JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND JUVENILE VIOLENCE IN JOS - NIGERIA

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Juvenile delinquency and juvenile violence in Jos, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The central objective of this study is to provide researchers, government, interested individuals and organizations with a contemporary scenario of juvenile violence and general delinquency patterns in Jos. Its objectives are to determine the borderline between normal and delinquent life patterns of juveniles, to establish incidences, patterns and trends in juvenile violence and delinquency, to assess the extent of gender variables in juvenile violence and delinquency, to assess the impact of housing on juvenile delinquency, to establish the role of 'significant' others in juvenile violence and delinquency, to assess the consequences, policy implications and options for juvenile violence and delinquency control and management in Nigeria

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Introduction

p. 11-16

1 Juvenile violence and juvenile delinquency are found in most modern urban centres. They are the results of a disoriented society. Juvenile delinquency occurs where the moral, ethical, social and legal norms that govern individual and group relations are violated. These antisocial activities are generally perpetrated by youths under the age of 18 years who are predisposed towards acts that are harmful to peace-loving members of the civil society.

2 Deviant and unethical behaviour becomes manifest in a given social context when factors such as family ties, religious practices, gerontocratic supervision of youths and informal mechanisms for dispute settlement are eroded.

3 Juvenile delinquency in cities constitutes one of the greatest areas of concern for the government and all law-abiding citizens. The rapid growth of African cities contributes to a high incidence of deviant behaviour. Urban centres hold the promise of good education, medical services, employment and a general enhancement of socio-economic status; this motivates migration from rural areas. The influx of rural dwellers to the urban centres in Nigeria has become more pronounced since the oil boom era of the 1970s.

4 Jos began to grow into a modern urban centre from the time of the discovery and exploitation of tin ore by the colonialists in the 1900s. The abandoned tin mining sites, with pits full of water, which could be regarded as causing environmental degradation have, however, attracted farmers who engage in all-season and fadama farming. Traders, both Nigerians and foreigners, attracted by the temperate climate of Jos. have contributed to its urbanization. Jos is also an important religious centre in Nigeria.

5 Jos was a relatively quiet urban centre until 1980, when the social character of the city changed considerably. Religious conflicts and border disturbances have greatly undermined the hitherto peaceful atmosphere of the city. Furthermore, religious disturbances in neighbouring northern cities have led to a chaotic influx of people into Jos. For example, the Maitatsine religious uprisings in the 1980s in Kano, Gombe and Jimeta (Yola); and those in Bauchi in 1992, in Kafanchan and Kaduna in 1987 and 1992; and the Zagon-Kataf and Tiv-Jukun bloodshed in 1992 have put immense pressure on the population of Jos through migration and the consequent growth in population.

6 The relationship between these socio-demographic, political, economic and ethno-religious forces and juvenile delinquency lies in the availability/accessibility of social services and utilities. Unfortunately, relevant agencies and organizations have taken little action to ensure the adequate provision of social services for the burgeoning population of Jos.

7 The fact that the majority of the urban social classes, especially the poor, do not have sustained access to good accommodation, water, transport and other services impedes the integration of youths in the city. The majority of the 'unattached' or loosely integrated populace, especially juveniles, find opportunities for deviant behaviour.

8 The control of deviant behaviour among a society's young people is a function of the outlook or perception of parents and teachers, government policies and actions, and community sentiments towards the rights, duties and responsibilities of youths in the society. Many parents now focus on material acquisition, neglecting the close supervision of their children and wards.

Objectives of the Study

9 The central objective of this study is to provide researchers, government, interested individuals and organizations with a contemporary scenario of juvenile violence and general delinquency patterns in Jos. Its objectives are:

a. to determine the borderline between normal and delinquent life patterns of juveniles
b. to establish incidences, patterns and trends in juvenile violence and delinquency
c. to assess the extent of gender variables in juvenile violence and delinquency
d. to assess the impact of housing on juvenile delinquency
e. to establish the role of 'significant' others in juvenile violence and delinquency
f. to assess the consequences, policy implications and options for juvenile violence and delinquency control and management in Nigeria

Methodology

10 Juvenile delinquency and the criminal activities of youth constitute an important threshold for social science research, because youth involvement in deviance and violence is a manifestation of the level of the degeneration of the society. In this research, specific areas and groups that could contribute to the understanding of the nature of delinquency in Jos were targeted. This study used a stratified random sampling framework to ensure representativeness of the sample.

Target Group

11 The target group for the study consisted of all juveniles between the ages of 14 years (children) and 17 years (young persons) [Children and Young People's Laws cap. 32, 1958], They were further considered on a gender basis. A total of 2,743 interviews / questionnaires were conducted/administered. The sampling frame of areas surveyed is

shown in table 1. All the information was gathered within the Jos metropolis and the University of Jos.

Table 1. Sample frame of study areas surveyed

	Area	Proportion of respondents	
		Boys	Girls
	A: Township		
1.	Angwan Rogo	200	50
2.	Bauchi Road	196	48
3.	Ultra-Modern Market	207	25
4.	Ahmadu Bello Way	163	19
	Sub-total	**766**	**142**
	B: University of Jos Halls		
5.	Naraguta	250	105
6.	Abuja	200	93
7.	Students' Village	107	80
	Sub-total	**557**	**278**
	C: Secondary Schools		
8.	Jos University Demonstration Sec. Sch.	200	100
9.	Government Secondary Sch. Laranto Jos	240	110
10.	Newton Education Centre (extra-mural)	250	100
	Sub-total	**690**	**310**
	Grand Total	2,013	730
	Over-all Total	2,743	

Data Collection

12 A structured questionnaire was used to gather information from the target group. A combination of approaches was adopted. For university students, a 'drop and pick' approach was used. This gave the respondents a free hand to fill in the questionnaires, which enhanced the originality and reliability of their answers. A 'participatory' approach was employed among street children and working children; assistants read the questions and answer-options in the questionnaire and entered the responses received. This method was chosen because of the low literacy rate among the street and shop-keeping respondents. A 'supervisory' approach was adopted in secondary and extra-mural schools. After securing the cooperation of the school principals, research assistants distributed the questionnaires to the student respondents who filled them as though in a normal sessional examination.

13 In all the sample areas, the respondents were randomly selected. Respondents among street traders and shop keepers were asked preliminary questions aimed at ascertaining the appropriateness of the respondents, especially in respect of the age variable. In the University of Jos (henceforth referred to as the University), only remedial, 100 and 200 level students qualified to be sampled. With regard to the 200 level students, since JAMB makes it mandatory for students to be sixteen years old for registration into 100 level, it was deduced that most of them would be 17 years

old in their second year and were thus eligible for sampling. The project started in mid-March 1996 with the collection of primary data.

14 In respect of secondary data, the visits of the coordinators, between April and July, to the Social Welfare Departments of Jos North and Jos South LG As and the Jos High Court did not yield the desired results. This was due to the non-availability of statistical figures in respect of juvenile offences in Jos. Enquiries at the Jos Remand Home/Social Welfare Centre on Jos-Zaria Road, revealed that there were cases of unclassified inmates who did not fit into the sample target of the present study. However, statistics from the police (table 45) were quite revealing. These suggested that there were different forms of juvenile delinquency resulting from peer pressure, the bad influence of significant others, parental neglect, economic depression and personal choice.

Data Analysis

15 The computation of data involved the use of descriptive statistics such as ratios, percentages and indexes. The presentation was in tabular form. This revealed trends in the relationships between juveniles and their parents' social background, the incidence, nature and patterns of juvenile violence and delinquency; and their attitudes towards the opposite sex, friends and authority figures. A holistic, analytical approach was adopted, in which information from the sample areas was treated as a whole, rather than as a differential picture of juvenile violence and delinquency in Jos. One could not ascertain that the respondents necessarily resided in the places where the interviews were conducted.

Literature review

p. 16-22

1 The study of juvenile delinquency or social deviance has been going on for some time, but there is a dearth of documents and/or information on the subject in Jos. The only exceptions are two baseline studies conducted by the present researcher. In view of this, a review of existing literature is presented along with an examination of the evolution of the modern city of Jos in order to place the present research in proper theoretical perspective.

Juvenile Delinquency and Violence

2 The conflict of interests and desires is at the heart of every form of deviance and violence. Sociologists and other social scientists believe that freedom from restraint, basic human nature, the focus of power and its influence and the opportunity structure of society are, in varying degrees, factors which contribute to violence, delinquency, crime and social deviance. Thus, these factors, either singly or in varied combinations, are used to explain the aetiology, nature and patterns of the distribution of delinquency, crime and deviance.

3 Some of the earliest criminologists looked for biological or abnormal physical traits to distinguish the criminal type. A number of biologists or human anthropologists, especially Darwin (1859), Lombroso (1876), Quinney and William (1977), posited that deviance is related to human physiology, physical stigmata and abnormal cranial features. In his pioneer work, the Italian army medical doctor, Cesaire Lombroso made his claims after examining the skulls of Italian ex-convicts supposed to have been born criminals. His theory of biological determinism, based on the distinguishability of criminals from non-criminals suggests that:

a. The criminal can be distinguished from non-criminals by a manifestation of degenerate physical features, e.g., slanting forehead, large jaws and cheek bones, unusually sized ears, peculiarities of eyes, excess length of arms, left handedness and large feet.

b. The criminal is a biological throwback (atavist) to an earlier stage of human evolution. This theory coincided with the rise of Darwinian thinking, particularly after the publication of the book *The Origin of the Species* (1859).

c. The criminal cannot adjust to civilization and therefore will continue to clash with his society's norms (Quinney and William, 1977).

4 The concept of biologically determined criminal traits appears inapplicable to Nigeria where many criminals hardly show any trace of physical abnormality. In fact, some suspected armed robbers shown on NTA Network news on June 27, 1996 were robust, handsome and not significantly different from other law-abiding members of the society. Or what would the biological determinists say about the physically well-adjusted members of criminal syndicates who engage in fraudulent schemes known as '419'?

