

**POVERTY AND CRIME RATE IN IWOROKO TOWN,  
IWOROKO-EKITI.EKITI STATE, NIGERIA.**

**BY**

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EKITI STATE, NIGERIA.

**SEPTEMBER, 2015.**

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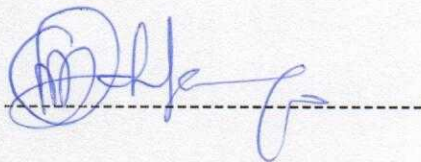
**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,  
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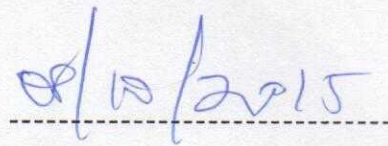
**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the research work entitled. "Poverty and crime rate in Iworoko Town, Ado-Ekiti. Ekiti state. Nigeria. Submitted by **AGBAJE SAMEUL AYOTUNDE** with matriculation number **SOC/11/0221** incorporate the result of independent investigations carried out by him under my supervision.



Mr. Anthony Adebayo

(Supervisor)

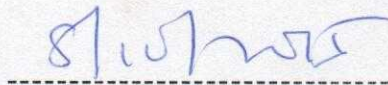


Date



Prof. Adewole Atere

(Head of Department)



Date

External Examiner

Date

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the light of the heavens and the earth Almighty God, the knower of the unseen and seen, the most Beneficent, the most merciful, the king, the one free from all defects, the givers of security and watcher over his creatures, the Almighty, the compeller, the supreme, the creator and inventor of all things, the bestowal of forms. To him belongs the best names all that is in the heavens and earth glorify his name. To my wonderful mum Mrs. Oreoluwa Agbaje and to my lovely brother and sister the person of Mrs. Agbaje Aderonke and Mr. Agbaje oluwaseun Solomon.

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Of course I will need to produce a special compendium to really capture all the people I owe indebtedness in respect of this project pardon me if your name is missing on the few pages. I sincerely treasure your contribution to my success. May Almighty in his infinite mercy reward you all.

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## ABSTRACT

*This study examines the socio-economic background of respondents who have committed one crime or the other in order to access the relationship between socio-economic status of respondents and engagement in criminal behavior. Primary data were used for this study which was obtained in Iworoko-Ekiti, with a sample of 200 respondents.*

*The univariate result showed that majority (%) of the respondents agreed that poor economic situation influenced and changed behavior. Also the majority (%) of the respondents confirmed that access to education in the area of study is inadequate, because of lack of money which made the majority to be involved in crime.*

*From the bivariate analysis, the chi-square result showed that there is a significant relationship between high crime rate and financial status ( $\chi^2=35.43$ ,  $P<0.05$ ). In conclusion this study confirmed that poverty contributed to high crime rate in the community. And has upheld that peer group, poor economic situation has contributed to criminal activities in the community. This study therefore recommend That government at all levels should put in place, sustained programs and policies geared towards reduction of poverty and unemployment level via massive youth employment such that both problems can be reduced or completely eradicated from our society.*

**Word Count: 199**

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Explanations for crime have taken various dimensions according to different theorists and scholars. Some blame it on defective family structure or arrested personality adjustment. Others emphasize factors such as inequality, environmental influence, poor socialization process (Henslin,2006). In this regards, criminal acts may be induced by many unforeseen factors and circumstances. Crime, according to Taylor (2006) could be seen as a fault of the social system whose institutions do not work equally for all its members. Sociologists look at the social in which individuals find themselves. Could it be that the problem lay not with the individual but in the social condition under which the individual live? The concern here is why people should exhibit behavior that is in violation of established norms, violations that may ultimately result in their being labeled as criminal behavior in terms of social processes.

Mostly, persons known to commit street crimes as reported in the crime index are poor, uneducated, often unemployed and residents of low income neighborhoods (Anasi, 2010). Would a socially and economically sound person turn out to be criminal? In this research work, there is need to understand the socio-economic background of most juvenile and criminals in order to draw correlations or otherwise between low socio-economic status (poverty) and criminal behavior.

The growth of crime level in Nigeria especially in recent times has become one of the major social problems facing the country. The dominance of crime in developing countries increases the volatility of issue, for it pyramids one fear upon others (Franca A (2012)). In Nigeria many adduce the level of crime to the rate of unemployment, poverty, corruption among others. The idea that unemployment, poverty and corruption are related to a whole series of other

misfortunes such as illness, despair, and crime is not a new one. The Bible contains many references to poverty, for example. God judged the kings of Israel by their treatment of the poor. Jesus seemed to favor the poor and their company over that of the rich and powerful. The Catholic Church has always held the position that the poor "deserved" alms or charity and did not treat the poor unkindly. The Holy Quran in many chapters held the same position that alms and charity should be given to the poor, orphans and travelers.

The idea that the poor are somehow disreputable can be traced back in European society to the birth of Calvinism and the Protestant work ethic. As pointed out by Max Weber, as Calvin's followers sought a sign from God that they were indeed among God's predestined elite, they hit upon the notion that God's blessing might be demonstrated through success in a worldly calling or profession. Thus, business success was the sign of God's blessing. On the other hand, the poor could certainly not be considered members of the elect. The idea that the poor were lazy and refused to "pick themselves up by their own bootstraps" became predominant over the older perspective that the poor were "closer to God."

The first ever crime to be committed dates back to the first family on earth when Cain murdered his brother Abel, this shows that crime had been existing from time immemorial. Governments the world over try to curb the crime rate and if possible eradicate crime. Similarly, unemployment, an economic disease is also another problem which governments also try to reduce if not eradicate. It is however interesting to note that where unemployment exists especially at a higher rate there is the tendency for crime rate to also increase because people are easily lured or compelled to criminal tendencies in the face of frustration, poverty and loss of hope in making it.

To Becker's (1965) economic theory of crime, unemployed people are deprived of legal income resources and thus are more likely to derive some income from illegal activities. Also, many models of crime suggested that unemployment and individuals with low wages face strong incentives to commit crime. Labor market conditions are believed to have a significant effect on the nation's crime rates. If unemployment rate goes up the legitimate earning opportunities decline and crime tends to increase because the costs of crime goes down for the unemployment workers.

In Nigeria every political aspirant has generation of employment as one of his/her manifesto with various proposals on how this can be achieved although this is yet to be proved after almost fifty years of existence. Thus this study apart from establishing the relationship between poverty and crime also offers solutions to the problem of poverty and crime with particular reference to Iworoko-Ekiti.

Poverty and crime as social problems have remained major developmental challenges in Nigeria for a very long time. As Obadan and Odusola (2001) observed, poverty in Nigeria was more acute in the 1980s and this has been on the increase ever since. In 2008, 15% of the nation's work force was unemployed and in 2011 the figure rose to 20% (Lamido, 2013); and the victims of this phenomenon are the youths who till date have had the highest unemployment rate in Nigeria. To Akanda and Okuwa (2009) between 40-60% of those unemployed in Nigeria are aged between 15-25 years and Rotimi (2011) puts the ages between 18 and 45 years. The unemployed are poor and most of them carry the phenomena into their old ages.

Most of those paraded by the law enforcement agencies before the mass media in the country as members of criminal groups fall within this age bracket. Most of those used in suicide bombings by terrorist groups in the country also fall within this age group. And most of those

involved in the Niger Delta militancy are also of this age group. The fact is that if these youths have alternative means of livelihood or are gainfully employed in the economy, most of them would not take part in these criminal activities.

The most disturbing aspect of this phenomenon is that some of those involved in these crimes are educated. The worst thing that would ever happen to a nation is for the nation's educated citizens to be involved in crimes, and most of them are involved in cyber-crimes and advanced fee frauds. Whereas the uneducated are mostly involved in violent crimes, the educated are involved in non-violent crimes which are worse in magnitude and scope than the violent crimes; and they have greater consequences and impacts on the socio-economic processes and administration of the country. This gives rise to more anger and frustration for the uneducated youth who looks with anger and envy on the educated, and make the uneducated to use more severe violent means to eke out an existence.

The scourge of poverty and crime has ravaged almost all nations of the world in different dimensions and shades. But in Nigeria, as Akande and Okuwa (2009) pointed out, the poverty challenge is captured by the growing number of unemployed youths roaming the streets all over the country. It is seen in the informal sector of the economy as under-employment; declining real wages; reduced incentives; reduced private investment in all sectors of the nation's economy; and a reduction in the quality of education and training given to the citizens in our educational institutions across the country. Poverty and rising crime wave are consequences of this phenomenon. In other words, crime in Nigeria carries with it a number of attendant social, economic, political and psychological and security challenges.

This study therefore looks at the problems of poverty and crime in the country and the attendant security challenges they pose, and suggests that there is the need for a paradigm shift in

the outlook of our leaders; a review of some of our national policies; and a review of our educational curriculum with a view to making Nigerians imbibe the philosophy of transparency, accountability and self-reliance. This would help to reduce the security challenges posed by crime and poverty in the country.

Using Iworoko-Ekiti Area as my study area, this work will be interested in investigating the level of poverty on crime rate in the area.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Though successive governments have tried to address the issue of poverty, the effect of the strategies and programs has been that of mixed feelings.

Every government embarks on one form of poverty reduction strategy or the other. However, what has not been answered is the extent to which these program have impacted on the poor people that is the target population. Still, it seems that the efforts of various governments are ineffective and therefore not much has been done to actualized the benefits. Also, the most disturbing is the fact that despite the amount of resources committed to those programs the poverty situation still get worst, and more and more people region instead of escaping.

The inability of government efforts to reduce the level of poverty in the society has led to some undesired consequences, and one of such is the increase in crime rate in the society. It is common knowledge that poverty and crime go hand-in-hand. Crime prevents so many things from thriving by increasing instability and uncertainty (at micro and macroeconomic levels) in the market, be it national, regional, municipal or even neighborhood.

The vicious cycle of poverty and crime on the other hand has the capacity to take an economy into a vicious cycle that causes unemployment and low growth which indicates that economic cycles may affect change in poverty and violent crimes.

But most important of all, the characteristic of poverty and crime is that they are both geographically concentrated in the same areas, that is where one find poverty is also where crime exist. And this reveals the strong connections between the two issues. This study attempts to ask the following questions:

### **1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.**

1. What is the relationship that exists between poverty and crime in Iworoko town?
2. What are the causes of poverty in Iworoko town?
3. What are the factors that contribute to high level of crime in Iworoko town?
4. What are the strategies adopted by the government to curb poverty and crime in Iworoko town?
5. What can be done to bring lasting solution in addressing the threat of poverty and crime rate in Iworoko?

### **1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.**

The objectives of this study include the following:

1. To give a practical analysis of the role of poverty on criminal behavior.
2. To investigate the situation that makes individuals participate in crime.
3. To find out why crime involvement is high in certain areas and among certain groups in the society.



4. To discover the strategies adopted by the government to curb poverty and crime in the society.
5. To discover some ways by which the society can tackle the problem of crime and poverty.

## **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

It is obvious that other people have conducted research on poverty and crime rate. This research will take a different dimension by looking at the poverty and crime rate in Iworoko town of Ekiti State and relate it to Nigeria as a whole.

The significance of this study lies essentially in the information that will be provided which will be useful to the government in policy formation and non-governmental organization in tackling the menace of poverty and crime. Thus it will now make the government to know that poverty and crime is one of the major factors that affect the development of an area both economically, physically, socially and psychologically. That is, it affects virtually all aspects of human life. It will also help policy makers to come up with an effective policy that will curtail or eradicate the problem of poverty and crime in the area of study in particular and the nation at large.

It will sociologically explain poverty and crime not as people sees it generally but the way the people who are in that area sees poverty and crime, how it affects them as a community and how they can change this situation for the better.

The findings of this study will add to the existing body of knowledge because people will now have a better understanding of poverty and crime rate from the sociological view and try to change.

## **1.6 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The research work is limited to Iworoko town, Ekiti State. (This is because crime is prevalent in this area).

The study focus on poverty and crime rate. The researcher would have loved to study the whole Ekiti State but due to financial limitation, time constraint, and other difficulties in data collection process like lack of accessibility to certain information or unavailability of it, the researcher is compelled to limit his investigation to Iworoko town –Ekiti State.

