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Ecology of Violent Gang Activity, Crime Outcome and Community Policing Practices in Lagos State

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Abstract: Gang violence is a reoccurrence decimal in the 21st century globally. It negating impact poses as threat to human and socioeconomic development leading unrest, fear, retrogressive economic and physical or psychological impairment. The submission of scholars round publications indicated that any attempt failure to reports criminal or delinquent actions experienced in the community to the state security apparatus due to fear of unknown will contribute to the ever-increasing nature of violent activities perpetrated by gang members. Therefore, this study intends to examine how ecology of violent gang activity can influence crime outcome and community policing practices in Lagos state Extant literatures were reviewed while broken windows theory by Wilson and Keiling was adopted. A mixed methods and descriptive design were used for the collection of data from 347 inmates using structured questionnaire with simple random technique among the inmates arrested for gang activities in Lagos state correctional facility (Kirikiri and Ikoyi) while 36 interviews to include (In-depth and Key informant were adopted for the collection of verbal data from market women/men, community elders, religious leaders and the vigilantes in Lagos State through the use of semistructured questionnaires and fieldnote Residents that lived in dense area faces fear and tension which negate social cohesion, and businesses. Therefore, preventive interventions such as fixing of street lights and closed-circuit cameras in hidden or population dense area in Lagos Also encourage capacity building through the use of residential policing to eliminate crime in Lagos state.

Keywords: Ecology of violent gang, Crime outcome, Community policing practice.

INTRODUCTION

The classical thinkers held the belief that human beings are product of their environs; hence the significance of ecological or geographic elements in character formation and behavioral methods cannot be understated. However, the above statement was supported by Alonso, *et al*, (2019) because he argued that human community, the cultural values and norms that are shared, learnt, and passed down from one generation to the next play a significant part in the developmental stages or processes of the individuals or groups of persons It is impossible to overlook the long-term shaping of environmental pressures on the maturation of connections within and between the emotional and cognitive centers of the brain when determining risk factors for violent crimes among young people.

In recent years, crime has taken on a variety of global manifestations across all civilizations. According to Tretters, (2013), the pace of geographic dread for many people is not limited to one's age, class, gender, or colour, which can be accelerated by the incidence of crime in urban areas. Moreover, Ahmed and Salihu, (2013), opine that the security, policing, and sustainability of metropolitan areas have all been linked to urban stability and sustainability which include personal safety, urban liveability, quality of life, and resolving criminal activities will improve a city's quality of life.

Evidence gleaned from numerous national and international sources demonstrates that the majority of people who reside in highly populated locations do not make enough money to support themselves. According to Aborisade, (2018), most poor people reside in locations with dense populations or living under one roof at Makoko, Ijora, Orile, and Ajegunle in Lagos State. This is due to a lack of available housing which will make most poor people to spend more time outside of their houses or tends to increase temptation and opportunity to stray. According to Roosa and Deng (2005), people have a tendency to gather in venues that encourage deviance when they are out from home (drinking establishments, shops, cafes, street corners, taverns, and so forth). Additionally, in congested households, parents will be unable to adequately supervise their children. This is also due to the fact that children from crowded households spend less time there since they would rather be outside, and their parents seldom ever protest (Crosswhite and Kerpelman, 2009; Teasdale and Silver, 2009).

According to Ajaegbu (2012), the main causes of urban crimes appear to be unemployment, poverty, bad governance, and a lack of policy ideas and implementation, which, in part, supported the growth of criminal organizations. Soh (2012) draws the conclusion that high population densities, swift changes in social contexts, and

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substandard living conditions enhance the likelihood of adolescent involvement in criminal activities as a result of the gap between urbanization and crime that young people have witnessed. Rapid industrialization or urbanization increases immigration around the world, which reduces the effectiveness of institutional and unofficial forces in neighborhoods and communities. This process is sometimes referred to as social disorganization, which is pave ways for rise in juvenile crimes or delinquency in particular neighborhoods or localities (Shoemaker, 2018). However, the nature of crimes in a given area also has a lot to do with neighborhood impact. Therefore, densely populated neighborhoods, towns, and cities present many opportunities for sex offenses as well as theft, bootlegging, burglary, kidnapping, deception, and other crimes. These locations are seeing an increase in anti-social institutions such brothels, prostitution rings, and gambling establishments (Mia, 2019).