5 The theory of biological/genetic inheritance further stipulates that the propensity to deviate and commit crime might be inherited or facilitated by genetic juvenile delinquent abnormalities. A study of 709 family members revealed that 20 per cent of them had been perpetual thieves and prostitutes (Haralambos, 1980). It has been argued that poor or anti-social behaviour patterns within a family could lead to criminality and that criminality could be genetic as well as social. It will be recalled that at a stage in the trial of O. J. Simpson, the prosecution referred to the results of genetic tests. According to a Voice of America (VOA) World Report of 14th July 1994, scientists have shown a strong connection between criminal acts and chromosomes. Taylor et al. (1973) pointed out that where an individual possesses an extra set of chromosomes like 'xxx' (female) and 'xyy' (male) instead of the normal 'xx' and 'xy', crimes of passion like prostitution, rape, assault, etc., could result. Because offences of this sort are very rare without secondary inducements from other factors like drug use, the reliability and consistency of such explanatory variables for violence are in question. Violence is a common feature of intergroups where people with varying social, economic, political, cultural and religious backgrounds co-exist and interact. Acts of juvenile violence and delinquency and violent assassinations in the Nigerian society, however, are not necessarily perpetrated by people with abnormal genetic traits.

6 Gurr's (1971) argument that violence and delinquent deviance or hostile behaviour should be examined using the 'frustration-aggression hypothesis' appears a more credible explanation of violence and delinquency. He noted that when goals and expectations are frustrated as a result of relative deprivation, overt hostility will manifest in the society against governments or individuals or groups. He maintained that governments are the primary targets of expressed hostility. As Dahrendorf (1959) argued, conflicts are at the heart of society. All role-associations have the potential for conflict.

7 The psychological theory that mere disturbances in memory and thinking predispose one to criminality is questionable. Psychological theories which place emphasis on interpersonal and intergroup relationships as the basis for particular types of personality and character formation in individuals have, however, been found to be more useful to our analysis (Mead, 1918; Reckless, 1967). Weak ego, id and super-ego development must be seen as arising from the total framework of societal organization, norms, values and ethics. Thus, if a child is unable to develop a proper management

system, a good ego, a super ego or conscience towards authority figures and property, he/she will be hostile to them. A study conducted by John Browlby (Haralambos, 1980) on the effects of hostile parental relationship with juveniles, noted that, in the case of his sample of 'forty-four juvenile thieves', deviance resulted from the lack of emotional security in their relationships with their mothers.

8 Sociologists argue, however, that 'psychotic' personalities are by-products of the workings of the entire society. The structuralist (sociological) theories see deviance as a product of discrepancies between the goals which a society sets for its members and the legitimate means provided by society for attaining these goals. Zehr (1976) posited that deviance arises from the inability of members of a society to meet the desired expectations of the said society.

9 Robert Merton (1938), the most acclaimed proponent of the theory of social structure, argued that the varying degrees of deviance are a result of the extent of integration of members of a society or group into the norms of that setting. In a stratified society like Nigeria where emphasis is placed on achieving success through material acquisition without a corresponding insistence on the legitimate means of attaining same, it becomes difficult to expect people to be governed by appropriate societal norms. A state of 'anomie' or normlessness ensues. In such a situation, different people in the opportunity structure of the society will evolve adaptive mechanisms intended to provide avenues of achieving success. They will thus attain the overall societal goal of material success, often through deviant means.

10 One of the adjustments used to cope with the inequality inherent in the social, political, economic and cultural fabrics of society is the formation of sub-cultures. Hobbs and Blank (1978) pointed out that such sub-cultures have clear and distinct life styles which emerge from the dominant culture that opposes them. They argue that sub-cultures are easily known by their defined turfs or areas of territorial influences, names and leadership structures. Their purposes may differ, but all of them seek to be different from the norms of larger society. They identified street gangs and drug-addict sub-cultures as typical examples resulting from parent/child conflict. These groups are relevant in the identification of the sources of juvenile violence.

11 The formation of sub-cultures, according to Braithwaite (1979), Miller (1958) and Wolfgang and Ferracuti (1967) can be based on outright criminal, conflictual, or retreatist intentions and purposes. As an adaptive mechanism, the sub-culture (or group) is formed out of the failure of youth to meet the role expectations in school, at home and elsewhere. The internal structure of such sub-groups is organized on the ability of members to outwit or outsmart intra- and inter-group members. There is a high spirit of competitiveness among members. Physical force is often used to maintain and sustain allegiance to the group. A university based research (Ishekwene, 1994) further underscores this fact.

12 Shaw and McKay (1942) introduced an ecological variable into the analysis of the causative factors of delinquency. In their Chicago School of the 1920s and 1930s, they demonstrated that there was a positive relationship between the inner city or transmission zones and violent delinquency in the city of Chicago. Shaw and McKay observed that, the 'down town' was characterized by high turnover rates among a largely poor and migrant population many of whom were prostitutes and drunks and came mostly from broken homes.

13 Similarly, Wolfgang and Ferracuti (1967) and Sutherland (1947) argued that the greater the degree of integration of individuals into the norms and values of violent subcultures, the higher the probability that the acts of individuals in that subculture would be violent. Thus, individuals become violent, criminal and delinquent in a number of ways depending on the extent of their interaction with existing criminal figures and patterns, and the internalization of criminal or delinquent normative structures. In other words, delinquent and criminal acts are learned through criminal patterns that are at the time acceptable to and rewarding in the individual's immediate physical and social environments. This means that a lot of delinquent and criminal acts are learned, accepted, shared, rewarded, facilitated or enhanced through existing norms, values or role models. Role models are rewarders as well as reinforcers of patterned criminal behaviour.

14 Kadon's (1992) 'culture of violence' traced the history of contemporary violence in ex-colonial territories to the inglorious slave culture of the past. He argued that since the ultimate aim of the colonial masters was to rule by dividing and setting their subjects against each other, the contemporary culture of violence must be seen as a continuation of oppression and repression in the society. Kadon posits that this sets in motion the machinery for vengeful violence. Although he did not substantiate his position by relating violence to political repression, nonetheless, it is clear that violent crimes and delinquency, especially in the last one and a half years, have assumed a dominant role in the social life of Nigeria.

15 Juvenile delinquency has just begun to receive closer research attention in Jos. A recent study of the residential patterns of juvenile delinquents in Jos, revealed that juvenile delinquency was pervasive and violent in nature. Its incidence, however, has not been effectively recorded nor has it been addressed. Smah (1995c) assessed the effect of media advertisements on the use of alcohol and tobacco by secondary students in Jos, and reported that students were influenced by mass media advertisements, e.g., billboards, TV, radio, newspapers and magazines. The study also compared junior and senior secondary school students in a religious and a secular school. The results showed that an average of 73 per cent of students in both schools perceived through advertisements that what they had inhaled, drunk or smoked was dangerous. According to Smah (1995c: 7), about 4 per cent smoked and drank alcohol. It was noted that more juniors (JSS2) drank alcohol and smoked cigarettes in the public schools. On the whole, however, less students in the public school drank beer or smoked cigarettes. First, the intensity of supervision and control differed in the two schools. St. Murumba's College is a day school, while Government College is a boarding school. Second, the levels of upbringing in the schools differed. The stipulation against substance abuse in Government College was found to be stricter than in St. Murumba; and since in a day school students move between school and home, the chances of students 'branching off to indulge in anti-social acts tends to be higher.

16 Although the sample size of 189 for that study was small compared to the number of secondary school students in Jos, the findings pointed to one veritable source of violence among youths – the portrayal of violence on TV and video tapes. This 'copy-cat' behaviour was responsible for a sad incident reported in this study in which a six year-old boy shot his brother with their father's double-barrelled gun while demonstrating a scene from a film he had watched.

17 The French Institute for Research in Africa (1994) published two volumes on urban violence in Africa. Violence associated with hired assassins, ethnic chauvinism, religious bigotry and religious fundamentalism (one recalls the incident in which lives and property were destroyed in Kaduna over the refusal of the Shi-ite Muslims to accept the decision of the authorities of Kaduna Polytechnic, also headed by a Muslim, to expel four students suspected to be troublemakers.[1] Armed robbery, extortion, rape, civil disorders, racketeering and gang warfare (like the 'area boys' phenomenon) among juveniles, stems from a crisis in the management of the social order.

FOOTNOTES

1. *The Guardian* (Lagos) 21 June 1996. back page.

The city of Jos

p. 23-24

1 According to Baba (1984-85) and Smah (1995a), the town of Jos was laid out in 1915 under two main sections:

i. Jos Township, consisting of Tudun Wada, Zaria Crescent and the Government Reservation Area (GRA).

ii. Jos Native Town, which is made up of Ali Kazaure, Jenta Adamu and Abba na Shehu. These areas are still under native rule and are administered by the Jos town council, headed by a local chief, the Gbong Gwom. These two areas are separated by a light railway which leads to Bauchi. The discovery of tin in Jos, had significant effects on the growth of the city.

2 The mining economy of the Jos Plateau was run by an essentially migrant population (Sha, 1994). The tin mines attracted large numbers of petty traders from Eastern and Western Nigeria. There was also an influx of northerners, some of whom came to utilize the abandoned mining pits for fadama or dry season farming. With the growing number of people in the city, facilities were established to meet transport and communication needs; for example, a rail line was extended to Jos from Zaria in 1913 and the Port Harcourt – Enugu rail line was extended to Jos in 1927 linking the coal and tin mining regions.

3 Between the 1930s and the 1960s, many more social infrastructures were established, such as post offices, telephones, banks and other financial institutions, schools, modern markets and shopping complexes. While paid and money-generating employment made an impressive contribution to the growth of Jos in the 1950s, it was not until the 1960s that the post-colonial political development process of the country began to make an impact. The creation of Benue-Plateau state in 1967 brought many of the indigenes of the new Benue State to Jos for civil service jobs. It was during this period also that the indigenes, particularly the Birom, became interested in the political and economic development of the city.