## **1.7 RESEARCH HYPOTHESES**

### **HYPOTHESIS 1**

**Ho:** There is no relationship between financial standing and crime among the people of Iworoko town.

### **HYPOTHESIS 2**

**Ho:** There is no relationship between peer influence and crime among the Iworoko indigenes.

### **HYPOTHESIS 3**

**Ho:** There is no relationship between the level of education and crime among the people of Iworoko town.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAME WORK

#### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Every society across the globe has its peculiar problems and challenges. Nigeria is not an exception. As a developing country, we face our own share of social, political, economic, cultural and religious problems which has in no small measure affected the well-being of the nation. Such problems that cause continual trouble to the country include poverty and the rising wave of crime, which have serious implications for national development. Poverty and crime rate in Nigeria has continued to be on the increase despite the abundant human and natural resources available in the country. Chronic poverty is evident in Nigeria. Similarly, a United Nations statement says:

*“Poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to; not having the land on which to grow one’s food or a job to earn one’s living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation”.*

On the other hand, crime is often perceived to be threatening the fabric of society or as a symptom of a breakdown of the social order. Crime is dysfunctional as it threatens the stability of society and it is therefore, a social problem that requires a concerted effort towards finding a lasting solution to it. It undermines the social fabric by eroding the sense of safety and security (Onoge, 1988). The media, both print and electronic is awash daily with reports of crimes

committed and the seeming helplessness of the law enforcement agents especially the police, in curbing the ugly and disturbing trend has made it more worrisome. Crime is a universal phenomenon and differs only in degree among the various nations of the world.

The Nigerian crime–problem is multidimensional and is capable of undermining its corporate existence as well as efforts towards sustainable development. The Nigeria corporate existence and development can be undermined by a number of factors among which is an escalating and uncontrolled crime problem (Tanimu, 2006). Security and crime have been deeply rooted in the political history of this country, particularly in recent time, which has emerged as a key concept in Nigeria’s struggle for good governance, sustainable democracy and development.

## **2.1 DEFINITIONS OF CONCEPTS.**

**THE CONCEPT OF POVERTY:** Poverty is not an easy concept to define. As a result, a range of definitions exist, influenced by different disciplinary approaches and ideologies. The dominant Western definition since World War II has defined poverty in monetary terms, using levels of income or consumption to measure poverty and defining the poor by a headcount of those who fall below a given income/consumption level or poverty line’ (Grusky and Kanbur, 2006). However, this economic definition has been complemented in recent years by other approaches that define poverty in a more multidimensional way (Subramanian, 1997).

These approaches include the basic needs approach (Streeten et al, 1981), the capabilities approach (Sen, 1999) and the human development approach (UNDP, 1990). Their acceptance is reflected in the widespread use of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI), which is a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: (i) life expectancy, (ii) educational attainment and (iii) standard of living,

measured by income in terms of its purchasing power parity (UNDP, 2006). It is also reflected in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) conceptualization of multidimensional poverty, defined as interlinked forms of deprivation in the economic, human, political, socio-cultural and protective spheres (OECD, 2006). For our purposes here, poverty is also defined by a sense of helplessness, dependence and lack of opportunities, self-confidence and self-respect on the part of the poor. Indeed, the poor themselves see powerlessness and voicelessness as key aspects of their poverty (Narayan et al., 2000). Further, the acknowledgement of the multidimensionality of poverty is reflected in the range of both quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches adopted to conceptualize and measure poverty (Handley, et al., 2009).

The poverty situation in Nigeria is quite disturbing. Both the quantitative and qualitative measurements attest to the growing incidence and depth of poverty in the country (Okunmadewa, et al., 2005). This situation however, presents a paradox considering the vast human and physical resources that the country is endowed with. It is even more disturbing that despite the huge human and material resources that have been devoted to poverty reduction by successive governments, no noticeable success has been achieved in this direction. Although, predicted poverty reduction scenarios vary greatly depending upon the rate and nature of poverty related policies, actual evidence suggests that the depth and severity of poverty is still at its worst in Nigeria, SSA and South Asia (Okunmadewa et al., 2005). Within these regions, poverty is largely a rural phenomenon with an average of between 62 and 75 percent of the population living on less than a dollar a day and also tends to be deeper than urban poverty in these regions (Apata et al., 2010). Besides, it has become increasingly evident that within the African region the poor are heterogeneous and that some element of dynamics does exist with a clear distinction

between chronic and transitory poverty (Barret et al., 2000). Chronic poverty is considered the component of total poverty that is static and transitory poverty component that is attributable to the inter-temporal variability (Jalan and Ravallion, 1996). The isolation of the process underlying chronic and transitory poverty is considered essential in understanding the extent to which each poverty type may obscure the other or even distort the effects of government anti-poverty programmes. A national poverty survey carried out indicates that the high tropic areas have moderate poverty while the northern regions have poverty levels that are as high as 60 percent (NBS, 2009). The average national poverty incidence indicates that this situation has not improved during the last 20 years in a majority of SSA countries.

To Garcia, Kohl, Ruengsorn and Zislin (2006), Nigeria's main challenges include, reducing poverty, diversifying its economy from the oil and gas sector towards more labor intensive sectors, and improving health and education. The oil has increased economic volatility and inflation while those living in poverty being most vulnerable to volatility and inflation. To add to it, instability of government revenues and a crowding out of agriculture (which provides the source of income to the poor) have made the situation worsen. The oil industry does not employ a sizeable number of unskilled workers, thereby contributes little to reducing poverty. Ford (2007) discusses the oil crisis in the oil producing region of Nigeria. He states that poverty has been linked to high crime rates, especially in the Niger Delta region where there is a sharp contrast between the rich and the poor. The masses cause social unrest because the wealth gotten from their territory does not get to them. In the Nigerian society, the best way to acquire wealth is to enter the political sphere. Most of the time political success is tied to criminal activities. He ends the article by stating that the link between economic and political power must be broken for progress to be made.

**THE CONCEPT OF CRIME:** Crime is like other concepts in social sciences, which have no generally accepted definition. Oxford Dictionary of Sociology (2009), "a crime is held to be an offence, which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority, for crime to be known as such, it must come to the notice of, and be processed through, an administrative system or enforcement agency. It must be reported and recorded by the police (or other investigator); it may then become part of criminal statistics; may or may not be investigated; and may or may not result in a court case." Dambazau (1994) defined crime as an act or omission against public interest and which is prescribed by law enacted by the legislature in the overall interests of the society, and to which prescribed punishment is attached in the event of violation and it involves four major principles which are public wrong, moral wrong, law and punishment for the criminal. 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. It is for the same reason that the legal system views crime as a public and moral wrong.

The prevalence of crime in the world today is a cause for serious concern for all and sundry. It undermines the social fabric by eroding the sense of safety and security. Crime impacts on society in a variety of ways according to the nature and extent of crime committed. It constitutes a problem when its incidence is as rampant in the society as to constitute a threat to the security of persons and property, as well as social order and solidarity (Onoge, 1998). Crime is a threat to the economic, political and social security of a nation and a major factor associated with underdevelopment; because it discourages both local and foreign investments, reduces the quality of life, destroys human and social capital, damages relationship between citizens and the

states, thus undermining democracy, rule of law and the ability of the country to promote development.

The development in societies with particular references to westernization has not helped matters; instead, it has been destructive to the social and cultural values of the society. Reasons for the increase in crime in Nigeria include urbanization which is spreading more widely and rapidly than improvement in the social and economic condition. Crime is a huge threat to public safety. It causes great personal suffering, vast material damage, and place enormous burden on the urban social network. Globally, every five years, 60% of city inhabitants have been victims of one type of crime or another while over half of these crimes have involved personal crime (arson, fraudulence, cheating, 419 syndrome, forgery, etc). It has been noted that Nigerian cities are conducive areas for criminal activities because they provide the anonymity needed for criminal activities (Okafor, 2011). This is because Nigeria as a country give rooms for all kinds of criminal behaviours.

## **2.2 CHANGES IN POVERTY AND CRIME RATE IN NIGERIA**

Poverty is still pervasive in Nigeria. Available statistics reveals that the poverty incidence in Nigeria has been on the increase since the 1980s. As reported by the UNDP (2010), between 1980 and 1996, the percentage of the core poor rose from 6.2 percent to 29.3 percent, and declined to 22.0 percent in 2004. To Omotola (2008), about 70 percent of the population now lives in abject poverty. There is the geographical dimension of poverty in Nigeria. To Aigbokhan (2000), poverty is higher in the rural areas than in urban areas. In 2004, the urban population with access to water was 67 percent, while it was 31 percent in the rural areas. In terms of sanitation services, 53 percent of the urban population had access to sanitation services and 36



percent in the rural areas. This is worse than the situation in Cameroon, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (World Bank, 2008). Given the figures above, the rural dwellers in Nigeria grapple with difficult living conditions compared to the urban dwellers. This explains why there is prevalence of diseases among the rural poor in the country (Segun, 2010).

As observed by Garba (2006), the world's per capita income as of 2003 was \$7,140. Comparing this to Nigeria's per capita income of \$290 makes the country one of the poorest in the world. This relegated Nigeria to the ranks of Togo (\$270), Rwanda (\$220), and Mali (\$210). Other indicators of development, such as life expectancy, for which Nigeria is ranked 155th out of the world's 177 countries, and infant mortality, for which Nigeria is ranked 148th among 173 countries, were consistent with Nigeria's low rank in income per capita (CIA, 2009). Based on these facts, Nigeria has been classified as a poor nation; a situation which can be described as a bewildering paradox given the vast resource base of the country. According to Earth Trends (2003), 70.2 percent of the Nigerian population lives on less than \$1 a day, while 90.8 percent lives on less than \$2 a day. The total income earned by the richest 20 percent of the population is 55.7 percent, while the total income earned by the poorest 20 percent is 4.4 percent.

This explains the alarming increase in poverty and the sharp inequality between the rich and the poor. Looking at the area with the highest measure of welfare per capita, the leading area in Nigeria, which is Bayelsa with a poverty incidence of 26.2 percent between 1995 and 2006, is still below the leading areas in Ghana (Greater Accra-2.4 percent), Cameroon (Douala, Capital of Littoral-10.9 percent) and South Africa (Baoteng-19.0 percent) (World Bank, 2008). In terms of the human development index, Nigeria is ranked 158th of the 159 countries surveyed in 2005 (CIA, 2009). Using selected world development indicators, the life expectancy at birth in 2006 for male and female in Nigeria was 46 and 47 years, respectively. Between 2000 and 2007, 27.2

percent of children under five years of age were malnourished. This is alarming compared to 3.7 percent between the same periods in Brazil, another emerging economy.

Worse still, the mortality rate for children under five years old is given as 191 per 1,000 births in 2006. This situation is very ridiculous compared to the figures of 69 per 1,000 births in South Africa, 108 per 1,000 births in Togo, 120 per 1,000 births in Ghana, and 149 per 1,000 births in Cameroon (World Bank, 2008). This implies that there is a general high level of poverty in the Nigeria (Segun, 2010). An analysis of the context reveals that poverty holds sway in the midst of the plenty. Nigeria is the eighth largest oil producing country in the world, but it harbors the largest population of poor people in sub-Saharan Africa and is ranked 158th on the human development index. There is pervasive high-income inequality, which has perpetuated the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few individuals (Action Aid Nigeria, 2009).

### **2.2.1 CLASSIFICATION OF POVERTY**

**1. Relative Poverty Measurement:** Relative poverty is defined by reference to the living standards of majority in a given society that separates the poor from the non-poor. Households with expenditure greater than two-thirds of the total household per capita expenditure are non-poor whereas those below it are poor. Further households with less than one-third of total household per capita expenditure are core-poor (extreme poor) while those households greater than one-third of total expenditure but less than two-thirds of the total expenditure are moderate poor. Accordingly, the poor category is sub-divided into those in extreme poverty and those in moderate poverty, where extreme poverty is more severe than moderate poverty. Those in moderate poverty constitute a greater portion of the growing middle class in Nigeria who are at

the point of crossing over to the non-poor category. Similarly, the non-poor are divided into the fairly rich and the very rich (NBS, 2012 Report).

According to the Nigeria poverty profile of 2012 Report, Nigeria's relative poverty measurement in 2004 stood at 54.4 percent, but increased to 69 percent (or 112,518,507 Nigerians) in 2010. The North-West and North-East geo-political zones recorded the highest poverty rates in the country with 77.7 percent and 76.3 percent respectively in 2010, while the South-West geo-political zone recorded the lowest at 59.1 percent. Among States, Sokoto had the highest poverty rate at 86.4 percent while Niger had the lowest at 43.6 percent in the year under review (NBS, 2012 Report).

2. **Absolute Poverty:** is defined in terms of the minimal requirements necessary to afford minimal standards of food, clothing, healthcare and shelter. Using this measure, 54.7 percent of Nigerians were living in poverty in 2004 but this increased to 60.9 percent (or 99,284,512 Nigerians) in 2010. Among the geo-political zones, the North-West and North-East recorded the highest rates of 70 and 69 percent respectively, while the South-West had the least at 49.8 percent. At the State level, Sokoto had the highest at 81.2 percent while Niger had the least at 33.8 percent at that period (NBS, 2012 Report).

