

An Assessment of Peer Influence on Youth Involvement on Crime in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council

Idris Mu'azu¹ Dr. Abubakar Mu'azu² Dr. Musa abdullahi³

1.Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Maiduguri, P.M.B 1069 Maiduguri Borno State-Nigeria

2.Department of Mass Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Maiduguri, P.M.B 1069 Maiduguri Borno State-Nigeria

3.Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Maiduguri, P.M.B 1069 Maiduguri Borno State-Nigeria

Abstract

Peer group influence on youth crime is largely an area of interaction physically and impersonally. Physically interaction can take place in a compound, wards, schools or other socially organised activities such as youth camps, football clubs or other game activities, boys scout, girls guide, man 'o' war and debating society etc and specifically to assess peer influence on youth involvement on crime in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. And specifically to examine the demographic characteristics of youth in Maiduguri, assess whether peer have influence on youth involvement in crime in Maiduguri. The study reviewed relevant theories and in particular Differential Association Theory which explained that criminal behaviour is learnt through interaction with other individual in a process of communication. The data were obtained from primary and secondary sources which involved the use of questionnaires and review of relevant literatures. The study interviewed 180 respondents. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings revealed that most of the crimes committed are mostly by Males, so Males are prone to committing crime, and they are between the ages of 18 to 25years and have secondary or degree qualification. It also revealed that crime committed by youths were due to influence of bad friends and those youth were from large family size, and their parents don't allow outsiders to discipline them and they are unemployed and have poor parental upbringing which characterised by poverty, homelessness and frustration among others. The study recommends that parents, government and community organisations could provide adequate jobs and enabling environments for business to thrive, as this will curb crime among the youth in Maiduguri Metropolis.

Keywords: Assessment, Peer Influence, Youth Involvement and Criminal Behaviour

1. Introduction

Sociologists and criminologists have studied the influence of peer group on youth. Peers have a tendency to either reinforce respect for and observance of norms or they can influence deviation from norms. Sociological and criminological studies have emphasized the importance of peer group in the development and behaviour of youth and their consequences. Concern over this has not abated because youth remain important categories in human development. So long as the youth continue to exist, the subject of conformity or deviation from norms will continue to remain a subject of both sociological and criminological interest. This work is set within this concern and argues that peers would continue to influence one another with consequence on the norms of society Youth, particularly male, are prone to criminal behaviour due to their youthfulness and exposures. The National Youth Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2001) states that inadequate parental care, non-availability of suitable sports and recreational facilities, increasing decadence in the society, lack of appropriate role models, religious fanaticism, cultism, political manipulation of youth organizations, unemployment, poor educational background, poor family influence are the problems confronting the Nigerian youth.

Peer group influences are largely areas of interaction physically and impersonally. Physically interaction can take place in a compound, wards, schools or other socially organised activities – youth camps, football or other game activities, organised citizens groups for youth – boys scout, girls guide, man 'o' war, cadet force, and debating society etc.

2. Statement of the Problem

Nigeria is experiencing various challenges economic, political and social, with the youth mostly affected. Since the return to civil rule in 1999, one critical challenge has been the threat and activities of youth militancy in the South- South. This has both economic and political implications on the country and the youth as well. Kidnapping also became a major security concern in the South-Eastern part of the country. Prior to these was the emergence of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) engaged in ethnic conflict, the North East has been embroiled in insurgency, in which terror tactics, with fatal consequences have become common most especially in the study area. The North Central and North West also experience conflict and raids on villages including cattle rustling, (Omogho, 2016). In all these incidents, the youth have been involved either as perpetrators or victims or in

recent times as important collaborators in fighting insurgency. The influence of youth in criminal activities has been a problem for long; this is because there are so many factors that impel them into criminal behaviours. However, despite efforts at channelling their energies towards productive and norm-conforming activities, they have fallen into criminal behaviour. Though not all, cases of crime have become noticeable in which youth play part. This could be as a result of the influence of peers. Hence, it is important to examine the assessment of peer influence on youth that lead to their involvement on criminal behaviour. Youth belong to different segments of society and those that engage in criminal behaviour need to be studied. Youth engagement in criminal behaviour is common in cities across Nigeria. Maiduguri, the Borno State capital has not been immune from such behaviour by youth, more common ones include drug and substance abuse, breaking and stealing, rape, prostitution, armed robbery and drug trafficking. It is against this background that the research was conducted.

3. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess peer influence on youth involvement on criminal behaviour in Maiduguri, Borno State. The specific objectives are to:

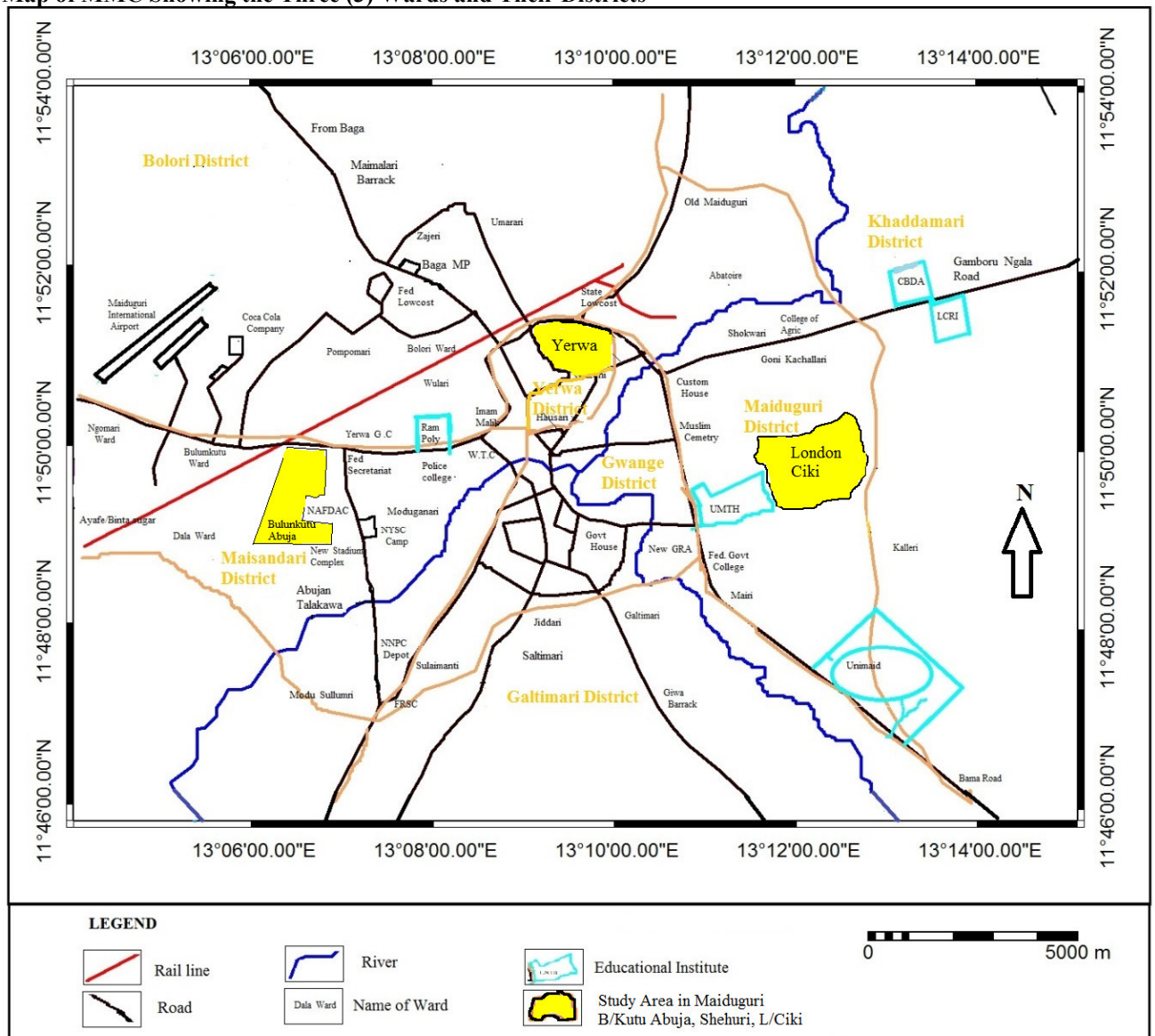
- i. examine the demographic characteristics of youth in Maiduguri;
- ii. assess whether peer have influence on youth involvement in crime in Maiduguri;

4. Study Area

Maiduguri the capital city of Borno State is situated between 11°N and longitude 13°E . Its establishment started when the British under the leadership of Sir Lord Luggard shifted the capital of Borno from Kukawa to because of inaccessibility and unhealthy nature to Yerwa; a place located between Mafoni and a large market village called Maiduguri. Yerwa stood on low ridge about 100ft above sea level and was a good centre for trade across the desert and into the French territories. Originally, Maiduguri was bounded at all sides by Kukawa local Government area. Maiduguri is a State capital with high population with a long history of urban life. The principal ethnic group is Kanuri they now account for only half of the total population of the city. As in every state of the country, English is the official language, though Hausa, Shuwa and Kanuri are widely spoken.

