

Comperative Analysis Of Major Crimes In Calabar Municipality And Calabar South Local Government Areas, Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract: This is a comparative study of major crimes in Calabar South and Calabar Municipality Local Government Areas in Cross River State of Nigeria. The two localities have experienced incidences of criminal activities over the years due to unprecedented population growth, rural-urban migration and urbanization. In the course of this study relevant primary and secondary data were procured from government agencies and organizations. Questionnaires on the demographic and socio-economic status of the residents were administered, 120 each in the localities through random sampling technique. Oral interview and direct personal observation were conducted to indentify crime hotspots and most especially the physical form of the two local government areas, the road network and neighborhood design. Furthermore a total of 20 crime “hotspots” neighborhoods were randomly selected to ascertain the level of criminal activities using the parametric method of awarding scores for assessing crime in the selected neighborhoods. The independent t-test was adopted to determine the rate of criminal activities in Calabar South and Calabar Municipality. The result revealed more youth population who are actively involved in crime in the two local government areas. Other results of comparisons and deprivations were found under education, occupational status, monthly income and household size. The independent t-test revealed high incidences of criminal activities in Calabar South than in Calabar Municipality.

Keywords: Population, Urbanization, Crime and Crime Hotspots.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria in Africa and other developing nations of the world are currently experiencing the fastest rate of urbanization and rapid urban growth and development. The United Nations and Population Reference Bureau (1982) reported the percentage increase of world population living in urban centres from 14 percent to 43 percent between 1800 and 1985 respectively. Currently in the year 2020 world urban population has increased to 2.9 billion. By the end of 2050 half of the worlds’ population will live in urban areas, United Nations (2000).

COUNTRIES	1970 (%)		1990 (%)		2002 (%)	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Algeria	59	41	49	51	42	58
Benin	77	23	66	34	56	44
Botswana	71	29	58	42	49	51
Cameroon	65	35	60	40	49	51
Chad	83	17	79	21	75	25
Co'te d'ivore	68	32	60	40	56	44
Gabon	48	52	32	68	17	83
Ghana	75	25	64	36	55	45
Mauritania	70	30	56	44	40	60
Mexico	74	26	28	72	25	75
Nigeria	70	30	65	35	54	46
Paraguay	76	33	51	49	43	57
Peru	76	24	31	69	26	74
Senegal	74	26	60	40	51	49
South Africa	60	40	51	49	44	56
Tunisia	56	44	42	58	37	63

Uruguay	57	43	11	89	8	93
Venezuela	35	65	16	84	13	87

Source: Modified after WHO/UNICEF, 2004 Report

Table 1: Estimated Growth Trends in Urban Population from 1970-2002 in Developing Countries

According to WHO/UNICEF (2004) there have been disparities between urban and rural population in the developing countries in the world. As indicated on table 1 above the trend from 1970 – 2002 shows percentage losses in the rural population to urban population for some urban centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The proportion of the urban population living in the urbanized areas of more than half a million in developing countries increased geometrically between 1970 and 2002. Africa alone witnessed a sharp increase from 34 percent in 1970 to 43 percent in 1990 and to 52 percent in 2002. Globally the number of cities of over half a million increased from 111 – 278 by 1980. Urbanize areas in Africa increased to about nine. The 2002 estimate above showed that about 58percent on the average lived in urban centres while 42 percents lived in rural areas. The percentage of population that lived in rural areas in 1990 was about 65 percent, while 35 percent lived in urban areas. This means that between the period of 12years, the rural witnessed an estimated loss of 7percent of its population to the urbanized areas which gained 7percent increase in population. The developing countries witnessed about 85percent growth in world's urban population between 1970 and 2000. Urban areas grew at annual rate of between 3.5percent and 4.8 percent since 1960 and the trend has remained unchange. The population growth rate has currently stabilized at 4.5 percent. Africa and Latin America have the fastest urban growth in the developing countries.

Most countries define urban areas based on National Criteria such as population thresholds, density of residential buildings, proportion of population engaged in non-agricultural work and officially designated territories, and level of public services provided, Pathak (1995).

In Nigeria for instance, an urban area is any settlement with a population of 20,000 people and above. Onyemelukwe 1977 define urbanization as a process of movement and concentration in large numbers in an urban area or converting a rural area into an urban centre. Agbor (2021) viewed urbanization as the proportion of the total population concentrated in an urban area viewed as a transitional phase or a switch from a rural economy to an industrialized society.

