EFFECTS OF CRIME ON THE SOCIETY: A SOCIO-URBAN APPRAISAL OF KARU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NASSARAWA STATE

Akintola Ismail PhD.[1] , Akintola Abdallah PhD.[2] and Yahayah Yusuf[3]

[1]Department of Sociology And Anthropology, Faculty Of Business and Social Sciences, Baze University,Plot 686,Cadastral Zone C00, Kuchigoro, Behind National Judiciary Institute,Abuja.

[2]Department of Natural Resource Economics, Faculty of Agriculture and Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

[3]Baze University,Plot 686,Cadastral Zone C00, Kuchigoro, Behind National Judiciary Institute, Abuja.

ABSTRACT

This paper concentrates on three communities in Karu local government area of Nassarawa state. The study revealed the major causes of crime in the study area as follows: Unemployment, poverty, insecurity, taking of hard substances etc. The effects of these crimes as determined in the study are loss of personal belongings, sleep disorder as a result of fear, physical and permanent injuries. The study postulated two hypotheses and these hypotheses were tested using Chi-square (X^2). The Chi-square computed for effect of crime in the study area is 27.01 and the X^2 table value at 0.05 is 26.30. Therefore, H_o was rejected; hence, the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis-there is significant relationship between crime and the society. The findings shows that armed robbery and burglary are the prevalent crime committed in the study area. This study provides a way in which society can be better managed in dealing with these problems.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indeed, development of human society has positive and negative aspect. On the positive side, there is growth, in terms of living, communication, inventions of technology etc. However, the negative sides involve crime and others vices (Popescu et al., 2018). In more recent years, on a global perspective, crime has been quite an issue and has become alarming (Fajnzylber et al., 2002). Seeing that crime and its effects are the main concentration of this research work hence it

is seen as a problem worldwide. However, crime is such a broad word to take into consideration when studying it. Crime according to (Paul Tappan, 2008) is an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law, committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor. Crime is a public wrong, an act of offense which violates the law of the state and is strongly disapproved by the society (Shackleford, 2015). (Clifford, 2010) asserted that a crime must have a specific features in other to be seen as a crime in social set, crime must be legally forbidden, it must have some harm done to some people or external consequence, it must be an intentional act or a reckless action or inaction, it must be a criminal intent, the intent must coincide with the criminal action and there must be a causal relationship between the legally forbidden act and the voluntary reaction. (Sellin,2011) argues that crime "is a violation of culture norms, which is something beyond mere violation of law per se, he maintains that mere violation of the criminal law is an artificial criterion of criminality.

Countries around the world experiences different type of crimes but at different rates and levels. In a recent report, the United Nations released crime statistics for each country in the global. A type of crime the report included was major assaults. The highest ranked continent with major assaults was Africa. Whereas, North America was ranked second and ranked relatively lower were Europe, Asia and South America (Heiskanen & Harrendorf, 2010). Within the same report, homicide rankings for the continent were stated. High rates of homicide were accounted within Africa, South America and the Caribbean. Whereas, homicide rates were relatively lower in North America, Asia and Europe. It's important to note from this example that various rates of crimes and its effects can depend on a geographical location. Each of the geographical locations with various rates has different social and cultural perspectives that can influence rates of crime. Social factors within countries can have considerable links to the crime rates.

There is concerns that majority of serious crimes are within developing countries of which Nigeria is included (Natarajan, 2016). Indeed, Nigeria has it share in the area of crime and other related vises thus; the evidence of teenagers and young adults committing all sorts of crime in Nigeria has been challenging (Okei-Odumakin, 2011). However, criminal activities in a society usually have negative effect on the people (Huang et al., 2004). That is, crime related matters may disrupt the development course like economic growth (Mauro & Carmeci, 2007).

Also, economic inequalities between groups may stimulate or intensify on-going conflict in a society by strengthening and reinforcing ethnic/racial and class disparities and antagonism (Demombynes and Ozler, 2002). Subsequently, high crimes arising from all these factors bear negative consequences on growth and the development of the society (Mehlum et al., 2005). The damage caused by crime has a significant negative impact on society welfare, which can lead to

serious impediments for the creation and maintenance of a developed and well-functioning economy (Usman, 2016). It imposes large costs to private and public sectors which have a negative impact on personal state-of-being of an individual, as well as on the welfare of the society as a whole. The effect of crime on the economy is substantial, because it generates great costs to society at different levels, from individual to the national. Hence, this research work seeks to determine and address the effects of crime in the society.

2. STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Nigeria is a complex state with over 250 ethnic groups, different cultures, different backgrounds and different level of education and as such different crime patterns. Nassarawa being one of the states in Nigeria has its own crime rate, patterns and effects on the society. So in order for the community to properly address crime and the issues it causes, there is need to understand the problems associated with it in the society. However every community is different from each other and will have different types and amounts of crime occurring within their space. A few of the problems include:

Crime disrupts Order, Creates Chaos: Crime naturally goes against the established social rules, which can prevent things in a community from functioning properly. It's counteractive to how things operate and serious cases can be especially devastating when they occur on a large scale (e.g. violence). In Karu Urban area crimes have spread and instill fear and anger throughout communities that impact upon people's actions. Though not all the individuals are being victimized but simply knowing someone who has been victimized is sufficient to cause these effects.

Reduces Safety: Crimes against an individual include any threat of force or the actual use of force against somebody which usually results to an injury or even death due to an individual's intent or negligence. Insecurity in the study areas is too alarming to the point that people barely feel free to express themselves in the in public. This is because crime especially violent crime infringes on the free movement and expression of the society especially at night which usually have negative effects on personal state-of-being of an individual and the society at large. Night life in the study areas is nothing to write home about. This is because People feels like they are not safe when they learn a crime happened in their area.

More so, crime against property in study areas involve violence against a person while committing the crime and these includes depriving someone of its belongings as well as willfully damaging them such as handsets, bags, cars, money and other valuable items.

Again, there is usually drawback in the socio-economic life of every society where there are high crime rates and it's likely to affect the economy of such communities. The amount of money lost due crime presents a great economic loss to an economy, which otherwise could have been used in other perspectives.

They can affect individuals' emotional wellbeing -predominantly causing anger and anxiety in the society, thus it seems reasonable to assume that crime has a negative impact in the society and that the study of this issue is of a great importance.

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE:

1. To find out the types of crimes committed in the study areas.
2. To find out the causes of crimes in the study areas.
3. To find out the crimes effect on the people in the study areas.
4. To find out the ways of preventing crimes in study areas.

4. STATEMENT OF HYPOTHESIS

H_1: There is significant relationship between crime and the society.

H_0: There is no significant relationship between crime and the society.

5. RESEARCH QUESTION

Arising from the forgoing were the following research questions:

1. What are the types of crimes committed in study areas?
2. What are the causes of crimes in study areas?
3. What are the effects of crimes in the study areas?
4. What are the ways of preventing crimes?

6. SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

Crime and its effects is major concern in globally including Nigeria. As rapid rate of urban growth continue to grow, crime continue to increase at geomantic rates, research efforts have been focused on reducing crime rates without putting into consideration the effects on the society. Hence one of significance of this study is to further and contribute to body of knowledge and already existing literatures through this special study of "Crime and its effects on the society".

It is hoped that the study would assist individuals, NGO, and government in different areas such as studying related topic understudy, initiating programme and polices that would help in controlling, regulating activities and as well prevent/ reducing crime rate in the study.

Also, this study would serve as a reference point to students, agencies and researchers to solve other problems related to

7. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY

Crime can cause fear of crime to occur, which in turn creates negative effect on the society. This idea is based on the Broken Windows Theory developed by James Q. Wilson and George Kelling. The theory states that a broken window, or some other sign of brokenness or disarray, if left unattended, has the ability to foster further disorder. Social disorder in neighborhoods leads to increased criminal activity. Wilson and Kelling associate a broken window as a symbol for all different types of disorder, such as social or physical, that a neighborhood may experience (Doran, 2012, p.11). Physical disorder is things like trash on the ground, graffiti on buildings, abandoned cars, and needles or syringes on the ground. Social disorder is things like public intoxication, prostitutes on the streets of sidewalks, groups of people that have indicators of gang affiliation on the streets or sidewalks, and adults fighting or arguing in public. The idea of the theory is that if individuals see a broken window that is left unrepaired, it is a sign that no one in the community cares. This is the starting point of the breakdown of informal social controls.

These controls include things such as bystander intervention and neighbors simply keeping watch of their neighborhood. Because there is not a response to fix the broken window, or whatever the type of disorder may be, delinquents and criminals will see this as a sign that no one will stop them for furthering the damage (Doran, 2012, p.11). Social and physical disorder thrives in these conditions. Other individuals and residents of the area see these identifiers of crime and the lack of social controls causes them to further fear crime. This fear leads residents to change their behaviors in order to avoid the areas that they feel are uncontrolled and unsafe. They withdraw from their society because of a lack of trust and cohesion. By avoiding these areas, the residents are giving up the power they have to provide mutual support and cohesion within the neighborhood (Doran, 2012, p.12). If residents are avoiding these areas, they are then unable to monitor or help fix the problem. This leaves the disorder and criminal behavior unchecked, which leads to increased levels of crime and thus increased fear of crime. It remains a continuous cycle until someone or something steps in to address the issue. This is a typical

situation in the areas under study hence the study will recommends workable measures to curb crime and its effects associated in study areas.

