



The Role of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) on Crime Prevention and Management in Gombe State, Nigeria

Nurain Abayomi Mumuni¹ & Abdulrasheed Abdulyakeen²

^{1&2}Department of Political Science, Al-Qalam University, Katsina. Katsina State

Corresponding Author's E-mail: lordmumuni@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the Role of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) on Crime Prevention and Management: A Study of Gombe State. Adopting descriptive survey and random sampling procedure to select a sample size of one hundred (100) participants, 90 respondents were filled and returned. The instrument of data collection was questionnaire. Data were analyzed using percentage and frequency count table. It was found that Civil Defense as an emerging organization has played some vital roles in ameliorating the effect of war and conflict amidst the civil populace. Also the Study indicated the challenges faced by the corps in peace management which includes; inadequate equipment, lack of cooperation from the public and negative perception, bribery and corruption, poverty, politicization of recruitment and promotion, under founding, lack of personnel, poor remuneration, lack of periodic workshop, seminars and trainings, poor working conditions. The study recommends among others that the corps should be properly equipped with modern and sophisticated equipment. Government must provide good condition of service to the corps, this include recruitment of adequate number of NSCDC, attractive salary and accommodation. This will improve the image of the NSCDC and thereby improving their performance toward crime prevention and control. There is need to establish corps Board at the local level to replace the moribund and weak Corps Community Service Committee.

Keywords: Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Crime Prevention, Management, Equipment.

Citation of article: Nurain, A. M. & Abdulrasheed, A. (2024). The Role of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) on Crime Prevention and Management: A Study of Gombe State, *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies AJPAS*, 16(2):1104

Date Submitted: 21/02/2024 **Date Accepted:** 16/04/2024 **Date Published:** June, 2024



Introduction

Social deviance and crime are some of the societal problems in every human society right from inception. To this extent therefore, one can argue that social deviance and crime is inevitable in all societies, the only thing is that it can be reduced or prevented. In other words, throughout human history, there has never been a society without social deviance and crime. All human societies have been grappling with the problem of social deviance and crime. According to (Title & Paternoster, 2000), crime is normal and inevitable in all human societies. He further stated that, there is something abnormal about societies that do not record the incidences of crime.

However, no society will allow transgression against the rules and regulations established in order to safeguard and protect viability of that society. Despite societal reactions and efforts to bring about order or to establish order within the society, some members of the society will still transgress against such laws and order of that society which if permitted will result in the total destruction of that society. This is why a mechanism of checks and balances will be in place or established by majority of members of the society to ensure conformity to the rules and regulations which require establishment of a process that will lead to the realization of law and order and organ or institution will have to be created or evolved to be in charge of that process (Abdulyakeen, 2022; Stephen, 1998). Once this is achieved, the society has evolved structure to handle the criminal elements that might have refused to conform to the standard or system. Among the measures or structures evolved is the criminal justice system. Criminal justice system is a system which consists of institutions (i.e. the police, the court, and the prison) in charge of handling criminals. The work of handling and processing law violators is a tedious task which requires a lot of energy, human and material resources and a very clear-cut arrangement. Emphasis will be given to the NSCDC because they always engage in Peace Management and control.

According to Abolurin (2008) the NSCDC are the biggest, most visible and most important subsystem of the criminal justice system. The NSCDC provide the entry point into the criminal justice system either through crime report from the public or its own discovery. The NSCDC organization is the main institution which provides regular direct contact with the public, a



situation that makes it unique among the other component of criminal justice system. The uniqueness of the NSCDC borders on the fact that the decision of the policeman on the street is as important as the existence of the criminal justice system. The NSCDC with Police is the 'gatekeeper' of the criminal justice system as he decides who goes into the system, and his decision has wider implications for the other system components. The NSCDC and policemen lubricates the system through the arrest of suspects, who are essentially the inputs into the criminal justice system.

Provision of adequate security is a social pre-requisite for the survival of any society. Every society takes appropriate measures to protect the lives and property of people living within its boundaries. Business and social activities may not go on freely without adequate security. This essence of security may be reason why societies from time immemorial made efforts to guard their neighborhoods in order to secure them from criminal victimization (Adebayo, 2013). However, as societies became increasingly complex, social life was disrupted because of the crimes that are bedeviling it. Existing systems of law enforcement were inadequate to respond to the problems associated with these changes. Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) is a para-military agency that is charged with the responsibility for enforcing laws.

On 28th June 2003, an Act to give statutory backing to the NSCDC passed by the National Assembly was signed into law by the executive Arm of the Nigerian Government. The Corp is charged with the following roles and responsibilities of securing the state and the people for peace, justice, freedom, fair play and orderliness: The principal focus of the corps is in the area of broad-based information networking monitoring of movement of persons; vandalism of all types; execution of all assignments as may be directed by the parent ministry in the interest of government such as monitoring and supervision of private guard companies. Again, the Corps is charged with the responsibility to focus on complete rescue operations, crisis managements and complimentary security roles with security outfits such as the State Security Service (SSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Nigerian Police Force (NPF), the Army, Immigrations, Nigerian Correctional Service as indicated in the gazette or as assigned by government from time to time (Madaki, 2016).



In line with the above, the study was set to examine the role of Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps in crime prevention and management in Gombe State, Nigeria (Olujimi, 2015).

