

Urbanization and Crime Management in Makurdi Metropolis

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Abstract

The study is set out to examine urbanization and crime management in Makurdi metropolis. The method adopted in this study was a descriptive survey with questionnaire being the major source of data collection. Data collected was analyzed using simple percentage. The failed state theory was adopted as a theoretical framework to guide the study. The findings revealed that, Makurdi metropolis has seen a significant migration of people from the surrounding rural areas. As the town's population has grown, so has the incidence of crime and the level of violence. The paper also revealed that the rise in unemployment also raises the country's poverty level, as people are compelled to live below what is considered acceptable due to a lack of a source of income. As unemployment and poverty level increases, crime of various nature become more prevalent. Thus, in an anxious bid to tackle this rising wave of crime in Makurdi metropolis, the federal and state governments have increased support for Nigeria criminal Justice system (The police, court and prison) in areas of personnel, logistics, and firearms. Infact, the police have also increased their presence, embarked on a joint patrol with the military known as "Operation Zenda", and stationed some armed personnel carriers at strategic crime zones in the metropolis. However, it seems that the more weapons and police personnel deployed to fight crime, the more criminal activities are committed. The paper in line with these findings

recommended that, the government should create more job opportunities for the youth; this will make them abstain from committing all such crimes

Keywords: Urbanization, crime, crime management, poverty and unemployment

Introduction

At least three important forces of development have shaped the transformation of modern societies since the 18th century. These forces include industrialization, urbanization, and globalization (Agbola, 2016). Industrialization is a primary stimulant for economic growth. It yields those outputs which drive dynamic social mobility and give impetus to urbanization processes in developed and developing societies (Fadamir and Falaye, 2020). Industrialization breeds urbanization which in turn lubricates globalization. Industrialization, urbanization, and globalization are interconnected and interdependent and, in a sense, urbanization sits as the conduit between the other two forces. Towards the end of the last decade, the world became predominantly urban (Soh, 2018). Global economic productivity is also highly skewed in favor of cities. For instance, by 2025, 60% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$64 trillion) will be generated in cities; average per capita income within these cities is expected to rise to \$32,000; and households expect their income to jump above \$20,000 per annum (Idowu, 2018)

However, it is fair to say that with all its merits, urbanization has also brought new challenges in terms of crime, insecurity, and urban violence. In much of the world, crime is disproportionately urban (Faniran and Onibukun, 2018). More than 1.5 billion people live in areas affected by repeated cycles of criminal violence (World Bank, 2011). The landmark World Development report published by the World Bank in 2011 highlighted the significance of crime and insecurity as clogs in the wheel of urban development. Urban crime constitutes a serious impediment to social and economic

development in Nigeria (Falola, 2019). In numerous urban centers, high rates of crime threaten human welfare, undermine the growth of small, medium, and large-scale enterprises, and impede social development (Nyam and Ayuba, 2020). In many urban centers of Nigeria today, criminal activities and violence have assumed dangerous tendencies as they threaten lives and property, the national sense of well-being, and reduce the citizen's quality of life (Ahmed 2018).

Makurdi metropolis has seen a significant migration of people from the surrounding rural areas. As the town's population has grown, so has the incidence of crime and the level of violence, which has ranged from petty to organized crime, housebreaking and theft, kidnapping, murder, illicit drug dealing, thuggery, and other crimes are all rampant. Women, men, children, the old, the weak, the wealthy, and the impoverished are all victims of various forms of crime. As a result, there have been deaths, displacements, serious economic disruptions, and the threat of future attacks. In other words, it has thrown livelihoods and the economy into disarray. In an anxious bid to tackle this rising wave of crime, the federal and state governments have increased support for Nigeria's police service in areas of personnel, logistics, and firearms. The police have also increased their presence, embarked on a joint patrol with the military known as Operation Zenda, and stationed some Armed Personnel Carriers (APC) at strategic crime zones in the metropolis. However, it seems that the more weapons and police personnel deployed to fight crime, the more criminal activities are committed. Each day unfolds with its strange tales of one form of crime or the other. There is hardly any day that passes by without one crime or the other being committed. From cult-related killings to prostitution, drug peddling, armed robbery, kidnappings, human trafficking, thuggery, hooliganism, youth violence, and even terrorism have become more or less the order of the day. Indeed cult-related criminal activities have wreaked untold havoc in Makurdi including the loss of lives and property and the creation

of fear and insecurity. The youth have found criminality to be an economic shelter, as it provides them with a source of income. (Mbumega, 2019)