Figure 1.2 below shows the relationship between a broken window, or other sign of disorder, and fear of crime (Doran, 2012, p.12).
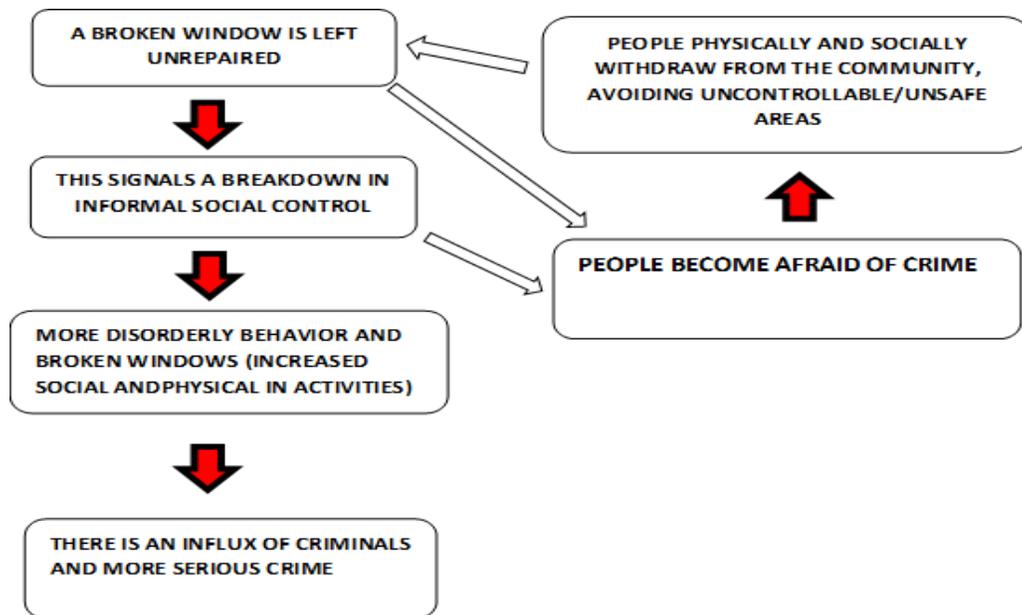
Figure 1.2 Broken Windows Theory Causal Diagram- This model explains the relationship between signs of disorder, fear of crime, and crime.

8. LITERATURE REVIEW

Crime Wave within the Nigerian Urban Centres

Increase in the crime rate in Nigeria was being reported as early as the eighties (Times International, London: November 4, 1985). Lives were no longer safe; the country was characterized by insecurity challenges posed by offenders. Essentially, urbanisation and development of large cities were not new in Nigeria, but rather the crime surge is what is rampant relatively. Nigeria, as a matter of fact, has over a century developed large towns and cities, but the reality of insecurity especially posed by criminals is worsening on daily basis. The crime waves in Nigeria are becoming more frequent, more offensive and horrendous. There are daily reports of more violent crimes (Agbola, 1997; Fabiyi, 2004).

The unexpected rise in urban insecurity has been associated to aggravated poverty that has become entrenched in most urban centers of many African nations. Population in poverty has been growing steadily in Nigeria, for example, in 1985, 27.2 percent of Nigerians were rated as poor; in 1990, it was measured as 56 percent; in 2000, it was estimated to be about 66 percent and in 2014, Nigeria was classified as the third poorest country in the world (Federal Office of Statistics, Nigeria, 1999; World Bank, 1999; 2000; and 2014). Both insecurity and poverty function in a symbiotic way to make life in most Nigerian urban cities very irritable and relatively irksome. (Fabiyi, 2004) also observed another major cause of the increased wave of crime in Nigeria as the technology advances crime rate increases and he opined that the technology especially the internet taught Nigerians(especially the young ones) how to kill themselves with impunity, to have little regard for human life and to derive joy in shedding blood.

The official security apparatus in Nigeria grossly fails to checkmate the security problems in Nigeria. This is due primarily to inadequate facilities to fight crime efficiently and due to the poverty level that has brought uncontrolled corruption within the security systems (Agbola, 1997; Onibokun, 2003; Fabiyi, 2004).

(Olufolabo, Akintande and Ekum ,2015) identified eighteen (18) major categories of crimes associated with Nigerian urban centers; they posited that police department emphasized stealing/theft/burglary as the most committed crime in most cities. They went further to mention illiteracy, broken home, bad company, porous environment and failure of police and other judicial authorities in administering justice as main causes of residential urban crime.

CAUSES OF CRIME

Bearing in mind the interdependent nature of crime, that is, crime generally operates like a network in that controlling a particular crime while leaving the others is as bad as not controlling any (Sherman et. al. 1997), hence, literature has revealed three main sources (causes) of crime. One, Advance in technology(Armitage, 2013; Crowe, 2000; Cozens et.al 2013); secondly, crime emergence as a result of offender getting ample opportunity without adequate restriction (Felson and Clarke,1998; Clarke, 1995; Roman and Farrell, 2002; Õzkan, 2011) and crime arising from absence of social development which most times appear in the form of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, corruption, poor family and community cohesion among others (Hastings and Jamieson, 2002; Hastings, 2007; The John Howard Society of Albert, 1995; Waller and Weiler, 1985; Fitzgerald et.al. 2004).

Statistics shows that certain age groups are more likely to criminal behavior. In 2020, young people between 12-17 years were implicated in 13 percent of the violent occurrences and 27 percent of all property offences. Meanwhile, adults between 18-34 years were implicated in 55 percent of all violent occurrences (Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, 2020).

Essentially, it is virtually impossible to discuss age as a risk factor without mentioning the part of being female or male plays as a risk factor connected to a crime. It has long been proved that males are much more likely to be involved in crime than female (Chilton and Datesman, 2010). United States statistics indicates that women commit far fewer crimes than men – In every five arrested men, only one woman is arrested (Bennett, 2012).

Poverty is seldom cited as a factor linked to crime, although the correlation between poverty and crime is consistently verified by research (Hartnagel and Lee, 2015). Notwithstanding the fact that study has not clearly confirm a poor individual's greater likelihood of criminal engagement and that white collar crime proves inconsistent, poverty continues to be linked to crime (Short, Jnr, 1991, Hipp and Yates, 2011). Further, while researchers take progressing care to warn against simplistic relationship that relate poverty with crime, there is considerable agreement that living in poverty greatly rises risk of criminality (Mehlum et.al, 2004; Sen, 2008). In similar studies, it was submitted that violent crime, low level of educational achievement, long season of unemployment and poverty are connected across themselves (Huaug, et.al, 2004; Ucha, 2010). Efforts made to relate some of these risk factors to the Nigerian situation reveal the following: Recently, World Bank report on Nigeria's poverty level noted that at 33.1 percent, Nigeria is ranked third in the world. (World Bank, 2014). In the same vein, researchers' studies have corroborated this assertion (Aigbokhan, 2000; Ogwumike, 2002). (Agbola, 2002) posited that poverty is one of the leading causes of neighbourhood crime in Nigeria. Educationally, Nigeria has been rated very low in terms of its national policy on education (Ojerinde, 1985; Obanya, 2002), poor budgetary allocation to education (Dike, 2005) and the threat to Western education in some sections of the country by the terrorist group. (Omotor, 2010) listed illiteracy as one of the socio-economic determinants of crime in Nigeria. Likewise, (Dike, 2005) and (Smith, 2010) posited that there is a correlation between crime rate and corruption in Nigeria. (Ucha, 2010) in his study submitted that corruption is a factor in evaluating poverty and that they are all connected to a crime.

9. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

GEOGRAPHY OF THE STUDY AREA

Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State is located between latitudes 8° 5' N and 10° 42' N and longitudes9° 25'E and 7° 54'E of the Greenwich Meridian. Karu is an unplanned area covering a spatial extent of about 800sqkm. It extends from the eastern boundary of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Old Nyanya) to Gora about 15 kilometers to Keffi.
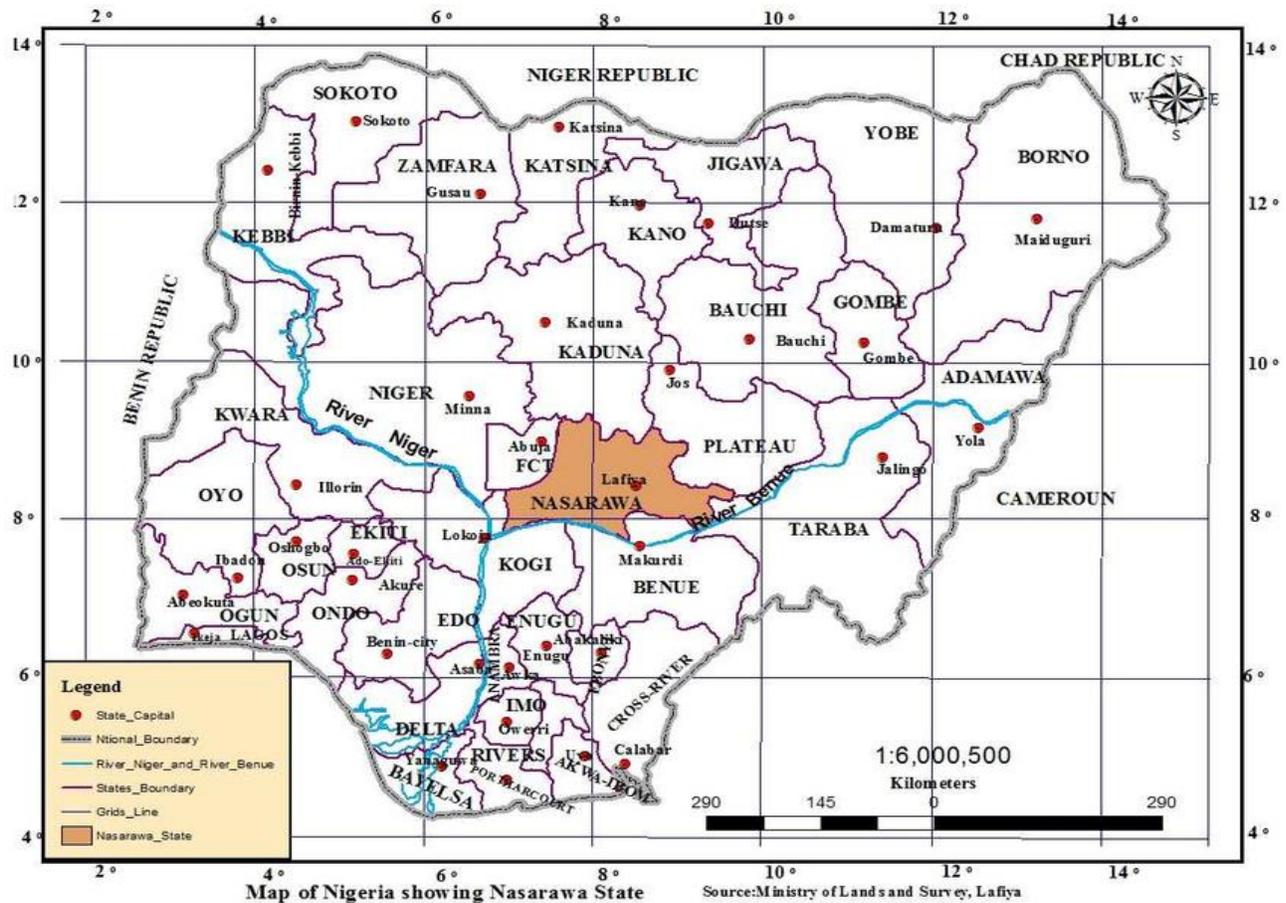

