole and Okonofua (2009). Findings from this study also show that majority of the juveniles who hawk at motor parks do so to escape extreme poverty, help their guardians to raise money and is based on the profitability of the business and low capital required to start up the trade. Previous studies show that items which are peddled by street traders or hawkers are articles or wares which can be easily moved from one place to another (Ikechebelu *et al*, 2008), which can be done with the help of tray pans, wheelbarrows, etc (see Oke, 2016). In this regard, this study agrees with the studies of Ikechebelu *et al*, (2009) and Oke (2016) based on the observation that goods involved in street trading require low start-up capital.

Another salient finding of this study is that delinquency is synonymous with street trading, especially amongst motor park hawkers. More so, the delinquent acts found amongst motor park hawkers include stealing from customers through the means of non-return of balance payments, selling spoilt goods, exchanging counterfeits, etc, is seen as a necessary requisite to survive street trading from the perspectives of the hawkers rather than a social aberration. This reaffirms Cloward and Ohlin (1960) differential opportunity theory based on the theoretical assumption that subcultural elements emerge in a social setting to enable escape from low class placement. Within the framework upon this theory is applied in this study, juvenile street traders' resort to subcultures as a means of survival. Cloward and Ohlin (1960) termed this criminal subculture.

Findings from this study also show that acts such as drug abuse, prostitution and stealing rank high as delinquent acts associated with street trading/hawking across motor parks. These also emanate from the harsh conditions, filled with corruptible elements, in which juveniles transact business. Earlier studies mentioned that street hawkers are faced with the challenge of sexually transmitted diseases (Sedgh, Bankole, & Okonofua, 2009), while Akpan and Oluwabamide (2010) observed that touts in motor parks (*Agberos*) can influence young people hawking at motor parks negatively. Also, this study found that juveniles who engage in street trading in motor parks are likely going to face distorted adult life, as the nature of the trading and its associated indices has deleterious effects on their psychology.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it is concluded that poor economic indicators are the push factors to street trading, while juvenile delinquency becomes a necessary lifestyle to survive the street-life. Over time juveniles who engage in street trading around motor parks evolve subcultures necessary for survival on the trade. However, the subculture is deviant in nature and capable of launching the juvenile into criminal life. Also, it is concluded that whilst juveniles who engage in street trading around motor parks are delinquent, the delinquent acts are socially induced and are capable of molding juveniles into adult criminals.

Policy Implications

Findings from this study raise the following policy issues:

1. It is pertinent for State authorities to step-up actions to address the *poverty gully* across social strata, as a veritable tool to ameliorate juvenile delinquency associated with street trading.
2. Mechanisms should be put in place to checkmate child labour and child abuse in the form of hawking or street trading across cities in the study area
3. Relevant government agency such as National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons [NAPTIP] should have wider spread into the remote area to educate, sensitize and caution rural dwellers on the dangers of aimless migration to cities
4. There should be adequate punishment meted on those who specialize in exploiting juveniles for private gains to serve as deterrence to intending defaulters.
5. Motor parks in Nigeria, especially in the study area should be properly policed by state security actors especially during odd hours to ensure that motor parks do not turn to haven for breeding social ills especially amongst the juveniles.

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