

# Poverty and Insecurity: A Dangerous Threat to Business Activities and Development in Calabar South LGA, Cross River State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

*The study examines poverty and insecurity in Calabar South Local government Area of Cross river State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study examines the relationship between income level, lack of access to basic needs, and insecurity. It was hypothesized that none of the correlated variables have any significant relationship with insecurity in Calabar south local Government area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Related literature were reviewed while relative deprivation theory was adopted as the theoretical framework. Survey research design was adopted. The multiple stage sampling technique was applied to obtain data from the four hundred respondents selected using the Taro Yamane sampling determination technique. The instrument of the study was 26 item questionnaire was used. Generated data were tasted using Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The result of the analysis indicated that there is significant relationship between income level, lack of access to basic needs and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government area of Cross River State, Nigeria. It was recommended among others that government must target the youths intensive sector such as information and communications technology, entertainment and hospitality industry to address the problem of youth criminality.*

**Keywords:** Poverty, insecurity, dangerous, business activities and development

## I. INTRODUCTION

United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) summit in the year (2015), described poverty as a universal social problem, which humiliates and dehumanizes its victim (Ukpong, 1996, Ukwayi, Igwe-Okomiso & Angioha, (2018). Poverty is an issue of global concerned, especially among families, nations, scholars, and the society in general, because of its security implications. Poverty in Nigeria has assumed a worrisome dimension, with Nigeria being ranked in human development index as

the 141 poorest nations in the world. The report further revealed that Nigeria is one of the 20 poorest countries in the world with 70 percent of her population classified as poor and 54.4 percent living in absolute poverty (UNDPHDI, 2006; Entarf & Spengler, 2000). In Nigeria, crime has been metaphorically described as one of the fastest growing business (Ifidon, 2012, Ukwayi, Okpa, Adewoyin, Angioha, & Udom, 2017). This business, according to Ajibade (2011), constitutes one of the major problems facing the country today. This is evidenced by the fact that no day passes in Nigeria without the national dailies carrying chilling headlines of one form of crime or another.

Some of the typical headlines include: "Armed robbers takes over Lagos" (Sunday Sun, August, 19, 2007), "Armed robbery: Adamawa under siege" (This day, November, 13, 2007), " Gunmen kill 13 in Plateau state"(Daily Independent, May, 22, 2012), "Boko Haram bombs Kano: death toll rises to 210"(Vanguard, January, 24 2012), " Yobe attacked as death toll in Kaduna bombings climb to 74" (This day, June, 27 2012), "20 killed at Bayero University Church service attack"(Vanguard, April, 29 2012). Similarly, armed robbers were reported in one of the national dailies to have attacked a bus conveying footballers and their supporters to a match venue, killing 13 people and injuring many others (Sunday punch, April 19, 2009). In Calabar south of Cross River State, the reported incidence of crime is conspicuously high. For instance, reported cases of missing persons and cult related crimes seems to be on the increase with reports indicating that about three persons are missing or been killed by cult gangs in Calabar south every two days (Sunday Punch, March, 22 2009). The overall crime statistics in Calabar south and its environs for quite some time has remained high as it is in other parts of the nation. What is more worrisome today is the increasing sophistication and brutality that characterize the present day criminality, the inability of security operatives to identify and track down those behind such heinous crimes, as well as the total absence of

assistance to the victims of crime when they come under attack by armed men (Ukwayi & Okpa, 2017).

Scholars have attributed the cause of insecurity to poverty, (Umoh, 2006; Huntington & Clare, 2013). In Nigeria, one can see traces of poverty and crime in many places, especially in the study area, Calabar South Local Government. This local government is part of Calabar Metropolis, and according to a Police Crime Report of (2014), Ukwayi, Adewoyin, John, Ofem, (2017) crimes such as armed robbery, cult activities, burglary, and stealing is a common phenomenon in the study area and most of this are perpetuated by the youths in the area. The report also shows that crime in the metropolis is mostly carried out by people living in abject poverty, due to unemployment, low standard of living, and high level of illiteracy. Given the prevailing intensity of poverty and prevailing insecurity in Nigeria, it is surprising that only very few studies have been documented on the relationship between the twin social phenomena in Nigeria. The study is aimed at determining the relationship between poverty insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. What is the relationship between income level and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area? Is there a relationship between lack of basic needs and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area?

