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YOUTH VIOLENCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BABOKO COMMUNITY OF ILORIN, KWARA STATE NIGERIA

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Abstract

Youth violence is one of the major problems facing most societies in Nigeria today and it has contributed to the level of insecurity witnessed in recent times. Baboko community of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria happens to be one of the center stages of youth violence in Ilorin, and the effect of this violence is mostly on social and economic condition of the community. The study, therefore, investigates youth violence and socio-economic development in Baboko community of Ilorin, Kwara State. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. Qualitative and quantitative research methods were used to collect data from the study participants. 200 respondents were randomly selected using quantitative method while in-depth interviews (IDI) were carried out for 15 participants. The quantitative data was analyzed using a simple percentage of mean, while qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis. Findings reveal that drug use, peer pressure, poverty, unemployment and cultism are the major factors influencing youth violence in the community. The study recommends that the community should operate jointly with the police in their strategy of violence prevention, empower police with weapons and infrastructures, including social workers and psychologists in the rehabilitation of suspects and offenders and creation of more jobs for teeming youth by the government.

Keywords: Youth, Violence, Baboko Community, Cultism, Unemployment

Introduction

Youth violence is a global challenge and it has become both pandemic and endemic in most societies of the world, particularly Nigeria. Since independence, Nigeria has continued to witness an unprecedented surge and high proportion of youth violence (Echezona, 2001). The country has recorded bizarre experience in the domain of violence committed by young people (Oruwari, 2006). These acts of violence includes murder, religious uprising, party clashes, shooting, stabbing, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, rape, rioting, vandalism, ethnic militancy and so on (World Health Organisation, 2015). The persistence and occurrence of youth violence have continued to endanger and threaten social security in the country (Abdullahi et al., 2016).

As Ogbeifun (2007) rightly notes that, youth violent has become prominent in all geopolitical regions of Nigeria. For example, the youth has been at the center of the restiveness, demand for resource control in the oil-producing region of the southern part of Nigeria and the incessant outbreak of ethno-religious conflicts, land, and communal tussles and the activities of Boko-haram in the Northern part of the country which has claimed many lives and properties. Indeed, conflict is gaining momentum and many states in Nigeria are suffering from the scourges of violent conflicts and disorder (Ogbeifun, 2007). The prevalence of violent conflicts, orchestrated by cult clashes and youth violence among young generations in many parts of Nigeria shows the violence has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigerian society.

Ilorin, the capital of Kwara State is widely regarded as a peaceful and harmonious state in Nigeria. The state is popularly known as 'The State of Harmony', following the peaceful nature of the people (Abdullahi, et al., 2016). Since 2003, the ancient city of Ilorin has been bedeviled by violence and the reported cases of violence are in sharp contrast to the belief that Ilorin is a peaceful city (Alanamu, 2005; Fagbemi, 2015; Muhammed, 2005; Tunde, 2015). Studies have shown that more than half of perpetrators of violence in Ilorin are between the ages of 21 and 40 years (Agere, 2012). This youth violence is more prevalent in areas such as Taiwo road, Agbo-Oba, Gambari, Sawmill, Agaka, Adabata and Baboko. Baboko area of the state is known as the most violent prone area in the city.

The rate of youth violence in Baboko community is becoming alarming over the years; the community has an alarming record of youth violence in the city. On the 13th of November 2012, the Kwara State police command confirmed the arrest of 12 suspected hoodlums within a week of continuous fighting among youths in Gambari, Agaka and Baboko areas. Around January 2013, violence broke out between the Adabata/Baboko boys versus members of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), a situation that created tension among the residents. Violence has become worrisome to most dwellers of the area and also to the businessmen and women who are mostly Igbos. During this period, businesses were crippled until normalcy was restored. This created an atmosphere of insecurity and negative peace even days after order was restored.