Fig. 2: Map of Nigeria showing Nassaraw State

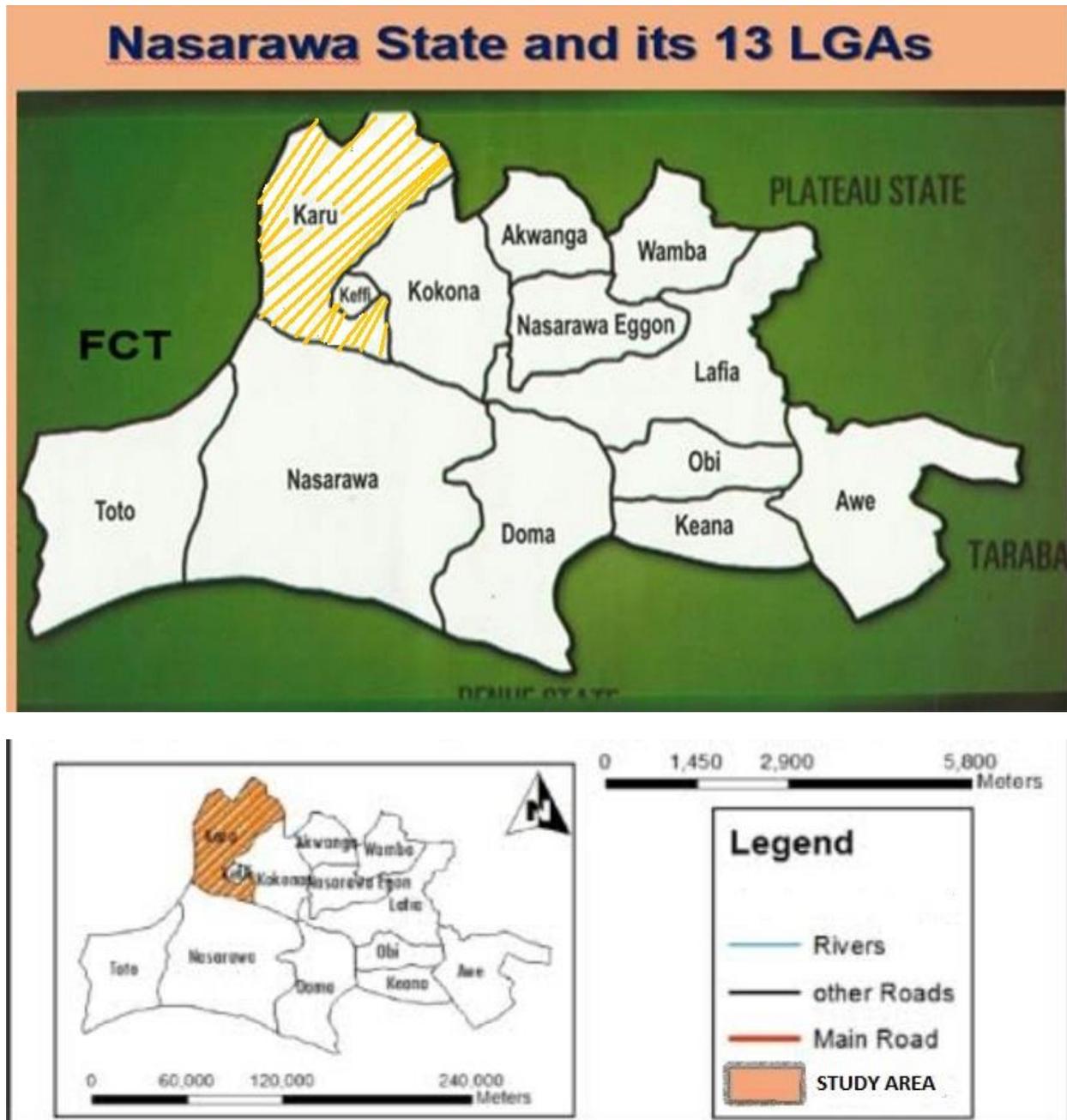Source: Ministry of Lands, Survey and Urban Planning Nassaraw State

Fig.3: Map of Nassaraw State showing karu and other Local Government Area

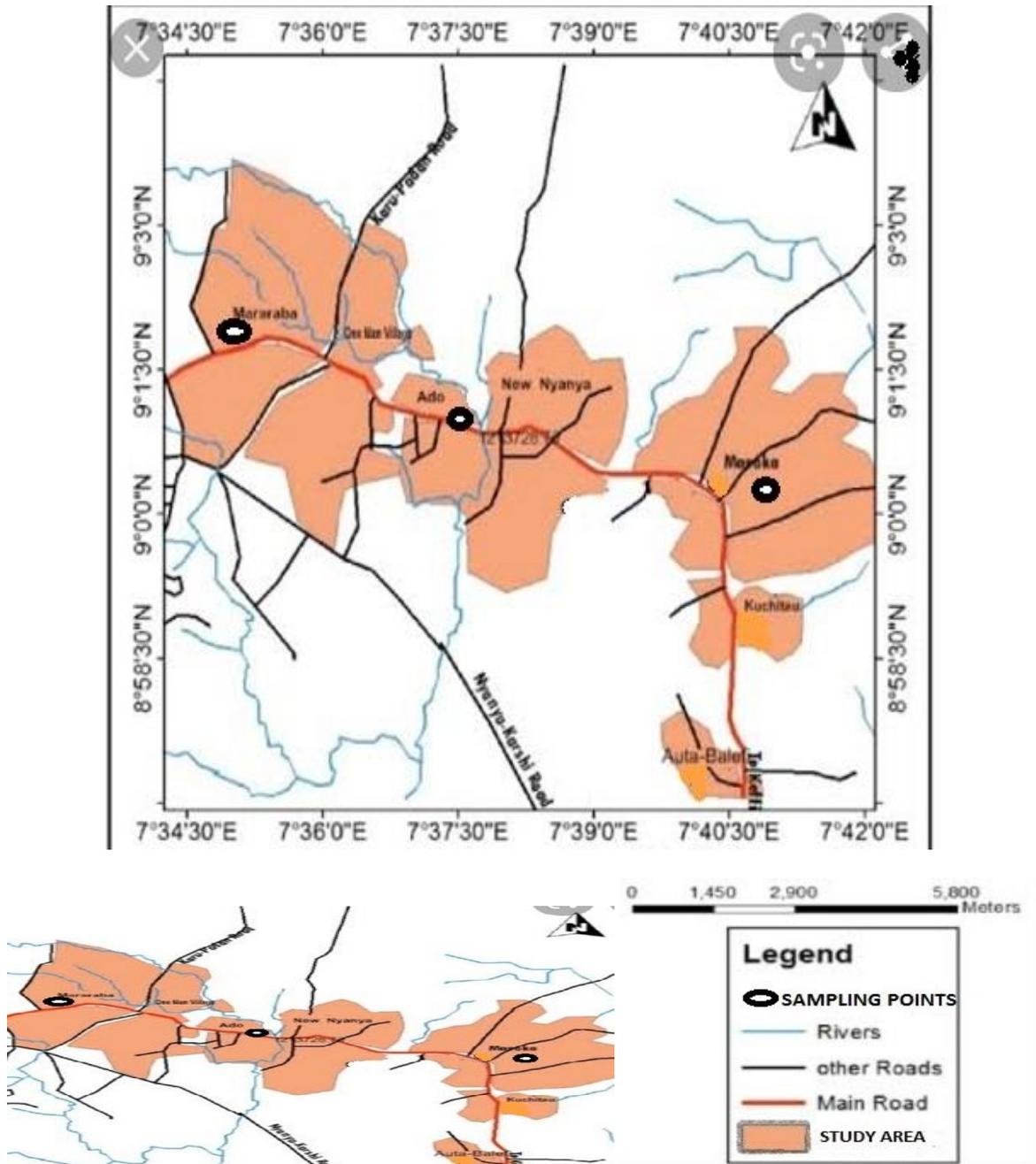Source: Ministry of Lands, Survey and Urban Planning Nassaraw State

Fig. 4: Map of karu Local Government showing the Study Area

Source: Ministry of Lands, Survey and Urban Planning Nassaraw State

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Karu is located within a broad gentle rolling undulating plain with elevation ranging from 300 to 500 meters above sea. The soils derived from this bedrock structure are generally deep and well drained with high fertility rating and variable run-off potential, with variations mainly along the stream-beds where the soils are higher in clay content. The natural vegetation in the area is of the park savannah type, featuring dense tropical woodland with shrubs and grasses; with variations reflecting the influence of local conditions such as relief, soil, and recently the effect of human activities. The area has two distinct seasons (wet and dry), typical of north-central Nigeria. The spatial pattern of rainfall in the study area is slightly influenced by the north central highlands with a mean annual rainfall between 1100mm to about 2000mm.