4 During the 1980s, social and natural disasters forced many people to migrate to Jos and its environs. Particular reference is made to the rinderpest cattle epidemic and the Sahelian drought of 1983-84, in which many herds of cattle died; and two decades of religious conflicts beginning from 1980, e.g., the Maitatsine Movement (Sokomba,

1986). The drought sparked off an exodus of cattle rearers and pastoralists from the far north who brought their cattle to graze near the mining ponds. The religious upheaval was particularly disturbing between 1980 and 1996 and forced many people to migrate to places like Jos.

5 In March 1986, violent clashes between Christian and Muslim youths in Kafanchan spread to some major northern cities like Kaduna, Zaria, Sokoto and Gombe. As most of these towns are close to Jos, a good proportion of the victims, mainly Christians and animists, added to the population of Jos by fleeing there. Bako (1994) has documented other categories of urban violence that have had an impact on the social landscape of Jos. These clashes included ethno-religious and inter-ethnic conflicts. Ethno-religious conflicts have taken place in Zagon-Kataf between Hausa Christians and Hausa Muslims, the Hausa and Seyewa in Bauchi, the Hausa and the Jukun in Benue and the Taraba, the Hausa and the Birom in Plateau State. These conflicts have had a considerable impact on the settlement of Jos and its environs. The growth of any city puts severe pressure on its social services and basic utilities such as water and light. With this background, the scope of juvenile delinquency and violence in Jos can be examined.

Data presentation

p. 24-55

1 Findings: The population samples for the study revealed the following attributes.

Biosocial Attributes of Juveniles

2 Of the population samples 42.28 per cent were boys who were 14 years and below. 56.14 per cent were boys between ages 15 and 17 years. Girls of 14 years and below formed 30.55 per cent (223) while those between 15 and 17 years made up 65.34 per cent (477). Of the total sample of 2,743 interviewees, 2013 were boys while 730 (26.61 %) were girls, (table 2). More boys were found willing to be interviewed than girls (Smah 1995a).

3 In Nigeria, and Africa generally, religion plays an important social role in child socialization and stabilization. Through it, young and new members of the society are socialized into an expected role and status. Even in traditional pre-industrial settings, religion was used to inculcate discipline in the child. Severe proscriptions were imposed on such deviant acts as stealing and cheating. The idea of a supreme being who punished offenders served as an important deterrent. This is likely to have been one of the reasons for the level of religious consciousness of the youths in Jos metropolis (table 3). Less than 1 per cent of the girls and 2 per cent of the boys indicated no interest in religion. This is an insignificant percentage of the total number of youths interviewed.

Table 2. Age of juveniles interviewed

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14 years and below	851	42.28	223	30.55	1074	39.15
15 to 17 years	1130	56.14	477	65.34	1607	58.59
No response	32	1.58	30	4.11	62	2.26
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 3. Religious adherence of juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Christian	1396	69.02	574	79.28	1970	71.82
Islam	561	28.21	129	17.68	690	25.15
African trad.	24	1.19	16	2.21	40	1.56
Other	32	1.58	11	0.83	43	1.58
Total	2013		730		2743	

4 The majority of the youths had at least one or two other children staying with them under the supervision of a father (table 4). Earlier research on child psychology, for example, Freud (1933) and Ainsworth (1978), have shown that the early interactions of the child, particularly with his mother, laid the foundation for his later personality and social development. Parents with many children cannot give each child the individual attention he/she may require; and the less the attention given to children by authority figures, especially parents, the higher the chances that such children will become deviant. The quality of the relationship between parents and children determines the posture that children adopt in teenage and adult years. The results of our findings indicated that only 35-36 per cent (970) of the youths in the sample were among the first three children. Table 5 shows that only one out of about 3 (1: 3) boys had any chance of receiving adequate parental attention. The ratio was about the same for the girls.

5 Education is an important variable in the development of any society. It is a critical key in the enhancement of the socio-political and economic well-being of individuals. Most of the youths interviewed had, at one time or the other, been in the school system. Table 6 shows that about 5 per cent of the juveniles were primary school drop-outs; another 3.5 per cent had dropped out of secondary school. A large number of juveniles surveyed (335) had completed secondary school education, but did not quality for entrance to any post-secondary or tertiary institution. This explains why they were attending extra-mural classes to pass their qualifying exams.

Table 4. Number of siblings in juvenile's house

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
6 and less	981	48.73	338	46.30	1319	48.09
7-12	517	25.68	177	24.25	694	25.30
13 and more	149	7.40	71	0.10	220	8.02
No response	366	18.18	144	19.73	510	18.59
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 5. Position of juveniles among siblings

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1st and 3rd	717	35.62	253	34.66	970	35.36
4th and above	455	22.60	198	27.12	653	23.80
No response	841	41.78	279	38.22	1120	40.83
Total	2013		730		2743	

6 About 6 per cent of the youths had Koranic education, and slightly less than 3 per cent had no education at all. This segment of the youth population was largely involved in moving goods with wheelbarrows or begging on major streets and in public places in the city.

7 Even though a good number of the youths, (618) had gained admission into university, the drop-out syndrome is a disruptive factor in youth development and growth. This is largely due to their lack of adequate socialization and education, which has inclined them to deviant behaviour. As a result, many youths dropped out of school, committed deviant acts and were incarcerated in remand homes (Odekunle 1978, Smah 1995a).

Table 6. Qualifications of sampled juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	43	2.14	30	4.11	73	2.66
Koranic	138	6.86	27	3.70	165	6.02
Some primary	115	5.71	31	4.25	146	5.32
Primary	80	3.97	17	2.33	97	3.54
Some secondary	85	4.22	9	1.23	94	3.43
	383	19.03	157	21.51	540	19.69
After secondary	260	12.92	75	10.27	335	12.21
Tertiary	442	21.96	176	24.11	618	22.53
No response	467	23.20	208	28.49	675	24.61
Total	2013		730		2743	

Socio-economic Attributes of Parents/guardians

8 Parents' occupations were categorized into, 5 groups; military, paramilitary; civil service; business; farming; carpentry/ masonry /others (tables 7 and 8).

9 Parents in public service jobs often take part in both small-and large-scale businesses, so as to enable them to adequately support their families. Parents/guardians' inability to provide the basic needs of their children and wards has serious social implications. For example, the school drop-out syndrome, drug abuse, vagrancy, stealing and cheating can result from this problem.

Table 7. Occupation of fathers

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	N	%	N	%
Military/para-military	87	4.32	57	7.49	144	5.25
Civil service	353	17.54	145	19.71	498	18.16
Business	456	22.65	264	36.00	720	26.25
Farming	242	12.62	116	16.03	358	13.05
Masonry/Others	161	8.00	53	6.96	214	7.80
No response	714	35.47	95	13.80	809	29.49
Total	2013		730		2743	

10 Street trading, opening of shops and the erection of kiosks in front of residential apartments are common activities in present day Jos, in a bid to secure extra finances to meet family needs. The influence of parents on their children and wards is great, and most children tend to be as religious as their parents or guardians.

Tables 9 and 10 show that about 30 per cent of fathers and nearly 38 per cent of mothers did not indicate belonging to one religious faith. About 72 per cent of the youths claimed to be Christian, and about 25 per cent Muslim; less than 3 per cent stated that they were African traditionalists and others (table 3). Adherence to religious dogmas has a positive effect on moral and ethical development in African societies. However, the effects of these values are increasingly waning.

Table 8. Occupation of mothers

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Military/para-military	70	3.49	40	5.43	110	4.10
Civil service	385	19.19	146	19.81	531	19.36
Business	676	33.70	298	40.43	974	35.51
Farming	122	6.08	96	13.03	218	7.95
Masonry/Others	83	4.14	37	5.07	120	4.37
No response	670	33.40	95	13.80	790	28.80
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 9. Religious adherence of fathers

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Christianity	831	41.28	404	55.34	1235	45.02
Islam	454	22.55	158	21.64	612	22.31
African trad/Others	47	2.33	35	4.79	82	2.99
No response	681	33.83	133	18.22	814	29.68
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 10. Religious adherence of mothers

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Christianity	693	34.43	342	46.85	1035	35.73
Islam	433	21.51	205	28.08	638	23.26
African trad/Others	25	1.24	12	1.64	37	1.35
No response	862	42.82	171	23.42	1033	37.66
Total	2013		730		2743	

Housing

11 Table 11 indicates that about 7 and 8 per cent of boys and girls respectively, lived with their parents in single rooms in tenement buildings. More than 50 per cent of the boys and girls lived with their parents in 3 and 4 room apartments. Since polygamy is higher among the lower income groups, these quarters are generally overcrowded, and this can lead to serious health problems, especially in the dry season. For example, the late arrival of rains in 1995 caused an outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis in Jos that resulted in the death of many teenagers and children. In most of these buildings, facilities such as toilets. kitchens and bathrooms are shared among several co-tenants. Shortage of water, the erratic supply of electricity and overcrowding can lead to anti-social behaviour. Overcrowding puts a strain on existing basic amenities and social relationships. This may lead to conflict, violence and child abuse. Children, who due to lack of accommodation, have to be distributed to friends or neighbours away from their parents' direct supervision, sometimes get into trouble. Clashes between individuals in overcrowded accommodation also lead to children running away from home. Where teenagers spend more time with their peers than with their parents, the probability of them getting involved in drugs, aberrant sexual behaviour and violence is high.

12 Approximately 58 per cent of the youths who live with their parents in 3 and 4 room residences have different problems.

13 For example, people who rent or own spacious apartments generally have incomes above the average city dweller, and are normally within or above the middle-level civil servant and business class bracket. Since housing is one of the determinants of the socio-economic class of individuals, the high percentage of our sample group who lived in more than 3-roomed apartments indicates that many youths belong to this moderately high socio-economic stratum. The general attitude of the parents towards the upbringing of their children and their wards leaves much to be desired (Smah, 1995a). The parents' lack of attention breeds indiscipline, incorrigibility, disregard for constituted authority and the rights of others.