Youth violence in the Baboko community of Ilorin takes different forms ranges from clashes among rival cults in the community to politically instigated violence. A recent example was the clash between the Agaka gang and their Baboko counterparts in April 2018, a more recent one is the political violence that broke out among political party supporters in the community in early 2021; however, no matter the form, violence if not properly managed may lead to serious uprising in the community. Youth violence are fuelled by some factors identified by Jack (1999), and they include, the media, substance abuse, gang membership, unemployment, access to weapons, poverty, peer pressure, broken homes and bad neighborhoods. Youth violence usually occurs in this area because it is widely regarded as economically and socially deprived environments

where levels of poverty and unemployment are very high (Moser and Mcilwaine, 2006). However, the emergence of violence in such areas in Ilorin in recent time has brought the perceived peace under very serious threat, as the ancient city is becoming a battle-ground for youth violence (Abdullahi, et al., 2016). Youth violence often undermines peace and security in the community. It is against this background that the current paper examines factors influencing youth violence and its impacts on social-economic development in Baboko community of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

One of the major problems facing human capital development in recent times is youth violence. Youth violence has become a national security threat as no day passes without dailies reporting news of one form of youth violence or the other in Nigeria. It is a threat to the security of life and properties which ought to guarantee human survival (Kazir, 2010). Youth violence remains a major public health problem (Fornari, 2015). Contrary to the expectation that youths are the agents of growth and development, violence in many local communities raises serious concern for the already overarched and stressed security situations in many parts of the country (Mudashiru & Fatai, 2020). According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2011), youth violence dramatically increases health, welfare and criminal justice costs, reduces productivity and generally undermines the fabric of society. Youth homicide and non-fatal violence not only contribute greatly to the global burden of premature death, injury and disability but also have a serious, often lifelong impact on a person's psychological and social functioning (American Psychological Association, APA, 2009). One of the greatest socio-cultural problems facing human development in 21st century Nigeria is the menace of youth violence.

In recent years, the phenomenon of youth violence has assumed a serious dimension. Violence is of different types and categories. Murder, robbery, rape, riot, cultism, ethno-religious militancy, kidnapping, vandalism, and arson have become the features of Nigeria's nascent democracy (Wilbert, 2007). Social and moral decadence, the influence of peer group, culture of drug use, role of mass media, ethnic nationalism, elitist role, family influence, free accessibility of fire arms, amongst others have been identified as causative factors of youth involvement in crime (Odeh, 2013). The consequences of youth violence manifest in wanton destruction of human lives and property with devastating effects on human development in the country.

The problem of youth violence requires adequate attention in Nigeria as Nigeria is gradually becoming a theatre of youth violence. Violence happens in various parts of the country, a good example is Baboko community of Ilorin, Kwara State. The rate at which youth violence occurs in this community is disturbing and the community is one of the areas notorious for youth violence. The issue of youth violence in the community has become a social problem which the state government and other stakeholders must urgently attend to.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine the factors influencing youth violence in Baboko community in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. However, in an attempt to achieve this, the research specific objectives are to:

- i. investigate the type of youths that participates in violence in Baboko community, Ilorin;
- ii. examine factors influencing youth violence in Baboko area of Ilorin; and
- iii. ascertain the extent to which youth violence impedes development in Baboko community, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Theoretical Framework

The broken window theory of crime was propounded by Wilson and Kelling (1982). They adopt the analogy of 'Window-Building' to emphasize how minor incidence of criminal acts may lead to major violent acts if not legitimately attended to by the security agencies. According to Wilson and Kelling (1982), if the first broken window in a building is not repaired, the general population who like breaking windows would assume that nobody cares about the building and more windows would be broken. Before long, the building would have no windows. The underlining assumption of the theory to the understanding of crime and violence is that where any fierce act of demonstration has gone unchallenged, un-checkmated, or not legitimately managed by the appropriate security agencies, it would create more violent acts (Kelling and Coles, 1996; Skogan, 1990). The theory suggests that signs of physical disorder (such indulgence such as psychoactive substances, cultism, unemployment, lack of security patrol) in a neighbourhood can predispose such neighbourhood to violence. The fundamental assumption of the theory is that physical disorder in a neighbourhood can infringe the ways in which residents can wield social control. Thus, lack of social control makes the neighbourhood prone to social disorder activities such as public drinking, gambling, and brothels prostitution and the activities of cult groups. Unfortunately, these activities further attract illegal commercial criminal enterprises such as drug dealings which elevates the level of violence in the neighbourhood (Sherman and Eck, 2002; Skogan, 1990).

This theory posits that the prevalence of disorder creates fear in the minds of citizens who are convinced that the area is unsafe. Withdrawal from the community weakens social controls that previously might have kept criminals in check. Once this process begins, it feeds itself. Disorder causes crime, and crime causes further disorder and crime, (Mc Keey, 2013). This theory is applicable to youth violence in the sense that, when youth related violence occurs in a particular community, Baboko community of Ilorin as an example, and there is little or no attempt by the government and other stakeholders to take control of the situation, the violence has high probability of repeating itself. In Baboko community, the issue of cultism is very rampant and the community leaders, law enforcement agencies are not doing enough to curb the

scourge, thereby leading to conflict and violence among members of the community in the area.