ETHNIC GROUPS

Karu is cosmopolitan in nature with various ethnic groups living together in harmony. The major indigenous ethnic groups in the area are Gbagyi, Koro, Yeskwa, Gwandara and Gade. There are many settlers comprising of Mada, Eggon, Hausa-Fulani, Igbo, Tiv, Yoruba who migrated to take advantage of the economic potentials in the area

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

The city of Karu lies east of Nigeria's capital city, Abuja. Karu is the administrative headquarters of the Karu Local Government area – one of 13 local government areas that make up Nasarawa State. Nasarawa, which was created in October 1995 after being part of Plateau State, was the second-smallest (or third-smallest if the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja is included) state in Nigeria in terms of population in 2006. The population of the Karu Local Government area – which includes Karu and its outskirts – was 216,230 in 2006, and covers a land area of 2,938 square kilometres3. Karu Local Government is split into three "development areas" (Karu, Karshi and Panda) for administrative purposes. The precise boundaries and population of Karu city are difficult to determine, given that it consists of at least eight main settlement areas that sprawl across the Abuja- Keffi expressway, and even spill over from Nasarawa into Abuja. Despite the lack of up-to-date statistics, the urban areas in and around Karu are known to be some of the fastest growing ones in Nigeria. Therefore the current population of the Karu Local Government area is likely to be far higher than the last census count. Karu Local Government was created in October 1991. For the 15 years preceding this, Karu came under the jurisdiction of Keffi Local Government. The area's indigenous population consisted of a handful of tribes, and historically the local people were mainly engaged in agriculture. After the relocation of the seat of the Government of Nigeria from Lagos to Abuja in 1991, the population of the new

capital city grew very rapidly. In 1991, the population of the Federal Capital Territory was only 371,6747. In 2006, it was 1.4 million, representing an average annual growth rate of 9.3 percent for that 15-year period. In 1991, Karu's population was approximately 10,0009, and it grew at an astounding rate of 22.7 percent annually to reach 216,230 by 2006. The principal reason for this growth was because Abuja failed to fully absorb the people who migrated there looking for jobs and opportunities. The rapid growth of Abuja has therefore put a huge strain on surrounding cities such as Karu, which are forced to absorb large numbers of people looking for shelter and land that is less expensive than what can be found in the capital. Karu in particular has struggled to bear the burden of this growth, as it lacks good quality shelter, well-functioning water, waste and insecurity, and other basic urban services. These deficiencies ultimately have a negative effect on the overall well- being of Karu's citizens. If no action is taken to resolve the deficiencies, serious costs may be inflicted on local, state and federal governments, as well as the citizens themselves. However, with careful and participatory planning, Karu has the potential to become a city that is able to provide its citizens with adequate and affordable housing, in addition to the economic and social opportunities in neighbouring Abuja, within Karu itself, and throughout Nasarawa State.

10. RESEARCH POPULATION

Karu LGA is one of the local government Area in Nassaraw state which comprises of different neighbourhoods. According to 2006 population census, it has a total population of 205,477 which was estimated to **276,346** in 2021 by using population projection formulae.

$$P_n = P_o (1 + r / 100)^n$$

where

P_n = projected population

P_o = base population

1= constant

r = growth rate (2.5)

n = number of years

Therefore: $P_n = P_o (1 + r / 100)^n$

$P_n= 205,477 (1 + {}^{2.5}/_{100})^{12}$

P_n = 205,477 $(1 + 0.025)^{12}$

P_n = 205,477 $(1.025)^{12}$

P_n = 205,477 (1.3449)

P_n = **276,346**

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES USED

The combination of probability sampling method and systematic method of sampling were used. The probability sampling was used to capture peoples view and experiences while the systematic sampling was used to select the households in the study area.

3.7.1 SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

The total number of 400 questionnaires was administered to the household heads of the residential areas. The sample size was calculated from the study population by using Taro Yamane's formular (1967) at 0.05

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)2}$$

Where;

N = population size

n = sample size

1 = constant

e = level of precision $(0.05)^2$

Therefore:
$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)2}$$

$$n = \frac{276,346}{1 + 276,346(0.05)2}$$

$$n = \frac{276{,}346}{1 + 276{,}346 \ (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{276{,}346}{1 + \ 690.865}$$

$$n = \frac{276{,}346}{691.865}$$

n = 399.

n = 400

METHODS OF SAMPLING

Sampling is the selection of a statistical sample of individuals from within a statistical population to estimate the characteristics of the whole population. The study made use of probability method of sampling, this is because any can fall victim of any crime directly or indirectly. The probability sampling method is the sampling techniques that rely on chance. It means giving every member of the population an equal chance of been selected.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The hypotheses stated one was tested using *Chi-square.* The study analyzes and presents data that were collected through questionnaires by using appropriate descriptive statistical tools to generate the percentages and frequencies. The statistical tool used in the analysis is Chi-square. The technique was used in testing the two research hypotheses in order to determine whether significant relationship exists between the dependent variable (Y) and independent variable (X).

The Chi-squre technique is mathematical given as:.

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum(O - E)2}{E}$$

Where;

O= Observed Frequencies

E= Expected Frequencies

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The study seeks to determine the effects of crime on the society in Karu local government area Nassarawa state. The study hinged on questionnaire survey, thus the questions asked were geared towards generating information on the topic under study. The data collected for this study are presented and analyzed in this chapter. Frequency distributions, charts, percentage, plates, tables and statistical tools were used in the presentations. Data for this study are analyzed and presented based on the research questions.

Table 1 Questionnaire Administration

| S/N	STUDY AREA	NO OF QUESTION NAIRE ALLOCATED	%	NO OF QUESTION NAIRE RETURNED	%
1	Masaka	133	33.25	98	31.6
2	Mararaba	133	33.25	110	35.5
3	Ado	134	33.5	102	32.9
	Total	**400**	**100**	**310**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

The table above shows that out of 400 questionnaires sampled, 310 was properly filled and returned which is about 77.5% while 51 that is 12.75% of total questionnaire administered was not properly filled and cannot be used in this analysis meanwhile the remaining 39 9.75% was not returned by the respondents. So the study made use of the 310 questionnaires, which is a very good margin to draw conclusions based on the analysis below.

Table 2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Character	Frequency	Percentage
* Sex Distribution		
Male	173	55.8
Female	137	44.2

	310	**100**
* Age Distribution		
16-26years	65	21
27-37 years	72	23.2
38-48 years	95	30.6
49-59 years	43	13.9
60-aove	35	11.3
	310	**100**
* Marital Status		
Single 104		33.5
Married	97	31.3
Divorced	12	3.9
Widow	58	18.7
Widower	39	12.6
	310	**100**

Study survey, 2021
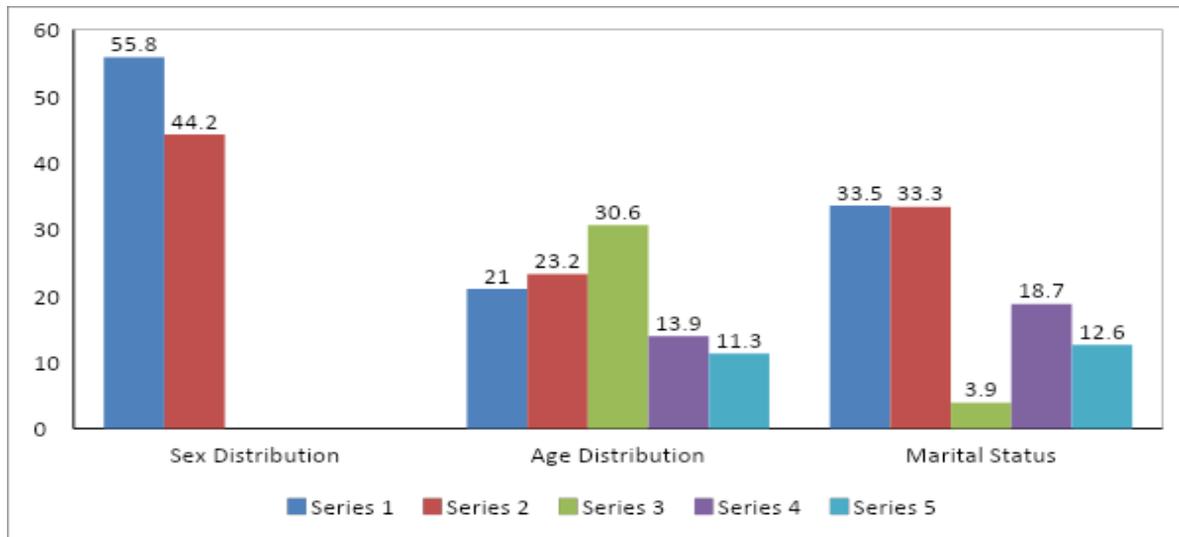
Fig.4: Sex distribution, Age distribution and marital status

There was fair distribution between the two genders of 55.8% male to 44.2% female. The questionnaire administration was concentrated mainly on adults within age bracket of 16-26 years and above. This constitutes about 16-26 measured up to 21%, while 27-37yearsconstitutes about 23.2% of the sampled population which forms the highest percentage of the sampled size. Furthermore, 38-48 years takes about 13.9 % and 60 and above takes 11.3%. The findings here revealed that most of the people residences in the study areas are able-bodied men and women between the ages of 16-48 years. The table also revealed that 33.5% of the respondents are singles while 31.3 are married. This is vital as it shows the population that has been able to afford or rent a decent formal residential house and at the same time figured as one of the reasons why there are crimes in the study areas as a result of youthful exuberance.

Table: 3 Respondents residences within the study area.

	Frequency	Percentage
yes	308	99.4
No	02	0.6
	310	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

Analysis of the results as presented in table above shows that only 99.4% percent of the sampled population resides in the study area by while less than 1% are visitors. This shows that almost all the information gathered from the study area are from the right targeted population.
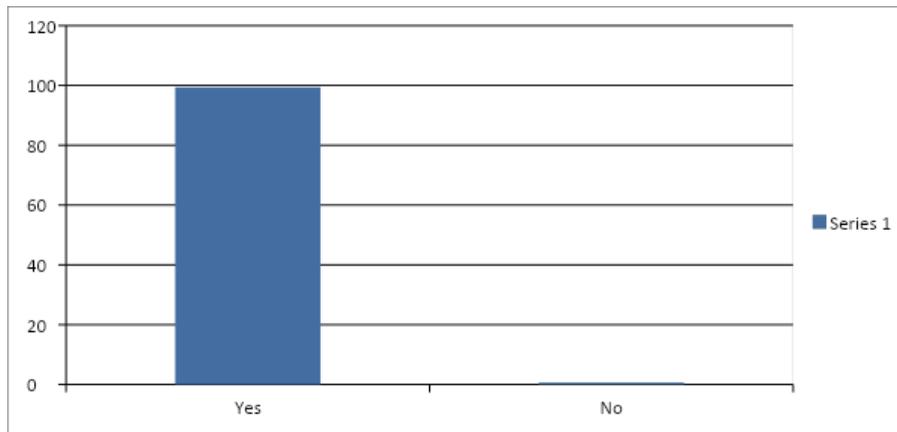
Fig.5:Respondents residences within the study area.