Also, this study will be useful to student of criminology, law, social policy, criminal justice and sociology. It is hoped that, this review will bring to light some of the contributions made so far by various researcher. It is anticipated that the review of literature will further present to the general public the role of NSCDC in Crime Prevention Management in Gombe State. This study holds significance for both policy and practice by providing valuable insights into the role of the NSCDC in crime prevention and management in the study area. It contributes to the broader discourse on security, peace, and development, with implications for local, national, and international stakeholders.

Many communities in Nigeria have witnessed crime of various descriptions, Gombe Sate is not an exception. Police and NSCDC who are the primary agent in the fight against crime are sometimes relenting and their reluctance maybe as a result of the fact that they are under-staffed, under-equipped, and sometimes corrupt and kicked public cooperation (Dansabo, 2014). This has created problem of often occurrence of crimes in Nigeria including Gombe State. Despite the security important played by the police and significant effort complimented by Nigeria security and civil defense, crime still do exist in Gombe State. The phenomenon of crime is a common identity of all types of societies, especially modern society. In all societies crime is a national problem and its management and control is the primary responsibility of the government. Nigeria is a nation, where the rate of crime causes great concern to the authorities and the public in general. The Nigerian crime situation has become a problem to the life and property of the members of the society and the stability of the society as a whole. The upsurge of violent crimes in Nigeria has created enormous uncertainty in the security of lives and property of individuals and of social stability in general. The incidents of traditional crimes such as armed robbery, arson, drug trafficking and abuse, murder, kidnapping, rape, hired assassinations and ritual killings are examples of the most serious and violent crimes which have been on the increase in the recent past. Moreover, the existing patterns in criminal activities show that criminals are getting more organized, sophisticated and brutal in the manner they carry out their dastardly acts,



either in the way they physically attack individuals with dangerous weapons (Abdulyakeen, 2023; Uzondu, 2012).

Crime has many consequences on the individual, the community and the society in general. This is because as a result of crime some members of the society are being dispossessed of their valuable property and others are killed or maimed for life by armed bandits while other members of the society hardly sleep in their houses at night for fear of criminal victimization for example fear of armed robbers (Robert, 2002). Gombe State, like many other state in Nigeria, faces various security challenges, including communal conflicts, crime, and insurgency. These issues have a direct impact on the safety and well-being of the local population. Therefore, understanding the role of the NSCDC in addressing these concerns is vital for the community's security and development.

The NSCDC is a significant security agency in Nigeria with a mandate that includes maintaining peace and protecting critical infrastructure (NSCDC Act, 2003). Given its broad responsibilities, assessing the NSCDC's performance on Crime Prevention and management is essential, as it can influence the overall security landscape in Gombe State and beyond. The broad aim of this study is to identify the role of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps on Crime Prevention and Management with particular reference to Gombe State and the objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To examine the role of NSCDC in Crime Prevention and Management
- ii. To identify the methods the Corps employed in Crime Prevention and Management
- iii. To ascertain the challenges the corps face in discharging their statutory duties
- iv. To identify ways to improve the functions of NSCDC in Crime Prevention and Management.



Literature Review

Concept of Crime

There are varying views on the word 'crimes.' For instance, Cross and Jones (1972) expressed the views that crime is a legal wrong for which the offender is punished at the instance of the state. It is the view of Russell that crime is an act or omission involving the breach of a duty punishable by indictment, in the public interest under the law of England. According to William, crime is a legal wrong that can be followed by criminal proceeding which may result in punishment. Gledhill⁷ referred to a crime as a human conduct which the state decides to prevent by threat of punishment and through legal proceeding of a special kind. There are views associating crime with a normal phenomenon of society, the natural and inevitable product of collective life and social evolution. Durkheim (1958) is of the view that the collective conscience of a people defines crime. In other words, crimes could be determined from what is collectively considered to be morally wrong or not. Durkheim further expressed the view that all the discussions on crime bear on the point of determining what the punishment must be in order to fulfill their role of remedy. Some views acknowledged the purpose and purport of defining crime in legal terms but considered such definitions as too restrictive and argued that crime is a violation of cultural norms which is sometimes beyond mere violation of law per se. (Sellin, 1938) It was suggested that criminology should concern itself broadly with all anti-social conduct injurious to society in the general study of human behavior.

The concept of crime involves the idea of a public as opposed to a private wrong with the consequent intervention between the criminal and injured party by an agency representing the community as whole. Crime is thus the intentional commission of an act deemed socially harmful; or dangerous and the reason for making any given act a crime is the public injury that would result from its frequent participation (Palmer, 1973; Stephen, 1998). Crime is an intentional act in violation of criminal law, which is committed without defense or excuse and penalized by the state as a felony or misdemeanor (Tapper, 1948)'. It was observed that the juristic orientation provides the only precise and administrative applicable definition and that sociologists may strive to perfect measures for more complete and accurate ascertainment of



offenders. Therefore, crime was simply described as the ‘breach of the legal norms which attracts a penal sanctions and the violator or the criminal is the individual that committed such act of breach’ (Anwarullah, 2006). Many jurists have made efforts to give crime a definition. Accordingly, Blackstone, one of the leading eighteen century commentators of English law define crime is violation of the public rights and duties that is due to the whole community considered as a community and that any act or omission may constitute a crime on violating public law forbidding or commanding it’. It was commended that the specific reference to public wrongs is because public wrongs or crimes or misdemeanor constitute breach and violation of the public right and duties due to the whole community or considered as a community in its aggregate capacity.