3. **The-Dollar-per-day measure:** refers to the proportion of those living on less than US\$1 per day poverty line. Applying this approach, 51.6 percent of Nigerians were living below US\$1 per day in 2004, but this increased to 61.2 percent in 2010. Although the World Bank standard according to NBS (2012 Report) has been marginally increased to US\$1.25, the old reference of US\$1 was the standard used in Nigeria at the time that the survey was conducted. Sokoto had the

highest rate among States at 81.9 percent while Niger had the least at 33.9 percent (NBS, 2012 Report). Although, it is bad enough that the ratio of Nigerians within the range of relative is scary, that of those groaning under absolute poverty is by no means flattering. It should be noted that two prominent states from the North-West and North East, Sokoto and Niger, have become a reoccurring decimal in measuring the highs and lows in poverty index. There is no doubt that the Sokoto poverty index is dismal, but it does not in any way suggest that other states in the Federation have any course to celebrate as indicated in the South-West with almost 60 percent relative poverty.

### **2.2.2 POVERTY AND CRIME IN NIGERIA.**

Before delving into the issues of poverty and crime in Nigeria, it is important we have a diagnostic clarification of the concept “poverty” in the study. World Bank Development report (2000) defines poverty “as an unacceptable deprivation inhuman well being that can compromise both physiological and social deprivation”. Poverty is the deprivation of basic resources that are necessary for maintaining the quality of life in terms of food, clothing, shelter and other rights and resources that can impinge on living conditions and guarantee human dignity (Amaike 2011; quoted in UNILAG Sociological review). It can also be described as a social problem that limits and constrains the life chances of individuals, groups and society in terms of access to valued resources without which human existence will be threatened. In its most extreme form, poverty is a lack of basic human needs, such as adequate and nutritious food, clothing, housing, clean water, and health services. World bank (2009), indexed “poverty” in terms of unlimited access to employment opportunities and income, inadequate and insecure housing and services, unhealthy

environments, little or no social protection mechanisms, and limited access to adequate health and education opportunities.

Although poverty is a global problematic, but the level or rate at which it affects various countries (developed or developing countries) differs from one country to the other. For example, the level of poverty in Britain is quite different from that in Nigeria. The Punch of February 14, 2012 reported the National Bureau of Statistics to have said that 112.519 million Nigerians live in relative poverty conditions. This figure which was contained in the 2010 poverty profile report of the agency represented 69 per cent of the country's total population and with almost 100 million people living on less than 1 dollar (€0.63) a day . The (NBS) also reported that relative poverty was most apparent in the north of the country. According to them, in the North West and north east of the country poverty rates were recorded at 77.7% and 76.3% respectively, compared to the south-west at 59.1%. It was in this light that BBC Africa analyst Richard Hamilton says it is perhaps no surprise that the extremist/terrorist groups, such as Boko Haram, continue to have an appeal in northern parts of the country, where poverty and underdevelopment are at their most severe (BBC News, 2012).

According to him, Boko Haram is responsible for killing or wounding thousands of people. In July 2009, clashes between Boko Haram and Nigerian security forces resulted in an estimated 700 deaths across four states in northern Nigeria. Elements of Boko Haram have launched increasing sophisticated and lethal attacks against police, military, churches, and moderate Islamic leaders in the north. To Bassey and Simon (2012), a disturbing observation about poverty in Nigeria is that it is on the increase, both in incidence and intensity despite the wide variety of national and international measures and this have been attributed to a multiplicity of causes, of which the most frequently mentioned and emphasized include: inadequate

conceptualizations of poverty and development, failure to identify the root causes of the problem, lack of adequate organizational requirement for effective programme implementation, wrong prescriptions given as solution to the problem of poverty and massive rates of corruption and embezzlement of public fund in government that would have been used to fight poverty. Poverty in Nigeria, like in most developing nations of Africa, is widespread and seems to be on the increase by the day (Odumosu, 1999). When poverty is coupled with high levels of economic and social aspirations, the stage is set for criminal activities particularly, robbery, human trafficking, counterfeiting, fraud, forgery, car theft, dealing in illegal goods and services, as well as emerging issues of terrorism, kidnapping, cyber crime. People, who are thwarted in attaining desired social and economic goals legally, may seek to obtain them illegally (Siegel, 2005).

### **2.2.3 CHANGES IN CRIME RATE IN NIGERIA.**

Things have changed a great deal from the traditional Nigerian societies to the present due to the influences of westernization and modernization. The encroachment of western institutions and moral standards has had far reaching consequences for life generally and crime particularly in Nigeria. More specifically, the capitalist economic society, western education and urbanization have considerably contributed to the weakening of the extended family and other traditional social bonds as well as control and communal sharing and the practice of "being our brothers' keeper". These have been replaced by the new individualism and private accumulation of wealth with disastrous consequences for order and social control (Ninalowo 2004, Awosika, 2006 and Ekpeyong et al, 2012) To Igbo (2007), the developmental process has not only escalated the more traditional crimes such as murder, theft, assault and suicide, it has led to the emergence of crimes hitherto unknown in traditional Nigerian society.

These relatively unknown crimes include pick pocketing, drug abuse and trafficking, arm robbery, human trafficking, counterfeiting, fraud, forgery, car theft, smuggling, unlawful possession of dangerous weapons, prostitution, cybercrime, terrorism, kidnapping, etc. In similar vein, Dasuki (2013), posited that the dynamics of the Nigerian society have since altered that configuration of security to now include consideration for societal generated crises such as riots, electoral violence, secret cult- related criminal acts, terrorism, drug trafficking, intra and inter ethnic strife, religious intolerance, advance free fraud, kidnapping and a host of others that threatens life and property and indeed the peace and tranquility in the society. If anyone ask the Commissioner of police or any other high ranking law enforcement official about the crime rate, their likely answer would be ‘the battle is a tough one but we are winning it’. Meanwhile, if an average Nigerian is asked about the effectiveness of the police, he or she might bluntly say ‘Almighty God, not police is our protector’. Whether we accept it or not, Nigeria is steadily sliding into a state of lawlessness. The Nigerian newspapers paint this vividly with their daily reportage-

1. 160 suspected members of “1million boys gang” arrested from the densely populated area of Ajegunle- Vanguard News, October, 2012.
2. Police arrest undergraduate robbery king pin, others in Ondo–Vanguard, March 29, 2010.
3. Harvest of arrest of criminals in Oyo–Vanguard, March 15, 2012.
4. Police dock suspected bandits that attack motorists–Vanguard, July 25, 2012.
5. Police rescue 2 Nigerian kids at Seme border – Sun newspaper, August 15, 2013.
6. Police swoop on visa racketeer, arrest suspects with 120 passports –Vanguard, May 14, 2010.
7. Gov. Obi goes hard on Kidnappers in Anambra–Vanguard, August 27, 2012

8. I took on armed robbery because I needed money for marriage-Vanguard, May 11, 2010.

9. NDLEA goes hard on drug barons- vanguard, November 29, 2010

What is more is that these crimes appear to be increasing rapidly according to the statistics provided by the National Bureau of Statistics (2009:248). Exactly fourteen years after the return of Nigeria to Civil rule, most Nigerians, are disillusioned over the prospects of democracy, which they have fought and laboured to enthrone. To Chief Supo Shonibare, and Afenifere Chieftain, rather than peace, stability and unity, the last five years have only bred poverty, joblessness, political strife, crime and insecurity. (Thomas, 2004:10). This trend has led to an incontrovertible assertion that Nigeria has a "crime problem". To Odekunle 1977, a Nigerian criminologist, a crime problem is:

*A chronic and recalcitrant situation in which the occurrence of crime is systematic rather than random; in which the incidence is high and the phenomenon prevalent; in which crime takes a definite character complexity, and the organization; in which all sections and sectors of the population are participating in its perpetration; in which control and correctional instrumentalities are rendered virtually ineffective and are consequently driven to self-defeating repressive measures; and in which the loss and distress caused by actual criminal victimization or the fear, anxiety and helplessness about potential victimization are pervasive and observable in the population.*

From the look of things it appears crime remains one of the biggest businesses in Nigeria today and violent crime among young people had risen to unprecedented level (Igbo 2007). The inability of the appropriate authority to arrest and bring criminals to justice is an added incentive to crime perpetration in the country. The corresponding advancement in telecommunication technology which makes contact between criminals easier has added fillip to individual and collective insecurity. The new generations of criminals have proven to be more daring,



blood thirstier, deadlier and even better equipped to practice this evil vocation. Everybody now appears to be potential victim, every organization is a potential target.

### 2.3 FACTORS INFLUENCING POVERTY AND CRIME RATE IN NIGERIA.

Nnadi (2008) discusses the various impacts of globalization on the Nigerian economy. These impacts have resulted to social and economic problems in the country such as inequality, the emergence of a social underclass and low development. He also states that globalization has affected Nigeria's economic growth through a decline of foreign direct investment and that for unemployment, poverty and inequality to be alleviated Nigeria's economic policies need to be changed. The factors influencing poverty and crime include:

a. **Unemployment:** Unemployment is a major factor contributing to poverty in Nigeria. There is a strong correlation between unemployment and poverty. When people are unemployed, their source of livelihood depletes over time. The cost of living becomes high and the standard of living goes down. There are many people in Nigeria who lack the opportunity of being employed. The formal unemployment rate in Nigeria as estimated by the World Bank in 2007 was 4.9 percent and Nigeria ranked 61<sup>st</sup> across the world's countries (CIA Factbook).

As reported by Teshome (2008), the then newly released African Development Indicators report of the World Bank showed that "education, once seen as the surest, undisputed gateway to employment, no longer looks so certain." This is very true in the case of Nigeria. The fact that you are an educated Nigerian is no guarantee that you will be employed. Furthermore, according to the World Bank report, unemployment in Africa is higher among those who have attained a higher education of some kind, and also those in wealthy households because they depend solely on the wealth of their families and do not consider employment a priority.

Many graduates in Nigeria wander the streets without anything reasonable to do for a living. The government is capable but unwilling to provide jobs for them. Employment in Nigeria is usually not based on merit but depends on how connected you are with people that have power. This leaves many highly qualified people in poverty as seemingly no one cares to know what they are capable of achieving. These people are missing out on the income they would have gotten if they were employed. The number of quality jobs in the economy is low and many government resources are misallocated. Unemployment-induced poverty tends to increase the crime rate and violence in the country. Most unemployed youths resort to crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, internet fraud and other forms of fraudulent activities. The reservation wage they get from these activities is typically barely enough to take care of their basic necessities.

b. **Corruption:** Transparency International defines corruption as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.” This has become a common act in Nigeria and it has destabilized the political system drastically. Government funds are being misappropriated on a daily basis by the leaders, who only put the interest of their family and friends at heart while ignoring the masses. The corruption has eaten so deeply into the government and economy that everyone seems to be blinded by it. Corruption has almost become an accepted way of life in Nigeria. In Nigeria, the government’s income is generated mostly from natural resource revenues. This income, instead of being used for developmental purposes, is then circulated among the political office holders and their families, leaving the rest of the people to wallow in poverty. Political leaders practically ignore the affairs and wellbeing of their people who elected them into office. They

mismanage and embezzle funds. There are several issues involved with bad governance in Nigeria, use of wrong policies, adaptation to wrong policies and implementation of those wrong policies. In any case, it is clear that Nigeria's corruption has increased poverty and inequality as well as contributed to high crime rates.

**c. Non-Diversification of the Economy – Oil Over-Dependency:** While Nigeria's poverty has been identified to be caused by many factors, Nigeria's non-diversification of the economy can be seen as a major factor. Before 1970, the Nigerian economy was driven by the agricultural sector. The oil sector which only constituted 1 percent of the country's export revenue in 1958 rose to 97 percent by 1984 and has since then not gone below 90 percent. In 2008, the oil and gas sector constituted about 97.5 percent of their export revenues, 81 percent of government revenues and about 17 percent of GDP.

In Nigeria, those in power have practically ignored other sources of income, and today, Nigeria depends heavily on exporting oil. This dependency on natural resources is often referred to as "Dutch disease", whereby natural resources make a country less competitive. Excluding the few working in the oil sector, the majority of the people have been impoverished as their products have become irrelevant. The agricultural sector, which was their major means of income before the discovery of oil, is considered almost useless.

Beyond the Dutch disease, Nigeria's abundance of a natural resource has led to what is known as a resource curse, which is reflected in the "Niger Delta Crisis (reflecting the region of the country where most of the oil is coming from). The people in this region are fighting for resource control as they claim the government is not fulfilling their promise of giving them the large part of the oil revenues. The wealth from natural resources in Nigeria is supposed to be

working with the derivation policy, but this policy is not functional in any way, as the oil-producing states are still impoverished and this policy is supposed to work in a way such that these states with these natural resources should be able to get a large part of the countries revenue as they contribute a lot to the national wealth.

