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Impact of Vigilante Service Group on Crime Control for Sustainable Development in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study assesses the impact of vigilante service group on crime control for sustainable development in Ilorin West Local Government, Kwara State. The Population of the study comprised of all community members and vigilante in Ilorin West Local Government. The sample for this study comprised of 120 respondents selected through a dip-hat sampling technique. Descriptive survey design was employed in the study and a questionnaire titled "Impact of Vigilante Service Group on Crime Control for Sustainable Development Questionnaire (IVESGCCSDQ)" with a reliability of 1.9. Four research questions were raised and answered using mean and standard deviation. The results shows that crime constitutes to social problem in the aspect that crime has led to disruption of business activities and crime has led some to marriage divorce in Ilorin West local government area. The following recommendations were suggested: that government should encourage the vigilante group service by allocating adequate fund to execute their duties couple with the provision of ammunitions to protect the populace of a community. The community members should not obstruct the vigilante group during the course of executing their duties in the community like controlling crime.

Keywords: Vigilante Service group, Crime Control, Sustainable Development, Policing, Community, Livelihood.

Introduction

The importance of law and order to orderly development and growth of a society, both in the physical and economic sense, cannot be over emphasized. It is only a mind that is secured and at peace that can rationally address the issues of procreation, economic development and societal growth. A disturbed mind is a restless and distraught personality. It is therefore imperative to have peace and order in the society to assure its growth and development (Balami, Ahmed & Yusuf, 2016) Crime is like other concepts in social sciences, which have no generally accepted definition. At first sight, it seems easy to define crime as doing something wrong or relating crime to immorality. Is there any agreement over what is morally wrong or right? Should all moral wrongs be crimes? It could also be asked whether all crimes are moral wrongs. In a strict legal sense, crime is the breaking of rules or laws for which some governing authority (via mechanisms such as legal systems) can ultimately prescribe a conviction (Ritzer, 2021). Crime in the social and legal framework is the set of facts or assumptions that are part of a case in which there were committed acts punishable under criminal law, and the application of which depends on the agent of a sentence or security measure criminal. In criminal law, crime is an act of omission which attracts sanctions such as fines, imprisonment or even death.

Peace, safety and security are both necessary and indispensable requirements for development and the attainment of good quality of life for any human society. They provide the requisite enabling environment for citizens to live and work towards social, economic and political development of the society (Groenewald & Peake, 2020). By the same token, their absence develops and heavily compromises the dignity and quality of life of both individuals and society. Furthermore, insecurity impacts negatively on all citizens through losses of property, life and limb, or through loss of confidence from fear and violence. It is against this backdrop that the delivery of safety and security is considered a justifiable public good and the very essence of the state (Lubuva, 2019). Human safety and security are indeed human rights having a value of their own and serving an instrumental function in the construction of human contentment and prosperity (Odinkalu, 2018). Unfortunately, social life in Nigeria has remained largely characterized by fear and insecurity (Odekunle, 2018; Alemika & Chukuma, 2018) in a manner that suggests that the country lacks the capacity to discharge its security functions



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especially that of policing. The Kwara vigilante service groups may not have a cordial and mutual relationship with the formal policing structure. The reasons for this may include the feeling by the police that they are arrogating their constitutional powers to themselves. Another reason may be the fact that the police are benefiting from the high and unabated crime rate in the country (Amuka, (2018). The vigilante group is a non-governmental organization founded about 20 years ago it was registered by cooperate affairs commission, with the headquarter in Kaduna and zonal offices across the entire country, the aim of the group maintains outmost security in the country, the organization pullout all stop to curb up crime must specially in this current security upsurge, the group are out to protect people's, property and maintain law and order, breed peace and prosperity in our dear country. Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resource use continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be classified as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations.

Statement of the problem

In recent years, many communities in Nigeria have witnessed crimes of various descriptions and Ilorin West Local Government Area of kwara State is not an exception. Many factors contribute to inappropriate crime control or prevention in Ilorin West such as ineffective of police which their ineffectiveness may be as a result of the fact that they are under-staffed, under-equipped, corrupt and lacked public cooperation. These have created problem of under policing in Nigeria including Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State. Thus, violence and property crimes are committed on daily basis without detection and prosecution. The issue of insecurity and lawlessness where every member tagged as hoodlums in a certain community like Oja-Oba, Oja Tuntun, commit atrocities with late intervention of security agencies after much damages might have been done to properties even extent to the bodily endangering of common men or women in the community. This evident in the unknown acclaimed political thugs clashed at the middle of January 2019, where properties were damaged and even recorded victims. Despite the clash of these thugs for about hours, there is no security agencies to abate their atrocities not alone apprehend any thugs for prosecution which expose the people around this place to danger of insecurity. Inability of the police to protect the lives and properties of members of the society has given rise to community efforts at ensuring their own security. Okoro (2017) identified corruption, brutality, oppressive and repressive postures, high level of extortion, high cost of assessment to police services, poverty, non-personal relationships, as some of the factors that made the people lose faith in the police and their consequent preference for informal policing structures. Furthermore, the emergence of vigilante in crime control couple with their roles in the society should be well stated in a written document to legally binding them to some certain specified roles and strengthen their relationship with other security agencies especially police. It is also essential that, whenever the region police as well as the Nigerian Police Force draw their plan for community policing, consultation with the community should be made to fish out some certain obstacles that may obstruct their work in time of action.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the contributions of vigilante groups in crime control in Ilorin West Local Government Area of kwara State. The specific purposes are:

