Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

The basic expectation and reward for citizens under the social contract agreement between the government and the governed is perhaps socio-economic progress in the form of improvement in the living conditions of the populace. Socio-economic development represents the core purpose of governance, encompassing both political and economic aspects. Socio-economic development is a multidimensional concept that encompasses the improvement of various aspects of a society's well-being, including both social and economic factors. It represents a holistic and balanced approach to advancing the quality of life for individuals and communities[1].

Socio-economic development places a strong emphasis on enhancing the social aspects of a society. This includes factors such as education, healthcare, housing, access to clean water, sanitation, and overall living conditions. The goal is to ensure that all members of the society have access to essential services and live in conditions that promote their health and well-being. It means that members of the society are able to access education, healthcare, housing and leisure facilities that stimulate and promote healthy social interactions. Most importantly, social development works in synergy with economic development which is exemplified by economic prosperity.

Economic development is a core component of socio-economic development. It involves increasing the productivity and wealth of a nation or community. This can be achieved through factors such as economic growth, job creation, increased income levels, and poverty reduction. A robust and diversified economy is seen as essential for improving people's standard of living[2]. Socio-economic development also

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considers how income and wealth are distributed within a society. It seeks to reduce income inequality and ensure that economic benefits are shared equitably among different segments of the population. In essence it means that all members of the society are able to afford a decent life even if some would not be able to afford luxurious goods and services. This involves implementing policies and programs that address disparities in wealth and access to economic opportunities.

Another key indicator of socio-economic development is access to education and human capital development opportunities. Education is a critical driver of socio-economic development. It involves not only access to formal education but also opportunities for lifelong learning and skill development. Investing in human capital, which includes the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the workforce, is seen as vital for long-term development[3]. Experts believe that socio-economic development plays a pivotal role in facilitating educational progress. With advancements in the education system, government officials strive to ensure the continuous provision of skill development and knowledge opportunities to the general population.

This is done with the aim of fostering the creation of employment opportunities, enhancing the availability of sophisticated healthcare equipment and services, improving the transportation system, and ensuring the security of lives and properties of citizens. Indeed, it provides the essential elements that unleash the potential for greatness and limitless opportunities within a nation. It is evident that socio-economic development primarily focuses on the advancement of economic growth, as evidenced by the rise in gross domestic product, industrialization, capital accumulation, provision of welfare services, and the enhancement of infrastructure such as transportation, electricity, roads, and increased economic efficacy[4].

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Unhindered access to quality healthcare services and overall health outcomes are central to socio-economic development. Healthy populations are more productive, and healthcare systems that provide preventive and curative care contribute to improved well-being. Developed nations boast of robust healthcare systems with well-equipped hospitals and top health professionals capable of treating any ailment and who can also conduct research to find cure to major diseases. This is not readily available in developing countries and it is something to be aspired to[5]. Health care and other socio-economic indices are hinged on available infrastructure.

Adequate infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and communication networks, is essential for economic development and improved overall living conditions. Access to basic services such as electricity, clean water, sanitation, and transportation plays a significant role in socio-economic development. Furthermore, there is no discussion of socio-economic development without mentioning sustainable development. This is a concept that emphasizes responsible resource management and environmental conservation to ensure that development efforts do not harm the environment or compromise the well-being of future generations[6].

The need for socio-economic development has been on the front burner of national discourse in Nigeria. There is endemic poverty in Nigeria, especially for people living in rural areas, which are home to more than 70% of the nation's poor. Development indicators for all parts of Nigeria is concerning: incomes are low, infant mortality rates are high, life expectancy is shorter, there are a lot of out of school children, malnutrition is more prevalent, and greater proportions of people lack access to clean water and improved sanitation services[7].

One of the most pressing challenges confronting Nigeria is the pervasive issue of poverty. This predicament has become endemic due to the alarming rates of

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unemployment that characterize these regions[8]. Poverty continues to loom as the primary impediment to the successful harnessing of human resources for both the social and economic advancement of nations. Shockingly, over a billion people worldwide endure extreme poverty. In Nigeria, poverty is escalating in both prevalence and severity. Despite the country's abundant resources, it is plagued by a low Gross Domestic Product (GDP), meagre per capita income, soaring unemployment, underutilization of industrial capacity, and a high birth rate[9].

The issue of socio-economic stagnation in Nigeria is multifaceted; with challenges that includes limited access to quality healthcare, elevated infant mortality rates, deficient infrastructure, unemployment, underemployment, and corruption[10]. Impoverished individuals lack the means to engage significantly in the economy, either as producers of goods and services or as labour suppliers. The correlation between employment performance and poverty prevalence is evident, with poverty rates mirroring the consistently high levels of recorded unemployment since the 1980s.

In order to boost socio-economic development, the common suggestion is to prioritize the development of entrepreneurial skills[11,12]. The focus has mostly been Nigeria's high unemployment and poverty levels. Entrepreneurship thus emerges as a valuable tool in the battle against poverty, as entrepreneurs have contributed to job creation and wealth generation[13]. This underscores the vital role of entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation.

Reducing poverty constitutes one of the most formidable challenges confronting developing countries, where a substantial proportion of the population typically resides below the poverty line. Evidence from Nigeria demonstrates an alarming upward trend in the number of individuals living in poverty[14]. However, it is

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important to focus on other factors militating against the socio-economic development of Nigeria. These are factors that could be stifling entrepreneurship and other socio-economic activities in the country. One of the factors that can ruin existing businesses and prevent the setting up of new one is the insecurity posed by criminal activities such as armed robbery.

Insecurity can be defined as a psychological condition characterized by feelings of fear or anxiety resulting from the absence or insufficiency of protective measures. The concept of insecurity can be understood from two distinct perspectives. Firstly, insecurity refers to the condition of being vulnerable or exposed to potential harm or threat, with harm being the state of being prone to sustaining injuries[14]. Furthermore, insecurity can be defined as the condition of being susceptible to potential risks and anxieties, with anxiety being a subjective and indistinct negative sensation that arises in anticipation of potential adversity. The aforementioned definitions of insecurity emphasize a significant aspect: individuals experiencing insecurity are not solely characterized by uncertainty or lack of awareness of potential outcomes, but also by their susceptibility to threats and hazards as they materialize[15]. Insecurity in Nigeria can come from various sources such as banditry, kidnapping, insurgency, militancy and other criminal activities such as armed robbery.

Armed robbery is a criminal activity in which innocent people are forcibly deprived of their legal possessions by an armed person or group of people. A scholar attempted to distinguish armed robbery by stating that armed robbery is crime of theft by force or by threat of force while stealing involves taking someone else's property without such person's permission[16]. Conceptually and legally, the concept of armed robbery is defined by the use of a weapon by the criminal. This is why a scholar also defined

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armed robbery is a sort of crime where a weapon or weapons are used to intimidate, coerce, and deny a person the right to their own private, public, or corporate property.

Nigeria has emerged as a conducive environment for audacious criminals and various forms of illegal activities[17]. According to the report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), there was a notable prevalence of armed robbery incidents in seven states within the country. These figures indicated many states as having a higher propensity for crime, namely Oyo, Imo, Rivers, Kano, Ogun, Cross River, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the incidence of robbery attacks, causing a heightened sense of panic among the most vulnerable members of society. The majority of instances of robbery occur within establishments such as banks, petrol stations, and shopping malls, among other locations[18].

Armed robbery incidents are now common throughout the nation with the robbers focusing on high-net-worth entities such as banks, shopping mall and even churches. The criminals employ a variety of weapons, including knives and guns, at varying degrees of power. Today, news of armed robbery is rife. Daily newspaper reports, television news headlines, radio announcements, and social media reports have all revealed that armed robbery activity is alarming in Nigeria. Nobody truly knows where or when they will strike, consequently, both the wealthy and the destitute are constantly living in fear. According to 2021 Nigeria police crime records, there were a startlingly large number of violent crimes, with 25,000 persons killed between 2017 and 2020. This indicates a rate that is ten times the global average. Reports of home invasions in private residences are included[16].

Similar to other African nations, Nigeria has been dealing with a variety of violent crimes, including rape, armed robbery, assault, murder, and kidnapping. In the

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modern Nigerian society, armed robbery is a pervasive social issue that has a detrimental impact on many people's lives and social interactions. It entails theft, which involves the use of force, violence, or threats of violence. Armed robbery is as old as mankind, and it exists in all communities that are currently known both developed and developing[19].

Scholars have opined that, for a crime to occur there must be victims, offenders and properties located at a point over a given period of time[20]. For any crime to occur, there must be a motivated offender; a suitable target and the absence of someone or something like close circuit television that can act as a protector. For every 'successful' robbery attack, there must be a victim or victims. Law-abiding Nigerians have been suffering at the hands of armed gangs for decades. Crimes such as armed robbery have become a serious threat to life and socio-economic activities of the people all over the world[21].

Armed robberies and other crimes, fuel corruption, infiltrate businesses, politics and destabilize growth and development of any society. Security experts have maintained that crime undermines governance; as crime makes life miserable, short, harsh, which continues to instil fear and generate a general sense of insecurity around people[22]. It was also claimed that criminal activities such as armed robbery affects the psychological, financial, physical and spiritual well-being of the victims[23]. This suggests that armed robbery would have an overall impact on the socio-economic development of any society in which it is rampant. The focus of most studies however has been on what motivate crime and criminal and how to prevent crimes such as armed robberies. This study takes a different approach by examining the influence of armed robbery on the socioeconomic growth of Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State.

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1.2 Statement of the Problem

The overall socio-economic outlook for Nigeria and its component units is at the moment well below expectation. There is rising inflation, unemployment and overall sense of unease due to unbearable high cost of living. New businesses that can create employment opportunities for the large number of the unemployed are rare and existing ones are performing well below expectation. The most critical of the challenges facing the people is however rising crime rates. In Ibadan metropolis, it is not uncommon for people to barricade themselves in their homes with high fences and iron bars in order to forestall uninvited guests gaining access and depriving people of their properties.

Unlike in the past, night live in some areas have completely disappeared due to fear of attack from armed robbers and people cannot move freely without the fear of being robbed. Organisations such as banks and other businesses dealing with cash are forced to emplace additional security measures to guard against attacks. Meanwhile, the focus of researcher has been on crime and criminals with little attention paid to the impact of armed robbery attacks on the overall socio-economic development of Ibadan metropolis. In line with the above, the study examines the impact of armed robbery on social-economic development in Oyo state, using Ibadan metropolis as the main area of the study.

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1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The study aim was to assess the impact of armed robbery on social-economic development in Oyo State. The specific objectives of the study were to:

i. assess the prevalence of armed robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State and determine its frequency and impact on residents.

ii. identify and analyse the causes, nature and pattern of armed robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State, including socio-economic and structural factors.

iii. evaluate the impact of armed robbery on socio-economic development in Ibadan, Oyo State, particularly in areas such as business operations, investment, employment, tourism, and public safety.

iv. propose measures that have been implemented by the government, communities, and individuals to combat armed robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State, and how effective have these measures been?

1.4 Research Questions

The study sought to find answers to the following research questions:

1. How prevalence and frequent is armed robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State, and its impact on lives of residents?
2. What are the Causes, Nature and Pattern of Armed Robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State?
3. In what ways has armed robbery affected the socio-economic development of Ibadan, Oyo State, including business operations, investor confidence, and overall economic activity?
4. What measures have been implemented by the government, communities, and individuals to combat armed robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State, and how effective have these measures been?

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1.5 Significance of the Study

The study has the potential to inform policy, enhance security, raise awareness, and support affected individuals and communities. Its findings can contribute to a safer and more economically prosperous environment for the state's residents and businesses. Specifically, the study could be of use to government and policy makers, law enforcement agencies, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and the research community

Government officials and policymakers in Ibadan and Oyo State in general can use the study's findings to formulate evidence-based policies and strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of armed robbery. Understanding the economic consequences of armed robbery can inform the allocation of resources to law enforcement agencies and the implementation of crime prevention measures.

The study findings could also be useful to law enforcement agencies. Police departments, security agencies, and law enforcement officers can gain insights from the study to enhance their efforts in combating armed robbery. The research can inform the development of more effective crime prevention and response strategies.

Furthermore, business owners and entrepreneurs operating in Oyo State may benefit from a better understanding of the economic repercussions of armed robbery. This knowledge can lead to improved security measures for their businesses, safeguarding their investments and livelihoods. Also, banks and financial institutions can use the study's findings to assess the risks associated with armed robbery and strengthen security measures for their branches and operations in Oyo State. NGOs focused on crime prevention, victim support, and community development can use the study's

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insights to tailor their programs and initiatives to address the socio-economic impacts of armed robbery on affected individuals and communities.

The study can also expand the frontier of knowledge. Scholars and researchers interested in the fields of criminology, economics, and social sciences can build upon the study's findings to expand knowledge about the relationship between crime and socio-economic development. Most importantly, the study has implications for the general society. The study's results can empower communities and residents in Oyo State to take proactive measures to protect themselves and their property from armed robbery incidents. Awareness of the economic impact of such crimes can encourage community-based initiatives to enhance security.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The purpose of this research is to thoroughly investigate how armed robberies affect Oyo State's socioeconomic growth, with an emphasis on a few local government districts in the city of Ibadan. Examining this link will help to understand how the study's dependent variable, socio-economic development, is impacted by armed robbery, which is an independent variable.

This study's scope is limited to particular Oyo State local government areas, guaranteeing a focused and thorough examination. These locations were selected using standards that emphasise the frequency of armed robberies and their possible impact on socioeconomic circumstances in the area. The individuals who live in these particular local government areas make up the research population. By interacting with this group, the study obtained first hand information and insights into the ways that armed robberies have impacted social advancement, disturbed economic activity, and changed people's daily lives in these communities.

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The study was able to clarify the wider effects of armed robbery on socioeconomic development through focused analysis, providing insightful information to legislators, law enforcement, and community leaders working to lessen these effects and promote a safer, more prosperous environment in Oyo State. The timeframe is 2010-2022 due to higher rate in armed robbery attacks within this period.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

The study's primary focus is on Oyo State, Nigeria, which might restrict its applicability to other parts of Nigeria. The results might not accurately reflect armed robbery attacks in various geographical areas with distinct sociopolitical contexts.

Government restrictions, insufficient records, or bias in reports that are accessible or reports not fully captured may make it difficult to obtain trustworthy statistics. This can have an impact on the analysis's accuracy.

Also, the study was limited by some constraints which include the time spent on the research which was not adequate to go through all the data related to this study as there were deadlines. Designing the objectives was a bit challenging as the researcher had to be conscious of the scope of the study so as not to make the study too broad. These limitations can be explored by further research.

1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

Armed Robbery: In the context of Oyo State, armed robbery refers to the unlawful seizure of personal or business property within Ibadan metropolis and other parts of the state, carried out through force, intimidation, or the use of dangerous weapons. Armed robbery incidents often occur in residential areas, commercial hubs, markets, financial institutions, and along major roadways, posing a significant threat to public safety and economic stability.

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Burglary: Burglary in Oyo State entails the unauthorized and often forceful entry into homes, businesses, religious centres, or vehicles with the intent to commit theft, vandalism, or other felonies. It is a prevalent form of property crime in urban and semi-urban areas, particularly in districts where security measures are inadequate.

Target Variety: Target variety in Oyo State describes the range of locations and entities frequently targeted by armed robbers and burglars. These include residential homes, commercial establishments such as banks and supermarkets, public transport operators, market traders, and pedestrians, particularly in high-crime areas like motor parks, busy intersections, and underdeveloped neighbourhoods.

Theft or Property Takeover: In the Oyo State context, theft or property takeover refers to the unlawful appropriation of money, valuable goods (such as jewellery, mobile phones, and electronics), vehicles, and business assets by criminals. Such crimes have forced many businesses and individuals to adopt costly security measures, affecting economic activities and overall business confidence in the state.

Socio-Economic Development: Socio-economic development in Ibadan metropolis and Oyo State encompasses the progressive improvement of living standards, economic growth, and infrastructural expansion. It involves creating opportunities for sustainable income generation, improving public services, and fostering an environment that supports business growth and social stability. Armed robbery has negatively impacted this development by discouraging investments, disrupting economic activities, and fostering insecurity.

Social Well-being: Social well-being in Oyo State refers to the overall quality of life of residents, influenced by access to essential services such as education, healthcare, housing, clean water, and sanitation. Armed robbery has undermined social well-

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being by instilling fear, limiting night time economic activities, and straining public health services due to increased cases of physical and psychological trauma among victims.

Economic Prosperity: Economic prosperity in Ibadan and Oyo State is measured by improvements in employment rates, business growth, household income, and poverty reduction. However, the prevalence of armed robbery has hindered economic prosperity by discouraging entrepreneurship, increasing security costs for businesses, and reducing consumer spending due to heightened fears of criminal activity.

Income Distribution: Income distribution in Oyo State involves government and private sector initiatives aimed at reducing economic inequality and expanding access to financial opportunities. Disparities in income levels have contributed to the rise of armed robbery, as economically disadvantaged individuals often resort to crime as a means of survival. Policies addressing wealth redistribution and job creation are critical in mitigating crime rates in the state.

Infrastructure and Services: Infrastructure and services in Oyo State include access to electricity, clean water, sanitation, road networks, and public transportation, all of which play a crucial role in socio-economic development. The threat of armed robbery has hindered infrastructural expansion, as investors and government agencies face security risks in project execution. Additionally, transportation services, especially night travel, have been affected due to fears of highway robberies and urban crime hotspots.

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Chapter Two

Literature Review

This chapter reviews existing studies on the subject of impact of various crimes, particularly armed robbery, on socio-economic development from global, regional and national perspectives. This chapter also reviewed relevant theories in order to provide a solid theoretical framework for the study. In addition, findings of previous studies are also examined to highlight the gaps that can be filled by the current studies. The chapter is organised under the following subheadings;

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Armed Robbery Attacks

2.1.2 Social Impact of Armed Robbery Attacks

2.1.3 Economic Impact of Armed Robbery

2.1.4 Concept of Socio-Economic Development

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Differential Association Theory

2.2.2 Rational Choice Theory

2.2.3 Social Disorganization Theory

2.2.4 Materialist Theory

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

2.3.1 Armed Robbery and Social Development

2.3.2 Armed Robbery and Economic Development

2.3.3 History of Armed Robbery Attacks in Ibadan

2.4 Conceptual Model

2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed

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2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Armed Robbery Attacks

One of the most talked about criminal activities globally is robbery which literally means the act of physically and forcefully divesting people of their material properties and belongings. A scholar described robbery as a criminal act characterized by the act of forcefully taking or attempting to take possession of any valuable item through the utilization of force, the threat of force, or the instigation of fear[1].The term "rob" was derived from Latin terms (such as deraubare) with roots in the Germanic language, specifically from Common Germanic raub, which denotes the act of theft. Armed robbery is one of these anti-social and criminal behaviours that is prevalent. Armed robbery is a behaviour that is hated worldwide and has a long history of being despised and criminalized early on. In other words, it appeared clear that it had been unquestionably made illegal by all cultures, whether official or informal, traditional or modern[2].

In accordance with the principles of common law, robbery is legally characterized as the act of appropriating the possessions of another individual, with the deliberate intention of permanently depriving such individual of their property, through the utilization of force or instilling fear. In essence, robbery can be understood as an instance of larceny or theft that is executed in conjunction with an assault. The specific definitions of the offense may vary across different jurisdictions. Robbery can be distinguished from various other types of theft, such as burglary, shoplifting, pick pocketing, or car theft, due to its inherent propensity for violence, thereby classifying it as a violent crime. It is worth noting that while many lesser forms of theft are typically treated as misdemeanours, robbery consistently carries the weight of a felony charge in jurisdictions that make a clear distinction between the two offenses[3].

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According to English law, the majority of theft offenses can be tried in either a magistrates' court or a Crown Court, while robbery offenses can only be tried in a Crown Court. Because of the heavy punishment that has been prescribed for armed robbers, the law is usually explicit about what constitutes armed robbery. In accordance with the British Theft Act of 1968, "a person is guilty of robbery if he or she steals and immediately before or at any time while so doing, and in order to do, uses force or puts or seeks to put any person in fear of being then and there subjected to force"[4].

This definition emphasizes the use of "force" to rob or in order to rob, but it does not specifically mention armed robbery or the use of any weapon to commit a robbery. The definition was adopted more than forty years ago, but it has withstood the test of time and continues to be the accepted legal term in Britain for all types of robberies, including armed robberies, street robberies, and other types. The same is true for Nigeria. Because Britain was instrumental in creating the Nigerian legal system during the colonial era, it may be pertinent to take into account their definition of robbery.

The legal definition of robbery, according to the penal code used in Nigeria before independence is "stealing with violence"[5]. According to the Criminal Code of 1958, Nigeria had two distinct categories of robbery: "ordinary robbery" and "aggravated robbery." The former refers to the use or threat of actual violence during a robbery, whereas the latter refers to the use of dangerous weapons during a robbery that result in physical harm to the victims[4]. In essence, robbery does not necessarily have to include the use of a deadly weapon; once a criminal uses threat to force people to part with their properties, a robbery has occurred. This probably offered a loophole through which a lot of criminals escaped punishment.

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As the rate and severity of armed robberies increased after the civil war, the Federal Military Government of the time repealed the section of the Criminal Code dealing with "aggravated robbery" and replaced it with the Armed Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Decree 1970 no 47,3. The current definition of armed robbery in Nigeria is based on this Decree. The decree provides the basis for the definition of armed robbery in contemporary Nigeria. The law was clear about who is an armed robber, or the perpetrator, the weapon used prior to, during, or after the crime. It also outlined the role of accomplice and their punishment. The definition of armed robber also depends on the harm done to the victim, the motivation of the crime and the execution. All of these must be considered in determine whether a crime can be categorised as armed robbery and what should be the severity of the punishment (length of imprisonment, death penalty etc)[6].

The Decree states that an offense qualifies as an armed robbery if the offender is in possession of a firearm, an offensive weapon, or any noxious or chemical material; is with another person who is in possession of such a weapon; occurs during the robbery itself or immediately before or after it; and if the offender injures any person[7]. Secondly, a criminal is guilty of armed robbery if they use any firearms or other offensive weapons during the commission of the crime, or does so while in the company of another armed person, or uses any other form of personal violence against another person during the commission of the crime or immediately before or after. If this is established, the maximum sentence is life imprisonment without the option of parole[8].

The law also stated that armed robbery has occurred when an individual is discovered in public with a firearm, whether real or imitation, and under circumstances that could reasonably be interpreted as showing that the person is intending to use the firearm to

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commit an offense under Section 402 immediately or at some point in the future, they are subject to punishment[8]. This is interesting as the law perceived the act of making a victim believe that you have a weapon or having a fake weapon is as good as actually holding a deadly weapon.

Furthermore, conspirators are as guilty as the perpetrator irrespective of whether or not they are present when the crime is committed or attempted to be committed. Anyone who conspires with another person to commit the crime is considered a main offender and is subject to the appropriate punishment. This has inadvertently expanded the definition of armed robbery to include aiding and abetting someone to commit armed robbery[8].

Basically, it is the fundamental rule in Nigeria that an armed robbery must involve the use of firearms or any other offensive weapons available to the motivated offender, or anybody who encourages, counsels, procures, abets, or conspires with another person to perpetrate the crime[9].Various reviews to the criminal law in Nigeria has made attempt to clear some of the ambiguities. Currently, armed robbery in Nigeria is prohibited and criminalized in Nigeria under three laws, namely: The Criminal Code, the Penal Code and Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act.

In terms of actual criminal law, the Southern States of Nigeria are governed by the Criminal Code Act. The Criminal Code Act has been adopted by a number of Nigerian states as their own State Criminal Code Laws. The Criminal Code Act's Chapter 36, "Stealing with Violence: Extortion by Threats," is captioned as such. The distinction between robbery and armed robbery is quite blurry; as a result, the two terms are synonymous. The section on penalty for the crime of robbery includes a definition of armed robbery. According to Section 401 of the Criminal Code Act, robbery is committed by anyone who steals something and, at, just before, or just after

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doing so, actually uses or threatens to use physical violence against another person or piece of property in order to get or keep it, or to avoid or defeat resistance to it being stolen or retained.

Anyone convicted of the crime of robbery will get a term of at least twenty-one years in prison, according to Section 402, which deals with punishment. When found guilty, the offender will receive a death sentence if they are found to be in possession of a firearm, an offensive weapon, or any noxious or chemical substances; if they are with someone else who is; if they injure someone during the robbery, right before it occurs, or right after it does. By No. 47 of 1970, that repealed and substituted the previous section 402 of Cap 8. 42 of 1958, which had previously rendered armed robbery a life-in-prison offence. However, the case is different for a situation where the robbery attacks fail.

In a case where the robber is not successful in stealing any, the case is called attempted robbery. The criminal offense of attempted robbery is established by section 403(1) of the Criminal Code Act. The crime of attempted robbery is committed when a person assaults another person with the intent to steal something, and either during or immediately after the assault, they use or threaten to use actual violence against that person or that person's property in order to get the thing they want to steal. If convicted of this crime, the defendant faced a minimum penalty of fourteen years and a maximum sentence of twenty years in jail. Furthermore, some may be suspected of criminal intent before they even commit any crime.

Any person found in a public place with a firearm, whether real or imitation, and in circumstances that could reasonably be inferred that the possession of the firearms is with intent to commit, either immediately or later, the crime of robbery or armed robbery by that person or any other person, is subject to a sentence of imprisonment

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of not less than fourteen years nor more than twenty years upon conviction. This is important in cases where law enforcement agents or the general public apprehends criminal who move around with weapons. This provision allows for the prosecution of such people even if they are not in the process of committing any robbery. The same goes for criminal co-conspirators.

Section 403[A] of the Criminal Code Act provides that: "any person who conspires with any person to commit an offence under section 402 of this code whether or not he is present when the offence is committed or attempted to be committed, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence as a principal offender and shall be punished accordingly". All of these can be seen a wider net designed to ensure that no criminal evades justice. However, as mentioned earlier, the criminal code is mostly applied in the southern part of Nigeria.

The Northern States of Nigeria and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, are subject to the Penal Code. The crimes of theft and extortion give rise to the offences of robbery and armed robbery under the Penal Code. Therefore, it is necessary to classify theft and extortion as crimes initially. According to Penal Code Section 286: (1) Whoever, intending to take dishonestly any movable property out of the possession of any person without that person's consent, moves that property in order to take it is said to commit theft. (2) Whoever dishonestly abstracts, diverts, consumes or uses any electricity or electric current is said to commit theft[8].

Theft is a crime that carries a sentence of up to five years in jail, a fine, or a combination of the two. Extortion is a crime that carries a sentence of up to five years in jail, a fine, or a combination of the two. This is where it becomes more complex. Under the Penal Code, petty theft is considered robbery. According to Section 296 (2), armed robbery is committed when a criminal intentionally causes or attempts to

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cause the death, injury, or wrongful restraint of any person as a result of the theft, the theft itself, or while carrying away or attempting to carry away property obtained as a result of the theft. According to Section 296 (3), extortion is considered robbery if the perpetrator places the victim or another person in immediate fear of immediate death, immediate bodily harm, or immediate wrongful restraint at the time of the extortion, leading to the victim's surrender of the object being demanded.

In the Penal Code, the definition of armed robbery is incorporated into the sentence for the offense of robbery, just as it is in the Criminal Code. Robbery is punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine under Section 298 of the Penal Code. If the robbery occurs on a roadway between sunset and sunrise, or if the victim is sleeping or has fallen asleep outside between sunset and sunrise, the utmost sentence is fourteen years in prison and a fine. Any person who commits a robbery while in possession of a dangerous or offensive weapon or instrument confronts life in prison or a lesser sentence plus a fine.

The Penal Code however broadens the definition of robbery by adding the crime of "Brigandage,". According to Section 297 of the Penal Code, brigandage is committed when five or more people jointly commit or attempt to commit a robbery, or when the combined number of people jointly committing or attempting to commit a robbery and people present and aiding such commission or attempt equals five or more. The offense carries a fine and a term of imprisonment that may last up to fourteen years. There are however some contractions in the penal code which may make it impossible to convict some criminals.

For instance, the provisions in Section 303 of the Penal Code contradict the severity of the offences of robbery and armed robbery that are already covered in Section 298 of the Code.” Robbery or brigandage with attempt to cause death or grave hurt" is the

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title of Section 303. According to this clause, if a group of five or more people commits or attempts to commit robbery while using a deadly weapon, and not only were they in possession of the weapon but also used it to inflict serious injury or even attempt to kill another person, they will only be punished with a prison sentence of at least seven years.

