# ASPECTS OF THE CRIME GEOGRAPHY OF CALABAR URBAN

## A. I. AFANGIDEH, FRANCIS OKPILIYA and J. K. UKWAYI

## ABSTRACT

The main focus of this research is to established, through an objective empirical process, the spatial pattern and trend with regards to the crime geography of Calabar Urban. Six, of the Police posts in the town, two from each of the three zones into which the town has been sub-divided became the sample points. The crime register at each of the selected stations became the sample frame from which numerical statistical information on criminal assault and theft cases were purposely collected.

The characteristic pattern of this societal menace in Calabar urban is highest in Zone A or predominantly Calabar South Local Government Area declining very sharply away from it in direct response to declining population density and income among others. These spatially different distributions are significant at ($F_c > F_t = 116.64 > 3.35$), 99% level of confidence for stealing; and, ($F_c > F_t = 3.24 > 2.75$), 95% level of confidence for criminal assault.

Stealing, for the period, showed no discernable pattern other than its constant high incidence year after year; assaults, on the other hand, showed a somewhat increasing trend which when tested, wasn't significant. Poverty alleviation programmes and scientific approach to crime prevention and management, from studies such as this, greatly hold the key to effective crime reduction and control in the town.

KEY WORDS:    Urban crimes, Felony, city structure, misdemeanor and simple crime

## INTRODUCTION

The problem of crime and the systematic attempts in search of an ideal social order dates back to immemorial antiquity. Ancient studies and systems of law such as the codes of Hummurabi, the laws of menu and the Mosiac laws were employed to check and control crime. Today, the problem of development is bringing pronounced changes and among the serious ones, the general increase in crime. According to Clinard (1973) in their statement which links crime and justice in the third world to the processes and effects of underdevelopment, argued that one measure of the effectiveness of development is its rate of crime. Nwolezia (1998) blamed crime in Nigeria to the civil war, oil boom and illegal aliens. But although these events have been since redressed, with the hope that crime will reduce, there has been a rather geometric increase.

Equally sad is the modus operandi and frequency with which crime is committed in the once serene, ancient and peaceful atmosphere of Calabar. According to Ukwuayi (2001):

> A little scratch on the door soon develops into a big bang and then a threat, open the door you bastards, yeye man abi you    think sey we come play here…How  much dey de house sef…I say open the fucken door…man, your money or your life…abi na video you get  or wife?

This open action and threat is real and at each raid, the entire household is brutalized. The bandits who choose to disturb the normally quiet and ancient city of Calabar proceed from house to house or other areas and it suddenly becomes a daily affair of subjecting innocent citizens to the same ordeal of looting, assaults and humiliations.

Similarly the stunning exploits of the "419" syndicate and "area boys" are appauling. Indeed it heralds the advent of an ultra modern crime wave of white collar criminals, targeteers and pick-pockets who make their line of crime highly rewarding business by adopting highly sophisticated crime methods and techniques. In fact, their criminal ingenuity and sophistication have often baffled the security agencies and the State Police Force. A one-time governor of the state, Mr.

Clement Ebri was reported to have wondered aloud why Calabar, of considerable lower status should be comparing with other urban areas like Kano, Jos and Port Harcourt in crime rates.

The problems caused by crime have failed to provide a theory or the relevant statistics aimed at control hence as pointed out by Cressey (1969), "a theory explaining crime must necessarily be quite general in nature". Such general theories although having been substituted with theories about specific crime should deal with the individual conduct and the epidemiology that is, the distribution in time and space. To further buttress this point, Hirschi (1979) rightly opined that, a study of any social problem or a specific kind of social problem such as crime…must have a spatial dimension. The present study is thus attempting a spatio-temporal study of this social menace with special reference to stealing and assault in Calabar Urban.

The problem;

Crime is the end product of a destabilized social order and should it persist or become an integral part of our existence, the results are manifold. Chief amongst which are: insecurity to life and property, the image of the government will be stigmatized and its credibility in doubt, the effectiveness of developmental programmes and policies clamped or clipped and the economy of both the state and federal in the long run adversely affected.

The Nigeria Police Force, whose duties primarily include the protection of the lives and property of the citizens is poorly and inadequately equipped and motivated to tackle these societal miscreants whose number, technique of operation and the spectrum of crimes are all increasing or widening by the day. Added to the above is the total lack of academic literature about crimes and criminal activities in Nigeria towns and cities that would have been a guide in men and material management to our law enforcement agencies.

