

## **Youth empowerment: A criminological approach for crime prevention and control in Cross River State, Nigeria**

Joseph K. Ukwayi, Angioha, P. U. & Ojong-Ejoh, Mary U.

*Department of Sociology, University of Calabar, Nigeria*  
*E-mail: [jukwayi@gmail.com](mailto:jukwayi@gmail.com) Phone: +2348037279540*

---

**Abstract:** The study examines the relationship between youth empowerment, crime prevention and control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. Two research questions were formulated which guided the design of two null hypotheses from the independent variable. Survey research design was adopted for the study. Four hundred questionnaires were distributed, why three hundred and ninety six were retrieved (396) and used for analysis. The reliability test of the instrument was conducted using Cronbach alpha reliability method. Data were gathered through primary and secondary sources and were analysed using linear regression technique. Two hypotheses were tested at 0.5 level of significance. The result of the statistical analysis reveals that skills acquisition could contribute to the prevention and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. Economic empowerment could contribute to the prevention and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. The study recommends among others that Government at all levels should endeavour to create enabling environment for small and medium enterprise to grow and expand. This can be achieved through the provision of affordable loans with little or no interest, tax holiday, regular and steady power supply efficient transportation system, readymade market and other incentives should be provided for youths who are industrialists.

**Keywords:** Youth, empowerment, criminological, approach, crime, Prevention, and control

---

Date of Submission: 15-11-2017

Date of acceptance: 30-11-2017

---

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Globally, youth occupy a prominent place in the development of any given human society. They have in numerous ways contributed to sustenance and destruction of societal values and principles. Onyekpe (2007) describe youths as the owners and leaders of tomorrow, because in most societies, they outnumber the middle-aged and the aged. Besides numerical dominance, youth have energy and ideas that is a great asset to the society (Onyekpe, 2007). Their energies, inventiveness, character, and orientation define the pace of development and security of a nation. Through their imaginative, inventive, as well as innovative skills and physical strength, nations across the globe have made giant strides in socio-political cum economic development and attainments (Ukwayi & Okpa, 2017). The above assertion acknowledges the role of youths not only in the economic development, but also in maintenance peace, tranquillity, and security of a nation. As the most active segment of any society, youth are the major determiners of peace and stability of a nation (Sulaiman, 2006). Conversely, the degree of disorderliness and instability in any society is also determined in part by youth.

Crime is a critical security challenge, a burning issue that is and continue to confront the Nigeria society on daily basis. Scholars have unanimously contended that one of the major causes of criminality is the rising or increasing nature of youth unemployment. This perhaps explained why problem of extreme unemployment and its related sister-hunger are number one goal of the MDGs, a global framework to address basic issues that threaten the survival and continue existence of the human society, especially, the youths (Tambari & Imoh-Ita, 2016). The increase and prevalence of criminal activities are explainable from the political, religious, economic, environmental, and psychological paradigms. While all the above schools of thought are considered cogent in sociological and criminological analysis of crime and criminality among youth, Michael, Ojedukun and Chinwokwu (2013) submit that socio-economic paradigm is considered more concrete in the analysis of criminality in developing nations.

According to Iwerimie-Jaja (2013) criminality and other social vices like armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual killing, arson, assassination, among others in most developing nations are intricately associated with unemployment and poverty. Similarly, Obioha, (2004) posits that as far as making the basic ends meet continued to be cumbersome, the propensity to explore other available means such as indulging in crime will remain high and unpreventable in Nigeria. Accordingly, Egunjobi (2007) posits that many social problems such

as prostitution, robbery, alcoholism, domestic violence, social, religious and civil unrest and suicide to mention but few, become more severe in times of high unemployment. He therefore argued that there is a linkage between unemployment, lack of empowerment, and crime. When people cannot earn an income from legal, legitimate and social acceptable work/means; they turn to illegal activities. Acknowledging that youth criminality is triggered by unemployment and lack of skills, Nwokocha (2011) maintains that a sincere approach to crime control requires a pragmatic approach that will support youth empowerment programmes that would make the poor, unemployed and underemployed to become self-reliant.