Table 11. Type of parents'/guardians' residential quarters/ apartments

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1-room	135	6.71	61	8.36	196	7.15
2-room	295	14.65	81	11.10	376	13.15
3-room	555	27.57	223	30.55	778	28.36
4-room	550	27.32	256	35.07	806	29.38
No response	478	23.75	109	14.93	587	21.40
Total	2013		730		2743	

14 Housing problems affect women differently. Smah and Dashe (1996) noted that more women stay at home than men. They are, therefore, directly affected by the lack of space and the quality of such space.

15 The housing problem in Jos is further complicated by the cost of building new houses. The rocky landscape makes land clearance difficult. The rent of a typical three-bedroomed apartment is between 35 and 50 thousand naira per annum depending on its location, and is higher than in Kaduna and Kano.

16 Delinquency and juvenile violence can also be instigated by the marital status of parents/guardians. The incidence of separation and divorce (at 12 per cent) are a matter of serious concern and when widowhood is added a figure of 16.62 per cent emerges for single parent families (table 12).

Table 12. Present marital status of parents/guardians

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Married	1014	50.37	386	52.88	1400	51.04
Separated	173	8.59	101	13.84	274	9.99
Widowed	58	2.88	37	5.09	95	3.46
Divorced	62	3.08	25	3.42	187	3.17
No response	706	35.07	181	24.79	887	32.34
Total	2013		730		2743	

17 Divorce, separation or death of one or both parents disrupts child rearing, particulary as the urban child lives in a small nuclear household, unlike the rural child who lives in family households, where every adult is a father or mother to every child.

18 Most of the fathers in this sample (1007) were monogamists; 343 were polygamists, and 2.52 per cent had more than three wives. Less than 15 per cent of the husbands and wive: ; however, lived together (tables 13 and 14). The fact that husbands and wives do not live together impinges on the normal process of socializing children.

Table 13. Number of wives of fathers

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	716	35.57	291	39.86	1007	36.71
2	133	6.61	70	9.59	203	2.40
3	46	2.29	25	3.42	71	2.59
3>	49	2.43	20	2.74	69	2.52
None	53	2.63	13	1.78	66	2.41
No response	1016	50.47	311	42.60	1327	48.38
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 14. Fathers living with all their wives together

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	280	13.91	127	17.40	407	14.84
No	184	9.14	82	11.23	266	9.70
Did not know	295	14.65	110	15.07	405	14.76
No response	1253	62.25	412	56.44	1665	60.70
	2013		730		2743	

19 It would appear that the perception of youths of multiple-marriages practised in modern industrial societies in Nigeria is limited. About 11 per cent of the youths perceived their fathers to be living with two wives; and about the same percentage believed their fathers had 3 or 4 or more wives. This situation often results in accommodation problems, making parental control ineffective, especially when there are many children.

Table 15. Number of wives who lived with husbands and children

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2	186	9.24	104	14.25	290	10.57
3	223	11.08	88	12.05	311	11.34
4 and above	221	10.98	62	8.49	283	10.32
No response	1383	68.70	476	65.21	1859	67.77
Total	2013		730		2743	

Socio-economic Attributes of Juveniles

20 Juveniles are affected by the social, economic and cultural factors in their immediate surroundings and in the wider society. The majority of children (49 per cent of the girls and 48 per cent of the boys) attended government schools. About 12 per cent attended private schools with a secular curriculum and 2 per cent went to private schools with a religious curriculum. Incessant teachers' strikes, especially in public schools in Nigeria, has meant that the majority of youths are poorly educated.

21 Even though public schools were poorly managed and equipped, many people sent their children there because they could not afford the high cost of educating them in private schools. There was a significant drop-out rate among youths (both boys and girls) who worked full time or part time. Some of them were involved in 'barrowing' as porters; others hawked goods or begged under the cover of Islam; some served as guides to the blind and invalid adult men and women. These youths were mainly found in the streets and at special 'joints' like entrances of supermarkets, road junctions, markets and hospitals. Such places included the Jos Main Market, Ahmadu Bello Way, Bauchi Road and Angwan Rogo.

Table 16. Ownership of schools attended by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Government	964	47.89	380	52.05	1344	49.00
Private (secular)	228	11.33	91	12.47	319	11.63
Private (religious)	42	2.09	13	1.78	55	2.01
No response	779	38.70	246	33.70	1025	37.37
Total	2013		730		2743	

22 Shopkeeping was one of the most popular businesses of youths in Jos. Our observations indicated that Yoruba and Ibo businessmen and businesswomen controlled the bulk of both small and large-scale commercial and trading activities. About 17 per cent of our non-student sample were involved in business. Of those who attended school some worked for shopkeepers and in other forms of business at the expense of their education. The legal right of the child to have an education is generally ignored. This also disrupted their social, mental and emotional development.

23 When asked about their adolescent sexual associations and relationships, the majority of the boys had more than four sexual partners (table 18). For the girls, 6.44 per cent had only one sexual partner. This figure rose to almost 55 per cent for those with four or more sexual partners. This indicates a very high incidence of sexual activity among the youths in Jos.

Table 17. Nature of the work done by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Business	377	3.73	93	12.74	470	17.13
Hawking	76	3.76	15	2.05	91	3.32
Did not know	79	3.92	37	5.09	116	4.23
No response	1481	73.57	585	80.14	2066	75.32
Total	2013		730		2743	

24 A fairly high incidence of sexual involvement of youths was also recorded in Akinyele and Onifade's (1996) study of trends in social behaviour among secondary school adolescents in Ibadan. Nigeria. The larger proportion of their sample was composed of university and senior secondary school students, including those who were in extra-mural centres, who were more likely to know about the acquired imuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS). This may explain the higher number of students who had one sexual partner in the Ibadan study, when compared to that of Jos. This suggests a widespread use of contraceptive devices by youths in Jos (see tables 18 and 19).

Table 18. Number of sexual partners for adolescents in selected secondary schools in Ibadan

Number of Partners	Girls (mixed schools)		Girls (all-girls schools)		Boys (mixed schools)		Boys (all-boys schools)	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
1	84	11	71	6	135	11.6	11	5
2	16	2	14	1.0	81	7	27	12
3	12	1.5	15	1.0	50	4.2	38	16
4 and above	12	1.5	15	1.0	145	12	47	20
No response	652		988	91	778	65.4	110	47

Source: Akinyele and Onifade, 1996, p. 14.

Table 19. Number of sexual partners among juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	74	3.68	47	6.44	121	4.41
2	125	6.21	23	3.15	148	5.40
3	259	12.87	93	12.74	352	12.83
4 and more	877	43.57	401	54.93	1278	46.59
No response	678	33.68	166	22.74	844	30.77
Total	2013		730		2743	

25 Both boys and girls in our sample had a high rate of promiscuity when compared to boys and girls (12 % and 20 %) in mixed schools and all-boys' schools respectively in Ibadan. The consequences of this prevailing impropriety among the youth are diverse.

These include the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, child abandonment and child abuse.

26 Interestingly, it was discovered that most of the sample survey (almost 48 per cent) lived with their own parents – either one or both. Approximately 8 per cent of the youth lived with their mothers only; and almost the same percentage lived with their fathers only. A good number of the youths (200) lived entirely with friends (table 20). This indicates a level of child abandonment and child runaways, which also provides fertile ground for delinquency and crime.

27 Single parenthood is also becoming more widespread in Jos. Our study indicated that over 15 per cent of youths lived with just one parent, either their father or their mother. This can put enormous financial pressure on the single parent. Parents who are unable to cater for the needs of their children, may find it difficult to control the activities of those children. Some of the youths (5.03 %) depended on the magnanimity of their school teachers for sustenance. The real issue, however, is the quality of the attention that is given to the youths.

Table 20. Persons with whom juveniles live

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Both parents	943	46.85	362	49.59	1305	47.58
Mothers only	147	7.30	67	9.18	214	7.80
Father only	135	6.71	73	10.00	205	8.45
Relative/Guardian	120	5.96	39	5.34	159	5.80
Friend(s)	150	7.45	50	6.85	200	7.29
No response	518	25.73	139	9.04	657	23.95
Total	2013		730		2743	

28 The quality of attention accorded the youths in their homes defines, to a large extent, their response to the situation around them. When asked to indicate actions they were compelled to take in times of need, the following responses were recorded (table 21).

Table 21. Multiple choices of juveniles in terms of need/satisfaction

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Attend classes/work	626	16.06	320	16.43	946	16.18
Follow school activities	476	12.21	305	15.66	781	13.36
Attend to my master/teacher	521	13.37	218	11.19	739	12.64
Do domestic chores	925	23.74	330	16.94	1255	21.47
Play with friends in the neighbourhood	635	16.29	281	14.43	916	15.67
Sleep on my own	297	7.62	178	9.14	475	8.13
Watch films at home	291	7.48	223	11.45	514	8.79
Watch films at the cinema	126	3.23	93	4.77	219	3.75
Total	3897		1948		5845	

29 A significant number of youths were constructively employed, attending classes, assisting with domestic chores, etc. Seven hundred and thirty-three youths (about 13 %) watched films. The mass media is one of the veritable instruments in character or behaviour modification. Thus, the type of films watched or magazines and books read affects the behaviour of individuals considerably. In fact, the choices that people make are largely influenced by the conditions that surround them.

30 Table 22 shows the various uses to which youths put their pocket money or wages. Food and dress constitute more than two-thirds of use to which the youth put their income. Slightly over 7 per cent of the youths spent money on cigarettes.

31 The bond that exists between young people and significant others defines the extent to which the former conform to either group or societal norms. Generally, youths in Jos have very high (over 80 %) bonding patterns with the significant others made up of parents, teachers and the leaders of groups to which they belong. Both boys (45 per cent) and girls (53 per cent) have a significant bond with their parents. Youth involvement with peer groups constitute about 27 per cent, while those who are in constant contact with their teachers constitute another 7 per cent. Hoffmann (1993) argued that family structures have direct and indirect effects on adolescent drug use.