As a result therefore, men and materials, both of which are hardly adequate are most likely to be naively deployed or mismanaged due to the apparent lack of scientific empirical studies on the crime situation in most Nigerian towns and cities including Calabar. For example, men of the Special Anti Robbery Squard (SARS) may be deployed to areas of the city where day time robbery incidents are most unlikely. The men of the criminal investigation department, who should
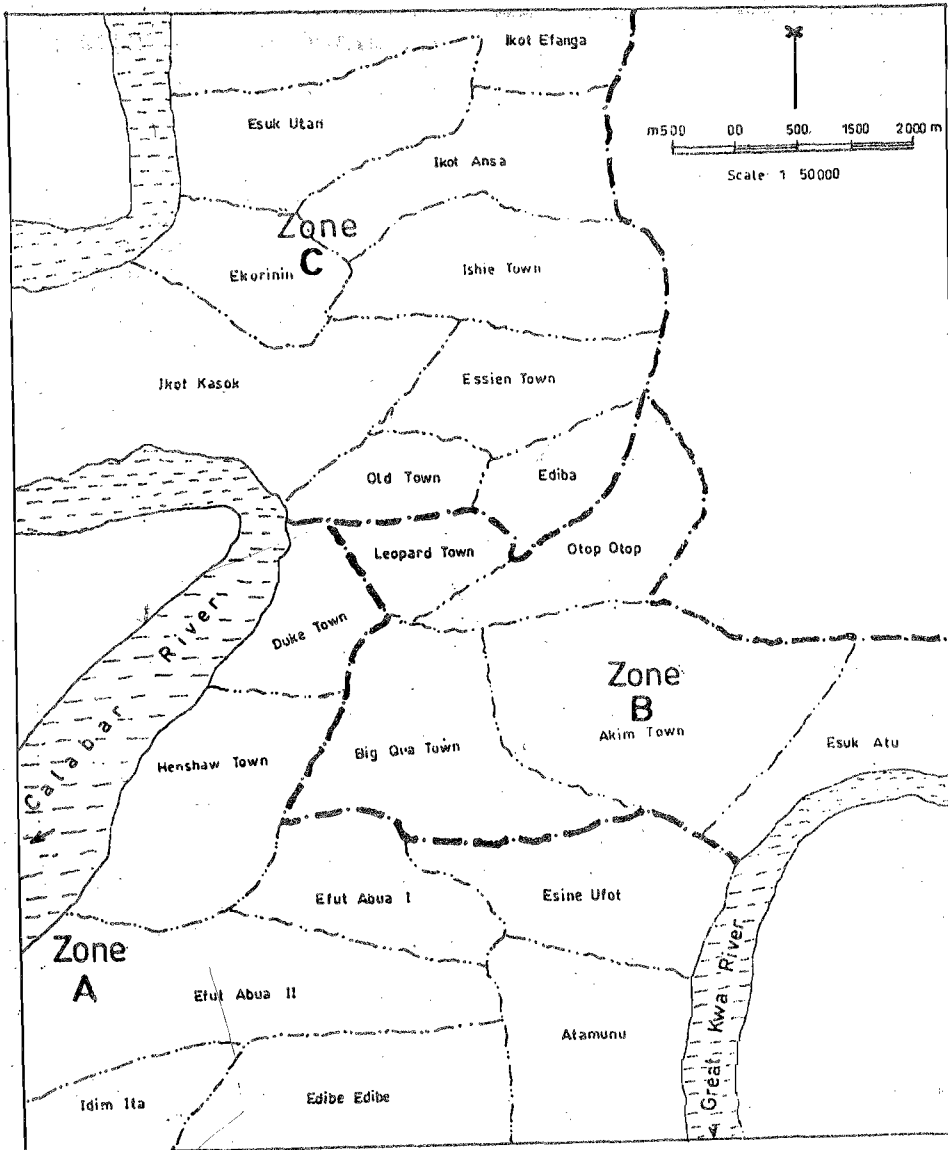
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**Fig. 1:** Calabar Urban Map showing Zones of the Study Area

intermingle a lot with buyers and sellers in the central Business Districts as deterrent force against pick-pocketing and assaults are not deployed to such places.

In summary therefore, this spatio-temporal analysis of aspects of crime (stealing and assault) in Calabar urban is meant to directly address the following issues;

a) The general distribution of crime, vis-à-vis stealing and criminal assault in the city;

b) The trend over the years, of stealing and assaults cases in Calabar urban; and

c) Identify the main problems of effective policing of the town by the law enforcement agencies.

## DATA AND ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE

### Data Source

Police stations situated at Mbukpa, Atakpa, Akim, Airport, Federal Housing and Eight Miles are to serve as primary data sources for this investigation. The stations were however chosen in line with an imaginary near East – West division of the town into the high density south where Mbukpa,

Atakpa and Uwanse stations are situated; the Akim and Airports stations or the moderate density zones and; the Federal housing and eight miles stations or zonation (figure 1). These zonations approximate the business, residential and the industrial areas using an abridged Burgess internal city structure model. For each of these stations, the crime register, where all cases of offences reported to the police are incidented shall be demanded. For this study however such information was for ten years (1988 – 1997). Pre 1988 files cannot be traced while post 1998 ones have not been properly compiled yet. It is also instructive to note that following the criminal law system, civil crimes are classed into three main groups by the Police and Judiciary. These broad groups are – Felony, misdemeanor and simple offences. Hence, at each of the data points, crimes in the family of stealing and assault, which might have been classed under the above were recorded using the entries on the station's crime register on yearly basis starting from 1988.