Crime Detection

NSCDC as a security agency is charged with the responsibility for enforcing laws. Therefore, one of its critical role is the Peace Management and detection. Edge et al (nd) noted that the NSCDC shall be employed to strategically detect crimes in the society. Despite the fact that in many countries the responsibility of Peace Management is vested on the police but in this part of the world NSCDC are among the formal law enforcement agencies that carry out the role of Peace Management and detection in the country. NSCDC Act (2007).

Maintenance of Law and Order

Another role of NSCDC in Peace Management and control is the maintenance of law and order in the society. The Nigerian law gave the NSCDC mandates to force people to obey laws and to avoid any act that will lead to violence or create confusion among people. The government of the federal republic of Nigeria has vested the Nigerian security and civil defense corps with the responsibility and power to play the role of maintenance and order in the society NSCDC Act (2007).

Apprehension of Offenders

The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps plays a role of arresting or apprehension of the suspected criminals. Despite the fact that majority of the Nigerian populace have the habit of



taking into their hands without reporting to the NSCDC, police and other law enforcement agencies (Madaki, 2016).

Protection of Life and Property

Another primary role of the NSCDC is the protection of lives and properties of the people of the country. According to Dansabo (2015), NSCDC personnel are provided with weapons such as guns, ammunition, and military training in order to protect the lives and properties of the civilian population. Protection of lives and property is the major rationale behind the establishment of any law enforcement agency; NSCDC inclusive. The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps are playing a greater role in Crime Prevention and Management. As a result of the rapid increase of criminal activities, the corps was established by the government with the statutory functions of maintaining law and order and complementing the efforts of other security agencies in Crime Prevention and Management.

Civil Defense and International Security

“Civil Defence has been defined as a range of measures taken by an organized body of civilian volunteers for the protection of life and property in the event of national disaster or enemy attack” (Abolurin, 2010:139). It is equally collective measures, public-spirited call to serve, to safeguard, protect and provide non-combatant method against threat (The Defender, Vol. 2, n.d.)

International security however consists of the measures taken by nations and international organizations, such as the United Nations, to ensure mutual survival and safety. These measures include military action and diplomatic agreements such as treaties and conventions. For this purpose the establishment of Civil Defense Corps was necessitated, which dated back to the era of Emperor Nero of the Roman Empire. This was when the Roman Empire asserted her political powers in the world with colonies scattered all over the world. This historical development which brought about expansion of the Roman Empire coupled with acute shortage of citizens of military age to carry out essential services such as home defense, provided for civilians affected by wars, especially aged women and children, invariably demanded for additional manpower, hence, the creation of an organization charged with the safeguarding of the civil populace.



During the first and second world wars equally, Civil Defense organization played various roles ranging from: ‘home guard,’ ‘refuge-camp for civilian protection,’ ‘body of air, road and disaster protection’ ‘populace enlightenment and education on safety measures’ among others (Abolurin, 2003). This consequently brought the relevance of Civil Defense to lime light at this period. The Organization (ICDO) however, is an inter-governmental organization which objective is to contribute to development of structures to ensure protection, to safeguard property and the environment from natural or man-made disasters. These structures are generally known as civil protection, civil defense, civil safety and emergency management as it exist today across the world in contribution to peace and security. These themes have equally reflected in ICDO’s yearly Civil Defense Days titles such as: ‘Civil Defense & the protection of the Environment (2005),’ ‘Civil Defense & Safety in the workplaces (2007),’ ‘Civil Defense & the basic first aid techniques (2008),’ among others. Although varying countries of the world have eventually added and saddled Civil Defense organizations with numerous other functions based on the emerging security-need within such individual nation. For instance, Civil Defense in Nigeria is saddled with functions such as:

1. Assist in the maintenance of peace and order and also in the protection and the rescuing of the civil populace during the period of emergency
2. To recommend to the minister of interior the registration of private guard companies
3. Inspect the premises of private guard companies, their training facilities and appliance designed for their use;
4. Supervise and monitor the activities of all private guard companies and keep a register for that purpose;
5. Maintain twenty-four hours surveillance over infrastructures, sites and projects for the federal state and local governments;
6. Have power to arrest, investigate and prosecute any person who is involved in any:
 - a. Criminal activities;



- b. Chemical poisoning and oil spillage;
 - c. Industrial espionage or fraud; d. Activity aimed at frustrating any government programme or policy;
 - e. Riot, civil disorder, revolt, strike or religious unrest, or
 - f. Power transmission lines and oil pipelines vandalism;
 - g. Monitor the activities of trade associations
 - h. Monitor and report any planned
 - i. Criminal activity aimed at depriving citizens of their properties or lives; or
 - j. Syndicate activity aimed at defrauding the federal, state or local government.
7. Provide necessary warning for the civilian population in times of danger
8. Evacuate the civilian populace from danger areas among other functions as contain in the 2003 act establishing it and 2007 as amended (Blessing, 2009; Dansabo, 2014).

Theoretical Framework

Routine activity theory is one of the main theories of “environmental criminology”. The theory states that a crime occurs when the following three elements come together in any given space and time:

1. An accessible target
2. The absence of capable guardians that could intervene
3. The presence of a motivated offender,



An accessible target

An accessible target can include a person, an object or a place. The following acronyms have been used to describe accessible targets:

- VIVA – Value, Inertia, Visibility, Access
- CRAVED – Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable, Disposable, Routine activity theory as a crime prevention methodology focuses on essential elements that make up a crime. This theory provides a framework within which to prevent crime through altering at least one of these elements (the offender, the target or the presence of capable guardians). The most effective crime prevention strategies will focus on all three of these elements.