Table: 4 Duration of respondents' resident in the study area

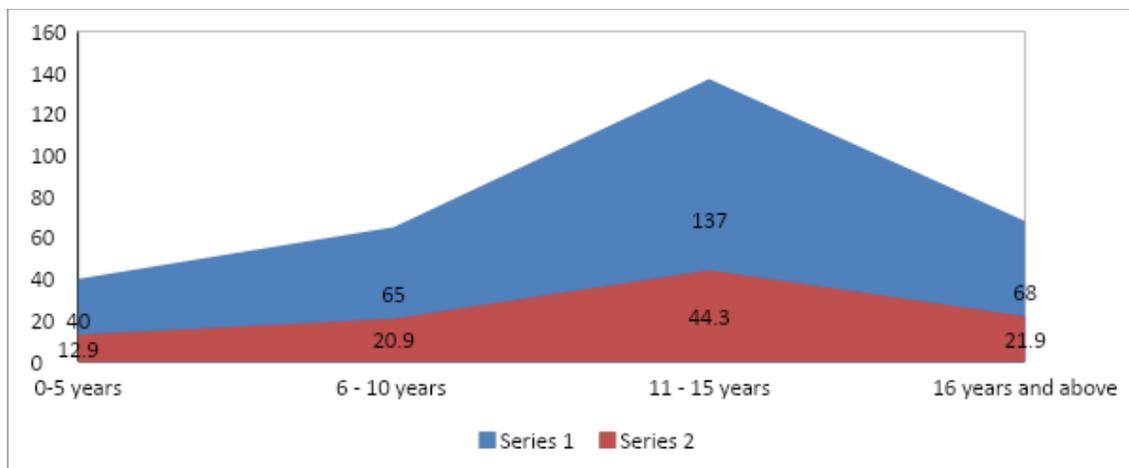|	Frequency	Percentage
0 – 5	40	12.9
6 – 10	65	20.9
11 -15	137	44.3
16 above	68	21.9
	310	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

Fig.6: Duration of respondents' residents in the study area.

This section discusses the result of the analyzed data which were gathered from the field. Table 4 sought to know the duration the respondents have stayed in the study area and the result revealed that majority of them have stayed between 11- 15 years (44.3%) while 12.9% frequency represents those who have resided there for between 0-5 years. 6 – 10 represent 20.9% and 16 years and above takes 21.9%. Based on this we can deduce that the respondents have stayed in the study area for an appreciable period of time and it implies that they can comment objectively on how crimes committee in their area affects' them or that have taken place over time in the study area.

Table 5: Witness of any crime committed within the study area by the respondents

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	202	65.2
No	108	34.8
Total	**310**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2021
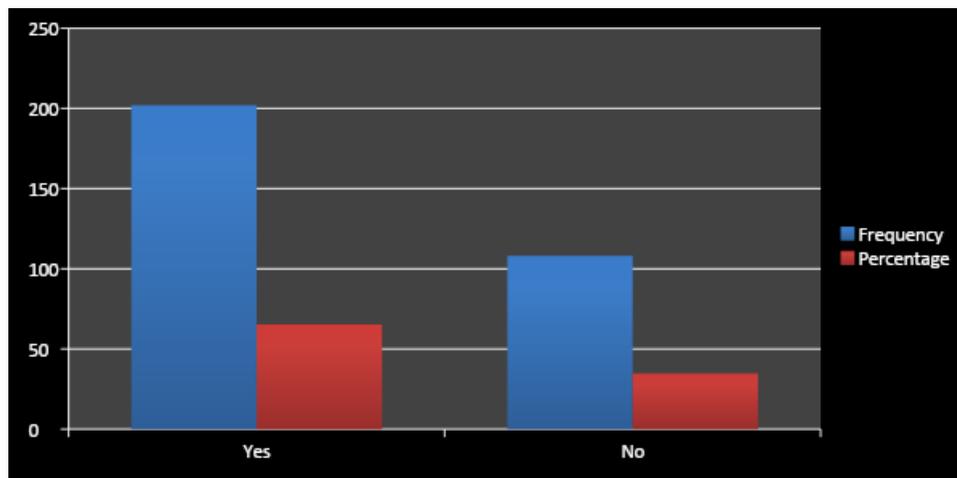
**Fig.7: Witness of any crime committed within the study area by the respondents.**

Table 5 attempts to probe the number of people that have witness the crimes that had always characterized the study area before now, 65.2% submitted that, they have witness crimes over the time in the study areas, while 34.8% admitted that they have not witness any type of crime in their various locations. However, it can be said that, the study area was characterized by more of crimes based on the above table and chart.

Table:6Type of crime witnessed by the respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Damage/vandalism	24	11.9
Burglary	62	30.7
Armed Robbery	79	39
Thefts	20	10
Sexual offences	17	8.4
	202	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

According to the Findings of table (6) armed robbery (39%) and burglary (30.7%) are the most frequent in the study area. In other words, in the target area of study the predominant crimes are armed robbery and 'burglary while damages/vandalism, thefts and sexual offences are almost at the same level with 11.9%, 10% and 8.4% respectively.
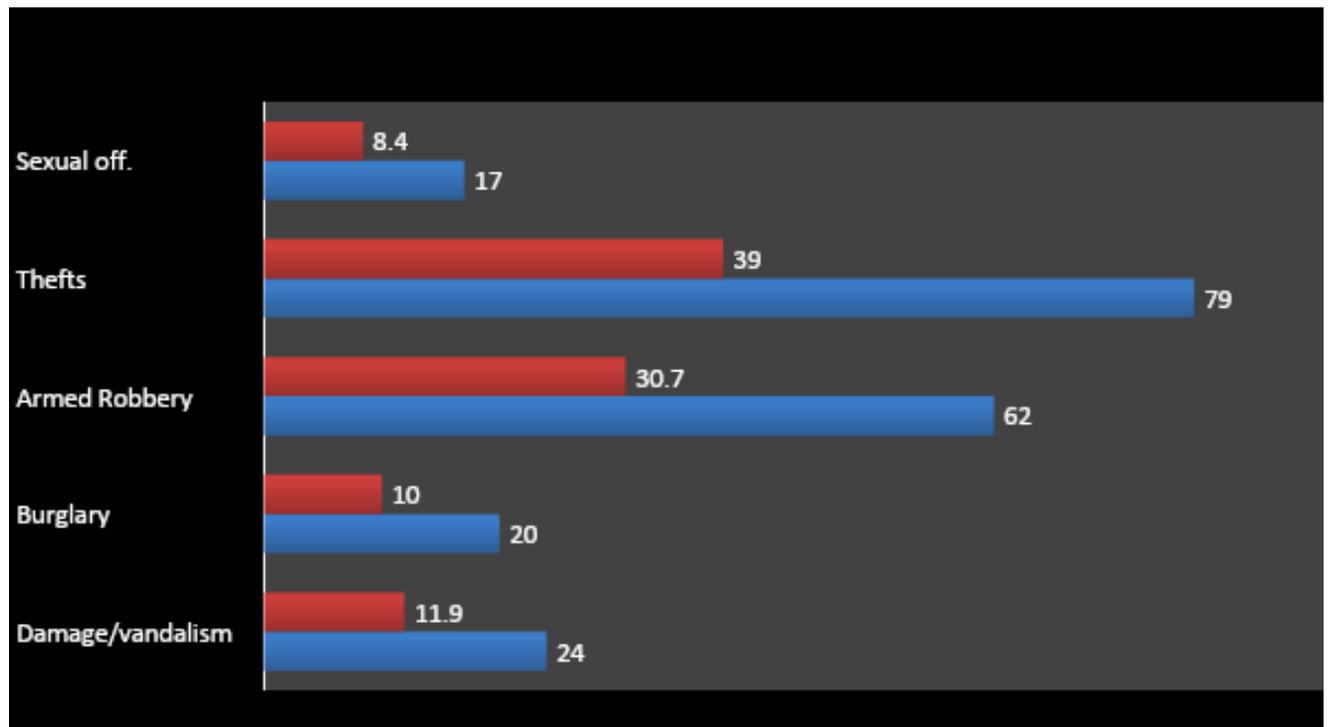
Fig.8: Type of crime witnessed by the respondents

PLATE 1: BURGLARES CAUGHT IN THE STUDY AREA

**PLATE 2: BURGLED HOUSE IN THE STUDY AREA**

PLATE 3:   ARMED ROBBERS CAUGHT IN THE STUDY AREA

Table 7 time crime are usually being committed in the study area

	Frequency	Percentage
10am – 2pm	121	39
2pm – 6pm	10	3.2
6pm -10pm	17	5.5
10pm -2am	84	27.1
2am - 6am	78	25.2
6am – 10am	0	0
	310	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