Research Setting

Baboko is a community located in Ilorin West local government area of Kwara State. The LGA was created in October, 1991 and serves as the headquarters of Ilorin Emirate Council. Its headquarters is in the town of Wara Osin area. Ilorin West Local Government Area (LGA) of Kwara State lies within $4^{\circ} 28' 10''$ E, $8^{\circ} 34' 28''$ N and $4^{\circ} 35' 35''$ E, $8^{\circ} 24' 09''$ N. It has an area of 105 km² and a population of 364,666 at the 2006 census. The population of the youth between the ages 20-39 in Ilorin West stands at 112,198, representing 26% of the total population. Ilorin West has population density of 3501 per square kilometer. Ilorin West serves as host for the state capital administrative headquarters with major markets such as Oja- Oba, Oja-Tuntun, and Mandate. The local government consist of twelve (12) electoral wards (Adewole, Ajikobi, Alanamu, Badari, Baboko, Magaji-Nngeri, Ogidi, Oko-erin, Oloje, Ojuekun/Sarumi, Ubandawaki and Wara/Osin/ Egbejila). The local government area is been occupied by Yoruba people. It is bordered by Asa and Moro local government areas.

Methodology

The study adopts descriptive research design to examine youth violence and socio-economic development in Baboko community in Ilorin, Kwara State. The research setting was purposively selected by the researcher due to his knowledge of the area. In addition, purposive sampling was adopted to select the study participants from the area. This is because of non-availability of sampling frame from which sample can be drawn. Hence, two hundred and Fifteen (215) samples were drawn from the area. Mixed method (qualitative and quantitative) was used to collect data from the respondents. Two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed and retrieved for the respondents under qualitative method while fifteen (15) in-depth interviews were conducted, three (3) each from community leaders, religious leaders, police officers, local security groups (Vigilante), traders and school teachers in the area. They were selected and interviewed because of their in-depth knowledge about issues around the area. Three research questions were raised to guide the study and a self constructed questionnaire tagged "Youth violence and socio-economic development in Baboko community" was used in obtaining data from the respondents. The research questions are 'to investigate the type of youths that participates in violence in Baboko Community', 'to examine factors influencing youth violence in Baboko community' and 'to ascertain the extent at which youth violence impedes socio-economic development in the area'. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics (percentile and mean score method) while qualitative data were analysed using content and thematic analyses.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This section presents the analysis of the data collected and the discussion of major findings.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	129	64.5%
Female	71	35.5%
Total	200	100.0%
Age		
15-24	50	25%
25-34	117	58%
35-44	16	8%
45-54	12	6%
55 and above	5	3%
Total	200	100%
Academic Qualification		
No formal Education	60	30%
WAEC/Equivalent	56	28%
OND/NCE	64	32%
HND/BSC	18	9%
MSC/Ph.D.	2	1%
Total	200	100.0

(Source: field survey, 2019)

Table 1 shows frequency distribution of respondents by gender, age and academic qualification. As shown in the table above, 64.5% of the respondents are male while 35.5% are female. This is such that male were more accessible than female and to a large extent, the study is not gender biased. This also implies that male are the most sampled respondents and male are liable to perform in the violent acts and more predisposed to violence more than women. Age distribution of respondents reveals that 25% of the respondents are less than the age of 24 years, 58.5% of the respondent are between the ages of 25 and 34 years, 8% of the respondent are between the ages of 35 and 44 years, 6% of the respondent are between the ages of 45 and 54 years, while 3% are between 55 and above. This shows that most of the respondents of the study are youth which accounted for 117 (58.5%), hence they are expected to provide experienced opinions since the study centres on youth. 30% of the respondents have no formal education, 28% of the respondent have WAEC or Equivalent as their highest

qualifications, 32%, OND/NCE, 9% B.SC/HND, while 1% of the respondents have M.Sc/Ph.D. as their highest qualifications. More so, from the table, to a large extent, 32% of the respondents have OND/B.Sc and as such it can be concluded that most of the respondent are literates. The implication of this is that the respondents are expected to be able to understand and provide reliable information for the study.

