

JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY

AND
PLANNING SCIENCES
(JOGEPS)

10



ISSN: 2006-1226 VOL 4 NO. 1

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FEAR-SYNDROME OF CRIME: ALTERNATIVE COPING MECHANISM IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This paper examines the pattern of crime distribution in Ibadan metropolis of Oyo State Nigeria over a period of five years (1996-2000). The study focuses attention on criminal activities leading to fearful living conditions of residents in the metropolis. Investigation was carried out in ten selected local government areas that were renowned as black-spots in the metropolis. Questionnaire was used to solicit information from four hundred Household-heads on causes, impacts and coping mechanisms on crime incidence in the study environment. Method of data analysis indicated that most residents in the area of study exhibited a significant higher-level of fears, but still want to remain in their areas. Implications for future planning to cope with crime in a modern city of the world are discussed, while stakeholders in crime management and control were urged to re-define their roles in order to improve peace, security and harmonious living conditions in Ibadan city of Nigeria.

Key words: Pattern; Black-Spots; Fear-Syndrome; Coping Mechanism; Environment

INTRODUCTION

Fear of crime had attracted a prominent degree of research interest in recent time since it developed as a research focus in Nigeria. The foundation of fear development as a research focus includes the following. One, fear of crime sometimes is much bigger problem than crime itself and this makes it a worthwhile subject of investigation. Two, since fear of crime is a sensitive issue rather than a physical event, it may be more amenable to policy initiatives. Policies to reduce crime in Nigeria mostly in urban centers had varying levels of success. Policies enacted to reduce crime in the northern parts of the country are more stabilized than in the southwestern Nigeria including Ibadan (Omisakin, 1998). The reason is that policy changes as political era changes with time in the country (Ahmed, 2010). Three, it is the wrong persons who exhibit the highest levels of fear in relation to their average rates of victimization. Thus, those that are likely to be victimized are young, male, drawn from ethnic minorities, of lower socio-economic background core areas of urban centers. However, the fear of crime levels for males, the young and

those living in core areas of urban centers have shown to be relatively low when compared with the levels of women and elderly persons-who are less to be victims-are relatively high (Eva Flecher, 2000).

The specific geographical contribution of this paper lies in the assessment of spatial and temporal crime distribution in Ibadan Metropolis of Oyo State, Nigeria. In order to examine this, it is also necessary to assess the competing explanations on why people fear crime unnecessarily, the levels of fear of crime and the role of media in instilling more fear in the minds of people in order to increase their safety. **Fear Syndrome of Crime**

Maxfield (1984), in one of his studies of fear in England and Wales, notes the distinction between actual fear and what he refers to as 'potential' fear. The emotion experienced by someone who anticipates the possibility of a risky situation, anticipated (actual) fear is closer to what people might think of as (potential) fear of crime (Maxfield, 1984). Equally, in studying fear, (1987) considers that 'surveys usually measure

the people feel in different how much they worry about crime. In this sense therefore, the experience that is not discrete is important, for unlike the about crime is not so much an it or recurring sense of malaise'

Urban Centers of Nigeria.

Times International of London number 4:1985 that crime was centers of Nigeria and lives were and that the nation was being insecurity problem posed by ant Nigerians, mostly politicians, lives were terminated through s or assassinations. Information vehicles became a daily feature the report absolutely has neither the situation has become more tening. Not only is the incidence ing more rampant, but also the crimes especially, kidnapping, urder, assassination, arson, house ng, computer seams, advanced 419 syndicate) and corruption imes have become atrocious.

Accordingly, Agbola (1997) said that, y news of bolder and more mes in the country. Lives and o longer safe, and both the rich er the same fate. While the whole helpless in the face of urban observation and daily news reports always indicate that, most crime re by harassment, threatening or y-guns or other minor weapons. sions where die-hard criminals also with the use of violence and heavy

however, whatever the spatial or ation of crime, or to say, whatever onsequences of crime perpetration e immediate reaction of people to e is fear. Fear according to Kaplan

and Kaplan (1978), is an emotional response to danger. Fear increases with danger, which in turn increases lost of lives and properties of individuals. There is no gainsaying, Nigerians are too fearful to take a risk. The best way to tackle fear is to begin to look for ways of mitigating over an incidence. In other words, there is need to provide safety and protection from any envisaging crime.

