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URBAN CRIME AND ITS CHALLENGES IN MINNA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Insecurity has become an issue in the world today as no place is spared of crime. The fear of crime has been the problem to many cities all over the world. Crime and violence have both social and economic dimension. It has been proved that sustainable human settlement development is a factor in good urban governance. The world is increasingly urbanizing and cities through their concentration of population and resources represent the best entry point for effective and efficient use of scarce developmental resources. The main focus of good urban governance is to improve the quality of life of citizens. The aim of this study is to assess the extent of urban crime in Minna; it has the following objects: identify threat to security; trend of crime; and socio-economic implication of crime. The methodology to this study was in stages, collection data from police record in Minna between 2004 and 2008. This was analyzed and the collection of primary data to understand the perception of the people of the city about crime. The data collected are analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented in tabular form the use of percentage, frequency and chart. The result obtained indicated that the crime in Minna is on the increase. The most common crimes in Minna are theft, murder, manslaughter, burglary etc. There are about 8 police station and 15 police post in the city. The total number of policemen in Minna is about 1738. They are not evenly distributed as places that are populated have few number compared to low density areas. Some locations are problematic to police. several suggestion were made such as reform in the judicial and police system, community policing, educational reform and vocational centre to stem unemployment and poverty.

Key words: Crime; Governance; Security; Urban; Violence

Introduction

There have been rising feeling of insecurity worldwide especially in third world countries. Crime is a serious problem in cities all over the world. Urban violence generates a fear of crime. Crime and the fear of crime are serious threats to the stability and social climate of Cities, to sustainable and economic development, the quality of life and human rights. One of the very prime norms of good governance is the creation of safety and security through diverse means. Agbola (2001) indicated that the process of good governance require total freedom from crime activities at both home and outside world. The problem of crime and violence has been major factor that threaten the corporate existence of Nigeria as people entertain fear from insecurity of their lives and property, which reduces the quality of life.

Nigeria is a country where there is inadequate police work forces to cope with population and rate of crime. The research by Agbola (2002) shows that there is a policeman to 1,000 people in the country which is contrary to World Bank estimate of about a policeman to 400 people. The modernization of our towns and cities has eroded the value of our traditional method of crime prevention. Crime is so endemic that people begins to entertain fear as night fall.

The ability of the policemen to control crime in Nigeria is not yielding the desired result as the reported cases of crime increased between 1996 and 1997. Though there is decrease in 1998, the main crime of armed robbery is on the increase. There have been reported cases of collusion between armed bandits and the Nigerian Police thus compounding the misery and nightmare of Nigerians. Developed nations which the World Bank used as yardstick has about a ratio of police to population higher than the third world countries (Agbola, 2005; Wilbur, 1997; World Bank, 1996). In addition to long delays and adjournments in law courts, many judges are alleged to be corrupt and are indeed said to be accomplices of criminals. These often made people take law into their hands by lynching or taking jungle justice on any criminal caught.

Violence has both social and economic dimensions. The major effect of rime is a threat to lives and property, peace and order of a nation. WHO (2002) categorized violence and crime into three groups

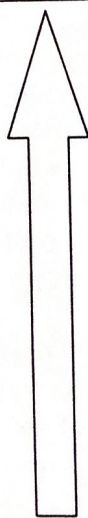
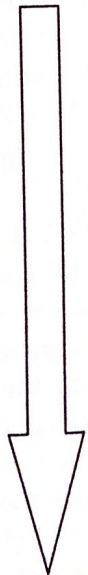
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(self-directed, collective and damages). Self-directed violence which is physical harm inflicted by oneself. This category can also be sub-divided into suicidal behaviour and self-abuse. Interpersonal violence which includes injury or harm caused by a relative (domestic violence) or an unrelated person (community violence). Collective violence includes harmful acts committed by a group.

Most definitions of violence involve exercise of power that is invariably to force a specific gain. The sheer scale of crime and violence in urban slums means that violence has become "routinized" or "normalized" into the functional reality of daily life. It could be noted that definition of violence sometimes overlaps with definitions of conflict and crime (Moser, 2004), but there are important distinctions. While violence and conflicts are both concerned with power, conflict-based power struggles do not necessarily inflict physical or mental harm on others, while violence by its very nature does.