To Collier (2007), resource wealth sometimes contributes to a conflict trap and the surplus from natural resource exports reduces growth. He goes on to discuss the case of Nigeria in the 1970s, when other exports of the country like agriculture became non-profitable due to increase oil revenues. He explains how the Dutch disease can damage the growth process by closing out on the exports in other promising sectors of the economy. The first half of the 1980s gave rise to a huge oil boom in Nigeria and also led to excessive government borrowing and investment on wasteful projects that made the corruption in the country more apparent. As the world price of oil crashed in 1986, Nigeria's oil revenues reduced drastically and Nigeria's external debt increased drastically. The introduction of the structural adjustment program (SAP) was one of the government reforms advocated by the international financial institutions to reduce Nigeria's oil dependency. Despite increased national output in non-oil sectors, poverty and social indicators worsened as most of the revenues generated were used for servicing Nigeria's external debt. Nigerians have blamed the soaring poverty level despite the increase in output to the introduction of the reforms and policies introduced during the late 1980s. Nigerians hence came to the conclusion that there was a conspiracy by world financial institutions to take their country down.

c. **Inequality:** Inequality implies a concentration of a distribution, whether one is considering income, consumption or some other welfare indicators or attributes (Oyekale,

Oyekale and Adeoti, 2007). There was an increase in income disparity after the economic growth which Nigeria experienced between 1965-1975, and this income inequality has increased the dimension of poverty in the country (Oluwatayo, 2008, p. 1).

The income inequality between the people in rural and urban areas in Nigeria is remarkably high, as those who live in the rural areas base all their income on agriculture which is today not a thriving sector in Nigeria as oil has taken over the economy. They do not invest their money to acquire skills as people in the urban areas would and this makes them more vulnerable to poverty and leads to some social and economic problems such as violence, corruption and so on (Oluwatayo, 2008, p. 2). In 2003, the income of the poorest 10 percent of Nigeria's population was only 1.9 percent, while that of the richest 10 percent was 33.2 percent. Though the 2003 share remains higher than what it was in 1993 (32.5 percent). A more equal distribution of Nigeria's income would go a long way in reducing the rate of poverty, but because it is typically the rich people who hold political offices or are related to those holding political office, income remains concentrated among the rich.

**d. Laziness:** Laziness is a common disease which is virtually suffered by many Nigerians today, especially those from wealthy households. Everyone wants to be comfortable but they are not ready to work towards it. This often leads to greed where people will do whatever they can to keep the family wealth for themselves. In most families, everyone depends on the bread winner, who works so much to keep the family going and when he dies the family is likely to become poor because of mismanagement of funds. In most Nigerian families, the death of the bread winner means the death of the whole family fortunes; because everyone was depending on him/her to provide everything.

**e. Poor Education System:** Education can play a major role in reducing poverty. According to the World Bank, education is central to development. It promotes economic growth, national productivity and innovation, and values of democracy and social cohesion. In Nigeria, the population with no education account for most of the poor. The education system in Nigeria can be regarded as a failure compared to other countries in the world. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to an education.” This right to education has been denied to many Nigerians, of which many of them can be considered invisible to the society now. This deprivation of education applies more to females than males, because they are considered the inferior sex. Hence educating them is seen as unnecessary as they are expected to marry as early as possible.

**f. Poor Education System:** Education can play a major role in reducing poverty. According to the World Bank, education is central to development. It promotes economic growth, national productivity and innovation, and values of democracy and social cohesion. In Nigeria, the population with no education account for most of the poor. The education system in Nigeria can be regarded as a failure compared to other countries in the world. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to an education.” This right to education has been denied to many Nigerians, of which many of them can be considered invisible to the society now. This deprivation of education applies more to females than males, because they are considered the inferior sex. Hence educating them is seen as unnecessary as they are expected to marry as early as possible.

**g. The under-utilization of labour resources during the farming season resulting from:**  
The inability of many poor farmers to farm on a scale which matches their labour resources, and

rudimentary nature of the system of farm-labour employment; and Also the dire shortage of working capital, which severely limits the scale and productiveness of farming especially where cultivation of manure farmland is the preferred agronomic system.

**h. Political Instability:** The failure to successfully actualize political transition programmes, result in social and economic unrest domestically and internationally. Productive ventures are unable to flourish with a restricted and market for sales, investments are withdrawn, jobs are insecure, and the general citizenry faces economic insecurity.

#### **2.4. THE EFFECTS OF POVERTY**

The effects of poverty are serious. Children who grow up in poverty suffer more persistent, frequent, and severe health problems than do children who grow up under better financial circumstances.

**a.** Many infants born into poverty have a low birth weight, which is associated with many preventable mental and physical disabilities. Not only are these poor infants more likely to be irritable or sickly, they are also more likely to die before their first birthday.

**b.** Children raised in poverty tend to miss school more often because of illness. These children also have a much higher rate of accidents than do other children, and they are twice as likely to have impaired vision and hearing, iron deficiency anemia, and higher than normal levels of lead in the blood, which can impair brain function.

Levels of stress in the family have also been shown to correlate with economic circumstances. Studies during economic recessions indicate that job loss and subsequent poverty

are associated with violence in families, including child and elder abuse. Poor families experience much more stress than middle-class families. Besides financial uncertainty, these families are more likely to be exposed to series of negative events and "bad luck," including illness, depression, eviction, job loss, criminal victimization, and family death. Parents who experience hard economic times may become excessively punitive and erratic, issuing demands backed by insults, threats, and corporal punishment.

c. Homelessness, or extreme poverty, carries with it a particularly strong set of risks for families, especially children. Compared to children living in poverty but having homes, homeless children are less likely to receive proper nutrition and immunization. Hence, they experience more health problems. Homeless women experience higher rates of low-birth-weight babies, miscarriages, and infant mortality, probably due to not having access to adequate prenatal care for their babies. Homeless families experience even greater life stress than other families, including increased disruption in work, school, family relationships, and friendships. Sociologists have been particularly concerned about the effects of poverty on the "black underclass," the increasing numbers of jobless, welfare-dependent African Americans trapped in inner-city ghettos. Many of the industries (textiles, auto, steel) that previously offered employment to the black working class have shut down, while newer industries have relocated to the suburbs. Because most urban jobs either require advanced education or pay minimum wage, unemployment rates for inner-city blacks are high.

Even though Hispanic Americans are almost as likely as African Americans to live in poverty, fewer inner-city Hispanic neighborhoods have undergone the same massive changes as many black neighborhoods have. Middle and working class Hispanic families have not left their



barrio, or urban Spanish-speaking neighborhood, in large numbers, so most Hispanic cultural and social institutions there remain intact. In addition, local Hispanic-owned businesses and low-skill industries support the barrio with wage-based, not welfare-based, businesses. Climbing out of poverty is difficult for anyone, perhaps because, at its worst, poverty can become a self-perpetuating cycle. Children of poverty are at an extreme disadvantage in the job market; in turn, the lack of good jobs ensures continued poverty. The cycle ends up repeating itself until the pattern is somehow broken.

## **2.5 TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF CRIME IN NIGERIA**

In recent times, there has been a growing concern over the increasing trends of violent crimes and terrorist activities especially the use of improvised explosive devices by criminal elements. For instance, murder which is a clear example of violent crime was 1,629 in 1994. This number steadily increased to 2,120 in 2001 and climbed to a record high of 2,136 in 2003 (CLEEN Foundation, 2007). Such a phenomenal increase of over 75 percent between 1994 and 2003 is worrisome. Armed robbery equally a violent crime was 2,044 in 1994. In 2002, it rose to 3,889 amounting to over a 52 percent increase in less than a decade. In 2007, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) recorded 34,738 incidences as crimes against persons and this figure escalated in 2008 to 35,108 incidences (NPF, 2008). A cursory look at some of the state level (disaggregated) data in Nigeria is equally worrisome for instance in 2002, 52 cases of armed robbery was reported in Abia State; but in 2004, it rose to 176. In Edo State, 71 cases of armed robbery were reported to the police in 2002; the number steadily increased to 144 in 2005 and 163 in 2006.

In 2008, the Abia State Police Command recorded a total of 940 criminal cases and arrested 1,275 suspects. It is pertinent to recall that between 2009 and 2010 Aba, the economic hub of Abia State was laid prostrate by the activities of robbers and kidnappers especially through the exploits of the late Obioma Nwankwo (aka Osisikankwu). Lagos which is the commercial nerve center of Nigeria recorded a total of 12,837 criminal cases and arrested 14,996 suspects. Contrast these figures with those recorded for Abia but inspite of the huge figures Lagos was quite calm and peaceful and this is due to the fact that the government and police worked in tandem. In 2010, there were ten incidences of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and between January 2011 and June 2011 over six incidences of IEDs have been recorded with casualties. The following are the trends of crime in Nigeria;

**a. Domestic Violence**

In parts of the third world generally and in West Africa, in particular, domestic violence is prevalent and reportedly justified and condoned in some cultures. In Nigeria, reports reveal shockingly high level of violence against women (Afrol News, 2007). Amnesty International (2007) reports that a third (and in some cases two-thirds) of women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners and fathers while girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands.

More pathetic is the revelation of gross under reporting and non documentation of domestic violence due to cultural factors (Aihie, 2009). Traditionally, in Nigeria, as in many other African countries, the beating of wives and children is widely tolerated as a form of discipline (UNICEF, 2001). In beating their-children parents believe they are instilling discipline

in them, much the same way as in husbands beating their wives, who are regarded like children to be prone to indiscipline which must be curbed (Aihie, 2009). This is often prevalent in situations of economic dependence especially where the woman lacks skills and education. Since the society is basically patriarchal and women occupy inferior position within the social structure men tend to exploit this structural disadvantage. Domestic violence therefore functions as a means of enforcing conformity in respect of roles particularly for women within such a social order. The woman's economic situation within such a context is immaterial since the society already categorizes her as inferior and equates her with children (Aihie, 2009).

Project alert (2001), in a survey on violence against women conducted interviews with women working in the markets and other public places and girls and young women in secondary schools and universities, in Lagos state, Nigeria. The result showed that 64.4% of the 45 women interviewed in the work place said they had been beaten by a partner (boyfriend or husband), 56.6% of the 48 interviewed market women admitted experiencing such violence. Similar interviews carried out in Oyo state and other parts of Nigeria, yielded similar results. The incidence of domestic violence is high. In another study carried out by Obi and Ozumba (2007), on the factors associated with domestic violence, in South East, Nigeria, 70% of respondents reported abuse in their family with 92% of the victims being female partners and the remaining 8% being male.

The common forms of abuse reported were shouting at a partner (93%), slapping or pushing (77%) and punching and kicking (40%). It is however disturbing to note that many women do not know if they had been abused or not (AfrolNews, 2007). This could be due to the acceptance of some abusive behaviour as normal'. Oyediran and Isugo (2005), in a study of women's perception of wife beating in Nigeria, found that 64.4% and 50.4% of ever married and

unmarried women, respectively, expressed consent for wife beating. Reports in the print and electronic media reveal vicious attacks on women by intimate partners in different forms such as acid bath', rape, beatings, some of which sometimes result in the death of the victim (Aihie, 2009).

**b Cyber crimes**

Nigeria ranks third among the cyber crime committing countries in the world, according to a 2007 internet crime report released by the Internet Crime Complaint Centre (IC3), which puts the country alongside the US, UK and Romania among the top ten countries where internet crimes are perpetrated (Odapu, 2008). According to the report, in the US alone, "Nigerian letter fraud" (E mail scams emanating from Nigeria) constituted 1.1 per cent of the 2007 top IC3 Complaint Categories received. The report also revealed that the amount lost by individuals reporting fraud-type monetary loss in 2007 puts Nigerian Letter Fraud at 6.4 percent, amounting to 1,922.99 million US dollars (Odapu, 2008). IC3 noted that although Nigeria is in the top ten countries where internet crime is perpetrated, the country is, ironically, not among the first ten nations that complain to the IC3.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in its banking sector supervision report revealed that the banking sector lost 7.2 billion Naira to internet fraud. However, the Chief Executive Officer of Global Network for Cyber Solution, Mr. Segun Olugbile, believes the amount is in the region of N10billion (Odapu, 2008). Weekly Trust reports from Lagos say overnight browsing still booms in the city, despite the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) ban and that the proliferation of private Internet Providers with affordable modems has given fillip to cyber crimes as perpetrators could afford to surf the net in the comfort of their homes. However, the

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) avers that a total of 136 suspects were arrested comprising of 60 suspects in the Southwest, 39 in the Southeast, 26 from the South-South and 11 in the North. The commission posits that it continues to update its capacity through training and logistics to cope with the dynamics of the crime.

### **C Kidnapping**

Kidnapping is simply carrying off a person surreptitiously for an illegal purpose. In a report released in [naijafeed.com](http://naijafeed.com), the former Minister of Police Affairs Ibrahim Yakubu Lame disclosed that 512 people were kidnapped in 2010 and 30 out of the 512 died in the hands of their kidnapers. In 2008, 353 people were kidnapped and only 2 captives lost their lives. Kidnappings in Nigeria began rising in 2006 when militants in the Niger Delta started kidnapping expatriates for ransom. To Abati (2009), ransom kidnapping and hostage taking are no longer restricted to the Niger Delta area, or South-South of Nigeria. With reported cases in Lagos, Abuja, Benin city, Owerri, and now Kaduna and Kano, this brand of terrorism has become a national phenomenon as the entire country is now a kidnapers' den. As at 1999, kidnapping had not reached an alarming rate except for reported cases of ritual kidnapping particularly during election periods, or as the myth states, whenever there was a change of currency.

