



EFFECTS OF CRIME ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN TARABA STATE.

BY

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Abstract

The study is determined to find out the effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state. Two research questions were raised to guide the study. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study was made of 9,805 students from two universities, two polytechnics and one college of education in Taraba State. The simple random sampling technique was used to select 245 students used for the study. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire on a four (4) point rating scale. The instrument was validated by two experts from Federal University, Kashere Gombe State and Ramat polytechnic Maiduguri, Borno State. Spearman rank order was used to determine the reliability of the instrument which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.86 Out of the 245 questionnaires administered to respondents in two universities namely, federal university Wukari, Taraba state university Jalingo, federal polytechnic Bali, Taraba state polytechnic Suntai and college of education, zing. 218 copies of questionnaires were retrieved and used for analysis. Mean and standard deviation were the descriptive statistical tools used to analyze the two research questions. For the research questions, the decision was based on the criterion mean of 2.50. The findings of the study revealed that crimes of various kinds such like, drug abuse, raping and theft were very prevalent among the students of the research areas while there are few cases of other kinds of crime but the most prevalent ones are the one mentioned above. The effects of crimes such as drug abuse, raping and theft as revealed by this study among the students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state have affected their academic performance. The study further recommended that Government should make drug education compulsory at all levels of the educational system as this will reduce the ignorance level of what essentially constitute drug abuse and the likely effects of it on the academic performance of students at all levels of education to its minimal level.

Keywords: Crime, Academic Performance, Students of tertiary institutions.

INTRODUCTION

Human beings are governed by certain social laws to which human behavioral patterns are shaped accordingly in the process of their survival, notwithstanding however, due to the complex nature of humanity, human society is fought with some multifarious social problems which in turns



calls for human rationality to find some possible solutions to it so that human society can function very smoothly over a relative period of time.

One of the most common of such social problems is “crime” which Durkheim (1840) said “crime is not only necessary but also inevitable for society to progress”. The concept of crime has to do with the violation of criminal code of the state which made it possible for certain social control mechanisms to be invented to tackle such problems.

However, such control mechanisms or measures cannot be adequately comprehended without being tied down to the processes of the formal justice system. Though the concept “justice” is a relative phenomenon, for what can be said to be justice at one time in a particular society may not be the same at another time in some other societies or even in some segments of the same society, thus justice varies in time and space. The reasons for the variation can be seen in the nature and structure of the society as well as the influence which the process of social change has on such society.

Moreover, the process of formal justice in Nigeria can be viewed within the context of judicial proceedings which includes police arrest, summon, legal aid, prosecution and conviction. But the emphases with regard to this research work would be on the effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

This research work takes into account, the falling standard of education in Taraba state and Nigeria as a whole as a result of the activities of the criminals around and within the campuses of higher institutions in the state. The criminal activities include rape, theft, drug abuse, arm robbery, examination malpractices etc. which are very common mostly in all the tertiary institutions in Taraba state.

Therefore, inquiry into the problems of the study in Taraba state within and outside the academia is intellectually relevant and significant to the progress of the students and the development of the Taraba state.

The main aim of this research work is to find out the factors responsible for the alarming rate of criminality within the tertiary institutions in Taraba state

Examine the poor performance by the students as a result of engaging in the criminal activities in the campuses

Figure out the factors influencing students to indulge in such criminal activities

Explore the role of government in curtailing the ugly menace of criminalities in the tertiary institutions in Taraba state

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research work is set to proffer answers to the following research questions;



What are the effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state?

How does crime affect the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state?

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section of the research is mainly concerned with the review of related literature on the research topic.

The importance of formal justice in every society cannot be over emphasized more especially when considering the roles, it played in protecting the rights, liberty, freedom and maintenance of peace and order as well as achieving equality of being right and fair among all its citizens. Thus, justice plays significant roles in every society whether small or large.

Moreover, the process of formal justice system in Nigeria can only be comprehended when one shed light on the concept. The concept of justice will therefore be viewed as the constant and perpetual will to give each and every individual his or her rights. According to the socialist point of view, justice exists only when people are treated or served base on their own needs.