While some have praised these provisions of the law for its comprehensiveness, other have claimed that it includes a lot of ambiguities which has led to many petty thieves being charged with armed robbery when their actions should have been classified as theft, burglary, or simple robbery. In reality, police interpretation plays a significant role in determining what constitutes a legitimate purpose to perpetrate an armed robbery, which presents a chance for police to manipulate to their own benefit[10].

In addition, the designation of "armed robbers" has frequently been used to justify the wrongful detention of innocent Nigerians who have come to the attention of the police for reasons ranging from their refusal to pay bribes to escape punishment for some minor offenses to being used as a pretext for the implementation of "jungle justice[11]. This development has at times made it difficult to decipher who the real criminals are. Just as there are some perceived inconsistencies in the definition of armed robbery by Nigeria, so has it become difficult for criminologists and security experts to come up with a widely acceptable definition. Thus there are several definitions of robbery all across the world, including in Nigeria. Evidently, armed robbery is always mentioned when discussing the theft of commercial or business property in Britain[12].

Armed robbery appears to be conceptualized differently in Nigeria. It is a spatial-temporal crime that can be committed anywhere the perpetrators choose to operate, including at home, in a public place, at work, on a highway, and in a business context. The criminal justice system, in particular the police, has a tendency to perceive all

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robberies that involve a weapon as armed robberies without properly classifying them as residential, commercial, vehicle, street, and other types of robberies[13]. Once a weapon is involved, the tendency is for the criminal justice system, particularly the police, generally to interpret everything as armed robbery without proper categorisation into residential robbery, commercial robbery, car robbery, street robbery and so on. Undoubtedly, this development continues to create ambiguities in official statistics and sentencing procedures in the country[15].

Robbery is, in essence, both a violent crime and a crime against property. The fact that robbery breaches two deeply held principles, the right to personal protection and the right to property, may be the most serious injury it causes[14].Sometimes robberies result in the unexpected death of either the victims or the perpetrators. If someone dies, it is a distinct crime, usually manslaughter or murder. Robbery is the most serious of the common offenses of dishonesty when it involves both stealing and violence[15].

Within the realm of criminal activities, various forms of robbery can be identified, including armed robbery, characterized by the utilization of weaponry, and aggravated robbery, wherein the perpetrator possesses a lethal weapon or an object that simulates a lethal weapon. Highway robbery or mugging occurs in outside or public settings, such as sidewalks, streets, or parking lots. Carjacking refers to the criminal act of forcibly taking possession of a motor vehicle from an individual. Extortion refers to the act of coercively demanding goods or services by employing the threat of engaging in criminal activities or refraining from doing so, predominantly through verbal means rather than physical measures. Irrespective of how it is defined and how the law sees it, armed robbery is an issue that is quickly spreading across cultures and social classes, destroying countless lives and victims' property.

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All societies, developed or developing are currently seeing increased rates of armed robberies. Even in countries with the most advanced security architecture, armed robbery is not uncommon. For instance, about 420 000 armed robberies were reported by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation FBI, which is more than 140 per 100,000 people[16]. Additionally, the FBI reported that there were 5,000 armed robberies of financial institutions, mostly banks, in the United States, resulting in the theft of over $30 million and the deaths or injuries of about 100 people. Meanwhile, 447,403 robbery cases were reported to the police, translating to a rate of "one per minute"[17].

Armed robbery was one of the most common types of crime as reported in research and it can take many different forms, from a straightforward burglary to an organized bank heist[18]. As a result, this survey placed it as the most horrible and categorized it under "hit-and-run" crimes. Surprisingly, "having something taken away from someone" (armed robbery) was ranked seventh in a study of Seattle respondents' perceptions of the fear, risk, and seriousness of 16 crimes, behind other crimes like having one's home broken into, being threatened with a knife, club, or gun, and rape, among others. Another scholar researched South African citizens' perceptions of crime severity and punishment for a sample of 22 offences. They discovered that violence and armed robbery are placed sixth. They contrasted their findings to those of the South African UNICRI 1992 and 1995 surveys, which, for instance, show that between 1992 and 1993, the perceived gravity and subsequent rating of robbery and assault or threat increased noticeably[19].

Armed bank robbery was ranked as the 9th most dangerous offense in a research of Baltimore citizens' rates of 140 offenses. The typical example of a high-profile armed robbery, "robbing at gunpoint and the victim dying in the process," was ranked second among a carefully chosen list of 37 offenses by scholars in a separate study to

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assess the perceived gravity of crimes[20]. In a related development, there were over 577,000 reported robberies in the United States in 1987. Interviews for the victim survey recorded about twice as many (1,030,00). They contend that this proves robbery to be the second most common violent and feared crime after assault[21].

While accurate or complete data of criminal activities may not be available in developing countries such as Nigeria, there is ample evidence of prevalence of armed robbery and other petty thefts, particularly in major cities[22],[23]. Nigeria as a nation is also dealing with considerable criminal activity of various types, including rising rates of armed robbery victimization. In Nigerian cities, armed robbery has become a daily occurrence with people even getting robbed by gun-wielding criminals robbing people who are stuck in traffic. A scholar outlined three main techniques used in these heists. In order to instil fear in their victims and other motorists, perpetrators of violent robberies may resort to shattering the windows and windscreens of passing vehicles. One or more attackers, armed with pistols, machetes, or other devices that might inflict bodily harm or damage to automobiles, will often proceed from vehicle to vehicle. People in cars are forced to surrender their belongings at gunpoint or under the fear of other assault weapons. After committing the act, the perpetrators either disappear into the night or flee on waiting motorcycles[24,25].

Another technique used by armed robbers is for one member of the gang to walk alongside the vehicle and try to get the driver's attention, while another approaches from the opposite side and steals any easily accessible valuables like purses, laptops, phones, etc. This distraction technique is most common in vehicles with one occupant. The thief in the night method is another method where the attacker approaches a parked car at night and smashes the window before making off with

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valuables. This tactic works because people are too tired to see their attacker sneaking up on them[22]. This is simply to show how commonplace armed robbery is in Nigeria.

Armed robbery is among Nigeria's top three most dangerous crimes, according to studies and evidence. According to the National Bureau of Statistics Report (NBS) about 13,000 inmates across Nigeria were serving terms for robbery and other lesser offences. Additionally, a review of the country's victimization statistics for armed robberies, as provided by the Centre for Law Enforcement Education in Nigeria (CLEEN), reveals that the pattern has been one of a constant climb, going from 11% in 2010 to 17% in 2012[26]. From the aforementioned, it should be clear that robbery, especially armed robbery, is a widespread issue with numerous victims. Indeed, as noted by scholars, armed robberies are on the rise and affect all socioeconomic strata, with victims from both direct and indirect victimization[22,23].

Table 2.1 below provides the summary of summary of major crime statistics of armed robbery cases in Oyo State Police Command for 2011 to 2022.

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Table 2.1 Summary of Major Crime Statistics of Armed Robbery Cases in Oyo State Police Command for 2011 to 2022

S/NO	Year	No of cases	No of victim injured	No of robbery killed	No of robbers arrested	No of fire armed	No of police men	No of police menKilled d	No of police weapon Lost	Remark
1.	2011	191	38	29	227	26	6	2	NIL	CLOSED
2.	2012	152	29	21	196	18	2	NIL	NIL	CLOSED
3.	2013	68	21	6	102	9	4	1	NIL	CLOSED
4.	2014	51	10	5	121	6	1	NIL	NIL	CLOSED
5.	2015	79	18	2	152	6	NIL	NIL	NIL	CLOSED
6.	2016	96	22	4	215	8	1	1	NIL	CLOSED
7.	2017	58	26	4	166	5	4	NIL	NIL	CLOSED
8	2018	159	27	11	279	37	3	2	NIL	CLOSED
9	2019	211	29	12	399	41	3	4	1	CLOSED
10	2020	278	32	11	409	47	3	2	NIL	CLOSED
11	2021	301	31	12	497	55	4	1	NIL	CLOSED
12	2022	348	40	15	655	67	4	NIL	NIL	CLOSED

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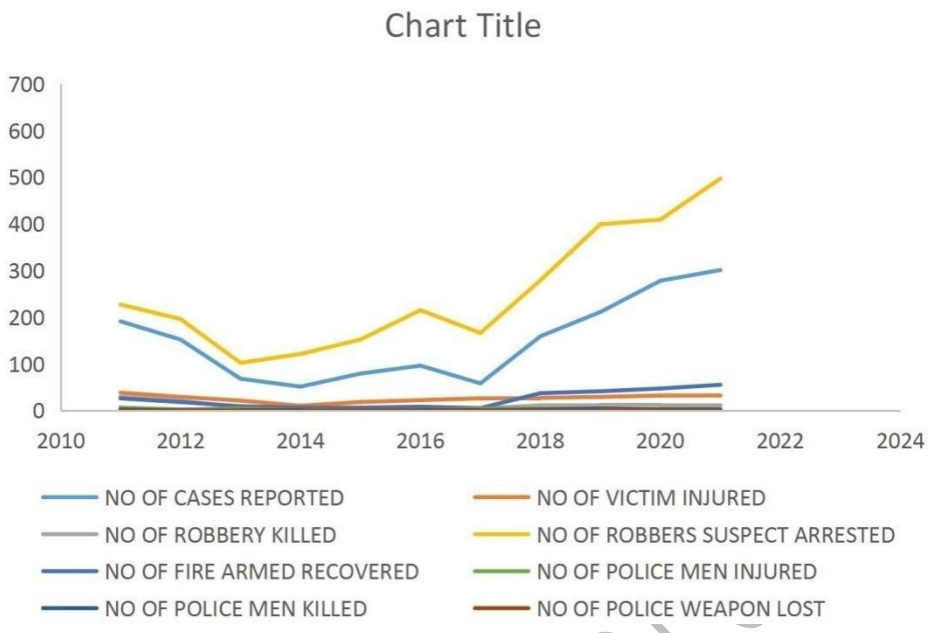


Figure 2.1: Breakdown of Crime Reports between 2012 to 2020

Source[143]

The increased trend of armed robbery depicted in this current data is simply a continuation of what has been in existence since the return of Nigeria to democratic governance in 1999. Despite the scarcity of accurate and complete data, researchers have been making efforts to piece together available information in order to paint a fairly accurate picture of the prevalence of crime in Nigeria. In one of such studies, researchers collated data regarding the prevalence of criminal activities in Nigeria. The study relied on data supplied by the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics crimes. Systematic analysis revealed that armed robbery was one of the most prevalent crimes across Nigeria. Other criminal activities include; rape, kidnapping, murder, burglary, fraud, terrorism cyber-crimes, bribery and corruption, money laundering and so on. According to the study, Oyo state is among the top ten most impacted states by armed robberies along with others such as Abuja, Delta, Kano, Lagos, Plateau, Ondo, Bauchi, Adamawa and Gombe States. The data provided for incidence of armed robbery is provided in Figure 2.2[27].

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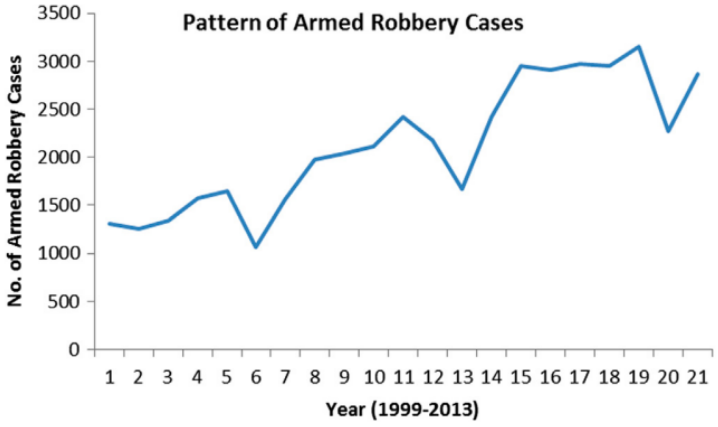


Figure 2.2: The Pattern of Armed Robbery Attacks between 1999 and 2013

Source[27]

27

From the perspective of criminologists, the most striking aspect of armed robbery is the violence or threat of it and this can be justified or explained. Due to the use of force or the threat of force to get commodities, the crime is violently inclined. The level of an armed robbery is determined by the use of force or threat, not by the value of the stolen goods. Therefore, it is the duty of the criminal justice system to determine the level of aggression or force employed, which is obviously also tainted by ideology. As the severity of punishment for armed robbery is determined by the perceived level of violence or threat of violence, it is not uncommon to see different sentences for similar crimes.

Recently researchers have also observed that, in numerous urban areas within Nigeria, there is a concerning escalation of criminal activities and violence. This phenomenon poses a significant risk to human lives, private assets, the collective national welfare, peaceful coexistence, social stability, and overall public safety, hence diminishing the quality of life for citizens. It is important to note that the issue of crime in Nigeria is

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multifaceted. Urban development presents a significant social issue, characterised by a considerable danger to stable lifestyles and the potential to undermine corporate existence and hinder attempts towards sustainable economic development. In Nigeria, particularly in the central areas of urban centres, individuals are consistently confronted with a pervasive sense of insecurity, as evidenced by the presence of numerous security personnel actively conducting patrols throughout the streets. The phenomenon of violent crimes being concentrated in big urban centres globally is sometimes regarded as a sign of the deterioration of urban system[28].

The escalation of urban crime in Nigeria has emerged as a significant societal issue that the country has been grappling with in recent years. The prevalence of criminal activities in developing nations exacerbates the complexity of the problem, as it compounds several fears and concerns. The persistent occurrence of crime has become an increasingly intractable issue in urban areas of Nigeria. These factors frequently pose a disturbance to the population, leading to sleep deprivation due to the apprehension of becoming the next target of armed robbers, hired killers, political henchmen, and other individuals who exhibit disregard for human life. Moreover, it is the belief of some citizens that the Nigerian police force collaborates with criminal elements to instigate fear and violence among their fellow citizens[29].

The escalating sense of insecurity and apprehension regarding criminal activities constitute significant elements that contribute to the deterioration of urban residents' overall well-being. This phenomenon is characterised by citizens' heightened dread of crime, which often surpasses the actual occurrence of criminal incidents. Existing research has predominantly concentrated on the socio-psychological factors contributing to the consequences of criminal behaviour, with limited consideration given to the fear of crime and its spatial distribution. Consequently, researchers have

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also focused attention on the observed trends in the perception of fear of crime, particularly within the city of Ibadan, Nigeria. The prevalence of fear of violent crime varies across different regions within the urban and semi-urban areas of Ibadan. In the urban setting, PFC ranged from 79.5% in Ibadan North-East to 62.9% in Ibadan North local government area (LGA). Similarly, in the semi-urban areas, PFC varied from 73.0% in Ido to 48.5% in Akinyele LGA. The study also found that the prevalence of fear of armed robbery ranged from 73.0% in Ibadan South-East LGA to 29.5% in Ona-Ara LGA. The urban perception of fear regarding burglary exhibited a range of variability, with rates ranging from 58.9% in Ibadan North LGA to 38.5% in Ibadan South-East LGA[30].

Armed robberies are seen as more of a "danger" by the general public and career criminologists than other crimes[31]. Given the difficulty in obtaining accurate data and statistics on armed robbery, particularly in Nigeria, as well as the scepticism with which they are viewed, one crucial alternative method for determining the severity and seriousness attached to the crime situation in any country may likely be the level of public concern. As a result, the prevalence of armed robbery in Nigeria can be judged, at least to a fair extent, by newspaper headlines.

Indeed, news outlets continue to play a significant role in disseminating public concerns. But the best measurement is probably through public questionnaires. The push for stricter regulations, heavier penalties, and general security apparatus reform are other indicators of the public's worry about how serious crime armed robbery is. The perception of a crime's gravity is important since it serves as the foundation for any prohibited punishments or sentence in the criminal justice system. It also considers the core component of human cultures[32]. Some cultures do not consider certain offenses to be serious while others do. For instance, adultery would be

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considered differently in terms of seriousness between the traditional African communities and the majority of western nations. The severity of the offense is often cited as being essential to comprehending the social psychology of crime. Based on how terrible a crime is, people are more likely to estimate the relative frequency of different crimes[33].

Unfortunately, public emotions may not accurately reflect a significant increase in a certain phenomenon but rather a rapid rise in awareness. However, frequent and persistent public complaints about an issue, as reported in the media, show that there is some justification for a legitimate worry. After all, achieving greater pleasure is the primary objective of all governments, and this is dependent upon providing security to the majority of its population.

The prominence and gravity that the general public including their Nigerian counterparts and the editors of news media give to armed robbery situations is confirmed by the contents analysis technique. Armed robbery is one crime that causes so much terror around the world (real or imagined). Regarding how serious and severe the offense is considered; perceptions vary from person to person and from society to society. However, it is undeniably one of the most feared crimes due to its “double tragedy" of robbing someone of their stuff and inflicting harm. For instance, in the United States, armed robbery ranked fifth out of 78 criminal offenses according to several studies to ascertain how the public ranks the severity of crimes[34].

2.1.1.1 Causes, Nature and Pattern of Armed Robbery Attacks

There have been several attempts by many criminologists to find viable explanations for this form of criminal behaviour in an effort to address the ongoing rise in armed robbery incidents in Nigeria. This is probably due to the belief that understanding the

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motive or the driving force behind armed robbery can help in steering people away from becoming robbers. From the available literature, armed robbery as a criminal behaviour is the culmination of some personal, structural, institutional and societal flaws. It is frequently connected to personal characteristics or broad socioeconomic factors including deprivation in terms of unemployment or joblessness, poor income or outright poverty, as well as family instability[35]. Among the general public, individual armed robbers are often judged by certain behaviours which in themselves, are not causes but traits of criminals.

Most armed robbers have been identified as drug users whose lifestyles often lead to various violent crimes, including armed robberies committed by young people. For example, punishment for not being able to pay one's drug-related debts or violent disputes between drug dealers over territories and drug paraphernalia are examples of violence committed to sponsor expensive drug abuse[36]. It also includes violence related to aggressive patterns of interaction that happen in connection with both the use and distribution of drugs. The majority of armed robbers typically congregate in pubs and isolated locations where they consume and misuse psychoactive substances, especially marijuana and strong alcoholic beverages, to plot their activities and to celebrate their criminal behaviour and exploits. However, what make people to become armed robbers are often deeper than habits which are often cultivated after they become armed robbers.

Experts have generally pointed to the Nigerian political and socio-cultural environment as one of the strongest drivers in the tendency of people becoming armed robbers. Despite attaining formal independence over six decades ago, the country has not witnessed significant advancements. The activities of a political elite characterised by self-centeredness, parasitism, and intellectual bankruptcy were not only injurious

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but further exacerbated the situation. Hence, the acquisition of political power was not solely driven by the objective of societal progress and enhancing the well-being of the majority. Rather, it primarily served as a means for the self-aggrandizement of a select few individuals occupying positions of authority, together with their associates and collaborators. The political elite engaged in a power struggle with the aim of advancing their individual socio-economic agendas, disregarding the broader welfare of the populace.

The prevailing political culture entailed a perception that politics and commerce were inherently intertwined. According to this particular ideological perspective, the aforementioned condition ultimately resulted in the establishment of a persistent socioeconomic disparity between the affluent and the impoverished segments of society. Additionally, it led to the perpetuation of severe destitution, unemployment, food insecurity, mortality, and other related consequences within this particular system. In this context, politics operated as a zero-sum game, characterised by a situation in which one party's gain necessitated the corresponding loss of another party.

In this context, it has been seen that public resources allocated by various levels of government with the intention of addressing the fundamental requirements of the populace, including the development of infrastructure and the alleviation of issues such as poverty, hunger, unemployment, and diseases, have unfortunately been misappropriated for personal gain by those in positions of authority and their associates. Due to the military's transformation into a source of trouble rather than a means of resolution, their 15-year stay inevitably exacerbated the situation[37]. In the absence of substantial regulatory measures, instances of political brigandage and theft endured. This led certain individuals in resorting to alternative illicit strategies in

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order to fulfil their self-serving objectives. These invariably contributed to the prevalence of social vices, such as armed robbery, within contemporary Nigerian society.

Furthermore, the current state of Nigeria's economy is characterised by significant challenges, while the nation grapples with persistent issues of corruption. Nigeria stands out among a limited number of countries globally due to the recurring occurrence of important bourgeois politicians having their personal bank accounts funded from public funds designated for the development of social infrastructure. This practise is facilitated through the use of government organisations and parastatals[38].

This phenomenon can be attributed to several factors. According to a scholar, it is observed that Nigerian politicians in the present era lack colonies to exploit, unlike the colonial masters who historically extracted significant wealth from the territories they colonised. Consequently, these politicians are now reliant solely on the state as their primary means of accumulating wealth through the misappropriation of public funds designated for national development. The predominant portion of this wealth was acquired through illicit means and afterwards allocated in foreign investments[39].

It is asserted that the monies designated for the purposes of infrastructure development, provision of employment opportunities, and improvement of living conditions for the Nigerian population have been diverted, misused, embezzled, or misallocated by politicians holding positions of power. The closure of a significant number of companies and factories due to perceived negligence has exacerbated the country's unemployment and poverty concerns. The exacerbation of the situation is attributed to the escalation of the inflation rate, which has reached double digits and continues to rise. Consequently, an increasing number of proprietors of small

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businesses are compelled to cease operations on a daily basis[37]. The prevailing poverty and unemployment in the nation are a direct consequence of this situation.

Based on a survey conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it was discovered that a significant proportion of the Nigerian population experiences lack of access to fundamental goods, services, and commodities, resulting in their living conditions falling below the poverty line. The primary focus of a majority of Nigerian households revolves around ensuring the provision of essential sustenance required for the survival of their family members[40]. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the present unemployment rate in Nigeria, even within official circles, is significantly elevated, standing at 51%. The escalating exodus of young individuals from diverse educational institutions has potentially contributed to the exacerbation of this circumstance, indicating a plausible association between Nigeria's elevated youth unemployment rate and the concurrent surge in crime rates within the country. A considerable number of the nation's universities, exceeding fifty in total, are associated with a concerning outcome wherein its graduates face unemployment.

Hence, it is indisputable that the nexus between the dual factors of severe poverty and unemployment has precipitated the prevalence of armed robbery in contemporary Nigeria. Certain individuals within the community have resorted to engaging in acts of armed robbery as a means of sustaining themselves due to the challenging circumstances they face, namely the concurrent challenges of unemployment and poverty. For instance, it is plausible that certain individuals in Nigeria may have resorted to engaging in armed robbery as a consequence of their business ventures experiencing failure, thereby leaving them devoid of alternative means to sustain their livelihoods. This elucidates the exacerbation of the issue on a national scale[35].

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Furthermore, the issue of an ongoing escalation in the frequency and severity of criminal activities, such as armed robbery, can be attributed to the failure of successive Nigerian administrations to adequately address the developmental needs of the populace. Numerous collectives and organisations emerged in the pursuit of social justice and liberation, employing a diverse range of strategies alongside a series of inter-communal clashes[41]. Certain gangs resorted to engaging in armed robbery as a means to generate funds expressly for the purpose of acquiring firearms, which they intended to utilise in order to safeguard their community from persistent threats. The prevalence of this phenomenon has been observed primarily in select communities located in the south-east and south-west regions, alongside certain locations in northern Nigeria that have experienced a recent surge in interethnic and interreligious tensions.

The criminal negligence of previous Nigerian governments has been identified as a contributing factor to a multitude of inters communal conflicts and a high incidence of crime in the Niger Delta, as stated in reference[42]. However, the marginalised and disadvantaged individuals within the society reacted to their unfavourable circumstances in novel and unlawful fashions, notably engaging in armed robbery, so posing a threat to the security and progress of the city. Consequently, it is plausible that the dispersion of potentially fatal armaments throughout these conflicts has led to their acquisition by unauthorised individuals, resulting in their utilisation for the perpetration of armed thefts. Indeed, it is noteworthy that certain youthful individuals who were previously unemployed and enlisted as ground troops in the conflict would thereafter engage in acts of retribution against the communities and its unsuspecting inhabitants. These acts would manifest in the form of armed robberies, utilising the weaponry made available to them. This phenomenon may also be applicable to

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specific individuals involved in political activities who were abandoned by their benefactors subsequent to electoral events.

Education is widely recognised as a highly efficient weapon in combating crime. Through the acquisition of a comprehensive education, individuals can cultivate the essential skills and competencies required to engage in authorised employment, thereby enabling them to secure a sustainable income and surmount the challenges associated with poverty. Conversely, insufficient early childhood education augments the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities during adulthood. Consequently, there exists a robust correlation between education and crime within society[43].

The prevailing circumstances in Nigeria indicate a notable poor access to education among a substantial segment of the populace. Furthermore, a considerable proportion of young individuals are discontinuing their education prematurely, while the graduates emerging from various tertiary institutions annually do not possess the requisite qualifications to secure employment in either professional occupations or entrepreneurial endeavours. The training required is either insufficient or improperly focused.

The continual decline in Nigeria's educational levels exacerbates this issue[40]. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the government has continually allocated insufficient funds to the sector over the course of two decades. However, it is noteworthy that a portion of the younger Nigerian population has enlisted in the army reserve with the intention of engaging in illicit operations[41]. This also elucidates the circumstances under which certain perpetrators opted to engage in acts of armed robbery. Upon examination of the socioeconomic background of the vast majority of individuals apprehended or convicted for armed robbery, as reported by various media

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sources, police records, and correctional facilities, it becomes evident that the findings align with reality[39].

Another factor responsible for the rising spate of armed robbery in Nigeria is the decline in moral values among Nigerians. In light of the multitude of morally objectionable behaviours taking place in Nigeria, several families exhibit behaviour that aligns more closely with agents of societal disruption rather than upholders of traditional moral values. In light of the potential economic benefits, certain family members encourage their offspring to engage in criminal activities, such as armed robberies, by actively participating as accomplices. The era where parents inquire about the origins of their children's financial resources in the event of expenditures surpassing their anticipated income, has become a thing of the past[44].

In numerous Nigerian towns and villages, it is observed that young individuals who migrate from urban areas during the festive seasons of Christmas and New Year engage in the distribution of material possessions among their family members and acquaintances, often without considering the origins of these things. This solo endeavour serves as a source of inspiration for other young individuals, motivating them to persevere and achieve success through whatever means possible, regardless of the obstacles they may encounter. Consequently, certain individuals have resorted to engaging in armed robbery through the methods of kidnapping and extortion.

The influence of foreign culture wielded through the exposure to international crimes facilitated by the internet has also been blamed for rising crime in Nigeria including the rise of armed robbery. A researcher posited that highly influential international media companies propagate western culture through their powerful cable satellites, hence exerting a detrimental influence on other nations globally. Nigerian citizens, especially the young, acquire knowledge on drug trafficking, armed robberies, rape,

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money laundering, and kidnapping through the consumption of local and international films, as well as other forms of communication media[45, 46]. Indeed, it is plausible that a significant proportion of juvenile individuals who engaged in armed robbery acquired their skills and knowledge through exposure to foreign media sources. The persistence of armed robberies in the nation, despite the implementation of control measures, is a logical outcome.

Another probable cause of armed robbery in Nigeria is the unreserved display of wealth, even by people whose source of wealth is not clear to the majority. Senior public officials, particularly politicians, in Nigeria not only exceed their financial capacities but also exhibit their wealth in an ostentatiously extravagant manner. Politicians, exemplifying those who were previously recognised for their experiences of homelessness before attaining to positions of authority, currently exhibit a conspicuous display of their affluence in a manner that appears heedless of public perception[47]. This assertion holds particular validity, as contemporary society has witnessed a lack of significant tangible repercussions in response to bad lifestyle choices and conspicuous demonstrations of affluence. The equitable distribution of wealth is often disregarded, without taking into account the socioeconomic circumstances of the disadvantaged population residing in impoverished conditions[48]. The impoverished demographic, being a significant proportion of the populace, has heightened levels of frustration as a consequence.

Simultaneously, with the deterioration of infrastructures, the prevalence of poverty and the pervasiveness of unemployment have exacerbated the situation. The issue at hand not only incites anger among individuals experiencing poverty, but it may also drive some to resort to criminal activities as a coping mechanism[49]. In consideration

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of this fact, it has been argued that a significant section of the youth population in Nigeria has engaged in acts of violent crime and delinquency.

This elucidates the rationale for the tendency of certain individuals who are caught by law enforcement for suspected armed robbery to invoke their impoverished or unemployed status as a justification for their actions. It has been observed that politicians often engage, instruct, and financially support young individuals for campaign-related tasks, with the assurance of providing assistance to them subsequent to a successful election outcome. When deprived of patronage, these youthful persons respond to societal neglect by resorting to illicit activities such as armed robberies as a means to fulfil their urgent necessities.