#### A. Objectives Of The Study

The objective of this study is to investigate the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study include:

- To investigate the relationship between income level and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government
- To examine the relationship between lack of basic needs and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria

#### B. Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are formulated to guide the study:

- There is no significant relationship between income level and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area
- There is no significant relationship between lack of basic needs and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### A. Income level and insecurity

World youth report cited in Sheryl (2008) suggests that, antisocial behaviour of youth have been

posing a lot of problems to the well-being of people in Nigeria and the world in general. Farrington (2009) examined criminal behaviour among youth, and concluded that, low parental income was one of the contributing factors responsible for criminal behaviour and insecurity in Nigeria. In view of the foregoing issues, and other trends both globally, and locally, many researcher agree that the foundation of criminal behaviour among youth is rooted in the kind of home the child is brought up (Igbo, 2007; Okorodudu, 2010). Dogget (2004), has it that, when there is one parent living in the home as opposed to two, it is more difficult to train the children as it will be hard for one person to take care of the child financially. Single parent families are often financially vulnerable as compared to those with two parents. This unfortunate economic circumstance can draw these youth to disorganized neighbourhood where crimes are rampant (Alfrey, 2010).

Santrock (2012), believed that, low income level of parents also have a strong relation with juvenile delinquency. One can also say that low income has a direct influence and effect on the criminal activities being perpetuated by individuals found in that practice. Merton (1957) believed that, crime is caused by society, although, it is not useful to society, but crime is a representation of the poor organization of society, also Dachi and Garret (2003) assert that, socio-economic status, and low income is the main factor responsible for children school dropout. Detotto and Otranto (2010) focused on how labour markets, income inequality, and demographics influence on property crime. They used state panel data from 1984-1993 to estimate a model of property crime. Independent variables included average-market wages, sector-specific wages, unemployment rates, and the Gini coefficient.

They estimated an “opportunity wage” using the average real and salary disbursement per employed worker, the unemployment rate, and unemployment compensation. The opportunity wage is based on a rational choice assumption that favourable legal opportunities to earn a wage should reduce crime since the opportunity cost of crime is higher. To reduce the possibility that higher wages may have a positive effect on property crime, since there might be more to steal in those high wages areas, they measured real per capita income as well. Finally, they disaggregated the model into sector-specific wages to account for the possibility that high skill jobs would displace workers with low-skills, which could affect crime. Howkins (2000) found that, children living in poor background are more likely to engage in antisocial behaviour than those living in good background.

#### B. Lack of basic needs and insecurity

People are referred to as poor when their measured standard of living in terms of income or consumption is below the poverty line which is also a

measure that separates the poor from the rich (Obadan, 2001). According to Chigunta (2002), poverty is the lack of physical necessities and income. It is a general condition of deprivation which comprises special inferiority, isolation, physical weakness, vulnerability, powerlessness and humiliation. For Santrock (2012), poor people are those who are unable to obtain an adequate income, stable job, own property or maintain healthy condition of living. Poverty is a social condition that leads the youth to crime. The poor are led to crime because of their relative deprivation and acute sense of want. The poor and jobless in Nigeria take to crime as a means of survival. According to Briggs (2008), poor youths are involved in armed robbery, fraud, kidnapping and use for electoral violence. Poverty is one of the reasons why youths engage in criminal activities in our present society.