Youth empowerment according to Nwokocha (2011) provides youths not only income, but also the opportunity to be productive, to contribute, and become socially valued members of their communities, to develop networks of support, and to build knowledge and self-esteem. For others, youth empowerment can also play the role of informal social control by preventing anti-social behaviour through the natural social conditions of the workplace. Smith (2012) noted that with crime situation becoming worse and majority of those arrested in alleged criminal activities are considered to be the poor, unemployed and underemployed, there is urgent need to empower the masses so that they can embark on diverse socio-economic activities to generate income for their upkeep. In attempt to check the problem of crime in Nigeria, government in recent times have introduced empowerment programmes such as Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE) meant to empower youths. The scheme was designed to provide 10,000 jobs for youths in each of the state of the federation (Abdulai, 2012). Youth empowerment plays a crucial role in crime control. Against this backdrop, the study was designed to examine the relationship between youth empowerment and crime control in selected local government areas in Cross River State, Nigeria. The following research questions were put forward to guide the study.

- (i) To what extent has skills acquisition reduce crime rate in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State?
- (ii) What is the relationship between economic empowerment and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State?

### **Objectives of the study**

The general objective of the study was to examine the relationship between youth empowerment, crime prevention, and control in selected local government areas in Cross River State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- (i) Determine the relationship between skills acquisition and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State
- (ii) Establish the relationship between access to Economic empowerment and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State

### **Statement of hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were stated and tested:

- (i) Skills acquisition could like contribute to the prevention and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State.
- (ii) Economic empowerment could like contribute to the prevention and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State.

## **II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Skills acquisition and crime control**

Giving more power through skills acquisition and amplify the possibilities to get or create a job or business, through micro-credits, access to ICT networks is one of the best way to fight crime and criminal elements. According to Ajufo (2013), skills acquisition as an empowering tool might help people to change the conditions of their lives by taking action while having knowledge and relevant skills of a trade that will make them competitive in the particular productive field. This to a large extent would keep them away from crime, because their mind is activated towards positive activities. Aremu and Ahmed (2011) posit that empowering people through skills acquisition can help check crime because those who have been empowered become self-reliance and independent. Similarly, Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) noted that skill acquisition programmes could be a strategy to improve the income status at the bottom line by making people aware of their potentials, which if properly harness would keep them away from poverty and criminal behaviour. Empowering people through skills acquisition programmes give them control and ownership of their lives, which consequently, discourages them from engaging in criminal behaviour. When youths are empowered, they see themselves as stakeholders in the development of any society they found themselves (Aremu & Ahmed 2011).

Skill acquisition programmes is one of the non-violent ways of checking crime and deviant behaviour among youths. It is critical for controlling crime in any human society (Okafor, 2011). The fact remains that youths should be made to be aware of the potentials they command, equipped them with skills to make informed

choice and negotiate for their rights, and have access to resources for their development, this will help keep them away from crime (Adenikinju, 2005). Empowering youths through skills acquisition according to Akpan (2006) implies the recognition that anyone can make the difference in his/her life and other people's lives. Ekpo, (2006), observed that when people are empowered they are equipped with skills and knowledge with which they would be able to earn a living and eschew violent crime. In this way, they will both be able to get paid employment or start up a business and earn an income that will make them avoid crime. Earning income is the first step towards a crime free life (Akpan, 2006). Empowered people can help to achieve a sustained economic growth and sustainable development, through investing in income generating activities (Ekpo, 2006). Skill acquisition makes people powerful, able, and active participant in the development of their society.