The transition is accompanied by serious social, economic and environmental problems. The less privileged and poor migrants from rural to urban centres to seek employment end up living in slum settlements with substandard housing and poor sanitary conditions. This same group of residents engage in various criminal activities. George (1999) observed that a degraded housing environment provides good hideout for criminals.

II. RESEARCH PROBLEMS

Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Areas under study have for the past decade experienced high rates of criminal activities and insecurity due

to unprecedented population growth, rural urban migration and urbanization. Population growth and urbanization becomes a significant problem when its consequences impact negatively on the environmental resources and threat to human lives. The most prevalent criminal activities plaguing the two local government areas include kidnapping, cultism, rape, burglary, murder, arson, armed robbery, theft, automobile theft and vandalism sometimes referred to as felonies and misdemeanors under the criminal code. These crimes are more prevalent in the liner city neighborhoods and other crime “hotspots” within the two geographical locations as shown on figure 3 and 4.

Other serious problems facing Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government areas are lack of employment opportunities, increasing poverty, housing shortage, proliferation of squatter settlements, uncoordinated urban development and increasing vulnerability to disasters (such as flood, erosion, landslides) which are the basic issues of mankind in our societies. The poor migrants from rural areas into the geographical locations, Calabar Municipality and Calabar South under study in search of security, safety and gainful employment find themselves living in slum settlements which lack basic facilities and services. These less privilege citizens who suffer extreme deprivation and inclusion get involve in various criminal activities.

III. AIM

The research work is aimed at comparing crime rate in Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government areas in Cross River State, Nigeria.

IV. OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives are:

- ✓ To determine the types of crime in the two local government areas under study
- ✓ To determine the causes and effects of such crimes in the areas of study
- ✓ To examine the relationship between violent crime and the socio-economic status of the neighborhoods in the two study areas.
- ✓ To make recommendations to reduce crimes in the two Local Government Areas of Cross River State.

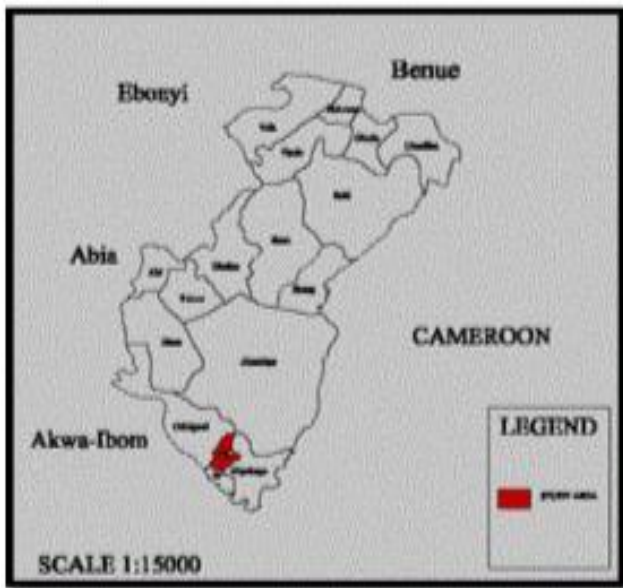
V. STUDY AREA

The Ancient city of Calabar is the administrative headquarters of Cross River State Government in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and has since 1967 distinguished itself as the centre of major economic activities in the state. The city is also the headquarters of the present Calabar Municipality with a total of ten (10) political wards. It is located between latitude 4°56' and 5°04' North of the Equator and at longitude 8°18 and 8°24 East of the Greenwich Meridian. The city lies on a peninsular between the Calabar River on the nearest buildable land to the sea. Calabar is considered as one of the oldest city

and port in the West African sub-region and a slave deport along the Bight of Biafra (Bonny).

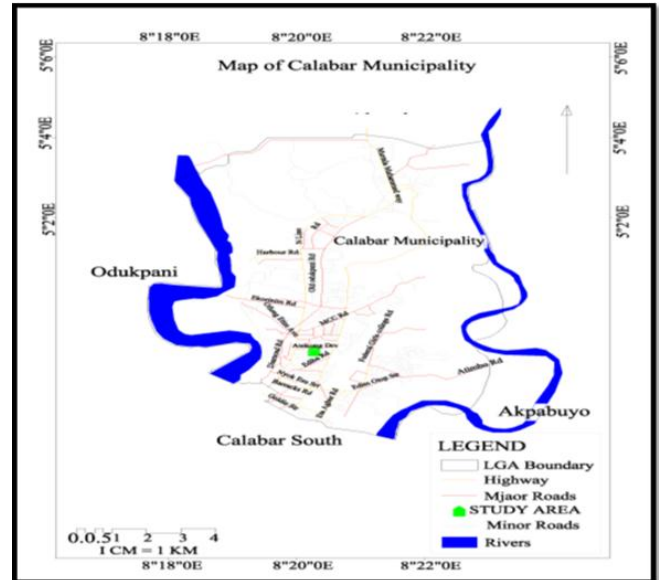


Source: Cross River Geographical Information Agency
Figure 1: Map of Nigeria Showing Cross River State