Thus, the general objective of this study is to examine urbanization and crime management in Benue State; a study of Makurdi metropolis. The specific objectives include; to examine the character, dynamics, and trends of urban crime in Makurdi metropolis, identify the factors and or conditions that facilitate urban crime in Makurdi metropolis, the effect of urban crime on residents of Makurdi metropolis and the role of the Nigeria criminal justice system and its effectiveness in managing crime in Makurdi metropolis

Makurdi metropolis is the headquarters of Makurdi Local Government Area (LGA) which was created in 1976. Today, Makurdi serves as a dual-purpose city as both local government headquarters and the state capital of Benue, within latitudes 7^o 45'N and longitudes 8^o 26'E, 8^o 36'E. It is bounded in the North by Guma LGA; in the east by Gwer-West LGA; in the south by Gwer LGA and the west by Tarka LGA. Makurdi metropolis, located in the river Benue valleys, experiences a tropical climate with two distinct seasons, wet and dry seasons. The annual rainfall in Makurdi is about 1500mm. River Benue is one of the major rivers in Nigeria. It is needed for domestic, industrial, and agricultural purposes and it is been subjected to waste from abattoirs, open dumpsites. Politically, it falls within the Middle Belt region of Nigeria and has a radius of 16 kilometers from its center.

Conceptual Clarifications

Urbanization

Urbanization is the social process whereby cities grow and their societies become urban. Its emergence is a result of people moving into urban centers in search of economic opportunities or openings and also to improve their living standards. Urbanization has always been referred to as the modernization indicator, quality of life

improvement among the developed or least developed countries, and since urbanization is the prerequisite to modern and developing countries (Faniran & Onibukun, 2018). According to Idowu (2018, p.4), an urban center is an agglomeration of people that are organized around non-agricultural activities, and urban growth is the rate of growth of an urban population while urbanization is defined as the agglomeration of people in relatively large number at a particular spot of the earth surface. Cities are products of the process of urbanization. In other words, urbanization is the social process that leads to the creation of cities. Thus, the relationship between cities and urbanization is one of cause and effect.

Urbanization is a very complex phenomenon, with myriad dimensions which can be analyzed from various perspectives. Owing to the complex nature of this phenomenon, the study of urbanization is an enterprise that is being pursued by different disciplines. This has made the contributions to urbanization interdisciplinary in nature. United Nations (2018), the process of urbanization describes a shift in a population from one that is dispersed across small rural settlements in which agriculture is the dominant economic activity towards one where the population is concentrated in larger, dense urban settlements characterized by industrial and service activities. Urbanization refers both to a condition at a point in time and to a process occurring over time. The condition of urbanization, referred to as the level of urbanization, is indicated by the percentage of a population that is living in urban areas. The process of urbanization has been used in several ways. These include migration from rural areas to urban areas, absolute growth in the urban population (urban growth), and urban growth that is faster than rural growth. Hence, urbanization as a process implies an increase in the percentage of urban and the rate of urbanization, thus, refers to the growth rate in the level of urbanization. .

Crime

Crime is relative to time and place. What is against the law in one state may be perfectly legal in another state. Drinking alcohol, for example, is legal in Edo State, but not so in Zamfara State. Also, certain forms of sexual behaviour are defined as crimes in some places but simply as private wrongs in other places. Some states in Nigeria. (Sharia States) label premarital sex and adultery as crimes whereas, other states view such conduct as simply a matter of personal discretion. However, the legal conception of crime x-ray that, crime is an act defined by law. Behaviour may be dealt with as criminal only when it violates criminal law. Thus, without a law, there can be no officially recognized crime. This does not suggest that only acts prohibited by law are wrong. The issue of what should or should not be a crime is different from what is a crime according to law. Thus, crime is “an intentional act or omission to act, committed without defense or justification, that endangers the public, as prohibited by the law, and is punished by the state”. (Igbinovia, 2003).