Creating a system where empowered people also feel the need to empower others will lead to poverty eradication and subsequently help in fighting crime (Ezeani, 2009). Skills acquisition is the best way to eradicate crime and criminals in any society. People with skills are able to achieve their goals in a much better way and that is usually the way in which the poverty cycle can be broken, which reduces the tendency for criminal behaviour (Dele, & Olayinka, 2009). Empowering individuals and communities through skills empowerment is necessary to attain equal distribution of available resources so that a few do not benefit from the labour of many. Empowering people means engaging all persons in economic activity. Skills empowerment helps provide people with choices and gives them the ability to improve themselves and their surrounding society (Chigunta, 2002; Ugwu, 2012). The empowerment process promotes greater social and economic participation by the disadvantaged and marginalized. People who are empowered are more proficient at identifying and seizing opportunities for self-employment and fuller employment. The seizing of these opportunities creates additional income streams for households. Ultimately, this will help to reduce crime. This increased income flow to households helps persons to meet their basic needs thereby helping to reduce crime in the system (Alanana, 2003). In addition, persons who are empowered make better decisions in the deployment of their individual and collective assets (Dele & Olayinka, 2009, Anas, 2010).

### **Economic empowerment and crime control**

Empowerment is a process through which individuals gain control over matters that concern them most. It is also, a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives (Page & Czuba, 1999; as cited in Nabavi, 2009). Economic empowerment refers to economic security of oneself (Irobi, 2008). Ere (2001) in Nkpoyen and Bassey (2012) stressed that the promotion of local cooperative societies and empowerment geared towards crime control in human society is very important. Ere (2001) argued that local cooperative societies could be regarded as voluntary organizations of persons with a common interest, formed and operated along democratic lines for the purpose of supplying services at minimum cost to its members who contribute both capital and business. Similarly, Girigiri (2000) reported that a significant association exists between provision of credit facilities, poverty alleviation and crime control. The provision of credit facilities helps individuals out of their economic predicaments and makes them responsible citizens. Okaba (2005) noted that provision of credit facilities to youths who possess skill have tremendously reduced poverty and crime, as well as improve their living standard. Access to credit facilities in recent times have become one of the most efficient vehicles for the effective mobilization of young entrepreneur and discouraging youth involvement in crime (Girigiri, 2000).

According to Taga (2013), one effective way of reducing crime is to make members of the society productive by economically empowering them. The empowerment of individuals creates a sense of responsibility and promotes participatory development in the society. Empowerment of people and their participation in the society can be achieved by connecting the individuals with different social institutions (e.g., financial, education, economic, political) (Taga, 2013). This goal can be achieved with the development and promotion of social capital, that is, activation of individual's capacities for empowerment. Empowerment of an individual may further activate ones hidden capacities and thereby making him/her a productive member of the society (Taga, 2013). Existing literature indicates a correlation between micro-lending and empowerment for crime free life through access to financial capital (Nkpoyen & Bassey, 2012). There is also an association between micro-lending and empowerment (Ndubi, 2008). According to Vosantakumari and Sharma (2010), empowerment is one of the development purposes to which micro-lending can be put. Through micro-lending programmes, women have become empowered to make choices that have resulted in increased recognition of their productive roles and by extension poverty reduction (Ahmed, et al., 2004; Bayes, 2005; Sosibo, 1999, in Nkpoyen & Bassey, 2012).

Empowerment is a process that increases the capacity of the disempowered to act on their own behalf and to analyse and understand their problems, to recognise their ability to act on their own behalf and increase their power and control over the resources necessary for sustainable and dignified life (Muro, 1994; Misana, 1995). Micro-credit is very important in creating access to productive capital for the poor to enable them move out of poverty (Magugui, *et al.*, 2014). The major contribution of micro-credit facilities to a developing

economy like that of Nigeria is its role in promoting entrepreneurship development in the nation. One of the successes of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria is the reduction of unemployment, poverty alleviation and crime (Osunde & Mayowa, 2012). The provision of micro-credit has been regarded as an important tool for raising the income of entrepreneur, mainly by mobilizing resources for more productive uses. This uses include the establishment of relationships with individuals and agencies for the purpose of harnessing market information and acquiring business skills (Shane & Cable, 2002; Iheduru, 2002; Bhagavatula, *et al.*, 2010) for the establishment of small/micro enterprises.