Source: Cross River Geographical Information Agency
Figure 2: Map of Cross River State Showing Calabar

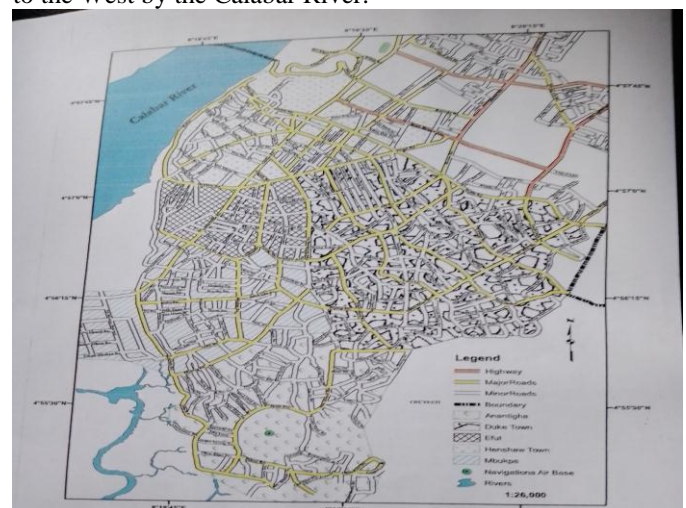
Calabar was the first administrative capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 1882 – 1906 during the early British rule in Nigeria. It is a dynamic urban centre with a rural-urban migrant population. The population of Calabar urban had been estimated to be 82,100 in 1975; 159,599 in 1978; 140,200 in 1985; 217,800 in 1995; 320,862 in 1991 and 375,196 from the last official census of 2006. The indigenes are predominantly the Quas and the Efiks. These people have since engaged themselves in commercial, industrial, educational and small scale farming activities. Climatically Calabar falls within the rain forest belt and the vegetation is mainly tropical. Like Calabar South Local Government Area the communities that make up Calabar Municipality include – Akim Qua Town, Big Qua Town, Ikot Ansa, Diamond Town, Ediba Town, Essien Town, Obutong, Ikot Ishie, Akai Effa, Asari Iso, Ikot Effangha Mkpa, Ekorinim, Satellite Town etc.



Source: Cross River Geographical Information Agency
Fig 3: Map of Calabar Municipality showing residential districts

The people of Calabar worship ‘Ndem’, a water deity as their God before the advent of Christianity. They also have Ekpe Society which is the highest law of the land and practiced by the men folk and the elderly women. Ekpe is believed to be a secret deity in the forest which is still use as an executive and judiciary arm of the government of the people. As the law of the land Ekpe can prosecute and punishment those found guilty of an offence.

Calabar South as a geographical unit is one of the eighteen (18) local government areas of Cross River State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is located on latitude $04^{\circ}58'$ North of the Equator and Longitude $8^{\circ}18'$ and $8^{\circ}22'$ East of the Greenwich Meridian with a total land mass of 269.99 square kilometers. The area is bounded in the North by Calabar Municipality, in the south by the Creeks and estuaries of Cross River which empty into the Atlantic Ocean, to the East by the Great Qua-Rivers and Akpabuyo Local Government Area, and to the West by the Calabar River.



Source: Cross River Geographical Information Agency
Fig 4: Map of Calabar South showing residential district

The Local Government was carved out from the present Calabar Municipality in 1976 and has twelve (12) political wards with headquarters at Anantigha as indicated on Fig 4. The communities that make up Calabar South include-Anantigha as headquarter, Afokang, Henshaw Town, Duke Town, Efut Ekondo, Efut Abua, Ekpo Abasi, Edibe-Edibe, Esuk Nsidung, Itiat Ekpe (Bayside) and Mbukpa.

According to the National Population Commission (NPC, 2006) census, the population of the local government area was 191,515 people making it the second most populous local government area next to Calabar Municipality due to migration. The indigenes of Calabar South Local Government Area are predominantly the Efuts and the Efiks. They speak Efik as their common language but have their distinct ethnic diversities. Their primary occupations are fishing, trading and farming.