The premature posting of security personnel also plays a substantial role in the initiation and perpetuation of the armed robbery problem in Nigeria. Officers stationed at these critical areas are regularly replaced and reassigned whenever there is a shift in personnel or administration, purportedly due to security considerations. In certain instances, security personnel who engage in serious misconduct may be promptly terminated from their positions as a means of enforcing discipline and discouraging future transgressions. Both categories of security personnel have been subject to preferential treatment by the former establishments, where they had previously enjoyed opulent, vibrant, and prosperous lifestyles. A portion of the military troops implicated in these occurrences had undergone extensive and specialised trainings in areas like as assassination, abduction, coercion, intelligence gathering, interrogation, and active armed theft[45, 50].

It is opined that when confronted with the prospect of living without financial support, individuals may exhibit a tendency to react negatively towards society as a means of preserving their accustomed lavish way of life. This reaction stems from their

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inability to cope with the challenges posed by their altered circumstances. Consequently, certain officers may have opted to collaborate with criminals or even engage in armed robbery under such circumstances due to the requisite military training necessary to effectively carry out such criminal acts[51]. The prevalence of armed robbery as a potential means of escape could be attributed to the substantial reserve of disillusioned, unemployed, and economically disadvantaged young individuals, alongside the willingness of military personnel to impart their knowledge and skills.

For example, it has been ascertained that this particular cohort of security personnel was implicated in the training of Boko Haram operatives, who are currently causing disturbances to the peace and security landscape in the northern region of the nation. This constitutes a threat to national security. This revelation came to light following the apprehension of Habib Bama, former military personnel[52]. The prevalence of armed robberies may be notably impacted by the current poor socioeconomic status of security employees, namely police officers, inside the country. The majority of rank-and-file members experience significantly substandard living conditions as a result of poor service conditions. The remuneration received by security personnel in Nigeria remains one of the most meagre globally, necessitating a challenge in their self-sufficiency and in meeting those of their dependents. This phenomenon is occurring at a period characterised by exorbitantly elevated costs of essential commodities such as food, medication, and education. Considering the insecure nature of their employment, certain security personnel may be inclined to form alliances with armed criminals as a means to enhance their circumstances. This phenomenon elucidates the process through which weapons originating from law enforcement agencies are acquired by individuals involved in criminal activities. Moreover, it is worth noting

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that the armaments provided to law enforcement authorities for countering armed robbery incidents are often considerably less in quantity and less advanced in terms of technology compared to those possessed by some armed robbers.

In many instances, the misappropriation of funds allocated for the welfare of officers and the acquisition of superior armament occurs due to suspected or alleged corruption within the upper echelons of the hierarchical structure. These aforementioned concerns represent a limited selection from a multitude of issues that significantly undermine the morale of law enforcement officials. Consequently, these challenges provide substantial obstacles to effectively preventing and managing incidents of armed robbery within the country. Armed robbery is a criminal offence characterised by the utilisation of a firearm to unlawfully appropriate possessions from an individual. The perpetration of a grave and aggressive offence can result in significant ramifications for both the individual who has been harmed and the individual responsible for the act. The prevalence of armed robbery can be influenced by various circumstances, and comprehending these underlying causes can aid in the prevention of future cases. It is also important to understand the various pattern or types of armed robbers.

The task of developing typologies for robbers is very complex. This is mostly due to the diverse array of behaviour and patterns exhibited during robberies, which may be easily put into a specific category[53]. However, it is important to note that typologies might develop based on variations among robbers in terms of the scope of their criminal activities, the duration of their periods of inactivity, their level of specialisation, the length of their involvement, their level of preparation, and the actual execution of robbery operations[54].

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Researchers have presented various typologies of robbers, which may exhibit similarities or subtle variations in their descriptions. In a study conducted by researchers in the United States, four distinct categories of individuals engaged in armed robbery were discovered. These categories include professionals, opportunists, addicts, and alcoholics [55]. In his seminal study on the subject, another scholar classified armed robbers in the United Kingdom into distinct groups based on their level of expertise and involvement. These groups were identified as amateurs, intermediates, professionals, and persistent robbers[56]. Furthermore, armed robbers in Canada can be classified into four distinct typologies: chronic, professional, intensive, and occasional robbers[52].

Scholars have posited the existence of professionalism within the realm of robbery; nevertheless, there is an argument that robbery is predominantly carried out by non-professional gang members, many of whom exhibit substance abuse issues and disregard for the potential repercussions of their criminal activities[52]. The categorization of professional robbers has been continuously documented in scholarly literature, and these typologies align with the prevailing perception of robbers in society[53], [54]. The individuals in question exhibit a strong dedication to engaging in acts of robbery due to its inherent characteristics of being a prompt, efficient, and financially lucrative endeavour.

Professional thieves utilise a range of strategic methodologies, encompassing meticulous preparation, neutralisation of proximate security systems, and thorough examination of potential escape routes. The individuals strategically devise their plan, meticulously carry it out alongside a cohort of collaborators, and abscond with a substantial sum of money in order to gratify their indulgent way of living[52,53]. The typical targets of these individuals consist of banks and other commercial enterprises.

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Professional armed robbers may occasionally resort to taking hostages as a means of demonstrating their unwavering commitment to carrying out and successfully concluding their criminal activities.

Several researchers have posited that professional robbers exhibit traits of persistence and extensive expertise, perceiving robbery as both a vocation and a lifestyle choice. The distinction between the professional robber and other individuals engaged in robbery lies in the former's meticulous planning, strategic target selection, utilisation of weaponry, and implementation of violence. Based on these, it can be inferred that the professional thief possesses a high level of expertise in the field and has chosen to pursue it as a long-term occupation.

Professional armed robbers are known to exhibit a propensity for extreme violence. They consistently employ firearms in the execution of their criminal activities. Hence, it can be inferred that they would have significant challenges in transitioning to a different professional field. It is probable that he would rationalise armed robbery as the most effective means of securing a livelihood within societal contexts. Through affiliating with co-conspirators, he establishes a criminal syndicate as a mechanism for engaging in illicit activities[57]. Opportunist robbers can be distinguished from professionals due to their tendency to engage in acts of robbery whenever circumstances present themselves as favourable opportunities. The individuals in question do not exhibit a sustained dedication to engaging in robbery as a prolonged endeavour, but rather engage in such activities sporadically. The selection of targets is based on the availability of smaller sums of money that can be pilfered[53]. According to experts, those who engage in opportunistic criminal behaviour are mostly youth and inexperienced criminals compared to other types of criminals. Furthermore, these individuals seek to target victims who are lacking protection and are particularly

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susceptible. The selection of these targets is presumably intended to optimise the likelihood of successful robbery and subsequent evasion from law enforcement.

It can be contended that individuals who engage in robbery seek for and exploit opportunities to do their crimes expediently. However, it could be posited that in the absence of such opportunities, same individuals may not consider participating in any acts of robbery. An additional category of thief can be identified as the amateur. Amateurs exhibit notable distinctions from professionals, resembling opportunists in their limited organisational capacity, tendency to pursue easily available objectives, lack of extensive expertise, association with violence, use of weapons, and inclination towards individual operations.

There are several reports of unsuccessful or attempted thefts by individuals lacking professional expertise, commonly referred to as amateurs. These individuals typically target relatively modest gains. The individuals' participation in the act of robbery can be understood as a manifestation of desperation arising from a pressing financial need to fulfil immediate personal requirements. The individuals' comparatively limited level of maturity poses a drawback, while their amateurish performance can mostly be attributed to their significant lack of experience in the field. However, empirical studies have indicated that the prevalence of non-professional perpetrators of robbery surpasses the combined number of identified professional robbers globally.

Another kind of thieves is characterised by their affiliation with narcotics, sometimes referred to as addict robbers. There exists substantial evidence indicating the participation of armed robbers in drug-related offences[58]. According to the findings of a study, a significant proportion of the thieves they surveyed in London, specifically 21 percent, engaged in drug distribution subsequent to carrying out robbery acts.

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Addictive robbers are those that rely on substance abuse as a means to facilitate their criminal endeavours.

Individuals who regularly consume a wide range of drugs exhibit a significantly lower inclination towards engaging in robbery as compared to their propensity for larceny[53]. The drug-using robbers typically exhibit a lower degree of pre-operation preparation compared to professionals, however their planning efforts is above those of opportunistic individuals. Robbers who are addicted to drugs are aware of the necessity to sustain a consistent cash flow in order to sustain their substance dependency prior to engaging in any criminal activities. The selection of targets by non-experts is aimed at minimising potential dangers, and they demonstrate a lower inclination than professionals to mitigate such risks.

It is difficult to determine whether all addict robber use guns or other weapons during robbery as their acts are often spur of the moment. A study, which involved interviewing twelve individuals engaged in robbery and addiction, unveiled that hardly four of them employed firearms that were loaded during their criminal activities. This finding implies that a larger proportion of addict robbers may have a preference for theft without resorting to coercive measures[53].

According to a related study conducted in the United Kingdom, robbery was shown to be mostly linked to the usage of heroin (27%) and crack cocaine (22%), among other criminal activities. Hence, it is observed that certain individuals engaged in drug addiction may engage in criminal activities prior to drug use, a phenomenon commonly referred to as "crime-causing-drug-use-connections"[59]. Conversely, there are those who commit crimes with the intention of acquiring funds to support their drug dependency, a concept known as "drug-use-causing-crime-connections".

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Therefore, both associations establish the economic justifications for drug phenomena.

The question of whether individuals who engage in robbery utilise drugs as a precursor or a result of their criminal activities is a topic of inquiry. However, it is important to note that drug addiction can be a persistent habit that poses challenges for individuals attempting to discontinue its usage. When an individual does not cease their drug addiction, it becomes increasingly challenging for them to discontinue engaging in armed robbery. Just as there are commonalities between addicted robbers and alcoholic robbers, the two groups exhibit comparable characteristics.

Researchers found that almost 70 percent of all instances of violent crime can be attributed to alcohol consumption[60]. Individuals who are under the influence of alcohol are prone to engaging in behaviours that they would often refrain from when sober. This pertains to the pharmacological effects of alcohol.

Similar to opportunists, individuals who engage in alcohol-fuelled robbery do not exhibit a long-term commitment to this criminal activity. The perpetrators lack a premeditated strategy for engaging in theft, and their criminal activities are characterised by sporadic occurrences. In contrast to those in professional capacities, addicts typically refrain from employing weapons until they have acquired a pattern of engaging in such behaviour[52]. A scholar thus proposed an additional typology based on their research, namely the category of chronic robbers[61].

Individuals who engage in chronic robbery embark on a criminal trajectory that spans multiple years, commencing at a notably young age. In essence, individuals in question choose criminal trajectories akin to those pursued by seasoned practitioners. Similar to other categories of criminals, chronic offenders frequently engage in

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criminal activities such as burglary, drug trafficking, and automobile theft prior to engaging in acts of robbery. They engage in numerous instances of theft, with their strategic preparations frequently lacking thoroughness. The lack of thorough planning differentiates individuals who are chronically unprepared from those who possess professional competence.

During a criminal activity, individuals with a history of persistent theft often employ disguises and possess firearms, exhibiting a level of proficiency akin to that of experienced professionals. The illicit gains obtained from their criminal activity are allocated towards the acquisition of narcotics, alcoholic beverages, and expenditures at entertainment establishments. The individuals in question exhibit a propensity for prioritising short-term objectives, which can be attributed to their inadequate strategic planning of activities, the gravity of their transgressions, and the infrequent instances of prolonged inaction. Thus far, the many typologies of robbers have been found to exhibit distinct features and behavioural patterns that are pertinent to each individual criminal.

2.1.2 Social Impact of Armed Robbery Attacks

Armed robbery is a prevalent social problem that has a detrimental impact on the lives and social functioning of a substantial portion of individuals within present-day Nigerian society. The act encompasses the illicit acquisition of property, wherein coercion, physical aggression, or the potential for aggression is utilised. The act of armed robbery has been observed throughout human history, spanning across various communities, including both established and emerging ones. Nevertheless, it is important to note that variances in societal norms and regulations are not only evident across different societies, but also evolve with time, ranging from stringent enforcement to complete absence[62]. The escalating frequency of armed robberies in

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Nigeria is evident in the daily newspaper stories, television news headlines, and radio announcements.

Both individuals of high socioeconomic status and those of low socioeconomic status experience a continuous sense of apprehension due to the unpredictable nature of potential threats, as the exact time and location of these occurrences remain uncertain. A scholar asserts that the occurrence of robbery exhibits a more substantial rise compared to all other index offences. The occurrence of robbery transpired at an average rate of once per seventy-five seconds. Approximately 50% of the robberies reported to law enforcement authorities occurred in public spaces, while the remaining incidents take place within residential and commercial premises. The perpetrators of crimes are often unknown to the victims, resulting in a low likelihood of identification. Moreover, the ease with which criminals can evade detection and escape legal consequences is quite high[63].

The issue of armed robbery has persisted as a significant societal challenge in Nigerian culture since the conclusion of the nation's civil war in 1970. In light of the perilous situation, the then Nigerian military administration led by General Yakubu Gowon enacted a decree in 1970, marking the first legislation on armed robbery in Nigeria. This decree prescribed and advocated for the imposition of capital punishment through execution by firing squad[52]. In addition to this, there was a notable escalation in the quantity, magnitude, and quality of the police force, judicial institutions, and correctional facilities. The Nigerian government has implemented many initiatives and projects, such as "Operation Sweep," "Operation Scorpion," and "Operation Flush," with the objective of mitigating the prevalence of armed robbery. Notwithstanding the implementation of these many safeguards, there has been a noticeable escalation in the incidence of armed robbery.

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One of the foremost social impacts of armed robbery is the fear it drives into the hearts of the citizens. The most "feared" crime is armed robbery since it involves both the fear of losing one's possessions and, more importantly, the possibility of suffering physical damage[64]. There have been incidents of people becoming injured or even losing their lives while trying to escape scenes where robbers are attacking bank armoured vehicles. Incidences like this breed fear in people. This fear is based on the victim being subjected to physical violence and having his belongings stolen. The fact that robberies are typically done by strangers who forcefully and unexpectedly assault a victim or victims is another important reason to be afraid of robberies. This 'invasion of privacy often has traumatic effects and may result in antisocial behaviours.

According to a scholar, long after the crime has been resolved and the legal system has been forgotten, victims of crime continue to experience stress and anxiety. OCD (an extreme preoccupation with certain thoughts and compulsive performance of certain behaviours), depression, and PTSD (emotional disturbance following exposure to stress outside the normal human experience), are all extremely common among victims of spousal abuse. Spinal cord injuries are becoming increasingly common, and they are responsible for the permanent disability of some victims of random acts of violence. And if the victim does not have access to quality health care, the long-term implications of the crime could be emotionally and financially damaging as well[1].

No matter what motivates armed robbery in Nigeria or what shape it takes, it is a kind of antisocial behaviour that has bad consequences for both the community and its individual members. People shun strangers, lock their doors, and stay off the streets as a result of this dread. The perpetrators will use at least one of three methods to

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intimidate their victims at the outset of the interaction: the first is a command for compliance accompanied by a threat of force; the second is the use of prodding force; and the third is the use of incapacitating force[52].

Another observer also reported that, as a result of incessant incidence of armed robbery, people no longer adhere to set times of day or week for socialising and other activities. Everyone starts to doubt one another. There can be no real growth and improvement in a society when people are constantly on edge and afraid to go about their day. Finally, the physical cost of violent crime cannot be ignored. The victim of a robbery or kidnapping may suffer serious injury or even death.

2.1.3 Economic Impact of Armed Robbery Attacks

Researchers who examined the impact of armed robbery in Nigeria, considering the current incidents in the country, found that armed robbery is closely linked to the insecurity of both lives and properties. Additionally, it is related with the loss of human resources, a decrease in the level of development, higher rates of unemployment and poverty, long-term disability for victims, and the inefficient allocation of state resources towards security agents[52].

As a result of the disruptions and unease that crime causes in any community, its members are liable to feel unsafe and consequently, this affects their economic productivity. In varying degrees, practically everyone bears some of the financial and emotional burdens associated with crime[65]. The "economic of crime" refers to the study of crime from an economic perspective. The term "economic crime" has not been agreed upon by experts. The study of the economics of crime examines how incentives shape criminal behaviour and what may be done to curb it. Crimes committed primarily for financial gain are called "economic crimes"[66]. This term

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refers to any criminal conduct (such as robbery, drug dealing, tax evasion, computer crime, and abuses of economic aid) committed with the specific intent to generate monetary benefit. The study of the economics of crime examines how incentives shape criminal activity and what may be done to reduce it. Criminal activity can be predicted and explained using economic models, and these models can also be used to examine the root causes of crime and the dynamic interplay between criminals and law enforcement[67].

Scholars pointed out that one crime can have a dramatic impact on a family's ability to function, and that when families are damaged by stress and conflict, society as a whole suffers. Uncertainty about the safety of one's own person and possessions is a major consequence of armed robbery in Nigeria[1]. Every day, people all around the world lose their life savings and years of hard work in robberies that leave victims dead or permanently disabled. For instance, robbery victims in the United States lost an estimated $142 million in cash and property. Loss of productivity due to victims' incapacity is a common consequence of violent crime. Most people who are injured in violent crimes are unable to work again, therefore society loses out on their potential economic contributions.

Armed robbers' targeting and killing of civilians, especially young people, has shrunk Nigeria's labour force. Because of this, a lot of people had to be let go of their jobs. Victims of armed robberies often need extensive medical and mental health care. Security agents are able to reduce theft by using funds that otherwise would have been used to boost growth in other areas of the economy. The slowing of progress is another major consequence of violent robbery based on the frequent occurrence of armed robberies in Nigeria. Constant robbery attacks keep the populace on edge all

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the time. This has discouraged many potential foreign investors from putting their money into sectors that may employ millions of Nigerians who are now without work.

As a result, there are negative impact on national development and progress. In addition, armed robbery contributes to the unemployment rate since the theft of property from businesses and government agencies sometimes lead to layoffs when the victimised organisation can no longer afford to pay its employees' salaries. The rate of poverty in Nigeria has risen as a direct consequence of armed robbery. For instance, in a situation where the family bread winner was murdered by armed thugs. Because of robbers, the entire family will be forced into poverty (absolute poverty), which will raise the overall poverty rate. Once again, these consequences were summed up by a scholar who opined that. The societal cost must also be considered[68].

2.1.3.1 Roles of Stakeholders in Addressing the Menace of Armed Robbery

Given the omnipresence of armed robbery across various human communities, various stakeholders have consistently shown a strong desire to contribute their quota to a crime-free society. While the onus lies on the government to provide security for the people, the centralized policing system in Nigeria has ensure that virtually every corner of the country is under policed. This has prompted various stakeholders to develop localized crime-fighting structures. Some of these structures support the police while others complement their efforts. There have been loud arguments for the creation of state police across Nigeria.

Advocates of state police justify their stance by drawing upon the federalist framework, which they argue should be expanded to encompass the Nigeria Police, as well as by emphasising the necessity of state intervention in the policing institution. Undoubtedly, the aforementioned strand of argument is highly logical and coherent.

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Given that Nigeria functions under a federalist system, it is reasonable to argue for it to be extended to the Police establishment. This is particularly justified by the vast geographical expanse of the country, which necessitates a move towards a more outcome-focused approach to policing[69].

Advocates for state police are quick to point out that state governments have been funding and equipping the federal police for a long period of time. A good example is the case of Lagos State. In one of its intermittent support of the police, the Lagos state government provided materials that included a range of resources such as 100 saloon cars, 55 Ford Ranger pick-up vans, 10 Toyota Land Cruiser pick-up vans, 115 power bikes, three helicopters, two gunboats, Isuzu Trucks, vehicular radio communication, security gadgets, bulletproof vests, siren and public address systems, helmets, handcuffs, uniforms, and kits[67]. Additionally, the government also proposed an enhanced insurance and death benefit programme.

Overall, the Lagos State Government incurred an expenditure of around N4,765 billion Naira on the federal police in 2018. The actions undertaken by the Governor of Lagos State is not an aberration. This is common practise among other state governors, highlighting the Federal Government's perceived inability to adequately equip the police force in order to effectively ensure the protection of lives and property. The governor of a certain state assumes the role of the primary executive authority within that jurisdiction. The governor collaborates with the Commissioner of Police (CP) of the state in order to ensure the safety and security of the region as the chief security officer of the state.

However, it is important to note that the governor does not possess any authority or jurisdiction over the operational decisions made by the Commissioner of Police (CP). The source of this power is located in faraway Abuja. This has led to questions about

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the rationale for states allocating funds to support a police force over which they lack direct oversight. The governor is held accountable by the populace in the event of any security deficiencies inside the state.

It is important to acknowledge, however, that the act of state governors extending goodwill to the Police Force can be interpreted as an intervention and should be regarded as such. However, individuals who oppose the establishment of state police argue that state political leaders may exploit it as a means to intimidate their adversaries in the political arena. The argument contains an implicit assumption that the Federal Government possesses a higher level of integrity compared to state governments. The veracity of this claim remains unsubstantiated. The utilisation of the police force by the Federal Government to frighten its political adversaries has been documented on multiple occasions[70].

Another dubious assumption pertains to the expectation that various entities such as the media, judiciary, labour unions, opposition parties, and civil society groups will passively acquiesce while a state government flagrantly disregards the rights and well-being of its population. The unlikelihood of this scenario can be attributed to several factors, including the diverse ownership of media outlets, the presence of civil society organisations, the role of the judiciary, and the proactive engagement of the general public. This measure has the potential to mitigate the inclination towards authoritarianism, as it restricts the ability of a state's highest-ranking official to employ state law enforcement agencies to suppress political adversaries.

Another contention raised by critics of state police pertains to the limited financial capacity of just a select number of states to adequately support the establishment and maintenance of state police forces. Currently, the operational expenses of the police in all states are collectively funded by both federal and state governments. State

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governments would be required to allocate additional funds to supplement their current expenditures on the Police Force. Moreover, by revising the revenue sharing mechanism to provide states with a greater allocation than their current share, it would alleviate the financial strain associated with funding state police departments.

Another perspective posits the existence of potential conflicts about operational jurisdiction between the two police units. In the event that such conflicts emerge, they have the potential to be addressed in a mutually agreeable manner. In contemporary times, it is worth noting that the Federal Police and Army, have occasionally had conflicts, albeit without significant detrimental effects on their respective reputations or integrity[71]. The opponents posit an additional point that the implementation of state police could potentially expedite the fragmentation of Nigeria. The assertion made is not tenable due to the fact that the Military would continue to maintain its position as the prevailing coercive entity within the nation.

As the debate for state police continues to rage, crime such as armed robbery continued unabated. This has led state government to find alternative means of combating crime. Certain state governments have established vigilante squads or entities similar to state police through legal means. In instances where legal frameworks are absent, state administrations continue to employ them in conjunction with the Federal Police. An illustration of this is the presence of Hisbah, which serves as the Sharia Police in the region of Kano, operating in close collaboration with the Federal Police. The Amotekun Corps in the South west region, while the Eastern Security Network or Ebube Agu are active in the South East region.

Informal semi-police outfits can be found in different regions across the country. The presence of these makeshift security outfits implies the existence of an apparent deficiency in policing efforts, which they are, whether lawfully or unlawfully,

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addressing. Given the aforementioned circumstances, it may be worth considering the possibility of granting governments the authority to establish a legally sanctioned police force, subject to regulation and oversight by a Police Service Commission. Currently, a significant number of these security organisations are functioning in a capricious and discretionary manner.

One of the primary arguments in favour of state police is the significant low level of law enforcement presence throughout the nation. According to the United Nations standard, the recommended ratio is one law enforcement officer to every 400 individuals. According to Kimani, Nigeria's population stands at approximately 180 million, a figure that, according to the United Nations criteria, would necessitate a minimum of 450,000 police personnel[72].

Currently, the Nigeria Police has a staff size of approximately 371,800, indicating a shortfall of 78,200 police employees[73]. In the year 2017, the recruitment of an additional 10,000 police personnel was authorised by President Muhammadu Buhari[74]. This still falls very short of the requirements. Despite the current low statistic, the Federal Government has been unable to fully address the security needs of the nation[75]. Certain members of the police force carry out their responsibilities while wearing uniforms that are visibly damaged or tattered[76].

According to a study conducted by the International Workplace Research Panel, it has been seen that certain Nigerian policemen are grossly underequipped with many having to buy their own boots[77]. Additionally, it has been noted that many of them experience being drenched by rain due to their lack of raincoats. In certain instances, policemen often go lengthy periods without receiving the bonuses and allowances[75]. This explains why law enforcement officers have occasionally expressed the possibility of initiating a strike action[78].

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In the event that state governments were to establish their own police forces, this action would augment the combined number of police forces and enhance the overall capability of the law enforcement institution to combat crime with more efficacy. However, in the event that the government chooses to uphold the existing state of affairs and successfully achieves the policing standards set by the United Nations, it is unlikely to significantly influence the efficacy of the police institution. This is primarily due to the inherent limitations of its centralised framework, which leads to operational hindrances, as well as the vast geographical expanse of the nation.

In addition to the aforementioned considerations, it is crucial to examine the financial ramifications associated with achieving the United Nations norm for police, particularly in light of the limited availability of resources. The operational framework for the establishment of state police in Nigeria also poses a significant concern. As previously mentioned, various models of state police exist globally, for instance, the models of India, Canada, and the United States of America. Each of these models appears to have been established by countries, considering internal dynamics such as population, size, financial capability, and other relevant factors. The direct adoption of an existing model, such as the Presidential System of government, without change, as observed in Nigeria, has the potential to exacerbate rather than resolve the country's issues[79].

This suggests that in the event that Nigeria decides to borrow, which appears to be the most probable scenario, it is imperative to establish a comprehensive legal framework to regulate the activities of both the Federal and State Police. An effective legal instrument would be required to address various aspects, such as the interplay between the Federal and State Police, the allocation of funds for both levels of law enforcement agencies, the delineation of powers and constraints for each level of

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police, and the establishment of mechanisms to foster a cooperative relationship between the Federal and State Governments.

The hasty establishment of state police without a proper legislative framework may potentially lead to conflict and uncertainty between the Federal government and the individual states. Furthermore, a significant concern arises regarding the attitude exhibited by both the political class and police personnel, which currently falls short of the desirable standards necessary for the successful establishment and functioning of the proposed state police, hence hindering its ability to fulfil its intended objectives. There is a pressing necessity to implement a comprehensive reorientation programme for both the political class and personnel of the Police Force, with the aim of instilling discipline in their approach to matters pertaining to security. In the absence of this measure, the continuation of the current state of affairs and the government's implementation of state police would prove to be counterproductive. During the transitional period, it is advisable to initiate a process of decentralisation within the Nigeria Police as a first step towards the eventual establishment of state police, contingent upon the establishment of suitable conditions.

It is not only state government that is looking for a way to deal with the spate of armed robbery in Nigeria as citizens and communities have also weighed in. One example of such efforts is the implementation of a community policing system. Before the advent of colonial control in Nigeria, different ethnic groups employed diverse strategies to curb aberrant behaviour, such as armed robbery and other forms of violent crimes. It has been acknowledged that prior to the colonial era in Nigeria, the issues pertaining to law enforcement were addressed through an intermediary system involving diverse institutions engaged in informed policing.

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These institutions included secret societies, oracles, priests and priestesses affiliated with various shrines, diviners, as well as organisers of trials through the utilisation of traditional 200 chiefs, village elders, guards, messengers, and age grades. Nevertheless, the introduction of colonialism in Nigeria led to a shift away from the old policing system, giving rise to a bureaucratic and organised approach to law enforcement. The implementation of a formal policing system in Nigeria was not motivated by the welfare of Nigerians[5]. Upon the conclusion of colonial control, the governing political elite unreservedly embraced the colonial policing system without any modifications.

The outcome is that the police's negative attitude appears to be amplified in their interaction with the public, who should not only be regarded as the police's strongest ally, but also as collaborators in the collective effort to combat crime within society. The anticipated correlation arises from Robert Peel's inclination inside the recently established London Police District during the early 19th century, whereby he stated that "police are the public and the public are the police." However, this was not the situation in Nigeria. The dissatisfaction of the Nigerian people with the formal operations and behaviour of the police has had a significant influence on their perceptions and interactions with law enforcement.

This has resulted in a noticeable increase in criminal activity, with financial crimes, particularly armed robbery, being a frequent and persistent occurrence. Police departments in developed countries have actively implemented community policing strategies with great enthusiasm. The countries that have notably implemented measures in reaction to crime and disorder inside urban areas, with the aim of restoring the police-community connection, include the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. The implementation of community policing

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in Nigeria commenced on April 27, 2004, under the leadership of the former Inspector General of Police Mustafa Adebayo Balogun. The pilot state chosen for this initiative was Enugu. This idea has become accepted nationwide with police community relations committees (PCRCs) being established across Nigeria[80, 81].