121 (39%) revealed that most of the crimes are committed between the hours of 10am – 2pm and between 10pm -2am (27.1%). Others are between 2am -6am (25.2%). From the table above only 3.2% and 5.5% crimes are committed between 2pm -6pm and 6pm -10pm. Thus, confirming that burglary and armed robbery are most predominant crimes committed in the study area. This is because between the hours of 10am -2pm, 10pm -2am are "off peak period" students, traders, craft men, civil servants and workers must have gone out for the business of the day thereby leaving the neighborhoods and roads very lonely. Same thing happens in the night between 10pm -2am, indeed, it is an ample opportunity for burglars and armed robbers to operate.
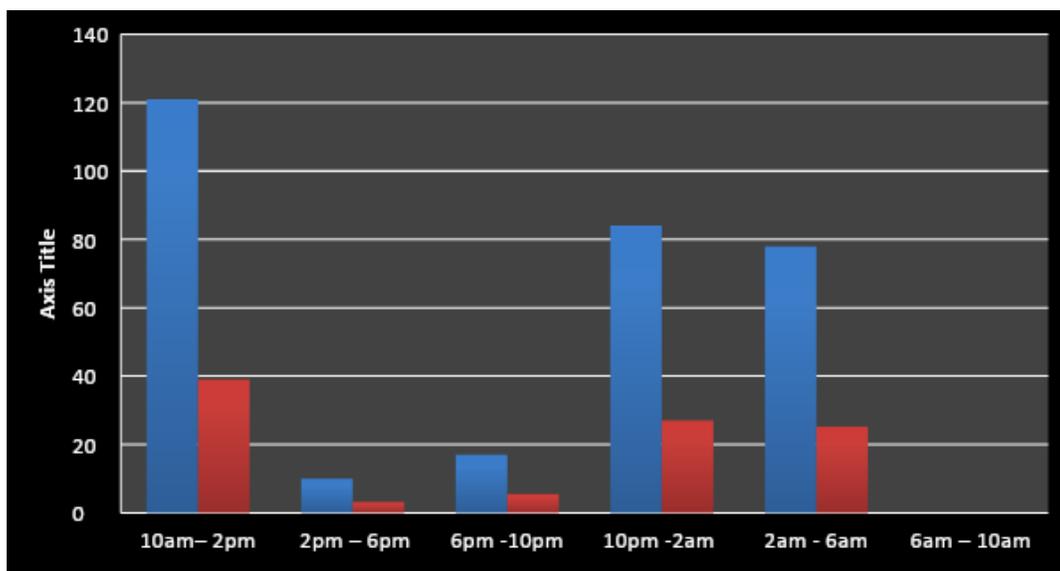

Fig.9 time crimes are usually being committed in the study area

Table: 8 Number of respondents that Reported to police after attack by offenders

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	105	33.9
No	121	39
Don't know	84	27.1
	310	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

The actual amount of victimization is often masked by common problems, which include **underreporting of various types of crime.** Much victimization in Nigeria is unreported and reporting varies from one offense to another. On the other hand, most domestic violence, theft, and burglary are unreported. Underreporting will limit the ability to detect actual rates of victimization in the country. The findings of the survey revealed that most crimes are unreported. 121(39%) don't report to police whenever they are attacked or robbed off their belongings while 84(27.1%) of the sampled population are indifference. Only105 (33.9%) reports to police stations when there is any attack.
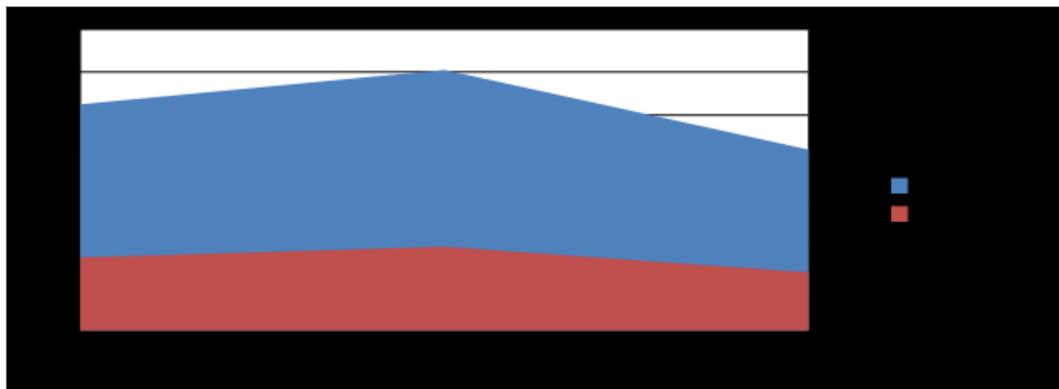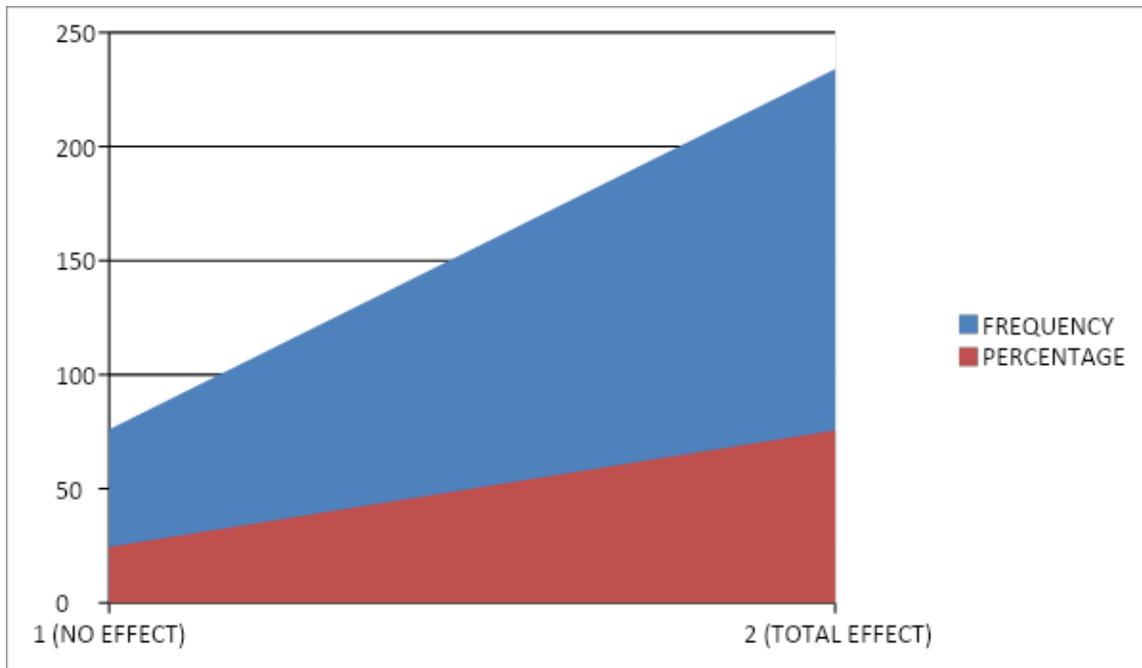

Fig. 10 Number of respondents that Reported to police after attack by offenders

Table 9 individual effects of crime in the study area

EFFECTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1 (No effect)	76	24.5
10 (Total effect)	234	75.5
	310	100

Study survey 2021

The table above revealed the red line of the effects of crime, 75.5% of the population are affected while 24.5% are not affected. This means that crime has eaten deep the fabrics of Karu and its environs and therefore needs urgent intervention by the security agencies to salvage the communities under study from crimes.

Fig. 11 Individual effects of crime in the study area

Table: 10 Reasons why respondents reported to police after attack by offenders

	Frequency	Percentage
offender to be caught/punished	61	50.4
To stop it from happening again	17	14
To recover property	43	35.5
To get help	8	6.6
	121	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

In Table 8, Reasons why people report incidence to police were examined. 50.4% affirmed they want the offender to be caught and punished while 35.5% reports to police because they want

their properties recovered. 14% reports because they don't such occurrences to happen again while 6.6% the least report to police because they want help.

Of cause, it is the duty of the police to safeguard lives and properties of its citizens without being bias but the big question now is, are the police doing enough to safeguard lives and properties? (For further research).

Table 11 opinions of the respondents if they are satisfied with the services rendered by the police.

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes (satisfied)	33	27.2
No (dissatisfied)	55	45.6
Indifference	33	27.2
	121	**100**

Study survey, 2021

It's so glaring that 45.6% of the people that lodge complaint to police were not satisfied with the services or responds of the force whereas 27.2 of the sampled population decided to be indifference in the above subject under analysis. Only 27.2 affirmed that they were satisfied with the services rendered to them by the police force. The implication of the above result is that police force has failed in discharging their duties as outline in the Nigerian constitution as amended.
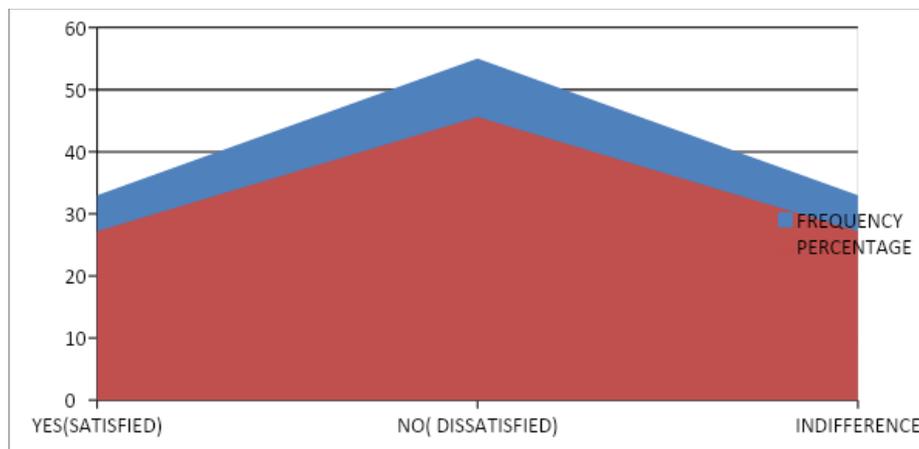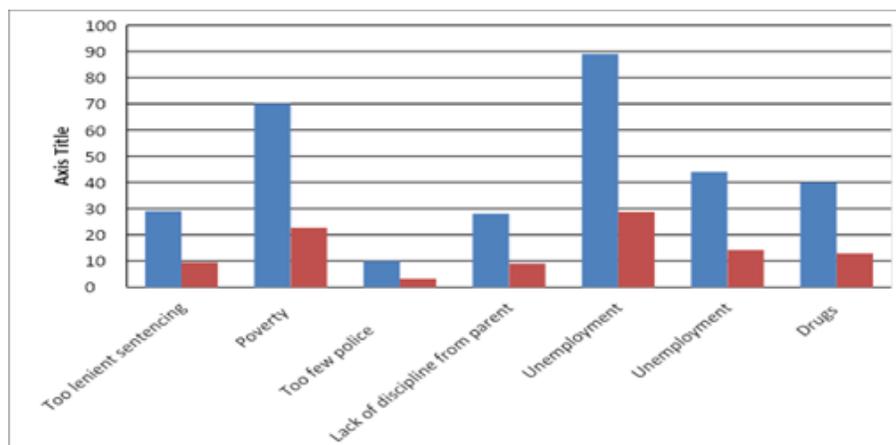

Fig. 12 opinions of the respondents if they are satisfied with the services rendered by the police.