Table 22. Utilization of pocket money/income by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Buy food	650	32.29	231	31.64	881	32.12
Buy dress	674	33.48	233	31.92	907	33.07
Buy cigarette	122	6.06	71	9.73	193	7.04
Go to parties	84	4.17	44	6.03	128	4.67
No response	483	23.99	151	20.68	634	23.11
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 23. Assessment of juvenile bonding

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Group friends	550	27.32	194	26.58	744	27.12
Parents	907	45.06	387	53.01	1294	47.17
Teachers	148	7.35	47	6.44	195	7.11
No response	408	20.27	102	13.97	510	18.59
Total	2013		730		2743	

32 The majority of boys (1634) and girls (638) recognize bad influences (table 24). When youths are conscious of right and wrong, committing an offence will bring a feeling of remorse which can lead them into devising different methods of neutralizing the effects or excusing the offence (Matza, 1964). As table 25 shows, only about 11 per cent of the youths approved of deviant behaviour.

Table 24. Juvenile awareness of the influence of bad friends

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	1634	81.17	638	87.4	2272	82.83
No	268	13.31	85	11.64	353	12.87
No response	111	5.51	7	0.96	118	4.3
Total	2013		730		2743	

33 The assessment of how youth spend their time (table 26) indicates that most of them (about 30 %) are full time students. Another major segment of the youth population (26 %) engage in begging. Beggars are common in the Ungwan Rogo ward and along the Bauchi Road and Ahmadu Bello Way. The main market area in Jos is a popular rendezvous for both commercial and scrounging activities.

Table 25. Behaviour of bad friends approved by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	220	10.93	75	10.27	295	10.75
No	1721	85.49	624	85.48	2345	85.49
No response	72	3.58	31	4.25	103	3.76
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 26. Assessment of the main activities of juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Play and beg	506	25.14	204	27.95	710	25.88
Stay at the shop	248	12.32	139	19.04	387	14.11
Read and study books	543	26.97	286	39.18	829	30.22
Watch films/videos at home or cinema	189	9.39	51	6.99	240	8.75
Attend night parties	124	6.16	13	1.78	137	4.99
No response	403	20.02	47	6.44	450	16.41
Total	2013		730		2743	

34 Among the youths who spent their time watching TV or video, most of them preferred the period between 10 P. M. and 12 midnight and beyond. Late night movies often have a high content of overt sex and violence, which could have a negative influence on a young person's social development. It is not uncommon for youths to watch films till the early hours of the morning.

Table 27. Time preference for watching TV/videos by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
4-8 pm	621	30.85	861	31.39	709	25.85
10-12 pm and beyond	877	43.57	1194	43.53	527	19.21
No response	515	25.58	688	25.08	727	26.5
Total	2013		730		2743	

35 Table 28 indicates that about 27 per cent of the youths in Jos preferred action-packed films with plenty of violence while 26 per cent preferred comedies. However, there was a sharp contrast in the preference of films between boys and girls. Approximately 29 per cent of boys preferred war films, while 34 per cent of girls chose comedies. However, more girls (16 per cent) preferred detective/blue films than boys (12 per cent). Smah (1995c) observed that boys appeared more prone to violence than girls, which may also reflect their preference for violent films.

36 In response to situations of deprivation at school, work or at home (table 29) a small number youths admitted that they had resorted to stealing. More boys were involved in acts of theft than girls, but more girls stole with the intention of disposing of the stolen items. Begging was slightly more common among students, approximately 4 per cent reported to have begged for food or other items from friends.

Table 28. Types of films/videos preferred by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Comedies	460	22.85	249	34.11	709	25.85
Drama	386	19.18	141	19.32	527	19.21
War	576	28.61	151	20.68	727	26.5
Detective/ Blue movies	241	11.97	115	15.75	356	12.98
No response	350	17.39	74	10.14	424	15.46
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 29. Juvenile response to deprivation

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pick anybody's belonging	30	1.49	14	1.92	44	1.6
Beg for food/things	65	3.23	43	5.89	108	3.94
Steal and sell	18	0.89	10	1.37	28	1.02
Fight others because of envy	16	0.79	6	0.82	22	0.8
Sleep, do nothing	463	23.00	147	20.14	610	22.24
Go to friends	273	13.56	152	20.82	425	15.49
Help parents /guardians)	702	34.87	143	19.59	917	33.43
No response	446	0.22	215	0.29	599	0.22
Total	2013		730		2743	

37 Although most of the youths surveyed did not admit to being involved in acts of violence, about 82 per cent claimed to have witnessed physical combat (table 31).

38 Violence motivated by envy was not very significant; less than one per cent admitted getting into fights due to jealousy.

Table 30. Number of juveniles who had heard about physical combat

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	1458	72.43	544	74.52	2002	72.99
No	240	11.92	115	15.75	355	12.94
No response	315	15.65	71	9.73	386	14.07
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 31. Number of juveniles who had witnessed physical combat

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	1616	80.26	624	85.48	2240	81.66
No	178	8.84	36	4.93	214	7.8
No response	219	10.88	701	9.59	289	10.54
Total	2013		730		2743	

39 About 28 per cent confirmed their involvement in physical combat leading to injury (table 32). The youths were asked why they resorted to physical violence (table 33). Juvenile violence is usually personally motivated; peer pressure was the second most common response. Discussion with staff members and the examination of staff duty books indicated that many students had been influenced by their friends to commit such deviant acts as rape and stealing.

Table 32. Number of juveniles who participated in physical combat involving injuries

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	512	25.43	243	33.29	755	27.52
No	1271	63.14	444	60.82	1715	62.52
No response	230	11.43	43	5.89	273	9.95
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 33. Who instigated physical combat among juveniles?

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self	255	12.67	78	11.92	342	12.47
Brothers	60	2.98	17	2.33	77	2.81
Sisters	26	1.29	14	1.92	40	1.46
Friends	173	8.59	85	11.64	258	9.41
Teachers	16	0.79	25	3.42	41	1.49
Parents/guardians	31	1.54	15	2.05	46	1.68
No response	1462	72.63	487	66.71	1949	71.05
Total	2013		730		2743	

40 Two other important reasons stated by the respondents for engaging in personal combat included defending the rights of peers (about 7 %), and defending parents/ guardians against assault (about 6 %). As shown in table 34, protecting one's personal 'estate' and defending friends and family were the main reasons given for getting involved in fights.

Table 34. Reasons for physical combat by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Personal belongings stolen	205	10.18	82	11.23	287	10.46
Somebody beat my friend	154	7.65	46	6.3	200	7.29
Somebody beat my parent/ guardian	108	5.37	51	6.99	159	5.8
Somebody assaulted my brother	37	1.84	30	4.11	67	5.8
Did not know	38	1.89	34	4.66	67	2.44
No response	1471	73.08	487	66.71	1958	71.38
Total	2013		730		2743	

41 Apart from physical combat involving injuries, youths were asked to indicate whether they had participated in arson, assault. rioting and substance abuse. Table 35 indicates that as high as 13 per cent (boys) and 14 per cent (girls) in Jos have been involved in arson.

42 Approximately, 6 per cent of the boys and 4 per cent of the girls interviewed said that they had participated in burning down places of worship over the last six years (table 37). Although over 83 per cent of the sample did not respond to the survey question as to who instigated them to commit these acts of arson, those who did respond almost equally claimed peer pressure, parents and teachers (table 36).

Table 35. Wilful setting of buildings ablaze by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	267	13.26	105	14.38	372	13.56
No	961	47.74	481	65.89	1442	52.57
No response	785	39.00	144	19.73	929	33.87
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 36. Reasons for juvenile arson

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
I just did it	71	3.53	11	1.51	82	2.99
I was sent by my teacher	48	2.38	21	2.88	69	2.52
I was sent by my parents	74	3.68	17	2.33	91	3.32
Joined friends doing it	80	3.97	33	4.52	113	4.12
I don't know	64	3.18	24	3.29	88	3.21
No response	1676	83.26	624	85.48	2300	83.85
Total	2013		730		2743	

43 It is worrying that some teachers have played an influential role in inciting youths to violence. The recent rise in Islamic fundamentalism has led to an increase in the burning of shops/houses and places of worship. For example, on April 12th 1994, shops owned by non Hausa-Fulani in a section of the Jos main market were razed by youths suspected to be Hausa-Fulani. Following that incident, allegedly non Hausa-Fulani youths embarked on the destruction of Gada-Biyu market and Hausa-Fulani places of worship. Interpersonal and institutional conflicts are increasingly taking vengeful and violent patterns.

Table 37. Type of structures burnt by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
House (residence)	90	25.43	22	3.01	112	4.08
School	104	63.14	33	4.52	137	4.99
Place of worship	114	11.43	29	3.97	143	5.21
No response	1705	84.7	646	88.49	2351	85.71
Total	2013		730		2743	

44 Juveniles also admitted using sharp objects to injure others. Three hundred and thirty-five boys and 142 girls confirmed having used sharp objects on others (table 38). Thieves (7 %), were the main target of attack; followed by school-mates (about 4.5 %) and neighbours in residential areas (less than 4 %). Interpersonal conflicts resulting in violent physical assaults between youths and their parents are low. Less than one per cent of the total sample ever used a sharp object on their parents.

45 Quite a sizeable number of students admitted taking part in riots (table 40); approximately 23 per cent of the boys and 27 per cent of the girls.

Table 38. Use of sharp objects by juveniles to inflict injury on others

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	335	16.64	142	19.45	477	17.39
No	1023	50.82	404	55.34	1427	52.02
No response	655	32.54	184	25.21	839	30.59
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 39. Victims of assault by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Thieves	150	7.45	36	4.93	186	6.78
Neighbours	62	3.08	37	5.07	99	3.61
Strangers	56	2.78	17	2.33	73	2.66
Parents/guardians	26	1.3	1	0.14	27	0.98
Schoolmates	92	4.57	32	4.38	124	4.52
People in business	25	1.24	15	2.05	40	1.46
No response	1602	79.58	592	81.1	2194	79.99
Total	2013		730		2743	

46 Approximately 9 per cent of the youths admitted to using intoxicants on a regular basis, and before commiting any deviant act (table 41). The most popular drug was Indian hemp; nearly 38 per cent of the youth admitted to smoking hemp; another 25 per cent said they had used cocaine; and approximately 19 per cent said they drank spirits, or 'hot' drinks and another 3 per cent said they drank locally brewed gin. A small number, roughly 11 per cent of the sample, said that they mixed petrol, gamalin 20 and tube solution which they use as a weapon.