2.1.4 Concept of Socio-Economic Development

The term "socio-economic development" refers to the process of improving the social and economic conditions of a society or community. The key word in this concept is development which is a popular concept around the world. Development is commonly characterised as a condition in which entities undergo progress and enhancement. It entails a change in condition, mostly in the positive sense[82]. However, the term is subject to varying definitions across diverse settings, including social, political, biological, science and technology, language, and literacy. Within the socio-economic framework, development refers to the enhancement of individuals' quality of life through advancements in education, financial resources, skill acquisition, and employment opportunities. The phenomenon under consideration pertains to the intricate process of economic and social transition, which is contingent upon cultural and environmental elements[83].

Socio-economic development, while usually used as a compound word is actually the fusion of two concepts namely social and economic development. Researchers often combine them because of the assumption that they go hand-in-hand. Economic development is a broader and more qualitative concept that encompasses improvements in various aspects of human well-being and living standards, in addition to economic growth. It focuses on the overall betterment of society. Socio-economic development refers to the intricate process of advancing both social and economic aspects within a given society. Indicators such as gross domestic product

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(GDP), life expectancy, literacy rates, and employment levels are utilised for measurement purposes. In order to enhance comprehension of socioeconomic development, it is beneficial to analyse the concepts of social development and economic growth independently.

Social development is a dynamic and ongoing process that leads to the reformation of social institutions, ultimately enhancing the society's ability to meet its goals and objectives. This suggests a transformative shift in societal structure and conduct, characterised by the cultivation of progressive attitudes and behaviours among the populace, as well as the use of more efficient processes and advanced technologies. There exists a strong correlation between settings, lifestyles, and technology. Social development is an ever-evolving process that involves the transformation of social institutions, the cultivation of progressive attitudes and behaviours, and the adoption of advanced technologies. The relationship between settings, lifestyles, and technology is a key factor in this process, as it shapes the direction and pace of societal advancement, ultimately contributing to the achievement of society's goals and objectives.

Social development implies a significant metamorphosis in the structure and behaviour of a society, marked by the cultivation of forward-thinking attitudes and actions among its people, in addition to the adoption of more efficient methodologies and cutting-edge technologies. A key aspect to consider in this transformative journey is the intrinsic relationship between the settings in which individuals live, the lifestyles they lead, and the technological advancements they employ. In essence, social development is an ongoing journey of improvement, where society adapts to changing circumstances, seeks to address its challenges, and endeavours to create a better future. This dynamic process encompasses several vital elements such as

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institutional evolution, attitudinal change, technological advancement and other indices[84].

Social development involves the constant evolution of social institutions, such as government, education, and healthcare. Reforms and innovations in these areas are pivotal in achieving societal goals and improving the overall well-being of the populace. The development of a society hinges on the cultivation of progressive attitudes among its citizens. This includes an open-minded approach to change, a willingness to embrace diversity, and a commitment to equality and social justice. Such attitudes foster a more inclusive and harmonious society. Consequently, social development prompts changes in individual and collective behaviours. As people become more aware of the importance of sustainable living, responsible consumption, and community engagement, they contribute to a more socially conscious and responsible society[85]. Elevated thinking also results in the development of improved tools made possible by technological advancement.

Technology is a driving force in social development. Advanced technologies not only improve the efficiency of various processes but also enable new ways of communicating, working, and problem-solving. These innovations can revolutionize industries and services, making them more accessible and effective for the general population[86].Technology has a profound impact on the way people live. The digital revolution, for example, has transformed the way individuals work, communicate, and access information. As technology becomes more integrated into daily life, it can enhance the quality of life, increase productivity, and provide new opportunities for people to connect and collaborate.

The environment in which individuals live greatly influences their lifestyles. Urban, suburban, and rural settings, for instance, offer distinct opportunities and challenges.

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Access to education, healthcare, and employment, as well as the availability of cultural and recreational amenities, varies depending on the location. Social development seeks to bridge these disparities and create inclusive settings that support diverse lifestyles. All of these can only exist in a peaceful atmosphere which is the opposite of what violence crimes such as armed robbery offer. It is easy to see how improvement in social development is linked to economic development.

The word "economic development" refers to the gradual increase in a country's ability to create a wide range of consumer goods. This expanding capability relies on technological advancements and the requisite social and ideological cultural institutions. Institutional economists emphasised the social aspects of development by defining it as “the movement upward of the entire social system.

Economic development thus refers to the process of enhancing the economic prosperity of nations or specific geographic areas with the aim of improving the overall welfare of their populations. The level of economic development is commonly inferred from economic growth. The concept of "economic growth" pertains to the expansion or upward trajectory of several indicators, such as real national income, gross domestic product (GDP), or per capita income. On the contrary, the concept of economic development encompasses a broader scope. The process of national development encompasses the enhancement of a nation's economic, political, and social welfare for its populace[87].

Per capita income is often used as an indicator of the standard of living in a particular area. It provides a measure of the average resources available to individuals within the region. Higher per capita income typically indicates a higher standard of living, with more income available to meet basic needs and pursue a better quality of life. Per capita income is also used to compare the economic prosperity of different regions or

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countries. It helps identify disparities in income distribution and assess economic development levels. Countries or regions with higher per capita income are generally considered more economically developed. In the same vein, countries with low per capita income are group as underdeveloped[87].

Per capital income is also linked to economic growth. Changes in per capita income over time can also indicate economic growth or decline. A rising per capita income suggests that the economy is expanding and those individuals, on average, are becoming more prosperous. Conversely, a declining per capita income may signal economic stagnation or recession. However, Per capita income has its limitations. It does not take into account income inequality, so a high per capita income does not necessarily mean that everyone in the region enjoys a high standard of living. It also does not consider variations in the cost of living, which can differ significantly from one region to another.

Despite these, Governments and policymakers use per capita income data to make informed decisions about economic and social policies. It can guide resource allocation, poverty reduction strategies, and the development of social welfare programs. Per capita income is one of the indicators used to classify countries into income groups, such as low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries. This classification is often used by international organizations and agencies to target development assistance and set global development goals.

This goes to show that per capital income is considered a critical economic metric that quantifies the average income of individuals in a particular region. It is a useful tool for assessing economic well-being, comparing living standards between regions, and monitoring economic growth and development. However, it should be used in

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conjunction with other indicators to provide a more comprehensive view of a region's economic and social conditions.

Socio-economic development is a multifaceted process that entails enhancing various aspects. The phenomenon in question must exert its effect throughout all facets of human existence within a given nation. However, it is worth considering whether the idea of socio-economic development adequately encompasses all dimensions of progress. The primary metric utilised, known as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is a distinct gauge of economic well-being that fails to consider significant factors including leisure time, environmental sustainability, individual liberties, equitable distribution of resources, and gender parity[88].

Another measure of economic growth is per capital income. Per capita income, often referred to as income per capita, is a crucial economic indicator that measures the average income earned by an individual in a specific region, typically a country, over a defined period, usually a year. It is calculated by taking the total income generated in that region and dividing it by the total population. The result is an average income figure that provides insight into the economic well-being and standard of living of the population. It is essential to note that per capital income, does not well capture the degree of income inequality within a population. These indices do not guarantee equitable distribution of development benefits, particularly among marginalised groups in society. Consequently, a novel paradigm of human development is being employed. The primary focus pertains to the comprehensive assessment of the quality of life experienced by individuals within a given nation, encompassing the range of options available to them and the extent of their freedoms.

Definitions of economic growth are often made at the national level. From this perspective, development occurs when a country learns the natural laws of creation

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and applies those laws to develop the technological prowess to manufacture a variety of goods to meet the needs of its people over time. As its members work together to become more resilient in the face of challenges, the economy of a society grows. Understanding the laws of nature/science, applying that knowledge through the development of tools (technology), and organising work in a way that promotes and sustains the well-being of all members of society all contribute to a population's ability to cope with its natural surroundings[89].

Scholars have also measured socio-economic development by the quality and quantity of modern infrastructure available to a society. Socio-economic, infrastructure and basic amenities like good roads, quality water supply, electricity, health care, markets, transportation, telecommunication, sports centres, and so on, play a large role on development. And when all these essential and basic amenities are lacking, development can hardly take place. On the other hand, negligence on the part of the government can also affect the developmental process that should take place in the rural areas.

Thus, the progress of economics is a reflection of how man has used his knowledge of natural law to invent technology that allows him to harness resources for his own benefit. At the national level, development occurs when a population of humans living in a specific area learns enough about natural law to organise themselves in such a way that they may enhance their productive capacity through technical advancements. Neoclassical synthesis, the dominant theoretical framework of modern economics, has consistently equated economic progress with economic growth. It is possible that careless policymaking, hindered by a lack of information, has hampered efforts to improve the economy[90].

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Changes in the economy occur dynamically, shifting between stable states like the one between tradition and modernity. In its most basic form, it is a change that involves a succession of modifications to an existing structure; the process by which one structure gives rise to another, as new information is learnt. It is linked to factors outside of conventional economics, such as the shifting of values and the influence of new technologies[40]. Growth is dependent on the independent variable of development. In other words, contrary to what is suggested by traditional theories of development (such as modernization, dependency, and neoliberal globalisation), development is the driving force behind economic expansion.

However, the study of economic growth is at best a quantitative static examination. It focuses on alterations occurring within a structure rather than on the structure itself being transformed. In this view, growth is merely the duplication of a pre-existing structure and does not result in progress. Using the quantitative concept of GNP/capita, it is a metric of development but not development itself. The discussion of necessary technological and social transformation occurred apart from the Keynesian matrix that a growth model depends on. A theory of the dynamics of economic development necessitates an explanation of the social and cultural transformation structures, which cannot be provided by an economic growth model, which is a derivative of the Keynesian matrix[91].

The field of economics is aware of this shortcoming. Some economists have tried to find ways around the growth model's inherent comparative static. If we make a connection between the two, we might say that growth is a gauge of development. It has to do with making identical copies of something. However, economic development follows a unique path. It is a dynamic change when one structure gives way to another. The ability to transform depends on one's access to technological

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advancements. Economic growth is not the cause of the high levels of gross national product (GNP) per capita that characterise developed economies; rather, these levels are the product of the evolutionary process of cultural and social transformations.

The gross domestic product (GDP) is a common measure of an economy's output. The gathering of high-quality GDP data, however, faces various obstacles due to problems such the lack of standardised accounting procedures, uneven data collection methodology, and inefficiency of data collection[92]. In addition, many countries in Africa, including Nigeria have challenges in collecting and analysing economic data which could give inaccurate or incomplete picture of their economic situation. This has shifted the attention of researcher to the realm of satellite imagery as an economic data collection tool.

Experts argue that, remote sensing is a more effective method of conducting a macroeconomic survey. Population estimates, evaluations of social and economic growth, estimates of energy consumption, and maps of urbanisation are only some of the many uses for the day and night time imagery collected by satellite sensors like DMSP-OLS. When it comes to the economy, the distinctive artificial NTL can stand in for the lighting of human activity after dark[93]. Human settlement, urban population, socioeconomic activity, energy and electricity consumption, gas emission, forest fires, military actions, and natural disasters are just some of the many things that can be measured and monitored with the help of DMSP-OLS night time images[94].

Scholars used the Defence Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) Operational Lines can System (OLS) NTL data to estimate the marketed and unmarketed economic value of the entire planet using just two categorised satellite photos[95]. They found that a country's GDP was proportional to the quantity of light energy it released at night, as measured by satellite imagery. Using DMSP-OLS, another group of

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researchers also evaluated human presence and activity in the Brazilian Amazonia areas, concluding that urban settlements, mining, industries, and human construction in the Amazon were linked to human presence in the Amazon[96]. In their research on NTL from 1997-2002, scholars also found a robust link with power use. To better map Australia's electricity use, they elected to use the Overflow Removal Model (ORM). For their study on India's ever-changing urban landscape, they used the support vector machine (SVM) technique to merge SPOT vegetation (VGT) data with DMSP-OLS NTL[97].

This is especially useful for studying underdeveloped areas that lack complete demographic and economic information. This is also instructional in the current study as economic data alone may not paint the real picture of the impact of insecurity caused by violent crimes such as armed robbery. Nigeria is classified as a middle-income mixed economy and an emerging market, characterised by the presence of many sectors such as manufacturing, finance, service, communications, technology, and entertainment, which are experiencing notable growth and development. The business sector serves as the crucial linking element among these sectors, around which all others circle. However, it is essential for a secure environment to be established as a prerequisite for the successful functioning of this link. Nigeria, a predominantly agrarian and commercial nation experiencing rapid population expansion of around 195.8 million individuals, necessitates the production of goods and services and the formulation of effective marketing strategies to facilitate the export and import of surplus output. Paradoxically, the prevalence of unemployment is steadily increasing on a daily basis within the general community, with a significant portion of the demographic being comprised of young individuals.

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The security concerns confronting Nigeria have had a significant impact on businesses and their proprietors. Instances of armed robbery, kidnapping, theft, and fraud, whether conducted through internet means or otherwise, are pervasive in contemporary society. Numerous entrepreneurs have fallen victim to these criminal acts, resulting in their abduction and subsequent payment of substantial ransoms from their business funds. Tragically, some individuals have even lost their lives during these harrowing ordeals. The citizens have expressed continuous concern about the increasing incidence of kidnapping, which poses a significant risk to both human lives and property, particularly in the South-South and South-East regions of Nigeria.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that there is a pervasive presence of internet fraudsters around the nation, who engage in the illicit act of extorting funds from business operators, including those situated in Benin-City. The Boko Haram insurgents are causing significant devastation in the northern region, resulting in the relocation or closure of numerous businesses as owners prioritise personal safety. The Fulani herdsmen are causing significant damage to the agricultural communities in the middle belt region, resulting in the loss of innocent lives among the farming population and the destruction of their crops, which are being utilised as feed for the herdsmen's cattle[98]. Scholars have suggested that individuals from non-indigenous backgrounds, particularly those of Igbo and Yoruba descent, who previously resided in the northern region of Nigeria, chose to return to their respective ancestral homes due to concerns over potential violence inflicted by the extremist group known as Boko Haram. Similarly, it was observed that there was a significant migration of entrepreneurs and manufacturing firms from the northern region to more tranquil areas inside the country in order to sustain their commercial operations[99].

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The potential consequences of this phenomenon may have an impact on many business operations and the overall trajectory of economic growth. Scholars have postulated that the escalating wave of insecurity in Nigeria serves as a hindrance to corporate operations and discourages both domestic and international investors, hence impeding the country's socio-economic progress. Insecurity has the potential to result in both direct and indirect losses for goods and services, as well as preventative measures taken by company operators to mitigate risks and uncertainties. It may also provide a problem to attract direct foreign investment, as foreign investors may be hesitant to make investments that would contribute to employment generation and encourage economic growth and development[100].

The potential consequences of this situation include hindering the overall efficiency of the organisation through limitations in the availability or sufficient supply of essential raw materials, as well as impeding the production process and sales of finished goods. Marketing efforts face obstacles in regions characterised by discord, such as the communal conflicts that transpired between the Ijaws, Itsekiri, and Urhobo in Warri, as well as the conflicts between the Ijaw and Ilaje in Ondo State, which had adverse effects on the commercial operations inside these localities. Moreover, organisations may face the risk of losing their highly diligent and skilled employees due to instances of violent attacks, or some individuals may choose to resign out of concern for their personal safety and seek refuge elsewhere[101].

Citizens have also expressed their concerns regarding the impact of Boko Haram Insurgent violence on commercial activities in Kano, a prominent trade hub in the northern region. The traders perceive Kano as a vital commercial centre due to its proximity to closed borders with Niger, Cameroon, and Chad. The consequences of the violence include the cessation of business operations due to fear of violence, the

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displacement of business operators, and the implementation of dusk-to-dawn curfews[102].

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Several hypotheses that explore the reasons behind committing crimes and the processes via which people usually turn into criminals serve as the foundation for this research. These theories also look at the explanations that criminals—like armed robbers—offer for their actions. The main theories taken into account in this research include:

Differential Association idea: According to this idea, criminal behaviour is acquired through social encounters. This viewpoint holds that people turn criminals when they are exposed to more attitudes and values that encourage breaking the law than to those that support it. This theory places a strong emphasis on how peer pressure and socialisation play a part in the formation of criminal behaviour.

Rational Choice view: According to this view, people decide to commit crimes after assessing the benefits and dangers. Rational choice theory holds that deliberate judgements made by people who determine that the advantages of their activities outweigh the risks lead to crime. This viewpoint emphasises the importance of cost-benefit analysis and individual agency in criminal decision-making.

The Social Organisation Theory, which is often referred to as the Social Disorganisation Theory, centres on the environmental elements that give rise to criminal conduct. It implies that communities with weak social structures and low levels of social cohesiveness are more prone to experience crime. This theory holds that by weakening social control mechanisms within communities, elements including

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poverty, residential mobility, and family disruption foster circumstances that are favourable to criminal activity.

Materialist Theory: This theory looks at the material and economic circumstances that lead people to commit crimes. It makes the case that material goods cravings and financial hardship might motivate criminal activity. Materialist theory places a strong emphasis on how socioeconomic variables—like unemployment, resource scarcity, and economic inequality—influence criminal activity.

These theories offer a thorough framework for comprehending the intricate interactions between personal, societal, and financial elements that influence criminal behaviour. The study intends to offer insight on the diverse motivations and explanations for criminal behaviours, especially in the setting of armed robbery, by evaluating these numerous perspectives.

2.2.1 Differential Association Theory

The Differential Association Theory is a criminological and sociological theory that was developed by Edwin Sutherland in 1939[103]. It seeks to explain how individuals come to engage in criminal behaviour and why they continue to engage in such behaviour over time. The theory is rooted in the idea that criminal behaviour is learned through social interactions and associations with others, rather than being an inherent trait. Key principles and concepts of the Differential Association Theory include

Criminal Behaviour as Learned: The theory posits that individuals learn criminal behaviour and attitudes from their interactions with others, particularly in intimate and significant social groups such as family, peers, and close friends. These learned behaviours may include techniques, motives, rationalizations, and attitudes conducive

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to criminal activities. Frequency and Intensity of Contacts: The theory emphasizes that the frequency and intensity of interactions with pro-criminal influences determine the extent to which an individual adopts criminal behaviours. If an individual has more exposure to pro-criminal influences than anti-criminal ones, they are more likely to engage in criminal activities. Differential Associations: Sutherland argued that individuals are exposed to a mix of associations with both pro-criminal and anti-criminal values. The theory suggests that criminal behaviour is more likely to occur when an individual's associations with pro-criminal influences outweigh their associations with anti-criminal influences. Criminal Definitions: Differential Association Theory also highlights the role of "definitions" or attitudes toward the law. Individuals may acquire definitions that are favourable to criminal behaviour, which can lead them to justify and rationalize their involvement in criminal activities.

Criminal Behaviour as a Process: Criminal behaviour is seen as a process that evolves over time. As individuals continue to associate with pro-criminal influences, they become more committed to criminal activities, and these behaviours become more ingrained in their identity.

Cultural Transmission: The theory suggests that criminal behaviour is transmitted from one generation to the next within certain social groups or subcultures. If a family or peer group has a history of criminal behaviour, the likelihood of an individual from that group engaging in criminal activities increases.

Social Learning: Differential Association Theory aligns with the principles of social learning theory, which means that individuals learn behaviour through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. In this case, individuals learn criminal behaviour by observing and imitating others.

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The concept of differential association theory encompasses two significant features. The initial dimension, known as behavioural-interactional, posits that deviance arises from both direct and indirect association with individuals who partake in specific behaviours, as well as identification with more distant reference groups. The individuals or groups with whom an individual consistently engages, whether through direct or indirect means, are considered to form robust relationships that give rise to varied patterns of attitudes.

These relationships serve as a foundation for the expression of the principles and concepts of social learning theory. In the given social context, individuals are subjected to diverse interpretations of what constitutes acceptable and inappropriate conduct. Additionally, they encounter a range of behavioural examples that may differentially promote both criminal and non-criminal actions. These models can also be utilised as a reference for the replication of behaviour. Social learning theorists categorise the individuals or groups with whom an individual associates into primary and secondary sources.

Primary associations encompass relationships with individuals who are closest to us, such as direct family members and close friends. Secondary sources of social learning encompass a broader spectrum of individuals, encompassing various entities such as educators, community members, and religious organisations, among others. Each of these groups is believed to play a role in shaping an individual's views, values, and behaviour within different social circumstances. According to the idea of differential association, the determinants of conduct are commonly recognised to include the timing, duration, frequency, and nature of interpersonal interactions.

The first point of connection has the most significant impact on an individual's behaviour. Furthermore, the duration of the association, the frequency of the

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association, and the proximity of the relationship also have a role in influencing behaviour[104]. From a socio cultural learning standpoint, it may be argued that the associations formed during early stages of development within the family unit have a significant impact on an individual's behavioural patterns. Critics of the theory argue that it does not sufficiently address the underlying causes of why some individuals have more exposure to pro-criminal influences than others. Additionally, the theory has been criticized for not adequately explaining why some individuals resist the influence of pro-criminal associations.

Differential Association Theory has been influential in the field of criminology and has contributed to our understanding of how social factors and interactions play a significant role in the development of criminal behaviour. It has also influenced the development of other theories, such as social learning theory and routine activities theory, which build upon the core ideas of the Differential Association Theory.

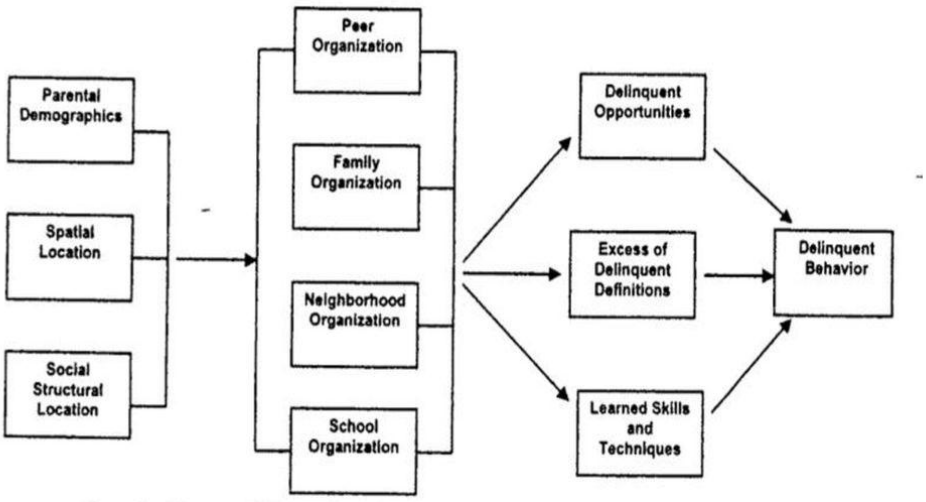


Figure 2.3: Theory of Differential Association

Source[80]

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2.2.2 Rational Choice Theory

The rational choice theory espouses a utilitarian perspective that posits people as rational agents who engage in a cognitive process of evaluating many factors such as means and ends, costs and benefits, in order to arrive at a sensible decision. This theory was first posited in 1987 by Ronald Clarke and Derek Cornish[105].Rational choice is used to understand a criminal event. The theory purports that a potential offender must make four primary choices: (1) whether or not to commit a crime, (2) whether or not to select a particular target, (3) how frequently to offend, and (4) whether or not to desist from crime. For example, if we look at property crime, it is a crime often committed for immediate monetary gain. The complexities of this theory are most often seen when we look at non-property violent crime (i.e., crimes not seen as rational). The fundamental concept within rational choice theory is rationality. Rationality refers to the role of reasoning in human behaviour and views crime as the outcome of an individual thinking through the possible rewards and downsides of a criminal act.

It is generally accepted that there are good guys and bad guys in each given society. According to this theory, law-abiding citizens are the exception rather than the rule, and criminals perpetrate crimes until they are incapacitated. The economic model of crime reframes the problem from an individual's intrinsic traits to his or her personal set of options. The decision of whether or not to commit a crime is influenced by the potential outcomes, which vary from person to person based on their access to resources. From this vantage point, it is reasonable to assume that deterrence is effective; that crime rates will be proportional to the harshness of punishment. To all would-be criminals, there exists a benefit of crime that takes into account not just the

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cash gains but also the psychological advantages they anticipate from committing crime.

The decision to engage in criminal behaviour: There are numerous factors that contribute to an individual's propensity to engage in criminal behaviour, including but not limited to psychological, familial, social, and economic influences. Nonetheless, within this context, criminal behaviour continues to be perceived as a conscious choice, as individuals are not compelled into a criminal lifestyle. The decision to engage in criminal behaviour is a deliberate and conscious act. The decision-making process involves evaluating both legal and illegitimate opportunities, ultimately selecting the optimal choice for the individual in question. There are instances where it may be considered logical to intentionally cause offence[106].

The decision of whether or not to choose a specific target: The decision to choose a specific aim holds significant importance when considering rational choice. Potential offenders are required to assess environmental signs in order to choose their targets or actions. Does the potential value of the target outweigh the potential risk of being apprehended? Is the criminal familiar with the area? Are there prospective guardians in close proximity?

What is the frequency of offensive behaviour: The frequency of engaging in offensive behaviour is mostly contingent upon several elements, including the individual's social network, the influence of peers, their financial or other material requirements, and their capacity to effectively evade detection. The primary argument being made is that the selection of frequency remains a matter of personal discretion[83].

The topic under consideration pertains to the decision-making process regarding the cessation of criminal behaviour. The decision to either desist from engaging in

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criminal behaviour or persist in criminal activities can be viewed as a reasonable choice. A prospective perpetrator may encounter several internal challenges when contemplating the commission of a crime, such as the depletion of suitable targets, age-related limitations, and the risk of detection. Conversely, the act of entering into matrimony, experiencing physical harm, or receiving a job offer are external factors that impede the pursuit of a criminal lifestyle[82].

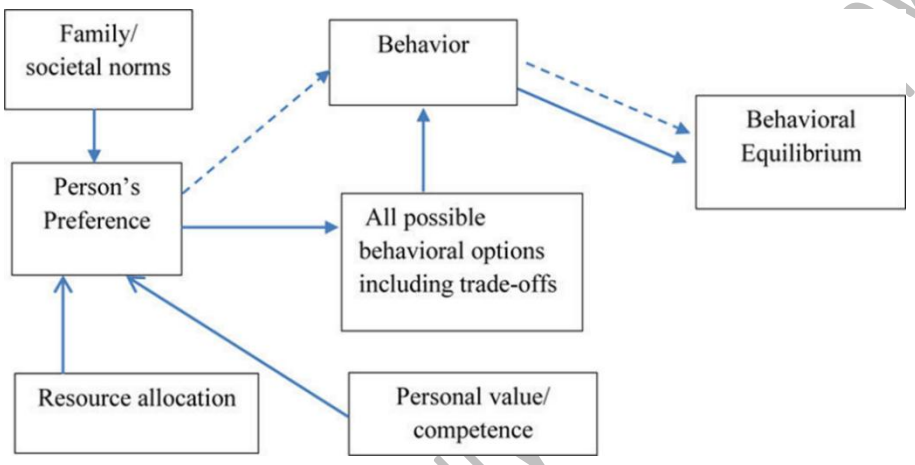


Figure 2.4: Rational Choice Theory

Source[105]

2.2.3 Social Disorganisation Theory

Social disorganisation theory is a sociological perspective that seeks to explain why some neighbourhoods or communities experience higher rates of crime and delinquency than others. This theory was first developed by researchers at the University of Chicago in the early 20th century, notably by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay, and has since been influential in the field of criminology. The fundamental premise of the social disorganization theory revolves around elucidating the disparities in criminal behaviour and delinquency by attributing them to the breakdown of institutions[107]. The historical development of regulated and amicable

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interactions among many social groups within a community has been significantly shaped by various institutions, such as the family, educational institutions, religious establishments, and interpersonal relationships.

Consequently, the probability of an individual engaging in criminal or delinquent conduct that could potentially have adverse consequences for their community is less. This group is thereafter associated with the concept of "sense of belonging" or the level of connection an individual may experience towards their local community. The extent of an individual's reciprocal attachment to a group may vary depending on the level of cooperative organization connected with the institutions in question. The absence of significant societal pressure to deter crime and delinquency leads to an increase in the prevalence of such behaviours. The relationship between social disorder and many factors such as the emergence of individualism, rapid societal transformations, and the subsequent disorganizing or disintegrative processes has been explored in previous research[84].

The aforementioned statement underscores the inherent inconsistency and conflict arising from the processes of industrialization and urbanization, and their consequential impact on individuals' lived experiences. In their comprehensive examination of the fluctuations in crime rates in Chicago throughout the early 1900s, they delved deeper into this subject matter. One of the significant contributions made by Shaw and McKay's research is the development of social disorganization as an ecological theory of crime, wherein the influence of social context is seen more influential than individual actions.