Population Reference Bureau (PRB) estimates that as of 2015, there were 7.3 billion people living in the world, with 53 percent of them living in urban areas. By 2050, there will be 9.8 billion people on the planet, with 69 percent of them living in urban areas. High-level urban crime is one of several societal issues caused by abrupt urbanization that exist in many places of the world. According to Soh (2012), fast urbanization is associated with a rise in crime because young people might easily get involved in undesirable behaviours to make ends meet or as a stress reliever, which makes the situation in metropolitan places seem pitiful due to high unemployment rate.

Majbahin (2017) asserts that the concept of the extended family has been eliminated during the urbanization era, which has led to an increase in the lack of closeness or bonding in most families. Additionally, families are disintegrating because a child from a fractured family may not receive the right care and education as they grow up, which could leave the child with an insecure future. It is well known that, compared to suburbia, congested, impoverished, mixed-use neighborhoods have a higher turnover rate. This assertion was supported by McKenzie (1926), who stated, "Slums are the most mobile areas of a city. However, empirical research has also demonstrated that transience reduces extra-familial bonds (Damron-Bell, 2011). Their occupants come and go in a continuous succession.

This is obviously self-evident since it will be harder for families or individuals to build and maintain ties the more the local population changes. This is particularly true in areas of Lagos with a high population turnover, such as Isale-eko and Ajegunle (Koleosho and Adeyinka 2006). This is primarily due to the dilapidated conditions of the homes in these regions, which makes it of utmost importance for inhabitants to leave the areas as soon as they can afford housing in less stigmatized locations. It on this ground, this research intend to inquiry into ecology of violent gang and community policing practices to measure crime outcomes in Lagos state using inmates, community elders, marketmen and women to include security personnels

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

Ecological theory is associated with different scholars, notable among them are Robert Park (1922) and Burges (1928) and Shaw and McKay (1942). For Clifford Shaw and Henry Mckay (1942), ecological factor theory which adopts human ecology to study the relationship between urban ecological factors and crime or delinquent acts. They added value to the work of the ecological theory when they advance and measure the official levels of juvenile crime rates and records of environment where delinquent actors lived but not where the crime or delinquent activities was committed. On this premises the tenets of the theory were listed below:

- They are able to find that the rate of delinquency was consistent with an ordered spatial pattern – This is because the higher rate of delinquent or crime were prevalence in the city centre of the city or industrial locations.
- Spatial pattern in the urban centres were revealed by various other indexes of social problem
- Spatial pattern of delinquency rates is more stable in industrialized environment through the structure of the population in the inner-city area
- In the inner-city areas, delinquent behaviour will increase through the development of network of interpersonal relationships from either the family, gangs, and the neighbourhood.

The ecological theorists claimed that crime rate of a particular area over time remained constant in spite of the vast changes in the inhabitants of that area. The central zones retained their high crime rate even when the ethnic origins of the inhabitants

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are completely changed. The implication is that the individual that live in high crime rate zone became more law-abiding as they moved away from the centre. From all these they concluded that the delinquency rate was more as a result of economic position and living environment than of racial or ethnic characteristics. In making this claim, they were not saying that the cause of criminality was location, but instead that it is prone to happen in certain types of areas or neighbourhoods. They certainly did not claim that all members of a neighbourhood would be criminal. They realised that factors other than the area affected individual decisions about participation in crime. In relation to Nigeria, Shaw and McKay (1942) identified five aspects of urban neighbourhoods that characterise high deviance areas of cities, which are population density, poverty, mixed use, transience and dilapidation. The application of the neighbourhood characteristics to the Nigerian urban areas as regards the causes of deviance is one of the aims of Shaw and McKay. The urban areas in Nigeria, inadvertently, attract more manpower than it can actually control and carter for in term of human development. This is seen as a breeding ground with a surge in urban deviance, because of the desperate actions of some able-bodied youths for survival, which may degenerate into criminality and a high