Nigerians in the South -West have always talked about how human parts are used for money-making rituals or to acquire spiritual power, or the social menace of child theft; so, such phrases as *gbomogbomo*, - *ajaale* (child theft) or the link between Clifford Orji (the suspected cannibal) and the sale of human parts have been part of the local discourse. Ritual kidnapping has been linked to metaphysics as ransom kidnapping is more about cash. By 2003, with

increased agitation in the Niger Delta, militant groups in the area such as Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND and its affiliates) had begun to kidnap oil company workers in order to press home their demands for a re-negotiation of the Nigerian Project and the Niger Delta stake in it.

Gradually, this degenerated into large-scale criminal activities involving hostage taking and ransom collection. What was adopted initially as a tool of ideological struggle has since become a major source of livelihood (Abati, 2009). As the problem grew into a national security crisis, the initial targets and victims were mainly foreigners working in the oil and gas sectors: Americans, Germans, Italians, Koreans, the Chinese, Filipinos and the Lebanese, but the kidnapers have since expanded their scope to cover Nigerians: children, even children as young as three years, the relatives of rich men or political figures, particularly their wives or parents, the business elite, and just about anyone who can pay as evidenced by the kidnappings of politicians and family members (Abati, 2009). Recently, Nigeria began to feature very high in the global survey of terrorism and hostage-taking due to the botched attempt to blow up an American Airliner by a middle class Nigerian youth. The law enforcement agencies are unprepared for the challenge, the fact that they managed to arrest three kidnapers in Kaduna notwithstanding. There is a dearth of knowledge and expertise about the nature and dynamics of the phenomenon (Abati, 2009) especially the challenge posed by intelligence gathering and rivalry amongst the agencies.

Furthermore, Abati (2009) also indicated that the challenges of infrastructure have not helped the State security service. Nigerians routinely take the laws into their hands knowing that the state and its institutions are inefficient and incapable of protecting them. The kidnapers are so bold that they have no regard for the law as many of them are heavily into drugs and alcohol.

They wield dangerous weapons which they threaten to use at the slightest provocation. They humiliate and assault their victims. Small arms proliferation and the inability of the state to check Nigeria's gradual transformation from a drug-courier country into a drug-using country highlight the tragic dimensions of this problem. Perhaps more serious is the widespread poverty and unemployment in Nigeria. Not a few persons who have survived the ordeal of kidnapping have reported that the kidnapers are mostly young, educated persons who complain about hunger and unemployment. Relatives of prominent politicians have been abducted, and for such situations, the kidnapping may be politically motivated, but there is almost always a class dimension to the problem: the poor turning against the rich and demanding ransom as punishment. The rich class in Nigeria is limited by its lack of enlightenment. They provoke criminal behaviour and turn themselves into sitting targets because they fail to realize that their safety lies in ensuring social security and justice for all Nigerians (Abati, 2009).

Asokan (2009), the year 2009 has seen a shift in kidnapping; previously the targets were foreign oil companies 'Western workers who were taken by militants' usually in attacks in the oil-rich Niger Delta region. But, as Western oil giants operating in Africa's most populous nation - such as Royal Dutch Shell, Total and ExxonMobil - have tightened security and shifted staff out of the delta, attackers have had to start looking elsewhere. These days, oil workers who remain in the delta are confined to guarded compounds after dark. Now criminal gangs are becoming ever more interested in snatching wealthy locals and even children. .With Abuja, featuring in the kidnapper's map, there is the fear that the hoodlums may overrun the country. The fear becomes real because of lack of an effective and reliable security machinery to stop the kidnapers. Many people in the South-East now live in perpetual fear of kidnapers. It has

curtailed the freedom of movement of the people especially during the festive season as many easterners refrained from going home.

Eso (2009) sought to explain why kidnapping is becoming an industry in Nigeria by providing reasons for its unusual occurrence. First, due to the immense income derived there from. For its perpetrators, it obviously, yields far more illegitimate money, with minimal risk, than armed robbery. There is, also, a near certainty that families of the victims will pay the ransom without going to the police. Second, kidnapping is big business, because, bad governance, lax legislation and weak law enforcement make such heinous crimes possible. For a nation already bedeviled by numerous other governance and insecurity problems, kidnapping is a grotesque add on. Its criminality is not in doubt whether as an act by an individual, group or ethnic organizations and regardless of the rationale behind it.

Adibe (2009) suggested that the common tendency is to blame the pervasive wave of kidnapping outside the Niger Delta exclusively on the unacceptable rate of unemployment in the country, an inefficient and corrupt police force that is ill-equipped to fight crime, and collusion between kidnapers and politicians. However, he sees these factors to be mere symptoms of a larger malaise, namely that pervasive kidnapping, is one of the major symptoms of both failed and a failing state. A failed state is often used to designate a state, which has become incapable of fulfilling the basic functions of a sovereign government.

These functions include physical control of its territory, provision of security of life and property for its citizens, the monopoly of the use of legitimate physical force and ability to provide reasonable public services or to interact with other states as a full member of the international community. A -failing state on the other hand denotes a state in transition to a failed state. Here while the state remains nominally a sovereign and fulfils a modicum of the



functions of a sovereign government, the central government has become so weak and ineffective that it has little practical control over much of its territory, leading to an upsurge in pervasive insecurity such as kidnapping, organized assassinations and robberies. A failing state is also characterized by a weak ability to provide basic public services and widespread corruption as people think of themselves first, following the failure of the state to perform its traditional functions. Following from the above, while Nigeria is not yet a failed state', it could arguably qualify as a failing state'. This in essence means that while addressing the problems of unemployment and inefficient and corrupt police force could be good palliative measures in combating kidnapping, any lasting solution to the menace will inevitably have to address the key question of the nature of the Nigerian state, including why it has transited from a weak state to a failing state and rapidly gravitating towards being a failed state (Adibe, 2009).

#### **d Bombing and terrorist activities**

In a report published by the United States Bureau of Consular Affairs, in March 2010, five improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were said to have been detonated in the Niger Delta region with one to three reported casualties. In September 2010, over 150 members of the Boko Haram extremist religious sect escaped from prison in North-east Bauchi and Borno States, some of whom are now believed to be participating in Boko Haram attacks in other parts of the country.

In October, Boko Haram members attacked various Nigerian government security personnel and facilities, government officials, and authority figures in Bauchi and Borno States. On October 1, 2010, two car bombs detonated near Eagle Square in downtown Abuja during Independence Day celebrations, killing 14 and wounding many others. In addition, on the eve of

2011, another car explosion occurred at the Army barrack, Abuja claiming about four lives and leaving about ten people seriously wounded. In Borno State, the gubernatorial candidate of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) was assassinated with five other persons by elements suspected to be members of the Boko Haram (Vanguard, January 30, 2011). On the 29th of May 2011, just as President Goodluck Jonathan was being sworn in an explosion rocked the mammy market in the army barracks in Bauchi State killing scores of people and injuring others while another bomb went off in a beer parlour killing three persons and injuring several others. Ebun-Amu (2010) argued that the new trends of bombing portend danger, even though it was foreseeable, and avoidable.

To him, in the history of terrorism, bombing is a grotesque weapon of resentment. And from the view point of terrorists, it remains an effective strategy for invoking lawlessness and bringing any government to its knees. Unlike robbery and kidnapping, which are directed at individuals, and are intended to surgically extract money/material gains from victims, bombing is directed at a state, and it derives from spite, malice, vindictiveness, and is aimed at causing damage and mayhem. While news of robberies and kidnappings usually tend to cause local ripples, that of bombings would usually echo internationally. When agitators in a national polity resort to settle scores by degenerating from robbery to kidnapping, and then from hired assassinations to bombing, serious questions must be asked (Ebun-Amun, 2010).

## **2.6 SECURITY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION**

Security is the most fundamental need of human beings. There are several interrelated domains of security - physical, emotional, social, economic and political. However, physical security - protection from threat or act of violence by individuals, groups or the state is a precondition for human existence and orderly society. This is now widely recognized in national

democratic constitutions, which provide for fundamental human right to life and freedom from torture, cruel and degrading treatment.

Criminal victimization is a violation of physical security. One of the primary duties of the state is to guarantee the security of the citizens, including their protection from crime. The social contract philosophical fictional account of the emergence of the state and justification for its continuing existence rests on human need for physical security. A state that is unable to guarantee the physical security of citizens and the safety of their possession will lose its legitimacy.

### **2.6.1 SECURITY AND CRIME IN NIGERIA**

Physical security as a component of human security may be defined as freedom from threat or act of violence and loss of property. Human security broadly defined refers to protection from threats to life and means of livelihood, safety from bodily harm; freedom from fear of diseases, unemployment, violent conflicts and human rights violations. It is “safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression, and protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily lives, whether in homes, jobs or communities” (UNDP Human Development Report 1994).

Security is the absence of fear and want. Insecurity is the opposite of security and may be classified into three types of vulnerabilities:

1. Vulnerability to injuries and losses arising from criminal activities
2. Vulnerability to oppression from and by corporate actors; institutions and officials of the state, manifested essentially as systematic exploitation, oppression as well as violation of fundamental and other human rights, and

3. Vulnerability to deprivation of or lack of access to necessities of life – food and nutrition, shelter, clothing, health care, education and employment.

Crime becomes a national or community problem when it is chronic and systematic and its incidence, pattern and seriousness become a threat to the wellbeing of members of society.

Nigeria has a crime problem. Armed robbery is a major source of loss of lives and property as well as a cause of pervasive fear of crime among the population. Corruption is also endemic in the nation's public and private sectors.

There are four important indicators of whether or not a country has a crime problem. These indicators are the extent, seriousness and pattern of crime, and the control capacity or effectiveness of crime control institutions. Based on these indicators, Nigeria has a crime problem because the country's crimes are serious and of diverse kinds, while crime control institutions are corrupt, oppressive and ineffective. The following features of Nigeria's crime problem can be identified:

- a. Relatively low population-crime ratio of recorded crime due largely to unwillingness of the citizens to report crime to the police and reluctance of the police to honestly record reported crimes.
  
- b. The pattern of crime in Nigeria is, however, a source of major concern. The high rates of corruption (though grossly under-reported in official statistics but more widely reported in the mass media and popular discourse); armed robbery, theft and fraud undermine wellbeing of the citizens and the country's development.

c. Substantial involvement of Nigerian citizens in transnational crimes of drug trafficking, fraud (advance fee scam, trade and other forms of fraud), money laundering, deposit of stolen fund in foreign accounts by the rulers and human trafficking have tainted the country's image, discourage foreign investment and trust in Nigerian citizens by foreigners.

d. Widespread violent conflicts and crime. Ethnic, religious and intra-community violence as well as armed robbery and assassinations are important components of violent crimes in the country.

### **2.6.2 NIGERIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES**

A criminal justice system consists of various institutions of which the core are the legislature, police, courts, prisons, prosecutors and defense lawyers. The legislature provides the parameters for the socio-political construction of crime by enacting criminal laws, while the police are responsible for the enforcement of criminal law, prevention of crime, detection, apprehension, investigation, detention and prosecution of crime suspects.

The Nigerian criminal justice system consists of the following institutions - legislature (for law-making), police (for law enforcement), courts (for judging – interpretation and adjudication of law) and the prisons (for punishment and re-socialization). In a broad sense, the police system consists of the Nigeria Police Force and specialized policing organization with more limited jurisdiction (e.g. Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps; National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Customs, Immigration, Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission – ICPC). The judicial system consists of the courts and tribunals.

The police agencies are responsible for the protection of citizens from victimization and the detection and prosecution of offenders. Nigeria has no discernible policy for responding to the experience of victims and impacts of victimization. The Nigerian criminal justice system focuses on crime and criminals while victims remain invisible within the system.

## **2.7 WAYS TO CURB POVERTY AND CRIME IN NIGERIA**

To Garcia, Kohl, Ruengsorn and Zislin (2006), Nigeria's main challenges include, reducing poverty, diversifying its economy from the oil and gas sector towards more labor intensive sectors, and improving health and education. The oil has increased economic volatility and inflation while those living in poverty being most vulnerable to volatility and inflation. To add to it, instability of government revenues and a crowding out of agriculture (which provides the source of income to the poor) have made the situation worsen. The oil industry does not employ a sizeable number of unskilled workers, thereby contributes little to reducing poverty.

**a. Development of rural areas:** Nigeria's approach has been to pursue industrial development in the cities with the hope that the increased wealth and raw materials demand will trickle to the rural areas. Indonesia has pursued to good effect a different approach by developing the rural areas- providing basic amenities e.g. electricity, water and promoting the establishment of agro-based industries in rural areas. As a result that nation has been able to stem rural-urban migration, curtail crime and spread wealth more equitably amongst its people. Most of the Nigerian poor are in rural areas and neglecting them is what is responsible for Nigeria's poor rating in several national well-being indices e.g. maternal and infant mortality, access to information and communication technology, access to pipe borne water etc. If national policies are not directed to helping the poor majority in rural areas, how then can the national averages in

well-being indicators improve? Science schools should be established in rural areas so that rural kids can develop local technologies to help improve the output from local occupations. Technology should be adopted in conjunction with foreign experts, who will reside in the rural areas to ensure technology transfer.