The author enhanced their structural argument by conceptualizing crime patterns as "social pathologies" linked to the breakdown of social connections, which they metaphorically referred to as the cohesive force that unifies societies. The individuals

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share a mutual character. According to the argument put up by crime has a significant role in the gradual deterioration of societal structure. It is crucial to bear in mind that efforts to elucidate variations in criminal behaviour have faced criticism over the oversimplification of the reciprocal association between crime and disorder.

2.2.4 Materialist Theory

Materialist theory, also known as historical materialism, is a foundational concept in Marxist theory and a key element of Marxist philosophy and sociology. It was developed primarily by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the 19th century and has since been influential in various fields, including sociology, economics, and political science[108]. Materialism, in this context, refers to an approach that focuses on the material conditions of society and how they shape human behaviour, institutions, and social change. The major argument of the school is that, the causes of social phenomena, events and human behaviours can be explained and understood contextually focusing on the existing material arrangement of the society. The material arrangement of every society determines the behaviours of its members and the kind of actions that they would produce at a given point in time and situation. In other words, social actions and problems are a direct reflection or products of the existing material arrangement of the society[38].

In the context of armed robbery, materialist theory can help provide insights into the underlying economic and social factors that contribute to this criminal behaviour. While armed robbery is a criminal act, materialist theory seeks to understand the root causes by examining the material conditions and socioeconomic circumstances that may lead individuals or groups to engage in such activities. Here's how materialist theory can be applied to the context of armed robbery: Economic Inequality:

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Materialist theory highlights economic inequality as a central concern. It argues that when there is a significant disparity in wealth and resources within a society, individuals or groups who are economically disadvantaged may resort to criminal activities like armed robbery as a means of addressing their material needs. High levels of poverty and limited access to economic opportunities can drive some individuals toward criminal behaviour.

Class Struggle: In the context of armed robbery, materialist theory would examine the class dynamics at play. It suggests that individuals from marginalized and disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds may be more likely to engage in criminal activities like armed robbery as a form of resistance or retaliation against perceived exploitation by the more privileged classes. Capitalism and Crime: Materialist theory often critiques capitalism for its role in perpetuating inequality and alienation. It argues that capitalism's focus on profit accumulation can result in economic hardships for many, which can increase the temptation to turn to criminal activities, including armed robbery, as a way to survive or gain access to resources[109].

Structural Factors: Materialist theory looks beyond individual motivations and focuses on structural factors. It examines how systemic issues, such as the lack of job opportunities, inadequate education, and limited access to social services in certain communities, can contribute to a higher incidence of armed robbery. Responses to Material Conditions: Materialist theory suggests that addressing the root causes of armed robbery requires addressing the underlying material conditions. This might involve implementing policies aimed at reducing poverty, providing better access to education and job training, and creating economic opportunities in disadvantaged areas.

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Collective Action: Materialist theory also highlights the potential for collective action and social movements as a response to economic inequality and its relationship to crime. Instead of resorting to armed robbery as an individual act, marginalized groups may organize and advocate for systemic changes that address economic disparities and reduce the incentive for criminal behaviour. It is important to note that materialist theory is just one perspective within criminology, and crime is a complex phenomenon influenced by a variety of factors, including social, psychological, and situational ones. Additionally, not all instances of armed robbery can be attributed solely to economic factors, as individual motivations and circumstances can vary widely. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of armed robbery requires considering multiple theories and factors in conjunction with materialist perspectives.

Though materialist theory provides a valuable perspective on the relationship between economic conditions and armed robbery, it is not without its limitations. Critics argue that it should be complemented with other sociological, psychological, and situational theories to develop a more comprehensive understanding of criminal behaviour. Additionally, crime reduction strategies should consider a broader range of factors to be effective in preventing and addressing armed robbery and other criminal activities.

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2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

2.3.1. Armed Robbery and Social Development

To drive the zeal needed to fight crimes such as armed robbery to a standstill, a massive body of literature, both theoretical and empirical, has emerged to discuss the causes and impacts of crime on the society. Various researches have been conducted to identify the factors that influence crime rates. For instance, scholars examined the

socioeconomic determinants of crime in Pakistan with a focus on new evidence[110]. The study found a strong correlation between Pakistan's crime and unemployment rates. The author therefore suggested that increased unemployment reduces the rate of return on lawful operations while increasing the rate of return on criminal ones. The study also found that crime rates were significantly lower in areas with higher levels of education. The study also concluded that increased GDP per capita causes higher crime rates over time but lower rates in the short term. Finally, the long-term correlation between crime and poverty was positive, while the short-term correlation was negative.

Another study comparing urban crime was conducted by Malaysian and Nigerian authors[111]. Criminal activity in metropolitan areas has become more alarming in many parts of the world, according to comparative research. There has been a global uptick in the number of urban crimes over the past three decades, and this trend is not limited to any one region or set of countries. The same fate befalls each of them. Urban regions plagued by crime have a lower quality of life overall because of the economic and social disruption it causes. This includes concerns about the security of personal possessions and the safety of residents. As was previously indicated, dealing with urban crime has become a major issue, necessitating a wide range of regulatory and preventative measures. Instead of fighting crime head-on, it is best to prevent it from happening in the first place, hence the statement “prevention is better than cure” remains sacrosanct.

In a similar vein, a Nigerian scholar investigated the sociological elements impeding efficient crime control in Nigeria. Because of factors such as poverty, unemployment, and the disintegration of family values, among others, this research found that crime prevention and control have become challenging tasks[112]. This means that crime is

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like a vicious cycle; it is bred by poverty and it breeds poverty. Poverty also makes it difficult to curb criminal activities.

Researchers also looked into how changes in Romania's socioeconomic status affect crime rates. A broad survey or evaluation of the results shows that there is a positive correlation between crime rates and the clearance rate, urbanisation rate, and the percentage of foreigners. Socioeconomic factors (young unemployment rate and level of education) provide a more convincing explanation for property crimes[113]. The economic perspectives on crime were analysed by researchers. Overall, the studies concluded that higher police presence and longer prison terms reduce criminal activity. It does not appear that the current application of the death penalty in the United States reduces crime. This study also examined the data surrounding three other topics where economists have played an outsized part in the discussion: the efficacy of racial profiling, the effects of concealed-carry laws, and the legalisation of abortion[114].

The non-linear relationship between crime and schooling was studied by another set of scholar from a region in Italy. The data revealed a negative relationship between crime and education for those with a high school diploma or less, and that criminal behaviour tends to persist over time. However, a white-collar effect seems to be behind the observation that higher levels of education are associated with lower rates of crime[115]. This means that while educated people may not engage in armed robbery, they are more likely to engage in white collar crimes.

Furthermore, a researcher investigated how communities are impacted by high incarceration rates. The researcher observed that concentrated incarceration's effects on public safety are difficult to link due to methodological hurdles. Although studies have produced conflicting results, there is mounting evidence that concentrated

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incarceration has detrimental collateral repercussions for the areas where it is implemented. There is currently no tried-and-true method for mitigating the negative consequences of incarceration on local communities[116].

In a related study, researcher used 217 respondents in Odisha to investigate whether convicts' socioeconomic status played a role in their crime. According to the study's findings, criminal activity has permeated virtually every facet of American society. The bureaucracy, politicians, religious leaders, and law enforcers have all been affected. As a result, criminal activity has emerged as a pressing issue, necessitating a significant push on the part of government agencies charged with combating crime and reintegrating ex-convicts into normal life by teaching them respect for the law and civic duty[117].

Panel data analysis was used by researchers from Brazil to look at crime and violence in Brazil across time. A total of 10 studies on the prevalence of self-reported offending in Brazil were found through the systematic review, with another 9 studies looking at risk variables. High rates of alleged wrongdoing by Brazilian school children raise concern. Risk variables at the individual and family levels in Brazil are strikingly comparable to those in high-income nations[118].

Moreover, another scholar investigated the societal, political, and economic effects of ex-convicts' readmission to society. The research also found that no-parole systems significantly reduce post-release supervision because parole boards are forced to oversee parolee populations consisting of more serious offenders than they would prefer[119]. Similarly, using a sample of 120 female inmates from all eight of Kisii town's prisons, scholars in Kenya analysed the social structure, criminality, and quality of life experienced by women tourists in Malaysian towns. According to the findings, it is still unclear whether or not social structure plays a role in the prevalence

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of crime in the city centre of Malaysia. A deeper dive into this variable, by selecting the most relevant respondent to the survey about women's travel safety concerns, will shed light on the problem[120].

In the context of Nigeria, researcher surveyed 3,395 inmates from prisons in Nigeria's South-East Region to assess the state of TB control there. According to the results of the study, despite being a leading cause of death and morbidity among prison populations, TB control is often hampered by a number of factors[121]. This study is instructive on many levels. One it shows that crime takes a social toll on criminals themselves and they lose their freedom when caught and surfer ill-health due to unfriendly prison conditions. Two, captive criminals are costly to maintain just as active criminals constitute a drain on society resources.

2.3.2. Armed Robbery and Economic Development

Studies have been conducted to show the socio-economic effect or armed robbery in Nigeria and other countries around the world. These studies have revealed useful findings that can guide further studies. A study conducted on the menace of traffic robbers in Lagos, Nigeria clearly outlined this.

According to the researcher, these robbers usually approach passing motorists by tapping on their windows and brandishing guns, causing the victims to slow down so that their possessions can be taken. In many cases, the victim is injured because the offender refused to or failed to wind down the vehicle's window. The study found that traffic robbers in Lagos state significantly reduce worker sense of security and output. This finding informs the following recommendations for using hard technologies like closed-circuit television, stress lighting, metal detectors, drones and ignition interlock systems in order to monitor and prevent traffic criminals' activities.

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In addition to CCTV, the report suggests implementing other software technologies such as threat assessment instruments, a bullying ID protocol, a profiling tool, and facial recognition software. The report suggests a variety of measures, including the employment of hardware and software innovations, such as enhanced police safety equipment, better weaponry, computers in patrol vehicles, video in patrol vehicles, and crime mapping[25].

Furthermore, a study examined the psychological challenges experienced by individuals who have been subjected to armed robbery, as well as the potential impact on their occupational capacity. The study sample consisted of 109 individuals employed in various occupations, including post office workers, petrol station attendants, retail cashiers and lottery ticket office employees. The results of the study indicated that acute stress disorder was observed in all participants following an incident of armed robbery, with a significant proportion of individuals initiating outpatient psychiatric treatment within the initial week. The study revealed that 27% of the participants exhibited enduring symptoms of PTSD, indicating a chronic disease. Additionally, a notable 5% of the individuals experienced a significant impairment in their occupational functioning[122].

A related study employed a longitudinal design to examine the relationship between exposure to robbery and the development of psychological distress symptoms and job dissatisfaction over an extended period of time. The data was obtained from a sample of 513 individuals utilising a two-wave panel methodology. In this design, employees completed a questionnaire at two different time points: between 48 hours and 1 week following the occurrence of a robbery (referred to as T1), and again 2 months after the heist (referred to as T2). The findings of the study indicate that victims of robberies

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experience enduring consequences, while also establishing a simultaneous relationship between psychological discomfort and work dissatisfaction[123].

In another related study, the focus was on examining the dynamics of interactions between potential offenders and victims, specifically in the context of bus driver robberies, a prevalent crime observed in urban areas worldwide. The research capitalised on the temporal occurrence of a significant reform implemented in the public transport industry in Chile, utilising comprehensive administrative data on criminal occurrences. The results of the study revealed a notable decrease in criminal activity subsequent to the introduction of a technological advancement that eliminated cash transactions on buses. Additionally, a robust association between the motivations of victims, the existence of cash, and the occurrence of crime was seen[124].

The effect of armed robbery on economic development was also examined by a study conducted in Cameroon. The study found that the influence of armed robbery within the urban centre of Bamenda were substantial. The phenomenon elicited specific adverse socio-psychological, economic, and political consequences. A number of individuals tragically perished as a resultant effect or consequence of armed robbery incidents, particularly when they have chosen to oppose the assailants. Two individuals engaged in armed robbery met their demise as a result of being seized by an enraged group of individuals or being shot by security personnel while attempting to evade capture[125].

Several instances of criminals being fatally wounded and individuals becoming victims of robbery can be observed. In 2015, Ashu Nwo met his demise at the hands of an enraged assailant wielding a mop. Similarly, in 2020, an unidentified film star was tragically killed in Ntarikon subsequent to the murder of his girlfriend. Another incident occurred in December 2005, when George Nkonyam fell victim to robbery,

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resulting in the loss of two crates of fresh fish. Additionally, Tazoh Remi was subjected to a robbery at Old Simplicity while returning from Longla Comprehensive College in 2008. These instances represent a mere fraction of the individuals who have either fallen prey to armed robbery or have been involved in perpetrating such crimes within the city of Bamenda. The frequent incidence of armed robbery in the city of Bamenda has resulted in the emergence of vigilante justice or mob justice. This tactic resulted in the lynching of numerous individuals involved in armed robbery. Once apprehended by security forces, the robbers experienced a significant loss of time in their lives due to the imposition of lengthy prison sentences. Consequently, there was a deprivation of opportunities to cultivate substantial professional trajectories.

In situations when the incarcerated armed robber served as the primary financial provider for their family, the resulting absence of the robber from the household led to feelings of frustration among those who relied on them for sustenance, since they were left without viable means of support. The outcome indicated that certain individuals who relied on the robber resorted to engaging in robbery and other criminal activities as a means of coping, thereby perpetuating a cycle of detrimental behaviour. In several instances, the victims and their family were not significantly affected by the financial repercussions resulting from an armed robbery. However, the potential threat of fatality imposed a profound psychological distress upon the victims. Hence, over the course of the era, individuals who fell prey and their relatives endured severe forms of torment, which persisted for an extended duration. The reputations of certain families and their moral uprightness were compromised due to the involvement of a family member in a notorious conduct such as armed robbery. Once more, the occurrence of armed robbery has had a detrimental impact on the

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maintenance of peace, order, and stability within the urban area of Bamenda. The prevalence of armed robbery in communities created an atmosphere of mutual suspicion and fear, leading to a significant slowdown and, in some cases, completes disruption of social and economic activities. The adverse effects of this phenomenon on the home economy are of significant importance and should not be underestimated. Moreover, the impediment of foreign investment, a crucial factor for facilitating swift economic growth and societal progress, ensued due to diminished interest from international investors who were deterred by the prevailing insecurity resulting from incidents of armed robbery. The erosion of established moral norms and ideals throughout society was seen. The prevalence of armed robbery, characterised by its audacious and notorious nature, has fostered a sense of impunity among perpetrators. Consequently, this has led to an increase in the recruitment of young men from many segments of society, ultimately resulting in the progressive erosion of conventional norms and values. Moreover, the government allocated significant human and material resources towards the prevention and control of armed robbery, which has become a widespread issue. The infusion of this quantity into the economy would have a profound impact on society. The majority of the sophisticated weaponry employed in armed robberies within the city of Bamenda was predominantly sourced from foreign origins. The phenomenon described served as a catalyst for capital flight, since a significant amount of funds were allocated towards imports and illicit trade, hence exacerbating the negative impact on economic progress and advancement. Additionally, instances of armed robbery have resulted in significant instances of forced migration, both from urban areas and from neighbourhoods within the city. The phenomenon of displacement has resulted in individuals being ill-equipped to

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confront additional challenges that arise during the process of migration and subsequent establishment in unfamiliar territories.

Another study conducted in Nigeria however shows that the level of development in Nigeria is a major cause of criminal activities in Nigeria. The study identified poverty, the extravagant lifestyles of the wealthy, poor working condition of security agents, the absence of family values, and unemployment as contributing factors and motivators for armed robbery. The study findings indicate that the current rules pertaining to armed robbery fail to effectively discourage potential perpetrators from engaging in this illicit behaviour. In light of the aforementioned context, the research suggests that fostering strong family values and ethics, alongside the government's efforts to generate employment opportunities for the substantial population of unemployed youth, enhance the nation's economy, and fortify the judiciary system, would contribute to mitigating the prevalence of armed robbery in metropolitan Benin, located in southern Nigeria[126].

Another study conducted in Nigeria highlighted that armed robbery, along with other forms of organised criminal behaviour such as kidnapping for ransom, armed banditry, and terrorism, presents a significant cause for alarm. This is due to the substantial loss of human life it entails, as well as the hindrance it poses to foreign direct investment. Investors are unlikely to engage in business activities within an environment characterised by security threats. The research employed a sample size of 819 participants, who were selected from four distinct geopolitical zones of the country. The data collection was conducted using the method of other-administered questionnaires. The study revealed that a significant proportion of the participants, specifically 39%, reported having been subjected to armed robbery incidents on at least one occasion. Furthermore, a majority of 56% of the respondents said that they

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were acquainted with individuals who had fallen victim to fatal robberies. More than 60% of individuals experience a persistent sense of apprehension regarding the occurrence of robbery incidents on a regular basis. The study noted that despite the implementation of security measures by consecutive Nigerian administrations, the country's roadways have continued to exhibit a lack of safety[1].

The aforementioned conclusions were deemed quite disconcerting in terms of security protocols. The report presented a dissenting perspective about the commonly held belief that attributes the prevalence of armed robbery in the country solely to unemployment. Instead, the study characterised Nigeria's security architecture as lacking in strength, particularly in terms of policing methods and social values, suggesting the need for a fundamental transformation in these areas.

In a related study, researchers observed that crimes have become more rampart than ever in Nigeria. Robbery, pilfering, kidnapping, internet scam, and other social media crimes have risen to high pedigrees of recent. In most cases, perpetrators of these crimes are youths. Using South-Western Nigeria as a case study, this study employs both quantitative and qualitative methods, to interrogate the challenge of sustainable security for Nigeria with youth unemployment and crimes. A total of 200 questionnaires were used to elicit information from the residents. It discovered that unemployment and lack of meaningful empowerment by government, among others, are responsible for high crime rates among youths. It recommends urgent efforts on the part of government to gainfully engage unemployed youths for decent means of livelihood. Also, commensurate penalties should be meted out to crime perpetrators including any accomplice security officers to serve as deterrent to others[127].

Indicating that all violence is detrimental to development, another study examined the relationship between youth violence and socio-economic development in the Baboko

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village of Ilorin, located in the Kwara State. The research design utilised in this study was a descriptive survey. The study participants were subjected to data collection through the utilisation of both qualitative and quantitative research approaches. A total of 200 participants were recruited by a quantitative method, while in-depth interviews (IDI) were conducted with a subset of 15 individuals. The results of the study indicate that there is a significant correlation between juvenile violence in the community and several characteristics such as drug usage, peer pressure, poverty, unemployment, and involvement in cultism. The study suggests that a collaborative approach between the community and the police should be employed in the implementation of violence prevention strategies. It proposes equipping the police with necessary resources such as weapons and infrastructure, as well as incorporating social workers and psychologists in the rehabilitation process of suspects and offenders. Additionally, the study recommends that the government address the issue of high youth unemployment by creating more job opportunities[128].

A Nigerian scholar also explored the economic cost of insecurity in Nigeria part of which comes from the activities of armed robbers. The escalating issue of insecurity in Nigeria is well acknowledged, primarily attributed to the underlying problem of increasing youth unemployment. Additional factors contributing to this issue encompass inadequate access to quality education, flawed or misdirected policy measures, and pervasive corruption, among others[129]. The existence of human beings in the state of nature is characterised by solitude, harshness, wickedness, and brutality. Consequently, the social contract assumes significance as it provides a means to mitigate the instinctual and aggressive inclinations of individuals towards one another. It is imperative, therefore, to fully utilise the mechanisms established by the

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social contract in order to fulfil its intended purpose, which is to ensure security for all members of society.

The widespread instability created by prevalence of crimes and instability has resulted in the displacement of individuals and the severe disruption of economic activity in the most heavily impacted regions. The past decade has seen a significant decline in economic activities within the north-eastern states of Nigeria as a result of the violent Boko Haram insurgency. The adverse impact of the conflicts between herders and farmers on agricultural output in Benue and several other states in the north-central region of Nigeria has been observed. The presence of insecurity in these states has additionally resulted in the emergence of internally displaced persons within the nation. Thereby, individuals residing within the refugee camps have limitations in their ability to actively participate in Nigeria's economic endeavours, thereby resulting in the exacerbation of food scarcity and the subsequent escalation of farm produce prices.

The humanitarian crisis caused by Boko Haram has resulted in a significant loss of life, with over 37,500 fatalities. Additionally, it has led to the displacement of around 2.4 million individuals within the affected states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, and Gombe respectively. These displacements have had profound consequences, particularly in terms of physical well-being and food security. The extensive devastation imposes a responsibility on the government to reconstruct the infrastructure, while individual households face the challenge of rebuilding communities. The presence of insurgents in towns and villages during the crisis impeded the equitable distribution of the polio vaccination, leading to a resurgence of new cases of the disease, despite the previous celebration of polio eradication in Nigeria[130].

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The presence of insecurity, banditry, and abduction in Nigeria has a detrimental impact on the country's economy, particularly in relation to health resources and health indicators, resulting in predominantly negative outcomes. The country is impacted by multiple conflicts as a result of intertwining religious, ethnic, and geographical divisions. The numerical value provided by the user is insufficient to generate an academic response. The nation has been plagued by protracted social armed conflicts, including the Boko Haram insurgency, militancy in the Niger Delta, and fights between herdsmen and farmers. These conflicts have endured for several decades, resulting in severe damage to the healthcare and socio-economic systems, rendering them depleted and dysfunctional.

Armed robbery and other criminal activities leading to insecurity also cause the erosion of consumer confidence. In recent years, Nigeria has experienced a prolonged state of insecurity. The outcome has led to a decrease in consumer confidence, therefore leading to a rise in consumer expenditure. Insecurity has a twofold impact on both individual spending and corporate operations. The presence of insecurity not only influences individual expenditure patterns, but also induces firms to delay investment decisions as a result of the prevailing uncertainty. This is premised on the fact that the assurance of profit on investment must always take a front burner. Invested funds must be secured to avoid capital flight. The aforementioned phenomenon has a significant impact on the overall economic productivity and may serve as a prominent determinant of the sluggish growth observed within Nigeria's economic landscape.

Another way armed robbery affects economic development is by causing a decline in the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The exaggeration of news media attention to insecurity within a nation has the potential to create a distorted perception

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of the situation for external observers. The presence of significant security issues in a nation can potentially diminish the trust of international investors. The decline in investor confidence may be exacerbated, particularly in cases where there is a lack of robust and efficient government action in addressing security concerns[131].

According to data provided by UNCTAD, the average Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to Nigeria for the period of 2015-2019 amounted to approximately $5.3 billion. It is worth noting that this period was characterised by a significant and pervasive state of insecurity across the country. In the past five years, Nigeria has experienced a decline in foreign investment due to many issues, including insecurity and policy dysfunctions such as the presence of multiple currency rates implemented by the Central Bank of Nigeria and the instability of the foreign exchange regime. The fall in foreign direct investment (FDI) that flows into the country can be attributed to several problems, including inadequate transport infrastructure, an unstable grid-electricity supply that further increases operating costs, an inefficient judicial system, and unreliable alternative dispute settlement systems[132]. According to a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the significant increase of 71 percent in foreign direct investment (FDI) observed in the previous year can be attributed to the influx of investments aimed at accessing and exploiting natural resources, particularly in the oil and gas industry. On the other hand, the decline in the frequency of attacks on oil installations in the Niger Delta region has led to an unexpected increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the oil and gas sector[133]. This is noteworthy considering the overall insecurity in the country, which has typically discouraged investment.

Another major issue is the disproportionate allocation of financial resources towards defence expenditures in comparison to other sectors of the economy. The Nigerian

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government has been investing substantial amounts of funds, amounting to hundreds of billions of naira, towards defence and security-related expenditures in order to address the escalating insecurity within the country. These substantial amounts of money need to have been allocated to alternative areas of the economy, particularly in the domains of education, requisite infrastructure and healthcare. The domestic economic impact of defence expenditure is diminished when it mostly relies on overseas procurement[134]. This does not contribute to the economic growth in any manner.

2.3.3 History of Armed Robbery Attacks in Ibadan

Armed robbery is as old as mankind evolving as changes in societies and advancement occurs. It has always been a threat to people and various communities leading to fear, injuries, loss of properties and even lives. In the early civilisation, it was connected to raiding, banditry and warfare, with robbers attacking people on the highways as they travel, and then later, graduated as globalisation started emerging to robbing big establishments such as banks and commercial enterprises[135].

Robbery and stealing is viewed as social abnormal action in the African society. It is perceived as an act that must not be tolerated in the African culture. In several African societies, it is regarded as religious violating conduct. This is the reason, in the conventional African societies, different strategies were put in place to ensure that there was no thief and if any, austere penalties were meted out on such.

In Nigeria, armed robbery became significant after independence in 1960, especially as household, highway and financial establishments' robberies became prevalent with likes of Abiodun 'Godogodo' Egunjobi, Babatunde 'Baba oni lace' Folorunso, Ishola Oyenusi, Kayode Williams, Lawrence Anini, Shina Rambo, among others[136]. It

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occurrences in various part of the country give it a serious concern and need critical attention especially with different forms emerging every day. Cases of armed robberies in Nigeria are being recorded with increase annually and this has been attached to various reasons such as poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, availability of weapons used during previous elections that were never mopped up from electoral thugs, and so on[136].

Within the Yoruba of Nigeria, attitudes to robbery and stealing are related to what is mentioned above. Robbers are considered to be canker warm that should be eradicated from the society by all means. Anyone who is apprehended in the act has not only brought disgrace and dishonour to himself but to his entire family. Various derogatory statements which ascribe a ward abnormal act to disappointment of the parents are used to qualify such[137].

Indisputably, robbery and stealing started gaining prominence during the pre-colonial Ibadan and it advanced into a more structured vocation during the colonial period. All through the Yorubaland, Ibadan was frequently perceived as the most precarious and dangerous city to be residents with a remarkable increase in the activities of robbers[137]. Ibadan, which is Nigeria's third-largest city, has faced significant urbanization in the recent times. The population is over three million people and the city has seen an increase in crime rates, particularly in urban regions. Criminal activities such as theft, burglary and armed robbery have turn out to be serious worries for residents of the city. Contemporary researches have emphasised the significance of armed robbery pattern investigation in comprehending the changing aspects of robbery activities in urban areas such as Ibadan[138]. Armed robbery activities in Ibadan, Nigeria have been seen to be concentrated in particular areas, with some areas facing higher level of crime rates than others. It has been highlighted

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that the significance of comprehending the socio-economic features that contribute to areas that are urbanised will go a long way in analysing the effects of robbery attacks in such areas and ways to tackle the problem[138].

These areas have been characterised as hotspots for armed robbery and other criminal activities. It was further discovered that armed robbery attacks were more prevalent in areas with poor environmental conditions, such as poor lighting, road networks, and housing conditions[139]. The level of armed robbery attacks and other crimes in Ibadan was influenced by social factors such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality[140].

Studies have shown that socio-economic factors play a significant role in the altitudinal and consequent dynamics of armed robbery attacks and criminal activities in urban areas in Ibadan, Oyo state. Poverty, unemployment, and inequality have been identified as significant factors that contribute to armed robbery and other criminal activities in Ibadan metropolis[140]. Areas with poor environmental conditions, such as poor lighting, road networks, and housing conditions, have also been identified as hotspots for robberies and criminal activities[139]. Addressing the socio-economic issues that contribute to armed robbery and criminal activities is fundamental for coming up with effective strategies to prevent and combat criminal activities. Strategies such as improving housing conditions, creating job opportunities, and providing basic amenities such as electricity and water can help to reduce crime rates in urban areas especially in Ibadan metropolis. Law enforcement agencies can also work with community organizations and local government officials to address these socio-economic factors and develop a more holistic approach to preventing and combating crime[139].

Household and highway robberies were prominent during and after independence period, but more prominent in the recent times is bank robberies in Ibadan metropolis.

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There are several incidences of armed robberies reported and recorded in Ibadan, such as bank robbery at Idi-Ape in 2022, household robberies in different part of the city, car and bike (okada) snatching, to mention a few[141, 142].