Absence of a capable guardian that could intervene

A capable guardian has a ‘human element’, that is usually a person who, by their mere presence, would deter potential offenders from perpetrating a crime. A capable guardian could also be CCTV, providing that someone is monitoring it at the other end of the camera at all times

Some examples of capable guardians are:

- Police patrols
- Security guards
- Door staff
- Vigilant staff and co-workers
- Friends
- neighbours

Some of the guardians are formal and deliberate, like security guards; some are informal and inadvertent, such as neighbours.



It is also possible for a guardian to be present, but ineffective. For example, a CCTV camera is not a capable guardian if it is set up incorrectly or in the wrong place or is not monitored. Staff might be present in a shop, but may not have sufficient training or awareness to be an effective deterrent.

A motivated offender

Routine activity theory looks at crime from an offender's point of view. A crime will only be committed if a likely offender thinks that a target is suitable and a capable guardian is absent. It is the offender's assessment of a situation that determines whether a crime will take place.

Methodology

The research design used in this study is survey research design. This is because the study is working to find out the role of Nigeria Security in and Civil Defence Corps in Crime Prevention and Management in Gombe State.

This study is carried out in Gombe State. Gen. Sani Abacha's military government split off the former Bauchi State to form the new state of Gombe on October 1, 1996. Akko, Balanga, Billiri, Dukku, Funakaye, Gombe, Kaltungo, Kwami, Nafada, Shongom, and Yamaltu Deba were the eleven Local Government Areas that made up the new State. Because of its location in the savannah, the State is known as a Jewel in the Savannah. It is home to multiple ethnic groups and is divided into the two separate administrative regions of Gombe South and Gombe North. Gombe State is located in the country's northeastern geopolitical zone. It lies between longitudes 80 45 and 110 45 East and latitudes 90 30 and 120 30 North. The State's borders are shared by Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Taraba, Yobe, and all the other states in the zone. Its entire land area is approximately 20,265 square kilometers. The State's geography is flat and simple in the south, but it is mountainous and undulating in the north. The Gongola River flows across the State, providing water to the majority of its northern and northeastern regions before draining into the Benue River near Numan. In 2016, Musa and Alkassim.



The population in this study comprises of public and civil service workers; teachers, university students, staff of universities and private business owner, NYSC Corp members and other citizens in the area. The population of the study can be illustrated in the table below;

Table 1 Population of the Study

S/N	Target populations	Number of people to be interviewed
1	Teachers	20
2	University Students	20
3	Staffs of Universities	20
4	NYSC Corp members	20
5	NNPC Filing stations	20

Source: Field Survey, 2023

One hundred (100) respondents out of the entire population were used as the sample size of this study. They were selected using cluster (or area) sampling procedure, whereby the State is divided into the three (3) constitutionally recognized senatorial zones of Gombe Central, Southern Gombe and Northern respectively, and one (1) local government was selected from each of the zones using random sampling. The local governments were systematically selected, so as to reflect Urban settlements (Gombe North), (Zone 1) Semi-urban settlements (Gombe Central) (Zone 2) and Rural settlements (Gombe South) (Zone 3) respectively, and seventy (40, 30, 30) questionnaires were administered in each local government (using stratified random sampling), among community heads, women leaders, town union Presidents, youth leaders and local government staff. This sample size was selected using the simple random sampling method and amounted to one hundred (100) questionnaires that were administered in the course of this study. In this process, adequate care was taken in administering the questionnaires in order to ensure that the opinions of those sampled adequately represent the target population.

This sample size for this study therefore relied on the following formula as stated in the work of Nachimias (1996).



$$SS = \frac{Z^2 [P (1-P)]}{D^2}$$

D²

SS = sample size

Z = level of significance (1.96) at 95% confidence intervals

P = the estimated proportion of the factor to be studied (50% or 0.5)

D = sampling error that can be tolerated (0.05%)

Therefore:

$$\frac{1.96^2[0.5(1-0.5)]}{0.05^2}$$

$$SS = 100.16.$$

Approximate sample size= 100.

The instruments for gathering data for this study include the following;

(i) Documentary Instruments: This research work involves the collection of documentary materials written by various scholars and also some official administrative documents and records. These documents were collected, organized and subjected to critical analysis. This was done to enable the researcher to make a comparative study of the data from the literature reviewed and responses from respondents.

(ii) Questionnaire: The researcher also made use of questionnaire so as to obtain first-hand information in the course of this study. This instrument was used because it gives opportunity for deeper probing into issues of study.

(iii) Personal Interview: The researcher also made use of personal interview so as to obtain first-hand information in the course of this study. It is a data gathering instrument that enables the researcher to have in-depth knowledge of the research topic through face to face interaction. This instrument was used because it gives opportunity for deeper probing into issues of study. In the entire interview conducted, only three respondents permitted that their response be tape-recorded. The others permitted note-taking. These responses were then synthesized and analyzed.