However, Adeyemi, (2012) defined crime as an illegal act (an action prohibited by Law or failure to act as required by law); an illegal activity that involves breaking the Law; an immoral activity that is considered an unacceptable act that is shameful, unwise or regrettable. Crime by the Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 1999) is defined as “An act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment under the criminal code, or any Act or Law” Crime is brought about by the violation of the Law as established by the government at all levels. Crime is an infraction of both the basic principles of law and order and the norms of civilized behaviour.

Urban crimes are classified as crimes committed in urban areas. Soh (2012) linked urban crimes to factors such as unemployment, poverty, poor living condition, economic deprivation, inequality in society, and others rather than urbanization.

Crime Management

The rate of crime today in society has become an issue of concern among policymakers. The menace of crime undermines the social fabric by eroding the sense of safety and security. 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 investment, reduces the quality of life, and destroys human and social capital (Adebayo, 2013). As a result of the rapid implications of the menace of crime, the concept of crime management arises which aims at managing and reducing crime in society to ensure rapid economic growth and development and to help society to achieve social order.

Australian Institute of Criminology AIC (AIC, 2012) defined crime management as the variety of approaches that are applied by individuals, societies, industries, non-government institutions, and all tiers of government to target the numerous social and ecological influences that upsurge the danger of crime, disorder, and persecution. Crime management depicts those actions that are intended to prevent or reduce the incidence of a particular type of crime. This can be done by altering the environs in which they happen, or by superseding more approximately to alter the social or other circumstances which are supposed to have fundamental implications concerning them. According to NPF (2009), decreasing the rate of crime also stresses a process of analysis to manage the source of specific types of criminal activities as well as the harmonization of resources and abilities of a variety of role players to implement and develop suitable inferences.

Crime management has to do with the attempt made by the government and society to reduce and deter crimes and criminals. It encompasses the effort to reduce crime, enforce laws and maintain social order in the society. According to the United Nation office on drugs and Crime (2004), crime management comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crime occurring, and their potentially harmful effects on

individuals and society, including fear of crime by intervening to influence their multiple causes. Crime management on the other hand refers to the measures taken to reduce crime in society. This implies that it has to do with both formal and informal strategies that are used to reduce the impact of crime in society. For Clifford (2014), crime management refers to the measures by law enforcement agents or institutions to prevent the commission of a crime or to reduce it to a minimal level.

Theoretical Framework

The failed state theory is employed to examine urbanization and crime management in Makurdi metropolis as propounded by Helman and Ratner (1993) and further popularized by Rotberg (2002). Central to this theory is that the state which has the constitutional responsibility of protecting and providing welfare to its citizens failed to do so because of weak institutions and bad leadership. Rotberg (2002) identifies several characteristics of failed states which include; Rise of criminal and political violence, a loss of control over borders, rising ethnic-, religious-, linguistic- and cultural hostilities, Civil war, the use of terror against own citizens, Weak institutions, a deteriorated or insufficient infrastructure, an inability to collect taxes without undue coercion, a collapsed health system, Rising levels of infant mortality and declining life expectancy, the end of regular schooling opportunities, declining levels of GDP per capita (especially inflation), a widespread preference for non-national currencies, b Basic food shortages – leading to starvation, leaders destroy the economic and political fabric of the country, Questionable legitimacy.

The failed states theory stresses that certain indicators are necessary (if not sufficient) to categorize a state as 'failed'. The persistence of political violence is salient in most definitions of 'failed states. For Rotberg (2003, p.5), failed states are tense, deeply conflicted, dangerous, and bitterly contested by warring factions.

In most failed states, government troops battle armed revolts led by one or more warring factions.

