

## **THE PATTERN AND DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME INCIDENCE IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT: A CASE STUDY OF OSUN STATE, SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA.**

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### **Abstract**

*This study examines the pattern of crime distribution in Osun State Nigeria, over a period of fifteen years (1985-2000). The study focuses attention on criminal activities as affecting the liveability of residents of urban centers in the state. The investigation was carried out using ten selected local government areas that are notorious as black-spots crime area in the State. Five hundred Household-heads were administered questionnaires to solicit for information on type of crimes commonly perpetrated in their neighbourhoods as well as these crimes' causes, impacts, and coping mechanisms that sustained them. Factor analysis and Multiple regression statistical methods were used to reduce bulky data collected from primary and secondary sources into manageable standard. Relationship between variables as means of rewriting the data to show differential patterns was established. Results indicated that most residents in the area of study exhibited a significant higher-level of fears, but still want to remain in their cultural homes. Suggestions were put forward on policy measures that can sustain future planning of urban centers in the state to conform to modern city of the world .*

**Keywords:** Distribution, Crime Incidence, Black-Spots, Pattern, Coping Mechanism, Planning.

### **Introduction**

The growth in urban crime rate in Nigeria is one of the major social problems facing the country in recent time. The dominance of crime in developing countries increases the volatility of the issue, for it pyramids one fear upon others. The concentration of violent crimes in major urban centers worldwide is therefore heralded as an indicator of the breakdown of urban systems. In many urban centers of Nigeria today, criminal activities and violence are assuming dangerous tendencies as they threaten lives and property, the national sense of well-being and coherence, peace, social order and security, thus, reducing the citizens' quality of life. (Agbola, 2000; Ahmed 2010). The fear of armed robbery keeps Nigerians sleepless at night and they tend to live one day at a time with the fear of whether they will see the light of tomorrow. They are especially afraid of armed-robbers, paid assassins, political thugs and other criminals who assess life as being worthless. Nigerians find it difficult to put their trust on police protection because Nigeria is under policed with an average of one policeman to 5000 Nigerians, compared to that of one policeman to 400 persons in the developed world. Nigerian police are, at times, in collusion with the men of the underworld to unleash terror on their fellow countrymen (Agbola, 1997).

Schaefer (1989) referred to crime as a violation of criminal law which its formal penalties are applied by some governmental authority. Crime according to Dan Bazau (1994) is something which offends the morality of society, or that violates the divine law. The consensus approach to defining crime presents it as; an offence that is committed by omission, commission or deliberately. This work therefore, examines the crime distributional pattern in Osun State, Southwestern Nigeria from 1985 to 2000 as affecting urban planning in the state as a whole.

The major motivating factors of this study are centered on various socio-economic and political movements that transformed the country between 1985 and 2000. The country witnessed series of crime waves that transposed a new dispensation into the so-called 'modern democratic government'. Hence, Nigeria witnessed different modes of governance from military to civilian regimes before these periods. The military, in the first instance, solely took advantage of its professional training by using violence to usurp power through coups and counter coups. The politicians in their turn, and in their bids to absorb power, used hired-thugs, or paid assassins/hired killers to perpetrate violence and instill fears on their opponents. The frustrated masses took to formulation of militant groups as witnessed in the uproar of the youths from South-South and the Boko-Haram Sect from the North-Eastern path of the country disregarded the law.

In view of the above, there is therefore, the need to look critically at the pattern and distribution of crime ascendant in the country (Omisakin,1998).

Some scholars in various social science disciplines like; Oyebanji (1982); Omisakin (1998); Alemika (2003); Agbola (2002); Ahmed,(2010) and hosts of other writers have at one time or the other engaged in various studies of social problems and poor management of urban centers. They attempted some measures that can ameliorate criminal activities in urban centers of Nigeria. But most of their suggestions for security improvement in our cities were not implemented resulting into series of problems that are facing the country today. The law enforcement agents lack adequate logistic and standard equipment to confront criminals in duel contest. The Nigerian Police numerical strength is not commensurate with the total population – one Policeman to 5000 Nigerians; unlike in developed countries with one Policeman to about 400 people (Agbola, 1997). Also, there is the problem of an unusual tension, when the new Governments are coming to assume power through the national election. A good example was witnessed in Nigeria after the so-called ‘fair’ election in May, 2011. Followed the elections were bomb blasts in Abuja (the Federal Capital), Bauchi, Kaduna, Suleja and Maiduguri. In the process many people have either been wounded or maimed, while innocent citizens (women and children) have been killed in cold blood. All these serial bombings were carried out by the new sect- ‘Boko Haram.’ Nobody is spared as virtually all Nigerians now lived in perpetual fear of insecurity in the country as a whole. In spite of the laudable government policies undertaken on assumption of offices over this period to combat this new menace, more crises and tragedies continued to occur. Surprisingly, the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters at Abuja (Federal Capital) was bombed on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 by Boko Haram sects. The blast killed eight policemen, wounded forty-four, nine policemen inclusive. Also, not less than seventy seven vehicles were burnt into scraps (The Punch, 2011).