Since multi-data gathering instruments were used in the course of this research, it then implied that different types of statistical tools would be used, so as to ensure accurate analysis of the data collected. Therefore, the data collected from the respondents was analyzed using statistical tables. With these tables, it was easy to see the opinion of respondents at a simple glance and conclusions were easily drawn among them. Simple percentages and chi-square were also used to analyze the data generated from the study.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This Section deals with the analysis and interpretation of data obtained from the field in the course of the study. The study instrument employed was structured questionnaire, in-depth interview bearing in minds the aims and objectives of the study. One Hundred (100) copies of questionnaires were administered and ninety copies were retrieved back. The Section is divided into six (6) sections. Section one is the introductory parts, section two present the socio-demographic data of the respondents, section three present the ways through which the NSCDC prevent crime to the community, section four present the methods which the Corps employed in combating crime in the state, section five present the challenges faced by the corps in discharging their statutory duties, section six present the possible strategies in enhancing the performance of the corps on Crime Prevention and Management in Gombe State.

Socio- Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section presents the socio demographic analysis of respondents, they are as follows: sex, age, religion, marital status, occupation and highest educational qualification.



Table 1.1 Socio-Demographic Data of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	74	82.2
Female	16	17.8
Total	90	100
Age		
18-22	21	23.3
23-27	48	53.3
28-32	15	16.7
33-37	5	5.6
38 and above	1	1.1
Total	90	100
Religion		
Islam	68	75.6
Christianity	18	20
Tradition Religion	3	3.3
Others (specify)	1	1.1
Total	90	100
Marital status		
Single	40	44.4
Married	27	30
Divorced	13	14.4
Widowed	8	8.9
Other (specify)	2	2.2
Total	90	100
Occupation		
Student/ unemployment	37	41.1
Civil servant	23	25.6
Business/ Trader	15	16.7
Farmer	4	4.4
House wife	8	8.9
Others	3	3.3
Total	90	100
Highest education qualification		
Qur'anic education	9	10
Primary	11	12.2
Secondary	19	21.1
HND/NCE	24	26.7
Degree	22	24.4
Master/PHD	4	4.4
Others	1	1.1
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, (2023)



The social-demographic data of the respondents on the sex of the respondents shows, 82.2% of the respondents are male, 17.8 % respondents are female. This shows that during the course of study, there were more male, because male are available and easy to approach in the state than their female counterparts. The age of the respondents revealed that, 23.3% of the respondents were within the ages of 18-22, 53.3% of the respondents were within the age bracket of 23-27, while 16.7% of the respondents were within the bracket of 28-32, 5.6% of the respondents were within the age bracket of 33-37, and 1.1% of the respondents was within the age bracket of 38 and above. This indicates that most of the respondents are youth, and majority of the respondents were within the age bracket of 23-27, because most of residents in Gombe State were undergraduate students who are mostly at their younger age. The religion of the respondents also revealed that, 75.6% of the respondents were Muslims, 20% of the respondents were Christians, 3.3% of the respondents were Traditionalists, while 1.1% of respondents were Pagan. This can be attributed to the fact that, Gombe is a Muslim dominated State.

Marital status of the various respondents showed that, 44.4% of the respondents in the course of the study were singles, 30% of the respondents were married while 14.4% of the respondents were divorcees, 8.9% of the respondents were widows and 2.2% of the respondents were unspecified. This indicated that, most of the respondents are Single, this is because majority of the respondents under study were students who are at the age bracket of 18-22. The occupation of the respondents displayed that, 14.1% of the respondents were students/unemployed, 25.6% of the respondents were civil servants, 16.7% of the respondents were business men, 4.4% of the respondents were farmers, and 8.9% of the respondents were house wives, while 3.3% of the respondents were others. It could be concluded that majority of the respondents in the Community are students. This is because Gombe State has been surrounded with so many schools. Nevertheless, the highest educational qualification of the respondents under study demonstrated that, 10% of the respondents were Quranic educationist, 12.2% have primary school certificate, 21.1% of the respondents' qualification was secondary school certificate, 26.7% of the respondents' educational qualification was HND/NCE, 24.40% of the respondents' educational qualification was Degree, 4.4% of the respondents' highest educational qualification was masters/PHD, while 1.1% of the respondents' educational qualification was unspecified.



This shows that minority of the respondents have Qur'anic Education, this is because Gombe has been dominated with those acquired formal educational qualification.

Table 2.1 Respondents' Views on the Corps Patrol as a way of Crime Prevention and Management in Gombe State.

Views	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	49	54.4
Agreed	35	38.9
Strongly disagree	2	2.2
Disagree	1	1.1
Undecided	3	3.3
Total	90	100

Respondents' Views on NSCDC Capacity in Crime Prevention in Gombe State

Strongly agreed	33	36.7
Agreed	51	56.7
Strongly disagreed	2	2.2
Disagreed	2	2.2
Undecided	2	2.2
Total	90	100

Respondents' Views on Public Orientation towards NSCDC in Crime Prevention in Gombe State

Strongly agreed	40	44.4
Agreed	44	48.9
Strongly disagreed	1	1.1
Disagreed	3	3.3
Undecided	2	2.2
Total	90	100

Respondents' Views on whether Seminars/Workshop help in Crime Prevention in Gombe State

Strongly agreed	37	41.1
Agreed	39	43.3
Strongly disagreed	3	3.3
Disagreed	7	7.8
Undecided	4	4.4
Total	90	100

Respondents' Views on Show of force in Crime Prevention in Gombe State.

Strongly agreed	22	24.4
Agreed	56	62.2
Disagreed	3	3.3



Strongly- disagreed	3	3.3
Disagreed	6	6.7
Undecided	90	100
Total		

Respondents' Views on how level of Intelligence gathering enhances Crime Prevention in Gombe State.

Strongly agreed	29	32.2
Agreed	31	34.4
Strongly- disagreed	6	6.7
Disagreed	11	12.2
Undecided	13	14.4
Total	90	100

Respondents' view on the Possible Cause of Crime in Gombe State.