There was an interview with the Force Public Relations Officer, on the problems of effective policing of Calabar urban.
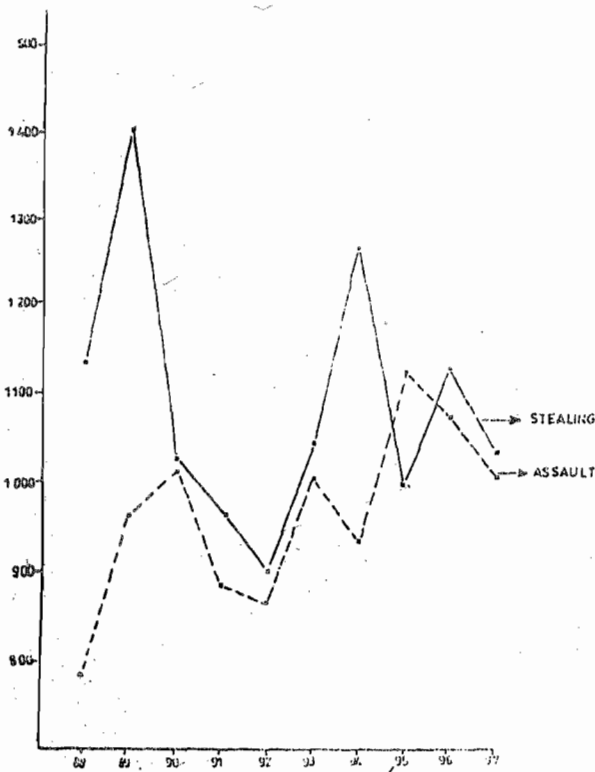
high area between two adjacent river valleys making it a good example of an interfluvial town.

Historically, Calabar is favoured by its location initially as a respected slave trade port and when slave trade was abolished, it formed the center of palm oil trade. From 1600 – 1891, the palm oil trade expanded from 1,000 to over 7,000 millions per annum (Ebong, 1980P3). This trade was highly successful as time went on and attracted large population within and without to ancient Calabar some of whom acted as middlemen between the Europeans and other Nigerians.

In 1959 the political-cum-administrative consideration that divided the Eastern region into provinces also divided Calabar into three provinces. And finally in 1960, following the independence and the attainment of republican status in 1963, Calabar finally lost its economic glory to Port-Harcourt and since then has been on the verge of economic recovery.

Perhaps the civil war was to booster development as the re-organisation that took place created 12 states with Calabar as the capital city of then South-Eastern state. Till date Calabar has remained a state capital with a major centrifugal advantage over other towns and cities in the sub-region such that the original ethnic autonomous groupings (the Efiks, Quas and the Efuts) by growing together individually have merged together to form one municipality – Calabar (Ebong, 1980).

Apart from this three groupings, other migrants have continued to arrive Calabar, the Akwa Ibomites and Ibos constitute the greater majority.

The problem caused by such migrant populations coupled with other factors has culminated in poor housing, unemployment, traffic jams, pressure on urban socio-economic infrastructure and the general deterioration of the environment. Population/Housing Density:

A study of recent housing density in Calabar by Ekirigwe (1992) identified the high density areas to coincide with areas of the town where slums are concentrated. Extreme densities of 16.2 housing units per acre were recorded for Henshaw Town, 14.3 for Duke Town, 13.3 for Efut and Big Qua.

The occupancy ratio also indicated that the planned areas of the town to the North, had a tolerable average of 1.6 as against 2.4 to 6.0 persons per room for the other parts of the town, particularly the south. Based on ratios for Calabar, it means that high level overcrowding, joblessness, low income earners and school dropouts etc. are far more frequently found to the South than North of Calabar.



**Fig. 2**: 1988- 1997 Composite graph for stealing and Assault in Calabar Urban.

**Data Analysis**

The form of the main statistical information for this study requires use of simple statistical descriptive statistics such as the mean, standard deviation and coefficient of variation to establish the spatial differences or broad characteristics of the crimes under consideration on the discriminating zones. Also other cartographic techniques of data presentations for quick visual impressions such as use of line and bar graphs including pie charts shall be applied.

Generalizations and conclusions on some of the main issues under discussion such as the disparity in crimes types and occurrences across the different zones of study shall undoubtedly require use of the Analysis of Variance Test statistic (ANOVA). This technique which was introduced by R. A. Fisher allows for the comparison of the means of three or more sample distributions. The F – ratio is usually simplified and modeled elementarily as:

$$F = \frac{\text{Greater Variance Estimate}}{\text{Less Variance Estimate}}$$

Our rejection level is present at 99% confidence level

**STUDY AREA**

Calabar, the capital of Cross River State of Nigeria, has been described as the last notable stretch of land along the Cross River. Its land area of 331.55km$^2$ is sandwiched in a

**Socio-economic Activity**

There is a wide disparity in the distribution of major firms and industries by both the private entrepreneur and the government in the city. The North can boast of almost all the major industrial-cum-state governments' establishments while the more thickly peopled south has none except the Watt market. Hence the extreme South of the town is relatively unplanned and dominated by one man or private enterprises. The North of the city, on the other hand is more planned, being the seat of the government with defined residential layouts, recreational facilities, commercial and industrial areas, etc.