Furthermore, based on the legal perspective, justice is associated with the true and impartial interpretation of the laws of the state. Justice in a general perspective can be viewed as a moral idea that laws seeks to uphold in the protection of right and punishment of wrongs. That is why justice is always synonymous with law, because it is possible for law to be regarded as just, but central to it meaning is the maintenance or administration of what is just.

Therefore, the origin of the concept 'formal justice' can be traced within the principle of separation of power, based on this principle, the government of any country consist of three main branches i.e. executive, legislature and judiciary whether such government is a monarchical or a republican, the executive laid down national policies as well as carry out the functions of the state. The legislative arm whether bicameral or unicameral makes the laws for the regulation of the affairs of the state including both intra governmental relations and those between the state and the citizens. While the primary task of the judiciary which is the main area of concern in this research work is to interpret the laws made by the legislature with a view to administer justice to all without fear or favor.

Although, the idea of the three elements of government could be traced back to Plato and Aristotle, nevertheless, it was John Locke in his work titled 'civil government' who expressed the principle in detail.

Moreover, Montesquieu (1748) explained that, the doctrine of separation of power i.e. three branches of government must be organized in such a way that the chances of abuse and misuse of respective powers of government are reduced to a minimum by ensuring that the three arm of government are separated from each other so that checks and balances are possible.



Similarly, the principles of the rule of law are also central to the administration of justice in the modern state in its elaboration of the wider aspects of the rule. The declaration of rights contains a detailed section of the criminal justice proceedings.

In this connection therefore, justice is exemplified by the court room scene in which the champion of the state (prosecutor) and the champion of the defense do battle before the jury or juries as the case may be in other courts, the jury or juries decide based on the facts presented before them whether the person is guilty or not guilty.

Nevertheless, the incidence and severity of crime in our institutions of higher learning in Taraba state and the involvement of students in criminal activities such as cultism, Kidnapping, Cybercrime, armed robbery, theft, rape, etc cannot be over emphasized as events of the past few years have shown. The spate or rate of crime of all kind has assumed a larger proportion in the tertiary instructions in the State and as such, it requires the kind intervention of policy makers to as a matter of urgency make policy or drastic action which can bring to an end to the undesirable incidence.

Omede, (2012) has observed that the campuses of tertiary institutions in Nigeria were over populated amidst in adequate facilities and infrastructures, the situation according to omede made students to indulge in so many criminal activities and according to him many arm robbery cases in the country, the culprits are mostly unemployed graduates of tertiary institutions. Additionally, Omede expressed that tertiary education graduates are also recruited by politicians as thugs during elections to perpetrates electoral malpractices while some of these graduates continue to perpetrates social vices including pipeline vandalism, Kidnapping and terrorism.

Furthermore, National drug law enforcement agency has cited in Amosun, I've and Ajala (2010) that in Nigeria, adolescent and youth of age between the ages of 15-30 are at high risk groups guilty of abuse of hard drugs. Majority of these adolescents and youths are secondary and tertiary institutions students or graduates who consumes hard drugs and alcohol to engage in all sort of criminal activities.

Moreover, World health Organization (2003) noted that rape, armed robbery and sexual promiscuity were effects of abuse of hard drugs which has severed over dependence, historically herbs, leaves and plants are forms of drugs that are used to heal and control diseases. Plants have been utilized as medicines for since creation. The specific plants to be used and the methods of application for particular ailments were passed down through oral history from one generation to the other (Khalid, Zaidi, & Ahmad, 2014). There is evidence that intentionally fermented alcohol existed from as early 10,000 BC when it was used in religious worship, for recreation, medicinal use and quenching thirst by long distance travelers. Marijuana was used as medicine from 2,737BC in China then later in the 19th century, active substances used in production of drugs like cocaine and morphine were extracted and freely prescribed by physicians for various ailments and even sold over the counter (Magidson & Jessica, 2016). Drug is referred to as a substance that could bring about a change in the biological function through its chemical actions (Chebukaka, 2017). It is also considered as a substance that modifies perceptions, cognition, mood, behavior and general



body functions (Balogun, 2016). This could thus be considered as chemical modifiers of the living tissues that could bring about psychological and behavioral changes (Nnachi, 2017). The use of drugs in itself does not constitute any danger, because drugs correctly administered have been a blessing to bring healing. Unfortunately, in contemporary times certain drugs that initially produced effects such as ecstasy, sense of feeling good, serenity and power have grown into a problem of dependence and abuse (Ekpenyong, 2012)

Boma (2017) found that unethical practices in the forms of awarding undeserved scores to students, examination cheating, and victimization among teachers were common criminal acts among tertiary institutions in Taraba state.