Maiduguri is also the town or city in which the state Governor and all government and top functionaries of the state dwell; hence, all policies as regard running the affairs of the state are made in the city (Maiduguri). Maiduguri is made up of fifteen (15) districts; it has an area of about 53km² with a total population of about 689,212 by 2011 estimated Waziri, (2011) and a population density of approximately 10188.9811 per square kilometre. The climate of Maiduguri is hot and dry for most part of the year. The period of rainfall last an average of 120 days, the annual rainfall ranges from 500mm to 1000mm usually from June to September. Majority of the inhabitants of the city are farmers, civil servants and businessmen and women. Find below are the map of Maiduguri Metropolitan council showing the three (3) areas of the study and the districts from which they were chosen.

Map of MMC Showing the Three (3) Wards and Their Districts



Source: Field Work (2016)

4.1 Sources of Data

The data for the study were obtained from primary and secondary sources. The primary data were derived from the close ended structured questionnaire administered to the youth on the assessment of peer influence on youth involvement on criminal behaviour in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. The questionnaire was administered to the target population who can read and write, while the; interpretation method was employed to the respondents who cannot read and write. That is, the study collected data from this category of people by asking questions from the questionnaire with the help of the interpreter and code it in respect of those persons. The secondary data was obtained from the review of relevant literature such as books, newsletters, journals, articles and internet browsing in the related field.

4.2 Population of the Study

The target population of the study was the entire people of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. Maiduguri Metropolitan Council has an estimated household of about 689,212 Waziri, (2011) by 2011 living in fifteen (15) wards. The study targeted three (3) wards from the (15) wards of the study area; the wards are Bulumkutu Abuja from Maisandari District with a total household of about 884, London-Ciki from Maiduguri District with a total of about 2,843 and Shehuri North from Yerwa District with a total household of about 3,513. Figure from number of household registered for polio Eradication Program, (2011).

Based on the above figures the total number of household sampled were 7,240 which according to Waziri,

(2011) is substantially enough figure for a study and also the study took into consideration of the ongoing insurgency activities which is a security threat to the researcher, hence the study decided to adopt a total of two hundred (200) respondents which were purposively selected from ten (10) houses in each direction from the three (3) wards, starting from the wards head.

4.3 Sampling Size and Sampling Techniques

It was not possible to study the entire population of MMC, therefore, the researcher resolved to select representatives of the entire population which would give the feature of the whole. In this situation, the sample consists of Male and Female across the study area. Using three (3) wards, the wards are London-Ciki, Shehuri North, and Bulumkutu-Abuja. Seventy five (75) respondents were selected from London-Ciki, eighty five (85) respondents were selected from Shehuri North and finally forty (40) respondents were selected from Bulumkutu Abuja making a total of two hundred (200) respondents for the study. A purposive sampling technique was employed in selecting respondents who were directly influenced by the activities of criminal behaviour in their areas. And more of Males were selected because they are the bread winner of the family and who also come directly in contact with those youth that committed criminal behaviour in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council.

4.4 Method of Data Collection

Data were obtained using structured questionnaire; three (3) wards were purposively selected from the fifteen (15) wards in the study area to reflect areas that were mostly affected in the activities of criminal behaviour. The questionnaire was self administered by the researcher. Forty five (45) questions were designed for the study and it was divided into sections. The first section was on the demographic characteristics of youth in Maiduguri, the second section is on whether peer has influence on youth involvement in crime in Maiduguri.

4.5 Method of Data Analysis

The data were analysed based on the respondents' demographic variables and the frequency of responses. A general view of the demographic data is presented in tabular form. Thereafter, each objective was analysed based on the data generated and cross-tabulated with the demographic variables. Simple percentages were used.

5. Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion

5.1 Demographic Characteristics of Youth in Maiduguri

Table 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	149	83
Female	31	17
Total	180	100

Source: Field Work (2016)

The finding in table 1 shows the sex distribution of the respondents. The result indicates that most of the respondents were males (83 percent), while females constitute only (17 percent) of the sample. The proportion of the respondents could be because there are more Male youth unmarried than their counterparts in terms of age. For the Female they would have been already married and classified as Women instead of youth. This could be the reason why most of the respondents were Males.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-25yrs	112	62
26-35yrs	58	32
36-45yrs	10	6
Total	180	100

Source: Field Work (2016)

The information in table 2 shows the age distribution of the respondents. The result indicates that most of the respondents were of age group ranging between 18 – 25years (62 percent), followed by those between the ages of 26 – 35 years (32 percent) and the least were those between 36 – 45 years (6 percent). Hence, there is no doubt that the most active youth age is between 18 – 25 years, hence, are well represented in the study.

Table 3: Educational Qualification of Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary	7	4
Secondary/TC	71	39
B.sc/B.A/PGDE	75	42
M.SC/M.A/ PhD	7	4
Others	20	11
Total	180	100

Source: Field Work (2016)

The information in table 3 shows the educational qualifications of the respondents. The results showed that most of the respondents had primary qualification (4 percent), they are closely followed by those with Secondary/TC (3 percent), based on the responses given by the respondents these categories of youth are mostly those who are frustrated due to lack of financial support to further their studies or to find the means of livelihood. Hence, the frustration could become a catalyst to criminal behaviour. Other qualifications also reflected in the sample induce BSc./B.A/PGDE (42 percent), M.Sc./M.A/PhD (7 percent) and others (11 percent).

Table 4: Family Size of Respondents

Size	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1-5 persons	31	17
6-10 persons	60	34
11-15 persons	38	21
16-20 persons	33	18
more than 20	18	10
Total	180	100

Source: Field Work (2016)

Table 4 shows the distribution of the respondents by family size. The results revealed that family size between 6 – 10 persons (34 percent) constitute the highest, followed by 11 – 15, 16 – 20, 1 – 5, and finally 10 persons as 21, 18, 17 and (10 percent) respectively. Therefore, the result could be classified that the respondents are mostly from large families.

Table 5: Sex by Police Arrest

		Whether Respondent Friends Has ever been Arrested by the Police Before		Total
		Yes	No	
Sex of Respondents	Male	19 (58%)	130 (88%)	149 (83%)
	Female	14 (42%)	17 (12%)	31 (17%)
Total		33 (100%)	147 (100%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field Work (2016) **Note:** Percentage in Brackets

The findings in table 5 which is cross tabulated represent the sex of respondents and whether their friends have once been arrested. The results show that 58 percent of those once arrested for criminal activity or the other were male, while (42 percent) were Females. This implies that most of those who got arrested for criminal offence are Male. On the other hand 88 percent of those who were never been arrested are Male, while (12 percent) were Females. This corresponds with the proportion of the respondents of this work, which shows that 83 percent of those who participated in this study were Male and (17 percent) female.

Table 6: Age by Police Arrest

		Whether Respondent Friends Has ever been Arrested by the Police Before		Total
		Yes	No	
Age of Respondents	18-25yrs	29 (88%)	83 (57%)	112 (62%)
	26-35yrs	0 (0%)	58 (39%)	58 (32%)
	36-45yrs	4 (12%)	6 (4%)	10 (6%)
Total		33(100%)	147 (100%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field Work (2016) **Note:** Percentages in Brackets

The finding in table 6 indicates that about (88 percent) of those respondents whose friends were once arrested for one offence or the other were within the ages of 18 – 25. However, a total of (57 percent) of those who were never arrested were within age group of 18 – 25. While (4 percent) fall within the age group of 36 – 45. This finding implies that the vulnerable age group that is most likely to be involved in crime is within the age of 18 – 25. This does not mean that other age groups do not commit crime, but majority are younger as revealed by the findings of this study.