The relevance of the theory showed that, with the rebirth of democratic rule in Nigeria in 1999, many Nigerians were hopeful that restoration of civilian government will put an end to poverty, unemployment, inequality, social vices such as robbery, theft and other ills of development. To the surprise of most Nigerians, this hope has turned to frustration as the government failed to address these development challenges. As unemployment and poverty levels rise due to the failure of the government to provide, societal vices such as armed robbery and drug use become more prevalent. The number of criminals in society is increasing as people seek any way of surviving. Makurdi, for example, has seen a significant migration of people from the surrounding rural areas. As the town's population has grown, so have the incidence of crime and the level of violence, which has ranged from petty to organized crime. Housebreaking and theft, kidnapping, murder, illicit drug dealing, thuggery, and other crimes are all rampant in Makurdi. Women, men, children, the old, the weak, the wealthy, and the impoverished are all victims of various forms of crime. As a result, there have been deaths, displacements, serious economic disruptions, and the threat of future attacks. In other words, it has thrown livelihoods and the economy into disarray.

The youth are at the forefront of all of these initiatives. Unemployed youth have become dependent clients of political entrepreneurs and various criminal gangs in many of these scenarios, and they have developed nearly impenetrable networks controlled by kingpins. Political elites employ this pool of defenseless youth to scare voters, maim, murder opponents, and spread misinformation. The youth are hungry and idle, and they struggle only to acquire tiny sums of money and other presents from the wealthy and politicians. This means that unemployed youngsters are sometimes used as mercenaries in land conflicts and elections to wreak havoc. These idle minds can easily be enlisted as

mercenaries by desperate and opportunistic political elites or any feuding faction. The government's inability to perform its constitutional functions including the security of lives and properties, therefore, informed people to rebel and take up arms against the same government chiefly to protest their socio-economic challenges.

Demographic Parameters of Respondents

The demographic parameters of this study covered the sex distribution of respondents, their age composition and educational qualifications. Knowledge of this will enhance our understanding of the respondents and the kind of responses that were generated during the study. This would go a long way in determining the intelligibility of the responses and what recognition and consideration they should be accorded in terms of accepting and appreciating the findings of the study. The table shows the demographic parameters of respondents involved in this study:

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Analysis of Respondents

Attributes	Frequency (N = 380)	Percentage (% = 100)
Gender		
Male	192	50.50
Female	188	49.50
Age		
18-25	45	11.80
26.40	127	33.40
40 and above	208	54.70
Marital status		
Single	168	44.20
Married	172	45.30
Divorced	40	10.50
Educational Attainment		
First School Leaving Certificate	0	0.00
SSCE	126	33.20

Tertiary	198	52.10
Postgraduate	56	14.70
Occupational Qualification		
Lawyer/Judges	30	7.90
Prison Warders	48	12.60
Police Officers	52	13.70
Prison inmate	50	13.20
Others	200	52.60
Total	380	100.00

Source: Field Survey, (2023)

Presented in table 1 above is the socio-demographic analysis of respondents. Results obtained revealed that majority of the respondents (50.50%) were males compared to females (49.50%). Majority of the respondents were within ranges of 40 years and above (54.70%), this was followed by those within age ranges of 26-40years (33.40%) and 18-25 years (11.80%) respectively. Most of the respondents (45.30%) were married compared to those who were single (44.20%) and divorced (10.50%). In terms of education qualification, majority of the respondents (52.10%) had tertiary education, this was followed by those with SSCE (33.20%), postgraduate (14.70%) and First school leaving certificate (0.00%). In terms of occupational qualification, results obtained revealed that 52.60% of the respondents were those with other forms of occupation not highlighted in this study, this was followed by those who were police officers (13.70%), prison inmates (13.20%), prison warders (12.60%) and lawyers/judges (7.90%).

Research Question 1: What is the character, dynamics and trends of urban crime in Makurdi metropolis?

This question was answered using Table 2 and the results obtained are presented as follows:

Table 2: Character, Dynamics, and Trends of Urban Crime in Makurdi Metropolis.