Fears may be responded to differently by an individual; gender, income level, age-wise, residential location or by the type of building and/or by recent victims. According to Hunter and Baumer (1982), fear of crime is related to perception of neighbourhood condition. In Oyo State, Southwestern Nigeria, one cannot rule out that violence and criminality stand as a huge threat to public safety. Criminality cause personal suffering, vast material damage, and place an enormous hardship on the urban social and economic network. This is one of the reasons why Vanderschueren (1996) observed that, urban violence and crime increased worldwide in the last decade at a rate, which has largely surpassed that of urbanization. Globally, every five years, 60 percent of city inhabitants have been victims of one form of crime or the other, creating a pervasive feeling of insecurity.

Methodology

In order to examine further aspect of the fear of crime and its relationships with other spatial characteristics, a survey of different population was conducted in eight locations in Ibadan metropolis (see table 2 & 3). These locations- are renowned for incessant crime waves as often reported by news media, were the focusing attention of this investigation. The selected areas have an estimated population of 1.7 million (Alemika, 2003). Out of which 400 respondents were administered with questionnaires using both systematic and random selection strategies. The chosen participants were to respond to fear of crime syndrome in their neighbourhoods, such as; the causes of crimes, effects of crime on their social life and their coping mechanisms among others. The level of risk taking by the people of the study area-Ibadan metropolis

of Oyo State, were defined by different categories of crimes committed (Oyo State Police Command, 1996), (see also table 1).

Table 1. Category of Crime and Offences as Defined by Oyo State Police Command

Offences Against Persons	Offences Against Property	Offences Against Lawful Authority	Offences Against Local Acts
Murder	Armed Robbery	Forgery of Currency Notes	Traffic Offence
Manslaughter	Demand with menace	Coining	Liquor Offence
Suicide	Theft/stealing	Gambling	Dogs' Act Offence
Grievous Harm/Wounding	Burglary	Preach of Public Peace	Narcotic Offence
Assault	House Breaking	Perjury	Firearms Offence
Child stealing	False Pretence/Cheating	Bribery and Corruption	Township Offence
Rape	Forgery	Escape from Lawful Custod	Prostitution
Kidnapping	Receiving Stolen Goods	Aberration	.
Unnatural Offence	Possession of Firearms	.	.
Slave dealing	Arson	.	.

Source: The Nigeria Police Force (1997).

Locations in the Metropolis	Crime Against Persons	Crime Against Property	Crime Against Lawful Acts	Crime Against Local Acts	Total
Ibadan Central	110	1027	25	25	1187
Ibadan North	135	849	42	16	1042
Ibadan South-East	182	649	84	19	934
Ibadan South-West	1213	3411	100	825	5549
Lagelu	1943	3379	502	310	6134
Idi-Ayunre	2182	3953	553	289	6977
Iyana-Offa	1741	4363	501	505	7110
Ido	2777	5050	335	632	8794
Total	10283	22681	2142	2621	37727

Table 2. Incidence of Crime Rate Report in Oyo State, Nigeria 1996-2000

Source: Author's Survey (2010).

This work assigns variables 1 to 8 in rating the extent to which difference and significant difference exists between and among categories as composite indicators for selected variables under investigation in Ibadan metropolis (see Appendix I). The variables in the tables were generated from the scores from different types of commitment and these crimes were divided into four groups and recapped (see also table 4).

In Ibadan metropolis in general, there existed intra-urban variations in the distribution of

criminal incidences as provided in tables 3 and 4. This spatial pattern shows the difference between occurrence rates and residence rates. The respondents were asked the number of times they had either been victims of attacks or witnessed to different types of criminal attacks. However, different experiences were reviewed, but when most of the residents were asked if they would change their residence to another locations if got opportunities, a lot of them wanted to remain in their present locations (see also table 5).

Incidence of Crime Rate in Composite Indices

	Population	CAP	CAPty	CALA	CALact
General	1, 075, 811	45140	28300	1331	922
North	275, 034	805	5163	910	94
North-East	68, 732	1284	8224	864	620
North-West	166, 034	3582	48990	1029	833
South	139, 587	1945	6378	249	390
South-East	91, 020	16140	26530	2450	1812
South-West	170, 589	9470	9961	588	1006
Central	55, 893	26190	28470	657	470
West	2042700	104556	162016	8087	6147

Yoruba State Criminal Investigation Department and modified by the Author (2010).

Areas of Crime Incidences.

CAP	CAPty	CALA	CALact
5.39	2.18	2.06	1.87
0.62	3.98	1.41	1.91
1.54	6.35	1.34	1.26
4.28	3.78	1.59	1.69
2.33	4.92	3.85	7.93
1.93	2.05	3.79	3.68
1.13	7.69	9.09	2.05
3.13	2.19	1.02	9.56
29.35	33.14	24.15	29.95

Fieldwork, 2010.