Unemployment	35	38.9
Illiteracy	13	14.4
Poverty	11	12.2
Peer group influence	28	31.1
Others specify	3	3.3
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, (2023)

Respondents' view on patrol as a way of crime prevention show that, 54.4% of the respondents agreed, 38.4% of the respondents agreed, 2.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 1.1% of the respondents disagreed, while 3.3% of the respondents were undecided. Majority of the respondents strongly agreed NSCDC patrol curb crime. In the same vain, respondents' view on state-corps shows, 36.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 56.7% of the respondents agreed, 2.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 2.2% of the respondents disagreed, while 2.2% of the respondents were undecided. This indicated that most of the respondents agreed NSCDC has capacity in Crime Prevention in Gombe State. Again, on Public Orientation towards NSCDC in Crime Prevention in Gombe State, 44.4% of the respondents strongly agreed, and 48.9% of the respondents agreed, 1.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 3.3% of the respondents disagreed, and 2.2% of the respondents were undecided. This shows that majority of the respondents agreed that, public orientation towards NSCDC in Crime Prevention is effective. Similarly, view on whether Seminars/workshop help in crime prevention in Gombe State indicated that, 41.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 43.3% of the respondents agreed, 3.3%



of the respondents strongly disagreed, 7.8% of the respondents disagreed, and 4.4% of the respondents were undecided. This mean minority of the respondents strongly disagreed that seminars/workshops, this is because seminar/workshop are rarely organize in the local

Government Area. Views on Show of force in Crime Prevention in Gombe State revealed , 24.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that show of force prevent crime, 62.2% of the respondents agreed, 3.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 3.3% of the respondents disagreed 6.7% of the respondents were undecided. This means, majority of respondents are of the opinion that NSCDC show of force is effective in crime prevention.

Respondents' Views on how level of Intelligence gathering enhances Crime Prevention in Gombe State revealed, 32.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed that Intelligence gathering prevent crime, 34.4% of the respondents agreed, 6.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 12.2% of the respondents disagreed, 14.4% of the respondents were undecided. This means, minority of the respondents are of the opinion that Intelligence gathering is not effectively in crime prevention in Gombe State. Views on causes of Crime in Gombe State shows, 38.9% of the respondents are of the view that unemployment is a cause of crime, while 14.4% are of the viewed illiteracy, 12.2% of the respondents said that it is poverty, 31.1% of the respondents view peer group influence as the cause, while 3.3% of the respondents were on other view. This mean most of the people engaged in Crime in Gombe State, they engaged because of high rates of unemployment in the State. Furthermore, information gathered from In-depth Interview supports the finding of the survey, as all the key informants were of the view. One of key informant, the Corp officer said; Poverty is the most influential cause of Crime in the State, and this is so because of unemployment among Gombe youth, and at the same time because of smoking of marijuana, addiction of a very harmful drugs, lack of proper socialization by the parents to their children and the rest of them. Therefore, actually the purpose of consolidating Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corp is for us to Crime and at the same time to ensure there is low and order in the society, the ways of Crime prevention and control are; foot patrol, vehicle patrol, show of force, surveillance. Apart from those there are other ways of preventing crime in this State such as vigilante patrol watching over the Community, provision of jobs, capital, admission to the



youth by traditional leaders and elders of the community because if they have something to they will not engage in such act.

Methods of Crime Prevention and Management

This table is discussing the preventive strategies adopted by the corps in their Crime Prevention effort in Gombe State.

Table 3.1 Methods of Crime Prevention and Management in Gombe State.

Method	Frequency	Percentage %
Police patrol/ surveillance	61	67.8
Stop and search	9	10
Road block	5	8.9
House to house search	8	5.6
Other specify	7	7.8
Total	90	100

Perception on Effectiveness of Strategies is effective in crime prevention and management

Perception	Frequency	Percentage %
Very effective	23	25.6
Effective	39	43.3
Uncertain	13	14.4
Ineffective	9	10
Very ineffective	6	6.7
Total	90	100

Performance of the NSCDC in crime prevention and management in Gombe State.

Views	Frequency	Percentage %
Very effective	22	24.4
Effective	37	41.1
Uncertain	20	22.2
Ineffective	8	8.9
Very ineffective	3	3.3
Total	90	100

Respondents' view on how effective the Security Gadgets used by the Corps.

Rating	Frequency	Percentage %
Very sophisticated	8	8.9
Sophisticated	13	14.4
Uncertain	23	25.6
Out dated	31	34.4



Very out dated	15	16.7
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Respondents' view on the methods of crime prevention and management shows, 67.8% of the respondents view police patrol/surveillance as the method preventing crime, 10% of the respondents viewed stop and search methods, 8.9% of the respondents viewed road block strategy, 5.6% of the respondents viewed house to house search strategy, while 7.8% of the respondents were on other specific view. This explained that, minority of the respondents viewed house to house search method is not an effective method of crime prevention and management, because it is not permissible and easy to enter people house. The displayed the respondents' view on how effective the strategies/methods are in combating crime, 25.6% of the respondents strongly agreed, 43.3% of the respondents agreed, 14.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed, while 6.7% of the respondents were undecided. Majority of the respondents are of the view that, the methods were effective in peace management. Also, respondents' view on the performance of corps in crime prevention, 24.4% of the respondents strongly agreed 41.1% of the respondents agreed, 22.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 8.9% of the respondents disagreed, and 3.3% of the respondents were undecided. This mean, majority of the respondents are of the view that corps performing well in crime prevention and management in Gombe State. In the same vain, respondent indicated how good is the security gadgets used by the corps in Peace Management, 8.9% of the respondents viewed that it is very sophisticated, 14.4% of the respondents viewed it as sophisticated, 25.6% of the respondents were uncertain 34.4% of the respondents said is out of date, while 16.7% of the respondents very outdated. This explained, minority of the respondents viewed that the equipment used by the NSCDC are very sophisticated.