	Character, Dynamics, and Trends of Urban Crime in Makurdi Metropolis	SD	D	N	A	SA	\bar{x}	Std	Decision
1	There has been an upsurge in criminal activities in Makurdi metropolis ranging from cultism, armed banditry, kidnapping, rape, assassinations, killings by Fulani herdsmen,	38	6	4	208	124	3.98	1.14	Accepted
2	The criminals sometimes came through the river Benue utilizing tempo boats and normally reverted to neighboring States like Nasarawa state utilizing the same boats	16	10	6	62	286	4.55	0.97	Accepted
3	The use of assault and homemade rifles, is a common trend among criminals in Makurdi metropolis	50	20	0	202	108	3.78	1.27	Accepted
	Total	144	53	16	586	721	4.11	1.38	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, (2023)

The Mean Analysis of the character, dynamics and trends of urban crime in Makurdi metropolis is shown in table 2. Mean scores of 3.98, 4.55, 4.11 and 3.78 were recorded for there has been an upsurge in criminal activities in Makurdi metropolis ranging from cultism, armed banditry, kidnapping, rape, assassinations; the criminals sometimes came through the river Benue utilizing tempo boats and normally reverted to neighboring States like Nasarawa state utilizing the same boats; the criminals normally disguise themselves in military uniforms during the attacks and vary behind into their old-fashioned clothes afterward and the use of, assault and homemade rifles is a common trend among criminals in Makurdi metropolis. Since both the individual and cluster mean are above the decision point of 3.0, it implies that item 1-4 are the

character, dynamics and trends of urban crime in Makurdi metropolis.

Research Question 2: What are the Factors and/or Conditions that Facilitate Urban Crime in Makurdi Metropolis?

This question was answered using Table 3 and the results obtained are presented as follows:

Table 3: Factors and/or Conditions that Facilitate Urban Crime in Makurdi Metropolis

	Factors and/or Conditions that Facilitate Urban Crime in Makurdi Metropolis	SD	D	U	A	SA	\bar{x}	Std	Decision
1	The incidence of crime tends to increase in any region, where there is a growing population of people, and the such incidence is reduced in a region with a low population of people	20	10	4	204	142	4.15	0.97	Accepted
2	The rise in unemployment and poverty levels creates social vices such as armed robbery, and drugs,	24	14	6	78	258	4.40	1.11	Accepted
3	Proliferation of small and Light weapons is a predisposing factor to armed militia activities in Ukum LGA.	20	14	0	204	142	4.14	0.98	Accepted
	Total	72	50	1	746	642	4.20	0.93	Accepted
				0					

Source: Field Survey, (2023)

Presented in table 3 above is the mean analysis of the factors and/or conditions that facilitate urban crime in Makurdi metropolis. Results obtained indicated that the incidence of crime tends to increase in any region, where there is a growing population of people, and such incidence is reduced in a region with a low population of people; the rise in unemployment and poverty levels creates social vices such as armed robbery, and drugs;

proliferation of small and Light weapons is a predisposing factor to armed militia activities in Ukum LGA and compromised security apparatus promotes criminality in Makurdi metropolis as some security agencies collaborators with criminal cartels were the factors considered had mean scores of 4.15, 4.40, 4.14 and 4.13 respectively. Since both the individual mean and cluster mean are above the decision point of 3.0, it therefore signifies that the factors and/or conditions considered in this study facilitate urban crime in Makurdi metropolis.

Research Question 3: What are the Effect of Urban Crime on Residents of Makurdi Metropolis?