Discussions

Results of descriptive analysis of some areas in Ibadan metropolis of Oyo State, Egbeda, Oluyole and Idi-Ayunre LGAs, indicate the overall pattern of crimes, their residential locations, and types of crimes that are common in the city, as well as the population involved. The findings revealed some relationship between why residents of the metropolis have perpetual fear of incessant attacks in their residential areas. Most of them wanted to remain in their present residences. Absolutely, upon all alternative mechanisms proposed to them, they would remain in their present residences. They further claimed that, most of them are not ready to move to other location with or without any compensation. Comparatively, the phenomenon of crime and overcrowding in Ibadan and other parts of the state apparently different crimes committed. As noted

from the study, the internal parts of the city are crime-hot spots, though dominated by native-born residents that live in the heart of the city. These groups of individuals formed a lower class. Equally, migrants from suburbs, rural areas and neighbouring states reside in the peri-urban areas of the metropolis. These groups constituted mostly criminals since most of them are jobless, unskilled, manual workers and perpetual illiterates. Thus, these social divisions of inhabitants of Ibadan metropolis aggravate the pattern and distribution of criminals of different categories in Oyo State in general. Thus, the major outcomes formed the following discovery as shown in Table 5 and in appendix I.

Table 5. Residents who have been Victims of Attacks and ready to Change Residence.

Location	Victims	Victims Ready to Change of Residence	Victims Not Ready to Change of Residence
Ibadan Central	66 (16.5)	13 (9.4)	53 (20.2)
Ibadan North	52 (13)	10 (7.2)	42 (16.0)
Ibadan South-East	45 (11.2)	9 (6.5)	36 (13.7)
Ibadan South-West	53 (13.3)	39 (28.3)	14 (5.3)
Agelu	40 (10)	27 (19.6)	13 (4.9)
Idi-Ayunre	45 (11.2)	19 (13.8)	26 (9.9)
Iyana-Ofa	50 (12.5)	10 (7.2)	40 (15.3)
Ido	49 (12.3)	11 (7.9)	38 (14.5)
Total	400	138	262

Ibadan metropolis in general, a lot of
es were revealed by the respondents
course of this study, when residents of
area were asked how many times they
been victims of criminal attacks to
categories of crimes or witnessed others
being attacked. The highest figures of
53 (13.3%) and 52 (13.0%) respectively
in Ibadan central followed by Ibadan
North, and the least from
South-East and Idi-Ayunre. Perhaps, as
by Agbola (1997) this situation may be as
the general observations that offenders
travel far to commit crimes. The
istics of any environment that facilitate
crime include; the quality of housing and
essential amenities possessed by the residents
which are criminogenic in nature (Ahmed,

close observation of Ibadan metropolis
most of the crime victims are willing to
their present residences but retorted that
government, the police and other law
enforcement agencies must come to their rescue. In
Ibadan metropolis shows a wide spread
of crime to all other areas, with virtually no
area of metropolis is left out without its crime
records. However, only 39 (28.3%) and
() among other crime victims from Ibadan
South-East and Lagelu were willing to live in
area away from their present residences.
53 (20.2%), 42 (16%) and 40 (15.3%)
of Ibadan Central, Ibadan North and
South-East respectively were not ready to change
residence at all due to their socio-cultural attachment
to their present areas.

Conclusion and Recommendation

World-wide, crime incursions in urban
cities are becoming dominant and they
attract attention by all the stakeholders; the
police and other law enforcement

agencies in order to get rid of the situation as it
getting to almost intolerable conditions.
Nevertheless, all these are not easily acquired,
because criminals are daily getting smarter,
discovering new methods to unleash terror on their
victims. Violent crime is increasing on a daily basis
not only in Ibadan metropolis, but also all over the
country as a whole. Since violence is no fun for
victims, everybody has a strong desire to be safe
and live a normal life. This is one of the major
reasons why crime managers in cities and urban
centers must not rest their ears until they get rid of
criminals from all their hideouts. To make this
suggestions work, it is therefore recommended that:

- Residents of the metropolis (Ibadan) must
always maintain a positive attitude and
remain calm at any situation; they should
not feed their minds with much fear from all
they read from newspapers or heard from
news, this usually causes unnecessary
apprehension and panic. They must always
remain unruffled, steadfast, and help one
another especially their neighbours at any
alarm for help if hoodlums strike.
- People should always mind their own
business, but be cautious and vigilant about
all that go around them in their
neighbourhoods.
- People should avoid carrying or displaying
some crime attractive items like; huge
amount of money or wares that can attract
criminals to their neighbourhoods.