Table 2: The type of youths involved in the violent activities in Baboko Community

SN	Variables	N	Menn	Rank
1	Youths from neighbouring communities also participate in these violent activities.	200	3.46	1 st
2	Only the youths who abuse drugs and drink alcohol participate in these violent activities.	200	3.30	2 nd
3	The youths who involve in these violent activities are within the ages of 15-35 years of age.	200	3.10	3 rd
4	Only the unemployed youths participate in these violent activities.	200	2.60	4 th
5	All these youths are indigenes of Baboko community.	200	2.49	5 th
6	Only the educated youths participate in these violent activities.	200	2.34	6 th
	Valid N (listwise)	200		

Source: Field Survey (2019).

Table 2 discusses the youth involvement in violent activities. Youth involvements in violent activities were also ranked in order of their means to efficiently measure the involvement of crime in the study area. The first ranked involvement is 'Youths from neighboring communities also participate in these violent activities' which has a mean of 3.46. This implies that Baboko youths are not the only ones involved in violent activities in the community. This was also corroborated by the findings from the interview conducted in the area, a respondent emphasized that violence often degenerates to Baboko community. According to the respondent, Baboko community did not always initiate violence. The respondent says thus:

Many people think only Baboko youths fight but the Agaka and Adabata youths also join them in the fighting. In fact, some of this violence often start from Agaka and then expand to Baboko, but because of the violent nature attributed to this community, many people think only the youths here involve in the violence.
(IDI/M/ TRADER/2019)

This clearly shows that youths from neighbouring communities also join Baboko youth to foment trouble in the community. The second ranked is "Only the youths who abuse drugs and drink alcohol participate in these violent activities" having a mean of 3.30, this is in line with the findings of Balogun (2011) which explains that, drugs most of the time interacts negatively with their brain and make them loose touch with reality, as a result they engage in violent activities under the influence of the drugs. "The

youths who indulge in violent activities are within the ages of 15-35 years of age" is the third ranked in the study area, having a mean of 3.10, this claim was also corroborated by the response of a respondent that was interviewed, the respondent was of the opinion that the youths that participate in the so called violence are mostly younger generation with age range of 15-30. The respondent says thus:

It is true that violence happens in this community which I am not happy about as an indigene of this community, it has affected me negatively. People from other neighbouring communities do not like Baboko youth because of their violence behaviour. They often tag me and other young guys from this community as thugs. With what I have seen, they are mostly between the ages of 15-30 years.

(IDI/M/RELIGIOUS LEADER/2019)

With the contents of the questionnaire and findings of the interview, it was established that those who are involved in violent acts are youths between 15-30 years of age. The fourth ranked perspectives about youth involvement in violent activities is "Only the unemployed youths participate in these violent activities" which has a mean of 2.60 and in line with Merton, (1938). According to him, youth will be more likely to engage in illegal activities and antisocial behaviours when they lack gainful employment. Other perception of the respondent is; "All these youths are indigenes of Baboko community" (2.49), the last ranked crime is "Only the educated youths participate in these violent activities". (2.34). This came last just because the findings of the study show that not only the educated youths are involved in the violence but also the non-educated ones.

Table 3: Factor influencing youth violence in the study area

SN	Variable	N	Mean	Rank
1	Youth violence in this area is as a result of poverty.	200	4.02	1 st
2	Youth violence in this area is as a result of unemployment.	200	3.39	2 nd
3	Youth violence in this area is as a result of alcohol intake.	200	3.02	3 rd
4	Youth violence in this area is as a result of lack of early parental care.	200	2.98	4 th
5	Youth violence in this area is as a result of wrong socialization.	200	2.97	5 th
6	Youth violence in this area is as a result of peer influence.	200	2.94	6 th
7	Youth violence in this area is as a result of substance abuse.	200	2.93	7 th
8	Youth violence in this area is as a result of gang [cult] involvement.	200	2.90	8 th
9	Youth violence in this area is as a result of lack of social order and control.	200	2.83	9 th
	Valid N (listwise)	200		

Source: Field Survey (2019).