Studies have revealed that lack of basic needs is a huge threat to the security of lives and properties (Briggs 2008; Goldson and Muncie 2006; Daniel, 2011) Freeman (1996) studies have shown that the crime rate is higher among those who lack where withal to meet their basic needs. In other words, the decision to commit crime is based on the self-centered cost-benefit analysis assessment and psychological elements. Gottfredson (2005) carried out a study to determine whether poverty or unemployment leads to crime in Pakistan. Their analysis of data showed that both unemployment and poverty lead to crime. Increasing unemployment reduces income and that's what makes people to commit crimes. However, not only low income, but rising inflation encourages individuals to transcend their own moral boundaries. In the research in Africa, Scott and Marshall (2009) found out that majority of respondents think that crimes are influenced by poverty, while emphasizing "civil paralysis" and "inaction of civic problems".

### III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### A. *Relative deprivation theory*

Sam Stauffer and his associates first coined the theory in their wartime studying the American Soldier in 1949. The theory was expanded by Runciman (1966). The thesis of the theory is that crime emerged due to socio-economic status in the society. This simply means that criminal behaviour is adaptation to condition that is predominant in lower class environment. It further explains that, economically deprived people lose the abilities to control and direct their behaviour. In applying this theory to explain the impact of poverty and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area, emphasis have been laid on poverty as the leading cause to youth involvement in crime in line with the ideas of the theory. It states that social and economic influences are the dominant element that leads to

criminal behaviour. Thus, this is evident among youths in Calabar South who engages in armed robbery, kidnapping, phone snatching, burglary, vandalism, rape, pick pocketing, cultism, car snatching, and many other criminal activities, which have made the area highly insecure. Most of the youths in such area take to the life of crime due to socio-economic situations they find themselves.

### IV. METHODS

The research design adopted in this study is the survey design. The main reason behind the use of this design was so that the researcher would be able to describe the nature of the variables raised for this study as it took place during the time of the study and to explore the associations of the independent and dependent variable (Orodho, 2004).

The study was carried out in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross river state. Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River lies within the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Calabar South is located in the southern senatorial district of Cross River State and lies between 5o 32' and 4o 27' bounded in the north by Calabar municipality to the south by the Bight of Bonny and the wide expanse of the Atlantic Ocean. To the east the study area is bounded by Great Qua River and westward by Calabar River. Calabar South also forms part of the Calabar Metropolis. It has an area of 111km<sup>2</sup>, and a population of 191,515 at the 2006 census. Its headquarters are in the town of Anantigha.

The population of this study consists of people dwelling in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State. According to 2006 census figures, those residents in Calabar South Local Government Area have the total population of 191,515 with 94,584 for the males and 96,931 for females.

According to the 2006 population figures the population of Calabar south stands at 191,515 (NPC, 2006). In determining the population used for this study, the Taro Yamane sample size determination technique was used to determine the sample size that will be used for this study.

Taro Yamane sample determination technique formula =

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

Where n = Sample size

N = Finite population

e = Level of significance (or limit of tolerable error)

1 = Unity (a constant)

Therefore, the population of Calabar south stands at 191,515 (NPC, 2006), at a level of 0.05 significance.

$$n = \frac{191,515}{1 + 191,515(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{191,515}{191,516(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{191,515}{1.875}$$

$$n = 400$$

The sampling method used in selecting the sample for this study is the multi stage sampling technique. In stage 1; Calabar south was divided into 11 clusters according to wards, from the eleven clusters, the researcher purposely selected wards out of the 11 clusters. The wards are 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11. The researcher purposely selected this wards because the ward are in areas where crime is prevalent. In stage 2; out of the 8 ward selected, the researcher purposely selected two streets each from the eight wards. The names of the streets are listed in table 3.1. In stage three; the researcher used the simple random sampling technique to selected 25 respondents each from each street.

The questionnaire was the main instrument used by the researcher to collect data from the respondents.

The research questionnaires collected from the field were arranged and checked. The collected questionnaire was coded and the appropriate statistical instrument was used. The researcher applied Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) to analyze the hypotheses raised.