Calabar South Local Government Area has a Sub-Equatorial type of climate with moderately high temperature of 40⁰c. The relative humidity is about 70 -80 percent. There are two seasons, the rainy season which starts from April – October and the dry season from October – March. Rainfall is heavy with an annual average of between 2000 – 3000mm, NAA Weather Report (1995). The soil in Calabar South is grey with unconsolidated non-cohesive alluvial layer of very fine sand, overlying an impermeable plastic alluvium of dark, silty clay with organic matter. The soil supports thick humid forest. Much of the virgin forest has been replaced with riparian forest. The soil is very fertile for agriculture and it is depleting through leaching and erosion due to urbanization.

VI. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There has been tremendous increase in population and urbanization in Africa, Asia, and Latin American continents for several decades. Africa, especially the Sub-Sahara region has the fastest urban population growth than any other continent in the world. The Sub-Sahara region recorded the highest urban growth rate in the world with an average of 5 percent per annum. Hove et al (2013) reported a total urban population of 250 million.

The United Nation population (2000) observed that at this growth rate urban population will double between 2000 and 2030 and further projected that by the end of 2050 half of the world's population will live in urban countries. Hicks (1998) observed that between 1970 – 1995 the African Country's urban population grew by 5.2 percent per annum while its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by 0.66 percent per annum.

In Nigeria, urban population has been on the increase since the colonial administration. OKeke (1998) posits that Nigeria urban centres are amongst the fastest growing cities in the world. In 1991 Nigeria had a total of 29 urban centres. By 1931, the number dropped to 27 due to the political delineation between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the British Cameroun protectorate. There was an increase in urban centres of 56 in 1953 and between 1963 when Nigeria became a Republic and in 1991, there was increase in urban centres of 182 and 359 respectively. The increasing urban centres without a corresponding increase in the essential basic

infrastructure is causing serious economic, social and environmental problems. Urban population growth and urbanization become a significant problem when its consequences impact negatively on the environmental resources and treat to human lives. Other serious urban problems common in the two local government areas (study areas) besides growing insecurity and rising crime rate are housing shortage, lack of employment opportunities, proliferation of squatter settlements, increasing poverty, uncoordinated urban development and vulnerability to disaster considered to be the basic issues of mankind in the society, Agbor (2020).

Crime as it concerns Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Area is an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law. It does not have a simple universally accepted definition. According to the Wikipedia Encyclopedia, (2008), a crime or an offence is an act lawfully not only individuals but also to a community, society or the state. Crime has been grouped by criminologist such as Paul Tappen into two major groups, Felonies (major) and misdemeanors (minors). Crime according to Danbazau (1994) is an act which offends the morality of society or that violates the devince law.

For purposes of clarification felonies are major crimes or treasonable offences which attract death penalty or incarceration in prison for several years by government. They include – kidnapping, rape, armed robbery, cultism, murder, arson etc while misdemeanors are minor crime or offences which include – shoplifting, simple assault, petty theft, pick-picketing etc.

When we talk about crime in any environmental setting, the idea of safety and insecurity set in. These two phenomena have been considered by Greenwald and Boarnet (2002) as the most important environmental variables. The UN-Habitat (2007) has placed urban safety and security within the wider perspective of human security in our societies. Human security protects communities and their inhabitants from insecurity and violence. According to the Oxford Learners Dictionary, security is the state of being free from danger or threat and is one of the basic human needs.

There has been global increase in crime rate from 2000 – 2,300 for every 1000 people between 1980 – 2000 over several decades. Specifically 60 percent of urban residents in the developing countries have been victims of crime over a five year period with victimization rate of 70 percent in parts of the Sun-Sahara Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean's. Cities in Africa have the highest reported cases of burglary with victimization rates of over 8 percent of it's population, UN-Habitat (2007). The police in South Africa recorded a total of 460 robbery cases in the year 2000 for every 100,000 people and further reported that 30 percent of residents in Johannesburg have been victims of arm robbery.

The research department of the Clean foundation in collaboration with the Nigeria Police recorded a total of 26 criminal offences between 1994 – 2003.

Scholars in the field of urban and regional planning have always placed safety and security concerns within spatial context by examining design and policy intervention that can create what has been popularly known as defensible space (Newman, 1972; Frank and Engelke, 2001; Handy, Boarnet,

Ewing and Kiingswarth 2002). Further studies have also tried to ascertain the promotion of safety and healthy communities through the manipulation of urban design, land use and transportation (Greenwlad and Boarnet 2002).