Where there are too many passages which provide
escape avenues for criminals, crime commitment
could be on the increase and these are indications of
poor neighbourhood living condition. Thus, urban
planners and urban designers should be cautious
of security coping mechanism when they are
designing residential living areas in cities or in urban
areas. The police patrols should be extended to all
nooks and crannies of the city centers. This is because
criminals plan and carry out their nefarious activities
from the interior areas. The police numeric strength

also be increased to meet the world standard
their welfare given adequate priorities if they
perform creditably in their functions. Lastly,
duals should not only plan their own security
but must give attentions to their own security
mechanism. It is when all these are given
able attentions that the living conditions in the
polis, and the neighbourhoods would be
tly safe environment to live.

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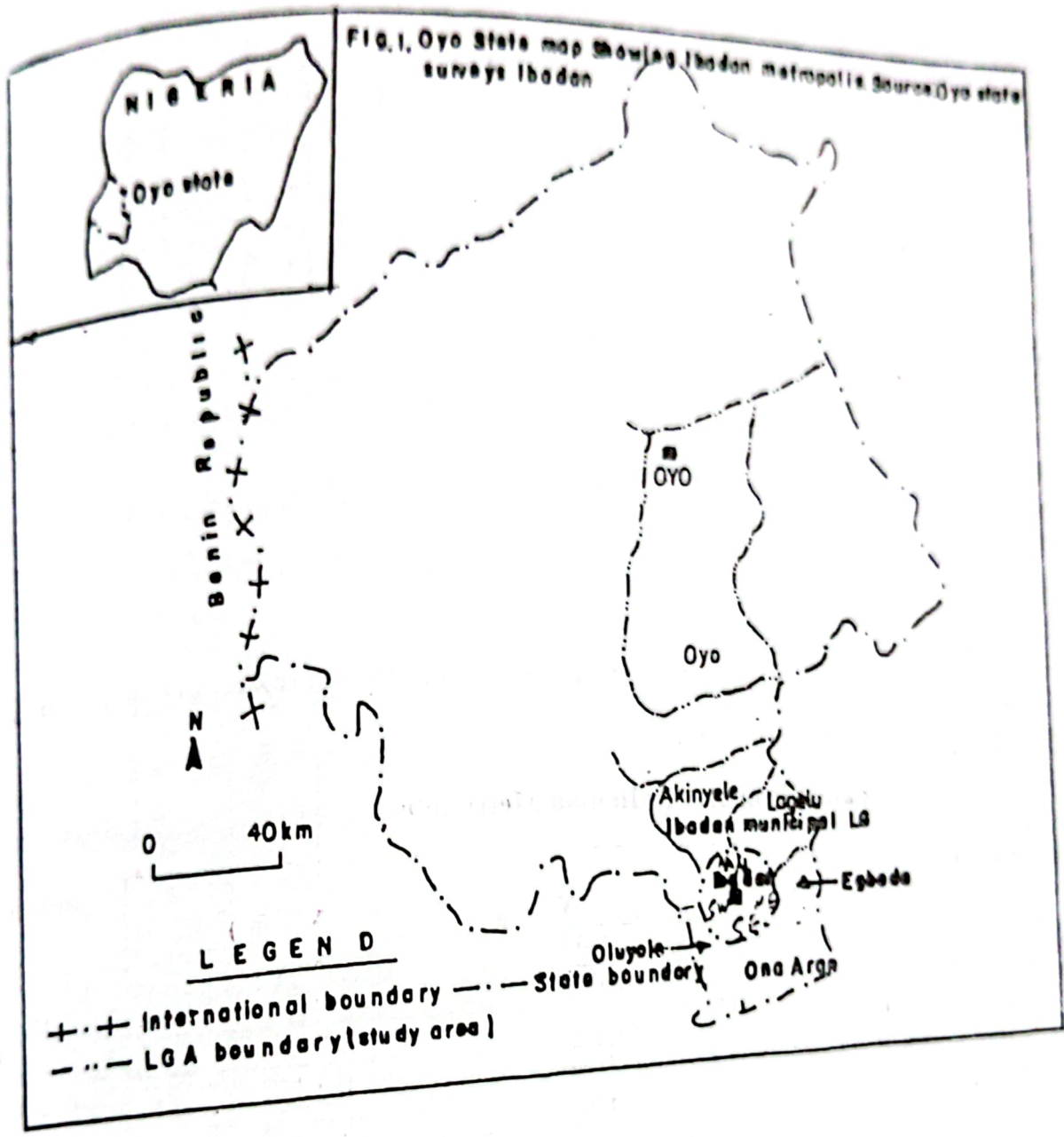


Fig.1. Map of the Study Area

APPENDIX 1

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Crime Against Person in Ibadan Metropolis (Based on Table 4).