Table 40. Juvenile participation in riots

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	453	22.5	194	26.58	647	23.59
No	1092	54.25	476	65.21	1568	57.16
No response	468	23.25	60	8.22	528	19.25
Total	2013		730		2743	

Table 41. Drug use by juveniles

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	186	9.24	61	8.36	247	9.00
No	327	16.24	126	17.26	453	16.51
No response	1500	74.52	543	74.38	2043	74.48
Total	2013		730		2743	

47 Although more than 88 per cent of the group did not respond to this question, the 142 (about 5 per cent) who did said that they got their drugs from friends/relations; while 3 per cent said that they procurred the substances themselves (table 42). Approximately another 3 per cent claimed that their teachers supplied them; ten boys said they received intoxicants from their fathers. Eight boys got drugs from their masters or colleagues where they worked.

Table 42. Sources **of intoxicants and drugs used by juveniles**

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self	60	2.98	12	1.64	72	2.62
A good friend /relation	107	5.32	35	4.79	142	5.18
Father	10	0.5	0	0	10	0.36
Mother	0	0	1	0.14	1	0.04
Father and mother	10	0.5	1	0.14	11	0.4
Teacher in school	60	2.98	12	1.64	72	2.62
Master/colleague at work	8	0.4	0	0	8	0.29
No response	1758	87.33	669	91.64	2427	88.44
Total	2013		730		2743	

48 Substance abuse by youths poses serious health and social problems (Smah, 1995c). The use of depressants (alcohol and marijuana), stimulants (cocaine), narcotics and other psychotropic substances affect the biological, physical and social lives of individuals. The extent to which drugs are abused among juveniles is indeed a manifestation of the degree of apathy in the larger society.

49 Table 43 indicates how long the youths in the sample survey have been taking drugs and alcohol. Sixty-four youths indicated that they had been using drugs for over six years. Another 181 had been using various intoxicants for one to five years. The majority, however, (243) were fairly new to the drug scene, having used drugs for only one to two months.

Table 43. How long juveniles have been using drugs

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2 days to 4 weeks ago	60	7.95	55	7.53	215	7.84
1-2 months ago	167	8.3	76	10.41	243	8.86
1-5 years ago	139	6.91	42	5.75	181	6.6
6 and more years ago	55	2.73	9	1.23	64	2.33
No response	1496	74.32	548	75.07	2044	74.52
Total	2013		730		2743	

50 Juvenile violence was mainly carried out by individuals in the company of others (table 44). Less than 5 per cent of youths committed offences alone. Most crimes (about 13 per cent) were committed by gangs of more than three and about 11 per cent involved two or three youths. As such, peers provide a basis for continued reinforcement of violent and delinquent values in what can be termed 'gang' culture.

Table 44. Number of juveniles involved in deviant activities

	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls combined	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Alone	92	4.57	18	2.47	110	4.01
2-3	187	9.29	75	10.27	262	9.55
more than 3	253	12.57	90	12.33	343	12.5
No response	1481	73.57	547	74.93	2028	73.93
Total	2013		730		2743	

51 Statistics from the Jos Police State Headquarters for the years 1987-1995 (table 45) indicate that juvenile delinquency grew from 3.9 per cent in 1987 to 28.83 per cent in 1990, crimes committed by youth decreased in 1989 to 0.3 per cent, and 1991 (10.81 %), while the peak was reached in 1993 (30.63 %). This again dropped to 13.51 per cent in 1994 and 12.01 per cent in 1995. These oscillations notwithstanding, the occurence of economic crimes such as house-breaking and store-breaking was consistent throughout the period under analysis.

Table 45. Patterns and trends of juvenile delinquency (1986-1996)

	1987	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1995	Total	%
Housebreaking	4	1	14	6	4	3	12	44	13.21
Storebreaking	8	-	6	1	7	2	4	28	8.41
Fraud	-	-	4	-	1	-	3	8	2.4
Forgery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	0.3
Unlawful possession	-	-	52	1	-	1	2	56	16.82
Receive stolen goods	-	-	17	1	-	-	-	18	5.41
Murder	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3	0.9
Suicide	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.3
Attempt murder	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.3
Grievous harm	-	-	-	7	5	11	8	31	9.31
Assault	1	-	2	11	79	20	10	123	36.94
Rape/Assault	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	0.3
Fight with violence	-	-	-	6	2	2	-	10	3
Arson	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	8	2.4
Total	13	1	96	36	102	45	40	333	
%	3.9	0.3	28.83	10.81	30.63	13.51	12.01		100

Source: SUB, State Headquarters, Jos

52 In respect of personal crimes (which is our main focus here), an average of 7.75 cases of grievous harm were treated and recorded by the Police in Jos metropolis between 1991 and 1995. An average of 17.57 cases of assault were recorded and treated between 1987 and 1995, while an average of 3.33 cases of fighting without physical violence were recorded in 1991, 1993 and 1994. Cases of interpersonal violence tended to characterize the 1990s more than the 1980s. These trends are not unconnected with the increasing population of the city occasioned by a growth rate of 3.5 per cent and the politically and religiously motivated migrations to Jos in the late 1980s and early 1990s. These factors, however, have resulted in a severe strain on social services and impacted negatively on the Jos urban social life, earlier known for its relative peacefulness.

Discussion

p. 55-64

1 The issue of juvenile delinquency is a matter of great concern to parents and indeed the entire society. Manifestations of juvenile delinquency in Jos transcend many levels of social relationships. Juvenile delinquency is a social aberration that arises from a combination of factors. Essentially, anti-social behaviour reflects the strains and emotional stress experienced by individuals in the society. In discussing the various manifestations of juvenile delinquency in Jos metropolis, we will look closely at the following issues as they relate to youths generally.

- Economic and socio-political attributes of juvenile delinquency
- Girls, juvenile delinquency and violence
- Religion, juvenile delinquency and violence

Economic and Socio-political Attributes of Juvenile Delinquency

2 Nigerian socio-political and economic conditions, as in other developing societies, leave much to be desired. Acts of deviance are becoming the norm. The rule of law and respect for human rights are increasingly ignored by the very people expected to be the custodians of justice. The social environment in which children are brought up is visibly violent. This is one explanation for the growing trend in juvenile delinquency and the explosive nature of violence among youths. The social institutions that support child rearing, child socialization and stabilization are not stable. Principal among these institutions are the family, the religious organizations and the school system. Only 15 per cent of youths in the survey group affirmed that their parents lived together, but this does not tell us whether they are committed to the upbringing of their children and wards.

3 Stagnating economic conditions have forced many parents and guardians to look for extra work. This removes them from the home for unusually extended periods. Homes without parents result in an almost total neglect of the children. On the other hand, the *loveless* affluence of some parents also generates a poverty of morals among young people. The obsession of some parents with the acquisition of wealth exposes children

to unsuitable lifestyles stemming from the general moral laxity in the country. Nigerian educated youths are hitting out in anger and frustration at a society that has mortgaged their future.

4 Youths are exposed to the immoral behaviour of 'significant others' (teachers, religious leaders, parents and guardians, etc.) in their homes, schools and in the media. Non-deviant youths in the society when '... left to the mercy of corrupted media' can become involved in deviant behavior (Smah, 1995a: 43). Furthermore, Smah's (1995c) study on the media and the use of alcohol and tobacco among secondary school students in Jos reported that the effects of media advertisements in shaping the consumption pattern of people are pervasive.

5 The role of religion in moulding the character of children is waning in today's urban setting. Even though many youths identify with one type of religion or the other, deviant behaviour is on the increase. Religion is often manipulated by operators of the state apparatus/structure. As the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI, 1984) noted, a useful starting point in understanding social deviance, juvenile delinquency or adult criminality within a social context depends on the definition of these concepts. The state and its agents define the conduct of citizens in specific ways. The personal intents and interests of government ultimately define the way society responds in both official and non-official ways to the issues of crime, delinquency and deviance.

6 In Nigeria, sharp divisions along economic or social lines locate individuals and groups differently within the dominant culture. Over the last decade, there have been a number of movements of individuals and groups from other cultural contexts into the city of Jos. The circumstances of their migration could result in the Mertonian cultural vacuum known as anomie or normlessness. Survival, in most cases, requires partial or complete abandonment of learned norms of conduct. The vacuum is filled rather rapidly as individuals join with others and collectively form subcultural groups that provide the conduct, norms, institutions and techniques of coping with the shared situation (UNSDRI, 1984: 14).

7 The completely new cultural environment provides, as it were, a 'moral holiday' in which ethics become less and less binding on the conduct of the individual. The emergence of juvenile gangs is one of the aftermaths of cultural transmission. The United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI) (1984) noted that:

> *The size, structure and degree of internal solidarity of such groups vary from loose associations better characterized as 'near-groups ' to well organized structures with hierarchies, divisions of labour and patterned responses to the outside world. The behavioural norms governing individual conduct within the group depend in part on the opportunities afforded by it to meet the needs of its individual members – money, status, socialization, etc. and on the reaction of the wider society, particularly official reaction*, (p. 14)

8 The study further posited that although individuals are marginalized as far as participation in the legitimate economy is concerned in the society:

> *They frequently have some ties to other social, linguistic and ethnic groups, their family, perhaps their school and other friendship networks. Paradoxically, there may be little conflict in personal goals or measure of social prestige between members of groups labelled as delinquent and those not so stigmatized. The differences that may exist may only be in the means that can be used to achieve universally accepted goals.* (p. 15)

9 When the political and the business classes indulge in prodigious corruption, official agencies of social control lose their legitimacy and the moral fabric of society is consequently undermined. Where family ties and traditional kinship values break down, the individual is free from the exigencies of conformity.