The factors influencing youth violence in the study area are shown in Table 3. The most significant factor as shown is "Youth violence in this area is as a result of poverty" having a mean of 4.02. Poverty's effects on youth crime can be explained through a variety of reasons, it can lead to high levels of stress that in turn may lead individuals to commit theft, robbery, or other violent acts (Brill, 2004). Shankyula (2011) opines that 'widespread poverty and unemployment deliberately unattended to by successive governments is responsible for the spate of youth violence'. The second-ranked factor influencing youth involvement in the Baboko community is "youth violence in this area is as a result of unemployment" having a mean of 3.39. This is in line with Merton (1938). According to his perspective, youth will be more likely to engage in illegal activities and antisocial behaviours when they lack gainful employment. Other factors detailed in order of their severity and mean in the table is; "Youth violence in this area is as a result of alcohol intake" having a mean of 3.02. The claim by Merton and the content of the table was corroborated by the findings of the interview, respondents say thus:

Many of them that we know are jobless we usually see them loitering around uncompleted buildings when their mates are at work. There are some corners that we cannot pass through because they are always sitting there and causing fear for people passing by.

(IDI/M/TRADITIONALRULER/2019)

Some of them do not have any job they are doing, most of the time they collect money from people constructing buildings in the area. We usually see them in corners smoking and drinking, many of them are from notable families and have good parents and are also cultists. I personally do not believe that their parents, can encourage them to do so.

(IDI/M/POLICE OFFICER/2019)

Table 4: The extent in which youth violence impedes socio-economic development in Baboko community

SN	Variables	N	Mean	Rank
1	The incidence of youth violence in the community presents a negative picture of the community.	200	3.31	1 st
2	The fear of loss of life and property as a result of violence can discourage intending strangers from establishing business enterprises in the community.	200	3.22	2 nd
3	The rate of violence in this community often instils fear in the minds of people with lawful intention.	200	3.1900	3 rd
4	The persistent occurrence of youth violence in the community has destroyed the existing facilities and prevents the construction of new infrastructures in the community.	200	3.0800	4 th
5	The indigenes of the community might prefer to invest somewhere else than within the Baboko community for the fear of losing their investment.	200	3.0450	5 th
6	Parents might take their kids to schools outside the community because of fear of possible attacks on the schooling environment.	200	2.8500	6 th
7	The thought of vandalising government properties can prevent the government from bringing social amenities to the community.	200	2.6750	7 th
8	The people living in the community might start moving out for the fear of loss of life and property.	200	1.9350	8 th
	Valid N (listwise)	200		

Source: Field Survey (2019).

The extent to which youth violence impedes socio-economic development in the study area was displayed in Table 4. These extents were ranked in order of their means in order to efficiently measure the extent in which youth violence impedes development in the study area (Baboko community, Ilorin). The first ranked extent has a mean of 3.31 (The incidence of youth violence in the community presents a negative picture of the community), this claim was corroborated by a respondent interviewed, he says thus:

When I was first posted here in 2007 from Kogi State, the first thing I learnt from my colleagues was that this is a violent community; my first impression of this community was negative. The violence to me is not appropriate which is why I never brought my family to live with me in this community even though I live here.

(IDI/M/TEACHER/2019)

"The fear of loss of life and property as a result of violence can discourage prospective investors from establishing business enterprises in the community" is the second ranked in the extent in which youth violence impedes development in Baboko community, Ilorin, having a mean of 3.22, since these act of violence embrace murder, religious uprising, party clashes, shooting, stabbing, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, rape, rioting, vandalism, and as such intending strangers who are interested in establishing business enterprises or investment will be discouraged "The rate of violence in this community often instills fear in the minds of people with lawful and good intention" is the third ranked, having a mean of 3.47, "The persistent occurrence of youth violence in the community has destroyed the existing facilities and prevent the construction of new infrastructures (schools, hospitals, event centres etc.) in the community is the fourth ranked, having a mean of 3.08. This reveals one of the greatest socio-cultural problems facing human development. "The indigenes of the community might prefer to invest somewhere else than within the Baboko community for the fear of losing their investment" ranked fifth, having a mean of 3.04, since youth violence will result panic within the residence and preventing the citizens from going about their normal work and as such no investment will be made in the community, a respondent interviewed has something to say about this, he says thus:

I have witnessed some of this violence and the outcome was not pleasant, I had to escape to my uncle's house at Sango. I am not an indigene of this community, but I believe those fighting did not represent the community well. My shop was razed by the hoodlums the first time and the second time my car wind screen was broken, which is why I rented another shop at Opo-malu, I don't want to suffer any loss again.