According to financial hardships, the reasons why young people and adults engage in criminal behavior differ. However, compared to adults, many young people have more economic needs and criminal activity interests (Lochner, 2011; Das, 2019). However, there may be many other factors that determine youths' involvement in criminal activity, such as enjoyment, excitement, entertainment, and pleasure (Goldson and Muncie, 2006). Although adolescents tend to report that the main motivation of their involvement in criminal activity is economic and financial benefits. Teenagers are less likely to use drugs and alcohol after school when adults are watching over them, which lower their risk of committing violent crimes and theft.

Despite the country's commitment to democracy, leadership failure in Nigeria worsened the nation's social and economic problems, which in turn led to a systematic rise in poverty, unemployment, and institutionalized social inequality (Usman, *et al*., 2012; Oyekanmi and Soyombo 2015). Equally, criminal groups and activities were promoted and made worse in Nigeria by bribery, corruption, bad governance, and a lack of policy measures and implementation. However, the present wave of urban crimes in Nigeria is a direct result of all the variables described above. They went on to say that there is a significant public uproar in Nigeria on the problem of bribery and corruption. However, there have been claims of corruption against high-ranking government officials in Nigeria in recent years, and little has been done to address the problem. Nevertheless, this will encourage criminal behavior among society's citizens

Millions of households in Bangladesh are housed in slums or frequently on the streets. Children who must grow up in this horrible circumstance, where their lives are focused on the street rather than their homes, are therefore vulnerable to demoralization and apathy. Many teenagers and young adults take the wrong route and engage in criminal activity in an effort to find a way out of this miserable life (Majbahin, 2017).53 percent of the world's population, or 7.3 billion people, lived in cities as of 2015, according to the Population Reference Bureau (2014). In the future, it was predicted that 9.8 billion people, or 69 percent of the world's population, would reside in urban regions. High-level urban crime is one of the social vices that unchecked urbanization breeds in many parts of the world. Furthermore, Soh (2012) notes a connection between a rise in crime and quick urbanization. He emphasizes that in urban areas with high rates of youth unemployment, such a situation may be seen as pitiful because the young people in question are susceptible to being persuaded in a bad way to engage in violent behavior in order to satisfy their own selfish desires. Because any illegal activity will bring suffering and, to some extent, the loss of lives and property among the public, it is also true that the level of urban crime is rising, which adds to the citizens' uneasiness and terror.

According to the majority of researchers (e.g., Marshall, 2014; Herbert, *et al*., 2017; Dardis, *et al*., 2015; Decker and Pyrooz 2010), the main characteristics of youths who engage in criminal activities are excessive alcohol and drug use, drug use and peddling, weak environmental policies, and personal selfish interests. Youth involvement in gang violence has a number of causes that have been identified. These causes each have detrimental effects that hinder the process of development in any nation: peer pressure; poor parenting; societal decadence; erosion of educational standards; militarization of the

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Nigerian political system; poverty; unemployment; honed self-interests; and inferiority complex.

According to academics (De-Pedro, *et al*., 2016; Davies and MacPherson 2011; Decker, *et al*., 2013), violent activities are frequently linked to high rates of crime and delinquency in both developing and developed countries. This causes fear and tension among the populace, reduces social cohesion, and negatively impacts businesses. Therefore, preventive interventions should be planned to concentrate on juvenile social prevention and capacity building through the use of community policing to actively prevent or eliminate crime or violence among kids before it occurs. These preventive strategies can involve keeping young people out of gangs that will push them toward destructive behavior, cutting down on recidivism, or working to rehabilitate gang members outside of the criminal justice system