### **III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **Objective-list theory of well-being**

Objective list theory of well-being is associated to scholars such as Derek Parfit (1984) and James Griffin (1986). The theory outlined specify list of items that contribute to crime control. According to Fletcher (2013), objective list theory are enumerative – it specify steps towards effective eradication of crime. This list according to Rice (2013) includes support, partnership, achievement, pleasure, meaningful knowledge, loving relationships, and autonomy. Objective list consist not only of pleasurable experience or desire-satisfaction but other list of items that advances well-being and reduce criminal activities. They emphasized that every good items should be included in objective list. Objective list theory of well-being moved from abstraction to practical items that advanced human well-being in the social system. It is a departure from armchair reason to concrete facts/list of items that constitute or advance well-being (Fletcher, 2013).

The theory itemizes the basic goods of society that benefit people, increase pleasure, and reduce pains. Parfit (1984), Griffin (1986), Darwell (2002) posit that all items that enhances individuals' achievement and pleasure in society are embedded in objective list theory of well-being. It suggests that, income-generating jobs/activities that enable an individual to afford choice accommodation eat good/nutritious food, pay hospital bills, and send children to good schools to acquire meaningful knowledge is vital item in objective list theory. Objective-list theory of well-being is relevant to this study. This is because the theory list items that contributes to crime reduction and control in human society. These items include among others support, partnership, economic empowerment, loving relationship, acquisition of knowledge, access to financial support, and achievements. Through the acquisition of skill and financial empowerment, young people have been discourage from the adventuring into criminal activities. However, objective list theory of well-being has been criticized for being too simplistic. The theory failed to provide detail explanation on how each of the items in its list affects different individuals at different settings.

#### **Structural functionalism theory**

The limitation in objective list theory gave rise to the adoption of the theory structural functionalism theory. The theory views society as a single interconnected social system, each element of which performs a definite function (Ottong, 2004). The basic characteristic is the integration of its components and functional integration of system occasioned by interdependence of parts. The theory recognizes equilibrium in the social system (Ottong, 2004). Structural functionalism theory appears to be the right framework to adopt for this survey. This is because the framework views human society as a system made up of interdependent and interrelated components which function in unity to make a whole and that the component parts function harmoniously for the benefit of the whole social system. The harmonious functioning of the entire system helps in the actualisation of the needs of the system; this enables the system not to break down. In this study, the provision of several empowerment programmes such as skill acquisition, access to financial assistance, among others has work harmoniously to maintain the efficient functioning of the society.

This sociological perspective recognizes equilibrium in the social system. However, where the component parts fail to function efficiently, social disequilibrium sets in. Within the context of this study, crime and other social vices are responsible for the disequilibrium occurring in the system. However, with the provision of various empowerment programme the system can be restore to its equilibrium state. This suggests that the various empowerment programmes used by government or non-governmental agencies in checking crime and criminal behaviour is functional to the maintenance of equilibrium in the social system.

### **IV. METHODS**

The study adopted survey design. The design was adopted for because it allows participants to air out their opinions on the relationship between the variables under investigation. It was opted for because it is used to study people's feelings and attitudes about social events. The design allows for the use of questionnaire thus making it cheaper as compared to other research designs. More so, the design allows for the selection of samples and the generalization of findings. The study was carried out in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The senatorial district is situated within the tropics and shares boundary with Republic of Cameroon in the East; Yakurr Local Government Area in the North, in the South by Calabar Sea, in the South-

West by Akwa Ibom State, and in the North-West by Ebonyi State. With an area of 9,972 square kilometres and a population of 1,190,354. According to 2006 National Population Census, Southern Senatorial District is one of the largest Senatorial Districts in Cross River State and the Niger Delta Region.

The population of Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State is one million, one hundred and ninety thousand, three hundred and fifty-four (1,190,354) people (National Population Census, 2006). The study purposively selected four hundred (400) respondents from four communities in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. The instrument for data collection was 18 items questionnaire entitled “Youth Empowerment”. Elucidated data were coded and analysed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 20. Linear regression was used to test the relationship between youth empowerment and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The statistical formula that justifies the selection of four hundred (400) respondents was the Taro Yamane.

