



Socioeconomic Factors as Determinants of Juvenile Delinquency among Urban Slum Dwellers in Selected Waterfront Settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The drive for this article was to gaze at how socioeconomic factors determinants of juvenile delinquency among waterfront slum residents in Rivers State, Nigeria. Four study questions and four objectives were chosen, accordingly. Social disorganization theory was utilized to comprehend and relate the variables. The research was conducted using a descriptive survey approach. The research has a sample size of 277 participants. The sample size was calculated using a multi-stage sampling process that included both intentional and unintentional sampling. A self-structured questionnaire named "Socioeconomic Factors and Juvenile Delinquency among Slum Dwellers in Waterfront Settlements [SFJSDWS]" was used to collect data. Findings indicated that there was a strong relationship between parents' unemployment and theft/larceny among juveniles (3.06 ± 1.28). There was a positive relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting (2.92 ± 0.99). Parents' socio-economic status is significantly related to pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements (2.99 ± 0.95). The findings also show that there was a moderate relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements (2.72 ± 1.08). It was recommended among other that Government and non-governmental institutions like NGOs should try to provide material aids as well as provide access to counseling and proper guidance to juvenile delinquents and their families at an early stage as a way to curb delinquency among juvenile especially in slum settlements; In most cases it is paramount for juveniles at risks of delinquency to be

removed from their neighborhood or dwelling areas especially from the slum settlements.

Keywords: *Socioeconomic Factors, Determinants, Juvenile Delinquency, Urban Slum Dwellers, Waterfront Settlements*

I. Introduction

According to the global multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) issued by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiatives in 2021 based on data collected between 2019 and 2020, across 109 countries and 5.9 billion people globally, 1.3 billion people are multi-dimensionally poor of which 644 million of them are under the age of 18 and 556million (nearly 85%) live in Sub-Saharan Africa and more than 67%, live in middle-income countries. Specifically, 19.2% of Nigerians are vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, 26.8% are in severe multidimensional poverty AND 36.1% are below monetary poverty line (MPI, 2021).

Nigeria is the most populated country in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a population that is primarily under the age of 18 and as such (MPI, 2021), it is sufficient to claim that Nigeria's juveniles are the poorest in the country and many of these children have poor nutrition, educational chances, infrastructure and environmental conditions, physical and mental health issues, and so on. Hence, despite the country's vast natural resources, widespread poverty, a sluggish economy, deteriorating infrastructure, and corruption are the main consequences of the country's delayed growth due to a major governance issue and inadequate public administration. With such a life of want and need among juveniles exposed to the consequent



consequence of poverty, delinquent behavior would be connected with them, and a high number of juveniles will get enmeshed with the Nigerian juvenile justice system. According to findings from Cambridge study in Delinquent Development (CSDD) in 1961 and later in 2015, youngsters from low-income families are two and a half times more likely to resort to crime than teenagers from affluent families, hence numerous studies as such have found an unmistakable relationship between adolescent misbehavior and socioeconomic deprivation. Juvenile delinquency is not a new-fangled subject, but urbanization has exacerbated it by altering society's structure.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects (2020) indicated that reinforced by extending political schism, these difficult near-term headwinds pose a substantial peril to the prospects for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. They identified socioeconomic dynamic like poverty-induced conditions that are detrimental to children's empowerment, such as slow economic growth and poor living conditions. Low housing, illness prevalence, poor educational achievement, food insecurity, unemployment, increasing urbanization, and so on are all examples of this. The high prevalence of poverty in families and households has severe consequences, particularly for juveniles who are forced by circumstance to contribute to family income by engaging in deviant and criminal activities.

Socio-economic factor like poverty, according to Onibokun & Kumuyi (1996) creates the conditions that make it difficult for juveniles to access basic means of subsistence. As a result, given the high degree of poverty experienced by the average family today, the problem of delinquency among juveniles living in slum communities in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, has taken on a significant dimension.

According to Siegel, Welsh and Senna (2012), juvenile criminality is a lower-class phenomenon, and its source must be based in societal elements that are only prevalent in lower-class areas: poverty. And that, since delinquent behavior is widespread across society, it must be linked to noneconomic variables such as personality, socialization, family dysfunction, educational failure, intelligences, and peer influence. Providing jobs or economic incentives, according to this logic, would have no impact on the juvenile crime rate.