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is anchored on the use of mixed methods for the empirical study. The adoption of mixed methods gives room for the use of quantitative and qualitative methods respectively for the study. The study was conducted on both institutions and communities in Lagos state. For the quantitative study, three hundred and forty-seven (347) structured questionnaires were developed use to collect large amount of information from the inmates at the three correctional facilities approved by the Lagos State Correctional Service at Ila-gbon Ikoyi in Lagos State. For the qualitative study, 10 percent of the sample size of quantitative (347) sample which was summed to thirty-five (35) participants that are selected for the collection of verbal information with the use of semistructured questionnaire from both gang leaders, correctional officers and the Nigeria Police. Moreover, the collection of the verbal information using in-depth and key informant interviews was extended to community elders, vigilantes, market men and women at various selected communities to include Alimosho, Mushin and Oshodi/Isolo local government Area in Lagos. Descriptive and exploratory research designs were adopted while the research instruments adopted (structured and semistructured) were administered using face to face method. All ethical conditions were acknowledged and followed to detail due to respect for informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity among others. The research adopted regression analysis for the testing of the established hypothesis while content method of data analysis was adopted for the interpretation of verbal data collected from the identified participants in their diverse study locations

RESULTS

The result gathered from the quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed and interpreted using regression for the quantitative data collected from the inmates at Ikoyi and Kirikiri correctional facilities in Lagos Also, content methods was adopted for the analysis and interpretation of the verbal data collected for the qualitative study. Within the purview of the inquiry two major hypotheses were tested and presented as follows

Hypothesis One

Ho- Ecology of violent gang activities do not contribute to crime outcomes

Hi- Ecology of violent gang activities do contribute to crime outcomes.

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Table 1: Summary of the least significant relationship between ecological characteristics on crime outcomes dependent variable (crime outcome) correlation.

Variable	Measure	Ecological characteristics	Crime Outcome
Ecological Factors (EC)	Measure of Pearson correlation Sig (2-tailed) N	1 347	466** 347
CO Crime outcomes	Measure of Pearson correlation\ Sig (2-tailed) N	466 .000 347	1 347

Notecorrelation result is positively significant at the level of 0.05 of 2 tailed

Source: Survey Research, 2020.

Table 1 focuses on the hypothesis which investigates the effect of ecology of gang memberships on crime outcomes. The findings show a positive significant correlation between the ecology of gang memberships on crime outcomes (ρ = 0.406, p < 0.000). The result from the quantitative analysis correlated with the qualitative result The literature reviews correlate with the finding when Aborisade, (2018), asserted that most poor people reside in locations with dense populations or living under one roof at Makoko, Ijora, Orile, and Ajegunle in Lagos State. This is due to a lack of available housing which will make most poor people to spend more time outside of their houses or tends to increase temptation and opportunity to stray. According to Roosa and Deng (2005), people have a tendency to gather in venues that encourage deviance when they are out from home (drinking establishments, shops, cafes, street corners, taverns, and so forth). Additionally, in congested households, parents will be unable to adequately supervise their children. This is also due to the fact that children from crowded households spend less time there since they would rather be outside, and their parents seldom ever protest to this (Decker, *et al*, 2013; Hassan, 2018; Ogunmefun and Okuneye, 2020).

Qualitative Data Analysis on how Ecology of gang memberships influences crime outcomes

The outcomes of the quantitative data collected from the inmates on the relationship between ecological factors on crime outcomes is significantly correlated by the result collected through Key informant techniques. Submission of the participants such as community residents and market men and women were presented as follows;

I have my submission on this because I am the secretary to the Iyaloja of this market (Awolowo Market). I have noticed that most of these gangs are sons and daughters of landlords and landladies. They are well known right at their parent's houses. Once when trouble arises, people are afraid of reporting the case to the Nigeria Police because of the way people operate on wrong perception on the work of Nigeria Police. Even some of these boys invite friends from other states in Nigeria to support their violence or delinquent activities. Initially, they claim to be the sons and daughters of the owners of the street, fighting for their community rights, but most of them indulge in vandalism as an act to showcase their displeasures.