In the light of the foregoing, some questions are raised and should be clarified to articulate the problem and objectives of this study:

What is the trend of crime in the study area in the last fifteen years?

To what extent is police deployments are able to reduce crimes perpetration in Southwestern Nigeria?

What are the societal/institutional failures that have significantly contributed to the upsurge of rate of crime rate in the study area?

What type of policy measures can therefore be employed to reduce crime patterns at the regional or urban scale in Nigeria?

### **The Study Area**

Osun state was created on August 27, 1991 along with others states in the federation. The state consisted of Osun, Ife, and Ijesa provinces. The state on its creation was made up of 23 LGA’s inherited from old Oyo state. Osun State is situated within the tropics and most of the areas fall within two main seasons- wet and dry. The rainy season occurs between April and October, while the dry season, lasts for about November to March annually. Further to this, the rainfall pattern starting from Lagos area and Ijebu-Ode shows a tendency towards a double maximal separated by a short dry season on one hand, while Osogbo close to Offa and Ilorin in Kwara State are characterized by two rainfall peaks which are also separated by a more pronounced break (Adeyemi, 1992). There is marked uniformity in the thermal regime in Osun State Southwestern Nigeria. The mean annual temperature exhibits this uniformity. This mean annual temperature increases by only 1° from 270c in the interior of southwestern area. All these attributes emphasized not only the population distribution but also socio-economic development of study area.

Alluvial, ferrisols/ferralitic and ferruginous are the main soil types in Osun State. Accordingly most soils in Osun State contained very limited reserves of weather able minerals due to intensive leaching. Where soils are good there are concentration of population who use the soil for intensive farming in the study area. However, among Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria lands are most prominent and valuable assets but sometimes it may lead to liability and conflicts among kinfolk where they cannot compromise (Adeyemi, 1992).

The vegetal covers of Osun state Southwestern Nigeria can be classified into forest and savannah communities. The forest community consists of the mangrove forest, the fresh water and the rain forest. While the savannah community is made up of the Derived and the Guinea savannah (Areola, 1982; Adeyemi 1992).

The main land in southwestern Nigeria is covered by secondary forests, while the northern boundary by savanna, which is the most predominant. Among the well-endowed areas within the country, Southwestern Nigeria is gifted with both human and natural resources that spread across the length and breadth of the region (Adedayo, 1989).

The major occupations of the people in this region are farming, trading craft works and public works. The type of crops usually grown by the people of the area ranges from commercial cultivation of tree crops – cocoa, palm oil, kola nut and cashew to tuber crops-coco yam, cassava, yam and other crops. Other occupations engaged by people of South-western Nigeria include; public and private works-civil servants, cottage industries, trading, transportation, arts and craft work among others. South-western Nigeria in general, is characterized by distribution of wholesale and retail markets, and this has been the life sustenance for many people in both rural and urban centers of Osun state

Fig.1. Map of Nigeria showing the Study Area.