In recent years violent crime as a proportion of total crime committed has increased much of Latin American cities for example, violent crime accounts for almost 50% of reported cases in Nicaragua, where it rose from 9,392 in 1997 to 25, 804 in 1998 (Robert, 1999; Castrol, 2000). The range of type of urban violence and crime is both complex and context specific. In urban community different types of violence can be identified. It is therefore helpful to categorize types of violence and highlight those that are overwhelmingly urban in nature. Deas (1998) distinguish between rural violence and urban violence, with intra-urban differentiations between violence in private arenas and violence in public arenas. Others are political and non-political violence; social, criminal violence (Chenick, 1998); political, economical, and interfamilial violence (Carrion, 1994); and the Inter-America Development Bank's distinction between criminal and social violence at the individual, household and community levels.

Table 1: Types and Manifestation of Violence and Crime

Primary direction of violence continuum	Categories of violence	Types of violence by perpetrators or victims	Manifestations	Secondary direction of violence continuum
 Inter household social violence resulting in youth leaving their home and risk of variety of street violence	Political	State and Non-State violence in situation of political conflict	Armed conflict between political parties; political assassinations	 State Institutional violence resulting in lack of trust in police and judicial system
	Institutional	Violence by the state and other informal institutions, including private sectors	Extrajudicial killing by security forces or community jungle justice	
	Economics/ Institutional	Organized crime; Protection of business interest	Kidnapping; Armed Robbery; Drug Trafficking; Car Theft; Small Arms Dealing; Trafficking in Prostitutes; Intimidation and violence as means of resolving economic disputes	
	Economics	Delinquency; Robbery	Street theft and Robbery	
	Economics/ Social	Youth gangs	Collective turf Violence; Robbery and Theft	
	Economics/ Social	Street Children (Boys and Girls)	Petty Theft	
	Social	Domestic Violence between Adults	Physical; Sexual or Psychological Abuse	
	Social	Child abuse	Physical and Sexual Abuse especially at home	
	Social	Inter-generational conflicts between Parents and Children	Physical and Psychological abuse	
	Social	Gratuitous and routine daily violence	Lack of citizenship in areas such as Traffic, road rage, bar fights, and street confrontations	

Source: Adapted with modifications from Moser and Winton, 2002.

Agbola, (2005) opined that with urbanization the rate of crime and violence is on the increase. Some of the factors causing this are unplanned development of our towns and cities which is a problem of planning, population explosion and poverty has also been identified. Planning design can be used to curb to some extent the menace of crime and criminality. Urban violence causes people to be isolated, alienated and less constrained by social norms. Different measures put forward by government could not stem crime and violence. All the measure put in place have not cope and cub the menace of crime and criminality in Nigeria. Many of these criminals have developed sophisticated methods of committing crime that renders the effort of police inadequate to curtail their activities.

Crime have both social and economic dimension and it has not help the economic development of the nation as a lot of resources are been lost by people and government in training the police on daily and annual basis respectively which thereby affect social and economic lives of the citizens. Urban violence affect infrastructure development especially telecommunication, electricity, potable water as well as road developments.

The United Nation launches the Global Campaign on Urban Governance in 1999 to implement sustainable human settlement development in an urbanizing world. This was to evaluate the incidence of poverty through improved urban governance at both local and global levels to achieve broad development objectives such as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The World Bank (2000) opined that "the world is increasingly urbanizing, and cities, through their concentrations of population and resources represent the best entry point for the efficient and effective use of development resources".

The main aim of Good Urban Governance is to improve the quality of life in the cities, and this could only be achieve using several indicators set by UN-Habitat in 2002, this parameters include effectiveness, equity, participation, accountability, security and crime control policies. The UNDP define good governance as "the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions, through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences". The crime control measure as it relate to this research studied the area within the city that police considered notorious for criminal activities, the policies against violence, crime control measures and government intervention to victims of crime and violence. All these have effect on quality of life of citizens. The crime rate is also a function of urban governance.

Under policing of Nigeria has led to insecurity among people. According to Agbola (2001) people are hunted by armed robbers in their homes, threatened by assassins and policemen on the streets and denied access to justice when the need arise. It is against this background that this paper aims at assessing the level of urban crime, insecurity and challenges of good governance in Minna. The specific objectives are to: Identify major threats to urban security in Minna; Examination of trend of crime and criminality in Minna; Evaluate the socio-economic implications of crime in Minna; Assess the operational efficiency of the agencies responsible for crime prevention.