UNICEF (2022) reported that 52% of the Nigerian population are children of which their engagement in crime and deviant behaviour had risen dramatically. This rising worry about the

juvenile crime rate has sparked an investigation into how variables such as urban poverty contribute to juvenile criminality. The link between urban poverty and juvenile delinquency is obvious at first look; juvenile delinquents who lack income or social status are more prone to use criminal ways to accomplish their unmet aspirations. Certain slum communities like Bundu-Ama in Port Harcourt City lack social and economic possibilities which create significant levels of dissatisfaction among juveniles. Juveniles reared and living in more affluent neighborhoods feel they will never be able to compete economically or socially with those grown and living in less affluent places. Family-life is unsettled in low-income localities, hence law violating and deviant groups thrive in a climate that undermines and neutralizes adult supervision, which is a breeding ground for common crimes among juveniles in slum settlements of Port Harcourt Conurbation, such as cyber-crime (yahoo yahoo), armed robbery, and drug trade. Although different studies, such as Ekpenyong, Lasisi and Ekpenyong, (2012); Ludwig, Duncan and Hirschfield (2001) and Shong, Abu Bakar & Islam (2018), have made so much contributions into this area of study, there is still a gap in knowledge particularly in the relationship between socio-economic factors and juveniles delinquency, thus the aim of this study among urban slum dwellers in selected waterfront settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

- i. examine the relationship between parental unemployment and theft/larceny by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria;
- ii. examine the relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria;
- iii. examine the relationship between parental socio-economic statuses and pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria;
- iv. examine the relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

- i. What is the relationship between parental unemployment and theft/larceny by juvenile delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?



ii. What is the relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?

iii. What is the relationship between parental socio-economic statuses and pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?

iv. What is the relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?

Theoretical framework: Social Disorganization Theory

The social disorganization theory was created as a result of the research conducted by Shaw and McKay in Chicago (Shaw & McKay, 1942). Using spatial maps, Shaw and McKay examined adolescent residences and discovered that crime rates varied both over time and across the city. Instead, crime was localized to certain neighborhoods and, critically, was relatively stable within each neighborhood despite the citywide trend of shifting demographics. For example, in urban slum regions, the crime rate is high regardless of the racial or ethnic composition of the population. When these "crime-prone populations" moved to cities with lower crime rates, their criminal conduct dropped to reflect the new normal. Based on their findings, Shaw and McKay concluded that criminal activity was more likely the result of local factors than a direct result of the residents of certain areas. The question that needed to be addressed was, "What features of the traits of different neighborhoods account for the consistency of the crime rate?"

Shaw & McKay zeroed emphasis on metropolitan areas with rapidly shifting social and economic systems, also known as "zones of transition." Targeted locations with low socioeconomic status received special attention. Though areas with above-average crime rates are generally economically deprived, it is important to remember that Shaw & McKay did not imply a direct causal relationship between economic hardship and crime. They instead argued that people

moved out of economically depressed locations frequently because they were so unappealing that people avoided living there as long as they could. Recent immigrants tended to settle in low-income areas, contributing to the racial and ethnic diversity of these communities. Thus, racial diversity and transient populations were common in low-income communities. It was assumed that these places were "socially disturbed." Traditional social control institutions (such as the family, schools, churches, and voluntary community organizations) were ineffectual and unable to govern the behavior of local children in such areas.

II. Research Method

The study engages the descriptive survey design. The study area covers selected waterfront settlements (Njemanze; Bundu-Ama; Abonnema Wharf; Elechi Beach; Cemetery waterside and Nanka) in Rivers State, Nigeria. The population of the selected slum settlements are: Njemanze waterfront settlement - 17,150; Bundu-Ama waterfront settlement - 28,460; Abonnema Wharf waterfront settlement - 10,102; Elechi Beach waterfront settlement - 14,070; Nanka waterfront settlement Cemetery - 9,200 and Cemetery waterfront settlement 12,000, respectively summing up to 90,982 (Amnesty International, 2010). However, the sample size adopted for the study is 300 respondents, gotten via non-proportionate stratified random sampling while convenience sampling technique was applied in the distribution of the self-administered questionnaire for data collection. Data gathered in the field for the study was analyzed and presented by means of frequency tables, percentage breakdown, arithmetic mean, and standard deviation. The SPSS (version 26) package was used in the analysis at a 0.05 level of significance.