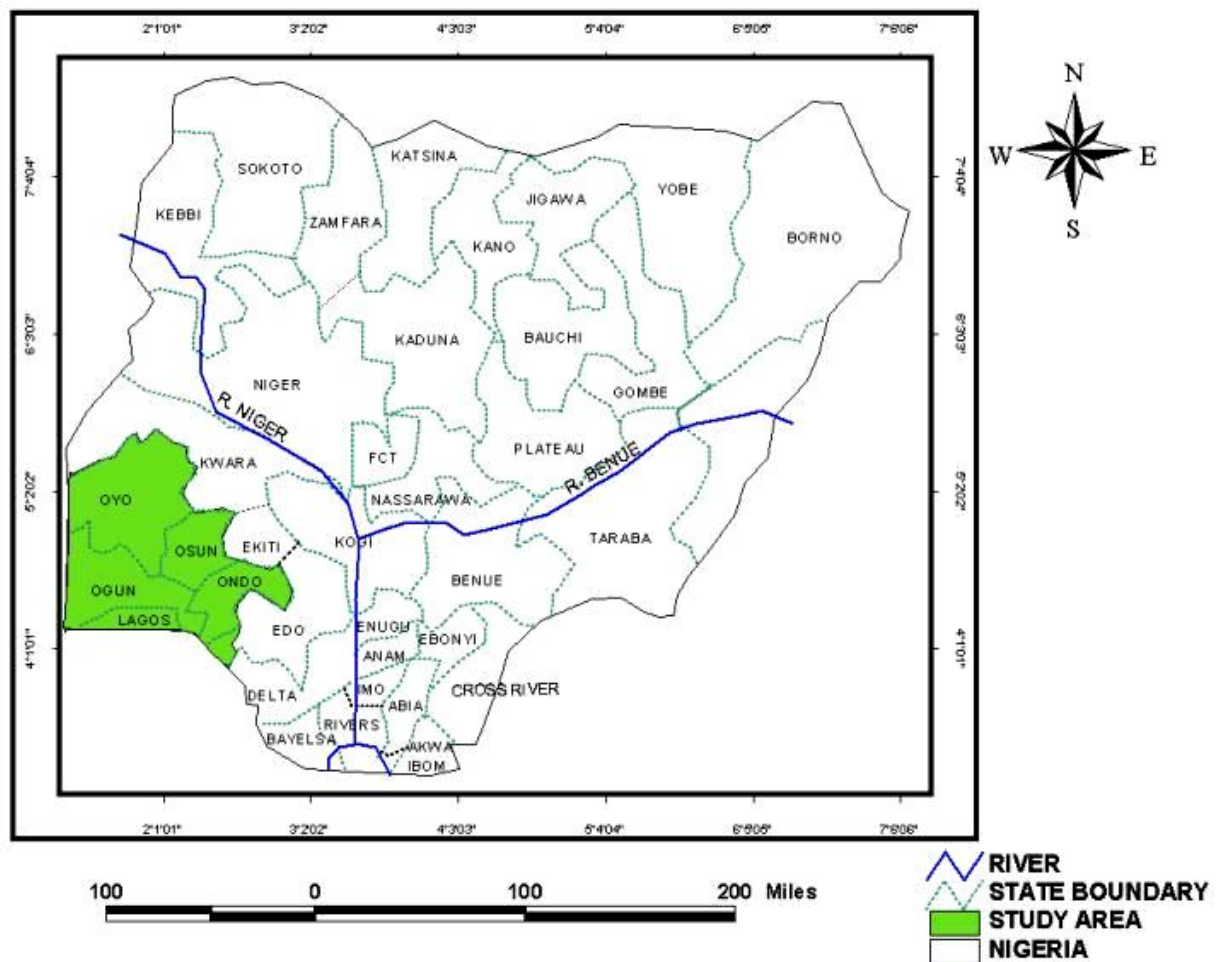
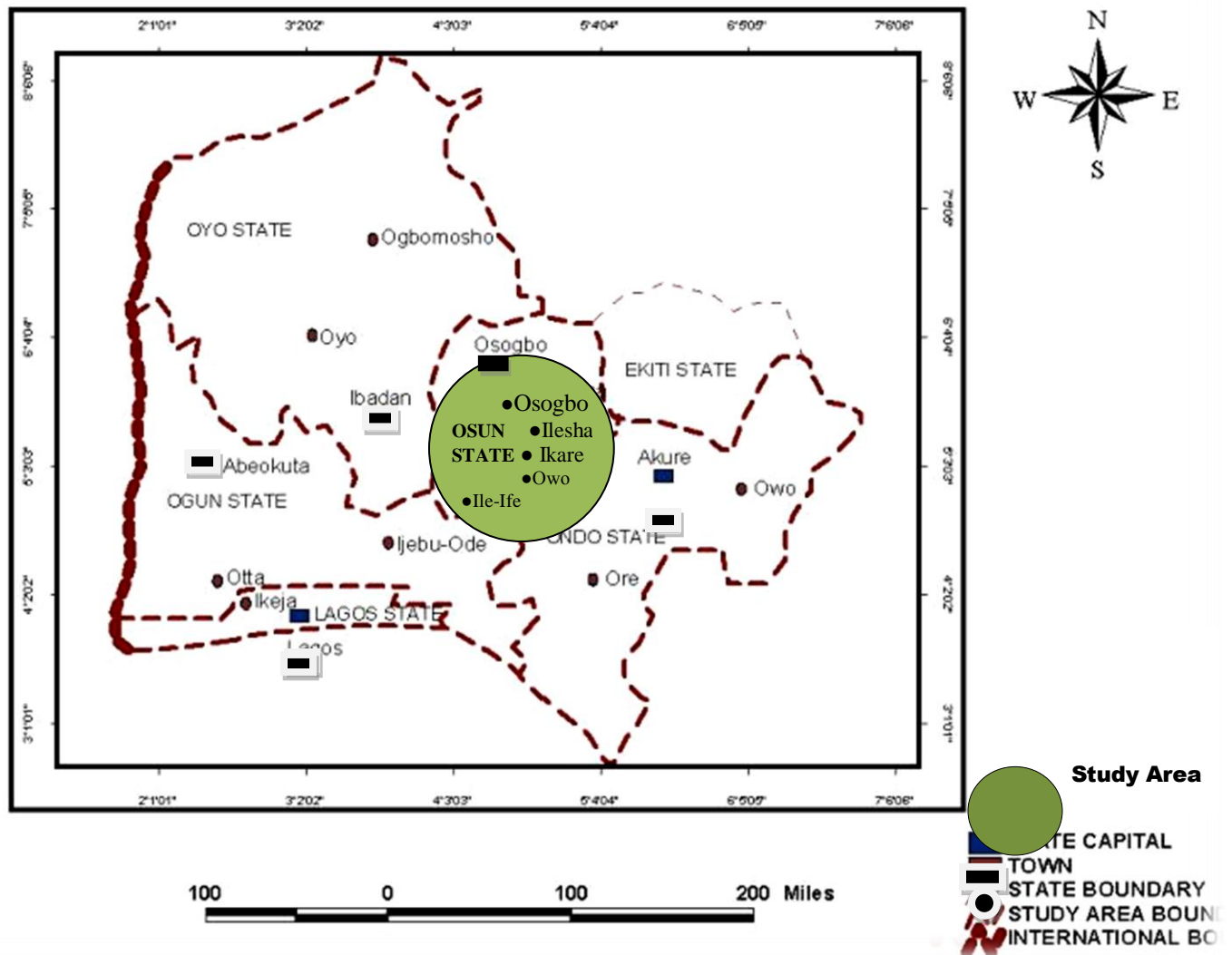