Environmental criminologists also lay claim on the importance of geographical locations and architectural designs as factors that influence crime and its prevalence. It is a common belief that certain urban design pattern such as neighborhood design, street layout, avenues, alley ways, boulevards, private estates and business establishments attract criminal activities and remain "Hotspots" and sites of high crime and deviate rates, Neighborhoods or communities of this nature are considered as deviant neighborhoods which are characterized by dense population, with poor and overcrowded conditions that increase the temptation and opportunities to engage in crime ad deviant behavior. (Slark 1987). Mabogunje (1968) observed that over population and urbanization of Nigerian towns such as Kano, Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Warri etc are brain behind most urban problems which include crimes, traffic congestions, poor health conditions, overcrowding in houses and environmental issues, he further indentified three major types of residential areas with distinctive social and physical features such as the high. Medium and low densities described in terms of floor area ratio and population associated with criminal activities. In his analysis of occurrence of criminal activities in Illorin Aton (2001) posits that all categories of criminal activities investigated occurred more in high density residential areas. Burgess (1925) in his concentric zone theory observed that crime and other social problems cluster in distinctive type of social areas considered to be more prosperous. The circles broadly defined and delineate distinct types of zones, each with its own social, physical and environmental characteristics.

In a similar study of urban crime in Lagos, Agbola (1997) posit that incidence of residential burglary is highest in the high density residential areas while loss of property are highest in medium and low density areas. According to him the high density areas include – Mushin, Oshodi, Ajegunle, Shomolu, Bariga etc which are also considered to be the most dangerous neighborhoods to live in.

The inner city neighborhoods usually present environmental constraints and opportunities which may be characterized by physical disorder (environmental deterioration) and social disorder (crime). Ros et al (2001); Klinenberg (2002) observed that living in a neighborhood with such high physical and social disorder generate fear. On the contrary clean and safe neighborhoods with improvement on their socio-economic status attract criminal activities.

VII. RESEARCH METHOD

To achieve the overall aim of this research exercise, relevant primary and secondary data were procured from government agencies and organizations such as the National Population Commission (NPC) Census of 2006 and the Cross River State Criminal Intelligence Bureau (SCIB) Headquarters, Calabar. Oral Interview and direct personal observation were conducted to identify crime "hotspots" and

most especially the physical form of the two local government areas and their socio-economic activity pattern, the structure of their road network and neighborhood design. The Pearson Product Moment (PPM) statistical instruments was adopted to determine the relationship between population and crime variables. Random sampling techniques was used in selecting a total of 20 crime "hotspot" neighborhoods and the parametric method of awarding scores for assessing crime in the selected communities or neighborhoods in the local government areas was adopted based on data from field survey as shown on the tables and lines graph below. Street photographs and crime hotspots were also taken to justify the research as shown on plates 1 – 9 above.

VIII. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

CAUSES OF CRIME

Over population and urbanization have been identified as the major causes of crime in the two geopolitical areas under study. By the official population census of 2006 Calabar South recorded 191,515 people as against 183,681 people for Calabar Municipality. This trend has continued for over a decade. There is general unemployment in the different localities as youths get involved in drug abuse, crime and other social vices due to peer pressure inequality, poverty and deprivation. Other factors causing crime are poor urban planning and architectural design, decay of urban neighborhoods and conditions of life especially at Duke Town, Henshaw Town, Ekpo Abasi, Anantigha, Watt Market etc all in Calabar South Local Government Area.

IX. URBAN CONDITIONS IN CALABAR SOUTH



Plate 1: Uwanse by Yellow Duke Inner City Slum (criminal hideout)



Plate 2: Adam Duke Street by Atamunu Street (Untarred without Street Light)



Plate 5: Abandoned Zoo Garden Recreational Park (Criminal Hideout)



Plate 3: Webber Street by Target (Road Rehabilitation without Street Lights)

X. URBAN CONDITIONS IN CALABAR MUNICIPALITY



Plate 6: Abandoned State Library Complex (Criminal Hideout)



Plate 4: Edgerly Road (Rehabilitated Road with inadequate Street Lights)

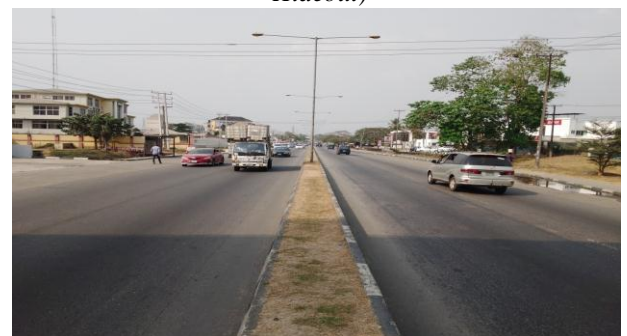


Plate 7: Murtala Mohammed Highway (Good Street Lighting)