This question was answered using Table 4 and the results obtained are presented as follows:

Table 4: Effect of Urban Crime on Residents of Makurdi Metropolis

S/N	Effect of Urban Crime on Residents of Makurdi Metropolis	SD	D	N	A	SA	\bar{x}	Std	Decision
1	victim of a crime may experience anger, depression, or fear, which, in serious cases, can cause sleeplessness, flashbacks to the offense, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	38	6	4	208	124	3.98	1.14	Accepted
2	Urban crime has created a fearful atmosphere that discourages investors	16	10	6	62	286	4.55	0.97	Accepted
3	The activities of criminals affect all facets of human life among which is food security and shelter.	50	20	0	202	108	3.78	1.27	Accepted
Total		144	53	16	586	721	4.11	1.38	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, (2023)

Presented in the table above are the effects of urban crime on residents of Makurdi metropolis. Means scores of 3.98, 4.55, 4.11 and 3.78 were recorded for victim of a crime may experience anger, depression, or fear, which, in serious cases, can cause sleeplessness, flashbacks to the offense, or post-traumatic stress disorder; urban crime have created a fearful atmosphere that discourages investors; the activities of criminals affect the demand for goods and services that could boost the economy of the State and nation at large and the activities of criminals affect all facets of human life among which is food security and shelter. Since both the individual and cluster mean are above the decision point of 3.0, it therefore means that urban crime has an effect on the residents of Makurdi metropolis.

Research Question 4: What is Role of the Nigeria Criminal Justice System and its Effectiveness in Controlling Crime in Makurdi Metropolis?

This question was answered using Table 5 and the results obtained are presented as follows:

Table 5: Role of the Nigeria Criminal Justice System and its Effectiveness in Controlling Crime in Makurdi Metropolis

	Role of the Nigeria Criminal Justice System and its Effectiveness in Controlling Crime in Makurdi Metropolis	SD	D	N	A	SA	\bar{x}	Std	Decision
1	The judicial process is often painstakingly slow and leaves much to be desired. This has made many people lose confidence in using the courts as it is mostly believed that delayed justice is denied justice	8	10	0	124	238	3.98	1.14	Accepted
3	The Nigerian Police Force lack standard equipment such as operational vehicles (towing,	50	20	0	202	108	4.11	1.29	Accepted

	surveillance and patrol), communication gadgets, and alcohol detectors among others								
3	The ideology of the Nigerian prison system is premised on punishment than rehabilitation reformation and resettlement. Hence offender are not properly prepared for life after imprisonment and this contributes to the seemingly high rate of reoffending in the society	20	10	4	204	142	3.78	1.27	Accepted
Total		10	60	1	600	746	4.11	1.38	Accepted
		2		2					

Source: Field Survey, (2023)

Presented in table 5 above are the roles of the Nigeria criminal justice system and its effectiveness in controlling crime in Makurdi metropolis. Means scores of 3.98, 4.55, 4.11 and 3.78 were recorded for the judicial process is often painstakingly slow and leaves much to be desired. This has made many people lose confidence in using the courts as it is mostly believed that delayed justice is denied justice; the NPF appears incapable of controlling the enormous crime problems Makurdi metropolis is facing presently. Daily, incidences of crime are occurring unabated. Instead of witnessing effective and efficient policing from the NPF, citizens and foreigners residing and doing business in the country are seeing a weak police force incapable of addressing existing and emerging crime problems in the State; the Nigerian Police Force lack standard equipment such as operational vehicles (towing, surveillance and patrol), communication gadgets, and alcohol detectors among others and the ideology of the Nigerian prison system is hinged on brutality and vengeance. The ideology is premised on punishment than rehabilitation reformation and resettlement. Offenders are sent to prison to atone for the wrongs they have committed, instead of treatment. Hence offenders are not properly prepared for life after imprisonment and this contributes

to the seemingly high rate of reoffending in the society respectively. Since both the cluster mean and the individual means are above the decision point of 3.0, it signifies that the Nigerian criminal justice system have a role and is effective in controlling crime in Makurdi metropolis.

Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that, Makurdi metropolis has seen a significant migration of people from the surrounding rural areas. As the town's population has grown, so has the incidence of crime and the level of violence, which has ranged from petty to organized crime, burglary, house and store breakings, auto theft, theft/stealing, pickpockets, pilfering, snatch theft, shoplifting, vandalism, arson, arm robbery, grievous hurt and wounding, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, sexual harassment, among others . Each day unfolds with its strange tales of one form of crime or the other. There is hardly any day that passes by without one crime or the other being committed in Makurdi metropolis. This finding is in line with Ghani (2017), who disclosed that criminal activities are committed in all four categories of crime; crime on persons, property, laws, and acts. At least, one of these crimes is committed on daily basis in Nigerian urban centers, while in some cases the culprits are always at large, due to the exploded population growth of urban centers with millions of people.