2.4 Conceptual Model

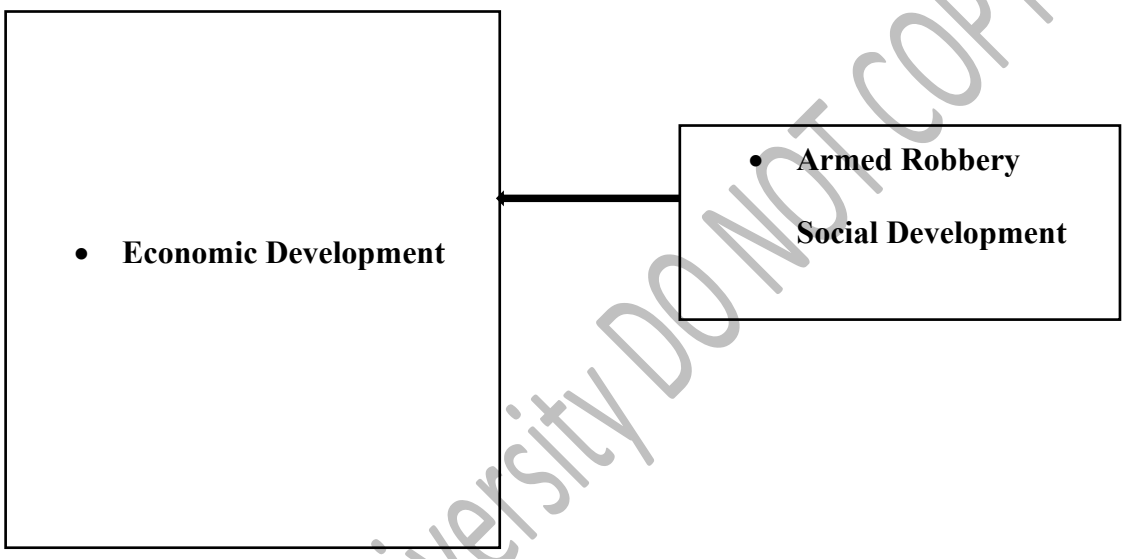


Figure 2.5: Conceptual Model on the Impact of Armed Robbery on Socio-Economic Development of Ibadan, Nigeria**.**

Source: Researcher's Compilation, 2023

The extensive linkages between the incidence of armed robbery and the socio-economic development of Ibadan, Nigeria, are illustrated by the conceptual model presented in Figure 2.5. This model attempts to give a comprehensive picture of how armed robbery affects several facets of social and economic life in the city, based on research done in 2023.

The incidence of armed robbery, a serious criminal activity that not only presents immediate physical risks but also fosters a climate of dread and insecurity, is at the

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centre of the model. Understanding the wider effects of crime on urban growth and community well-being requires an understanding of this pivotal component.

Impact on Social Activities: It is hypothesized that armed robbery will have a negative impact on social activities, which include social gatherings, educational events, public services, and recreational activities. These activities are essential for community cohesion and quality of life, and the existence of armed robbery can result in a decrease in public gatherings and lower participation in community events, which can give residents a pervasive sense of fear and insecurity. This decrease in social engagement can further isolate individuals and weaken the social fabric of the community. The impact of armed robbery is also expected to be negative on economic activities, which include different forms of commerce, trade, and employment within a community.

Effects on Business Ventures: Similar negative effects on economic activity are predicted for armed robbery. The different types of trade, employment, and commerce that take place in a town are what propel the local economy. Theft and vandalism can cause financial losses and operational difficulties for businesses. The local economy can be severely harmed by the fear of crime, which can discourage investment and lower consumer spending. The community's socioeconomic problems may get worse as a result of this economic slump, which may also result in increased unemployment rates and slower overall economic growth.

Combined Effect on Socio-Economic Development

Ibadan's socioeconomic development is predicted to be hampered by the negative impact of armed robbery which causes interruption to social and economic activities. Community stability and safety are closely linked to socio-economic development,

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which encompasses changes in employment rates, economic growth, living standards, and general quality of life. Armed robberies can have a compounding effect on social and economic activity, leading to reduced economic growth, elevated unemployment rates, and a general deterioration in people's quality of life. As a result, there is a vicious cycle that perpetuates both socioeconomic stagnation and criminality.

Collecting Empirical Data: Empirical data will be gathered in order to verify these proposed links. The main goals of the study are to determine how common armed robberies are in Oyo State and to evaluate the particular effects these crimes have on the socioeconomic advancement of the city of Ibadan. There will be multiple approaches used in the data collection process: Surveys and Questionnaires: To acquire firsthand knowledge about the experiences of Ibadan residents and business owners with armed robbery and its impact on their social and economic activities. Crime Statistics: To determine the frequency of armed robberies in the area, official crime statistics from the local law enforcement authorities will be examined. This information will aid in comprehending the patterns and incidence of armed robberies.

2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed

There are a number of important gaps in the literature regarding how armed robberies have affected Ibadan, Nigeria's socioeconomic development. These deficiencies include those related to interdisciplinary approaches, policy evaluation, micro-level perspectives, coping mechanisms, inadequate quantitative data, limited understanding of long-term effects, and lack of localised research. Closing these gaps is essential to developing evidence-based solutions that work and to gain a thorough grasp of the problem.

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Regional Studies: Lack of empirical research specifically on Ibadan, Nigeria, is one of the main gaps in the literature. The majority of studies that have been done on armed robberies in Nigeria thus far have tended to be national or regional in scope. This wide focus ignores Ibadan's distinct dynamics and features, which may be very different from those in other places. To get a more accurate understanding of the effects of armed robbery in this city, localised research is required to reflect the unique socioeconomic and cultural environment of Ibadan. Comprehending these particularised dynamics will assist in customising initiatives and policies that are more beneficial to Ibadan citizens and enterprises.

Quantitative Information: The absence of thorough quantitative information on the financial consequences of armed robberies in Ibadan represents another significant gap. Although qualitative research offers important insights into the experiences and effects of armed robberies, thorough economic assessments that measure the losses suffered by companies, people, and the government are still required. Understanding the entire economic cost of an armed robbery—including direct costs like property loss and indirect costs like decreased investment and economic activity—requires quantitative data. The cost-effectiveness of various preventive interventions and policies can also be evaluated with the aid of this data.

Extended Socioeconomic Impacts: The immediate repercussions of armed robberies are frequently the subject of literature, but the long-term socioeconomic impacts are not as well understood. Further investigation is required to determine the long-term effects of armed robberies on investment, company expansion, and general economic growth in Ibadan. Long-term research can highlight patterns and trends that are hidden from view in short-term analysis. One example is the cumulative effect of armed robberies on public safety, social cohesion, and economic development.

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Small-scale Views; The macro-level repercussions of armed robbery are typically the focus of research, leaving the micro-level effects out. Research that explores the ways in which armed robbery affects communities and people differently is needed. This entails comprehending the difficulties that are presented by armed robberies and how various neighbourhoods, demographic groupings, and economic sectors encounter and address them. Micro-level studies can reveal differences in resilience and impact, which can guide more specialised and fair actions.

Effect on small and medium-sized enterprises; The impact of armed robbery on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Ibadan is a subject of scarce investigation, despite their critical role in local economy. SMEs are particularly susceptible to the effects of crime because they frequently lack the resources and support networks that larger companies have. Maintaining economic development and job creation in Ibadan requires acknowledging the unique problems that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) confront and figuring out possible measures to boost their resilience. Studies must concentrate on the particular weaknesses of SMEs and the tactics they employ to lessen the dangers of armed robbery.

Coping Strategies and Community Hardiness; Research on how people, organisations, and communities deal with the threat and fallout from armed robberies is comparatively lacking. Finding useful coping techniques and community resilience tactics can be helpful in the creation of new policies. This entails knowing the social, psychological, and financial coping mechanisms that victims of armed robbery employ in addition to the functions played by local government, community organisations, and social networks in fostering resilience. The development of solutions that improve communities' ability to endure and recover from the effects of armed robbery can be influenced by research in this field.

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Policy Assessment; Research on the efficacy of policies and preventive measures put in place by different stakeholders is lacking, despite the fact that several studies address the patterns and causes of armed robberies in Nigeria. Improving security and socioeconomic growth requires analysing current policies and making recommendations based on solid facts. This involves evaluating the results of social programmes, community policing efforts, and law enforcement tactics that are meant to lower crime rates. Research ought to investigate the obstacles that impede the efficient execution of policies as well as the elements that lead to effective interventions.

Views from the Victim and Offender; the victimisation component of armed robbery is the subject of most research, but the viewpoints of the criminals who commit these crimes are not as well understood. Strategies for preventing crime can be informed by investigating the histories, experiences, and motives of offenders. Recognising the psychological and socioeconomic elements that influence criminal behaviour, as well as the reasons why people commit armed robberies, might aid in the development of interventions that target the underlying causes of crime. Pathways to desistance and the function of rehabilitation programmes in reducing recidivism should also be taken into account in research.

Multidisciplinary Methods; Interdisciplinary study combining insights from criminology, economics, sociology, psychology, and urban studies is crucial to fully addressing the impact of armed robbery on socio-economic development in Ibadan. An understanding of the various aspects that go into armed robbery and its effects on society that is more comprehensive can be obtained through an interdisciplinary approach. Additionally, it can help in the creation of comprehensive policies and

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initiatives that tackle several aspects of the problem, such as social support and community resilience, as well as economic development and crime prevention.

Creating efficient, research-based strategies on armed robbery and its effects on Ibadan's socioeconomic development requires filling in the gaps in the literature. For a deeper knowledge of the specific dynamics of armed robberies in Ibadan, interdisciplinary techniques, long-term studies, thorough quantitative data, and localised research are especially crucial. Research on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), coping strategies, policy assessment, and the views of offenders can also offer important insights for creating interventions that improve security and socioeconomic development. Researchers and legislators can collaborate to close these gaps and give the people and companies of Ibadan a safer and more prosperous environment.

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Chapter Three

Methodology

This chapter discusses the approaches that researcher utilised in achieving the study objectives. The chapter is divided into various sections such as: study design, population of the study, sample and sampling techniques, research instrument, research instrument validity and reliability, data collection method, and data analysis method.

3.1 Research Design

A study's research design is a summary of the methods used for "gathering, analysing, interpreting, and reporting" data that address certain research concerns[1]. This study adopted descriptive and thematic research designs since the research is utilising a mixed-method type of design to collect both qualitative and quantitative primary data since the purpose is to assess the impact of armed robbery on social-economic development in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo state. The goal of using this research design is to generate enough data to accommodate a wide range of opinions and perspectives.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this study include people within the Ibadan metropolis. The total population of Ibadan was put at 3,649,000 as of 2021[3]. The metropolis has eleven (11) local governments, namely;

i. Akinyele
ii. Ibadan South west
iii. Ibadan South east
iv. Ibadan North

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v. Ibadan North west

vi. Ibadan North East

vii. Lagelu

viii. Egbeda

ix. Oluyole

x. OnaAra

xi. Ido

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Sample size, is the number of individuals selected from a population using different sampling techniques[2]. A sample size is chosen from the population because it would be practically impossible to study the entire population. The sample size for this study was determined using stratified sampling techniques. This allowed the researcher to select respondents across Ibadan metropolis. Then, purposive sampling was used to select 350 respondents from local governments within Ibadan metropolis namely; Ibadan South-West, Ibadan North, Ibadan North West, and Oluyole local government areas to whom questionnaires was distributed in order to elicit responses on the subject matter. The purposive sampling was used based on availability and willingness.

3.4 Description of the Research Instrument(s)

This study utilised questionnaire and interviews to collect quantitative data from the respondents. As a result, the survey questions were drawn by focusing on the research aims, objectives, and research questions by employing closed-ended questions on a Liker scale. The questionnaire was divided into various sections such as: demographic

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data, socio-economic development, armed robbery experience, and efforts to combat armed robbery. The questionnaire was adapted from previous studies in order to cover all the study objectives.

3.5 Validity of Research Instrument

Validity of a research instrument focuses on the ability of a research instrument to measure what it has been designed to measure. To ensure the validity of the research instrument, the researcher submitted the draft questionnaire to the research supervisor for proper vetting. The questionnaire was also submitted to other experts in the field. This is to obtain expert opinion on whether the items in the questionnaire are in line with the research objectives. The feedback received from these experts was incorporated into the final instrument that was administered on the respondents.

3.6 Reliability of Research Instrument

Reliability focuses on the ability of a research instrument to consistently yield the same result over time. To ensure the reliability of the research instrument, a pre-test, was conducted by administering the questionnaire on about 30 people from outside the research population. The responses were analysed to determine the Cronbach alpha value of the instrument. The result of the analysis shows that the questionnaire has a Cronbach alpha score of 0.874. This is considered significant.

3.7 Administration of the Research Instrument

Since the study made used of questionnaire and interviews to gather its data, the survey questions for the two instruments were drawn by focusing on the research aims, objectives, and research questions by employing closed-ended questions on a Liker scale and open ended questions for the interview. The questionnaire was divided into various sections such as: demographic data, socio-economic

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development, armed robbery experience, and efforts to combat armed robbery. The questionnaire was administered electronically and manually to ensure that every stratum of the sample is covered for the purpose of the study.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

The data collection method looks at the numerous strategies that a research or study takes to gather data. Due to the spread of the study population, it was simpler to gather data from respondents dispersed throughout a city by using an online questionnaire (a Google form) as well as physical administration of some questionnaires. In addition, the researcher conducted literature search and spoke to key informants.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

The quantitative data collected in this study was analysed using descriptive statistics while the thematic analysis is used for the qualitative data collected through the interview guide. All results of quantitative analysis are presented through the use of tables, graphs, and figures charts as applicable.

3.10 Ethical Approval

Ethical approval comprises the confidentiality which guaranteed that participants were assured of the safety of their personal and private information. Researchers made sure that data is securely kept and only authorised personnel could assess it. All participants were fully informed about the nature of the study, their participation, and any potential risks or benefits. They were also given the opportunity to freely give their consent to participate in the study. Participants' safety, well-being and rights were well guarded and protected by the researchers all through the research process.

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Endnotes

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Chapter Four

Results and Discussion of Findings

This chapter provides a thorough examination of the data that was gathered, clearly and descriptively presenting the findings. Tables with counts of frequencies and percentages are used to help explain the results. The chapter is methodically divided into three main sections: demographic data on the respondents, discussion of the findings and responses to the research questions.

The respondents' demographic data is the main topic of the first part. An extensive summary of the participants' attributes, including age, gender, occupation, and degree of education, is given in this section. By providing this data, one can gain a better understanding of the sample's diversity and how it affects the findings of the study. Tables highlighting the frequency and percentage of each category are used to illustrate the demographic data, providing a clear and succinct summary of the characteristics of the respondents. The second section dives into the answers to the study questions after providing a summary of the demographics. This section is essential since it immediately addresses the main goals of the research. Every research question is thoroughly investigated, and the answers are methodically evaluated and presented. To make it simpler to spot trends and patterns, tables are used to show the frequency and percentage distribution of the responses. The reader will be able to readily follow the analysis and understand the relevance of the findings thanks to this structured method.

The discussion of the results takes up the last section. This section provides an interpretation and contextualization of the findings within the body of current literature. The conversation connects the observed results to the larger study context by highlighting the most important findings and implications of the data. This section

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also discusses any surprising discoveries and looks at potential reasons for the outcomes. This chapter seeks to provide a clear grasp of the study's contributions to the field by offering a thorough analysis of the data. To summarize, the data analysis is presented methodically in this chapter, with the use of frequency and percentage tables to improve the readability of the findings. There are three sections in this chapter:

4.1 Questionnaires Response Rate

Three hundred and fifty copies of the research questionnaires were administered across, five local governments within the Ibadan metropolis. However, out of three hundred and fifty copies administered, two hundred and eighty-five were properly filled and returned. This represents 81% questionnaire return rate. The breakdown of the returned questionnaire is provided in Table 4.1

Table 4.1: Questionnaire Return Rate

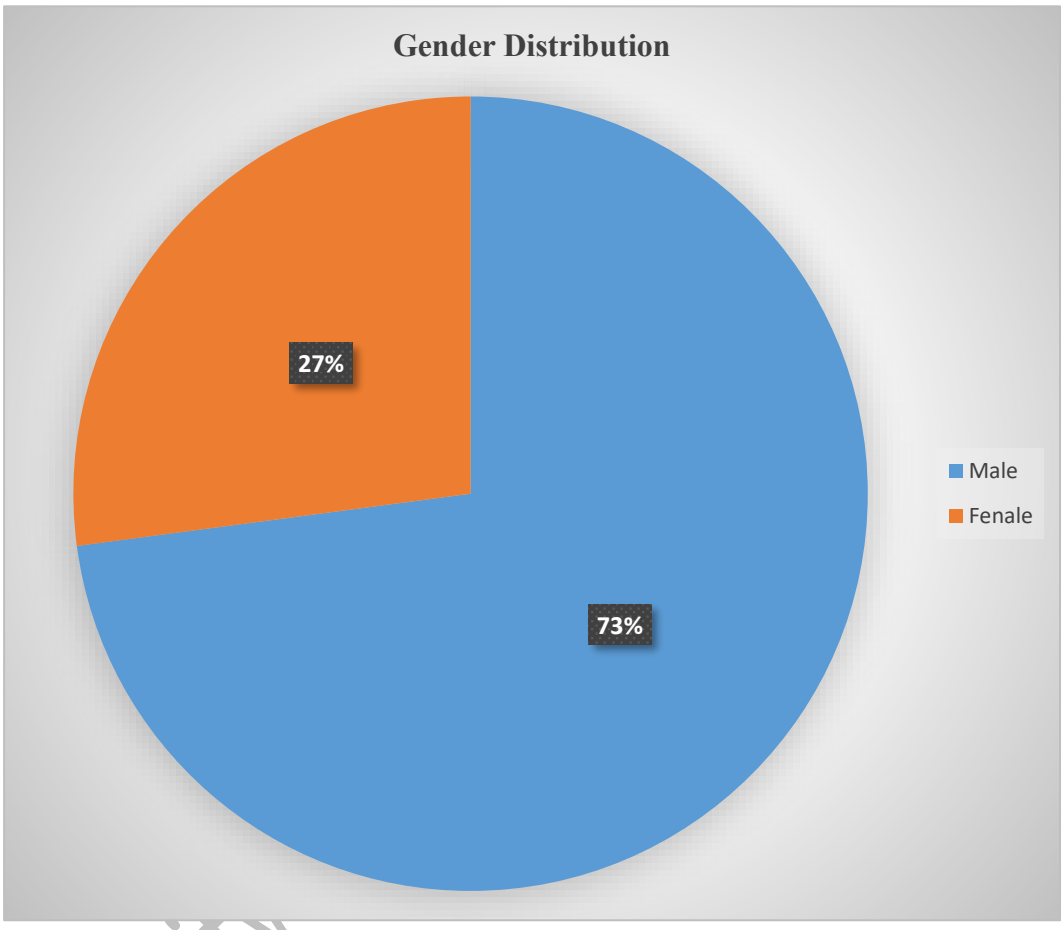
Local Government	Administered	Returned	Percentage Returned
Ibadan South-East	70	60	85.7
Ibadan South-West	70	66	94.3
Ibadan North	70	46	65.7
Ibadan North West	70	54	77.1
Oluyole Local Government	70	59	84.3
Total	**350**	**285**	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

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4.2 Demographic Analysis

4.2.1 Gender Distribution of Respondents



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Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The respondents' gender distribution is seen in Figure 4.1. Male respondents make up 73% of all respondents as 208 respondents identified as male, according to the chart, with 77 female respondents making up the remaining 27%.

This notable discrepancy suggests that men may be more accessible or willing than women to take part in surveys. There could be a number of causes behind this pattern. For example, survey participation may be influenced by cultural or societal norms. Men may feel that taking surveys is less intrusive in certain situations or that they have more free time. Furthermore, men may find the survey's contents more interesting, which would increase participation rates. The way the survey was distributed could also be a contributing factor. The survey's respondent demographics may be skewed if it was distributed through platforms that men use more frequently. Comprehending these subtleties is essential for evaluating survey outcomes and strategizing upcoming polls to guarantee a more equitable gender representation.

4.2.2: Age Distribution of Respondents

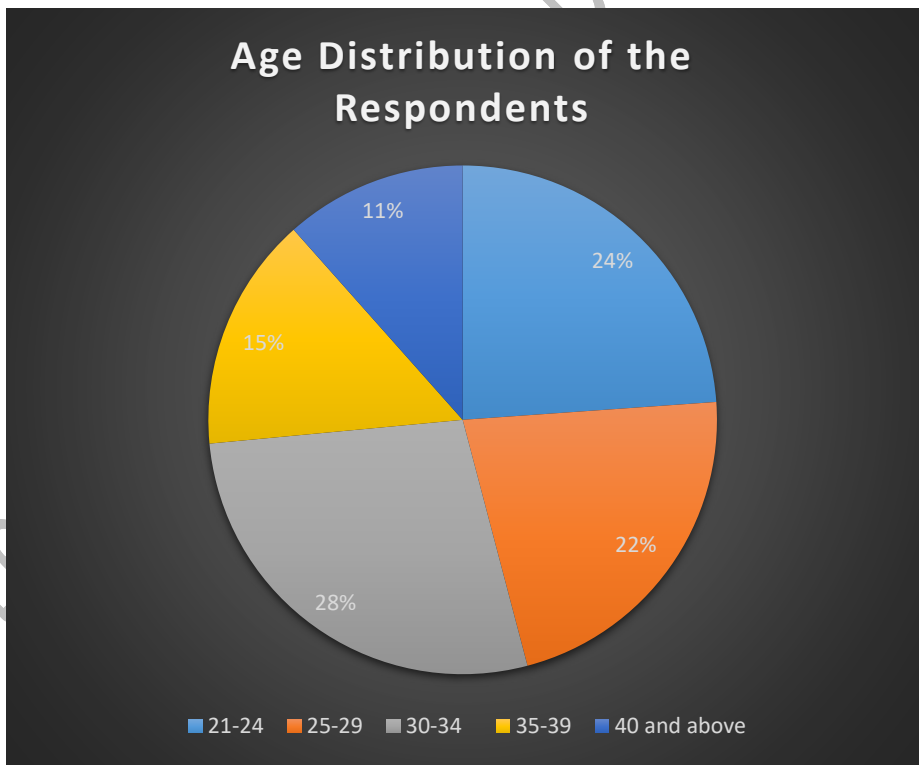


Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey, 2023

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Figure 4.2 displays the responses broken down by age range. According to the data, a considerable proportion of the respondents were younger, which is consistent with Nigeria's demographics and socioeconomic activity.

21–24 Years Old: 68 (24%) of responders fall into this age range. This is a noteworthy group, frequently comprised of people who are just starting out in their further education or employment. Their portrayal points to a significant involvement from younger folks who are starting to build their personal and professional identities.

25–29 Years: This group, which include 63 (22%) of the respondents, is a little older but still falls within the young adult category. These people probably have more established occupations and may even be beginning families. Their involvement emphasises how they are still involved in the economy and how they influence market trends.

In addition to these, 80 (28%) of the respondents are in the age bracket of 30-34 Years while 31 (11%) falls with the age range of 40 years and above. This indicates that people of 30 years and above (n=111) constitute 39% of the total respondents. Numerous variables, such as Nigeria's relatively younger population and perhaps reduced mobility or varying degrees of economic activity among older persons, can explain this lower percentage. This is also consistent with global trends, which show that younger populations are more likely to take part in surveys and research on economic matters.

The respondents in this sample are primarily young, which is consistent with Nigeria's demographic makeup. Nigeria is home to a sizable, highly mobile, and economically engaged youth population. Thus, the data offers a glimpse into the vibrant and

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youthful character of Nigerian society, emphasising the important responsibilities that young adults play in the nation's socioeconomic activities.

4.2.3 Distribution of Respondents According to Occupation

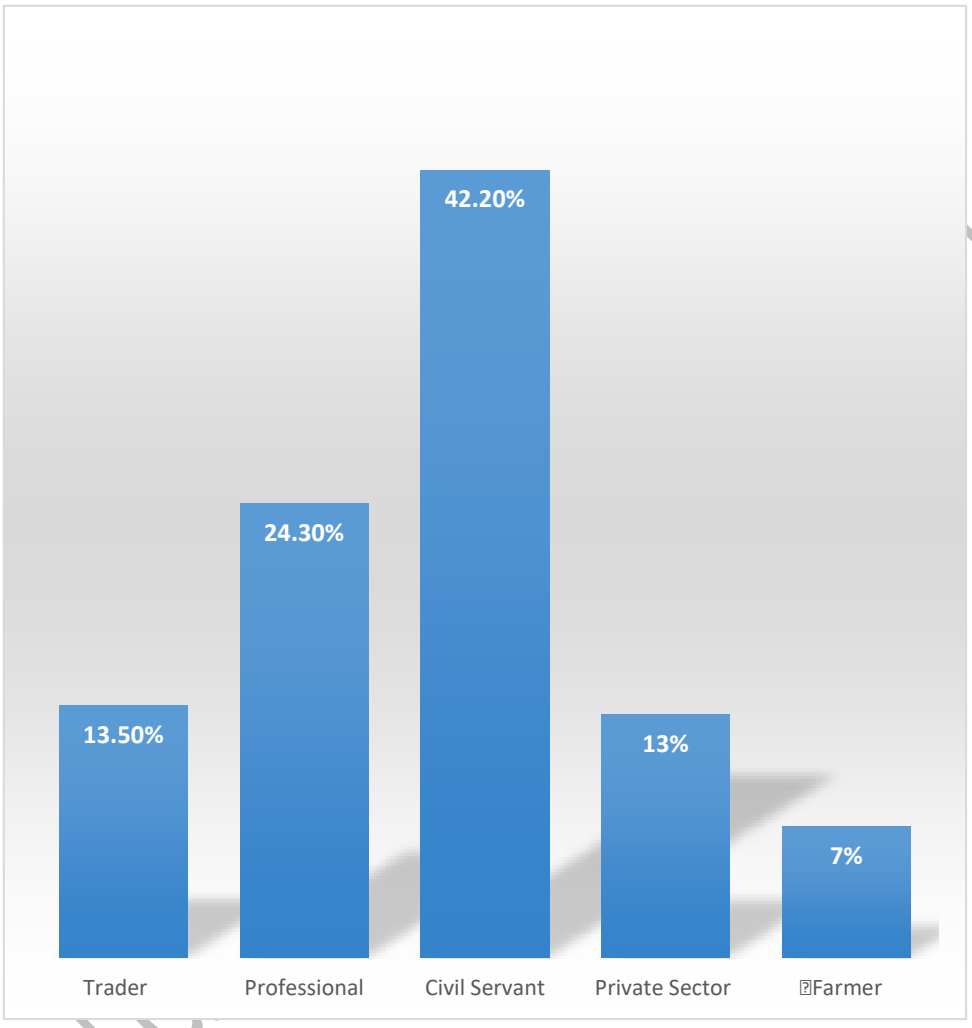


Figure 4.3: Occupation Distribution of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Figure 4.3 shows the different occupations engaged in by the respondents. A glance at the chart shows a diverse range of occupations. However, civil servants are the most represented as 121 (42.2%) of the respondents indicates that they are civil servants. This is followed by 69 (24.3%) of the respondents who indicates that they belong to various professions. There are also 38 respondents (13.5%) who indicated that they

are traders closely followed by the 37 (13%) respondents who indicated that work in the private sector. In addition, 20 (7%) of the respondents reported their occupation as 'farmer'. This suggests that the respondent cut across all types of occupations.