III. Results

In the field, 300 copies of the questionnaire were given, with 277 copies filled out correctly, reflecting a 92 percent completion rate. As a result, the total number of instruments properly filled and used for this investigation was 277.



Demographic Characteristics

Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents

S/N	Categories	Variables	Frequency	Valid Per (%)
1	Age	10 - 12	80	28.9
		13 - 15	142	51.3
		16 - 18	55	19.9
		Total	277	100.0
2	Gender	Male	170	61.4
		Female	107	38.6
		Total	277	100.0
3	Parents' Marital Status	Single	79	28.5
		Married	132	47.7
		Divorced	10	3.6
		Separated	24	8.7
		Others	32	11.6
		Total	277	100.0
4	Parents' Level of Education	No formal education	49	17.7
		Primary	42	15.2
		Secondary	166	59.9
		Tertiary	20	7.2
		Total	277	100.0
5	Parents' Employment Status	Students	53	19.1
		Employed	88	31.8
		Unemployed	95	34.3
		Retired	9	3.2
		Others	32	11.6
		Total	277	100.0
6	Religion	Christianity	235	84.8
		Islam	32	11.6
		African Tradition	10	3.6
		Total	277	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Table 1 above displayed that 142(51.3%) of the respondents were 13-15 years old, 80(28.9%) were 10-12 years while 55(19.9%) were 16-18 years. The demographic distribution of respondent's age showed that most of the juveniles who participated in the study were between the ages of 13-15 years. This also reflects the average age of juveniles in slum settlements in Rivers State.

The result in table 1 above revealed that 170(61.4%) of the respondents were males and 107(38.6%) were females. The demographic

distribution of respondent's gender showed that most of the juveniles who participated in the study were males. This also reflects the average gender of juveniles in slum settlements in Rivers State. There was less number of female juvenile delinquents in the waterfront slums of Rivers State.

The respondents parents' marital status as disclosed in table 1 above, revealed that 132(47.7%) were married, 79(28.5%) were single, 32(11.6%) were in other forms of relationship or may have been widowed, 24(8.7%) had separated from their



marriages and 10(3.6%) were divorced. The demographic distribution of respondent's parents' marital Status showed that most of the juvenile's parents were married. There was less of divorced parents of juveniles in slum settlements who participated in the study.

From the information in *table 1*, more than half of the distribution of parents 166(59.9%) had secondary education, 49(17.7%) had no formal education, 42(15.2%) had primary education and 20(7.2%) had tertiary education. The demographic distribution of respondent's parents' educational Status showed that most of the juvenile's parents had secondary school education. There was less of number of parents in slum settlements who have attained tertiary education.

Table 1 revealed that 235(84.8%) of the respondents were Christians, 32(11.6%) were Muslims and 10(3.6%) were African traditionalists. The demographic distribution of respondent's religious

affiliation revealed that most of the juveniles were Christians while less number of juveniles in slum settlements were African traditionalists.

Table 1 above showed that 95(34.3%) of the respondents' parents were unemployed, 88(31.8%) were employed but mostly low salary earners, 53(19.1%) were students, 32(11.6%) were others who were probably self-employed or doing one economic activity or the other while 9(3.2%) were retired. The demographic distribution of respondent's parents' occupational Status presented less juvenile's parents as unemployed while there was less of number of parents in slum settlements who were retired.

Analysis of Research Questions

Research Questions One (1) Analysis: What is the relationship between parental unemployment and theft/larceny by juvenile delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean and SD analysis of is the relationship between parental unemployment and theft/larceny by juvenile delinquents in waterfront slum settlements

S/N	Relationship between parental unemployment and theft/larceny	SA	A	D	SD	Sum	Mean	SD	Decision
16	Parental unemployment is a major socio-economic determinant of theft/larceny	76	80	63	58	728	2.63	1.10	Agreed
17	High rate of unemployment in slum settlements translates to high rate of theft among juveniles	108	110	37	22	858	3.1	0.91	Agreed
18	Tackling urban unemployment is a socio-economic strategy for larceny control in slum settlements	77	105	59	36	777	2.81	0.99	Agreed
19	Malnutrition among juveniles develops the decisive motives for theft among juveniles	130	102	33	12	904	3.26	0.83	Agreed
20	Poverty undermine economics development of Port Harcourt	135	113	20	8	927	3.51	2.55	Agreed
Aggregate		105	102	42	27	839	3.06	1.28	Agreed

Source: *Field Survey (2022)*

In *table 2*, the result disclosed a strong relationship between parent's unemployment and theft/larceny among juveniles (3.06±1.28).