IDI/Market Secretary/43yrs

The submission of the community elders questions the submission of the market men and the security apparatus and the findings derived from the reviews of publications. The following submission was collected and interpreted as follows;

Certain number of identified youths in gang association were not born in our community. I can equally tell you that their parents never built or own any companies in our community. They leverage the openness of our community and took advantage of it. Today, in our community, most of the youths who indulge in a crime or delinquent activities or gang or street fights are just outsiders mixed with some insiders to carry out their evil acts regularly because of battles of supremacy or who is the next powerful gang to reckon with in the community

KII/Community member/32yrs

The same question was also asked of the informal security personnel in different local government areas in Lagos. This is the submission of one of them.

We have been fighting against this menace but their parents usually come and call for their bail

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or release at the station. This situation makes arrest a bit cumbersome. I have arrested a notorious set of people but their families come to bail them out because they are influential people in the community. The perfect method for fighting to curb activities of violent gangs is to collectively report and fight the problem to reduce fear and psychological trauma in the society.

KII/Vigilante/43yrs

Within the context of the question, the submission of some youths on how socio-demographic factors affect gang violence activities. The response to the question is as follows;

Please if you want to talk about youths in Mushin, please watch the way you talk. I am a living witness. Some of the boys were not born and equally did not grow up in Mushin. I have never indulged in the street or gang violence or delinquent activities. So, please don't see all Mushin boys as violent elements used for socio-economic and political destruction in our society

KII/Youth leader//29yrs

In the qualitative analysis, the question was directed to police officers at Area F Police station and this is what he submitted to support the outcome of the inquiry

To be candid, there are notorious areas or communities in Lagos state *in which the Nigerian government and security personnel have been fighting but these boys groom themselves back in their old ways. If you want to fight gang violence there are some areas such as Akala Street, Idi-Oro, Ojurin, Mosalasi Alhaja among others that need to be finally demolished and an immediate reaction of police posts or security apparatus close to the areas must be put in place for further investigation or prevention of crime and delinquent activities. Mushin, Agege, Shomolu, Akoka/Bariga, Alimosho, Oshodi-Isolo needs close investigation. In Mushin, most of these gang members are sons and daughters of landlords and landladies, born and bred in the same area but joined gang members for their reasons*

KII/Policeman/51yrs

The view of the Correctional Officer) at Ikoyi correctional facility goes thus,

Most of the communities or local governments that the researcher selected for this study are all known to be violent-prone communities compared to the people that lived in Ikoyi, Lekki, Victoria Island among others. Most of the houses in the community's understudy are slum areas with old building and structures that inhabit all kinds of inflow of residents into the communities. The areas need to be closely examined to avoid future threats to lives of the community residents. I have come to realize that most of these gangs are encouraged by their aged parents to venture into crime or delinquent activities and also protected or bailed in times of trouble

KII/Correctional Warder/41yrs

Also, in confirming how ecological factors can increase gangs' outcomes, an In-depth interview was carried out and this is the submission of one of the inmates

The result of the qualitative analysis reveals that out of the 36 estimations of participants interviewed at the correctional facilities selected for the study, 28 participants opine that ecological characteristics have significant impacts to determine the level of crime that will be perpetrated by the youths in gangs related activities while 8 respondents argued that the environment has no impact on the level of crime observed in a community.

The second hypothesis was tested as follow to know if or not a relationship existed between community policing practice and crime outcomes in Lagos state.