### **Presentation and discussion of findings**

This part of the work identifies the variables of the study, their mean and calculated standard deviation. The researcher uses the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 18 to perform frequency counts, percentages, mean, standard deviation, simple linear regression (R). It is important to state at this point that four hundred (400) questionnaires were distributed, only three hundred and ninety six (396) was returned and considered valid for this study. The percentage distribution of respondents’ demographic information revealed in respect to gender, that majority 50.8 per cent (N = 201) were male while only 49.2 per cent (N = 195) were female. The responses to the questionnaire in respect to age reveal that majority 29.3 per cent (N = 116) were below 30 years, respondents between the ages of 41-50 years were 29.0 per cent (N = 115), respondents in the group of those between the ages of 31-40 years were 25.5 per cent (N = 101), while those from 51 years and above had a representation of 16.2 per cent (N= 64). The distribution of respondents by educational qualification showed that majority of 29.5 per cent (N=117) respondents had their HND/B Sc qualification, 25.0 per cent (N=99) had the SSCE, 18.4 per cent (N=73) had from Master degree and above, 14.6 per cent (N=58) had their OND/NCE qualification, while 12.4 per cent (N=49) had their FSLC.

#### **Hypothesis one**

Hypothesis one in the null form states that, Skills acquisition could like contribute to the prevention and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The independent variable is skills acquisition while the dependent variable is crime control. To test the hypothesis, linear regression was employed to test the degree of effect on crime prevention and control. Result of the analysis is presented in table 1. From the decision rule; if P-value is greater than 0.05 accept  $H_0$  reject  $H_1$ . Results of regression analysis carried out revealed a P-value of 0.083 with df 4 and an F value 6.238. The P-value is less than 0.05, thus we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis, which states that Skills acquisition could contribute to the prevention and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

#### **Hypothesis two**

Hypothesis two states that, economic empowerment could likely contribute to the prevention and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The independent variable is economic empowerment, while the dependent variable is crime control. Result of the analysis is presented in table 2. To test the hypothesis, linear regression was employed to test the effect of economic empowerment crime control. From the decision rule: if P-value is greater than 0.05 accept  $H_0$  reject  $H_1$ . Results of regression analysis carried out revealed a P-value of 0.0560<sup>b</sup> with df 3 and an F value 7.17. The P-value is less than 0.05, thus we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. Therefore, economic empowerment significantly contributes to crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State.

**Table 4.1:** Linear regression analysis showing summary of the relationship skill acquisition and crime control

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.227 <sup>a</sup>	.052	.042	1.00476		
ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	21.666	4	5.416	5.365	1.010 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	398.772	392	1.010		
	Total	420.437	396			
Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardised Coefficients	Standardised Coefficients	T		Sig.

	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	3.574	.245		14.585	1.010
Crime control	.015	.041	.018	.366	.715
	-.090	.040	-.110	-2.239	.026
	-.110	.040	-.138	-2.775	.006
	.119	.044	.133	2.698	.007

a. Dependent Variable: crime prevention and control

b. Predictors: (Constant), skill acquisition

Source: SPSS Version 20 Linear regression analysis

**Table 4.2:** Linear regression analysis showing summary of the relationship between economic empowerment and crime prevention and control

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.129 <sup>a</sup>	.017	.009	1.02177

ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	7.009	3	2.336	6.238	.083 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	413.429	393	1.044		
	Total	420.437	396			

Coefficients

Model	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.890	.201		14.409	.083
Crime control	.047	.047	.051	.998	.319
	.091	.044	.103	2.042	.042
	.028	.046	.032	.615	.539

a. Dependent Variable: economic empowerment

b. Predictors: (Constant), crime prevention and control

Source: SPSS Version 20 Linear regression analysis

## V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

### Skills acquisition and crime control

The result of statistical analysis of hypothesis one revealed a significant relationship between skills acquisition and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The study shows that relevant skills, keeps occupied and discourages them from venturing crime. It was revealed that skills such as fashion and designing, GSM repairs, mechanical and electrical skills, computer skills can keep young people away from criminal activities. This finding corroborate with Okafor (2011), Ajufo (2013), Aremu and Ahmed (2011), Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2011). They observe all that, when people are empowered they are equipped with skills and knowledge with which they will be able to earn a living and eschew violent crime. In this way, they will both be able to get paid employment or start up a business and earn an income that will make them avoid crime.