1. identify crime rate and its types in Ilorin West Local Government
2. to find out the extent to which crime constitutes a social problem in Ilorin West Local Government
3. to determine the extent vigilante groups' capacity in controlling crime in Ilorin West Local Government

Research Questions

1. What are the influences of vigilante service group on the eradication of crime in Ilorin West Local Government Area
2. Does vigilante service group reduce crime rate in Ilorin West Local Government Area
3. To what extent does crime constitute a social problem in Ilorin West Local Government?

Methodology

Descriptive survey design was used for the study. Descriptive survey design is concerned with collecting data from a sample of a population in order to describe conditions or relationships that exist, opinions that are held, processes that are going on, effects that are evident or trends that are developing. This research design was considered appropriate for the



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study because it helped the researcher to obtain relevant information from the respondents on the impact of vigilante service groups on crime control for sustainable development. The total population for this study comprises of selected community members in Ilorin West Local Government, Kwara State. Community members was purposively selected for this study because they are familiar with the roles vigilante groups plays in controlling crime. Thus, hundred and twenty (120) members from various communities within Ilorin West, Kwara State were purposively selected for the study. A well-structured questionnaire with both face and content validity established by selected experts and a reliability index of 0.79 was used to gather appropriate data for the study, while the data collected was analysed with the use of descriptive statistic

Presentation of Results

The results of the data analysis are represented in such a way to highlight the background variables, research question, and test of hypothesis and summary of findings. The hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Demographic Representation of Participants

Participants were asked to indicate their religion as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of Participants by Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Islam	75	62.5
Christianity	45	37.5
Total	120	100.0

Table 1 reveals that (62.5%) with 75 frequency represents the population of respondent by religion of Islam while 37.5% the result represent respondent of Christianity religion. Base on this, it was indicated that respondents with Islamic faith participate more than Christianity religion.

Participants were asked to indicate their gender as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of Participants by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	54	45.0
Female	66	55.0
Total	120	100.0

As shown in Table 2, 54(45.0%) of the respondents were males while 66(55.0%) were females. This shows that more females participated in the study than males. Participants were asked to indicate their marital status as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of Participants by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent (%)
Single	68	56.7
Married	44	36.7
Divorced	6	5.0
Widow	2	1.7
Total	120	100.0

As shown in Table 3, 68(56.7%) of the respondents were single, while married status of the respondents were represented by 44(36.7%), 6(5.0%) indicate respondents divorced marital status, while 2(1.7%) were widow. This shows that most of the respondents that participate in this study were single.

Research Questions One: *What are the influences of vigilante service group on the eradication of crime in Ilorin West local government area?*

To answer research question one, responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics of Mean, Standard Deviation and Rank. Responses on a 4-point scale. A mean response of 1.5 and below was indicative of influences of vigilante group on eradication of crime as shown on Table 5. The mean value indicated the most agreed statement by the respondents while the mean that beyond this benchmark set is determined as disagreed statement and they shall be less considered respectively.

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Table 5: Mean Response on Influences of Vigilante Group on Eradication of Crime

	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD	Rank
Youth has stopped engaging in criminal behavior because of vigilante group in my community	120	1	4	1.42	.588	1 st
Vandalism acts has been in control as a result of vigilante groups in my areas	120	1	4	1.62	.688	3 rd
Vigilante groups have been able to curb armed robbery in my community	120	1	4	1.61	.714	2 nd
There is no night party in my community due to the formation of vigilante groups	120	1	4	1.79	.766	5 th
There is no thief in my community because of vigilante	120	1	4	1.66	.772	4 th
Valid N (listwise)	120					

As shown on the table 5, with a mean response of 1.42 which is below the cut score of 1.5 and is rank 1st, the item asserted that youth has stopped engaging in criminal behavior because of vigilante group in the community as the influence of vigilante group on the eradication of in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara state.

Research Questions Two: *Does vigilante service group eradicate crime in Ilorin West local government area?*

To answer research question two, responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics of Mean, Standard Deviation and Rank. Responses on a 4-point scale. A mean response of 1.5 and below was indicative of level of crime eradication as shown on Table 6. The mean value indicated the most agreed statement by the respondents while the mean that beyond this benchmark set is determined as disagreed statement and they shall be less considered respectively.