**b. Remove hunger from poverty and poverty is reduced (Yoruba Proverb):** With the use of technology in local occupations especially in agriculture, output will increase, spoilage will reduce and prices of foodstuffs in the cities will drop and become more affordable to the urban poor. Focus should also be on building good linkage roads between rural areas and the cities so as to ensure access to local and international markets for rural dwellers. This will improve their incomes and socioeconomic status. Focusing development in rural areas will reduce rural-urban migration, reduce overpopulation in the cities, reduce poverty in the villages and cities, reduce crime because more people will return to the villages and since these communities are more closely knit and traditional, incentives to commit crime will be non-existent.

**c. Foreign Trade:** Europe especially England became very wealthy because of their imperialistic nature from the 17th to the mid 20th century. The USA although proclaiming an appearance of peace is in fact very war like and imperialistic and it has not hesitated to find markets for its businesses through diplomatic, coercive and often violent means. By aggressively and subtly selling its culture through the pop media, it has ensured that whole nations cannot do without American styled clothes, American branded cosmetics and food and American music. As a result their nation has prospered exceedingly. True that Dangote, Nollywood and the banks

have done well for Nigeria in foreign markets but Nigeria needs to develop more markets for other sectors especially in Africa i.e. pharmaceuticals, commodities e.g. cement, food etc.

d. **Family Planning:** Children are a gift from God but are a boon only for a country whose national wealth is increasing. For a nation whose national wealth is stagnant or declining, these children and their mothers face immense suffering. As of the 18th century, Adam Smith observed that 'luxury seems to weaken and frequently to destroy altogether the powers of generation' and this may perhaps explain why the elite just like rich nations have fewer children. While a poor Nigerian woman may have as many as seven children or more, many rich women have one or two kids. This may suggest higher rates of barrenness in the upper class but in truth this is not so. Low birth rates amongst elite women is due to better education that has enabled them to assert their independence and reproductive rights better than poor women who often are dependent on their husbands and have no say. Rich women do not have less sex than poor women; they only know better how not to get pregnant. Maternal mortality is low amongst rich women because better family planning reduces complications and ensures they are in better health when they have a subsequent pregnancy. It is therefore important that the Nigerian government empowers the Nigerian female through education. It is also important to realize that high infant mortality among the poor due to inadequate health facilities is responsible also for their high birth rates. Therefore the government must take it as a priority to build, equip and properly staff maternal and child care centers in all local government areas in the country to address this.(Smith, 1986),



e. **Increase the minimum wage:** Since the population is made up more of the laboring poor, would making them happy by improving their wages not bode well for the entire nation? While employers may dislike this given their fears that increased wages may make the people lazy and reduce profit margins, these fears are unjustified. In fact when workers are better paid and if the payment pattern is such that the rewards increase in proportion to expended labor, employers will discover that a well-motivated staff work even harder and are more productive. As to the reduction in profit margins, this also is unjustified fear. When wages are increased, the amounts available to the society for discretionary spending increases and as a result demand for goods and services increase. Production capacities become fully utilized and total overall costs drop leading to marginal increase in profit margins.

f. **Tangible Breakthrough:** poverty can be self-induced or circumstantial. In the first categorization, the victim of poverty has done very little or nothing in his life to confront social and economic challenges with a view to securing a tangible breakthrough in life. The person starts to find faults to substantiate or justify why-he/she are in the sorry-state. Such a person is very look warm within his or friends-hood to take actions or programs that will generate long-termed returns. They doubt strategic game-plans. They are also too spiritual in their rationalization.

Poverty is multi-dimensional and even though it is difficult to separate the various dimensions of poverty from the various causes of poverty, in the case of Nigeria, we have shown that unemployment, corruption, the non-diversification of Nigeria's economy, inequality, laziness, and a poor education system are some of the key determinants of poverty and crime rate in Nigeria. These determinants are many times related to each other and also enforce each other. For example, unemployment, poor education and poverty can be seen as vicious cycle. Today, people who are not

educated lack the opportunity of being hired for good jobs, and the poor masses today still cannot afford to go to school which makes them the poor unemployed masses tomorrow. Hence, all these factors are correlated and must all be tackled together if any progress wants to be made on eradicating crime in Nigeria.

When it is said that Nigeria has no business being poor, what is actually being implied is that the Nigerian people ought not to be destitute and want nothing of the good things of life; and that even those who may be poor in monetary terms should not lack access to good health facilities, basic amenities and livable lodges. Yes Nigeria may be poor but with the reorientation of our national culture and the enthronement of good governance, even if poor Nigerians remain, these must never be destitute or enslaved in their own land.

## **2.8 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

A theory can be defined as a general explanation that is made up of problem, phenomenon situation to explain a concept. It can also be a set of proposition that is made in finding explanation for some phenomenon. Theory predicts fact and also helps to narrow down the range of fact to be studied. Different theoretical perspectives have been used by various researchers to explain the phenomenon of poverty and crime. They have all sought to provide explanation for the origin, processes, and patterns of crime. Two of such perspectives are relevant to this present. They are:

1. The theory of Poverty
2. Sociological Theory – (Sutherland’s Approach)

### **2.8.1 THE THEORY OF POVERTY**

Theories of poverty can be broadly classified into two types: cultural and structural. Cultural theories find the explanation for poverty in the traits of the poor themselves. These theories assert it is the valuational, attitudinal, and behavioral patterns of the poor which prevent them from being socially mobile. In contrast, structural theories explain poverty in terms of the conditions under which the poor live: unemployment, underemployment, poor education, and poor health.

#### **Poverty Is Individual/Cultural**

The right-wing view is that poverty is an individual phenomenon. On this view, people are in poverty because they are lazy, uneducated, ignorant, or otherwise inferior in some manner. If this theory were true, it would follow that impoverished people are basically the same people every year. And if that were true, we could whip poverty by helping that particular 15% of the population to figure things out and climb out of poverty. Thus, a program of heavy paternalistic life contracts to help this discrete underclass get things together might conceivably end or dramatically reduce poverty.

#### **Poverty Is Structural**

The left-wing view is that poverty is a structural phenomenon. On this view, people are in poverty because they find themselves in holes in the economic systems that deliver them inadequate income. Because individual lives are dynamic, people don't sit in those holes forever. One year they are in a low-income hole, but the next year they've found a job or gotten a

promotion, and aren't anymore. But that hole that they were in last year doesn't go away. Others inevitably find themselves in that hole because it is a persistent defect in the economic structure. It follows from this that impoverished people are not the same people every year. It follows further that the only way to reduce poverty is to alter the economic structure so as to reduce the number of low-income holes in it.

As noted earlier, the frame of reference for both theories extends across national, cultural, ethnic, racial, and other boundaries. But both individual/cultural and structural theorists have recognized, explicitly or implicitly, that there are certain societal characteristics necessary to the development of the poverty syndrome. In the most extensive analysis, Lewis (1966) defined six such characteristics: (1) a profit-based cash economy; (2) high under- and unemployment for unskilled labor; (3) low wages; (4) little social organization among the poor; (5) a bilateral kinship system; (6) a value system stressing the individual accumulation of wealth. The portrait is one of a capitalist society such as the United States, and it seems evident that most authors, regardless of theoretical perspective, would agree in the essentials of the conditions outlined.

## **2.8.2 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY – (SUTHERLAND'S APPROACH)**

Edwin Sutherland (1947) in his attempt to explain how societal norms are being violated propounded the differential association theory. The fundamental assumption of this theory was that deviance is learned in the same way religion, politics, or sexual relation etc. is learned. Another assumption of the theory is that deviant behaviour is learned through face-to-face interactions between people who are close or intimate with each other,(for example, the peer group).

The theory further states that there exist two major factors that intensify this process. They are priority and intensity. That is if one is exposed at an early age to attitude and values (which he called definitions) favourable to deviant behaviour the greater likelihood that the person would become deviant. The theory assumes that we associate with different people everyday some, with attitudes and behaviours favourable to the accepted norms and other with attitudes and behaviour, which are deviations from societal norms.

In applying this theory to this study, one would view that almost all societies including the Nigeria society perceived poverty as dangerous signal directly link with criminal activities. Thus, to engage in what would lead society to danger is regarded as a deviant behaviour as most people did by engaging in series of criminal acts such as prostitution, stealing, area boys, cybercrime, harm robber among others. Thus, the differential association theory assumed that persons that associated more with friends who are touts, Agbero/area boys, yahoo boys, robbers,419,and criminals are more likely to engage in becoming one of them shortly.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

Research design shows how a researcher goes about gathering data for the research study. It is a plan or guide for data collection and interpretation that enables the investigator to conceptualize and observe the problems under study. Thus it is all about the step by step procedure on how to go about the methods of this study in terms of an appropriate research design, the best population for the study, sample size, sampling technique of selecting the respondents for the study, research instrument that will enhance the achievement of the set objective of this study, research ethic and data analysis.

#### **3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The study is descriptive in nature. The primary source of data collection will be through the use of questionnaire for quantitative data collection. The data will be basically from the major population for this study, that is, the inhabitants of Iworoko town who are both adult and old. Structured questionnaire will be administered to them to extract information/data on what they feel about poverty and crime rate in the area under study. While the secondary data for this study will be gotten from the internet and journals.

### **3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

There is no study that can conveniently cover all the elements that are relevant to the study. This underscores the importance of a sample which serves as the study population. This is done because it is not feasible to study the whole population at a time (Garmer 2005).

The main population of this study comprised of the indigenes and non-indigenes of Iworoko town, it also covers male and female. The adoption of this study area enables the researcher to investigate the socio-economic correlation of crime and to suggest the way out. Hence, this study focused on only a subset of the population because of constraints of time, finance and the desire to get relevant information from a relatively manageable sample.

### **3.4 SAMPLE SIZE**

Sample is that part of the population that stands as the representative of the whole. Good uniformity is the most vital feature of any sample. Under normal circumstances a sample is meant to be an extract of the population but since we cannot have the head count of the total population we must depend on a very small sample. A sample of two hundred (200) respondents will be scientifically selected for this study to provide information on the subject matter via structured questionnaire. Given us information on their experience on poverty and crime and more so if there had been any effort from the government to proffer solution to this problem.

### **3.5 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**

To achieve this study the Convenience sampling includes participants who are readily available and agree to participate in a study (Fink 18; Frey, et al. 131; Henry 18; MacNealy. MacNealy indicates that convenience sampling is often called accidental, while Frey, et al. agree with the alternate title of accidental but also include haphazard as an alternate title. All of these alternate names for convenience non-probability sampling include the same definition. This is a relatively easy choice for researchers when a group of people cannot be found to survey or question. Meaning that anybody in the population can also partake in the survey but some are selected using the convenience sampling technique to select those that will partake in the research so as to have a reasonable out come as a result for this study.

### **3.6 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

There are several instruments for the eliciting of raw data from the target population, we have the questionnaire, telephone questionnaire, which are both quantitative instrument nature and we have the qualitative instrument which includes the in-depth interview, focus group discussion, and the ethnographic study. This study will adopt the quantitative instrument, for this study there will be a structured questionnaire to be administered to the inhabitants of the study area which is Iworoko town. The questionnaire will use a four point scale to actually measure some variables and will be thematically arranged based on the objectives of the study.



### **3.7 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

The validity and reliability of the instruments to be used in obtaining data for this study is that, the instrument especially the structured questionnaire will be subjected to what is call pre-test. That is, the instrument will be administered in a different areas and analyse in order to ensure that it is capable of attaining the entire set objective for this study. Also the content validity of the instrument will be verified by expert in the subject area. The various suggestions that will be made will be used to modify the instrument.

### **3.8 DATA ANALYSIS**

The quantitative data to be collected will be analysed using SPSS computer package. This descriptive statistics will be presented using, frequency tables, percentages charts where applicable and cross tabulations tables. The hypotheses will be analysed with the aid of the Chi-Square to ascertain the statistical relationship in the hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance.

### **3.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION**

The ethical consideration of the respondents will be guided in such a way that no respondents either indigenes or non-indigenes will be forced in any way to respond to the instrument. Also, the information provided by each of the respondent will be confidentially protected, and see it as an important tools for this study.

### 3.10 VARIABLES OF THE STUDY/MEASUREMENT

Poverty and crime were the variables used in the study. Though both poverty and crime can be independent and dependent variables, but in the case of this research, poverty is independent variable while crime is the dependent variable.