Study Area

Minna lies on Latitude $9^{\circ}37'N$ and Longitude $6^{\circ}33'E$ on geological base of undifferentiated basement complex of mainly gneiss and magmatite. The North Eastern part of the city is a more or less continuous step of granite (Paidia Hill) which occurs and limits any urban development. The city is both administrative capital and headquarters of Niger State and Chanchaga Local Government. The city with an estimated population of about 889,994 people has land area of over 1,000ha. This is shown in figure 1 and 2 below.

The mean annual rainfall of the city is about 1334mm (53 in) starting from April to September. The peak of the rain is in September (300mm/1.7in). The mean monthly temperature is highest in March ($39^{\circ}C$) and lowest in August ($30^{\circ}C$). The dry season starts in October through April with North Eastern wind, which is cool, dry and dusty. The people of Minna are mostly migrants; the working age group and male constitute a higher percentage of the population (NPC, 2006). Though it is a Gwari town, but other tribes in the country are also present thus making the city heterogeneous.

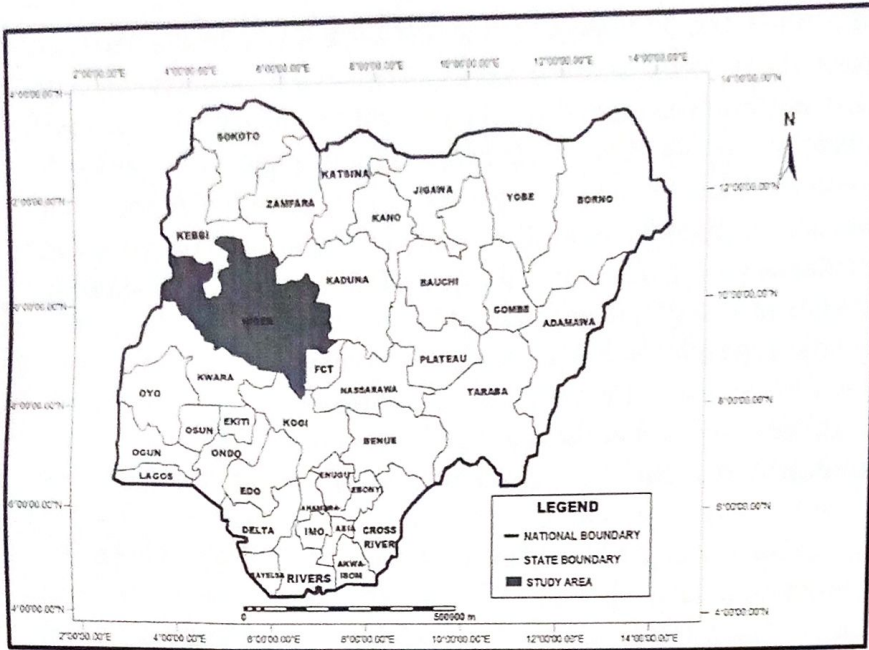


Figure 1 Map of Nigeria showing Niger State

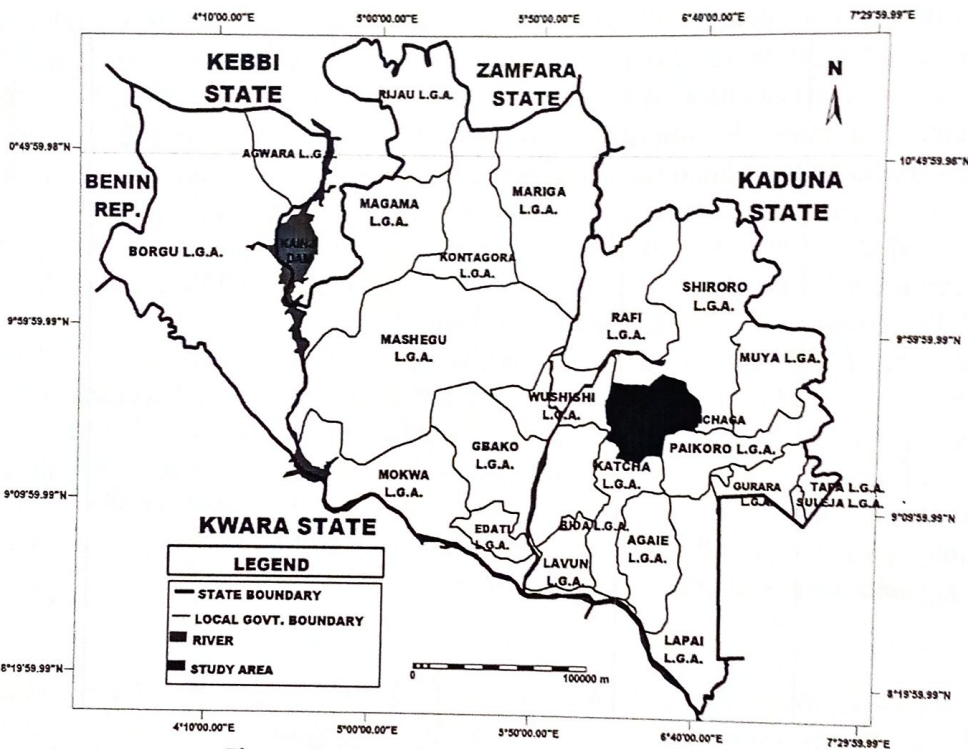


Figure 2 Map of Niger State Showing Minna

Methodology

The method employed in the research was into two folds. The first is the use of secondary data to establish the rate and causes of crime in Minna between 2004 and 2008 from police record. Police record was used as the basis for establishing the crime incidence over the period. The record was analyzed and presented in tabular form due to large number of incidence of crime recorded. The record shows that there is an increase in the rate of crime over the years and police has also put in place several measures to curb the crime incidence.

Also there was the use of primary data collected from citizens to consider their perception about crime in Minna. The data collected ranges from the type of crime experienced, perception about causes of crime and suggestion on how crime could be prevented. The primary data was collected slightly different from the police record when comparing the rate of crime in Minna. A total of 500 structured

questionnaires were administered using cluster sampling technique to collect the data in about 20 neighbourhoods which Minna was divided to. The use of random sampling was used to administer it. The data collected from both sources are analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented in tabular form, also the use of map to show areas prone to crime and violence in Minna.

Results