Fig.2. Urban Centers in Osun State, Nigeria



**Methodology**

The data required for this study was obtained primarily from secondary source and was acquired from Zone Eleven of the Police Zonal Command Southwestern Nigeria that comprises- Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Lagos States. The data collected from this Zone was a bulk data but it was reduced into twenty three less formidable standard-twenty three indices (see table1). For a proper understanding, these data were categorized into new indicators-Crime Against Person, Crime Against Property and Crime Against Lawful Authority (see also table 2).This twenty three variables were later re-written in an attempt to identify the most salient variables to adapt in explaining the main distributional pattern of crimes in the study area. Aderamo (2000) Ahmed (2010) used factor analysis in the spatial pattern of Intra-Urban Trips in Ilorin and Trend and Pattern of Crime in Southwestern Nigeria respectively. Thus the method is considered as the most suitable for the task of separating factors and identifying development indices for explaining factors affecting distribution of crime in selected urban centers in Osun state, Nigeria.

On the other hand, multiple regression was also used to find a way of isolating the most important factor-defining variables sustained from the factor analysis technique. Olawepo (1996) and Fabiyi (2004) used similar methods in their works in the recent past. Therefore, this method was adopted in this study to assist in deriving a new model, which can be used for predicting urban crime patterns in Osun state, Nigeria.