### Economic empowerment and crime control

From the result of hypothesis two, the study shows that economic empowerment has significantly contributed to crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The study revealed that when youths are given proper economic empowerment to support their business, this makes them financially independent and discourage them from venturing into crime. It shows that the economic empowerment such as access to micro-credit, soft loans, grants and setting up small and medium enterprise critical in keeping youths away from crime. This finding is in accordance with the works of Taga (2013), Gingiri (2001), Okaba (2005). They all observe that, one effective way of reducing crime is to make members of the society especially the youths productive by economically empowering them. The empowerment of individuals creates a sense of responsibility and promotes participatory development in the society.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study assessed the relationship between youth empowerment and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. Emphasis was on the relationship between skills acquisition, economic empowerment, and crime control. After extensive statistical analysis of each of the formulated

hypotheses, the following conclusions were arrived at: There is a significant relationship between skills acquisition and crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. Economic empowerment has significantly contributed to crime control in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. Accordingly, Youths occupy a prominent place in any society. Apart from being the owners and leaders of tomorrow, they outnumber the middle-aged and the aged. Besides numerical superiority, youth have energy and ideas that are society's great potentials. This energy and strength if not properly harness can be channel towards negatives activities that would threaten the safety of lives and properties in any society.

### **Recommendations**

- (i) Existing skill acquisition centres established by government and private individuals should be strengthen and encourage. This will improve the quality of skills acquire by youths which can make them self-employed and productive
- (ii) Government at all levels should endeavour to create enabling environment for small and medium enterprise to grow and expand. This can be achieve through the provision of affordable loans with little or no interest, tax holiday, regular and steady power supply efficient transportation system, readymade market and other incentives should be provided for youths who are industrialists.