Types, Characteristics and Trend of Crime in Minna

The Nigeria Police categorizes criminal offences into four: Crime of aggression which include murder and attempts, wounding, kidnapping, suicide, manslaughter, and assault. Crime of acquisition: including all illegal means of acquiring money and property. For example, Fraud, embezzlement, theft, housebreaking, burglary store breaking, robbery are some of these type of crime. Crime against morality and customs which include sexual offence, rape gambling etc. Crime against public order such as resistance to government order, rioting, assault to police and other officials of the government and prohibited political activities.

Crime against person in Minna

The crime considered here are those crime committed to cause injury to person(s) which may include all tabulated in table 2 below. This crime and criminal activities affects well being of residents of Minna and elude them of harmonious living in the city.

Table 2: Crime and Violence against Persons in Minna between 2004 and 2008

Types of Crime	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Murder	13	16	18	24	13	84
Manslaughter	11	8	2	10	5	36
Attempted Murder	111	187	131	117	51	597
Assault	153	451	497	517	609	2227
Rape	32	14	29	37	18	130
Felonious Wounding	176	210	269	402	365	1422
Kidnapping	9	12	7	22	16	66
Other Crime against Person	177	258	322	432	625	1814
Child Trafficking	11	23	8	4	13	59
TOTAL	693	1179	1283	1565	1715	6435

Source: Niger State Police Command Record, July, 2008.

The analysis of the frequencies of occurrence of crime and criminal activities in Minna over a period of five years (2004-2008) shows that there has been increase in crime and criminal activities. The number of murder in the town recorded rose from 13 in 2004 to about 24 in 2007. There has been tremendous increase in the cases due to wave of killing among the political class who chose that as means of settling scores with their opponents (Obioha, 2006). Though there has been decrease in manslaughter, that does not means that the incident is reducing but because of on reporting of the case. Attempted murder has increased over the period and shows little decline between 2007 and 2008. Felonious wounding has also increased due to activities of thugs employed by politician during their campaign and other political activities. The most rampant crime during the study was assault, the trend of which had been on the increase since 2004. In 2004, it recorded 153 cases; and by 2008, it had recorded 609 cases. This could be explained by the fact that there is bound to be rift among individuals in the society because of constant contact that exist among them.