Table 6: Mean Response on Relevance of Level of Crime Reduction

	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Rank
Criminal behaviours have been reduced in my community	120	1	4	1.46	.607	1 st
The rate of crime before the formation of vigilante is high	120	1	4	1.65	.669	2 nd
Increase in crime rate has been reduced due to the formation of vigilante groups	120	1	4	1.69	.708	4 th
The level of sexual abuse crime is low in my community as a result of vigilante groups	120	1	4	1.97	.840	5 th
The level of cultism in my area has been reduced because of vigilante groups	120	1	4	1.65	.741	2 nd
Valid N (list wise)	120					

As shown on the table 6, with 1st rank and a mean response of 1.46 which is below the benchmark of 1.5, there is reduction of criminal behavior in the community as a result of crime eradication level in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara state. Other ranks were considered less importance in crime eradication in Ilorin West Local Government Area.

Research Questions Three: *To what extent does crime constitute a social problem in Ilorin West Local Government?*

To answer research question two, responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics of Mean, Standard Deviation and Rank. Responses on a 4-point scale. A mean response of 1.9 and above was indicative of extent crime constitutes to social problems as shown on Table 7. The mean value indicated the most agreed statement by the respondents while the mean that below this benchmark set is determined as disagreed statement and they shall be less considered respectively.

Table 7: Mean Response on Relevance of Extent Crime Constitutes to Social Problem

	N	Min	Max	Mean	S. D	Rank
Increasing crime rate led to loss of property in my community	120	1	4	1.72	.852	4 th
Crime has led to disruption of business activities	120	1	4	1.94	.910	1 st
Increase in crime has contributed to social problems	120	1	4	1.68	.811	5 th



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	N	Min	Max	Mean	S. D	Rank
Increasing crime rate led to loss of property in my community	120	1	4	1.72	.852	4 th
Crime has ruined some families in my community	120	1	4	1.88	.927	3 rd
Crime has led some to marriage divorce in my community	120	1	4	1.90	.854	2 nd
Valid N (list wise)	120					

As shown on the table 6, with a mean response of 1.94 and 1.90 which are above the set score of 1.90 with 1st and 2nd rank respectively holds, have the statement that the extent in which crime constitutes to social problem in the aspect that crime has led to disruption of business activities and crime has led some to marriage divorce in my community (i.e Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara state).

Discussion of Findings

The study focused on the impact of vigilante service group on crime control for sustainable development in Ilorin West local government area. The findings revealed based on the first table which gave information about demographic distribution by religion where it indicates that respondents that practice Islam participated more than the Christianity faith with 62.5 to 37.5 percentage. Also, table two provides information on respondents based on 54 (45.0%) of the respondents were males while 66 (55.0%) were females. This shows that more females participated in the study than males. On final note on demographic information on the ground of marital status 68 (56.7%) of the respondents were single, while married status of the respondents were represented by 44 (36.7%), 6 (5.0%) indicate respondents divorced marital status, while 2 (1.7%) were widow. This shows that most of the respondents that participate in this study were single. Table 3, 38 (31.7%) of the respondents were civil servant, 62 (51.7%) represent the respondents that are student, 18 (15.0%) indicate respondents' occupation of trading, while 2 (1.7%) were professional. This shows that most of the respondents that participate in this study were student as it has high percentage in the frequency counts.

Findings from the study revealed that, with a mean response of 1.42 which is below the cut score of 1.5, the item asserted that youth has stopped engaging in criminal behavior because of vigilante group in the community as the influence of vigilante group on the eradication of in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara state. This result is in line with the study of Adegbusi (2019) in a study conducted in Ondo state of Nigeria on 'Vigilante groups and the task of policing' with 500 respondents found that vigilante service groups are important in crime prevention and control as majority of the respondents indicated that vigilante service groups can partner with the police to control and prevent crime in the state. More also, the finding discovered that there is reduction of criminal behavior in the community as a result of crime eradication level in Ilorin West Local Government area. It was further indicated in the study that crime has led to disruption of business activities and crime has led some to marriage divorce as the extent in which crime constitutes to social problem. This finding agrees with the study of Dönmez ((2018)) who observed that in such societies, the culture of violence is ingrained in the practices of different groups to such an extent that it goes out of control.

Conclusions

This study investigated the impact of vigilante service group on crime control for sustainable development in Ilorin West Local Government Area. The findings revealed that that youth has stopped engaging in criminal behavior because of vigilante group in the community as the influence of vigilante group on the eradication of in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara state. Also, there is reduction of criminal behavior in the community as a result of crime eradication level in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara state. The study furthered indicated that the extent in which crime constitutes to social problem in the aspect that crime has led to disruption of business activities and crime has led some to marriage divorce in Ilorin West local government area. The community perception of vigilante groups held that the existence of vigilante groups to promotes peace and unity in my community in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara state.

Recommendations

In the view of this study, the following recommendations were made:



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1. The government should encourage the vigilante group of service by allocating adequate fund to execute their duties couple with the provision of ammunitions to protect the populace of a community.
2. Police should mitigate the level of checking the extent in which vigilante group execute their duties in curbing and controlling crime in the community especially in Ilorin West local government.
3. The community members should not obstruct the vigilante group during the course of executing their duties in the community like controlling crime.
4. There should be prior recognition of the existence of vigilante group and formulated regulations that will oversee their practices in curbing crime in the society.

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