**Operational Definitions**

CRIME: The legal system of Nigeria defines crime as any act or omission which renders the person doing the act or omission liable to punishment under the criminal code.

FELONY: As defined by the criminal code, any offence which is declared by law to be a felony or is punishable without proves of previous conviction with death or imprisonment for three or more years.

MISDEMEANOR: Any offence declared by the law to be a misdemeanor and such offences as contained in the Local Acts of Nigeria.

CRIMINAL: Any person who is found guilty by any court

of law of committing a particular act or doing a proscribed event.

**ASSAULTS:** This is defined by the criminal code as the striking, touching or moving or application of force of any kind directly or indirectly to a person without his consent or with his consent if such was fraudulently obtained.

**STEALING:** This is defined by the criminal code as the fraudulent taking of anything capable of being stolen or conversion of anything to ones own...with intent to deprive the owner permanently of ownership thereof.

### GEOGRAPHY OF STEALING AND CRIMINAL ASSAULT IN CALABAR URBAN.

#### Introduction/data presentation

An abridged model of Burgess concentric layout of cities inner structure was easily adopted as the sample frame by the simple fact that imaginary lines drawn east to west of Calabar almost effectively separate the town into the unplanned, high density socially depressed south; partly planned and partly unplanned moderate density middle and; finally, well planned, low density and relatively more industrial north. Two data points (Police Stations) were randomly chosen from each of the three zones where information on all categories of stealing and assaults were extracted from the stations' crime registers. The Zone Six Force Headquarters of the Nigerian Police was left out as it does not only serve the town. Its data stock may not quite address issues pertaining to this study therefore.

The data below are secondary information on assault and stealing generally as handled by the Police Force from 1988 to 1998. Note that statistical information from the two randomly chosen stations in each of the zones are added together and presented as the sum total for the corresponding year.

Table 1a: Stealing among the Zones in Calabar Urban

| Year | Zone A Basically Calabar South LGA (Mbukpa and Atakpa Stations) | Zone B Part of South and Calabar Municipality (Akim and Airport Stations) | Zone C Calabar Municipality (Fed. Housing and Eight Miles Stations) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1988 | 596 | 296 | 151 |
| 1989 | 996 | 257 | 153 |
| 1990 | 622 | 233 | 184 |
| 1991 | 682 | 122 | 164 |
| 1992 | 561 | 199 | 154 |
| 1993 | 701 | 210 | 140 |
| 1994 | 881 | 173 | 220 |
| 1995 | 590 | 241 | 177 |
| 1996 | 780 | 220 | 141 |
| 1997 | 640 | 230 | 180 |

Source: Authors field work, Police Command, Calabar.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $\sum x$ | =6995 | = | 2181 | = | 1764 |
| $\sum \bar{x}$ | =699.5 | = | 218.1 | = | 176.4 |
| Variance | =17811.5 | = | 2017.3 | = | 1131.6 |
| Std. dev. (b) | =133.4 | = | 44.91 | = | 33.64 |
| Coeff. Var. (c.v) | =19.08 | = | 20.6 | = | 19.07 |

**(a)     Stealing Cases In Calabar Urban.**

Table 1a shows the number and frequency of criminal stealing across the broad zones into which Calabar urban has been divided into for the purpose of this investigations. That polices Annual Crime Report to begin with, listed however the

Table 1b: ASSAULT AMONG THE ZONES IN CALABAR URBAN

| Year | Zone A | Zone B | Zone C |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1988 | 633 | 123 | 42 |
| 1989 | 794 | 123 | 50 |
| 1990 | 623 | 306 | 84 |
| 1991 | 739 | 111 | 41 |
| 1992 | 649 | 156 | 72 |
| 1993 | 801 | 144 | 60 |
| 1994 | 700 | 160 | 85 |
| 1995 | 923 | 129 | 77 |
| 1996 | 841 | 181 | 63 |
| 1997 | 795 | 168 | 56 |

Source: Authors field work, Police Command, Calabar

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $\sum x$ | =7498 | = | 1601 | =630 |
| $\sum \bar{x}$ | =749.8 | = | 160.1 | =63.0 |
| Variance | =8740 | = | 2704 | =235.4 |
| Std. dev. (b) | =93.49 | = | 52 | =15.34 |
| Coeff. Var. (c.v) | =12.48 | = | 32.5 | =24.39 |

following acts under stealing for clarity: - House breaking, store breaking, armed robbery, forgery, receiving stolen property, unlawful possession, burglary. Based then on the Police criminal entries on stealing as presented in table 1a, the following descriptive statistical deductions zone after zone were derived for comparative analytical purposes (Table 1a Refer).