4.2.4: Distribution of Respondents According to Local Government

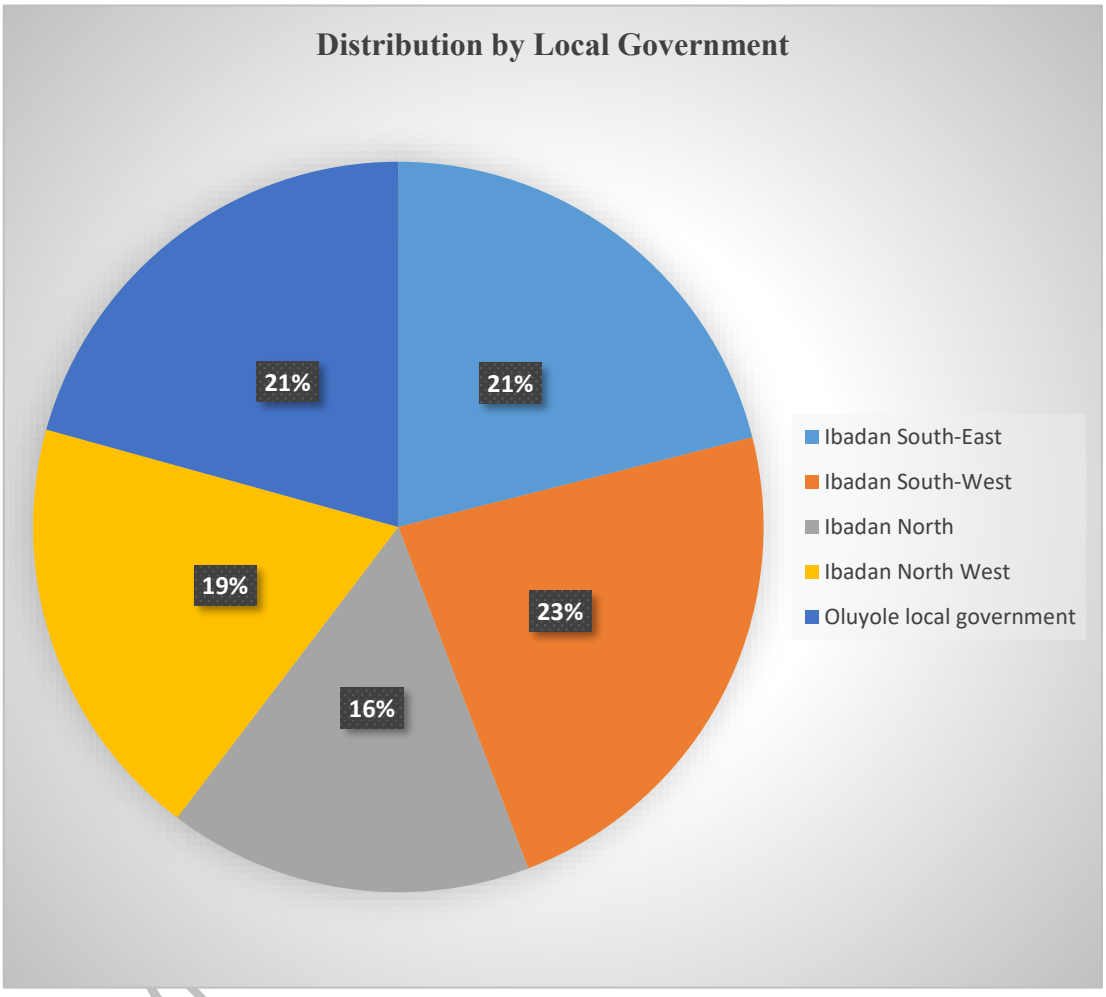


Figure 4.4: Distribution of the Respondents by Local Government

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Figure 4.4 shows the local government areas from which the respondents emerged. The breakdown shows that 66 (23%) of the respondents are from Ibadan South-West local government. This is followed by 60 (21%) who indicated that they were from

Ibadan South-East local government area. Similarly, 59 (20.8%) respondents were from Oluyole Local Government and 48 (19%) of the respondents indicated that they are from Ibadan North West local government while 46 (16%) of the respondents are from Ibadan North local government.

4.3: Presentation of Research Questions

4.3.1 Research Question One: How prevalence and frequent is armed robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State, and its impact on lives of residents?

Table 4.2 Prevalence of Armed Robbery Attacks in Oyo State

Items	Yes	No
I have been attacked by robbers in recent times	97 (39.3%)	188 (60.7%)
I have experienced armed robbery attack only once	138 (55.8%)	110 (44.2%)
I know several people killed by robbers	119 (48.4%)	126 (51.6%)
I have experienced armed robbery attack at least twice	85 (34.4%)	161 (65.6%)
I know, at least, one person killed by robbers	112 (45.9%)	128 (54.1%)

Source: Fieldwork 2023

Table 4.2 is a comprehensive examination of the frequency of armed robbery attacks in Oyo State, offering important information about the incidence and effects of these occurrences on the local populace. The information in the table provides insight into both individual encounters with armed robberies and knowledge of others impacted by these illegal actions.

The table's first noteworthy finding is that 97 (39.3%) of respondents said they had

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recently been the victim of a robber's personal attack. This means that nearly 4 out 10 residents have fallen victim of armed robbery. This figure is especially concerning because it shows how common armed robberies are in Oyo State.

The table also shows that 138 (55.8%) of respondents have only been the victim of an armed robbery incident once. Even though this implies that not everyone experiences armed robberies frequently, the fact that more than half of the respondents have been the victim of one of these attacks at least once highlights how widespread the issue is. It suggests that people's sense of security and general well-being can be significantly impacted by even one experience of armed robbery, underscoring the urgent need for practical solutions to address this problem.

Furthermore, the table offers frightening insights into the deadly results of armed robberies. Many of the interviewees said they knew persons who had been murdered by robbers. To be more precise, 119 (48.4%) of respondents said they knew multiple people who had been murdered by robbers, and 112 (45.9%) said they knew at least one person who had met a similar end. These results highlight the terrible effects of armed robberies on victims and communities, as well as the terrible death toll connected to these crimes. these emphasizes how important it is to have stronger security protocols and vigorous law enforcement operations in order to avert disasters like these and safeguard the lives of locals.

All things considered, Table 4.1 greatly improves our knowledge of the frequency and significance of armed robbery attacks in Oyo State. The information highlights how urgently comprehensive policies are needed to counter this major security danger. The table emphasizes the need for implementing effective and long-lasting measures to strengthen security, increase law enforcement, and ultimately defend the population's well-being by exposing the personal and social costs of armed robbery.

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1. How prevalent is armed robbery in Oyo State, and which areas are most affected?

Respondent 1

"Armed robbery is a major concern in this area, especially for those of us running businesses. I have personally witnessed several robbery incidents, particularly at night when shops are closing. Just last month, a group of armed robbers attacked traders near the Oja'ba market, forcing them to surrender their earnings for the day. Many traders now prefer to leave early to avoid being targeted. Areas like Orita Challenge, Iwo Road, and Ogbere are becoming dangerous hotspots where people are frequently attacked on their way home. The situation is making it difficult to run a business safely, and the fear of robbery is forcing some shop owners to relocate." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 2

"It happens too frequently. We can't even walk freely at night. Armed robbers operate with so much confidence, knowing that police presence is weak in certain areas. Just last month, my neighbor's shop was broken into at midnight. The robbers carted away goods worth millions, and the police only arrived hours later. They come in groups, sometimes on motorcycles, and they target businesses, homes, and people walking in lonely areas. The worst part is that some victims don't even bother reporting to the police because they don't expect any action to be taken." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 8, 2024)

Respondent 3

"Yes, armed robbery is a common issue, but we are actively making arrests and working on strategies to curb it. The problem is that criminals operate with careful planning, and they often have informants who monitor police movements. The hotspots include major highways like the Ibadan-Ife Expressway, commercial areas like Dugbe and Challenge, and isolated residential estates in places like Akobo and Elebu. These criminals target banks, POS operators, and even people returning from work. We need more personnel and community cooperation to effectively combat these threats." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

The consensus among stakeholders indicates a high prevalence of armed robbery, particularly in urban centres such as Iwo Road, Challenge, Dugbe, Orita Challenge, and Akobo. Business owners report frequent incidents, especially during night-time, compelling them to close their establishments earlier than usual. Residents express

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growing apprehension over criminals operating with increased audacity, sometimes even in broad daylight. Law enforcement officers acknowledge the severity of the situation but emphasize ongoing efforts to mitigate crime rates. These observations align with a study which noted a steady rise in robbery incidents in Lagos State, a neighbouring region with similar urban dynamics[1].

4.3.2 Research Question Two: What are the Causes, Nature and Pattern of Armed Robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State?

The researcher conducted an interview in order to obtain in-depth qualitative responses from the respondents. The interview questions include; "Do you believe unemployment plays a significant role in the prevalence of armed robbery in the state? "How would you rate the effectiveness of current poverty alleviation programs in addressing the root causes of armed robbery" etc. The interview responses highlight a range of socio-economic factors that contribute to armed robbery in Oyo State. Common themes include unemployment, poverty, income inequality, inadequate social services, corruption, rapid urbanization, substance abuse, and social exclusion. According to the Interviewee:

> *"In my opinion, the primary socio-economic factors contributing to armed robbery in Oyo State include high unemployment rates, particularly among youth populations. Without stable employment opportunities, many young people may resort to crime as a means of survival."* (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

Another interviewee pointed to increasing poverty in the land; according to the response

> *"I believe poverty plays a significant role in driving armed robbery in Oyo State. When individuals lack access to basic necessities and opportunities for economic advancement, they may turn to criminal activities as a way to meet their needs and provide for their families."* (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

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Majority of the people interviewed also blamed the increased rate of armed robbery to the breakdown of social structures leading to income inequality. It was observed that, when the filthy rich flaunt their wealth in the face of hungry youths, it makes these youth think of desperate means of making money. According to one of the interviewees;

> *"One of the key socio-economic factors contributing to armed robbery in Oyo State is income inequality. The disparity in wealth distribution can create feelings of resentment and desperation among marginalized communities, leading some individuals to resort to crime in order to achieve financial stability."* (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Another respondent added that;

> *"The lack of economic opportunities and upward mobility for disadvantaged populations is a significant driver of armed robbery in Oyo State. Without access to quality education and vocational training programs, individuals may feel trapped in cycles of poverty and turn to crime as a means of escaping their circumstances."*
>
> *"In my view, inadequate social services and infrastructure in Oyo State, contribute to the prevalence of armed robbery. When communities lack access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and transportation, it can exacerbate socio-economic inequalities and increase the likelihood of criminal behaviour."* (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

"Corruption within government institutions and law enforcement agencies can also fuel armed robbery in Oyo State. When individuals perceive that the system is rigged against them and that those in positions of power are exploiting their resources for personal gain, it can breed resentment and erode trust in the authorities, leading to a breakdown in social order".

> *"Rapid urbanization and population growth in Oyo State may contribute to armed robbery by straining existing resources and infrastructure. As urban areas become overcrowded and resources become scarce, competition for limited opportunities may fuel criminal activities such as armed robbery"*

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> *"The prevalence of substance abuse, particularly among unemployed youth, may also exacerbate armed robbery in Oyo State. Drug addiction can impair judgment and impulse control, making individuals more prone to engaging in criminal behaviour as a means of supporting their habits."* (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

These factors interact in complex ways to create environments conducive to criminal behaviour. For instance, high unemployment rates, coupled with limited access to education and vocational training, can leave individuals with few legitimate avenue for economic advancement, increasing their susceptibility to engaging in illegal activities. Similarly, corruption within government institutions can undermine public trust and confidence in the rule of law, fostering a sense of impunity among would be criminals[2]. Addressing these socio-economic factors requires a multifaceted approach that includes targeted interventions to promote economic development, improve access to social services, strengthen governance and accountability mechanisms, and address the root causes of social exclusion and marginalisation. By addressing these underlying drivers of armed robbery, policy makers and stakeholders can work towards creating safer and more inclusive communities in Oyo State.

Respondent 4

> *"I will never justify crime, but the truth is that there are no jobs. Many young people finish school with high hopes, only to realize that there are no opportunities for them. Some of my friends have turned to petty crimes just to survive. When someone has no source of income and sees others flaunting wealth, they may be tempted to take shortcuts. Many armed robbers are young men who were once struggling to find legitimate work but ended up being lured into crime. If the government provided more job opportunities or vocational training, many of them would choose a different path."* (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 9

> *"The economy is tough, and it's pushing more youths into crime. Armed robbery used to be limited to certain areas, but now it happens everywhere. Even university graduates are getting involved because they see no hope for the future. I personally know a young man who graduated three years ago but couldn't get a*

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job. He started hanging around bad company, and today he is in prison for armed robbery. If we don't address poverty and lack of opportunities, the crime rate will only get worse." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 10

"Apart from unemployment, drug abuse plays a major role in the rising cases of armed robbery. Many criminals operate under the influence of substances like tramadol, codeine, and other hard drugs. These drugs make them fearless and aggressive, leading them to commit violent crimes without a second thought. Peer influence is also a factor—many young people join gangs because of pressure from friends. The combination of poverty, lack of jobs, and drug abuse is fuelling the armed robbery crisis in Oyo State." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Causes of Armed Robbery: Socio-Economic and Structural Factors

A recurrent theme is the role of poverty, unemployment, and economic hardship in fuelling armed robbery. Unemployed youths highlight the scarcity of job opportunities as a driving force towards criminal activities. Community leaders emphasize that economic deprivation has blurred moral boundaries for many young individuals. Security experts identify drug abuse, peer influence, and systemic corruption as additional catalysts for criminal behaviour. Contrastingly, a study published in the Journal of Research in National Development contends that variables like unemployment rate, per capita income, and inflation rate do not significantly impact the incidence of armed robbery in Nigeria[3]. This suggests that while economic factors are influential, other underlying issues may also play critical roles.

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4.3.3 Research Question Three: In what ways has armed robbery affected the socio-economic development of Ibadan, Oyo State, including business operations, investor confidence, and overall economic activity?

Table 4.3: Impact of Armed Robbery on Socio-economic Development of Oyo State

Economic Impact	Yes	NO
Has armed robbery affected your economic activities directly or indirectly? (e.g., loss of property, business disruption)	97 (39.3%)	188 (60.7%)
Do you think armed robbery has impacted the overall economic activities in Oyo State	175 (61%)	110 (39%)
Have you or someone you know experienced financial losses due to armed robbery incidents	119 (48.4%)	126 (51.6%)
Psychological and Emotional Impact		
Do you think armed robbery attack has any psychological impact on individuals and communities in Oyo State	200 (70%)	85 (30%)
I think fear of armed robbery has affected people's daily lives and mental well-being in Oyo state	157 (55%)	128 (45%)
I think armed robbery has affected the sense of security and community cohesion in Oyo State	192 (67%)	93 (33%)
I am aware of instances of relocation or migration of residents from areas with high armed robbery incidents to perceived safer areas	156 (54.7%)	129 (45.3%)

Source: Fieldwork 2023

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The table reveals significant insights into the economic ramifications of armed robbery in Oyo State. A substantial proportion of respondents (39.3%) reported that armed robbery had affected their economic activities directly or indirectly, including loss of property and business disruptions. This highlights the detrimental impact on the state's economic environment. However, a larger portion (60.7%) did not report

such impacts, indicating a mixed experience among the population. Additionally, a more considerable majority (61%) believe that armed robbery has impacted overall economic activities in Oyo State. This perception suggests that even those not directly affected can perceive the broader negative effects on the local economy. Nearly half of the respondents (48.4%) have experienced financial losses or know someone who has due to armed robbery incidents, underscoring the widespread financial damage caused by armed robbery, affecting a significant portion of the population either directly or indirectly.

The psychological and emotional toll of armed robbery is evident from the responses. A substantial majority (70%) agree that armed robbery has a psychological impact on individuals and communities in Oyo State, indicating pervasive psychological distress due to the threat of armed robbery. Over half of the respondents (55%) think that fear of armed robbery affects people's daily lives and mental well-being, highlighting the broader societal impact where the constant threat of crime influences everyday behaviours and mental health. Two-thirds (67%) of the respondents believe that armed robbery affects the sense of security and community cohesion in Oyo State. This statistic reflects the broader impact on social structures and the feeling of safety within communities, which is essential for social stability and community development. Additionally, a significant proportion (54.7%) are aware of instances where residents have relocated or migrated from high-risk areas to safer ones, indicating the severe impact of armed robbery on living conditions and the lengths to which people will go to seek safety.

The study also qualitatively explored the impact of armed robbery on the economic development of Oyo state. These interview responses highlight the diverse ways in which armed robbery has impacted the overall economic activities in Oyo State.

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Common themes include disruptions to businesses, increased operating costs, and reduced investor confidence, supply chain disruptions, declines in consumer spending and tourism, damage to the state's reputation, loss of livelihoods, strain on government resources, and a general climate of fear and uncertainty. According to one of the respondents;

"*Armed robbery has had a significant negative impact on the overall economic activities in Oyo State. Businesses, especially small enterprises have been ruined due to theft of goods, vandalism, and loss of revenue. Additionally, investors and tourists are afraid of coming to Ibadan due to concerns about safety and security*[11]." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Another interviewee observed that armed robbery affect all residents, either directly or indirectly;

"The prevalence of armed robbery in Oyo State has led to increased operating costs for businesses, as they need to invest in security measures such as surveillance systems, and security personnel. These additional expenses are usually passed to the consumers in term of higher prices, so everyone is affected." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Viewed from another dimension, the respondents also revealed that "The fear of armed robbery can disrupt supply chains and logistics networks in Oyo State, leading to delays in the transportation of goods and services. This can result in inventory shortages, production delays, and increased costs for businesses, ultimately affecting the overall efficiency and competitiveness of the state's economy." "Armed robbery can also lead to loss of livelihoods for individuals directly affected by such incidents. Victims may suffer physical injuries, psychological trauma, and financial losses, making it difficult for them to participate in economic activities or sustain their businesses and livelihoods."

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It was also believed that armed robbery affect social life in the state as people are afraid to go out at night or go to certain places even during the day. As disclosed by a respondent;

"Armed robbery do have a chilling effect on consumer spending and tourism in Oyo State. Residents may feel less inclined to engage in economic activities such as shopping, dining out, or attending entertainment venues due to safety concerns. Similarly, tourists may choose to visit other destinations perceived as safer, leading to a decline in revenue for businesses reliant on tourism." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Another respondent supported this by submitting as follows;

"Armed robbery do create a climate of fear and uncertainty among residents and businesses in Oyo State, leading to decreased productivity, investment, and economic activity. The ripple effects of armed robbery can be felt throughout the economy, hindering progress and development efforts in the state." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

On how the armed robbery impacted businesses, investments, and job opportunities in Oyo State?

Respondent 7

"I used to keep my shop open until 10 p.m., but now I close by 7 p.m. because of the increasing robberies in the area. This has badly affected sales and profit because many customers prefer to shop in the evening after work. Just last week, armed men robbed a mini-mart two streets away from mine, and the owner lost everything. I am considering relocating, but that also means losing customers and starting over somewhere else. This insecurity is making business difficult for us." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 8

"Investment in Oyo State is declining because people don't feel safe. I have personally witnessed potential investors back out of projects because of security concerns. Nobody wants to put money in a business if they know armed robbers can break in at any time and wipe out their investment. Even commercial property developers are struggling because tenants don't want to rent shops in robbery-prone areas." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

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Respondent 9

"Some roads in this state are now 'no-go' areas at night. I have been attacked twice while carrying passengers, and I know many drivers who have suffered the same fate. Robbers target commercial vehicles, especially at isolated bus stops. They pretend to be passengers, and once they get in, they rob everyone at gunpoint. Some of us have stopped working late because of these incidents." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 20240.

The cumulative effect of these impacts can hinder economic growth, development, and prosperity in the state, underscoring the importance of addressing armed robbery as a critical challenge to sustainable economic development. By implementing effective crime prevention strategies and fostering a safe and secure environment, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards creating a conducive business climate that promotes investment, entrepreneurship, and prosperity in Oyo State.

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4.3.4 Research Question Four: What measures have been implemented by the government, communities, and individuals to combat armed robbery in Ibadan, Oyo State, and how effective have these measures been?

Table 4.4: Roles Played by Individuals, Communities and Government Law Enforcement Agencies in Addressing the Menace of Armed Robbery in Oyo State

Items	SA	A	D	SD
Community-led initiatives aimed at preventing armed robbery are common in Oyo state	--	-	67 (27.0%)	181 (73.0%)
People in Oyo state have resorted to self-help in order to secure themselves and their belongings	--	176 (71.9%)	67 (27.3%)	2 (0.8%)
There is enough awareness in my community about the causes and preventive measures of armed robbery	--	12 (5.0%)	92 (37.2%)	144 (57.9%)
Oyo state residents are exposed to programs or workshops focused on preventing armed robbery	--	107 (43.4%)	137 (55.7%)	2 (0.8%)
law enforcement agencies are effective in addressing armed robbery in Oyo State	2 (0.8%)	12 (5.0%)	107 (43.8%)	122 (50.4%)
Are you aware of any specific policies or strategies implemented by the government to combat armed robbery in Oyo State	137 (55.7%)	77 (31.1%)	28 (11.5%)	4 (1.6%)
Do you think there is sufficient support from the government for community-led initiatives aimed at preventing armed robbery	14 (5.7%)	--	96 (38.5%)	137 (55.7%)

Source: Fieldwork 2023

Table 4.4 provides valuable insights into the roles played by individuals, communities, and government law enforcement agencies in addressing the menace of

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armed robbery in Oyo State. The table presents respondents' perceptions of various initiatives and efforts aimed at preventing armed robbery, as well as their awareness of government policies and strategies to combat this crime.

Community-led initiatives aimed at preventing armed robbery are perceived to be relatively uncommon in Oyo State, with only 27.0% of respondents agreeing that such initiatives are common. This finding suggests that while there may be some community-based efforts to address the issue, they are not widespread or well-known among the population. Additionally, a significant majority of respondents, 71.9%, reported resorting to self-help measures to secure themselves and their belongings, indicating a reliance on individual or household-level strategies for protection against armed robbery.

The table also highlights the level of awareness within communities about the causes and preventive measures of armed robbery. A majority of respondents, 57.9%, indicated that there is not enough awareness in their community about these issues, underscoring the need for increased education and outreach efforts to enhance community understanding and preparedness.

Furthermore, the table indicates the extent to which Oyo State residents are exposed to programs or workshops focused on preventing armed robbery. While a significant proportion of respondents, 55.7%, reported exposure to such programs, a notable portion, 43.4%, did not have access to them. This finding suggests that while some efforts are being made to educate the population about preventing armed robbery, there may be gaps in the reach and effectiveness of these programs.

Regarding the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in addressing armed robbery in Oyo State, perceptions are mixed. Only a small percentage of respondents, 0.8%,

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indicated that law enforcement agencies are effective, while a larger proportion, 50.4%, disagreed with this statement. This suggests that there is room for improvement in the performance of law enforcement agencies in combating armed robbery, as perceived by the population.

Furthermore, the table reveals respondents' awareness of specific policies or strategies implemented by the government to combat armed robbery in Oyo State. While a majority of respondents, 55.7%, reported awareness of such policies or strategies, a significant proportion, 31.1%, indicated lack of awareness. This finding highlights the need for greater transparency and communication from the government regarding its efforts to address the issue of armed robbery.

Lastly, perceptions of government support for community-led initiatives aimed at preventing armed robbery are mixed. While a small percentage of respondents, 5.7%, believed that there is sufficient support from the government for such initiatives, a larger proportion, 55.7%, disagreed with this statement. This suggests that there may be a perceived lack of government support for community-based approaches to preventing armed robbery, which could potentially hinder the effectiveness of these initiatives.

In conclusion, Table 4.2 provides valuable insights into the roles and perceptions of individuals, communities, and government law enforcement agencies in addressing armed robbery in Oyo State. The findings underscore the importance of enhancing community awareness, increasing access to prevention programs, improving the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts, and fostering greater government support for community-led initiatives to effectively combat armed robbery and enhance public safety in the state.

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From the qualitative responses on how can communities and businesses contribute to improving security in the state?

One respondent said;

"Businesses should install CCTV cameras and improve security measures. The more security cameras we have in public places, the easier it will be to catch criminals." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 5

"Residents should report suspicious activities and support local vigilantes. We need a strong community effort to fight crime. People should not be afraid to speak up when they see something suspicious." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 10

"More awareness campaigns can educate people on crime prevention. If people know how to protect themselves and avoid risky situations, they will be less likely to become victims of robbery." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

The qualitative responses on what ways has the fear of crime affected daily life, mobility, and tourism in the state?

Respondent 10

"Students don't move around freely at night anymore. Even inside campus areas, we are cautious. Before now, we could stay out late studying or socializing, but now, once it's dark, most students rush back to their hostels. I know people who have been attacked right in front of their dormitories. This is affecting our social life and general well-being." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 3

"The fear of crime has led to a decline in nightlife. Restaurants, bars, and entertainment spots that used to operate late into the night now close early. This has affected businesses that rely on evening crowds. When people don't feel safe, they avoid moving around, and that affects the local economy." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

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Respondent 6

"Tourists avoid areas known for criminal activity, and this affects the hospitality industry. Hotels, resorts, and relaxation centres are losing customers because people don't want to visit a place where they might be robbed. Oyo State has cultural attractions that could boost tourism, but insecurity is driving visitors away[13]." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

On how do security agencies and community vigilante groups respond to armed robbery incidents?

Respondent 2

"Police response time is too slow. Many times, by the time they arrive, the robbers have already escaped. People have stopped calling the police because they don't believe they will come in time to help." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 8, 2024).

Respondent 5

"We rely more on local vigilantes than the police because they respond faster. However, these vigilante groups lack proper training and equipment. Sometimes, they catch criminals, but there is no proper legal process to handle them, so they end up being released." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 3

"We have patrols in high-risk areas, but the challenge is that criminals change their strategies. We need more community cooperation and better intelligence gathering to prevent crime before it happens. The police force is doing its best, but we need more personnel and resources to be truly effective." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

Qualitative responses on what challenges do law enforcement agencies face in combating armed robbery effectively?

Respondent 3

"Logistics is a big issue. We don't have enough vehicles, personnel, or modern equipment to effectively cover all areas. Some police stations have only one patrol vehicle, and when there is an emergency in different locations, response time becomes

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a major problem. Many officers are willing to work hard, but how can we fight well-organized criminals when we don't have proper tools? The lack of funding means that some stations rely on community support to even buy fuel for patrols. If we had enough resources, better communication gadgets, and advanced crime-tracking technology, we could be more effective in tackling armed robbery." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

Respondent 6

"Corruption is also a significant problem. Some officers leak information to criminals, making it difficult to arrest them or disrupt their operations. There have been cases where planned police raids were foiled because the robbers got tipped off and escaped before officers arrived. Criminal networks are often well-connected, and some officers collaborate with them for financial gains. Until we address internal corruption within the police force, combating armed robbery will remain a major challenge." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 10

"People don't trust the police, so many crimes go unreported. I have friends who were robbed at gunpoint, but they didn't bother reporting to the police because they believed it would be a waste of time. This lack of trust makes it harder for law enforcement to gather intelligence and solve crimes. If the police can build better relationships with the public, more people will be willing to provide useful information that could help prevent future attacks." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

On qualitative responses on how does corruption within security agencies influence crime rates in Oyo State?

Respondent 1

"If you report a robbery, some officers will demand a bribe before taking action. This discourages victims from seeking justice. I know a man whose shop was looted, and when he went to report, the officer on duty told him to 'settle' before they could even write down his complaint. How can we fight crime when the police prioritize money over public safety? This makes criminals more daring because they know that law enforcement is not as effective as it should be." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 6

"Some officers work directly with criminals. There are documented cases where arrested suspects are released after paying bribes. When criminals know they can always buy their way out of police custody, they continue robbing with confidence.

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This weakens public trust in the justice system, and it also emboldens criminals to commit more violent attacks." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 3

"Not all officers are corrupt, but yes, bad elements within the force are making our work harder. Many of us genuinely want to serve and protect the people, but the actions of a few corrupt officers are damaging our reputation. We need stricter oversight and better internal monitoring to remove corrupt officers from the system. If we can clean up the force and ensure that officers are well-paid and motivated, crime-fighting efforts will improve." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

On qualitative responses on what role does substance abuse play in the rising trend of armed robbery?

Respondent 7

"Many robbers operate under the influence of drugs. They become fearless and violent. I have seen CCTV footage of criminals who broke into a shop near mine—they were moving aggressively and didn't even care about the security cameras. When people are high on drugs like tramadol or codeine, they lose all sense of fear, making them more dangerous and unpredictable." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 5

"Youths in my area abuse drugs like tramadol and codeine. This fuels criminal activities because addiction makes them desperate. When they run out of money to buy these drugs, they turn to robbery to sustain their habit. Many of them start with small thefts, but as their addiction grows, they become more daring and violent in their crimes." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 4

"Some criminals steal just to buy drugs. It's a cycle of addiction and crime. I have seen young men who got involved in petty theft just to feed their drug habits, and eventually, they graduated to armed robbery. If drug abuse is not tackled, crime will continue to rise." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

On qualitative responses on how can government policies better address crime prevention and youth empowerment?

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Respondent 9

"They should focus on job creation. If youths have work, they won't engage in robbery. Many of the criminals out there today started because they had no way to survive. The government should invest in industries and businesses that can absorb unemployed young people." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 6

"We need skill acquisition programs and more vocational training centers. Not everyone can get a white-collar job, but if young people are given practical skills like tailoring, carpentry, and ICT training, they will be able to make a living without resorting to crime." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 10

"The government should invest in community policing and equip law enforcement agencies. If the police have better funding and resources, they can do their jobs more effectively. Also, community policing will help build trust and improve collaboration between law enforcement and the people." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Qualitative responses on what strategies have been successful in other regions that could be applied in Oyo State?

Respondent 5

"In some states, community-police partnerships have helped. Oyo State should adopt that model where local security groups work closely with the police to provide intelligence and patrol high-crime areas." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 6

"More street surveillance cameras and technology-driven policing can help. Lagos State, for example, has improved security by installing cameras in high-risk areas. If Oyo State can do the same, criminals will find it harder to operate." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 2024).

Respondent 3

"Swift prosecution of arrested criminals will deter others. When robbers see that there are no serious consequences for their actions, they continue committing crimes. The justice system must be faster in prosecuting offenders." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

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Qualitative responses on what practical recommendations would you suggest to reduce armed robbery in Oyo State?