Table 7 Qualification by Police Arrest

		Whether Respondent Friends Has ever been Arrested by the Police Before		Total
		Yes	No	
Qualification of Respondents	Primary	0 (0%)	7 (5%)	47(4%)
	Secondary/TC	15 (46%)	56 (38%)	71 (39%)
	B.sc/B.A/PGDE	10 (30%)	65 (44%)	75 (42%)
	M.Sc./M.A/PhD	4 (1%)	3(2%)	7(4%)
	Others	4 (1%)	16 (11%)	20 (11%)
Total		33(100%)	147 (100%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field Work (2016) **Note:** Percentages in Brackets

The finding in table 7 shows that about 4 percent of those who were once arrested for one crime or the other had only primary qualification, (39 percent) had secondary/TC, (42 percent) had BSc./B.A/PGDE, and (11 percent) had M.Sc./M.A/PhD, while (11 percent) had other kinds of qualification not listed in the questionnaire. It could be deduced that most of those who commit crime and get arrested fall within the secondary school qualification, followed by B.Sc./B.A/PGDE qualification.

Table 8: Work Experience by Police Arrest

		Whether Respondent Friends Has ever been Arrested by the Police Before		Total
		Yes	No	
Work Experience	1-5yr	15 (45%)	51 (35%)	66 (37%)
	6-10yrs	4 (12%)	15 (10%)	19 (11%)
	11-15yrs	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	3 (2%)
	Unemployed	14 (42%)	78 (53%)	92 (51%)
Total		33 (100%)	147 (100%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field Work (2016) **Note:** Percentages in Brackets

The finding in table 8 shows that the (45 percent) of those whose friends were once arrested by the police have been working for 1 – 5 years, (12 percent) work for 6 – 10 years, while (42 percent) were unemployed. This could mean that those unemployed and those newly employed and perhaps those at junior level earning low salaries are more likely to be involved in crime. On the other hand those who were never arrested for any crime, about (35 percent) have been working for 1 – 5 years, (10 percent) for 6 – 10 years, and (2 percent) for 11 – 15 years while (53 percent) were unemployed. Thus, this finding implies that unemployment and low paid job are more likely to be catalysts to crime, since from the result majority are either unemployed or are of low job status and yet not reported to have been involved in crime.

Table 9: Family Size by Police Arrest

		Whether Respondent Friends Has ever been Arrested by Police Before		Total
		Yes	No	
Family Size	1-5 persons	7 (21%)	24 (16%)	31(17%)
	6-10 persons	11 (33%)	49 (33%)	60 (34%)
	11-15 persons	3 (9%)	35 (24%)	38 (21%)
	16-20 persons	7 (21%)	26 (18%)	33 (18%)
	more than 20	5 (15%)	13 (9%)	18 (10%)
Total		33 (100%)	147 (100%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field Work (2016) **Note:** Percentages in Brackets

The information on table 9 indicates that among those who's friends have been arrested for one crime or the other, (21 percent) were from families with 1 – 5 persons, 33 percent with 6 – 10 persons, (9 percent) with 11 – 15 persons, (21 percent) had 16 – 20 persons, while (15 percent) had more than 20 persons.

The data gathered on whether peer has influence over youth involvement in criminal behaviour has been analysed and the results are presented in tables 10 to 14 and some are cross-tabulated with the corresponding values.

5.2 Peer Influence on Youth Involvement in Crime in Maiduguri

Table 10: Factors that Cause Crime by Peer Influence

Factors	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Response	41	23
Influence of bad friends	61	34
Learning through interaction	17	9
Peer group association	26	14
Homelessness/frustration	12	7
Unemployment/ poverty	23	13
Total	180	100

Source: Field Work (2016)

The findings in table 10 shows that about (34 percent) of the respondents acknowledge the influence of bad friends as the highest cause of crime within their environment; followed by 14 percent of the respondents who believed peer group association are the major cause of crime. However, (13 percent) opined that unemployment and poverty are the cause of crime in their environment, while (9 percent) saw learning through interaction as the main cause of crime. On the contrary, (7 percent) said it was homelessness and frustration that cause crime. Therefore, it can be said that influence of bad friends tends to be the factor that causes crime among youth in Maiduguri.

Table 11: Responses on Whether One's Friends can Influence One to Commit Crime

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	162	90
No	18	10
Total	180	100

Source: Field Work 2016

The finding in table 11 shows that most of the respondents (90 percent) were of the opinion that friends can influence one to commit crime. While (10 percent) share the contrary opinion.