For the this study the poverty here will be measured through the following the following;

1. Long and healthy life
2. Knowledge and a decent standard of living
3. Access to education
4. Social exclusion

While on the other hand, crime here will be measured using the followings: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, cyber crime, motor vehicle theft, kidnapping, arson, sexual assault, household burglary, burglaries of stores, thief and motorcycle theft.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the presentation and data analysis of research work on the impact of poverty on crime rates in Iworoko, Ekiti State. The data collected by means of questionnaire administered to the inhabitant of the study area. Both old and the youth, employed, unemployed and self employed people were considered in this study.

Out of the two hundred (200) questionnaires administered, only one hundred and ninety seven (197) copies were returned successfully. Thus the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data were restricted to the available figure (197).

The analysis of the study was done in line with the research questions and hypothesis raised for this project work. Background characteristics of the respondent and their opinion on factors that contribute to criminal activities in Iworoko Ekiti. The selected characteristics were presented in percentage while the Pearson Chi-square statistical technique was employed to validate the hypothesis raised for this study at 0.05 level of significance.

#### 4.1 Respondents Socio-demographic Characteristics

Table 1: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
15-20 years	19	9.6
21-25 years	40	20.3
26-30 years	37	18.8
31-40 years	50	25.4
41 years and above	51	25.9
Total	197	100

<b>Sex</b>		
Male	114	57.9
Female	83	42.1
Total	197	100
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	81	41.1
Married	88	44.7
Separated/Divorced	12	6.1
Widowed/Widower	16	8.1
Total	197	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The distribution of respondents age revealed that most of the sampled population was within ages 41 and above with (25.9%), followed by (31-40) years with (25.4%) and 21-15years with (20.3%) while ages (26-30) years with (18.8%)

The study revealed that most of the respondents were male with highest percentages (57.9%) while female are 42.1%. It was also discovered that most of the respondents are married (44.7%) followed by single which are (41.2%) while separated/divorced and widowed takes 6.1% and 8.1% respectively.

**Table 1.1: Distribution of Other Socio-demographic Characteristics**

Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Formal Education	13	6.6
Primary Education	17	8.6
Secondary Education	51	25.9
NCE/ND Education	57	28.9
BSc/HND	52	26.4
Postgraduate	7	3.6
Total	197	100
<b>Religion Affiliation</b>		
Christianity	135	68.5
Muslim	50	25.4
Traditional Religion	12	6.1
Total	197	100

Ethnicity		
Yoruba	190	96.4
Igbo	4	2
Hausa	3	1.5
Total	197	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The educational status of respondents revealed that most of them had NCE/ND education (28.9%), followed by BSC/HND (26.4%) and Secondary education (25.9%) while no education, primary educational and postgraduate shared the respective percentage 6.6%, 8.6% and 3.6%. It is not over statement to implies that sample population had good formal education in Iworoko.

The religion affiliation of respondents disclosed that most of the sampled population were Christians (68.5%), Muslims were (25.4%) and others religion and traditionalist took (6.1%). The ethnicity of iworoko disclosed that more than two-third are Yoruba. Therefore, it is not an over statement to say that Iworoko is characterized with mostly with Yoruba people.

**Table 1.2: Occupation of Respondents**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Student	46	23.4
Civil Servant	37	18.8
Trader/Business	36	18.3
Unemployed	20	10.2
Self-employed Artisan	27	13.7
Others	31	15.7
Total	197	100
<b>Money made every Month</b>		
Less than N10,000-N50,000	133	67.5
N51,000-N100,000	37	18.8
N101,000-N150,000	12	6.1
N151,000-N200,000	10	5.1
N201,000 and Above	5	2.5
Total	197	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The study also discovered that most of the people in Iworoko were students during this study (23.4%) while civil servants and business/Trader took (18.8% and 18.3%), whereas those unemployed were (10.2%) and other jobs and self- employed shared 15.7% and 13.7%. Although most of the respondents are working, but it was quite surprise to see that 67.5% of the respondents earn less than N50,000, while only (18.8%)earned (N51,000-100,000) and 6.1% earn N101,000-150,000. Details in table below.

## 4.2 Impact of Poverty to Criminal Behaviour

**Table 2. The distribution of respondents on impact of poverty to criminal behaviour in Iworoko.**

All Poor people always indulge in crime	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	87	44.2
No	82	41.6
Not Sure	28	14.2
Total	197	100
<b>Crime is a Way of Life to cover up for poverty</b>		
Yes	84	42.6
No	93	47.2
Not Sure	20	10.1
Total	197	100
<b>Poor Economic situation change behaviour</b>		
Yes	159	80.7
No	22	11.2
Not Sure	14	7.1
Dont Know	2	1
Total	197	100
<b>Lack of Money make one involve in social vices</b>		
Yes	122	61.9
No	49	24.9
Not Sure	22	11.2
Dont Know	4	2
Total	197	100
<b>unsatisfied once Needs leads to crime</b>		
Yes	124	62.9
No	52	26.4
Not Sure	19	9.6
Dont Know	2	1
Total	197	100
<b>Peer Group</b>		
Yes	157	79.7
No	25	12.7
Not Sure	11	5.6
Dont Know	4	2
Total	197	100

<b>Poverty is related to Crime in Community</b>		
Yes	145	73.6
No	34	17.3
Not Sure	15	7.6
Dont Know	3	1.5
Total	197	100

**Source: Field Survey, 2015**

The opinion whether all poor people always indulge in crime revealed that majority of respondents agreed with opinion as 44.2% said Yes, 41.6% said No while 14.2% were not sure and 2.5%. This implies that most poor people always indulge in crime.

The opinion that crime is a way of life to cover up for poverty revealed that majority of the respondent disagreed with the opinion as 47.2% said No while 42.6% said Yes and 10.1% were not sure.

The study further revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that poor economic situation changes one's behaviour (80.7%) while 11.2% disagreed and 7.1% and 1.0% are either not sure or don't know.

The study further revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that lack of money makes one to involve in social vices (61.9%) while 24.9% disagreed and 11.2% and 2.0% are either not sure or don't know.

It was also supported by majority that one of the factor contributing to crime is inability to satisfy one's need as 62.9% of respondent said Yes, while 26.4% said No and 9.6% of them were indifference 1.0% don't have idea.

Among the factors that lead individual to participate in criminal activities, the study discovered that majority of the respondents (79.7%) said peer group is one of them while 12.7% disagree and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure (7.6%)

### 4.3 Factors that Lead Respondents Participate in Crime

**Table 3. The distribution of respondents on factors that led to criminal behaviour in Iworoko.**

Crime is Inevitable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	121	61.4
No	54	27.4
Not Sure	15	7.6
Dont Know	7	3.6
Total	197	100
<b>Long and Healthy Life</b>		
Yes	122	61.9
No	48	24.4
Not Sure	20	10.2
Dont Know	7	3.6
Total	197	100
<b>No Adequate Knowledge</b>		
Yes	113	57.4
No	56	28.4
Not Sure	23	11.7
Dont Know	5	2.5
Total	197	100
<b>Access to Education</b>		
Yes	167	84.8
No	23	11.7
Not Sure	6	3
Dont Know	1	0.5
Total	197	100
<b>The Poor are Social Excluded</b>		
Yes	144	73.1
No	40	20.3
Not Sure	9	4.6



Don't Know	4	2
Total	197	100
<b>Unhealthy Competition let to crime</b>		
Yes	120	60.9
No	49	24.9
Not Sure	21	10.7
Dont Know	7	3.6
Total	197	100

**Source: Field Survey, 2015**

Whereas some associate crime to poverty in the society as 73.6% of respondents said Yes and 17.3% decline with the opinion. The respondents also posited that access to education is slim because of lack of money, (84.8%) agreed, while 11.7% disagreed and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure (8%).

It was discovered that unhealthy companion make people indulge in crime as (60.9%) said Yes, while 24.9% said No and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure (14.3).

The rate and level of crime in Iworoko community revealed that crime is common with particular group of people in the community, (51.8%) agree while (30.5%) and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure (17.8%)

#### 4.4 The Rate and Level of Crime the Community

Table 4. The distribution on the rate and level of crime in the Iworoko community.

Crime Is Common in the community	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	102	51.8
No	60	30.5
Not Sure	28	14.2
Dont Know	7	3.6
Total	197	100
<b>Male Youths</b>		
Yes	130	66
No	48	24.4
Not Sure	17	8.6
Dont Know	2	1
Total	197	100
<b>Crime is High in This community</b>		
Yes	96	48.7
No	79	40.1
Not Sure	18	9.1
Don't Know	4	2
Total	197	100
<b>They Commit Crime Everyday</b>		
Yes	62	31.5
No	104	52.8
Not Sure	25	12.7
Dont Know	6	3
Total	197	100

<b>No Forms of Crime that is not commit</b>		
Yes	60	30.5
No	106	53.8
Not Sure	22	11.2
Dont Know	9	4.6
Total	197	100
<b>Crime Is the Order of the day</b>		
Yes	58	29.4
No	103	52.3
Not Sure	29	14.7
Don't Know	7	3.6
Total	197	100

**Source: Field Survey, 2015**

Majority of the respondents agreed that male youths are vulnerable to crime in the community with (66%) saying Yes while 24.4% said No and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure (8.6%).

The respondents revealed that crime is very high in Iworoko as the opinion disclosed that 48.7% said Yes while 40.1% said No and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure less than(10% ).

The respondents disclosed that people do not commit crime everyday in the community as 52.8% disagreed while only 31.5% agreed and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure less that (16%) to the opinion that crime is committed every day.

Majority of the respondents also decline that there is no form of crime that does not exist in Iworoko as 53.8% disagree while only 30.5% agreed and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure less than (17% ).

#### 4.5 The Way Forward in Tackling Crime in the Community

**Table 5: The Distribution of suggested Solution to Tackle Crime in this Community**

Crime can be Reduce	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	173	87.8
No	13	6.6
Not Sure	9	4.6
Dont Know	2	1
Total	197	100
<b>Improved Standard of Living</b>		
Yes	175	88.8
No	15	7.6
Not Sure	5	2.5
Dont Know	2	1
Total	197	100
<b>Engaging All Idle Hands</b>		
Yes	167	84.8
No	18	9.1
Not Sure	11	5.6
Dont Know	1	0.5
Total	197	100

<b>Empowerment for All</b>		
Yes	137	69.5
No	34	17.3
Not Sure	24	12.2
Don't Know	2	1
Total	197	100
<b>Free Education</b>		
Yes	177	89.8
No	9	4.6
Not Sure	10	5.1
Don't Know	1	0.5
Total	197	100
<b>Government at All Tiers should help</b>		
Yes	175	88.8
No	12	6.1
Not Sure	7	3.6
Don't Know	3	1.5
Total	197	100

**Source: Field Survey, 2015**

The respondents disclosed 87.8% of the respondent also admitted that crime can be reduce in Iworoko while (6.6%) said it cannot be reduced and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure less than ( 6%).

Majority of the respondent revealed that improved standard of living can put an end to crime in Iworoko as 88.8% said Yes while 7.8% said No and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure that is less than( 5%)

The study also revealed that engaging idle hands and mind will reduced crime rate in the community, as 84.8% agreed while 9.1% disagree leaving remaining percentage to be shared by don't know and not sure that is less than (5% )

Most of the respondents agreed that empowerment for all married people can help in reducing crime as 69.5% said Yes while 17.3% said No and leaving remaining percentage to be shared by don't know and not sure that is less than (15% )

Most of the respondents agree that if free education is introduced to reduced financial burden of parents in the community crime will eventually reduce as 89.8% said Yes while 4.6% said No and leaving remaining percentage to be shared by don't know and not sure that is less than (5% )

Majority of the respondents also suggested that government at all tiers should intervene in the fight against crime in the local government as 88.8% said Yes while 6.1% said No.

## 4.2 Test of Hypotheses

**Table 6: Cross Tabulation on crime rate and Financial standing among people of Iworoko**

Poor Financial Standing	High Crime				Total	X <sup>2</sup> = 35.43 P=0.000
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Dont Know		
Yes	1	1	0	0	2	
	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	
No	0	0	9	5	14	
	0.00%	0.00%	64.30%	35.70%	100.00%	
Not Sure	1	1	11	9	22	
	4.50%	4.50%	50.00%	40.90%	100.00%	
Dont Know	2	16	59	82	159	
	1.30%	10.10%	37.10%	51.60%	100.00%	

Source: Field Survey, 2015

### Hypothesis I:

**Ho:** There is no relationship between financial standing and crime among the people of Iworoko town.

**Hi:** There is relationship between financial standing and crime among the people of Iworoko town.

### Decision Rule:

Reject Ho if the calculates p-value is less than 0.05 level of significance, otherwise do not reject.

### Conclusion

The cross tabulation analysis revealed that there is a significant relationship between high crime rate and financial status at 5% level of significance with chi-square ( $X^2=35.43$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). Since the calculated p-value from the Statistical Software is less than 0.05, we reject the null

hypothesis and conclude that there is significant relationship between high crime rate and financial status among people in iworoko community.