Research Question Two (2) Analysis: What is the relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean and SD Analysis of the relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements

S/N	Relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting	SA	A	D	SD	Sum	Mean	SD	Decision
21	Shoplifting is an alternative for poor slum dwellers with little or no livelihood	96	47	46	88	705	2.55	1.258	Agreed
22	Poor standard of living in slum	148	63	37	29	884	3.19	1.027	Agreed



	settlements brings about shoplifting by juveniles								
23	Economic conditions of slum settlement encourage juveniles to engage in shoplifting	106	88	13	70	784	2.83	1.317	Agreed
24	Poverty in slum settlements promotes shoplifting among juveniles	157	94	22	4	958	3.46	0.704	Agreed
25	Poor amenities in Urban slum settlements is relative to shoplifting by poor juveniles	84	171	16	6	887	3.20	0.639	Agreed
Aggregate		112	85	27	53	810	2.92	0.99	Agreed

Source: Field Survey (2022)

Result in table 3 revealed the nature of relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting by juveniles. The result showed that there is positive relation between slum settlement and shoplifting (2.92±0.99).

Research Question Three (3) Analysis: What is the relationship between parental socio-economic statuses and pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?

Table 4: Mean and SD Analysis of the relationship between parental socio-economic statuses and pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements

S/N	Relationship between parental socio-economic background and pick pocketing	SA	A	D	SD	Sum	Mean	SD	Decision
26	Unemployment of parents is a major socio-economic determinant of delinquency among juveniles	122	121	32	2	917	3.31	0.70	Agreed
27	Tackling unemployment is a socio-economic strategy for the control of pick pocketing as a delinquent act	131	86	20	40	862	3.11	1.06	Agreed
28	Low family income encourage juveniles to provide for the family through pick pocketing	54	96	68	59	699	2.52	1.03	Agreed
29	Poor educational level of parents promotes pick pocketing among juveniles in slum areas	140	85	38	14	905	3.27	0.88	Agreed
30	Poor standard of living in slum settlements develops the decisive motives for pick pocketing among juveniles	82	87	61	47	758	2.74	1.06	Agreed
Aggregate		106	95	44	32	828	2.99	0.95	Agreed

Source: Field Survey (2022)

Table 4 showed the relationship between parental socio-economic statuses and pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements. The result revealed that parents' socio-economic status is significantly related to pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements (2.99±0.95).

Research question Four (4) Analysis: What is the relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements in Rivers State, Nigeria?

Table 5: Mean SD analysis of relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements

S/N	Relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse	SA	A	D	SD	Sum	Mean	SD	Decision
31	Perception of peer groups in slum settlements does not affect the decisive involvement of juveniles in alcohol/drug abuse	153	63	47	14	909	3.28	0.92	Agreed



32	Personal and religious belief of juveniles is a predictor for association with other peers who abuse alcohol/drug in slum settlements	57	23	72	125	566	2.04	1.17	Disagreed
33	Alcohol/drug abuse is a means for juveniles among peers to show their frustrations and level of stress in slum settlements	108	73	80	16	827	2.99	0.96	Agreed
34	The level of cognition among juveniles peers affects their decision on the abuse alcohol/drug	102	62	41	72	748	2.7	1.21	Agreed
35	Perceived self-efficacy of juveniles determine their involvements in alcohol/drug abuse in slum settlements	83	67	59	68	719	2.6	1.16	Agreed
Aggregate		101	58	60	59	754	2.72	1.08	Agreed

Source: Field Survey (2022)

Table 5 displayed the relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements. The result revealed that there is a moderate relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements (2.72 ± 1.08).

IV. Discussion

The relationship between parental unemployment and theft/larceny by juvenile delinquents in waterfront slum settlements

It was revealed in the discoveries of the research, a strong relationship between parents' unemployment and theft/larceny among juveniles (3.06 ± 1.28). From the demographic result in figure 4.6, the largest proportion of parents in the selected slums who partook in the study were unemployed and without any form of business activity, this is an economic issue and it bring about poverty. Hence, it was found in this study that juveniles who came from poor families with unemployed parents were more likely to engage in crime. "Parents, Neighbors, and Youth Crime" by Díaz, Carlos & Patacchini, Eleonora (2020), looked at how peer and parental unemployment and inability to handle economic necessities interact to influence adolescent criminal conduct.

The relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements.

From the findings there was a positive relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting (2.92 ± 0.99). The respondents believed that shoplifting is an alternative for poor slum dwellers with little or no livelihood. Others are: poor standard of living in slum settlements brings about shoplifting by juveniles; economic conditions of

slum settlement encourage juveniles to engage in shoplifting; poverty in slum settlements promotes shoplifting among juveniles and poor amenities in urban slum settlements is relative to shoplifting by poor juveniles.

The results of Ferdoos & Ashiq 2015 study, "Impact of Urbanization on Juvenile Delinquency: A Study of Muzaffarabad Jail," are consistent with this finding. Their research sought to identify the factors related to urbanization that contribute to adolescent delinquency. The current study examined a number of urbanization-related factors of adolescent delinquency, including deviant peer associations, urban poverty and relative deprivation, a lack of parental supervision and self-control, and easy access to illicit methods.

Damm and Dustmann (2014) looked at how being raised in a dangerous neighborhood affects young people's propensity to commit crimes. The purpose was to find out if and how young people's exposure to neighborhood violence influences their later criminal activity. They found substantial evidence that a higher rate of conviction for male assignees occurs when there is a high rate of conviction for crimes committed by young people in the region, especially violent crimes. There is no evidence of these impacts in other measures of neighborhood crime, such as the crime rate. The present findings indicate that interpersonal communication with immediate environment is a key link between individual criminal behavior and community crime.

On the other hand, "The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity Experiment" by Chetty, Hendren & Katz (2016). In the Moving to Opportunity (MTO) experiment, families were chosen at random and given housing vouchers so they could relocate from high-poverty



housing developments to less impoverished areas. Using tax data, they examine the effects of MTO on long-term outcomes for children. They discovered that relocating to a less impoverished area while still young (under the age of 13) enhances college attendance, boosts wages, and lowers the likelihood of single parenting. Moving when you're a teenager has somewhat unfavorable effects, possibly due to disruption effects. The decrease in moving benefits with age shows that exposure to better environments for a longer period of time during childhood is a significant predictor of children's long-term outcomes. "Urban Poverty and Juvenile Crime: Evidence from a Randomized Housing-Mobility Experiment" by Ludwig, Duncan, & Hirschfield (2001). Using data from a randomized housing-mobility experiment, they analyzed the effects of relocating families from high- to low-poverty neighborhoods on adolescent criminality. Results are calculated using administrative government statistics on juvenile arrests. Their research seems to show that reducing adolescent violent crime is possible by offering families the opportunity to move to safer neighborhoods.

The relationship between parental socio-economic statuses and pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements

Here, parents' socio-economic status was significantly related to pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements (2.99 ± 0.95). Respondents agreed on the fact that low family income encourage juveniles to provide for the family through pick pocketing. They also supported that poor educational level of parents promotes pick pocketing among juveniles in slum areas. They agreed that the poor standard of living in slum settlements aided the decisive motives for pick pocketing among juveniles. The respondents accepted that tackling unemployment was a socio-economic strategy for the control of pick pocketing as a delinquent act among juveniles.

This result agrees with Mullens' (2004) research on "The Relationship between Juvenile Delinquency and Family Unit Structure." In order to ascertain whether there is a connection between the two factors, the study's goal was to evaluate the association between parental absence and juvenile criminality. Male minors who were accused of committing status or delinquent offenses between 1996 and 2004 were the subjects of the data collection. Each offense was divided into categories based on the type of offense (such as underage drinking, petit larceny, breaking and entering, etc.),

level of offense (such as status misdemeanor and felony), victim (such as crimes against the person, crimes against property, etc.), and age of the juvenile at the time the alleged offense allegedly took place. This research looked at whether a youngster who grows up in a broken-down home is more likely to become a troubled teen. The father-alone home was the only individual family type to have a statistically significant effect, though the whole model was determined to be statistically significant.

The relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements

According to this study, there is a moderate link between peer pressure and drug and alcohol misuse among young offenders living in waterfront slum settlements. The study's author hypothesizes that youngsters who have antisocial inclinations, who hang out with friends who exhibit deviant behavior, and who feel the negative impacts of peer rejection are more likely to become juvenile delinquents and commit more serious crimes. However, much more research is required in this area. The number of risk factors for child delinquency increases as kids get older, start going to school, and integrate into their communities. Numerous studies link ties with troubled peers to adolescent crime (Elliott & Menard, 1996). Whether "birds of a feather flock together" or "bad company corrupts" is a significant question. However, this study demonstrates that alcohol/drug abuse is a means for juveniles among peers to express their frustrations and level of stress in slum settlements. A large body of research suggests that young people exposed to delinquent peers are more likely to engage in criminal activity themselves, and that delinquent kids may be influenced to become more delinquent by their own peers. Young people who associate with other disturbed people are more likely to become incarcerated before their time (Coie et al., 1995).

The presence of a delinquent sibling, especially if they are close in age and share a close link, can have a significant impact on a child's decision to follow in that sibling's criminal footsteps (Slomkowski, Rende, Conger, Simons, & Conger, 2001). In recent years, researchers have identified peer rejection as a risk factor for antisocial conduct. After controlling for previous antisocial behavior, researchers in the Oregon Youth Study found that peer rejection in fourth grade was a predictor of antisocial behavior in eighth grade (Patterson and Bank, 1989). In a separate study that followed



children from kindergarten through fourth grade, researchers found that early indicators of criminal behavior were established by kindergarten. This suggests that the early starter road to antisocial behavior may be usefully marked by rejection in the first grade (Miller-Johnson et al., 2002). Juveniles' perceived self-efficacy affects their involvement in alcohol and drug misuse in slum areas because when they feel rejected by their peers, they turn to delinquent behavior like substance abuse to boost their confidence. Peer rejection may also have an impact on juvenile delinquency by encouraging the rejected youth to join gangs and other troubled peer groups (Patterson, Capaldi, and Bank, 1991). Membership in a gang represents the highest level of deviant peer influence on crime, particularly when it comes to substance misuse. Gang membership also provides a ready pool of co-offenders for youthful delinquency. Additionally, young people today join gangs at younger ages than they did in the past, which results in a rise in the number of juvenile offenders (Howell & Egly, 2005).

V. Conclusion and Recommendations

The youth of Port Harcourt's urban slums face extraordinary challenges in their daily lives. Results are consistent with earlier studies showing that adversity increases the likelihood of risky conduct in young people. Results summarized, exhibited the identified prevalent types of delinquent acts among juveniles in slum settlements Stealing/looting, pickpocketing, theft/larceny, shoplifting, drug dealing/abuse and Assault. However, the most prevalent was stealing/looting while the least was vandalism. Factors that induced juveniles into certain delinquent crimes were poverty, unemployment of parent, poor moral upbringing, peer pressure, poor educational standards, substance abuse violence at homes and social circles and childhood psychological trauma. Nevertheless, the strongest inducing factors parents' unemployment while the least inducing factor was peer pressure. From the findings there was strong relationship between parents' unemployment and theft/larceny among juveniles. Also, there was positive relationship between slum settlement and shoplifting. From the results, parents' socio-economic status is significantly related to pick pocketing by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements. Also, there was a moderate relationship between peer influence and alcohol/drug abuse by juveniles delinquents in waterfront slum settlements. However, the researcher found that initiatives taken against

juveniles delinquent crimes were by encouraging juveniles to go to school; informing law enforcement agencies and punishing the delinquents. However, the slum dwellers do not get assistance from NGOs and they do not provide food and basic amenities for juveniles from poor home. On the findings and foundation above, the study recommends the following:

- i. Governments and private entities should work together to generate job possibilities for young people of working age. However, these individuals must learn to accept whatever work they are given and not crave for white collar jobs, as this will keep minors away from illegal activities.
- ii. In most circumstances, it is critical to remove children at risk of delinquency from their neighborhood or living locations, particularly slum settlements.
- iii. Interventions that develop supportive parent-child connections and improve adolescent emotional health may have potential benefits in helping juveniles to successfully cope with adversity.
- iv. Parental supervision, strong religiosity, and high self-esteem are suggested as ways to mitigate the impact of adversity on risk behavior, particularly among juveniles in slum settlements.

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