**Table 1c: Some Descriptive Statistical Deductions on Stealing Adapted from Table 1a**

| | Zone A | Zone B | Zone C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total ($\sum x$) | 6995 (63.93%) | 2181 (19.93%) | 1764 (16.12) |
| Average ($\sum x$) | 699.5 | 218.1 | 176.4 |
| Variance | 17811.5 | 2017.3 | 1131 |
| Std. Dev. (b) | 133.4 | 44.91 | 33.64 |
| Coeff. Var.(c.v) | 19.68 | 20.6 | 19.07 |

From the Table 1c above, a total of six thousand nine hundred and ninety-five (6995) incidents of theft or stealing were lodged at the two designated data points (Atakpa and Mbukpa stations) for analysis in zone A, which represents the most densely populated, highest concentration of unemployed youths and the most economically depressed and unplanned sector of the zones. Analysis further reveals that for the ten-year period of study an average of six hundred and ninety nine (699) plus or minus (±) 133 standard deviation incidented cases of theft occurred in the zone. The coefficient of variability (C.V.) which determines the degree of variability in the deviations is found out to be 19.08. Study Zone B which coincides with the interface between the Local Government Areas, (i.e. Calabar south and Municipality) recorded a total of two thousand one hundred and eighty-one (2181) forms of stealing making an average of two hundred and eighteen (218) plus or minus forty-four (44.91) standard deviation was reported in the zone. This partly highly peopled, and high unemployment zone and unplanned environment to the West (Calabar South) but moderately peopled and slightly planned to the immediate east (Calabar Municipality) has 20.6 as its coefficient of variability following further statistical deductions on the earlier information provided in column 2 of table 1a.

The largely government impacted Zone C made up mainly of Calabar Municipal Local Government with its characteristic moderate to low population concentration and largely literate above average income earners, recorded a total of one thousand seven hundred and sixty – four (1764) incidences of theft or stealing as handled by the Housing and Eight Miles Polices Stations for the period. An average yearly figure of one hundred and seventy-four (174) plus or minus thirty-three (33) is deduced as the standard deviation. The measure of disparity in the variability, the coefficient of variability is given as 19.07.

A holistic analysis of the statistical information across the markedly heterogeneous zones reveals that a total of ten thousand nine hundred and forty (10940) cases of theft were handled by the designated police stations across Calabar urban for the period 1988 – 1997. A break down of the figure indicates that the socio-economically deprived and high populated Zone A (comprising the Calabar South LGA) recorded six thousand nine hundred and ninety give (6995) or 63.93% of the overall cases, followed by a total of two thousand one hundred and eighty-one (2181) or 19.93% for the moderately dense and depressed Zone B (the Calabar South-Calabar North interfacial boundary). The relatively government developed and planned, high income-less peopled zone C (the left over of Calabar Municipal LGA) recorded a paltry one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four (1764) or 16.12% of the overall cases.

From the above generalized perspective, it is very clear that there appears to be a near geometric reduction in crime incidences across the study zones as one moves south – northly in direct response to population density, socio-economic activity and government presence. In particular there seems to be an almost significant disparity in the total figures among zones (compare zone A and the others). The root cause(s) of this gross disparity is very well known if not over flocked in recent studies and therefore not the intention of the researchers to narrate or discuss them in this paper any longer. Omang (1996) saw economic disparity due to unemployment as the major reason.

To test therefore the hypothesis of significant difference in the average criminal theft cases across the three zones for the period, the parametric analysis of variance (ANOVA) F – test statistic shall be applied given a preset confidence level of 99% and N – 2 – 1 = 27 degrees of freedom.

The test statistic is usually shown in its most simplified form as

$$\text{Fischer} = \frac{\text{Greater Variance Estimate}}{\text{Less Variance Estimate}}$$

The end result of the statistical analysis of the data on Table 1a with the technique is shown below:-

THE ANOVA TABLE I

| Variances | Difference in sum of squares | Degrees of freedom | Variance estimate |
|---|---|---|---|
| BSS | 1797175.8 | 2 | 898587.9 |
| WSS | 207988.9 | 27 | 7703.29 |
| TOTAL | 2005164 | 29 | 906290.9 |

$$\text{F – calculated} = \frac{898587.7}{7703.29} = 116.64$$

comparing the F – tabled value of 3.3 at 99% confidence and N – 2 – 1 = 27 degrees of freedom with the F – calculated value of 116.64 above, our hypothesis of no difference in stealing incidence across the zones is rejected for the alternative that rather emphasized a significance difference of the event across the zones. In other words, the rate or

frequency of stealing differs greatly across the study zones with Calabar South (Zone A) leading the chart with sharp declines away from it. Variations in income employment and population density across the zones explain over 70% of the difference in occurrence across the study area.(Omang, 1996; Ukwayi, 199 ).

The applied relevance of the above statistical decision should be very instructive on several perspectives two of which are in crime elimination (poverty alleviation) and crime protection (effective policing).

b)      Assaults Cases In Calabar Urban
Table 2b below is based on the 10 year statistical information already reported on table 2a where basic descriptive statistical deductions on the data were made for spatial comparative purposes.

Criminal assaults basically involve a person to person, direct or indirect actions or acts involving grievous harm and wounding, indecent verbal attacks, kidnapping, fighting, rape etc. (The Criminal Code).