The next crime is felonious wounding which record the highest rate in 2007 (402) and its least report in 2004 (176). The implication of this is that there has been an increase in the have of crime and violence activities in the recent past in Minna; this could be attributed to the problem of political thuggery and vengeance coupled with jungle justice. In ranking, assault and felonious wounding came before murder because its cases were more reported than the latter. The incidence of rape is not always reported to the police because it is always difficult to establish. There are some offences which are punishable but

attract little reporting, for instance, kidnapping which has the highest case in 2007 (22 reported cases) and lowest in 2004 (only 9 cases were reported).

Crime against property in Minna:

Crime against property include theft (major and minor), armed robbery, house breaking, shop breaking, false pretence and cheating, forgery, receiving stolen properties, arson and unlawful possession. The analysis of reported cases of crime against properties is tabulated in table 3.

Table 3: Crime against Properties in Minna between 204 and 2008

Types of Crime against Properties	2004	2005	20006	2007	2008	Total
Armed Robbery	25	34	41	47	57	204
Extortion	176	310	369	502	365	1722
Burglary and House breaking	134	214	258	127	64	797
Store breaking	121	135	166	178	88	688
Forgery	11	12	18	21	8	80
Receiving Stolen Properties	10	12	8	9	4	41
Unlawful Possession	280	249	216	179	123	1047
Arson	18	7	7	15	8	55
TOTAL	775	974	1083	1078	717	4634

Source: Niger State Police Command Record, July, 2008.

The most rampant of crime against properties is theft and stealing, the highest case was recorded in 2007 (502) and the lowest case on it was recorded in 2004. There has been increase in the trend from 2004 to 2007 and downward trend in 2008. Armed robbery in the city has been on the increase and this crime has a serious sanction, despite that, people still engaged in it.

Burglary, house breaking and store breaking constituted another set of crime that was widely reported. In 2004 about 255 cases of burglary, house breaking and store breaking were reported. The trend of each of the crime has been reported at variance; while the burglary and house breaking was on the decrease, the story is different for store breaking which was on the increase. In year 2000 there were 121casesof store breaking and by 2007, 178 cases were reported. The reason for low report on some cases was attributed to the fact that the aggrieved persons fear of being intimidated by the police and extortion at the police station (NPF, 2008). Forgery (almost the same as Advance Fraud "419") was not often reported. Some 11 cases as reported in 2004; 12 in 2005; 8, 9 and 4 are reported in 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Crime against Local Acts in Minna

There are some offences against local acts but unfortunately these offences are not widely reported, not that they were not committed but for one reason or the other their instances are not reported. Various local acts crime committed are shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Crime against Local Acts in Minna between 2004 and 2008

Crime against Local Acts	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL
Narcotics	70	31	33	25	27	186
Wife snatching	41	22	30	21	10	124
Liquor acts	7	-	-	2	1	10
Fire arms	22	11	17	44	12	106
Delinquency	21	34	55	29	11	150
Bribery and Corruption	15	17	11	21	6	68
TOTAL	166	115	146	142	67	674

Source: Niger State Police Command Record, July, 2008.

The analysis shows that there has been increase in crime against local acts in the recent past due to many factors which include heating of politics, poverty, and moral decadence amongst others. The use of narcotics such as marijuana, cocaine etc has been on the increase especially among thugs use for disrupting elections.

Various Agencies charged with Responsibility of curbing Urban Insecurity

In Minna, the agencies charged with responsibility of maintaining peace and order ranges from both formal and informal organizations. The formal organizations such as Police, Nigeria Civil Defence, Nigerian Prison service and Federal Road Safety Commission are discharging their constitutional duties accordingly. The informal organizations charged with this responsibility are the vigilante group and the neighbourhoods watch. They have also tried their best to stem the wave of crime in Minna. The analysis of the number of policemen in Minna is represented in table 5 thus:

Table 5: Number of Police Divisions and Manpower distribution in Minna:

S/ No	Local Government Area	Division	Police Posts	SPOs	Inspectors	Rank and File	Total
1	Chanchaga	“B” Department Operations	• House of Assembly	12	30	318	360
2		“A” Division (Central/Stadium Road)	• London Quarters	10	24	124	158
3		“B” Division (Paiko Road)	• Morris • Central Market • Gwari Market • NTA/Nitel	4	16	233	253
4		GRA		2	18	108	128
5		Tudun Wada	• Tunga Market • State Secretariat	6	15	183	204
6		Maitumbi	• Ungwa Kaje	3	17	67	87
7	Bosso	Bosso		4	13	120	137
8		Maikunkele	• Airport • Beji	3	10	74	87
9		Kpakungu	• Barki Sale • Garatu • Sabon Daga	4	8	106	118
10		Chanchaga	• Shango	5	11	190	206
Total				53	172	1513	1738

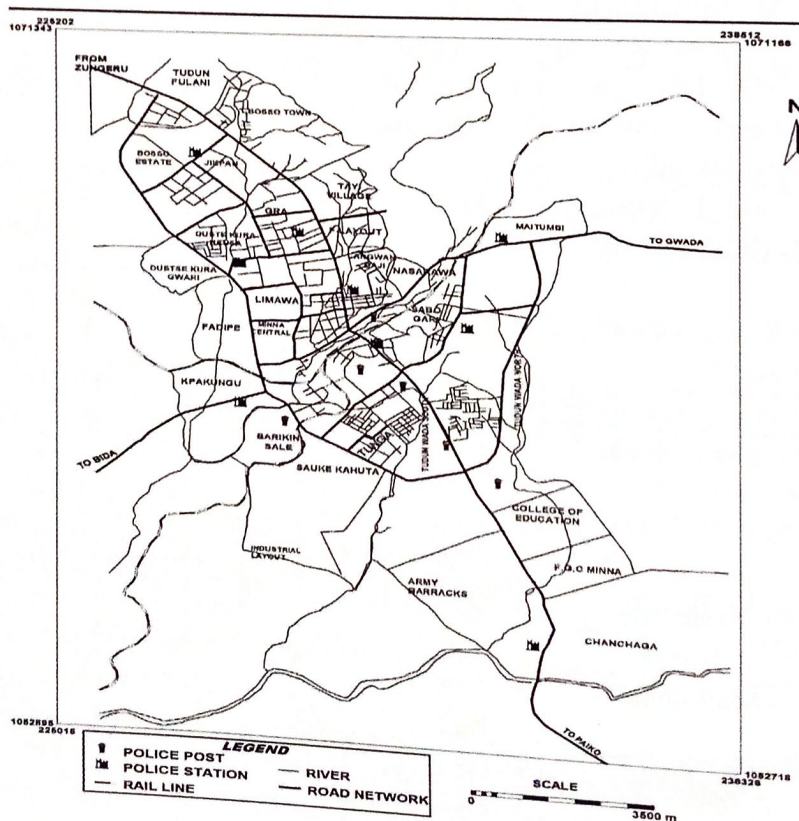
Source: Niger State Police Command Record, July, 2008.

The record of the Nigerian Police (Niger State Command) indicated that there are 1,738 policemen manning the city of Minna (comprising two Local Government areas). The estimated population of Minna as projected by NPC (2008) is about 88,994. The number of policemen included all the personnel attached to political office holders as orderly and if those are removed, this will leave about 1,253 personnel for the task of maintaining law and order in the city. There is also another set of policemen who are attached to other establishment such as banks, supermarkets and other request by the people, furthermore, there are some set of policemen saddle with responsibility of controlling traffic, and this further reduces the manpower of the police to control crime in Minna.

On this account there is about one police officer to about 1,000 people which negate the effort of the police to curb crime. The work of policing the town is cumbersome which causes breakdown of law and order. The city is not well policed and led to many crimes been committed without any way to curb it. Inadequacy of equipments, personnel and poor planning has also makes policing ineffective. Poor planning of neighbourhoods has make criminals to perpetrate their act without been caught.

Furthermore, the problem of routine posting does not allow the policemen to master their neighbourhood well. Another problem of inadequate policing is the lack of confidence by the people on the policemen who are seen as aid to the criminals and are trigger happy to kill the citizens without cause to judicial matters. They aid and abet criminals due to poor remuneration, coupled with issue of godfathers. The number of policemen posted to each division depends on the number manpower available. It is usually done on rotational basis. Posting are usually rotated so that the Policemen do not stay too long in a particular post.