The study revealed that the rise in unemployment also raises the country's poverty level, as people are compelled to live below what is considered acceptable due to a lack of a source of income. As unemployment and poverty levels rise, crime of various nature become more prevalent. This finding is in line with Mbumega (2019), who noted that a society in which modernizing leaders are committed to a rapid expansion in the number of educated persons within the population but where there is no corresponding increase in the level of economic opportunities is most conducive to political unrest. The lack of employment opportunities for many schools is

a significant source of frustration and school leavers are therefore prepared to join the gangs of political thugs who participated substantially in causing havoc

The study further revealed that, victims of a crime may experience many different kinds of effects such as anger, depression, or fear, which, in serious cases, can cause sleeplessness, flashbacks to the offense, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This leads to feelings of anxiety through the shock that such a thing has happened and worries about revictimization, sometimes leading to feelings of loss of trust in one's community and society. The high wave of criminality also negatively affects the socio-economic development as well as political activities of the state as a whole, which could drastically affect manufacturing businesses, especially those that depend on raw materials from parts of the nation for production. This finding is line with Eban (2011), who noted that, criminal occurrences usually aggravate emotions and tensions in people in society, it brings about "outrage, sadness, anger, disgust, and shock".

The study revealed that, in an anxious bid to tackle this rising wave of crime in Makurdi metropolis, the federal and state governments have increased support for Nigeria's police service in areas of personnel, logistics, and firearms. The police have also increased their presence, embarked on a joint patrol with the military known as "Operation Zenda", and stationed some Armed Personnel Carriers (APC) at strategic crime zones in the metropolis. However, it seems that the more weapons and police personnel deployed to fight crime, the more criminal activities are committed. These is as a result of the police force not properly equipped for its task of crime management. The NPF lack standard equipment such as operational vehicles (towing, surveillance and patrol), communication gadgets, and alcohol detectors among others.

Conclusion

The problem of violent crimes in Makurdi has been exacerbated by the high rate of unemployment and economic hardship which has pushed many jobless youths some of whom are graduates into various deadly crimes. Evidently unemployment creates poverty and poverty lead to insecurity. Makurdi is becoming increasingly criminalized, especially with the proliferation of youth gangs. Neither homes, nor markets are safe because of frequent occurrence of armed robbery incidents. Unemployment problem, which now seems beyond remedy, has produced army of idle hands and some of them have decided to punish the society that fails to provide them with means of livelihood and dignity by robbing its members of their property at gunpoint. The police cannot perform effectively because they are overstretched by the number of cases that awaits them daily, and is worsened by outdated instruments they use that are no match to the modern sophisticated weapons used by the criminals. The study concludes that feeling of deprivation produce frustration and could be expressed through aggression. Therefore, if factors that are responsible for youth unemployment in Nigeria are addressed, violent crimes will be reduced.

Based on the findings of this research the following are recommended for improved crime management in Makurdi metropolis

The government must provide gainful employment to the citizens based on merit and capabilities. Most Nigerian graduates today cannot get jobs either with the government or the private sector. This situation often disposes some-of them to all sought of crimes as an alternative to gainful employment. Those employed should be paid adequately according to the resources of this country. A situation where a worker is not paid for several months could tempt him to find alternative means in crime.

Governments need to be proactive in resolving security issues and threats by modern methods of intelligence gathering and sharing intelligence, preparation, logistics, encouragement, and the

implementation of advanced technology to address security challenges.

There is a need to create an economy with appropriate social, economic, and physical infrastructure for business and industrial growth.

There is a need for our security apparatus to ultimately improve the training of security officers, sufficient training in modern security methodologies, the provision of state-of-the-art equipment and appropriate remuneration, good service conditions, and convenient after-service arrangements.

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