Statement of the Problem

The researcher has observed several complaints from the general public about increasing criminal activities in and around tertiary institutions in Taraba state. Students can only attain academic success when they pursue their academic activities with seriousness, rigor, dedication and hard work. Students' involvement in vices may not only hinder their attainment of academic success but could dent the image of their institutions and its reputation. An institution noted for lawlessness amongst students and anti-social vices like fighting, stealing, cultism, indecent and provocative dressing, sexual harassment, breach of peace, examination malpractice and impersonation may not be able to attain academic excellence. The extent, types of crimes prevalent and the administrative strategies for curbing it is not quite clear to the researcher. This informed this investigation.

Methodology

This is a survey research which drew its sample from the entire population of two universities, two polytechnics and one college of education in Taraba state. The sample of the study which comprises of students from the five tertiary institutions sampled out for the research is 9,805 students. The sample was drawn through the simple random sampling techniques from College of Education Zing, Federal polytechnic Bali, State Polytechnic Suntai, Federal university Wukari and Taraba State university Jalingo. The questionnaire was the instrument used for collection of data from the respondents. It was entitled "Effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state" It was sub-divided into four parts. Part A contains demographic information of the respondents "Effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary. Part B of the questionnaire contained 14 items on "Prevalent of Crime in the Tertiary Institutions" Part C contained 18 items titled "Administrative Strategies for Crime Management" Parts B and C were structured on a five point Likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA) = 5, Agree (A) = 4, U (Undecided) = 3, SD (Strongly Disagree) = 2, and D (Disagree) = 1. The Part D contained 16 items titled "Extent of Application of Identified Administrative Strategies for Crime Management". It was structured on a three-point scale of Always, Sometimes and Never. The instrument was given content validity by two experts one associate professor in sociology and one a PhD holder in criminology. The comments they suggested after scrutinizing the instrument were used to effect corrections of the items before the final draft was typed and printed. This showed that the items internal consistency was high enough for use. The researcher employed the



assistance of two research assistants in the administration of the instrument. A total of 245 copies of questionnaire were administered but 218 copies were returned valid and used for analysis of data. Frequency count and percentage, mean and standard deviation were employed in the analysis of data. For the percentage score, 50% was taken as the bench mark for accepting an item while any item whose percentage score fall below 50% is not accepted. For mean score, 3.00 was taken as the bench mark for accepting an item. Thus, any item with mean score from 3.00 and above is accepted while any item with mean score below 3.00 is not accepted.

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

RESEARCH QUESTION 1. What are the effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions of Taraba state?

Table 1. mean and standard deviation scores of responses on the effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions of Taraba state.

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	SD	REMARK
1	Peer group influence may likely make some students engage in criminal activities	120	85	11	2	3.48	0.64	Agree
2	Parental neglect is most likely lead students engage into crime	209	8	1	0	3.95	0.23	Agree
3	Influence of role model from movies, musicians or television personalities who engages in crime may likely make some students get attracted into committing such act	119	76	15	8	3.40	0.77	Agree
4	Low grades tend to create negative feelings among students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state and so to ease that pain, they resort to all kind of crime as a remedy to their failures in effort to gain self-confidence.	18	3	176	21	2.08	0.66	Agree
5	Students may engage in crime for reasons like relaxation, relieving stress, showing independence, self-defense among others	88	101	14	15	3.20	0.84	Agree
Grand mean						3.22	0.63	Agree

From table 1 above, the grand mean of 3.22 which is above the cut of mark of 2.50 agreed as well as standard deviation of 0.63 showed that crime affects negatively the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state.



RESEARCH QUESTION 2: How does crime affect the academic performance of tertiary institution students in Taraba state?

Table 2: mean and standard deviation scores of responses on how crime affect the academic performance of tertiary institution students in Taraba state.