10 Juvenile delinquency and violence cannot be explained without reference to broad cultural forces in the society, namely, the marginal positions occupied by individuals in the opportunity structure of the larger society. A critical examination of the wider economic, social and cultural factors provides not only the setting within which juvenile delinquency and violence take place, but also suggests the reasons for them. In the present study, the majority of respondents came from middle to low income families, who find it difficult to make ends meet.

11 In Nigeria, cultural, social and economic factors cannot be divorced from the total political framework of the country. Nigeria's post-independence history has been a tale of political instability and corruption. Successive Nigerian governments since independence, have had to contend with political acrimony, official corruption, fraudulent practices and social injustice. The marginalization and economic deprivation of the majority of the citizenry breed injustice, vice, and corruption. The constant closures of industries/factories and schools due to unresolved industrial disputes and low capacity levels of production have had deleterious consequences. For example, the frequent closure of schools affects the process of learning; and since many parents in the city are salaried labourers, they cannot absorb their children into their economic activities. When the schools close, for whatever reason, the children and wards drift and fall into 'bad' company. As Sutherland (1947) argued in the theory of differential association, 'the principal part of learning criminal behaviour occurs within intimate personal groups'. A high number of youths in Jos are members of peer associations (table 23). This is a veritable source of violence and other forms of delinquency.

12 Wolfgang and Ferracuti (1967) presented a very clear psychological position 'that the greater the degree of integration of individuals into a sub-culture or a gang, the higher the probability that their behaviour will be violent in a number of situations'. Thus, there is a direct sociological relationship between rates of violent behaviour and the extent to which the sub-culture of violence represents a cluster of values around the theme of violence.

13 Thornberry, Lizotte and Kron (1994) observed in their Rochester Youth Development Study that associating with delinquent peers increases delinquency through the reinforcing environment of the peer network. Engaging in delinquency, in turn, increases the association with delinquent peers.

14 We can also attribute violence in Jos to the culture of poverty in which many families have been trapped. In a study of the children of Sanchez in Mexico, Oscar Lewis pointed out that some people in backward societies and in urban slums in industrial societies are economically, culturally, psychologically and socially entrapped. Over the years, they apparently develop a way of life which represents an adjustment to their deprivation. In modern times, poverty is not only a state of economic deprivation or the absence of something. It also implies the constitution of 'defence mechanisms' predicated on the imperative of survival. Lewis pointed out that the poor, entrapped in a culture of poverty, struggle for survival under conditions of unemployment and

underemployment. This often breeds a culture of violence. The fallout from such violence is often police brutality.

15 The police, however, see themselves as the custodians of justice. They also 'negotiate' justice with the recalcitrant children and wards of the rich and socially powerful in society (Circourel, 1968a). Information on youth crimes in Nigeria is almost non-existent. The reports available represent the crimes of the poor and disadvantaged, whose deprivation and social exclusion make them vulnerable to the police.

16 The aetiology, patterns and dynamism of criminal activities reside in the social structure of the society (Alemika, 1986; Odekunle, 1977, 1982; Ahire, 1981; and Oloruntimehin, 1983). Policing a corrupt society only widens the dimensions of criminal injustice, inequality and inequity. The high level of poverty makes it impossible for the average 'Nigerian to afford the services of a lawyer to redress perceived injustice. He becomes the victim of a system in which justice and fair play hardly exist. The values and norms of the few with enormous economic and political power are translated into law and enforced on the masses. Law enforcement agents are used as instruments of coercion and oppression. Ordinary human conduct becomes criminalized. This explains why criminal statistics express the actions of members of the politically and economically powerless classes. Does this mean that the upper classes and their children do not commit crimes? On the contrary, they are involved in sophisticated delinquent acts, such as drug abuse, drug pushing, drug addiction, fraud, theft and assault (Smah, 1995c). The main difference is that their parents and relations use their powerful connections to bail them out, to 'negotiate' justice, and to obliterate any trace of their offences in the official records.

Girls, juvenile delinquency and violence

17 The traditional view of crime is that it is mainly a male problem. Alcoholism, for example, is seen as a male habit. This also goes for drug abuse, smoking and drug trafficking, among others. It is generally believed that young women do not commit crimes, but research is mounting to support a contrary position about women and deviance.

18 During the last fourteen years, women have been observed to play a leading role in drug trafficking across the international frontiers of Nigeria (Ene, 1992). Using their feminine *charms,* some of them have been responsible for car snatching at gun point on major roads in Nigeria. Smoking and alcohol abuse among young women are also on the increase. In an ongoing research (Smah, 1996), interesting patterns are being revealed about female alcoholism.

19 From the sample of girls interviewed, our general observation from all the tabulations is that girls are equally involved in all categories of deviance. This shows that gender dichotomy, as an important variable in modern social research, may facilitate the understanding of patterns of delinquency and crime in the society. A number of girls are involved in substance abuse as a normal part of living and as a prelude to committing a deviant act.

20 As earlier noted, the intermeshing of political, economic, cultural and social factors serve as the criminogenics from which diverse kinds of criminal and immoral activities arise and thrive. Female juvenile delinquency and violence, therefore, cannot be

explained or understood as isolated or pathological phenomena set apart from and alien to the broad cultural forces in Nigeria. Criminogenic factors are deeply rooted in society-wide processes; they do not arise magically from the internal workings of either male or female groups. It is our contention that the stress and strain arising from the past 15 years of economic depression in the country has exposed more women to incriminating circumstances in the work place, school, and at home, making delinquency and crime no longer the preserve of men (Smah 1996b).

21 Conclusions from other self-reporting studies in the United States strengthen the findings of the present research. For example, the study conducted by Powers and Witmer (1951), used a sample of 101 youths of whom 61 had never appeared in court previously. The youths were found to have committed a total of 6,416 offences, of which only 95 (1.5 %) were brought to court for hearing. Though 616 of these offences were *serious,* including a number of assaults, only 68 of them (.2 %) were punished. Short and Nye (1958) also used a group questionnaire approach and selected a sample of high school students and compared them with incarcerated delinquents. Ann-Kay (1961) in her Ph. D. dissertation found that females were more involved in violent crimes than males (30.2 % to 11.3 %). These authors concluded that there were no significant differences in delinquent behaviour for boys and girls of different social classes.

22 Our data also confirms that delinquency among young women is increasing. This is a manifestation of a deep-seated moral crisis that reflects the prevailing social and eco-political orders. Female delinquency is, thus, showing us another side of the declining economic power of many families in Nigeria. Many males can no longer legitimately support the family. Many females (particularly in today's industrial societies) have had to take the challenge of working outside the home in order to complement the efforts of the males. As such, adolescent girls both in school and out, are increasingly being used to raise funds for the family's upkeep. Child labour is a dynamic phenomenon in contemporary Nigerian society. For example, many women now keep late nights with their teenage girls, frying and selling yam and bean cakes ('akara') in order to support the family.

23 The 'blessings' of the industrial and technological revolutions, and the anonymity of the modern industrial urban centres, increasingly devalue the sanctity of certain institutions such as the family. Premarital proscriptions are viewed with skepticism by youths today. Our survey revealed that many youths have more than three sexual partners (table 19). Indiscriminate adolescent sexual activity has become part of the lives of teenagers. Bell and Chaskes (1968) noted that sexual activity and premarital sexual experiences increased among girls between 1958 and 1968. Similar trends have been observed in Jos.

Religion, Juvenile Delinquency and Violence

24 Religious identity is one of the most potent determinants of integration in Nigeria. Thus, it has increasingly acquired a place of prominence in Nigerian economic and political life. The place accorded religion by government, however, is intended to mythologize the economic and political interest of state operators. Since the Babangida era (1985 to date) religion has become more important in job placement, promotion, transfer and the overall distribution of opportunities and resources among the citizens

of the country. Disputes have arisen principally between the adherents of Christian and Islamic religions. African traditional religious practitioners and adherents of other faiths tend to be forgotten when religious lines are being drawn. More Christians than Muslims were interviewed during this study. The primary data revealed some practitioners of African traditional religion, etc., but most of the respondents claimed either Islam or Christianity, given that many people hardly confess publicly that they are members of traditional religions.

25 Religion is expected to play a positive role in shaping the character of adherents towards peace and stability in the society. This study, however, revealed that religion has had little affect on juvenile delinquency and violence in Jos.

26 Dr. Bala Usman (1985) noted that the state manipulates religion by its interventions. These interventions, are regarded as desirable if religion plays the role of sensitizing adherents to the need to eschew violence and moral impropriety. Successive governments in Nigeria have only used religion to gain and sustain legitimacy. This is largely responsible for religious violence in the country. Religious institutions have become a veritable source of violence and delinquency. The *almajirai* and *yaro boys* (beggar and messenger juvenile classes, respectively) are of the view that delinquency and crime are perpretated by the 'unattached' members of society.

Conclusions

p. 64-66

1 From the foregoing, it can be perceived that delinquency is a function of several factors. These factors are summarized below:

1. Juvenile delinquency and juvenile violence arise from peer group influences. Many instances of delinquent behaviour evolve from the contacts made between slightly deviant or non-deviant populations and those already established in deviant patterns. The existence of gangs in schools, work places and neighbourhoods facilitates the admission and socialization of new members into the norms and values already in existence. This process of socialization and internalization of subcultural values, ethics and norms continues as long as allegiance of members to the group is secured, maintained and sustained.
2. Juvenile delinquency also thrives due to the breakdown of moral values in the dominant culture. The disorientation of the main cultural role/expectations in achieving positive moral, mental and physical development of youths tends to confuse children about what is right or wrong in given specific conditions and situations. Where emphasis, for example, is placed on attaining success without a corresponding emphasis on just and socially acceptable means of attaining it, young members of the society will grow up doing what they presume to be right.
3. Like peer group pressure, role-images portrayed in the mass media have an impressive effect on character moulding and decision making. As long as the media is not a vehicle for the positive inculcation of acceptable social values, unacceptable values, when allowed on the air-waves, will accomplish negative results in the youths of the society. Uncontrolled use of the media, especially the television, to advertise goods which are sometimes dangerous to the health of users, exposes youths early in life to the unhealthy side effects of the items so advertised.
4. Juvenile delinquency is also seen to emerge from poor housing and the lack of other social infrastructures. The provision of good housing/shelter for members of the society is one of the principal indicators of good living. Where houses are insufficient in number, slum housing will emerge on the verges of planned residential areas. Squatter or slum houses and overcrowded accommodation give

rise to some forms of youth crimes and violence. In such areas, drug abuse, drug trafficking and gang violence thrive.