Respondent 4

"Provide job opportunities and empower the youth. If people have stable sources of income, they won't turn to crime." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, July 6, 2024).

Respondent 6

"Strengthen community policing and increase funding for security agencies. A well-equipped police force will be able to tackle crime more effectively." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, August 9, 20240.

Respondent 3

"Ensure swift justice for criminals and improve intelligence gathering. If we can identify criminals before they strike and punish offenders quickly, armed robbery will decrease." (Interview by Researcher, Ibadan, June 6, 2024).

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4.4 Discussion of Findings

The study's findings indicate a moderate prevalence of armed robbery in Oyo State, with respondents reporting multiple attacks, some of which have resulted in fatalities. This aligns with prior research highlighting the prevalence and societal impact of armed robbery in Nigeria[4]. Several studies suggest that armed robbery is not an isolated phenomenon but rather a systemic issue that affects urban centers with significant economic activities, as seen in Lagos and other states with similar crime patterns.

The research identified key socio-economic factors driving armed robbery in Oyo State, including unemployment, poverty, income inequality, corruption, rapid urbanization, substance abuse, and social exclusion. These findings are consistent

with existing literature that links high unemployment rates to increased crime, as individuals without stable job opportunities may resort to criminal activities[5].

Similarly, poverty serves as a fundamental driver of armed robbery, as economic hardship and lack of basic necessities may push individuals into illegal activities. Qualitative responses reinforce these quantitative findings, as multiple respondents acknowledged the absence of economic opportunities as a major contributor to the crime rate. For instance, some interviewees noted that many young people engage in armed robbery due to frustration over a lack of employment opportunities. This aligns with broader studies on the relationship between economic deprivation and crime, which suggest that income inequality can create resentment among marginalized communities, fostering criminal behaviour[6].

Furthermore, the study highlights the role of corruption in exacerbating crime rates. Respondents pointed to cases where law enforcement officers accepted bribes, leaked information to criminals, or failed to respond promptly to robbery incidents. These accounts support existing research indicating that corruption within the criminal justice system weakens public trust and emboldens criminals[7].

Substance abuse was also cited as a major contributor to the rising trend of armed robbery. Respondents described how many offenders operate under the influence of drugs like tramadol and codeine, which impair judgment and increase violent tendencies. These qualitative insights correspond with quantitative findings, where a significant proportion of respondents identified drug abuse as a key driver of crime. This pattern is supported by research linking substance abuse to increased violent crime rates in Nigeria[8].

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The findings reveal that armed robbery significantly disrupts economic activities in Oyo State. Quantitative data show that 39.3% of respondents reported direct economic losses due to armed robbery, while 61% believed that crime had negatively affected overall economic activity in the state. This aligns with studies showing that persistent crime reduces investor confidence, increases business costs, and hampers economic growth[9]. Qualitative responses further illustrate these economic impacts, with business owners describing how frequent robberies force them to close earlier, reducing profits. Others reported that high crime rates deter investors, limiting economic expansion. These findings are consistent with literature suggesting that crime-related business closures lead to decreased employment opportunities and further economic decline[10].

The psychological impact of armed robbery is also evident. The study found that 70% of respondents reported psychological distress due to crime, while 67% believed that armed robbery has undermined community cohesion. This is consistent with previous research indicating that the fear of crime can lead to social fragmentation and reduced public trust[11]. Additionally, armed robbery has influenced population movement, with 54.7% of respondents acknowledging cases of relocation from high-crime areas. This aligns with urban crime studies showing that persistent insecurity can lead to migration patterns that destabilize communities and reduce local economic activity[12].

The study found that efforts by government agencies, communities, and individuals to combat armed robbery are inadequate and poorly coordinated. Quantitative findings show that 50.4% of respondents believe law enforcement agencies are ineffective in addressing armed robbery, while 71.9% reported resorting to self-help security measures. These findings are supported by studies emphasizing the need for

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community-based security initiatives due to the inefficiency of formal law enforcement structures[13].

Qualitative responses highlight public frustration with law enforcement, with respondents citing slow police response times, lack of resources, and corruption as major barriers to crime prevention. This reinforces existing research suggesting that law enforcement reform is essential for improving security outcomes in Nigeria[14]. Community-led security measures were also explored, with mixed responses regarding their effectiveness. While some respondents expressed support for vigilante groups and local security initiatives, others noted that these groups often lack the necessary training and resources to combat organized crime effectively. This aligns with literature suggesting that while community-based policing can complement formal security efforts, it requires government support to be sustainable[15].

The findings of this study highlight the urgent need for a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to crime prevention in Oyo State. Addressing the root causes of armed robbery requires coordinated efforts across various sectors, including economic development, law enforcement, community engagement, and public awareness. A key priority should be the implementation of economic empowerment programs aimed at tackling the high rates of unemployment, which have been closely linked to rising crime levels. Policymakers must focus on creating sustainable job opportunities and expanding vocational training programs to provide young people with viable alternatives to criminal activity. By equipping individuals with marketable skills and facilitating access to employment, the government can reduce the economic desperation that often drives individuals toward armed robbery.

Equally important is the reform of law enforcement agencies**,** with a strong emphasis on improving police effectiveness and eliminating corruption within the system.

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Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement through better funding, provision of modern crime-fighting equipment, and stringent anti-corruption measures will enhance public trust and improve the overall efficiency of crime prevention efforts. When citizens have confidence in the police and security agencies, they are more likely to report crimes and cooperate in intelligence-sharing, leading to more effective crime control.

The expansion of community policing initiatives and the integration of surveillance technology should also be prioritized. Drawing from successful models in Lagos State, where community-police partnerships and the deployment of surveillance cameras have significantly improved crime detection and deterrence, Oyo State can adopt similar measures. Encouraging local communities to take an active role in crime prevention, combined with advanced surveillance systems, can help reduce criminal activities and enhance neighbourhood security. Furthermore, substance abuse prevention programs must be implemented to address one of the major contributors to violent crime. Many armed robbers operate under the influence of drugs, which impair judgment and increase aggression. To mitigate this factor, the government should invest in rehabilitation programs, tighten drug control policies, and increase public education on the dangers of substance abuse. By reducing drug dependency among at-risk populations, the likelihood of violent crimes such as armed robbery can be significantly lowered.

Finally, public awareness campaigns should be intensified to educate residents on crime prevention strategies and personal security measures. A well-informed populace is better equipped to protect itself against criminal threats. Awareness programs can encourage individuals and businesses to adopt security measures such as installing CCTV cameras, participating in neighbourhood watch programs, and promptly

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reporting suspicious activities to law enforcement. In conclusion, combating armed robbery in Oyo State requires a holistic approach that addresses both the socio-economic drivers of crime and the structural weaknesses in security enforcement. By implementing these recommendations, policymakers and stakeholders can create a safer environment, restore public confidence in security institutions, and foster long-term socio-economic stability in the state.

In conclusion, the study's findings align with existing research on the prevalence, causes, and socio-economic impact of armed robbery in Nigeria. While quantitative data confirm high crime rates and economic disruption, qualitative responses provide deeper insights into the lived experiences of residents. The findings suggest that addressing armed robbery requires a holistic approach that integrates economic, law enforcement, and community-based strategies. Without such interventions, Oyo State risks continued socio-economic stagnation and declining public confidence in security institutions.

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Chapter Five

Conclusion

Chapter Five of this study presents the comprehensive summary of findings, conclusions, and recommendations derived from an in-depth investigation into the prevalence and impact of armed robbery in Oyo State, Nigeria. The chapter aims to encapsulate the crucial outcomes of the research, highlighting the severity and underlying causes of armed robbery, its detrimental effects on the socioeconomic fabric of the state, and the ongoing efforts to combat this menace.

The findings underscore a moderate prevalence of armed robbery, with significant reports of multiple and fatal attacks affecting residents. Key drivers of this crime include unemployment, poverty, income inequality, corruption, rapid urbanization, substance abuse, and social exclusion. These factors collectively contribute to a hostile environment where armed robbery thrives, leading to severe disruptions in business operations, increased costs, diminished investor confidence, and a pervasive sense of fear among the populace.

The study delves into the intricate relationship between poverty and criminality, illustrating how financial hardships push individuals towards illegal activities. Despite efforts by the government, communities, and individuals to curb these incidents, there is a noticeable gap in the effectiveness and coordination of these measures. The chapter sets the stage for a detailed discussion on the need for more cohesive and strategic approaches to tackle the root causes of armed robbery, aiming to restore stability and foster economic growth in Oyo State.

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5.1 Summary of Findings

Prevalence of Armed Robbery in Oyo State: The study established that armed robbery is a significant concern in Oyo State, with a moderate level of prevalence reported by respondents. Multiple instances of armed robbery attacks were documented, including cases that resulted in fatalities. The findings suggest that while armed robbery may not occur daily, its frequency is high enough to create widespread insecurity among residents. Victims of these incidents reported experiencing psychological distress, financial losses, and in some cases, injuries or death. Additionally, the prevalence of armed robbery appears to vary across different locations in the state, with urban centres experiencing a higher frequency of attacks due to increased economic activity and population density.

Causes of Armed Robbery in Oyo State: The study identified multiple socio-economic and structural factors as key drivers of armed robbery in Oyo State. The most prominent causes include:

- Unemployment: High unemployment rates, particularly among youth, were found to be a major contributor to the rise in criminal activities. The lack of stable income opportunities often forces individuals to engage in illicit activities, including armed robbery, as a means of survival.
- Poverty: Widespread poverty exacerbates the crime rate by creating desperation among individuals who struggle to meet their basic needs. The study found a strong correlation between poverty levels and the incidence of armed robbery.

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- Income Inequality: The widening gap between the wealthy and the poor in Oyo State fosters resentment and social tensions, increasing the likelihood of criminal activities targeted at wealthier individuals or businesses.
- Corruption: The inefficiency and corruption within law enforcement and government institutions contribute to the persistence of armed robbery. Corrupt practices, such as bribery, can enable criminals to evade justice, thereby weakening crime prevention efforts.
- Rapid Urbanization: The unplanned expansion of urban areas has led to increased population density, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to essential services, creating an environment where crime can thrive.
- Substance Abuse: Drug and alcohol abuse were identified as significant factors that influence criminal behaviour. Many armed robbers are reported to operate under the influence of drugs, which heightens their propensity for violence and reckless behaviour.
- Social Exclusion: Marginalization of certain groups, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, has contributed to the increase in crime. Individuals who feel alienated from society are more likely to resort to criminal activities as a means of asserting control or seeking financial gain.

Impact of Armed Robbery on Socio-Economic Development: The study found that armed robbery has profound implications for the socio-economic development of Oyo State. These effects manifest in several ways:

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- Disruptions to Businesses: Business owners and entrepreneurs suffer from frequent armed robbery attacks, leading to financial losses and, in some cases, the closure of businesses.
- Increased Operating Costs: Due to heightened security concerns, businesses are forced to invest in additional security measures such as surveillance systems, security personnel, and reinforced infrastructure, leading to higher operational expenses.
- Reduced Investor Confidence: The instability caused by armed robbery discourages both local and foreign investors from establishing businesses in Oyo State, thereby limiting economic growth.
- Supply Chain Disruptions: Criminal activities on highways and within urban centres disrupt the transportation and distribution of goods, leading to increased costs and inefficiencies in supply chains.
- Declines in Consumer Spending and Tourism: Fear of crime discourages residents from patronizing businesses, particularly at night, thereby reducing overall consumer spending. Similarly, tourism is negatively affected as potential visitors perceive the state as unsafe.
- Damage to the State's Reputation: The persistence of armed robbery contributes to a negative perception of Oyo State as a high-crime area, discouraging economic activities and potential partnerships with other regions.

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- Loss of Livelihoods: Many individuals, especially those in vulnerable sectors such as small-scale retail, transportation, and informal businesses, have lost their means of livelihood due to the recurring threat of armed robbery.
- Strain on Government Resources: The need for increased policing and security measures places a financial burden on the state government, diverting funds from other critical areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.
- General Climate of Fear and Uncertainty: The psychological impact of armed robbery is significant, as residents live in constant fear of attacks. This insecurity affects social interactions, mobility, and overall quality of life.

Efforts to Combat Armed Robbery in Oyo State: The study found that various stakeholders, including the government, local communities, and individuals, have taken steps to address the issue of armed robbery. Some of the key initiatives identified include:

- Government Interventions: The Oyo State government has implemented security measures such as increased police patrols, community policing initiatives, and collaboration with federal security agencies. However, these efforts have been met with mixed results due to challenges such as inadequate funding, corruption, and logistical constraints.
- Community Efforts: Many communities have established vigilante groups and neighbourhood watch programs to provide localized security and respond to robbery incidents. While these initiatives have had some success, they are often poorly funded and lack the necessary legal backing to operate effectively.

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- Individual Security Measures: Residents and business owners have resorted to self-protective measures such as hiring private security, installing security cameras, and reinforcing their homes and business premises against potential attacks.

Despite these efforts, the study found that the measures in place remain inadequate and poorly coordinated. A significant proportion of residents perceive security agencies as ineffective in addressing the problem, citing delays in police response, lack of professionalism, and instances of collusion between law enforcement officials and criminals. As a result, public confidence in the ability of security agencies to combat armed robbery remains low.

5.2 Conclusion

This study explores the complex relationship between armed robbery and poverty in Oyo State, Nigeria, revealing a number of socioeconomic factors that are closely linked to the phenomenon. Armed robbery is a serious crime that not only causes physical harm but also rips holes in the state's social and economic fabric, making it a formidable obstacle to progress and prosperity. Oyo State, like many other regions facing comparable challenges, is caught up in a cycle of crime that is fuelled by a variety of factors. At the forefront is the relationship between poverty and criminality, as people who are disenfranchised by financial hardships frequently turn to illegal means of subsistence. High unemployment, stagnant wages, and restricts access to healthcare and education which further exacerbates this vulnerability.

With painstaking research and actual data, the report illuminates the extent of armed robberies in the state and presents a picture of a somewhat prevalent crime. But beneath

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the numbers are tales of pain, terror, and loss that resonate through communities already weighed down by misfortune. Every robbery diminishes the trust and security that are essential for social cohesiveness and the wellbeing of the community in addition to robbing people of their belongings.

Even with coordinated efforts by local authorities, community leaders, and grassroots groups, combating armed robberies is still a difficult task. The inability of the implemented procedures to produce the intended results frequently results in a feeling of disappointment and mistrust regarding the effectiveness of security precautions. This stark discrepancy between intention and results highlights the pressing need for more cohesive and coordinated strategies, ones that delve beyond surface-level interventions to address the systemic roots of the issue.

Due to differences in opportunity and wealth, which foster despair and animosity, Oyo State's socioeconomic environment is a breeding ground for crime. Unfair resource distribution, pervasive corruption, and shoddy governance systems all work together to further degrade public institutions' credibility and expose communities to abuse by the criminal underworld. Armed robberies have far-reaching effects on society as a whole, not just on the victims directly. The resultant effect is that companies are reluctant to make investments in an unstable climate. This hinders economic expansion and employment creation, which feeds the vicious cycle of poverty and despair. Families are left feeling unsafe and traumatized by the continual threat of violence. The unpredictable nature of crime also shatters their sense of security.

Furthermore, the basic pillars of democracy and the rule of law are weakened by violent robberies, which erode public confidence in the government's ability to protect the

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populace and enforce the law. This breakdown of trust feeds a vicious cycle of instability and insecurity by undermining social cohesiveness and creating an environment that is conducive to more criminal behaviour. In order to tackle this complex issue, stakeholders need to implement a comprehensive strategy that not only strengthens community faith in public institutions, but also tackles the root causes of armed robberies. A brighter future can be attainable for individuals through investments in education, vocational training, and economic empowerment programmes, which can offer viable alternatives to a life of crime. To further restore public trust and discourage criminal conduct, measures to fortify law enforcement capabilities and enhance the effectiveness and accountability of security services are critical. Initiatives for community policing, which encourage cooperation between law enforcement officials and locals, can aid in bridging the gap between security personnel and the communities they protect, fostering a sense of shared accountability and ownership in the fight against crime.

To effectively address the underlying causes of armed robbery, structural problems like poverty, inequality, and corruption must be actively addressed. Rebuilding public institution confidence and cultivating an integrity and accountability-driven culture require strong anti-corruption measures in addition to transparent governance frameworks. Furthermore, fostering the rule of law and improving access to justice are essential to fostering a culture in which people feel empowered to pursue legal remedies for their complaints rather than turning to vigilantism or other illegal actions.

In conclusion, Oyo State's armed robberies are a sign of more serious socioeconomic inequality and problems with administration rather than just a problem for the police. A holistic strategy that tackles the underlying causes of crime while also enhancing

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community resilience and public institution confidence is needed to combat this scourge. Only with coordinated efforts and unwavering dedication can Oyo State possibly escape the menace of armed robberies. This will then effectively, efficiently and strategically nip these nefarious activities of hoodlums in the bud.

5.3 Recommendations

The study's conclusions highlight a number of important suggestions meant to alleviate Oyo State's widespread problem with armed robbery. These recommendations provide a comprehensive strategy for successfully addressing the threat since they are adapted to the socioeconomic environment and the intricacies of crime dynamics.

i. First and foremost, encouraging cooperation between official entities, neighbourhood associations, and private citizens is essential to combating armed robberies. Stakeholders can create and implement comprehensive strategies that go beyond typical silos and promote a more cohesive and coordinated response to the danger by combining resources, exchanging information, and using expertise.

ii. Second, strengthening law enforcement agencies' capacity is essential to improving their efficacy in deterring crime, conducting investigations, and responding to it. Officers can be better prepared to handle armed robberies by participating in specialized training programmes that cover topics including community policing, intelligence collection, and forensic methods.

iii. Furthermore, tackling the fundamental socio-economic factors that influence criminal behaviour becomes essential to any comprehensive strategy aimed at preventing armed robberies. Interventions that are specifically designed to address

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variables like substance misuse, unemployment, and poverty can assist in breaking the cycle of deprivation and crime. Empowering people and communities can come from initiatives that support social inclusion, economic empowerment, and access to basic amenities like healthcare and education. These can offer realistic alternatives to a life of crime.

iv. Furthermore, in order to mobilize collective action against crime, it is imperative to raise public knowledge about the effects of armed robbery and to build a culture of vigilance and community engagement. Public awareness initiatives run by the government can inform the public about the dangers of armed robbery and provide them the tools they need to protect their neighbourhoods. These programmes can assist in creating resilient communities that are able to withstand the plague of armed robbery by promoting a sense of shared responsibility and encouraging active engagement in crime prevention initiatives.

To summarize, the aforementioned proposals provide a framework for tackling the complex issue of armed robbery in Oyo State. Stakeholders can collaborate to create a more complete and successful response to the threat posed by armed robbery by addressing socioeconomic causes, promoting teamwork, investing in capacity-building, and increasing public awareness. Oyo State can only expect to stop the criminal trend and build a safer, more affluent future for all of its citizens by making deliberate and coordinated efforts.

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5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

The study has made significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge. These contributions can be discussed under, conceptual, empirical and theoretical contributions. This study contributes to the conceptual understanding of armed robbery by examining its prevalence, causes, impacts, and response mechanisms within the context of Oyo State, Nigeria. By identifying and categorizing the socio-economic factors driving armed robbery, such as unemployment, poverty, and corruption, the study provides a framework for understanding the complex interplay of social, economic, and political dynamics that contribute to crime and insecurity. Furthermore, the study elucidates the multifaceted impacts of armed robbery on the state's social and economic development, ranging from disruptions to businesses to strain on government resources. This conceptual framework enhances our understanding of armed robbery as a systemic issue with far-reaching implications for individuals, communities, and institutions.

The study contributes empirically by providing data-driven insights into the prevalence, causes, impacts, and response to armed robbery in Oyo State. Through surveys, interviews, and data analysis, the study offers a comprehensive overview of the extent and nature of armed robbery incidents in the state, as well as the underlying socio-economic drivers and their effects on various sectors of the economy. Moreover, by examining the perceptions and experiences of stakeholders, including government officials, law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and citizens, the study enriches our understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with combating armed robbery. The empirical findings serve as a valuable resource for policymakers,

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practitioners, and researchers seeking evidence-based solutions to address the issue effectively.

The study contributes theoretically by advancing our understanding of armed robbery within the broader framework of criminology and socio-economic theories such as the differential association theory, rational choice theory, and social disorganisation theory. By applying theoretical perspectives such as social disorganization theory, the study offers insights into the underlying mechanisms and processes driving criminal behaviour in Oyo State. Furthermore, the study explores the role of institutional factors, such as law enforcement capacity and government accountability, in shaping responses to armed robbery and mitigating its impacts. This theoretical grounding provides a basis for developing more nuanced and context-specific approaches to crime prevention and intervention, informed by a deeper understanding of the structural and systemic factors influencing criminal activity.

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5.5. Suggestions for Further Studies

The objective of this research is to determine the most effective methods for reducing crime and improving community safety by analysing the results of different approaches.

i. Comparative Analysis of Crime Prevention Strategies: This study compares and examines the effectiveness of different strategies for preventing crime that have been implemented in Oyo State and similar regions with similar socioeconomic profiles.

ii. Community Policing Dynamics in Oyo State: This research examines community policing initiatives and their impact on crime prevention in Oyo State. It aims to clarify the nuances of community-police relations, evaluate the effectiveness of collaborative

efforts, and identify best practices for promoting trust and engagement within local communities.

iii. Trends and Interventions in Armed Robbery Incidents: A thorough analysis of trends in armed robbery incidents in Oyo State, along with an assessment of the efficacy of interventions and policies implemented to address the issue.

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Appendix I

Lead City University Ibadan

Faculty of Management and Social Sciences

Department of Politics and International Relations

Questionnaire

on

Impact of Armed Robbery Attacks on Socio-economic Development of Ibadan, Oyo State

Dear Respondent,

I am a postgraduate student of the above-named institution. I am currently conducting a research work on "Impact of Armed Robbery Attacks on Socio-economic Development of Ibadan. Oyo State". I therefore solicit your support in completing this instrument. Please note that any information supplied by you in this questionnaire shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used for academic research only.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Researcher

Section A; Demographics

Tick the correct answer

1. **Gender:** Male [ ]; Female [ ];
2. **Age:** 18-25 [ ]; 26-35[ ]; 36-45[ ]; 46-55[ ]; 55+[ ];
3. **Occupation:** Trader[ ]; Professional [ ]; Civil Servant [ ]; Private Sector [ ]; Farmer [ ]; others [ ];
4. **Local government area** …….

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Section B: Prevalence of Armed Robbery Attacks in Oyo State – Nigeria;

1. I have been attacked by robbers in recent times: Yes [ ]; No [ ].
2. I have experienced armed robbery attack only once: Yes [ ]; No [ ].
3. I have experienced armed robbery attack at least twice Yes [ ]; No [ ].
4. I know, at least, one person killed by robbers Yes [ ]; No [ ].
5. I know several people killed by robbers Yes [ ]; No [ ].

Section C: Causes, Nature and Pattern of Armed Robbery in Oyo State – Nigeria;

1. In your opinion, what are the primary socio-economic factors contributing to armed robbery in Oyo State?.....
2. Do you believe unemployment plays a significant role in the prevalence of armed robbery in the state? Yes [ ]; No [ ].
3. How would you rate the effectiveness of current poverty alleviation programs in addressing the root causes of armed robbery**?**

   Very Effective **[ ]**

   Effective [ ]

   Neutral [ ]

   Ineffective [ ]

   Very Ineffective [ ]

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Nature and Pattern of Armed Robbery:

Can you describe the nature of the armed robbery incident you or someone you know experienced?.....

In your opinion, which areas or neighbourhoods in Oyo State are more susceptible to armed robbery?.....

Section D: Social Economic Impact of Armed Robbery in Oyo State;

Economic Impact:

1. Has armed robbery affected your economic activities directly or indirectly? (e.g., loss of property, business disruption) Yes [ ]; No [ ].
2. In your opinion, how has armed robbery impacted the overall economic activities in Oyo State?.....
3. Have you or someone you know experienced financial losses due to armed robbery incidents? Yes [ ]; No [ ].

Psychological and Emotional Impact:

1. How would you describe the psychological impact of armed robbery on individuals and communities in Oyo State?----------
   ----
2. Do you believe that the fear of armed robbery has affected people's daily lives and mental well-being in the state? **Yes [ ]; No [ ].**

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3. In your view, how has armed robbery affected the sense of security and community cohesion in Oyo State?----------

---

4. Have there been instances of relocation or migration of residents from areas with high armed robbery incidents to perceived safer areas? Yes [ ]; No [ ].

Section E: efforts put in place by individuals, communities and governments law-enforcement agencies towards addressing the menace of armed robbery

1. Are you aware of any community-led initiatives aimed at preventing armed robbery in your area? Yes [ ]; No [ ].
2. Have you personally taken any measures to enhance your personal security in response to the threat of armed robbery? Yes [ ]; No [ ].
3. Do you think there is enough awareness in your community about the causes and preventive measures of armed robbery? Yes [ ]; No [ ].
4. Have you or members of your community participated in any programs or workshops focused on preventing armed robbery? Yes [ ]; No [ ].
5. How would you rate the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in addressing armed robbery in Oyo State?
    a. Very Effective [ ]
    b. Effective [ ]
    c. Neutral [ ]
    d. Ineffective [ ]

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e. Very Ineffective [ ]

6. Are you aware of any specific policies or strategies implemented by the government to combat armed robbery in Oyo State? Yes [ ]; No [ ].

7. In your opinion, how well do individuals, communities, and law enforcement agencies collaborate to address the menace of armed robbery?----------

---

8. Do you think there is sufficient support from the government for community-led initiatives aimed at preventing armed robbery? Yes [ ]; No [ ].

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Appendix II

Interview Guide Questions

1. How prevalent is armed robbery in Oyo State, and which areas are most affected?
2. What are the main causes of armed robbery in the state, including socio-economic factors like unemployment and poverty?
3. How has armed robbery impacted businesses, investments, and job opportunities in Oyo State?
4. In what ways has the fear of crime affected daily life, mobility, and tourism in the state?
5. How do security agencies and community vigilante groups respond to armed robbery incidents?
6. What challenges do law enforcement agencies face in combating armed robbery effectively?
7. How does corruption within security agencies influence crime rates in Oyo State?
8. What role does substance abuse play in the rising trend of armed robbery?
9. How can government policies better address crime prevention and youth empowerment?
10. What strategies have been successful in other regions that could be applied in Oyo State?
11. How can communities and businesses contribute to improving security in the state?

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12. What practical recommendations would you suggest to reduce armed robbery in Oyo State?

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Bio-data

A. Personal Data

Full Name:	Gabriel Odiaka DIBIE
Address:	No. 75, Nvigwe Road, Woji, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State
Email:	gabyoh2000@yayoo.com
Phone No:	+2348033097332
Date of Birth:	November 17, 1970
Place of Birth:	Onicha-Ugbo Town, Aniocha North L.G.A. Delta State
Nationality:	Nigerian
Name & Address of Next of Kin:	Mrs Emmanuella Nengi DIBIE No. 75, Nvigwe Road, Woji, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State

B. Educational Background with Dates

Educational Institutions Attended with Dates and Qualifications

- PhD International Relations – Lead City University, Ibadan 2025
- University of Greenwich, London, United Kingdom
  M.A. International Criminology 2008-2009
- University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State
  (MSc Sociology) 2005- 2007
- University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State
  (Post-Graduate Diploma in Sociology) 2003- 2005
- University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State
  (B.A. English Language) 1987- 1991
- Federal School of Art and Science, Victoria Island, Lagos State (Lower Six) 1986-1987

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- Ijede Community Grammar School, Ijede via Ikorodu, Lagos State (WASC) 1980-1985

C. Working Experience with Dates

- Colours of Optics Ltd, No. 9, Akin Osiyemi Street, off Allen Avenue, Ikeja, Lagos State – 1993 - 1996
- Nigeria Police Force – 1996 till date

D. Awards and Fellowships

Fellow Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria

E. Membership of Academic/Professional Bodies

- International Association of Chiefs of Police, United of States of America
- Rotary International

F. Publications

a. Gabriel O. DIBIE & Adebola A. ALADE. *Prevalence of Armed Robbery in Oyo State, Nigeria*. (Unpublished)

b. Gabriel O. DIBIE & Adebola A. ALADE. *The Socio-Economic Impact of Armed Robbery in Oyo State, Nigeria*. (Unpublished)

G. Major Conferences Attended with Dates

N/A

H. Referees

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iii. Dr. Agbabiaka Lukman Adegoke
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Bayelsa State
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Signature **Date**

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The University Compliance Certification

This is to certify that this thesis written by Gabriel DIBIE with matriculation number LCU/PG/003130 in the Department of Politics & International Relations, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, is in full compliance with the approved University format and style.

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Signature	**Date**