## V. DATA ANALYSIS

### A. Hypothesis one

There is no significant relationship between income level and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area. The independent variable is income level and the dependent variable is insecurity. Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis (rxy) was conducted to investigate the relationship between income level and insecurity. As presented in Table 1 the calculated r-value of 0.288\*\* is greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 398 degree of freedom, this result therefore implies that the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between income level and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area is rejected. It therefore means that, there is statistical significant relationship between income level and insecurity in Calabar south Local Government area of Cross River state.

### B. Hypothesis two

There is no significant relationship between lack of basic needs and insecurity in Calabar

South Local Government Area. The independent variable is lack of basic amenities and the dependent variable is insecurity. Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis (rxy) was employed to investigate the relationship between lack of basic needs and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area. As presented in Table 2 the calculated r-value of 0.245\*\* is greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 398 degree of freedom, this result implies that the null hypothesis which states that, There is no significant relationship between lack of basic needs and insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area is rejected. It therefore means that, there is statistically significant relationship between lack of access to basic needs and insecurity in Calabar south Local Government area of Cross River state.

**Table I-Pearson product moment correlation of low income and insecurity**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.
Low income	400	20.66	3.35		
Insecurity	400	14.28	3.01	0.288**	.000

\*significant at P <.05; critical r-value = 0.138; df = 398.

**Table II - Pearson product moment correlation of lack of basic amenities and insecurity**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.
Lack of basic Amenities	400	17.37	3.11		
Insecurity	400	14.28	3.01	0.245**	.000

\*significant at P < .05; critical r-value = 0.138; df = 398.

## VI. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

### A. Income level and insecurity

The result of hypothesis one reveals that there is statistical significant relationship between income level and insecurity in Calabar south Local Government area of Cross River state. This is because

r-value of 0.288\*\* is greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 398 degree of freedom. This result implies that income level has contributed significantly to the insecurity in Calabar south. It was also discovered that most of the youths in the study area are not employed so do not make any income, hence the need to use illegal means to earn an income.

### B. Lack of basic needs and insecurity

The result of hypothesis two reveals that there is statistically significant relationship between lack of access to basic needs and insecurity in Calabar south Local Government area of Cross River state. This is because the calculated r-value of 0.245\*\* is greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 398 degree of freedom. This implies that lack of basic amenities can be attributed to the increasing level of insecurity in Calabar south local government area. Findings also revealed that the most youths in Calabar south lack access to basic amenities, this can be attributed to the local government area, which is inhabited by people who are poor. Result also shows that, if there are employment opportunity in the local government area, most of the youths in the area will leave the life of crime. Findings also revealed that most of the youths in the area lack basic amenities and the easiest way to get this amenities is to engage in criminal activities.

## VII. CONCLUSION

This study has established that the increasing level of poverty is responsible for the high rate of crime, which has resulted to insecurity in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State. This suggests that the increasing wave of criminality, which has a devastating effect on the socio-economic activities of people in Calabar South is traceable to poverty. The study empirically substantiated that most people who engage in criminal activities are mostly young educated persons who suffer from unemployment, hunger, and starvation. It against this background that the recommended that:

- i. Youth criminality is a multi-dimensional problem that needs to be addressed on a macro basis. As such, the government should pursue the diversification of the economy with the objective of creating self-employment schemes in the country through the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). Government must also intensify its National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NAOS) to provide unemployed youths between the ages of 15 and 35 years with basic vocational skills that are needed in the economy. Microcredit schemes should be facilitated to empower the unemployed youths to go into self-employment enterprise. Support services in terms of entrepreneurial training

should be given to them to enhance skill acquisition and entrepreneurship development.

- ii. Since low or poor level of education pave way for unemployment, literacy level of most youths in the study area can be improved by introducing free and compulsory education for the youth including vocational and training programs.
- iii. Government must also target the youth intensive sectors such as information communication technology, entertainment and hospitality industries to address the problem of youth criminality. Unemployment allowance should be paid to youths that have graduated from tertiary institutions without work. This will limit the environmental stress that can predispose them to criminality.

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