

Perspectives of Nigerian Policemen across Educational Levels on Causes and Prevention of Crimes among Nigerian Students

**Agbonna, Samuel Ayorinde
and
Okafor, Ifeoma Priscillian-Lilian**

Abstract

This study sought to know whether Nigerian policemen were conservative or liberal? based on what they believed to be the causes and prevention of crime in Nigerian schools. The study sampled 398 respondents from the population of policemen across Police Division in Kwara State, Nigeria- using multi-stage sampling technique. At first stage, cluster sampling technique was used to access a large population of policemen at their Divisions. At the second stage of sampling, stratified random techniques was used to sample policemen across educational strata that concern the study. An instrument titled Perspectives on School Crimes (PSC) was used in eliciting data that were analyzed using percentages and chi-square. Findings revealed that Nigerian policemen were conservatives in their opinions on causes and prevention of crimes in Nigerian schools and will rather condemn the offender rather than the environmental conditions that motivate his/her criminal indulgence. However, their perspectives on causes and prevention of school crime significantly varied across levels of education. It was therefore concluded that the educational levels of Nigerian policemen can significantly determine their opinion of and attitude towards handling school crimes.

Introduction

There are arrays of data and events depicting high incidence and prevalence of crimes across different levels of education in Nigeria. For example, on Wednesday, 3rd September 2008, cultists stormed the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, disrupt academic activities as they demand for closure of the university for a week to allow them mourn their dead colleague (The Punch, Sept.4. 2008). At Ajao Estate Grammar School, Isolo, Lagos State, seven male students of the school were caught raping an 18 year old SSI student of the school- within the school premises (The Punch, Monday, 31, 2006).

The word 'policemen' is used to refer to both male and female individuals in the Nigerian Police and 'perspective' means being liberal or conservative in one's attitude towards and view of causes and prevention of a phenomenon.

Similarly, cases of examination malpractice among secondary school students have been on the increase. In 2004, for example, it was reported that the percentage of students' involvement in examination malpractice increased from 18 % in 2001 to 46.1% in 2004 (Olugbile 2005).