Plate 8: Marian Extension by Efiio Ete Junction (Good Street Lighting)



Plate 9: Open Drainage Channel/Culvert along Asim Ita Street Big Qua Town (Criminal Hideout)

This is also poor policing of these neighborhoods due to lack of patrol vehicles. Most streets in the two study areas are poorly design and some are impassable, though the situation has now improved considering the road rehabilitation exercise in Calabar South which include – Abasi Orok Street, Howel, Umoh Orok Street, Essien Street, Webber Street, Foster Street, Adam Duke Street, Bassey Street, Technology Street, Eneobong Lane, Pastor E. E. Okon Street, Mayne Avenue Close, etc. Many streets especially in Calabar South have no street lights. Good road network is an important strategy for arresting criminals at short notice. Street lighting is a measure to protect lives and property from the nefarious activities of criminal and hoodlums at night.

EFFECTS OF CRIME

One of the major effects of crime is fear of being killed, kidnapped, raped and memed by hoodlums. Victims of such crimes have suffered psychological and physical trauma, shame and depression. Most residents and businessman in the study areas have not only folded their businesses, they have lost their savings to yahoo boys, armed robbers and fraudsters.

Famer	37	30.8	18	15.0
Civil servant	31	25.8	45	37.5
Artisan	27	22.5	32	26.7
Others	25	20.8	25	20.8
Total	120	100.0	120	100.0
Education				
Primary	27	22.5	23	19.2
Secondary	29	24.2	30	25.0
Post Secondary	23	19.2	42	35.0
No formal education	41	34.1	25	20.8
Total	120	100.0	120	100.0
Household Size				
2 – 4	15	12.5	32	26.7
4 – 6	25	20.8	2830	23.3
6 – 8	35	29.2	24	30.0
8 – 10	45	37.5		20.0
Total	120	100.0	120	100.0

Source: Researchers Field Survey, 2022

Table 2: Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of residents in Calabar South and Calabar Municipality

Considering the demographic and socio-economic status of the residents in Calabar South and Calabar Municipality there are more youths of between 21 – 40 years who are actively engaged in crime in the two areas of study. The educational background of this population is lower in Calabar South than Calabar Municipality where 35% fall under Calabar Municipality as against only 19.2% in Calabar South who have attained past secondary education. In terms of occupation in the two localities 30% of residents are engaged in farming and fishing while only 15% engage themselves in faming, the number of white collar workers (civil servants) is much higher by 37.5% in Calabar Municipality as against Calabar South with 25.8%. monthly incomes are much more lower in Calabar South compared to the Municipality based on the occupational status of the residents in the study areas. This is evident in the type of housing structures found in Calabar South. The household size is much lower in the Municipality 20% as against Calabar South with 37.5% where about 8 – 10 people live in one room causing overcrowding and more pressure on housing facilities.

The research identified a total of ten (10) major crimes for the study areas Calabar South and Calabar Municipality

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: What is the level of crime in selected communities in Calabar South. This research question seeks to assess the extent of crime committed in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. To answer this research question, the parametric scores for assessing crime in selected communities or neighborhoods in Calabar South was employed and presented in percentages on table 3 and ling graph. Fig 5 as shown below.

	CALABAR SOUTH		CALABAR MUNICIPALITY	
	Frequency of response	Percentage of respondents	Frequency of response	Percentage of respondents
Age				
21 – 30	41	34.2	39	32.5
31 – 40	43	35.8	45	37.5
41 – 50	22	18.3	20	16.7
51 and above	12	11.7	16	13.3
Total	120	100.0	120	100.0
Monthly Income				
3000 – 4000	39	32.5	22	18.3
4000 – 5000	31	25.8	32	26.7
5000 – 6000	29	24.2	31	25.8
6000 – 7000	21	17.5	35	29.2
7000 – 8000				
8000 – 9000 and above				
Total	120	100.0	120	100.0
Occupation				

Neighborhoods	Kidnapping	Cultism	Rape	Burglary	Murder	Arson	Armed robbery	Theft	Auto Theft	Vandalism	Total	%
Henshaw Town	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	10	6.94
Duke Town	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	12	8.33
Watt market	1	2	3	2	2	4	1	4	0	3	22	15.28
Etim-Edem	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	0	2	19	13.19
Bayside	2	3	1	1	3	0	1	2	0	1	15	9.72
Ekpo	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	20	13.89
Ahadi	2	2	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	2	13	9.03
Edibe												