Table: 12 Major causes of crime in the study area

	Frequency	Percentage
Too lenient sentencing	29	9.4
Poverty	70	22.6
Too few police	10	3.2
Lack of discipline from parent	28	9
Unemployment	89	28.7
too much strike from ASUU	44	14.2
Drugs	40	12.9
	310	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

Table 12 reveals that unemployment (89%) is one of the major conditions that make people go into crime followed by poverty (70%), another factor that makes young men go into crime is too much strike by ASUU (14.2%) while Too lenient sentencing (7.4%) and lack of discipline. From the above table it can be deduced that unemployment is the striking force that instigates or push people to commit all kinds of crime just to make ends meet. This is followed by poverty, without mincing words unemployment is an elder brother to poverty hence what affect A must equally affects B. Too much strike from Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) contribute their own quota in the above subject under analysis. Embarking on infinite strike often leads young men who are suppose to be in school to indulge in all kind of social vices such as taking hard drugs, stealing etc "An idle mind is a devils workshop they say".

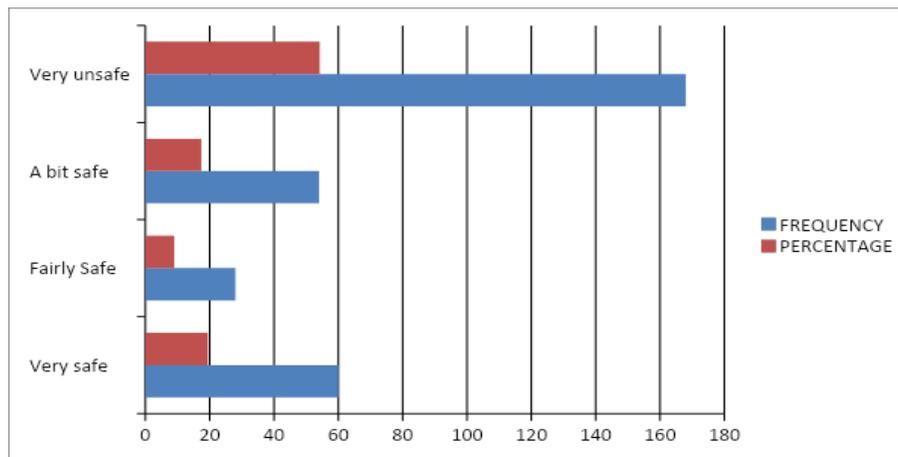**Fig.13: causes of crime in the study area.**

Table: 13 opinions of the respondents on how safe they feel walking alone after dark.

	Frequency	Percentage
Very safe	60	19.4
Fairly Safe	28	9
A bit safe	54	17.4
Very unsafe	168	54.2
	310	**100**

Study Survey, 2021.

The above table revealed that out 310 populations sampled 168 (54.2%) are not safe while 54 (17.4%) are a bit safe according to the table.

The implication of the result above shows that the study areas under study are not safe hence 168 inhabitants of these areas attested to this fact.

Fig. 14: opinions of the respondents on how safe they feel walking alone after dark.

Table:14 Level of crime Rate in the study area as observed by the respondents

FACTORS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
A lot more crime	35	11.2
A little more crime	50	16.1
About the same	44	14.2
A little less crime	105	33.9
A lot less crime	76	24.5

	310	100

Study survey 2021

According to the result above, 105(33.9%) ranked the highest factor followed by 76(24.5%), 50 (16.1%), 44(14.2%) and 35(11.2%). The pick of the table revealed the facts that crime increases gradually when it's not in check. It is not over statementto state here that Police and other security agencies have failed in discharging their duties as stipulated in the constitution hence increases crimes rate in the study areas.
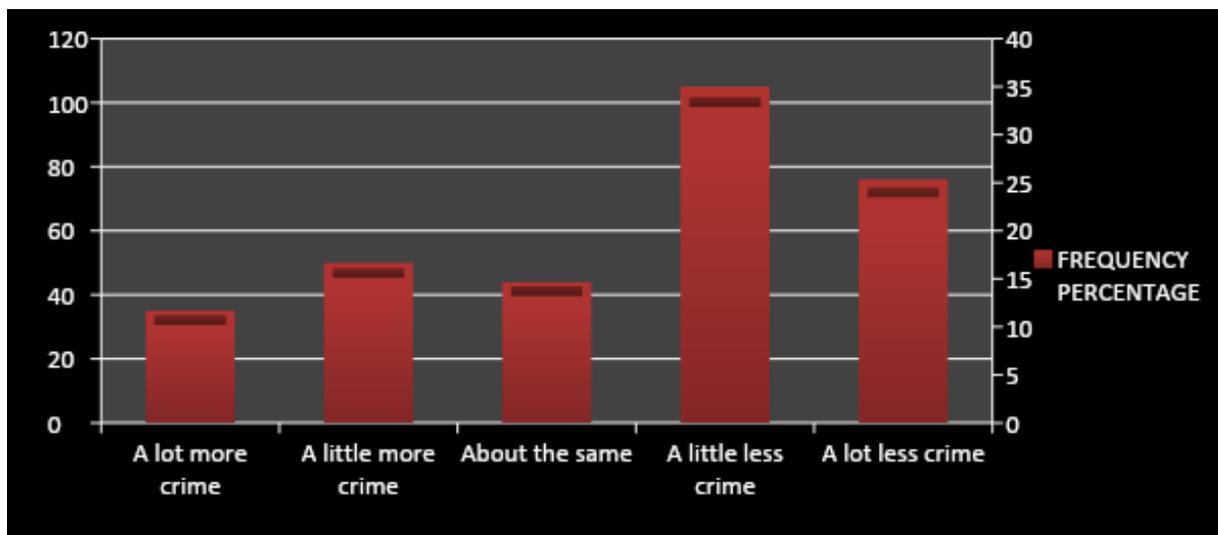
Fig. 15: Level of crime Rate in the study area as observed by the respondents

Table: 15: Opinions of the respondents if there is any vigilant group currently operating in the study area

	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
No	82	26.5
Yes	159	51.3
Never heard of any vigilant group currently operating in my area	69	22.3
	310	100

Study survey, 2021

The table shows that there are vigilante groups operating within the study areas as 159(51.3%) revealed meanwhile 26.5% and 22.3% indicated that there are no vigilante groups in their areas. It is either the said vigilante groups are not active as a result of lack professionalism or that they

do not have all the necessary gadgets to work with in order to yield better result hence make their existence not known to the people.
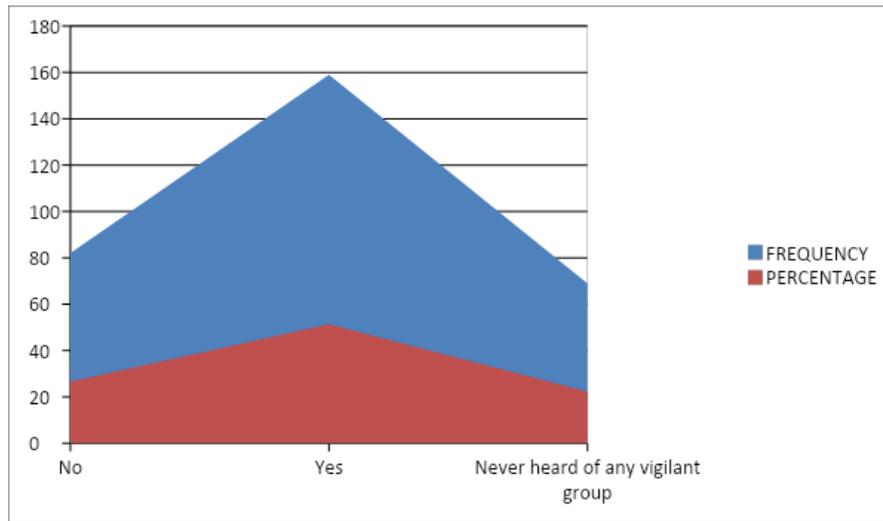

Fig. 16: Opinions of the respondents if there is any vigilant group currently operating in the study area.

Table: 16 Major effects of crime in the study area

	NO	NO	NO	Total	%
Loss of personal belongings (e.g Money, Appliances, handsets, Jewries, car, bicycle motorcycle etc)	43	21	35	99	31.9
Sleep disorders & Loss of appetite, excessive appetite, or eating disorders	22	31	14	71	22.9
Physical injuries that lead to other health conditions (such as heart attack, stroke, fractures from falling, and loss of dexterity)	18	23	10	51	16.5
Assault victims: possible exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, exposure to HIV, and unwanted pregnancy.	12	8	21	41	13.2
Substantial lifestyle changes, including restriction of activities once enjoyed	14	20	18	48	15.5
	109	103	98	310	100

Study Survey, 2021.