The analysis from table 5 above shows that area with high population concentration in the city have lower policemen, for example, neighbourhoods such as Minna Central, Kpakungu, Limawa, Bosso etc have about 529 policemen while GRA has about 200 policemen. The implication of this is that there is no basis for distribution of policemen rather it follows the safety of government officials and rich men at the expense of the citizens. The spatial distribution of Police station and Police posts in Minna is shown in figure 3 below.



4 Neighbourhoods that pose problem to Police in Minna

Minna and its environs is fast growing because of new status confer on it by new democratic dispensation as zonal command for many Federal Parastatals (Prison, Custom, Immigrations, Education etc). There has been development of the city into cosmopolitan. Due to the urban nature, not many people know their neighbours or even bother to interact with them. There are over twenty neighbourhoods in Minna but the findings shows that most crimes are committed in low income area of Limawa, Kpakungu, Barkin Sale, Ungwan Daji, Ungwan Kaje, Bosso and Soje community of the city, which are informal with spontaneous reaction.

Table 6: Black Spot in Minna

Location	Severity of occurrence of crime and violence	
Kpakungu	High rate of Crime	
Limawa	High rate of Crime	
Soje	High rate of Crime	
Ungwa Daji	High rate of Crime	
Barkin Sale		
Bosso		Medium Level Crime
Ungwan Kaje		Medium Level Crime
		Medium Level Crime

Source: Niger State Police Command Record, July, 2008.

From the table 6 above it has been established that majority of the area that give the police problem are those areas inhibited by the poor in Minna. The severity of the crime shows that Kpakungu and Ungwan Daji are the most notorious area in Minna. They may look alike in the level of crime but the type of crime committed differs. The major problem of Kpakungu has to do with rape, theft, house breaking, fraud etc while the cases in Unwan Daji is more of drug and drug related cases such as smoking of hemp, rape, theft, hired assassin etc.

Perception of Crime and Violence act in Minna

The causes of crime according to investigation revealed that 57.9% of respondents attributed crime and criminality to poverty and unemployment in the country as shown in table 7 below.

Table 7: Causes of Crime and Violence acts in Minna

Causes	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty and Unemployment	276	57.9
Erosion of Traditional Values	55	11.6
Urbanization	110	23.2
Faulty Educational System	27	5.7
Inadequate Home	8	1.6
Total	476	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2008

The argument of respondents was that high level of unemployment in literate society is responsible for the high crime rate. According to the findings, armed robbery incidents is inversely proportional to the state of the economy that is when the economy is buoyant, there is less crime and vice versa. The more people are unemployed the more tendencies to commit crime because people will satisfy their needs. There has been a high connection between crime and poverty (Omisakin, 1998). Poor economic situation of the country are being exploited by individuals who have the ability and capacity to organize crime as business, taking advantage of unemployed frustrated majority.

The effect of urbanization was ranked as second as what respondents considered as one of the major causes of crime in Minna and Nigeria in general. Complexity of urban life and industrialization has also furnished opportunities for growth of crime. Growth of cities creates three types of problems – rural depopulation, strain on urban facilities and unemployment. All these problems have influence on crime and development. Other causes identified are erosion of traditional values; inadequate homes (neglect of the child by their parents) a faulty educational system, extravagant display of wealth, environment and illegal flow of aliens.

Police Reaction to Crime and Insecurity in Minna

Due to the fact that there is no adequate information to ascertain the level of crime in Nigeria as a whole is lacking due to the fact that at present police as the watchdog for public peace and maintenance of law and order are not capable of doing so. As said by the Nigeria Police, about five different ways of curbing crime are employed to discharge their statutory responsibility of maintaining law and order. The first category is the station of vehicles at strategic places around the town. This is a method of searching

people according to their intuitions. This is referred to as Stop and Search. This allows the police to stop vehicle and persons at will and search them. They also intercept vehicles based on radio message. The second method is Check Points. There are mounted road blocks for search and it is mandatory for any vehicle to stop and be checked thoroughly. Next method used by the police is the use of Mobile Patrol. Here the police use vehicle to comb the nook and crannies of all the streets of the town. This is best according to police because it gives them impetus to gain access into trouble spot in time to give chase to criminals. There is also Foot Patrol. Here, the policemen are given routes which they patrol on foot both day and night. The last method use by police force in Minna is referred to as Plain Cloth Surveillance. In this method the policemen have a special unit where the police do not reveals their identity. This is to allow the police to nab the criminals without suspecting.

