

# OCCURRENCE OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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## ABSTRACT

The involvement rates of Junior and Senior secondary school students in various forms of violent crimes within Ibadan metropolis were studied and compared. Multistage sampling technique was used to select five schools for the study. Two research questions were answered and two hypotheses tested. The Survey design involved 500 respondents. Chi-square statistics was used to analyze the data. The study revealed that stealing and examination malpractices were particularly common among Students of Secondary schools. Junior and senior students committed these crimes at the same rate.

## INTRODUCTION

Crime among youths is increasingly becoming unbearable and threatening on the social fabric of the society. Youths of school age most times are arrested by school authorities or the police for stealing, smoking, drug abuse and addiction or other criminal activities. Often than expected, parents complain about their children's violent activities even in the homes. This is as a result of cultural lag in the society but the question is, what are the things influencing these youths to commit these crimes. (Nwabichie, 2001, Ajayi *et al.*). These violent activities posed serious threats to the socio-economic well being of the school system in particular and the society in general.

Bamayi (1998) disclosed that out of the 770 suspects arrested between January and April 1998, 240 who got involved in drug trafficking and peddling were youths of 25 years downwards. Drug abuse and trafficking have become pervasive because of the glamour associated with it. (Omisakin, 1998). It is also becoming more organized as a result of the backing it enjoys from wealthy men in Nigerian society who use youths in secondary schools for the crime.

Uwadike (1993) narrated that tragedy struck at Obiaruku in Ndokwa-West Local Government of Delta state when a 14-year old senior secondary school (SSI) one pupil of Boy's Secondary School allegedly hanged himself. Nneji and Olapade (1996) gave the report of a JSS secondary school student at Bodija area of Ibadan who was initiated into cultism by a classmate. Another JSS 3 student in a secondary school near the University of Ibadan had been initiated through the mark on his forehead.

Ezechukwu (1989) reported a case involving class three students of New estate High School in Mushin where a fifteen year old son attacked his father and gave him severe matchet cuts. Due to the tremendous pressure of consumerism, many youths see no way to obtain the things they desire other than by stealing (Watchtower, 1993). About 6% of high school seniors reported that they consume alcohol on a daily basis (Babalola, 1998).

In a seminar organized by Action Health Incorporated in Benin City, Amoa (1993), reported that 55% of secondary school girls had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 16. He further reported that out of 127 pregnant schoolgirls, 52% were expelled from schools.

The objective of this study therefore is to:

- (i). Identify the various forms of violence common among secondary school students in Ibadan metropolis.
- (ii) Analyze and compare the rate of occurrence of violence among junior and senior secondary school students

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Design

The research design is the Survey type. It is also descriptive study in which relevant data are collected by the use of questionnaires to elicit responses from the respondents.

### Sample

Five schools were randomly selected from all the schools in Ibadan. The five schools fall under two Local government areas namely: Ibadan North and Akinyele. The schools selected are: Ajibode Grammar School Ibadan, Aponmode High School, Ibadan, Moniya; Humani Alaga High School, Sango, Ibadan; Abadina College, U.I, Ibadan; and Emmanuel College, Ibadan. All the schools are mixed (males and females).

A total number of 500 samples were used comprising of 400 junior and senior secondary school students (JSS II and III; and SS II and III). 80 (Eighty) students were randomly chosen from each school. The researcher cut some pieces of paper with 'Yes' or 'No' written on them. The pieces of paper were folded and distributed to the students. Those with 'Yes' papers were selected for the study while those with 'No' were disqualified. Five principals were chosen (one from each school). The teachers were 50 (10 from each school), 40 parents and 5 Divisional Police Officers were also selected for the study.

### Instrumentation and Validation

In order to know the types of violence committed by youths in secondary schools, the factors responsible for youth violence and ways of preventing violent crime among youths, a well structured questionnaire was designed and administered on the students, principals, teachers, parents and police officers. Among the information sought in the structured questionnaire by the researcher includes questions on biography, the types of crimes committed by youths and the age-range of youths who commit crimes.

The structured questionnaire was made and administered on the students, principals, teachers, parents and the police personnel. A question was asked and a number of response options were also supplied. Questionnaire for student was on personal information data. Other sections consisted information on the type of crimes committed by secondary school students. Questionnaire for Principals, teachers and Parents was on personal information data. Other sections consisted information on: types of crimes that are committed by the students, ages of youths who committed these crimes. For the Divisional Police officers, it included personal information, types of youth offences that can attract police

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attention and the age range of youth offenders in police records.

To validate the instruments, copies of the questionnaire were given to a panel from the Faculty of education (Sociology of education) as well as the faculty of Agriculture and forestry (Department of Forestry), University of Ibadan. They were specifically instructed to review the items for clarity, appropriateness of the language and expressions to the respondents.