Anantigha	2	3	2	2	1	0	2	2	0	3	16	11.11
Mbukpa	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	8	5.56
EsukNsidung	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	10	6.94
Total	14	23	13	17	14	13	10	22	1	17	14	100
%	9.72	15.97	9.03	11.81	9.72	9.03	6.94	15.28	0.69	11.81	11.4	

Neighborhoods	Kidnapping	Cultism	Rape	Burglary	Murder	Arson	Armed robbery	Theft	Auto Theft	Vandalism	Total	%
Akim Qua Town	0	4	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	12	12.5
Ediba Town	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	5	4.17
Big Qua Town	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.08
Diamond Town	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	12.5
Essien Town	0	3	0	3	0	1	2	2	0	1	12	18.75
Parliamentary Extension	3	4	1	2	1	0	3	2	1	1	18	10.42
Satellite Town	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	10	8.33
Lemma	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	8	13.54
Ekorinim	0	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	13	12.5
Akai Effa	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	12	12.5
Total	8	24	7	14	8	2	11	12	3	7	96	7.2
%	8.33	25	7.29	14.58	8.33	2.08	11.56	12.5	3.13	7.29		

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2021

Table 3. Level of crime in selected neighborhoods in Calabar South Local Government Area. (N=144)

The overall result of the level of crime revealed that cultism dominated the trend with 23 ie (15.97% of crime committed in Calabar South Local Government Area. This was followed by theft 22 (15.28%), burglary 17 (11.81%) vandalism 17 (11.81%) respectively. Next is kidnapping and murder both having 14 each with 9.72% respectively. This is followed by rape and arson both having 13 and 9.03% each. Arm robbery had 10 with 6.94% while auto theft is the least 1 with a cumulative percentage of 0.69 as presented the line graph on Fig 5 as shown below.

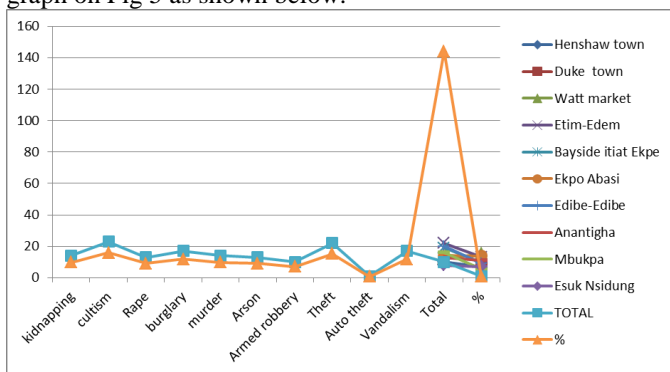


Figure 5: Line graph of level of crime in selected communities in Calabar South Local government area of Cross River State, Nigeria

Considering the inner city neighborhoods, Watt Market has the highest level of crime 22 (11.28%) followed by Etim Edem 19 (13;19%) Duke Town 12 (8.33%) and the Henshaw Town 10 (6.94%). The study revealed crime levels at the adjoining neighborhoods with Ekpo Absi having the highest level of crime 20 (13.89%). This is followed by Anantigha 16 (11.11%) and the Bayside EtiatEkpe having 14 (9.72%) while the least among them is Mbukpa 8 (5.56%).

The study revealed that crime levels are higher in the inner city neighborhoods of Watt Market, Etim Edem Park, Duke Town and Henshaw Town considered to be crime "Hotspots" in Calabar South Local Government Area.

Given the same types and number of major crimes in Calabar Municipality the researcher equally proceeded to provide answers to the second research questions.

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What is the level of crime in selected communities in Calabar Municipality.

This research questions seeks to assess the extent of crime committed in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. To answer this research question, the parametric scores for assessing crime in selected communities or neighborhoods in Calabar Municipality was employed and results were presented in percentages on table 4 and line graph fig 6 as shown below.

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2021

Table 4: level of crime in selected neighborhood in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area (N=96)

The descriptive statistical analysis in table 4 shows that cultism dominated the trend of crime committed in Calabar Municipality with 24 (25%). This was followed by burglary 14 (14.58%). Theft came third with 12 (12.5%), while arm robbery has 11 (11.56%), kidnapping and murder merged with 8 (8.33%) respectively, rape and vandalism merged with 7 (7.29%) respectively, auto theft has 3 (3.13%), while the least is arson with 2 (2.08%).