**Table 1. Categorization of Crime Indices.**

<b>Index Crime</b>	<b>Organized Crime</b>	<b>Professional Crime</b>
Murder	Armed robbery	Cheating
Manslaughter	Extortion with menace	Coining Offence
Attempted murder	Theft and stealing	Gambling
Suicide and attempted suicide	House breaking	Breach of public peace
Grievous harm and wounding	Store breaking	Perjury
Assault Child stealing	False pretence	Bribery and corruption
Child labour / slavery	Forgery	Escape from lawful custody
Rape and indecent assault	Receiving stolen property	Traffic offence
Kidnapping	Unlawful Arms Possession	Liquor offence
Aberration	Arson	Fire-arm offence
Others	Computer Scams	Narcotic offence
	Others	Others

**Source:** Adapted from Omisakin (1998), and modified by the Author, (2010).

**Table 2. Summary of Reported Cases of Crime in Osun State, Southwestern Nigeria 1985-2000.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Crime Against Persons</b>	<b>Crime Against Property</b>	<b>Crime Against Lawful Acts</b>	<b>Crime Against Local Acts</b>	<b>Total</b>
1985	3566	5723	925	1052	11266
1986	3150	3950	605	1604	9309
1987	1811	2830	246	579	5466
1988	2040	2952	080	458	5530
1989	1195	1604	062	318	3179
1990	634	1228	111	205	2178
1991	346	1822	147	534	2849
1992	1722	4663	274	937	7596
1993	1836	4648	378	1057	7919
1994	1679	3770	288	474	6211
1995	1588	4000	682	1141	7011
1996	1538	3942	224	1102	6806
1997	1787	3875	169	980	6811
1998	1826	4199	329	1616	7970
1999	2912	4667	306	1431	8533
2000	2043	4594	352	1632	8621
<b>Total</b>	<b>28890</b>	<b>58467</b>	<b>5178</b>	<b>15120</b>	<b>107655</b>

**Source:** The Nigeria Police Command, Zone Eleven, Osun State, Nigeria (2009).

Since the major tasks in the study are to identify, organize, and explain the pattern and trend of crime in Osun State, Southwestern Nigeria, it becomes imperative to apply appropriate methods of research enquiry that is suitable for our huge database that go along with objectives set. Thus, the Factor Analysis technique, Time-Series Analysis and Multiple Regression Method were adopted for this work in succession: The first step was based on the use of Factor Analysis in as to reduce the volume of data collected on criminal cases in to a formidable standard. With this technique, twenty three variables adopted however, were utilized on the basis of their respective surrogate measures.

The second step used results obtained from the factor analysis as input into the Multiple Regression Analysis which also explained the most salient factors that determined the major causes of crime incidence in the study area. Thirdly, the Time Series Analysis explained in sequence the trends of crime over time in selected urban centers in Osun State respectively. Olawepo and Ahmed (1999) used this same method to explain the 'Factorial Ecology of a Traditional Urban Centre of Ilorin-Nigeria.' Similarly, Oyebanji (1981) and Adedayo (1989) applied factor analysis to study 'the Geography of Crime', and Spatial In-equality in Kwara State Nigeria' respectively.

### ***Results and Discussions***

In order to assess the relationship that exists between the selected variables of crime under investigation, a correlation matrix for each factor executed was put into computerized form. The correlations among the twenty three variables were dispensed accordingly (see table 3). By putting into consideration values that are larger than +0.60, we can observe that many of the variables are closely related. Though, the pattern of values that are significant are shown in two levels, those correlations that are significant at 0.01 (99% at 2-tailed) level and at 0.05 (95%-at 1-tailed). But the higher significant levels are seen to have common with 0.01 significant levels. For example, there is high correlation at about twelve different levels. Thus: between murder and attempted murder, between Grievous wound and assault, rape, theft and stealing, as well as armed robbery. Also between burglary and grievous wound, receiving of stolen goods; assault, theft and grievous. Also between house breaking and theft; breach of public peace and arson, computer scam; as well as between breach of public peace and house breaking.

Succinct to say, all the crime variables are expected to determine the rates of criminality in the area of study, with its immeasurably determinant indices. The crime variable list on the other hand, is expected to be the basic access for finding not only the rates by which crimes are pervaded and patterned, but how it was distributed with time in the study area. Ideally, the prominent pattern of correlations that are of greater significant among the twenty three variables as described above and are in conformity with the loadings of different values of components that emerged (see also table 4).

Table 3. Matrix of Inter-Correlation on Crime Measures in Osun State.