The Challenges Faced by the NSCDC in Discharging their Statutory Duties

The table will discuss the form of challenges they face as well as the view of the respondents from Gombe State.

Table 4.1 Inadequate equipment affect the performance of NSCDC in discharging their statutory duties

Views	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	36	40
Agreed	27	30
Strongly disagreed	5	5.6
Disagreed	9	10
Undecided	13	14.4
Total	90	100

Lack of cooperation from the public and negative perception affect the performance of NSCDC in their statutory duties

Views	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	21	23.3
Agreed	23	25.6
Strongly disagreed	9	10
Disagreed	32	35.6
Undecided	5	5.6
Total	90	100

Bribery and Corruption affect the Performance of NSCDC in their statutory duties

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	49	54.4
Agreed	21	23.3
Strongly disagreed	4	4.4
Disagreed	7	7.8
Undecided	9	10
Total	90	100

Politicization of recruitment and promotion affects the performance of NSCDC in their statutory duties

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	19	21.1
Agreed	33	36.7
Strongly disagreed	10	11.1
Disagreed	14	15.6
Undecided	14	15.6



Total **90** **100**
Under founding affect the performance of NSCDC in their statutory duties

Perception	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	8	8.9
Agreed	12	13.3
Strongly disagreed	26	28.9
Disagreed	37	41.1
Undecided	7	7.8
Total	90	100

Lack of personnel affect the performance of NSCDC in their statutory duties

Views	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	31	34.4
Agreed	32	35.6
Strongly disagreed	17	7.8
Disagreed	17	18
Undecided	3	3.3
Total	90	100

Poor Remuneration affect the Performance of NSCDC in their Statutory Duties

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	11	12.2
Agreed	16	17.8
Strongly disagreed	18	20
Disagreed	35	38.9
Undecided	10	11.1
Total	90	100

Lack of Periodic Workshop, Seminars and Trainings affect the Performance of NSCDC in their statutory duties

Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	27	30
Agreed	32	35.6
Strongly disagreed	9	10
Disagreed	16	17.8
Undecided	6	6.7
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey (2023)

The respondents' view on Inadequate equipment of police in peace management shows, 40% of the respondents strongly agreed that the inadequate equipment the challenges face by the police, while 30% of the respondents agreed, 5.6% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 10% of the



respondents disagreed, 14.4% of the respondents were undecided. This shows that majority of the respondents strongly agreed inadequate equipment is the most influential challenges face by the corps in discharging their statutory duties. Also, respondent indicated lack of cooperation from the public and negative perception of the people to police, 23.3% of the respondents strongly agreed, 25.6% of the respondents agreed, 10% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 35.6% of the respondents disagreed, while 5.6% of the respondents were undecided. This mean, majority of respondents are of the view that lack of cooperation from the public and negative perception of the corps is not a challenge that the corps face in discharging their duties. In the same vain, respondent shows bribery and corruption as one of the challenge face by the Corps in their duties, 54.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that bribery and corruption is one of the challenges face in preventing crime, 23.3% of the respondents agreed, 4.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 7.8% of the respondents disagreed, while 10% of the respondents were undecided. This mean, majority of respondents are of the view that bribery and corruption as a most serious challenge face by the in discharging their statutory duties.

Respondent displayed the politicization of the recruitment and promotion as a challenge face by the corps in discharging their duties revealed, 21.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 36.7% of the respondents agreed, 11.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 15.6% of the respondents disagreed and also 15.6% of the respondents were undecided. Majority of the respondents agreed that, politicization of the recruitment and promotion is also a challenge face by the NSCDC in discharging their duties. In the same vain, respondents' view on underfunding as a challenge of peace management, 8.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 13.3% of the respondents agreed, 28.9% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 41.1% of the respondents disagreed, while 7.8% of the respondents were undecided. This shows that, majority of the respondents disagreed that under funding affect corps in discharging their statutory duties. By exhibiting the respondents' view on lack of personnel as a challenge of peace management by the police, 34.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 35.6% of the respondents agreed, 7.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 18.9% of the respondents disagreed, while 3.3% of the respondents were undecided. This indicated that majority of the respondents are of the view that lack adequate personnel is a serious challenge face by the NSCDC in discharging their duties.



Respondents' view on Poor remuneration as a challenge face in peace management, 12.2% of the respondents strongly agreed, 17.8% of the respondents agreed, 20% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 38.9% of the respondents disagreed, while 11.1% of the respondents were undecided. Majority of the respondents disagreed that Poor remuneration is not a challenge affect the corps in discharging their duties. The Table concluded by indicating the respondents' view on lack of periodic work Shop, seminars and trainings as a challenge face by the corps in discharging their duties, 30% of the respondents strongly agreed, 35.6% of the respondents agreed, 10% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 17.8% of the respondents disagreed, while 6.7% of the respondents were undecided. Majority of the respondents agreed that, lack of periodic work Shop, seminars and trainings is a challenge face by the corps in preventing crime.