Again the neighborhoods with the highest crime rate in Calabar Municipality is Parliamentary Extension with 18 (18.75%) followed by Ekorinim Town 13 (13.54%) while Diamond Town has the lowest crime rate 2 (2.08%). The result from Diamond Town is not surprising because the neighborhood has a high level of security architecture.

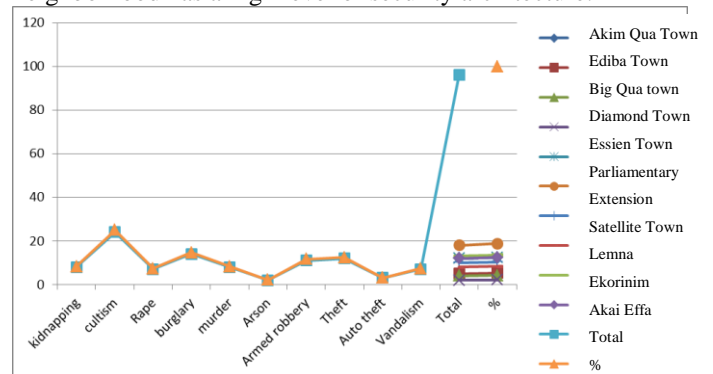


Fig 6: Line graph of level of crime in selected communities in Calabar Municipality Local government area of Cross River State, Nigeria

XI. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

H₀: There is no significant difference between neighborhood crime rate in Calabar South Local Government Area and Calabar Municipality

H_i: There is significant difference between neighborhood crime rate in Calabar South Local Government Area and Calabar Municipality

The independent variable in this hypothesis is neighborhood (Calabar South and Calabar Municipality) while the dependent variable is crime rate. To test this hypothesis, independent the t-test was employed. This statistical tool was used because the independent variable is categorize neighborhood (Calabar South and Calabar Municipality) and the dependent variable (crime rate) is measured continuously. The scaling on the instrument was rated from 0 – 5 as shown below: (SA = 5) = Strongly Agree, (A=4) = agree, (U = 3) Undecided, (D2) = disagree and (SD 1) = Strongly Disagree). The result is as presented in table 3 below.

Neighborhood	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. Error Mean	T	Df	P-Value
Calabar South	144	17.5000	4.88992	.41035	5.221	238	.000
Calabar Municipality	96	14.7083	2.27997	.23270			

*p<.05

Table 5: Independent t-test of the rate of crime in Calabar South and Calabar Municipality Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria

The result revealed that while Calabar South Local Government Area has a total of 144 respondents with mean, standard deviation and standard error of 17,5000, 4,88992 and .41035, Calabar Municipality has a total of 96 respondents with mean of 14.7083 standard deviation and standard error of 2.27997 and .23270 respectively. At 238 degree of freedom, the t-calculated value was found to be 5.221 accompanied by a p-value of .000. Since the p-value of (.000) is less than the chosen alpha of .05, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that Citizen in Calabar Municipality in terms of crime rate. In other words, citizens in Calabar South Local Government Area perpetrate more crime than those in Calabar Municipality.

XII. RECOMMENDATION

Urban and Regional Planners have a duty to develop safety based designs to reduce criminal activities especially in residential and commercial neighborhoods and urban open spaces such as parks, recreational grounds, street network etc. they should adopt the “Eye on the Street” concept in street network design which is a natural surveillance for deterring criminal along the streets.

Town planners at all levels should integrate urban and suburban areas in their design and planning to reduce crime in our societies. Government and the organized private sector should introduce youth empowerment programmes and opportunities for empowerment for the poor youths as a means of reducing inequality and deprivation. The use of hard drugs by the youths from the ages of 21 – 40 years should be checkmated by the law enforcement personnel’s. Crime victims should be given stiffer penalties, faster court trials and sentenced to jail for reasonable period. The general public should periodically be informed through the public media on safety measures at home, places of work, recreation and worships. Government and private spiritual individuals should

give the orphanage homes proper moral orientation to reduce the number of potential criminals in our societies. Members of the public should by all means reduce the display of grafitis which often attract criminal behaviors. Good street lighting should be encouraged to scare hoodlums and criminals from operating at night.

XIII. CONCLUSION

Appropriate security measures should be put in place to monitor and reduce the nefarious activities of criminals in Calabar South and Calabar Municipality.

More attention should be placed in Calabar South because of over population, poverty and deprivation. Youth population and orphanage homes should be given proper orientation. Bad street should be rehabilitated and street lights should be installed to avoid darkness along city streets of the two localities under study.

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