### **REFERENCES**

- [1]. Abdulahi, B. (2012). *FG to Partner status to address challenges facing Nigerian youth*. <http://blueprinting.com/2012/02/fg-to-partner-states-to-address-challenges-facing-nigerian-youth> Accessed 22- 5-17
- [2]. Adebayo, A. (1999). Youth unemployment and the National Directorate of Employment self-employment programmes. *The Nigerian Journal of Economic and Social Studies*, 41(1), 64-82.
- [3]. Adedokun, M. O. (2014). An overview of the challenges facing youths in Nigeria society. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 4(6), 154-161
- [4]. Adenikinju, A. (2005). *Analysis of the cost of infrastructure failures in a developing economy: The case of the electricity sector in Nigeria*. AERC Research Paper No. 148.
- [5]. Adewuyi, A. O. & Adeoye, B. W. (2008). Potential impacts of trade policy reform arising from Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on wage and employment in the Nigerian manufacturing subsectors. *African Journal of Economic Policy*, 15(2), 121 – 136.
- [6]. Ahmad, S., Naveed, M. S. & Ghafoor, A. (2004). Role of micro finance in alleviating rural poverty: A case study of Khushhali Bank program in Rahim Yar Khan– Pakistan. *Int. J. Agric. Biol.*, 6, 426–8.
- [7]. Ajufo, B. I. (2013). Challenges of youth unemployment in Nigeria: Effective career guidance as a panacea. *Afr. Res. Rev.*, 7(1), 307- 321.
- [8]. Akpan, E. O. (2006). The role of youth association and cooperatives. In: Akpan, G. E. and C. N. Ekong (Eds.). *Youth empowerment for sustainable development*. Uyo: Minder International.
- [9]. Akpan, G.E. (2006b). Economic incentives for employment generation. In: *Employment generation in Nigeria*. Nigerian Economic Society (NES) Proceedings, Nigeria.
- [10]. Akpan, G.E. (2006a). Issues in empowerment and development. In: Akpan, G. E. and C. N. Ekong (Eds.). *Youth empowerment for sustainable development*. Uyo: Minder International.
- [11]. Alabi, T. (2014). Youths' unemployment and crime control: An analysis of Nigerian experience. *European Scientific Journal*, 10(2), 301-312
- [12]. Alanana, O. O. (2003). Youth unemployment in Nigeria: Some implications for the third millennium. *Global Journal of Social Sciences*, 2(1), 21 – 26.
- [13]. Aremu, M. A. & Ahmed, Y. A. (2011). An investigation of security and crime management in developing society: The implications for Nigeria democratic set-up. *Int. J. Acad. Res. Bus. Soc. Sci.*, 3(1), 390-399.
- [14]. Awogbenle, A. C. & Iwuamadi, K. C. (2010). Youth unemployment: Entrepreneurship development programme as an intervention mechanism. *Afr. J. Bus. Manage.*, 4(6), 831-835.
- [15]. Bayes, A. (2005). *Micro credit and women's empowerment*. USA: World Prout Assembly. Highland Heights, USA.
- [16]. Bhagavatula, S., Elfring, T., Tilburg, A. & Van de Burnt, G. G. (2010). How social and human capital influence opportunity recognition and resource mobilisation in India's handloom industry. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 25(3), 245-260.
- [17]. Chigunta, F. (2002). *The socio-economic situation of youth in Africa: Problems, prospects and options*. Paper presented at the Youth Employment Summit, Alexandria, Egypt Sept. 2002.
- [18]. Darwell, S. (2002). *Welfare and rational care*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University.
- [19]. Dele, F & Olayinka, C. (2009). The search for protective shield for job seekers. *Guardian Newspapers*, June 9, 2009.