(IDI/M/TRADER/2019)

Discussion of Findings

From the analysis above, it was discovered that not only Baboko youths are involved in the violence in the community; other neighbouring communities also participated in the violence that often occur in the area. This is to emphasize that factors such as cultism, unemployment, abuse of psychoactive substances are prevalent in Baboko area and the neighbouring communities. In line with Balogun (2009), the presence of this enormous pool of idle youth, who are jobless and unskilled and sometimes homeless, creates fertile ground for deviant activities including violence. Since they are idle and frustrated, they become susceptible to violence, societies with strong economies and low unemployment rates record a low percentage of youth violence (Balogun, 2009). This culminated in an increase in urban crime of different types including drug trafficking and abuse by youth, all of which fuel violent activities (Ukeje, 2007).

Findings also reveal that the age of the perpetrators of the violent acts ranges between 15-30 years of age and they often engage in substance abuse. According to UNODC (2013) cited in Samson and Agberotimi (2018), African youths often engage in adopting varieties of psychoactive substances. The varieties, running from liquor,

cigarettes, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and most recently codeine, tramadol and numerous others are promptly accessible to the young people in Nigeria and this has made them be perpetrators of social vices (Yusuf, 2010). Cultism, peer influence and unemployment were identified as the major factors influencing these violent acts in the community. It is a threat to security which is regarded as a requirement of humanity and guarantees survival as the first law of nature (Kazir 2010). Cult groups make Nigerian cities unsafe as they attack innocent citizens in residential areas, markets, institutions and highways in their bid to punish perceived rivals. Respondents opine that fighting over superiority and girls are the major factors that cause fight among cult members while some respondents conclude that joblessness and drug abuse are instrumental in youth violence in the study area.

Findings also reveal that youth violence presents a negative picture of the community. Investors, business-oriented individuals and other relevant bodies are discouraged from investing in the community for the fear of loss of life and property as a result of violence in the community. Violence instills fear and also destroys the existing facilities in the community. Morris, (2007) also identified some consequences of youth violence, and they include, morbidity, mortality, diminished quality of life, economic loss, social disruption, loss of potentials, psychological trauma and family disruption. Loss of lives and property, socio-economic stagnation, fear and social tension, underdevelopment, moral decadence, bleak future for the youths and increase in government expenditures are also some of the consequences of youth violence and can have lasting effects on individuals and the society as a whole. From the above, it can be deduced that youth violence is a social problem that the Nigerian government should strive hard to curb its occurrence and prevalence. Sanusi (2013) maintains that, If Nigeria fails to invest in positive youth development initiatives today to educate the growing youth population, she will spend billions tomorrow battling youth-related conflicts and insecurity in the country.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study examined youth violence and socio-economic development in Baboko community in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. The study has succeeded in enhancing our knowledge about factors responsible for youth violence and how this undermines peace, security and socio-economic development in the area. Many of the respondents believe that youth violence should not be condoned as it must be eradicated. With the findings of this study, it can be concluded that violence in Baboko community presents a negative picture of the community to the general public and has only negative consequences on the community. Lastly, this study concludes that the contributions of the law enforcement agencies to preventing youth violence in Baboko community have not been very effective, and calls for more attention from the government. The study, hereby, concludes that positive socialization of children by their parents and the creation of more jobs for the youths by the government are both essential to maintaining peace and orderliness as well as curbing the prevalence of youth violence in the Baboko community of Ilorin, Kwara State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. This study recommends that government should empower the police with more weapons and infrastructure such as patrol vans. The study finds out that the police are sometimes overpowered by the fighting youths when violence breaks out in the community all because they lack the equipment to subdue the fighters
2. Kwara state government should facilitate joint operations between the police and the community vigilante group. The vigilante group has the local knowledge of the area and can identify the hideouts of the suspects in case of violence. This type of operation will enable large apprehension and detention of suspects and criminals will serve as deterrence for others who have crime potentials.
3. Government should include the services of social workers and psychologists in the rehabilitation of offenders of youth violence. Some of these perpetrators have some cognitive and psycho-social factors that make them predispose to violence. Social workers and psychologists are very essential in recognizing this type of factors; it will help to cure and treat some of the offenders rather than punish them.
4. Government should create more jobs for the youths. A finding from the respondents in the study shows that many of the youths indulge in anti-social behaviour because they lack employment.
5. Parents and guardian in the community should re-socialize their peers towards the norms and values in the society. The youth in the community should be encouraged to be contributive members of the community.
6. Strict and direct legislation should be made prohibiting cultism, alcohol intake and substance abuse and strict punishment (such as imprisonment for a period not less than 5 years) should be stipulated. If strict punishment is given to every person involved in the vices, this will serve as a form of deterrence.

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