Ho- Community policing practices do not influence crime outcomes
Hi- Community policing practices do influence crime outcome

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Table 2: Summary of the least significant relationship between community policing practices on crime outcome dependent variable (Crime Outcomes) correlation

Variable	Measure	Community policing practices	Crime Outcome
Community policing practice in the study Area (CPP)	Measure of Pearson correlation Sig (2-tailed) N	1 347	680 ** .000 347
CO Crime outcomes	Measure of Pearson correlation\ Sig (2-tailed) N	680 .000 347	1 347

NOTE **correlation is significant at the level of 0.05 of 2 tailed

Table 2; shows the result of the fourth hypothesis investigates the association between of community policing practices on crime outcomes in the study area. The result shows a positive association between community policing practices on crime outcomes (ρ = 0.680, p < 0.000). The outcome of the research inquiry indicated that community policing practice show great association with the occurrence of criminality experienced in the study selected location for the inquiry.

Qualitative Data Analysis on how community policing practices influences crime outcomes

In addition, the result of the qualitative interviews conducted among the market men and women, community elders and youths who resides in the study-selected locations shows that

As a market leader if I open my mouth and tell you what we face during the times street gang fights ensue, sometimes we lost property and sometimes sustain injuries. Other individuals become objects of death due to stray gunshots and other objects like bottles, cutlass among others. The adoption and integration of humanity policing (neighbourhood watch) in our community and marketplaces are good and highly welcomed. It has tremendously helped our businesses and the community where we lived. I remember there was a time, in the history of my business activities in this community when we barely sleep with our two eyes closed. But prior to the time the neighbourhood watch security was integrated and employed as informal security apparatus to safeguard the lives and properties of the people, we experienced positive changes in safety-related matters in our community. Our goods and services are to some extent protected although this does not totally eradicate some issues.

IDI/Market leader/62yrs.

The submission of the community elders corroborates that of the market men but differs from the research findings and the result derived from the reviews of publications. However, the following submission were collected and interpreted as follows;

Osodi/Isolo community is a bit quiet compared to other local government areas in Lagos state. The neighbourhood watch security has been working effectively in my community We appreciate them in this area Ajao Estate in Lagos. We are used to night invaders known as thieves but the integration of the neighbourhood personnel has birthed happiness in the areas of security to lives and properties. The introduction and integration of neighbourhood watch or vigilantes to community security issues is good and meaningful towards the enhancement of human living standard.

KII/Community leader/59yrs

The informal security personnel in different local government areas in Lagos were asked the same question. This is the submission of one of them

This area is free now compared to what it used to be in the past. The area was worrisome with hard guys who were into gang activities regularly. We have done public lectures on the purpose of the establishment of security outfits; therefore, disobedience is against community rules and regulations. We pray God assists us to finally combat gang violent activities and delinquent activities in our country. We know it is time for people to recognize our work and we are planning heavily to serve the people better in a very secure manner

KII/Neighbourhood watch/46yrs

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Within the context of the question, the submissions of some youths on the question of how community policing practice influence crime outcomes. Some of them submitted that

Some of these gangs are among the so-called neighbourhood watch. I am sure this informal security apparatus might even not be able to fight these guys because of the weapons in their hands or their groups. I don't see Nigeria Police doing the security job alone with the informal security apparatus. In furtherance, there is a need for the support of the family and all social institutions to join hands and fight against this menace

KII/Youth leader/31yrs

The outcome of the qualitative question on the relationship between the community policing practice and crime outcomes in Lagos State among the Nigerian police highlighted diverse submissions. The response stressed that

In any community in Lagos state, the issue of community safety can only be achieved if the community members be involved in the safety of their community. The Nigeria Police are working still, they need the support of the citizens to be able to fight against the menace of gang violence or delinquent activities in Lagos state. In our community apart from the national security agent (Nigeria Police) we need to employ informal (neighbourhood) security to protect our lives and properties. They have been of great help to ensuring the safety of our community. The impact of informal security in our community cannot be relegated to the background because of the services they rendered. But the neighbourhood security must not take laws into their hands by applying jungle justice to a suspect or criminal.

KII/Policeman/38years

The outcome of the 36 submissions collected from various market men and women, community elders, vigilantes and youths in the study environment shows that out of the 36 participants, 26 participants attribute positive meaning to the contribution and works of the community policing methods practiced in different local government areas selected for the inquiry, 4 participants argue that community police security employed in their communities are not well equipped, meaning they are not allowed to handle sophisticated weapons except they are registered with the Nigeria Police.