5. The rising trend of personal crimes perpetrated by young people in Jos is an attestation of the general growing levels of such crimes in the country. This conclusion applies to all forms of delinquency and crime as a function of the workings of the socio-political, economic and cultural orders of the Nigerian society. Social, legal economic and political imbalances, injustices, and inequalities in terms of access to the distribution of national or state resources, occasion the inaccessibility of good education, housing, medical care, and food. Although not every child who lacks these things will ultimately become deviant, the majority of youths who eventually become delinquent are in need of all these basic survival requirements.
6. Juvenile delinquency and violence analyzed on gender lines only help to strengthen the internal consistencies and external validities of the conclusion that both females and males commit deviant acts. In modern Nigerian cities, more and more females are employed in industry and the civil service. A good number, too, are not sufficiently sustained by their male parents or guardians and have had to secure a means of livelihood (legitimate or illegitimate) for themselves. Child labour, whether of males or females, places children in positions where they are abused by adults. The absence of social security provisions by the state also aggravates poverty.

Recommendations

p. 66-67

1 Juvenile delinquency is a very serious social problem that requires urgent, purposeful and practical solutions. Therefore, in order to stem the tide of juvenile delinquency in the society, specific steps must be taken:

1. **Substance Abuse.** To reverse this trend, massive campaigns by governmental and non-governmental organizations should be mounted in neighbourhoods, schools and in other public places. Such educative campaigns can be carried out through seminars, workshops and through the mobilization of individual and community sentiments. The circulation of leaflets and pamphlets among the literate members of the society should be encouraged. TV and radio as well as newspapers and magazines are other possible avenues to be exploited.
2. **Adolescent Sexuality.** Most youths are sexually active in their teens. Nonetheless, the exposure of teenagers to sexual experience should be controlled through adequate sex education by parents, NGOs and relevant government ministries
3. **Theft, stealing, burglary and robbery.** Three groups are relevant in stemming the tide of petty stealing, theft, armed robbery and burglary: the community/ neighbourhood, the police and NGOs. Every community should set up a neighbourhood vigilante group. Community-based organizations and other NGOs should assist in encouraging people to protect their environment from invasion by robbers. The state should equip the police with modern crime fighting equipment.
4. **Arson.** Juveniles who engage in acts of arson have different reasons. The basic preventive measures lie in government ensuring the safety of lives and property.
5. **Grievous assault.** Assault with violence often stems from the frustrations inherent in the entire body-politic. People will act violently if their legitimate expectations are frustrated by the system. The only rational way out is to reduce structural imbalances in terms of access to the basic means of livelihood. These must be addressed in such a manner as to ensure that the future of youths is more promising. Unless this is done, drug abuse, vandalism, violence and robbery will continue to rise.

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Appendix

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Questionnaire

Research in Human Sciences and the Humanities

Dear Respondent,

We are undertaking a study of an important aspect of human development, which requires your kind cooperation. We would request you to kindly respond to the questions hereunder as truthfully as you can. We assure you that every information you provide shall be treated confidentially. Thank you.

Part A: Juvenile Biosocial Data: (Tick the appropriate answers)

1. Sex: 01M [] 02 F []

2. Age: [years] 01 under 14 [] 02 15 – 17 []

3. Religion: 01 Christianity [] 02 Islam [] 03 Traditional African [] 04 Others []

4. Number of Siblings: 01 0-6 [] 02 7-12 [] 03 13+ []

5. Position among Siblings: 01 1st – 3rd [] 02 4th and above []

6. Highest Qualification: 01 None [] 02 Koranic [] 03 Some primary [] 04 Primary [] 05 Some Secondary [] 06 Secondary [] 07 After Secondary but not yet in post secondary institution [] 08 Tertiary []

Part B: Socio-economic Attributes of Parents/Guardians of Juveniles

1. Father's occupation: 01 Force/Military [] 02 Civil Servant [] 03 Business [] 04 Farming [] 05 Carpentry/Mason/Others []

2. Mother's occupation: 01 Force/Military [] 02 Civil servant [] 03 Business [] 04 Farming [] 05 Carpentry/Mason/Others []

3. Father's religion: 01 Christianity [] 02 Islam [] 03 Others

4. Mother's religion: 01 Christianity [] 02 Islam [] 03 Others

5. Parent's/guardian's type of residential quarters: 01 1-room [] 02 2-rooms [] 03 3-room [] 04 4-room []

6. Present marital status of parents/guardians: 01 Married [] 02 Separated [] 03 Widowed [] 04 Divorced []

7. How many wives does your father have? 01 1 [] 02 2 [] 04 More than 3 [] 05 None []

8. If he has many, do they all live with him? 01 Yes [] 02 No [] 03 I don't know []

9. If yes (Q.8), how many of them? 01 2 [] 02 3 [] 03 4 + []

Part C: Socio-economic Background of Juveniles

1. Ownership of school attended/attending: 01 Government [] 02 Private [secular] [] 03 Private religious []

2 Type of work you do: 01 Business [] 02 Hawking [] 03 I don't know []

3. Ownership of your place of work: 01 Both parents [] 02 Mother only [] 03 Father only [] 04 Government [] 05 Parents and others []

4. Number of boy/girl friends that you have sex with: 01 1 [] 02 2 [] 03 3 [] 04 4+ []

5. Who do you live with? 01 Both parents [] 02 Mother only [] 03 Father only [] 04 With relative/guardian [] 05 With friend (s) []

6. Who provides for your welfare? 01 Both parents [] 02 Father only [] 03 Mother only [] 04 Parents' friends [] 05 A good teacher in my school/area []

7. Indicate what you normally do when your parents/guardians provide you what you need (tick as many as apply to you).

01 Attend classes, read and do my assignments []

02 Follow school activities []

03 Do what my masters/teachers tell me to do []

04 Do domestic chores with my parents/guardians []

05 Play with friends in the neighbourhood []

06 Go on parents' errands []

07 Sleep on my own []

08 Watch films at home/cinema halls ()

8. Where you go when free from school/home/work.

01 Outside the school compound ()

02 To the street []

03 Stay at home resting []

04 Visit my peer group friends [[

05 Call on my teachers []

9. What do you do with your pocket money/pay?

01 Buy food []

02 Buy dress []

03 Buy cigarettes []

04 Buy party tickets []

10. Who do you stay with most of the time?

01 Friends []

02 Parents []

03 Teachers []

11. Do you know any bad friend (s)?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

12. If yes (Q. 15), do you like the way the person (s) do (es) things?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

13. What do you do most of the time?

01 Play and beg with friends in and out of home/school |]

02 Stay at the shop []

03 Read and study my books (]

04 Watch films/videos |]

05 Attend night parties f]

06 Attend cinemas []

14. If you watch tv/videos, what is your time preference?

01 4 pm-8pm []

02 10 pm-12 midnight and beyond []

15. What type of films/videos do you prefer?

01 Comedies []

02 Dramas []

03 War films []

04 Detectives/blue movies []

16. What if our parents/guardians do not provide what you need when at school/ home/work?

01 Pick anybody's belongings that I can find []

02 Go out and beg for food/other things []

03 Secretly take anything I see and sell it for money []

04 Fight other people, because I don't have what they have []

05 Sleep without doing anything []

06 Go away to my group friends to find what to satisfy our needs []

07 Help my parents []

17. Ever heard of a fight between two or more people?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

18. Ever witnessed a fight between two or more people?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

19. Ever participated in a fight?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

20. If yes (Q.19), who got you involved in the fight?

01 Self [] 02 Brothers [] 03 Sisters [] 04 Friends []

05 Teachers [] 06 Parents/guardians []

21. Why did you get involved in the action (Q.19)?

01 My belonging was stolen []

02 Somebody beat my friend []

03 Somebody beat my parents/guardians []

04 Somebody beat my brothers/sisters []

05 I don't know []

22. Ever set fire to a building?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

23. If yes (Q.22) Why?

01 I just did it []

02 I was sent by my teacher []

03 I was sent by my parents []

04 I saw others doing it []

05 I don't know []

24. If yes (Q.22), what type of building?

01 House [] 02 School [] 03 Mosque [] 04 Church []

25. Ever used a sharp object on somebody resulting in injuries?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

26. If yes (Q.25), who did you use the object on?

01 Thief [] 02 Neighbour in our quarters [] 03 Stranger []

04 Father [] 05 Mother [] 06 School mate []

07 Somebody in the area of business []

27. Ever participated in a riot?

01 Yes [] 2 No []

28. If yes (Q.27), what time of the day was that?

01 Night [] 02 Day []

29. Did you drink, inhale, smoke or eat something before doing what

you indicatd in (QQ. 19-27)?

01 Yes [] 02 No []

Describe what you normally use and/or did use before the action

30. If yes (Q.29), who gave you the substance that you used or are using?

01 Self []

02 A good friend/relation of mine []

03 Father []

04 Mother []

05 Father and mother []

06 Teacher in school []

07 Master []

31. With whom did you do what you did (QQ. 19-29)?

01 Alone [] 02 With a friend (s) [] 03 With a crowd []

32. When first did you do that (i.e. use the substance)?

01 2 days to 4 weeks ago []

02 1-2 months ago []

03 1-5 years ago []

04 6 and more years ago []

33. When last did you do that (i.e. use the substance)?

01 2 days to 4 weeks ago []

02 1-2 months ago []

03 1-5 years ago []

04 6 and more years ago []