Discussion of Findings

Finding of the study shows the respondents' view on the ways used by corps in crime prevention and management in Gombe State, the ways are; patrol, community policing, public orientation, seminars/workshop, show of force, intelligence gathering. 54.4% of the respondents is the highest percentage, that strongly agreed with the patrol, 56.7% of the respondents is the highest percentage that agreed with community policing, 48.9% of the respondent is also the highest percentage agreed with public orientation, 43.3% of the respondents is the highest percentage agreed with seminars/workshop, 62.2% of the respondents is agreed with show of force, while 34.4% of the respondents is also agreed with the intelligence gathering as the way of crime prevention and management in Gombe State, Additionally, the findings of the study that shows the method employed by the corps in crime prevention and management in Gombe State, whereas 67.8% of the respondents are of the view that the NSCDC patrol/surveillance as the method to crime prevention and management in Gombe State, a.. This indicated that majority of the respondents view corps patrol/surveillance. This collaborate an interview with community leaders, they revealed that: “NSCDC personnel play a significant role and are really trying their best in preventing crime in the society which makes them to be seen and recognized as agents of maintaining law and order in the community (IDI with community leaders, 2018)”.



Also the Study indicated the challenges face by the corps in peace management which includes; inadequate equipment, lack of cooperation from the public and negative perception, bribery and corruption, poverty, politicization of recruitment and promotion under founding, lack of personnel, poor remuneration, lack of periodic workshop, seminars and trainings, poor working conditions, whereas most of the respondents agreed with the above mentioned challenges.

Also the study shows the possible strategies in enhancing the performance of the corps in crime prevention and management in Gombe State., 43.3% of the respondents were the highest percentage view that the government is the most influential body to enhance the performance of the Civil Defense in combating crime in Gombe State. This concord with the submission of (Abolurin, 2008; Dansabo, 2014; Madaki, 2016; Blessing) that Protection of lives and property and maintenance of law and order are the significant roles of NSCDC in crime prevention as they are saddled with law enforcement responsibility.

the Study indicated that Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), in Gombe State, has identified indiscipline among the personnel, non-compliance with the corps ethical values, diminishing patriotism and loyalty, as some of the challenges facing the corps. Abolurin (2008) revealed that, the Corps became a full para-military agency of the Nigerian government by the NSCDC Act 2003, which was amended in 2007 in order to provide expansion of responsibilities and to enhance effective service delivery. The society sometimes turn against the corps when policing resorts to the use of coercion to secure social control. The corps may use all available force to sustain its political authority. Understanding that the corps act as the representatives of the state, and the legitimate users of force whenever necessary, helps explain the negative attitudes and characters of the general public (Cleen Foundation, 2018).



Conclusion

Crime as one of the major social problems bedeviling Nigerian society necessitated the establishment of various law enforcement agencies including Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC). However, the paper concluded that NSCDC play many roles in the prevention of crime and thus people are satisfied with their roles in preventing crime in the society.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i) The corps should be properly equipped with modern and sophisticated equipment. Government must provide good condition of service to the corps, this include recruitment of adequate number of NSCDC, attractive salary and accommodation. This will improve the image of the NSCDC and thereby improving their performance toward peace management.
- ii) There is need to establish corps Board at the local level to replace the moribund and weak corps community service committee the new board once established, will promote partnership communication and cooperation between the community and the police, and will prevent and control crime to this state.
- iii) For an effective corps system it is suggested that NSCDC recruitment should be thorough and must be based on merit not nepotism.
- iv) Adequate training, a part from period of trainings, officers should be frequently sent overseas to improve themselves on new techniques of preventing crime. It is also suggested that there should be an upward review of balances officers from time to time to meet market demands, such money should be paid as and at when due to motivate them to ward high level of efficiency.



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APPENDIX 1

INTERVEIW SHEDULE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

The following questions were asked to participants:

The interview guide helped to answer research questions framed in the course of the study. These questions were posed to participants drawn from Civil Societies and Academicians.

- i. The researcher will ask questions in relation to examine the nature and causes of Corps Patrol as a way of Crime Prevention and Management in Gombe State. Follow up question will be asked.
- ii. The researcher will like to know NSCDC Capacity in Crime Prevention in Gombe State. Follow up question will be asked.
- iii. The researcher will like to espouse Public Orientation towards NSCDC in Crime Prevention in Gombe. Follow up question will be asked.
- iv. The researcher will know how level of Intelligence gathering enhances Crime Prevention in Gombe State. Follow up question will be asked.
- v. The researcher will like you to recommend policy measures that should be adopted to reduce the negative impact of similar crisis in the future. Follow up question will be asked



APPENDIX 11

QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The following questions were asked to participants:

The focus group discussion guide helped to answer research questions framed in the course of the study. These questions were posed to participants drawn from religious leader, civil servants and artisans.

- i. The researcher will ask questions in relation to examine Possible Cause of Crime in Gombe State. Follow up question will be asked.
- ii. The researcher will like to know Methods of Crime Prevention and Management in Gombe State. Follow up question will be asked.
- iii. The researcher will like to know Performance of NSCDC in crime prevention and management in Gombe State. Follow up question will be asked.
- iv. The researcher will like you to examine challenges faced by NSCDC in discharging their Statutory Duties. Follow up question will be asked
- v. The researcher will like you to recommend policy measures that should be adopted to reduce the negative impact of similar crisis in the future. Follow up question will be asked