	Murd	Attem	Suicid	Givous	Assault	Ch stln	Rape	Kidnap	Abbra	Armed	Dd	Withft	Sln	Burgl	House	Forger	Bribery	Perjur	Rec stl	Un	Arm	Arson	IEsc	Compu
	Murd		iWound						Rob	Menac			Brkn					Goods	Possess	IPrison		Scam		
Mur	1.000																							
Att Mur	.395**	.101																						
Sui	.018	.122	1.000																					
GriWou.	.296**	.087	.006	1.000																				
Assault.	.073	-.038	-.126	.494**	1.000																			
Chst	-.031	.086	.044	.205**	-.030	1.000																		
Rap	.260**	.115	.091	.403**	.304**	.101	1.000																	
Kid	-.052	.028	.099	-.038	-.230**	.061	.048	1.000																
Abbra	-.071	.139	.112	-.049	-.307**	.087	-.134	.592**	1.000															
A.Rob	.436**	.162	-.215*	.224**	.316**	-.040	.384**	-.058	-.211**	1.000														
Dd M	-.069	-.085	-.101	-.115	-.316**	.088	-.031	.096	-.005	-.103	1.000													
Th/Stn	.113	-.071	.070	.441**	.543**	.166	.601**	-.143	-.203*	.261**	-.187	1.000												
Burg	.362**	.085	.006	.508**	.387**	.167	.652**	.075	-.054	.355**	.001	.465**	1.000											
H/Bre	.185	.017	.149	.409**	.551**	.185	.632**	-.056	-.136	.249**	-.300*	.776**	.584**	1.000										
Forg	.051	.164	.034	.114	.041	.001	.339**	.097	.169	.089	-.086	.232**	.212*	.230*	1.000									
Brib	-.024	.165	.288**	.033	-.132	.151	.053	.337**	.278**	-.237*	-.009	-.044	.098	.063	.091	1.000								
Pejury	-.044	.061	.060	-.014	-.289**	.025	-.120	.133	.387**	-.114	.009	-.194*	-.029	-.208*	.115	.231*	1.000							
Rest	.306**	.053	-.200*	.261**	-.021	-.099	.194*	-.209*	-.167	.285**	.185	.015	.201*	-.123	.039	-.173	.017	1.000						
Aber.	.039	.129	.201**	.111	.113	.230**	.496**	.281**	.279**	.127	-.183	.361**	.467**	.504**	.305**	.289**	.184	-.250*	1.000					
Ars	.085	.006	-.170	.019	-.209**	.139	-.086	-.138	-.139	.083	.379**	.135	-.039	-.349**	-.172	-.140	.281**	.248*	-.246*	1.000				
Brea	.098	-.024	.102	.347**	.569**	.070	.530**	-.096	-.186	.201**	-.378*	.624**	.442**	.749**	.208*	.032	-.300*	-.218*	.370**	-.463*	1.000			
Esc	.015	.098	-.007	.140	-.309**	.082	.001	.234**	.280**	.000	.423**	.159	.040	-.346**	.030	.234*	.406**	.295**	.019	.495**	1.000			
ComSca.	.286**	.065	-.012	.626**	.459**	.098	.605**	-.141	-.273**	.307**	-.096	.549**	.638**	.531**	.142	-.081	-.152	.260**	.288**	.084	.084	1.000		

Source: Author's Fieldwork 2009.

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The pattern and distribution of crime incidence as found in Osun State from 1985 and 2000 indicates that twenty three large data were reduced to five latent and standardized variables. Using principal component method of extraction, the latent crimes retained and accounted for 67.5%, this seems reasonable enough to validate our explanations (see also table 4 and 5).