They stressed further that if the Police or formal Nigeria Police are doing their jobs according to the ethics of their profession there will be no need to employ private security for the protection of resident that reside in the communities while 6 out of 36 of them were indifferent to the questions asked from them

DISCUSSION OF FINDING

The outcome of the research on impact of ecological factors on crime outcomes in Lagos State show positive significant relationship. Moreover, the outcome of the relationship between ecological characteristics and crime outcomes in Lagos corroborates with the view of Shoemaker (2018**)** in the paper titled "*Theories of Delinquency*" which validates and corroborates with the views of scholars who have done extensive work in line with gang violence. Thus, it is submitted that all over the advent of industrialization led to decline informal system in various communities and neighbourhoods (Shoemaker, 2018**).** In recent times, crime in urban centres has increased rate of geographical fear. Moreover, the sustainability of urban centre is associated to the safety and policing urban areas. (Dardis, *et al.*, 2015; Ahmed and Salihu, 2013; Ogunmefun, *et al*, 2024b) Furthermore, it is noted that the increase in urban criminal or delinquent behaviour fear among residents of the urban residents. However, the influence of the neighbourhood involvement in security works will help fight against the occurrence of criminality in a locality (Mia, 2019)**.**

The outcomes of the submission of the inmates on the association between community policing practices and the crime outcome among the inmates decipher that there is a relationship between community policing practice and crime outcomes in Lagos state. Most of the inmates are role models in their various communities that initiate the younger generation into the gangs. This supports the perspective of Alemika (2012; Ogunmefun, *et al.*, 2024a) which posits that the challenges that led to policing the youth in Nigeria emanated on social vices such as poverty and unemployment. This is because most of these social vices are problem not in care of the control of the Nigerian Police. For example, what the Nigerian police do to salvage the reoccurring decimal of unemployment problem in Nigeria which is not part of their modern, legal and constitutional functions. (Alemika, 2012; Ogunmefun, 2021, Ogunmefun, *et al.*, 2022; Abdullahi, & Issah, 2016).

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CONCLUSION

The study was concluded that there is a positive and strong significant relationship between ecological factors of violent gangs and crime outcomes. This is because most gang violent members were mostly encouraged by the community members to perpetrate the act of violence due to the community or environmental respect they derived from the act. Moreso, it was also envisaged that most community members encouraged and support violent activities carried out by the gang members because of their perceived knowledge of security that the gang members help to achieve in their various communities. On the part of the inmates act of perpetrating violent action is due to immaturity acts unknown to them (Inmates) as at the time the act is been carried out. On the second research question which intend to know if there is or no significant relationship between the community policing practicing and crime outcomes. The study concluded that there is a strong significant relationship which proved positive in term of relationship. The study concluded that the lack of transparency in the mode of selection of the informal security members gives room to ever increasing nature of negative crime outcomes experienced regularly in Lagos State, Nigeria

RECOMMENDATIONS

On this ground the following recommendations were derived from the study to help to combat reoccurrence of gang violent activities in Lagos state, Nigeria

i) The selection of member of informal security in every community should be based on the principles of meritocracy, transparency and accountability

ii) The social interventionists or State policy makers should be trained and retrained to meet the needs and measure the global standard **o**f fighting the occurrence and reoccurrence of gang violent activities in Lagos State

iii) Social interventionist and the Security agencies should encourage societal inclusion in decision making concerning security related issues in their various communities by including the families, philanthropist, community elders, religious leaders and youths in decision making process

iv) The use of closed-circuit television cameras should be encouraged and mounted in various locations to monitors all criminal and delinquent activities that may arise in different locations in Lagos state

v) Security personnel such as Nigeria Police should be encouraged to constantly engaged in vehicular and foot patrolling as means of reactive techniques

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