Procedure for data collection and Analysis

The instruments used in collecting the data as mentioned previously are a self-administered questionnaire to the students, principals, teachers, parents and information from youth crime yearly reported to the police (Police record). Secondary data was also gathered from Journals. The researcher visited all the sampled schools for the study to seek

the cooperation of the sampled population. The information obtained from the students, principals, teachers and parents and police reports were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods of frequency distribution and Chi-square test to show relationship between the variables. If the Chi-square value is greater than 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is not rejected. On the other hand, if the Chi-square value is less than 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference between the types of violence common among the junior and senior secondary school students.

**TABLE 1: CHI-SQUARE TEST ANALYSIS ON TYPES OF VIOLENCE COMMON AMONG THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

VIOLENT CRIME	X <sup>2</sup>	FRE-QUEN- CY COLU-MN (c)	df (c-1)	ASYMP. SIG	COMMENT	DECISION
Stealing	8.943	4	3	0.030	Significant	Reject $H_0$
Murder	3.929	4	3	0.269	Not Significant	Retain $H_0$
Smoking	1.470	4	3	0.689	"	"
Taking Drug	1.659	4	3	0.646	"	"
Drunken-ness	1.022	4	3	0.769	"	"
Teen-Pregnancy	1.457	4	3	0.692	"	"
Abortion	3.470	3	2	0.176	"	"
Prostitution	2.491	4	3	0.477	"	"
Rape	4.575	4	3	0.206	"	"
Premarital sex	5.622	4	3	0.132	"	"
Gangster-ism	2.797	4	3	0.424	"	"
Cultism	2.748	4	3	0.432	"	"
Damaging School Property	2,440	4	3	0.486	"	"
Sports Hooli-ganism	2,318	4	3	0.678	"	"
Exam Malpractices	8.371	4	3	0.039	Significant	Reject $H_0$
Riots	2.556	4	3	0.465	Not Significant	Retain $H_0$

Looking through the table 1, stealing carries the value 0.030 and Examination Malpractices carries 0.039 value. Clearly then, each value is less than 0.05. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. The results revealed that stealing and Examination Malpractices were highly significant. They are the common types of crimes mostly committed by secondary school students in Ibadan metropolis. According to the choice theory by Bentham as recorded in Giddens (1989), most school children commit stealing to acquire the good things of life, the desire to acquire greater purchasing power and for personal needs including need for shoes, clothes schoolbooks and other necessary items.

Examination Malpractices are committed not only in secondary schools but have cut across higher institutions of

learning. School children these days do not find time to read. They rather devote much time watching video films or engaging in sports activities. Consequently, most students perform poorly in schoolwork and to achieve success, they turn to 'expo' (leaked examination papers) or copying other schoolmates' work.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between the frequency of occurrence of violence among the junior and senior secondary school students

The result of the Chi-square analysis is as presented in table 2.

TABLE 2: CHI-SQUARE TEST ANALYSIS ON FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF VIOLENCE AMONG THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

FREQUENCY	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL		
33	72	65	137		
34	48	32	80		
35	15	19	34		
36	21	13	34		
37	7	8	15		
38	5	8	13		
39	4	5	9		
40	3	3	6		
41	1	2	3		
42	1	1	2		
43	5	1	6		
44	1	1	2		
45	1	-	1		
46	-	1	1		
47	-	1	1		
52	-	1	1		
53	-	1	1		
54	-	1	2		
65	-	1	1		
TOTAL	185	164	349		
PEARSON CHI-SQUARE	VALUE	ASYMP. SIG.	df	COMMENT	DECISION
	14.570	0.691	18	Not Significant	Accept Ho

Table 2 shows that the total number of students = 349. Junior students = 185 while senior students = 164. Using the chi-square test  $X^2 = 14.570$  Asymp Sig = 0.691 and df = 18. Therefore,  $0.691 > 0.05$  and so the Null hypothesis is not rejected

Hypothesis 2 results are not significant, meaning that junior secondary school students commit crimes at the same rate as senior secondary school students. In the principals' questionnaire, the respondents strongly disagreed that senior secondary school students do not commit as much crime as junior secondary school students. Both junior and senior secondary school children engage in crimes irrespective of the number of times because factors like peer influence, genetic influence, poverty, and so on affect them all

**CONCLUSION**

From the findings, most secondary school children engage in stealing and examination malpractices more than other crimes. They steal to acquire the good things of life, to acquire greater purchasing power and for personal needs. They also engage in examination practices because no time is devoted to reading. There are inadequate equipment and textbooks as well as indiscipline at home and in school. On the other hand, Junior secondary students commit crimes as much as the senior secondary school students as a result of poverty, negative influences like having criminal parents and peers, lack of love in the family, inability to get the basic necessities of life, watching pornographic films and reading of books on violence and sex.

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