**Table 4. Rotated Component Factors**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate Factor (I)</b>	<b>Rural/Urban Migration Syndicate (II)</b>	<b>Inadequate No. of Police Factor (III)</b>	<b>Family Responsibility/ Obligation Factor (IV)</b>	<b>Drug Abuse/ Trafficking Factor (V)</b>
Murder	.23	.08	-.04	.81	-.01
Attempted murder	-.07	-.01	.14	.79	.19
Suicide	-.01	-.017	.05	.15	.65
Grievous wound	.68	.18	-.04	.17	.04
Assault	.61	-.32	-.30	-.07	-.18
Child stealing	.27	.20	-.02	-.06	.58
Rape	.80	-.08	.14	.15	-.03
Kidnapping	-.08	.01	.69	-.05	.15
Aberration	-.20	-.09	.78	-.00	.15
Armed robbery	.40	-.05	-.07	.45	-.44
Demand with menace	-.07	.67	-.00	-.19	.08
Theft/stealing	.80	-.21	-.12	-.09	.05
Burglary	.80	.09	.15	.17	.02
House breaking	.79	-.43	-.02	-.07	.16
Forgery	.28	-.18	.48	.11	-.17
Bribery	.05	.07	.40	.08	.60
Perjury	-.14	.29	.59	.02	.03
Receiving stolen goods	.18 .49	.48 -.23	-.13 .56	.34 -.05	-.40 .24
Unlawful arms poss.	-.03	.78	-.15	.05	-.09
Arson	.65	-.58	-.00	-.05	.07
Preach of peace	-.00	.79	.37	.08	.04
Escape from custody. Computer scam	.82	.16	-.13	.13	-.07
Eigen Value	5.17	2.89	2.53	1.82	1.74
% of Variance	22.55	12.57	11.01	7.93	1.74
Cumulative %	22.55	35.12	46.13	54.06	61.62

**Source:** Author's Computer Output,(2010).



**Table 5. Distribution of the Component Scores on Measures of Crime in Osun State**

S/No.	Variance	Component I	Component II	Component III	Component IV	Component V
1.	Child Stealing	0.852	0.000	0.128	0.000	0.000
2.	Forgery	0.844	0.210	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.	Perjury	0.778	-0.173	0.000	0.000	0.000
4.	Suicide	0.733	-0.115	0.160	0.122	0.186
5.	Aberration	0.641	-0.197	0.253	0.111	0.186
6.	House Breaking	0.575	-0.245	0.473	0.000	0.234
7.	Computer Scams	-0.154	0.786	0.000	0.125	0.241
8.	Armed Robbery	0.000	0.622	0.000	0.538	0.118
9.	Assaults	0.504	-0.604	0.158	0.249	0.304
10.	Theft/Stealing	0.544	-0.599	0.233	0.000	0.300
11.	Burglary	0.281	-0.574	0.530	-0.110	0.307
12.	Demand with menace	0.000	0.536	0.000	0.305	-0.106
13.	Escape from custody	0.115	0.000	0.873	0.000	0.000
14.	Arson	0.177	-0.110	0.869	0.105	-0.140
15.	Bribery/corruption	0.340	-0.154	0.601	-0.164	0.000
16.	Recev. stolen goods	0.437	0.214	0.501	-0.214	-0.141
17.	Unlawful arms possess.	0.181	0.253	-0.436	0.370	0.000
18.	Attempted murder	0.000	0.208	0.000	0.890	0.000
19.	Kidnapping	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.775	0.000
20.	Murder	0.000	0.533	-0.151	0.660	0.000
21.	Rape	-0.126	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.787
22.	Preach of peace	0.296	0.465	-0.215	0.000	0.636
23.	Grievous wound	0.101	-0.203	-0.153	0.360	0.572

**Source:** Author's Computer Output, (2011).

### ***Factors Explanation***

All the variables that are responsible for the causes and effects of crimes commitment in the study area are relatively important. Though, there is variability in the contributions of each of these factors which could be obviously seen as the eigen values are greater than one (see table 4). We can also say that we interpret the components as representing groups of variables by considering component loadings greater than +0.60 and labelled the components accordingly. The varimax rotated factor loadings of the original data set are also depicted in table 4. For our attention, factor I accounts for 22.55% of the total variance explained with its significant positive loading. This factor is tagged Condition of Unemployment Rate. The characteristics of this factor tend to show that there are more people that take into crimes when they are unable to earn good standard of living that can meet their family needs.

Factor II exhibited a high positive loadings and accounts for 12.57% of the total variance. The factor is termed Rural/Urban Migration Syndicate. Due to the belief that there are more employment opportunities in major urban centers, many able bodied youths drift to the urban centers/cities like Osogbo, Ife, Ikare and other areas in Osun State Nigeria.

Factor III on the other hand, explained 11.01% of the total variance that has significant positive loadings on different crimes committed and reported. Most of the crimes committed could have been curtailed if there are adequate security personnel in the selected areas of Osun State; hence this factor is referred to as Police Inadequacy Factor.