**Table 7: Cross Tabulation on Crime Rate and peer Groups among people of Iworoko**

Peer Groups	High Crime Rate				Total	X <sup>2</sup> = 22.177 P=.008
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Don't Know		
Yes	1	2	0	1	4	
	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%	100.00%	
No	0	1	5	5	11	
	0.00%	9.10%	45.50%	45.50%	100.00%	
Not Sure	0	3	12	10	25	
	0.00%	12.00%	48.00%	40.00%	100.00%	
Don't Know	3	12	62	80	157	
	1.90%	7.60%	39.50%	51.00%	100.00%	
	4	18	79	96	197	
	2.00%	9.10%	40.10%	48.70%	100.00%	

Source: Field Survey, 2015

**Hypothesis II**

**Ho:** There is no relationship between peer influence and crime among the Iworoko indigenes.

**Hi:** There is relationship between peer influence and crime among the Iworoko indigenes

**Decision Rule:**

Reject Ho if the calculates p-value is less than 0.05 level of significance, otherwise do not reject.

**Conclusion**

The bivariate analysis revealed that there is a significant relationship between high crime rate and peer group influence at 5% level of significance with chi-square (X<sup>2</sup>=22.18, p=0.008). Since the calculated p-value from the Statistical Software is less than 0.05, we reject the null



hypothesis and conclude that there is significant relationship between high crime rate and peer group influence among people in Iworoko community.

**Table 8: Cross Tabulation on Crime Rate and Educational Qualification among people of Iworoko**

Educational Qualification	High Crime Rate				Total
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Don't Know	
No Formal Education	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	6 46.20%	7 53.80%	13 100.00%
Primary Education	0 0.00%	2 11.80%	7 41.20%	8 47.10%	17 100.00%
Secondary Education	1 2.00%	5 9.80%	22 43.10%	23 45.10%	51 100.00%
NCE/ND Education	0 0.00%	6 10.50%	21 36.80%	30 52.60%	57 100.00%
BSc/HND	3 5.80%	5 9.60%	19 36.50%	25 48.10%	52 100.00%
Postgraduate	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	4 57.10%	3 42.90%	7 100.00%
Total	4 2.00%	18 9.10%	79 40.10%	96 48.70%	197 100.00%

Source: Field Survey, 2015

### Hypothesis III

**Ho:** There is no relationship between the level of education and crime among the people of Iworoko town.

**Hi:** There is relationship between the level of education and crime among the people of Iworoko town.

### Decision Rule:

Reject Ho if the calculated p-value is less than 0.05 level of significance, otherwise do not reject.

## **Conclusion**

In the same vein, the cross tabulation analysis revealed that there is no significant relationship between high crime rate and educational qualification at 5% level of significance with chi-square ( $X^2=9.117$ ,  $p=0.871$ ). Since the calculated p-value from the Statistical Software is greater than 0.05, we accept the null hypothesis and conclude that there is no significant relationship between high crime rate and educational qualification among people in Iworoko town.

## **Discussion of Findings**

The findings from the results revealed that poor financial standing is related to high crime rate in Iworoko, this implies that lack of money make people to indulge in social vices. And most of the people that involved in crime did that to cover up for poverty which is invariably because of poor economic situation in the community. This takes credence from Obadan and Odusola (2001) that poverty and crime as social problems have remained major developmental challenges in Nigeria for a very long time. As observed, poverty in Nigeria was more acute in the 1980s and this has been on the increase ever since.

It was also found out from the analysis that factors that led to criminal activities were peer group pressure, poor access to education contributes to crime, poor standard of living, unhealthy competition led most young adults to crime especially the male youth. The result implies that peer group has significant relationship to high crime rate in Iworoko Ekiti.

The results also revealed that most of the respondents admitted that crime can be reduce in Iworoko. Even majority of the respondents revealed that improved standard of living can put an end to crime in Iworoko, engaging idle hands and mind will reduced crime rate in the

community. Most of the respondents also suggested that empowerment for all married people can help in reducing crime. Most of the respondents agree that if free education is introduced to reduced financial burden of parents in the community crime will eventually reduce. It was also suggested that government at all tiers should intervene in the fight against crime in the local government.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is devoted to the presentation of the summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations drawn from the analysis of the research data.

#### 5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This study found that most of the sampled population were within ages 41 and above with (25.9%), followed by (31-40) years (25.4%) and 21-15years with (20.3%) while ages (26-30) years with (18.8%), the study also revealed that most of the respondents were male with highest percentages (57.9%) while female are 42.1%. It was also discovered that most of the respondents are married (44.7%) followed by single which are (41.2%) while separated/divorced and widowed takes 6.1% and 8.1% respectively.

The educational status of respondents revealed that most of them had NCE/ND education (28.9%), followed by BSC/HND (26.4%) and Secondary education (25.9%) while no education, primary educational and postgraduate shared the respective percentage 6.6%, 8.6% and 3.6%. It is not over statement to infer that sample population had good formal education in Iworoko.

The religion affiliation of respondents disclosed that most of the sampled population were Christians (68.5%), Muslims were (25.4%) and others religion and traditionalist took (6.1%). The ethnicity of iworoko disclosed that more than two-third are Yoruba. Therefore, it is not an over statement to say that Iworoko is characterized with mostly with Yoruba people.

Although most of the respondents are working, but it was quite surprise to see that 67.5% of the respondents earn less than N50,000, while only (18.8%) earned (N51,000-100,000) and 6.1% earn N101,000-150,000.

The opinion whether all poor people always indulge in crime revealed that majority of respondents agreed with opinion as 44.2% said Yes, 41.6% said No while 14.2% were not sure and 2.5%. this implies that most poor people always indulge in crime. The opinion that crime is a way of life to cover up for poverty revealed that majority of the respondent disagreed with the opinion as 47.2% said No while 42.6% said Yes and 10.1% were not sure. The study further revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that poor economic situation changes one's behaviour (80.7%) while 11.2% disagreed and 7.1% and 1.0% are either not sure or don't know.

Among the factors that lead individual to participate in criminal activities, the study discovered that majority of the respondents (79.7%) said peer group is one of them while 12.7% disagree and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure ( 7.6%).

Majority of the respondent revealed that improved standard of living can put an end to crime in Iworoko as 88.8% said Yes while 7.8% said No and remaining percentage was shared by don't know and not sure that is less than( 5%).

The study also revealed that engaging idle hands and mind will reduce crime rate in the community, as 84.8% agreed while 9.1% disagree leaving remaining percentage to be shared by don't know and not sure that is less than (5%). Most of the respondents agreed that empowerment for all married people can help in reducing crime as 69.5% said Yes while 17.3% said No and leaving remaining percentage to be shared by don't know and not sure that is less than (15% ).

The test of association between independent variables and dependent variable crime rate analysis revealed that there is a significant relationship between high crime rate and financial status at 5% level of significance with chi-square ( $X^2=35.43$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). The bivariate analysis revealed that there is a significant relationship between high crime rate and peer group influence at 5% level of significance with chi-square ( $X^2=22.18$ ,  $p=0.008$ ). In the same vein, the cross tabulation analysis revealed that there is no significant relationship between high crime rate and educational qualification at 5% level of significance with chi-square ( $X^2=9.117$ ,  $p=0.871$ ).

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

The scourge of poverty and crime has ravaged almost all nations of the world in different dimensions and shades. But in Nigeria, as Akande and Okuwa (2009) pointed out, the poverty challenge is captured by the growing number of unemployed youths roaming the streets all over the country. This study carried out in Iworoko has confirmed that poverty contributes to high crime rate in the community. And has upheld that peer group, poor economic situation has contributed to criminal activities in the community and engaging idle hands and mind will reduce crime rate in the community as well as empowerment for all married people and improved standard of living can put an end to crime in Iworoko.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are submitted to reduce the high level of criminal activities in Iworoko Ekiti community.

That government at all levels should put in place, sustain programs and policies geared towards reduction of poverty and unemployment level via massive youth employment and women empowerment agendas such that both problems can be reduced if not completely removed from our society. The poverty eradication schemes set up by the governments are being used by those in charge of the programs to settle their political thugs and clients. Give the funds to the military to manage, recruit the unemployed, train them in specific trades, and advance the funds as revolving loans to them to establish businesses. These loans should be interest-free and applicants must be made to submit realizable business proposals in order to benefit from the loans. And their various traditional rulers should identify them for them to benefit from the loans. That there should be a paradigm shift in the bias of our educational system with a view to making Nigerian youths imbibe the philosophy of self employment and entrepreneurship through inclusion of vocational and entrepreneurial training and the inclusion of entrepreneurial development programs into our school curricula. Students on graduation can use their certificates to obtain loans for businesses from the entrepreneurial loan schemes.

- Empowerment for all married people that will improve standard of living of family member which will likely eradicate or combat crime in Iworoko.
- Poverty alleviation programs should be introduced by the government to the people to increase the standard of living of the people within Iworoko this we reduce the crime rate.
- Government at all tiers should try to be involved and intervene in fighting crime reduction in Iworoko community.
- Free education should be introduced to reduce financial burden of the part of the parents in Iworoko will likely eradicate crime.

- Engaging all idle hands and minds will also eradicate the poverty and crime in Iworoko community.
- The creation and empowerment efforts and activities that will enable all citizens express their potentials and participate in the development of the society.
- Since low or poor level of education pave way for unemployment, literacy level of most rural dwellers can be improved by introducing free and compulsory education for the youth including vocational and training programs.
- Implementation of community oriented development projects and participatory approach in restoring issues and problems in the region.



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**Respondents' Survey**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Faculty of Social Sciences**  
**Federal University Oye-Ekiti**

I am **Samuel Agbaje**, a final year student of Department of Sociology in the above mentioned citadel of learning. I am presently working or collecting data on the title, "**Poverty and Crime Rate in Iworoko Town**". I implore you to attend to all the questions in this questionnaire for academic purpose. I promised that all your responses will be protected.

Answer all questions as appropriate.

**Section A: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

1. Your age as at your last birthday

- (a) 15 – 20 Years                    (   )
- (b) 21 – 25 Years                    (   )
- (c) 26 – 30 Years                    (   )
- (d) 31 – 40 Years                    (   )
- (e) 41 years and above              (   )

2. Sex of the Respondents

- (a) Male                                (   )
- (b) Female                              (   )

3. Marital Status:

- (a) Single                                (   )
- (b) Married                              (   )
- (c) Separated/Divorce                (   )
- (d) Widowed/widower                 (   )

4. Educational Qualification of Respondents

- (a) No formal education              (   )
- (b) Primary Education                 (   )
- (c) Secondary Education               (   )
- (d) NCE/ND Education                 (   )

(e) B.SC/HND ( )

(f) Postgraduate ( )

5. Religious Affiliation of the Respondents

(a) Christianity ( )

(b) Muslim ( )

(c) Traditional Religion ( )

6. Ethnicity of the Respondents

(a) Yoruba ( )

(b) Igbo ( )

(c) Hausa ( )

7. Occupation

(a) Student ( )

(b) Civil Servant ( )

(c) Trader/Business ( )

(d) Unemployed ( )

(e) Self-employed/Artisan ( )

(f) Others Specify.....

8. How much do you make every month?

(a) Less than N10,000-N50,000 ( )

(b) N51,000-N100,000 ( )

(c) N101,000-N150,000 ( )

(d) N151,000-N200,000 ( )

(e) N201,000 and above ( )

**NOTE: From Section B - E, DK means DON'T KNOW.**

**Section B: The contribution of Poverty to Criminal Behaviour**

	Poverty and Criminal behaviour	Yes	No	Not Sure	DK
1	All poor people always indulge in crime				
2	Crime is a way of life to cover up for poverty				
3	Poor economic situation change one's behavior				

4	Lack of money makes one to be involve in social vices				
5	Not been to able satisfy one's need can lead to criminal behavior				
6	Peer group can make one engage in criminal behavior				
7	There is relationship between poverty and crime in this community				

**Section C: Factors that lead respondents participate in Crime**

	<b>Factors leading individual to participate in Crime</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>DK</b>
1	Crime is inevitable in our community				
2	Long and healthy life of the people is not guaranteed				
3	No adequate knowledge to improve the standard of living of the people				
4	Access to education is very slim because of lack of money				
5	The poor are social excluded in most settings				
6	Unhealthy competition makes people indulge in crime				

**Section D: The rate and level of crime in this community**

	<b>Rate and level of Crime in the Community</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>DK</b>
1	Crime is common to a particular group in this community				
2	Male youths are more vulnerable to crime in this community				
3	Crime is very high in this community				
4	They commit crime every day in this community				
5	There is no form of crime that does not exist in this community				
6	Crime is the order of the day in our community				



**Section E: The way forward in tackling Crime in this community**

	<b>Tackling Crime in this Community</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>DK</b>
1	Crime can reduce in this community				
2	Improved standard of living can put an end to crime in this community				
3	Engaging all idle hands and minds will reduce crime in this community				
4	Empowerment for all married people can also reduce crime				
5	Free education should be introduce to reduce financial burden of parents in this community can reduce crime				
6	Government at all tiers should intervene in crime reduction in this community				