Table 2b: Descriptive Statistical deductions on Criminal Assault in Calabar urban

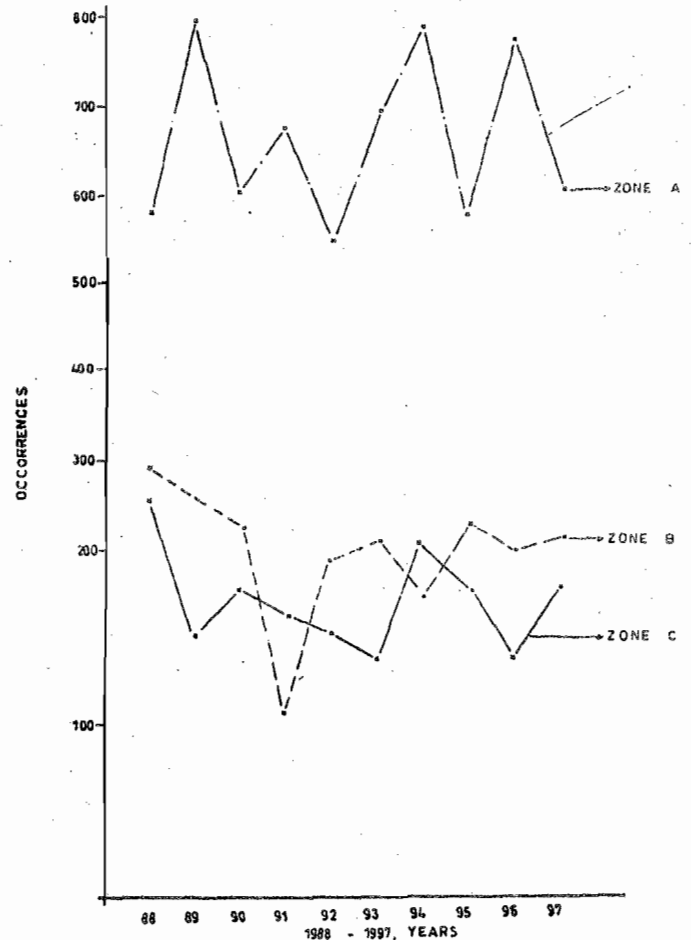| | Zone A | Zone B | Zone C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total (∑x) | 7,498 (77.05%) | 1601 (16.45%) | 630 (6.40%) |
| Average (∑x)    - | 749.8 | 160.1 | 63 |
| Variance | 8740 | 2790 | 235.4 |
| Std. Dev. (δ) | 93.49 | 52 | 15.34 |
| Coeff. Var. (c.v) | 12.48 | 32 | 24.39 |



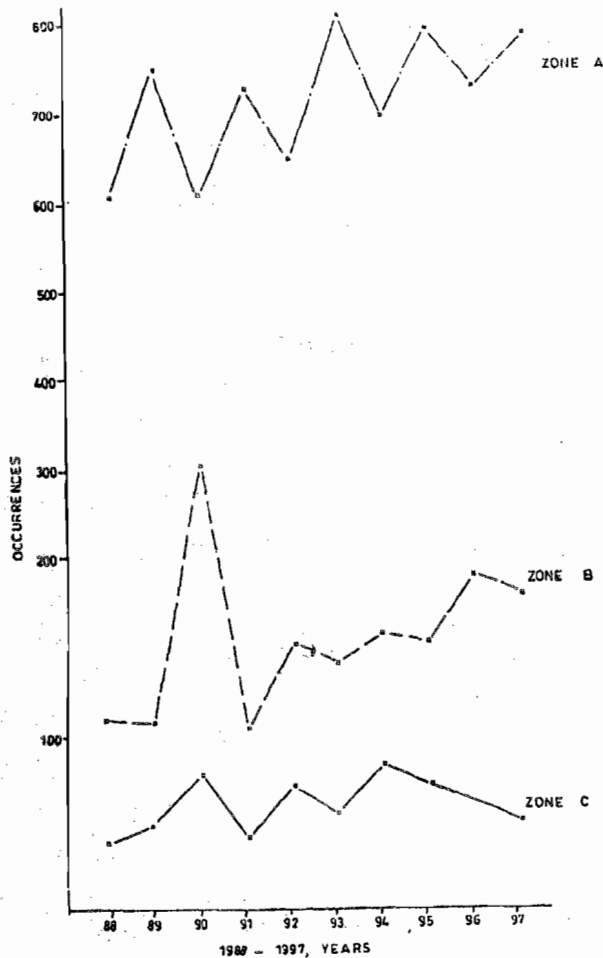Fig. 3a: Stealing by Zones over Time in Calabar Urban

**Fig. 3b**: Assaults by Zone over Time
in Calabar Urban

An initial zone after zone descriptive analysis as in the previous case reveals that, the Police in the zone covering the entire Calabar South L.G.A. (four-fifth at least) see figure A, recorded a total of seven thousand four hundred and ninety eight (7,498) complaints bothering on criminal assaults, going by the criminal code, during the ten year period of this analysis. A yearly average figure of seven hundred and forty-nine (749) plus or minus ninety-three (±93) standard deviation is deduced for the zone. The measure of the degree of disparity in the variation, the coefficient of variability for the data set is 12.48.