- [20]. Egunjobi, T. A. (2007). *Crime and unemployment: An empirical analysis*. A paper presented at Annual Conference of Nigerian Economic Society. August 2006.
- [21]. Ekpo, A. H. (2006). Child-labour, child/teenage prostitution, youth illiteracy and unemployment in Akwa Ibom State. Nigeria. In: Akpan, G. E. and C. N. Ekong (Eds.). *Youth empowerment for sustainable development*. Uyo: Minder International.
- [22]. Ezeani, E. (2009). A global recession and the curious case of unemployment in Nigeria. *European Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Science*, 11(1), 88-99.
- [23]. Fletcher, G. (2013). A fresh start for the objective list theory of well-being. *Utilities*, 25(2), 206-220.
- [24]. Girigiri, B. K. (2000). *A sociology of rural life in Nigeria*. Owerri: Spring Flirt
- [25]. Griffin, J. (1986). *Well-being: Its meaning, measurement, and moral importance*. Oxford. Clarendon Press.
- [26]. Iheduru, N. G. (2002). *Women entrepreneurship and development: The gendering of microfinance in Nigeria*. Paper presented at the 8th International Interdisciplinary Congress on women. Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.
- [27]. Iwarimie-jaja, D. (2013). *Criminology: The study of crime*. Port Harcourt: Springfield Publishers.
- [28]. Magugui, C. K., Kogei, J. K. & Chepkemei, A. (2014). Microfinance in the achievement of millennium development goals: A case of Koilot division, Nandeicounty, Kenya. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, 2(8), 1-7.
- [29]. Michael C. E., Ojedukun U. S. & Chiwonkwu E. C. (2013). Abolition of commercial motorbikes and its implication on transportation and criminality in Calabar metropolis. *International Journal of Social Science Studies*, 1(1), 206-214.
- [30]. Misana, S. (1995). *Gender dimension, poverty and women empowerment*. Paper presented in Zanzibar, Retreat on Poverty Reduction and Elimination, May 2-4.
- [31]. Muro, A. (1994). *The empowerment of women: New concepts and methodology in gender and development concerns*. A facilitating Paper presented at TGNP Seminar Series, March 23, Dares Salaam.
- [32]. Nabavi, S. A. H. (2009). Poverty and microenterprise development. *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(1), 120-128.
- [33]. National Population Census (2006). National census report. Abuja: Government Printing Press.
- [34]. Ndubi, F. D. (2008). *Micro-credit scheme and women empowerment in rural communities: A case study of Enugu North Senatorial District (Unpublished MBA Thesis)*. University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt.
- [35]. Nkpoyen, F. & Bassey, G. E. (2012). Micro-lending as an empowerment strategy for poverty alleviation among women in Yala Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 32(18), 233-241.
- [36]. Nwokocho, O. G. (2011). Entrepreneurship education: Concepts and constraints. *African Journal of Education and Development Studies*. 4(1), 196-207
- [37]. Obioha, E. E. (2004). *Public perception of the role of Nigeria police force and civil society based security operatives in urban crime management in Nigeria*, Niger Monograph series.
- [38]. Okaba, B. O. (2005). *Petroleum industry and the paradox of rural poverty in the Niger-Delta*. Benin City: Ethiopie Publishing Corporation.
- [39]. Okafor E. E (2011). Youth unemployment and implication for stability of democracy in Nigeria. *J. Sustainable Deve. Afr.*, 13(1), 358-373.
- [40]. Onyekpe, N. (2007). Managing youth at election: The constitution. *A Journal of Constitutional Development*, 1(1), 76 – 87.
- [41]. Osunde, C. & Mayowa, A. G. (2012). Microfinance and entrepreneurial development in Nigeria. *Journal of Research in National Development*, 10(3), 405-410.
- [42]. Osunde, C. & Mayowa, A.G. (2012). Microfinance and entrepreneurial development in Nigeria. *Journal of Research in National Development*, 10(3), 405-410.
- [43]. Ottong, J. G. (2014). *The study of sociology: A conceptual approach*. Calabar, Adonai Publishing House.
- [44]. Parfit D. (1984). *Reasons and persons*. Oxford University Press, Oxford
- [45]. Parfit D. (1984). *Reasons and persons*. Oxford University Press, Oxford
- [46]. Pasha, A. H. & Palanivel, T. (2004). *Pro-poor growth and policies: The Asian experience*. Asia-Pacific Regional Programme on the Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction, United Nations Development Programme
- [47]. Perkins, P. & Luiz, J. (2005). An analysis of economic infrastructure investment in South Africa. *South African Journal of Economics*. 73(2).
- [48]. Rice, C. M. (2013). Defending the objectives list theory of well-being. *Ratio*, 26(2), 196-221.
- [49]. Shane, S. & Cable, D. (2002). Network ties, reputation and the financing of new ventures. *Management Sciences*, 48(3), 364-381.



- [50]. Smith, S. A. (2012). *Urban unemployment and social vices in Ibadan*. Lagos: Femi Publications
- [51]. Suleiman, A.S. (2006). *The Business Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurial Development, Small and Medium Enterprises*, 2nd Edition. Kaduna: Entrepreneurship Academy Publishing
- [52]. Taga, A. A. (2013). Social capital and poverty alleviation: Some qualitative evidences from Lahore district. *International Journal of Basics and Applied Sciences*, 1(3), 681-693.
- [53]. Tambari, N. & Imoh-Ita, I. (2016). Youth unemployment and crime rate in the Niger Delta: A comparative analysis of its intensity in Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers State. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 21(2), 07-11
- [54]. Vosathakumari, R. M. & Sharma, V. J. (2010). *Microcredit: The theoretical framework and empirical evidence*. New Delhi: Vistaar Publications.

Joseph K. Ukwayi Youth empowerment: A criminological approach for crime prevention and control in Cross River State, Nigeria.” *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, vol. 22, no. 11, 2017, pp. 73-81.