More importantly and again, Factor IV accounted for 7.93% of the total variance explained. This factor has to do with notable crimes affecting individual personality-(Crime Against Persons). Thus is labeled Family Responsibility/Obligation Factor. Most of the obligations are not met due to meager income of the household heads.

Lastly, Factor V accounted for 1.74% of the total variance and is basically an aggregate measure of positions which some people uphold in the community. For instance, some individuals aid or abet crime like; drug abuse and trafficking. Thus, this factor is termed Drug Abuse/Trafficking Factor. Factor V is also significant because it influences other variable factors to work. Criminals use drugs as aid in order to commit crimes. This factor accounts for 1.74% of the total variance.

### **Incidence of Crime Model**

Modeling of crime incidence is imperative simply because such model will assist in resolving the problems of crime cases in Osun State and Nigeria in general. Because such model can further be used to develop a robust mathematical model, which will further aid the prediction of crime perpetration in Osun state now and in the near future. Therefore, spatial distribution of crime incidence in Osun State can be best predicted with equation 1.

In addition to the above, Stepwise Regression Analysis was put forward in order to find a way of isolating the most important factor defining variables sustained from the factor analysis technique. The method also assists in deriving a model, which can be used for predicting urban crime patterns in Osun State, southwestern Nigeria. As a reminder, the result of the factor scores derived through the use of factor analysis technique equally served as input into stepwise regression model.

$$Y = 3691344.4 - 289265 \text{ CONUMRATE} + 457743.9 \text{ RURMIGRATE} - 214200.5 \text{ POLINADQUACY} + 243433.5 \text{ FAMOBLIGATION} - 59518.3 \text{ DRUGTRAFFICK. (eq. 1)}$$

(R<sup>2</sup>=80.6% std error 24.4)

The above implied that explanation of spatial distribution of crime in Osun State, should be sought in the selected five variables which are accessibility to condition of unemployment rate, rural-urban migration, police inadequacy, family obligation and drug abuse/trafficking. However, these findings also confirmed somewhat, what really happened all over the world most especially among the developing countries in terms of crimes perpetration and their spatial distribution.

### **Recommendation**

The incidence of crime wave and its intensity has been on increasing not only in Nigeria but all over the world. Therefore, urgent needs for safety and security through diverse means are overdue in order to make global cities' environment livable. The spread of crime in cities world-wide are becoming a foremost phenomenon and a proper consideration by all stakeholders such as; the government, the security personnel and the communities' participation in crime reduction is duly warranted.

To make this suggestions work therefore, it is recommended that:

- Residents of cities need to maintain positive attitude and remain calm at any crime alert condition; they should not feed their minds with much fear from unnecessary apprehension and panic (Ahmed, 2010). They must always remain unruffled, steadfast, and help one another especially when there is a need for help in their neighbourhoods.
- People should always mind their own business, but be cautious and vigilant about all that go around them mostly among the people living in cities.
- Residents of cities in Nigeria should avoid carrying or displaying some criminogenic items such as; huge sum of money or attractive wares that can invite criminals to their neighbourhoods.
- Efficient security coping mechanism should be taken up by the government and the security agents, such that the police patrols is extended to all nooks and corners of the city centers.

It is when all these suggestions are put in place that cities in Nigeria would attract a more stable society which encourages investment (domestic and international), a more secure community with abundant opportunities for all ethnic groups in the country. Any contrary propositions to the above would not enhance a free flow of commerce and ideas, freedom of speech and the press, as well as new innovation into the country.

## Conclusion

This work has eventually served as eye-opener to some hidden facts about criminal activities in Osun State, Southwestern Nigeria. The work has demonstrated the effect of social structure on human beings leading to crime incidence in various hot-spots in the state. The reaction of human beings for survival within the social structure has constituted a corpus of knowledge relevant to examination of youth's engagement in urban violence. Youths who are found in criminal activities absorb crime as a method of adjusting to social malignant. To eradicate crimes, therefore fundamental societal survival techniques must be dissociated from crime. This requires a fundamental restructuring of the society towards productive engagement in the sector that can provide the need and positive aspiration of the people in cities all over the world. Positive achievement is obtained through educational institutions, community participation in productive engagements, and above all, where governments perform its tasks appropriately. To reduce youths' perceived negative attitude, societal negatives must be ameliorated.

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