Discussion and Findings

The analysis of crime in Minna city indicated that there are several method of committing crime and different manifestations of crime and violence in the city. The various crime committed in Minna include, crime against person, property, local acts, etc. crime against person include manslaughter, murder, assault, rape, wound, kidnapping, child trafficking and abuse and the trend has been on increase from 2004 except for manslaughter which has decline slightly over time.

Crime against properties in Minna also include armed robbery, extortion, burglary and store breaking, forgery, unlawful possession of stolen properties and all sort of other crimes. The most prominent of these crime is burglary and extortion which is on the increase unabated, many factor that causes these include poverty, unemployment and high level of disparity between poor and the rich.

The crimes against local acts include narcotics, wife snatching and battery, juvenile delinquency and bribery and corruption. Thought this is on decline but, it has high effect in some area as thugs and unnecessary western lifestyle erodes the traditional values placed on our youths. There are about 8 police stations in Minna and about 15 police posts which over sees the two LGAs. The stations have about 1738 policemen (53 SPOs, 172 Inspectors and 1513 rank and files). Majority of these officers are working as orderly for political office holder, big firms, banks, and traffic management etc. the analysis indicated that there are over 1,000 people being manned by only one policeman on the average. The research shows that areas with high population such as Kpakungu, Limawa, Bosso etc. have only 3 police stations with about 529 policemen compared to GRA with very low population with about 200 officers. This indicated that there is no specific modality for distribution of the officers rather it is based on availability of the station.

Research also shows that some areas have been problematic for police to manage, areas such as Kpakungu, Limawa Unwan Daji, Soje etc. The perception of people of Minna about crime and criminality is that several factor attributed to the incidence which include high level of poverty, unemployment, delinquency, modernization, gulf between the poor and rich men, individualism etc. the most ranked causes of crime in Minna is poverty and unemployment (57.9%). Several methods have been employed by the police to curb crime and violence in Minna which include surveillance, stop and search, check points, mobile patrol especially the city centre to GRA axis.

Recommendations

Based on the findings above, it is therefore important to proffers necessary recommendation for the stemming of crime in Minna. The recommendations are: proper orientation of the citizens on how to be a law abiding and patriotic citizen, provision of adequate vocational institutions to train youth on youth empowerment schemes and redirect the energy of the youths to profitable venture rather than restiveness. this will enable them to shun violence and criminal acts.

Community policing should be encouraged to deter youths from engaging in any form of criminal acts, the institution of women participation in policing should also be encouraged to reduce the rate of rape in the city and proper handling of cases of rape.

Judicial reform should be put in place to review the punishment melted on offenders so as to stop the acts. The issue of bail and charges attached to rapist is so meager that it will not stop him from perpetrating the act.

Youth policies should be enacted to reform the educational system and entrepreneurship so as to reduce the incidence of unemployment and reduce poverty in the city. The present gulf between the rich and poor should be bridged to give the poor sense of belonging.

Distribution of policemen should be done based on population and the need of the neighbourhood and allocation of police posts. The integration of policemen to the community and encouragement of them staying for longer period will reduce the criminal activities in such neighbourhood. Good governance to institutionalized the governance of the people should be entrenched and reduce the politics of winner take it all, the people should be encouraged to partake in the governance of the city.

Conclusion

Analysis of crime in Minna indicated that from the year 2004 there has been increase in the criminal activities in the city and the crime are those committed against person, properties and local acts. The crime include rape, murder, manslaughter, theft, bribery, extortion, battery, etc. the incidence of crime indicated that there are some neighbourhoods that are prone to crime than the others. The method of policing the city indicated that some areas with high population concentration are having few numbers of policemen while areas with low population are having large number of policemen to manned them. There are several factors that cause crime in Minna which range from poverty to unemployment and the erosion of traditional values in our society. Several methods have been employed by the police to curb the crime rate but have not yielded the desired results; the number of people to a policeman is over 1,000 thereby making the task cumbersome.

There is need for proper orientation of people, good governance and review of our educational system and management of policemen for the smooth and crime free society in Minna, this include, vocational training to reduce high level of unemployment and provision of social security for the jobless people.

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