TABLE 2

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	SD	REMARK
1	Students of tertiary institutions are most likely to stay away from lesson and classes due to the effect of crime such as drug abuse and this could lead to poor performance.	192	23	3	0	3.87	0.38	agree
2	Engaging in criminal activities may likely make students of tertiary institution in Taraba state to be less serious in their academic work leading to poor performance.	183	29	3	3	3.80	0.52	Agree
3	Involvement in criminal activities may have negative effects on the memory and cognitive capacity of the students as they tend to forget has been taught previously in class	123	77	18	0	3.48	0.64	Agree
4	Participating in criminal activities may result to poor scores and grades due to inability to keep up with their studies.	117	101	0	0	3.54	0.50	Agree
5	Criminal activities may lower the student's expectations about their academic performance which could lead to drop out of school.	198	11	9	0	3.87	0.44	Agree
Grand mean						3.71	0.50	Agree

From the table 2, the grand mean of 3.71 which is above the cut of mark of 2.50 (agree) as well as standard deviation of 0.50 showed that crime affects negatively the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS



Research question one (1) tries to find out the effects of crime in relation to the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state which include the following: influence of peer group under false impression that engaging in criminal activities make someone stronger and more protective.

Parental neglect has also driven many students into criminal activities. Many parents left their roles and responsibilities for giving their children the necessary moral training in the hands of criminals who may at the end train them in their own way.

Influence of bad role models, bad movies stars, and some musicians may also make some students of tertiary institutions in the state get attracted to copy their way of life which may be criminal in nature.

Low academic performance or grades which create negative feelings among students of tertiary institutions has also contributed to the criminal behavior being exhibited by some tertiary education students in Taraba state. Other effects of crime on the academic performance of students in Taraba state are drug addiction and abuse which the effects of it may be devastating to both academic and moral standard which tertiary institutions are known for. This finding is in consonant with Ngesu (2018).

Research question two (2) has found out that crime has affected the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state. One hundred and ninety two respondents out of the total number of two hundred and eighteen (218) respondents representing 88.07% were strongly of the opinion that crime such as drug abuse among students have contributed tremendously to the poor performance by most students as a result of indulging into drug abuse which eventually led to not attending classes while twenty three (23) out of the total of two hundred and eighteen (218) respondents representing 10.55% agreed and three (3) representing 1.37% disagreed.

Moreover, one hundred and eighty-three (183) out of the total two hundred and eighteen (218) questionnaires retrieved were of the opinion that, engaging in criminal activities by students of tertiary institutions in the state has made most of the students to be less serious in their academic work thereby leading to poor performance.

Furthermore, one hundred and twenty three (123) respondents representing 56.42% strongly agreed that involving in criminal activities has negative effects on the memory and cognitive capacity of the students as they tends to forget what has been taught previously in class while seventy seven (77) respondents representing 35.32% agreed and eighteen (18) respondents representing 8.25% dis agreed.

Therefore, the research revealed from the one hundred and seventeen responses gathered out of the two hundred questionnaires retrieved that participating in criminal activities has led to poor scores and grades due to the inability of the students engaging in such act to keep up with their studies.

Lastly, from the one hundred and ninety eight (198) respondents retrieved out of the total two hundred and eight questionnaires representing 90.82% were of the view that criminal activities



being engaged by some students of the research area has affected the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions and led to the withdrawal of some from school.

CONCLUSION

This study focuses on the effects of crime on the academic performance of students in the tertiary institutions in the Taraba state, Nigeria. Going by the findings of this research work, it has revealed that the effects of crime on the academic performance of students of tertiary institutions in Taraba state are numerous low grades or performance by students, drop out in some cases, and some times it may lead to lost of lives of students or injury as a result of raping, snatching of cell phones, laptops and bags for the female students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government should provide enough security personnel in all the tertiary institutions in the state
- Parents and religious bodies should inculcate the habits and make constant monitory and advise to their children on the implications of engaging in criminal activities.
- Government at all levels and other stake holders as well should organized or sponsor constant awareness campaigns or programs on the dangers or implications of engaging in criminal activities in the tertiary institutions in the state.
- Mass media should be encouraged to embark upon sensitization campaigns on the effects of crime in relation to academic pursue by students of tertiary institutions in the state

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