Zone B, which is sandwiched between Calabar South and Municipal L.G.As. recorded a total of one thousand six hundred and one (1601) assaults as incidented by the Police in the Zone. A figure of one hundred and sixty (160) plus or minus fifty-two (±52) is calculated to be the yearly average and standard deviation respectively. The coefficient of variability which determines the degree of variation in the deviation is 32.

In the almost entirely designed, low population density and economically enhanced Zone C coinciding with the Municipality L.G.A., a total of six hundred and thirty (630) assault cases was handled by both the Housing Estate and Eight Miles Police stations within the study period. An average yearly figure of sixty-three (63) is deduced while the standard deviation and coefficient of variability figures for the zone have been confirmed to be approximately fifteen (15) and twenty-four (24) respectively.

Aside from the above zone after zone descriptive analysis of criminal assaults in the study area, holistic comparative analysis across the zones reveals that for the ten-year period of investigation, a grand total of nine thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine (9729) criminal assaults was

incidented by the six data points spread across the zone. Expectedly however, Zone A recorded by far the highest number with seven thousand four hundred and ninety-eight (7,498) or 77% of the cases. The remaining two thousand two hundred and thirty one (2231) or 23% is shared between Zone B with one thousand six hundred and one (1601) or 16.45% and, Zone C with only six hundred and thirty (630) or 6.47% of the cases. It can certainly be said, in the alternative, that criminal assault in Calabar urban is almost entirely a Zone A or Calabar South L.G.A. problem from our analysis. The somewhat 16.4% for zone B may actually be due to the interfacial relationship the zone shares.

The above conclusion could be challenged as insignificant or hasty without a statistical testing of the hypothesis. As in the previous test our null hypothesis emphasizes that although the different zones vary in terms of population density, government presence, socio-economic activity or income etc, criminal assault crimes do not differ across zones. Once again our confidence level is fixed at 95% and, degrees of freedom – N – 2 – 1 = 27. The test statistic is again the parametric analysis of variance inferential test usually summed and presented as earlier indicated. See the Table below.

**THE ANOVA TABLE II**

| Variances | Difference in sum of square | Degrees of freedom | Variance estimate |
|---|---|---|---|
| BSS | 299895.3 | 2 | 149947.6 |
| WSS | 1180425 | 27 | 43719.4 |
| TOTAL | 1480320.3 | 29 | |

$$\text{F-calculated} = \frac{149947.6}{43719.4}$$

$$= 3.24$$

A comparison of the above F – calculated value of 3.24 with the tabled value of 2.75 at N – 2 – 1 = 27 degrees of freedom and 95% confidence leads to a rejection of the earlier explained null hypothesis for the alternative which in actual fact has been the real force behind the study. The fact that criminal assault cases should vary significantly across the zones, which in themselves greatly vary in population density, socio-economic activities and income is therefore established.

The applied relevance of this scientific confirmation in crime prevention and management should be of immense benefit to the government and the security agencies, particularly the police whose main aim is maintaining law, order and crime fighting in the society. Besides, the citizenry in these zones should be more security conscious and alert as not to easily fall victims to perpetrators of this crime particularly in the areas within and bordering the zones.

**TRENDS IN CRIMINAL ASSAULTS AND STEALING ACROSS CALABAR URBAN**

The analysis of events through time (temporal or time series analysis) is basic to most studies none the less socio-economic, as the unraveling trend and direction in which such event assumes are always necessary ingredients to finding a lasting solution to the societal issue(s). Trend analysis can also provide insights to proper understanding or explanation of a problem if not providing an explorative hypothetical basis for studies.

In this instance, it was considered more appropriate to view Calabar urban as one monolithic entity irrespective of

the earlier adopted zones. Following this line of thought therefore, the two crime incidences of concern were tallied into a yearly sub-total irrespective of the earlier zones of demarcation (see table 3).

The information contained in table three is appropriately presented using a time series line graph where the x – axis shows the period of study (1988-97) and the y-axis the aspects of crime under consideration. (Fig. 2 - 3)

Table 3: Derived Yearly Stealing And Criminal Assaults Incidented By Six Police Stations In Calabar Urban

| YEAR | STEALING | CRIMINAL ASSAULT |
|------|----------|------------------|
| 1988 | 1143 | 798 |
| 1989 | 1408 | 967 |
| 1990 | 1039 | 1013 |
| 1991 | 968 | 891 |
| 1992 | 914 | 870 |
| 1993 | 1051 | 1005 |
| 1994 | 1272 | 945 |
| 1995 | 1008 | 1129 |
| 1996 | 1141 | 1085 |
| 1997 | 1050 | 1019 |

$\sum x$ = total = 10996 = 9729

$\sum x$ = avg. = 1099.6 = 972.9

Beginning with stealing, refer to Table 3 column 2 or figure 3, this societal problem is shown to be most variable over the ten years study period. The year 1992 recorded the least incident, nine hundred and fourteen (914) while 1989 recorded the highest number of one thousand four hundred and eight (1408). Range of occurrence is 494. Explanations to the above revealation are wide open ranging from the real cause(s) to guesses. Governmental influence cum politics cannot be ruled out, however. Again an average of one thousand and ninety-nine (1099) cases of stealing is handled by the Police annually across Calabar urban and in four (4) out of the ten study years occurrences were above the average. The years are 1984, 1989, 1994, 1996. On the whole the distribution of stealing (figure 2 again) does not seem to portray any strong pattern or trend rather than varying in incidence year after year.