Location	X	$X - \bar{X}$	$(X - \bar{X})^2$
Ibadan Central	5.39	1.72	2.96
Ibadan North	9.62	5.95	35.40
Ibadan South-East	1.54	-2.13	-4.54
Ibadan South-West	4.28	0.61	0.37
Lagelu	2.33	-1.34	-1.79
Idi-Ayunre	1.93	-1.74	-3.303
Iyana-Offa	1.13	-2.54	-6.45
Ido	3.13	-0.54	-0.29

$$\frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma} \quad \text{Crime Against Person (CAP)}$$

$$\bar{X} = 3.67 \text{ and } S = 1.86$$

$$= \frac{x - \bar{x}}{S} \quad (1) Z = 0.92, (2) Z = -3.19, (3) Z = -1.15, (4) Z = 0.33, (5) Z = -0.72, (6) Z = -0.94,$$

$$(7) Z = -1.37, (8) Z = -0.29$$

Crime Against Property in Ibadan Metropolis

Location	X	$X - \bar{X}$	$(X - \bar{X})^2$
Ibadan Central	2.18	-1.96	-3.84
Ibadan North	3.98	-0.16	-0.03
Ibadan South-East	6.35	2.21	4.88
Ibadan South-West	3.78	-0.36	-0.13
Lagelu	4.92	0.78	0.61
Idi-Ayunre	2.05	-2.09	-4.37
Iyana-Offa	7.69	3.55	12.60
Ido	2.17	-1.95	-3.80

$$= \frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma} \quad \text{Crime Against Property (CAPTY)}$$

$$\bar{X} = 4.14 \text{ and } S = 2.91$$

$$\frac{x - \bar{x}}{S} \quad (1) Z = -0.67, (2) Z = -0.05, (3) Z = 0.76, (4) Z = -0.12, (5) Z = 0.268, (6)$$

$$0.72, (7) Z = 1.22, (8) Z = -0.67$$

Crime Against Local Authority (CALA) in Ibadan Metropolis

Ahmed Yusuf Alagata (Ph.D)

Location	X	$X - \bar{X}$	$(X - \bar{X})^2$
Ibadan Central	2.18	-1.96	-3.84
Ibadan North	3.98	-0.16	-0.03
Ibadan South-East	6.35	2.21	4.88
Ibadan South-West	3.78	-0.36	-0.13
Lagelu	4.92	0.78	0.61
Idi-Ayunre	2.05	-2.09	-4.37
Iyana-Offa	7.69	3.55	12.60
Ido	2.17	-1.95	-3.80

(3) $Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma}$ Crime Against Lawful Authority (CALA)

$\bar{X} = 22.93$ and $S = 1.81$

$Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{S}$ (1) $Z = -0.53$, (2) $Z = -0.89$, (3) $Z = -0.93$, (4) $Z = -0.79$, (5) $Z = 0.46$, (6) $Z = 0.4$
(7) $Z = 3.35$, (8) $Z = -1.11$

Crime Against Local Act (CALACT) in Ibadan Metropolis

Location	X	$X - \bar{X}$	$(X - \bar{X})^2$
Ibadan Central	1.87	-1.87	-3.49
Ibadan North	1.91	-1.83	-6.85
Ibadan South-East	1.26	-2.48	-6.15
Ibadan South-West	1.69	-2.05	-4.20
Lagelu	7.93	4.19	17.56
Idi-Ayunre	3.68	-0.06	-0.04
Iyana-Offa	2.05	-1.69	-2.85
Ido	9.56	5.82	33.87

(4) $Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma}$ Crime Against Local Act (CALACT)

$\bar{X} = 3.74$ and $S = 1.99$

$Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{S}$ (1) $Z = -0.94$, (2) $Z = -0.92$, (3) $Z = -1.25$, (4) $Z = -1.03$, (5) $Z = 2.11$, (6) $Z = -0.03$,
(7) $Z = -0.85$, (8) $Z = 2.93$