The data presented in table 11 which spells out the effects of crime on the society. Chief amongst the effect is the loss of personal belongings 31.9%. This is followed by Sleep disorders & Loss of appetite, excessive appetite, or eating disorders 22.9%. And then Physical injuries that lead to other health conditions 16.5%. Coming fourth is Substantial lifestyle changes, including restriction of activities once enjoyed 15.5%. Lastly, Assault victims 13.2% .The table above clearly showed the effects of crime in karu. As a result of failures of different security agencies charged with the responsibilities of protecting lives and properties, offenders now operate at will without any challenge thereby robbing people of their personal belongings, injure them, cause sleepless night and instill fear in them.
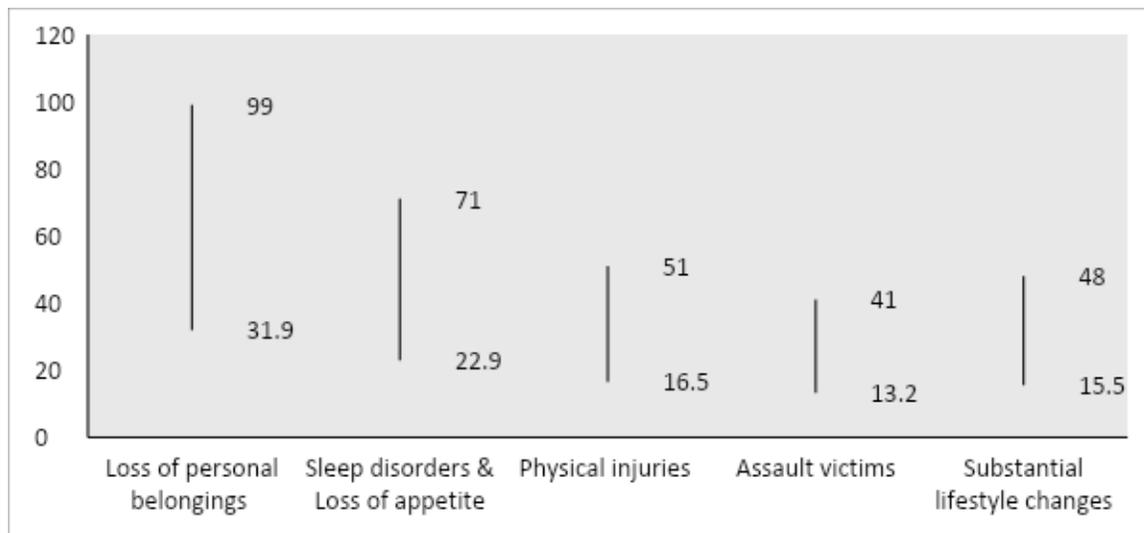
Fig 17: Major effects of crime in the study area

Table 18: ways to curbing the rate of crime in our societies

Factors	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Long sentencing	29	9.4
Job creation	102	32.9
Increase security	87	28.1
Good parental upbringing	37	11.9
Boost economic base of the study areas	55	17.7
	310	100

Study survey, 2021

The pick of the above table shows that 102(32.9%) opined that creating jobs will go a long way in curbing the rate of crime in our societies while 87 (28.1%) believed that improving the

security within and outside the study areas would put a stop these crimes. Meanwhile, 55(17.7%) are of the opinion that economic base of the study areas should be boosted to reduce crime rate and 9.4% believed that sentencing offenders would help reduce crime.

DISCUSSION OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS

Findings and Discussion

The goal of this chapter has been to use the data to explain the relationship between some selected socio-demographic variables with crime and its effect.

It also helps to explain how much of the theoretical positions in crime victimization can be confirmed with empirical data generated from the survey.

SEX DISTRIBUTION AND AGE DISTRIBUTION

Table 2 unraveled the two genders of 55.8% male to 44.2% female and can be to be proportional considering their occupations. The study focused mainly on adults within age bracket of 16 years and above and the study revealed the highest age cohorts' residents in the study area is between 27-37years which constitutes about 23.2% followed by 21-26 years. This implies that the inhabitants of the study area can be said to being their active ages and at the same time figured as one of the reasons why there are crimes in the study areas. This can be attributed to youthful exuberance.

TYPES OF CRIMES OFTEN COMMITTED IN THE STUDY AREA

Table 6 revealed the predominant crime often committed in the study area. This was confirmed by 39% and 30.7% of the respondents that burglary and armed robbery are the most frequent crime committed in the study area. This can be related to the age cohorts as revealed in table 2, this is because most as the offenders are young men and women as shown in plates 1 and 3.

A further probe in table 7 shows that (39%) of the respondents asserted that crimes are committed between the hours of 10am – 2pm and 10pm -2am (27.1%). This trend confirmed the data in table 6. This is because 10am-2pm and 10pm -2am are odds hours when thefts operate.

THE CAUSES OF CRIME IN THE STUDY AREA

Table 12 addresses the cause of crime in the study area. As shown above 89% of the respondents asserted unemployment is the major cause of crime, followed by poverty. This means that because of unemployment and poverty affecting the people crime keeps increasing unabated as a

result of lack job and low economic base of the area. Poverty on the other hand has its own negative effects on the people thus increasing the crime rate within the area. Plate 1 and 3 speaks volume of these facts. Those mostly involve in armed robbery are young unemployed youths or the poor as shown in plate 1and 3.

THE EFFFECTS OF CRIME ON THE SOCIETY

The pick of table 16 revealed the effects of crime on the society. Respondents confirmed that loss of personal belongings and Loss of appetite are the major effects of crime as experienced in the area. And then Physical injuries that lead to other health conditions 16.5%. Coming fourth is Substantial lifestyle changes, including restriction of activities once enjoyed 15.5%. Lastly, Assault victims 13.2%.

Furthermore, table 13 confirmed this trend, when 54.2% of the respondent affirmed they are not safe while 54 (17.4%) are a bit safe according to the table.

The implication of the result above shows that the study areas under study are not safe hence 168 inhabitants of these areas attested to this fact.

VERIOUS AWAYS OF PREVENTING/MITIGATING CRIME IN THE STUDY AREA

The study found in the analysis that in table 18, majority of the respondents opined that creating jobs for the people will go in a long way to curb crime rate in the study area. (32.9%) while (28.1%) believed that tackling insecurity squarely will definitely put a stop to crime in the study area. Furthermore, 17% suggested that boosting the economic base of the study areas will make people engage in one business or the other thereby reducing crime rate.

TEST OF HYPOTHESES

Two hypotheses were postulated for this study.

H_o: There is no significant relationship between crime and the society in Karu Local government area.

H_1: There is significant relationship between crime and the society in Karu Local government area.

Table: 13 Contingency table

	NO	NO	NO	Total
Loss of personal belongings (e.g Money, Appliances, handsets, Jewries, car, bicycle motorcycle etc)	43 (34.5)	21 (32.8)	35 (31.2)	99
Sleep disorders & Loss of appetite, excessive appetite, or eating disorders	22 (24.9)	31 (23.5)	14 (22.4)	71
Physical injuries that lead to other health conditions (such as heart attack, stroke, fractures from falling, and loss of dexterity)	18 (17.9)	23 (16.9)	10 (16.1)	51
Assault victims: possible exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, exposure to HIV, and unwanted pregnancy.	12 (14.4)	8 (13.6)	21 (12.9)	41
Substantial lifestyle changes, including restriction of activities once enjoyed	14 (16.8)	20 (15.9)	18 (15.1)	48
	109	**103**	**98**	**310**

This table was derived from data presented on table 11 above.

4.3.1 EMPIRICAL TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

Null hypothesis (H_o): There is no significant relationship between crime and the society in Karu Local government area.

To calculate the expected frequency $E = \dfrac{\text{RT x CT}}{\text{GT}}$

The formula calculating $X^2 = \dfrac{\sum(Oi - Ei)2}{Ei}$

Table: 14 Contingency table result

No	Oi	Ei	Oi – Ei	$(Oi - Ei)^2$	$\dfrac{(Oi - Ei)^2}{Ei}$
1	43	34.5	8.2	67.2	1.9
2	21	32.8	-11.8	139.2	4.2
3	35	31.2	3.8	14.4	0.5
4	22	24.9	-2.9	8.4	0.3
5	31	23.5	7.5	56.3	2.4

6	14	22.4	-8.4	70.6	3.2
7	18	17.9	0.1	0.01	0.1
8	23	16.9	6.1	37.2	2.2
9	10	16.1	-6.1	37.2	2.3
10	12	14.4	-2.4	5.8	0.4
11	8	13.6	-5.6	31.4	2.3
12	21	12.9	8.1	65.6	5.1
13	14	16.8	-2.8	7.8	0.5
14	20	15.9	4.1	16.8	1.1
15	18	15.1	2.9	8.4	0.6
Total					**27.01**

Study Survey, 2021.

The degree of freedom (df) is given by $(C - 1)(R-1)$ for contingency table. Therefore, the degree of freedom for table 13 above is $(5-1)(5-1) = 16$.   Here $X^2 = 26.30$ at 5% level of significance from the table.

DECISION RULE

If $X^2_{cal} > X^2_{table}$ We reject the H_o and accept H_1 and if $X^2_{table} < X^2_{cal}$, We accept H_o and reject H_1.

Here, X^2_{cal} = 27.01

And X^2_{table} = 26.30 approx.

Therefore, $X^2_{cal} > X^2_{table}$ so we reject Ho and accept H_1 to conclude that:There is no significant relationship between crime and the society in Karu Local government area.

Summary of Chi-square test for the test tabulated below

Statistical Technique	No of cases	X^2 Value cal.	X^2 Value tab.	df	Level of significance	Decision Rule
Chi-square X^2	310	27.01	26.30	16	0.05	Reject

The Chi-square computed for effect of crime on society is 27.01 and the X^2 table value at 0.05 is 26.30. The decision rule is if the calculated value of Chi-square (27.01) is greater than the tabulated values at 0.05 which is 26.30. Therefore, Ho is rejected. Hence, we accept the alternative hypothesis that "There is significant relationship between crime and the society in Karu Local government area".

5.1 RECOMMENDATION

In view of the findings presented above, a number of suggestions are recommended to improving safety in Nigeria.

1. Installation of security cameras in residential and other busy areas: the installation of security cameras in communities would reasonably make people feel like being watched. This will ensure safety and give residence the impression that they could move without fear of becoming victims of any form of crime.

2. There is need for improved sensitization, collaboration between the security agencies and the community and all sections of society to pass the message of safety to Nigerians on the importance of reporting suspicious behaviour to the police and other security agencies

3. Additionally, Police should recognize and encourage the existence of vigilante groups in the urban neighborhoods. Such recognition can enhance shared benefits: the police get to know the area better and get periodic and volunteered information on potential crime spot; and members of the vigilantes get periodic training on crime prevention techniques that they can share with community members.

4. For the unfortunate victims of crime in Nigeria, there should be effective structures designed to immediately respond, intervene and help victims cope with physical, emotional, and psychological trauma in the aftermath of a crime.

5. Community policing should be encouraged and improved to ensure that citizens participate in security issues. This will allow the public avenue to report crimes. However, such participation must be free from victimization.

6. Efforts and resources should adequately be put together by the residents of the country to ensure that various level of government has a budget that is adequate to field surveys similar to this such that changes in criminal victimization can be measured.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The Nigeria government in recent time has taken a number of different steps to find ways of preventing crimes, but all of the steps taken seem not enough to address the ugly trend of different types of crime and insecurity in the country.

To mitigate the effects of crime ravaging the study area the recommendations made above should be strictly adhered.

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