In the same manner, criminal assault problems are analyzed (Table 3). The range of occurrence is three hundred and thirty-one (331) with higher and lower extremity values of one thousand one hundred and twenty-nine (1129) for 1995 and seven hundred and ninety-eight (798) for 1988. No readily available explanation can be proffered here however. The over-all yearly average occurrence for the period of study is nine hundred and seventy two (972); five years, (1990, 1993, 1993, 1995 and 997) recorded assault cases exceeding the above ten-year average.

On the whole, criminal assault problems in the local government area of study appear to be showing a rising or an increasing trend, which was not significant when tested ($t_c < t_i$ = 2.21 < 2.75).

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF EFFECTIVE CRIME PREVENTION IN CALABAR URBAN

The above direct and indirect deductions on the crime situation in Calabar also proffer an initial logistics perspectives towards effective crime control by the law enforcement

agencies and the government. Without going into further details on the above, interview was finally granted the study team by the Police. Public Relations Officer, Mr. Eze after a few unsuccessful attempts. The sole purpose of this meeting was to be briefed, as much as possible, on the problems militating against effective policing and crime prevention in the state. The interview revealed nothing substantially novel except that previously held views have been clarified on the performance and operations of the force.

First, in the Force PROs problems of effective policing of the citizenry are the attitude and character of the average Nigerian towards the Force, its men and women inclusive. According to him, the average Nigerian man or woman hardly volunteers credible information or tips to the security agents excepts where he or she is directly affected. "The Police are no miracle workers or magicians", all over the world they rely largely on the publics cooperation by way of tip offs which is almost lacking here. This disturbing scenario however explains the establishments of the Police community relations initiative nationwide aimed at closing the gap existing between the Force and the very people they were initially meant to protect. It is hoped that this attitude will surely change for the better in the shortest possible time he concluded.

The strength of the Force and poor motivation he further singled out as the next hindrance to effective policing of life and property of the citizenry. The citizens' Police ratio is so low that a community such as Anantigha and Afokang in Calabar South Local Government Area, where taking the laws into one's own hands is seemingly the rule rather than the exception, effective police presence in number, material and time are necessities. Most regrettably this is hardly the case nation-wide but the current civilian government in the country is bent on squarely addressing this problem of size in the force.

Erstwhile low remuneration problems in the force which acted as a demotivator, rather pushing the men and women into corrupt and criminal acts thereby earning the force the worst of stigma in the nation is currently being looked into. According to him the extortion of monies at road blocks and subversion of citizen's rights and privileges which were rampant practices in years past are effectively tackled with the recently approved salaries and conditions of service to the force.

Insufficient, poor and outdated equipments, especially vehicles and communication equipments, is the last of the main problems facing the force in the state; where the equipments are not out of use, they are either old and functionally inadequate in number. To worsen the situation completely is the acute immobility of its men and women he added. The effect of the above scenario is that an urgent call or tip-off by either its surveillance team or an informant for reinforcement may take longer time before it is responded to. By the time mobility is acquired eventually to rush the needed extra equipped hands to the scene, the hoodlums had completed their criminal acts and escaped to maybe initiate yet another such acts somewhere else in the town.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Aspects of the crime geography, of Calabar Urban including its temporal and spatial modes with special reference to criminal assaults and stealing have been studied. While crime occurrence in space confirms that Calabar South Local Government (Zone A) ranks highest, with well over 60% of occurrences for either of the major crimes investigated, the Municipal Local Government (Zone C) on the opposite end, records less than 10%. Across the study area urban crimes differ significantly among the adopted study zones, dropping sharply in incidence from Zone A towards Zone C in direct relations to population density, employment level and educational standard. The occurrences in time are high for the

crimes considered but variable particularly for stealing. Criminal assault also seems to be showing increasing trends from the year 1993 which was not significant. However, explanation for the trend was not therefore necessary.

The confirmation that crime occurrence in Calabar urban shows direct relationship with zones of socio-economic depravity and population density, etc should be instructive to the government in its poverty alleviation and eradication efforts as well as to the law enforcement agencies in their attempt at making Calabar a safe and friendly place to be. The main problems of the Police have been highlighted to include the non cooperative attitude of the citizens, poor motivation and equipments among others. The study findings, if effectively utilized, may serve as invaluable and realistic input elements towards a safe and secure urban environment as it is sure to provide the missing link for effective and pragmatic crime prevention and management for Calabar urban.

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