Table 12 Responses on How One can Be Influenced by Friends to Commit Crime

RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
No response	15	8
By adopting what they are doing	90	50
Homelessness/family breakup	32	18
Through interaction	16	9
Peer group subculture	24	13
Play ground	3	2
Total	180	100

Source: Field Work (2016)

The information in table 12 shows the opinion of respondents on how one can be influenced by friends to commit crime. The analysis shows that about (50 percent) opined that youth are influenced into crime by copying their peers who are criminals, while (18 percent) said homelessness and family breakup are the factors that makes youth vulnerable to being influenced into committing crime. Moreover, (9 percent) pointed out that it is through bad friends, while (13 percent) believed that Peer group subculture is the reason why youth are easily been influenced into crime. Thus, this implies that adopting what criminal peers do could also influence youth into crime. Homelessness/family breakup and peer group subculture seem to be some of the common factor that cause youth to be influence into committing crime.

Table 13: Police Arrest by Peer Influence

		Whether One's Friends can Influence One to Commit Crime		Total
		Yes	No	
Whether any of Respondents Friend ever been Arrested by Police	Yes	77 (48%)	14 (78%)	91 (51%)
	No	85 (52%)	4 (22%)	89 (49%)
Total		162 (100%)	18 (100%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field Work (2016) **Note:** Percentages in Brackets

The finding in table 13 indicates that among those who opined that friends can influence one to commit crime, about (48 percent) agreed that one of their friends have been arrested by the police before, while (52 percent) reported the contrary. On the other hand, among those who disagreed with the assertion that one's friend can influence one to commit crime, (78 percent) of them have friends that were once arrested by the police, while (22 percent) have no friends arrested by the police. The implication of this finding lies with the fact that some youth believed that even if they mingle with bad friends they would not be influenced negatively. In

general, about (78 percent) have bad friends who were once arrested by the police. Indeed, this is a major social risk the society faces today as these youth are obviously at risk of being influenced into criminal behaviour by their criminal friends.

Table 14: Factors Associated With Crime among Youth

		How One can be Influenced by Friends to Commit Crime						Total
		No response	By adopting what they are doing	Homelessness/frustration	Learning through interaction	Peer group association	Smoke together	
Whether Young Person's Commit Crime in Respondent's Community	No response	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	2 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)
	Yes	7 (47%)	64 (71%)	15 (47%)	12 (75%)	20 (83%)	0 (0%)	118 (66%)
	No	8 (53%)	25 (28%)	15 (47%)	4 (25%)	4 (17%)	3 (100%)	59 (32%)
Total		15 (100%)	90 (100%)	32 (100%)	16 (100%)	24 (100%)	3 (100%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field Work (2016) **Note:** Percentages in Brackets

The finding in table 14 presents the opinion of those who believed that youth can be easily influenced by their friends to commit crime. The result reveals that majority of the respondents affirmed the assertion, while (28 percent) dispute it. Similarly, (47 percent) of the respondents averted to the assertion that youth in their community commit crime, while in some proportion (47 percent) of the respondents denied it. Moreover, (75 percent) of the respondents opined that youth in their community do engage in crime, while (25 percent) said otherwise. Similarly, (83 percent) of the respondents affirmed the statements that youth do commit crime in their community and (17 percent) were of the contrary opinion. Lastly none of the respondents agreed to the assertion that smoking and mingling with bad friends lead youth into criminal behaviour. Hence, it can be deduced from this finding that the obvious existence of various factors that influenced youth to commit crime have resulted to the high responses on youth involvement in criminal activities.

6. Discussion of Findings

In the first chapter of this study, objectives were raised which this study was expected to achieve. The findings of this study were expected to both answer the research questions and help achieve the objectives of the study. The discussion of the findings will therefore be based on the objectives raised at the beginning of the study in order to ascertain the extent to which these objectives have been answered.

The first objective was to examine the demographic characteristics of youth in Maiduguri. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents were Male. This means that male gender is likely to be prone to crime because the study was conducted in a northern state where the people are known to be conservatives. Furthermore, the culture and the religion of the area promote their outdoor activities. Thus, the more they go outside the more they are likely to interact with bad people and could easily be influenced unlike their female counterparts that usually stay indoors due to the religious and cultural settings which monitors them. Hence, Male gender is likely to commit crime more than the female. This finding support the work of the National Youth Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2001) which stated that youth, particularly male, is prone to criminal behaviour due to their youthfulness and exposures.

With regards to the age of the respondents, the result reveals that majority of them are youths between the ages of 18-25. Hence, any wrong act by them is regarded as a crime because according to the Nigerian constitution the youth age bracket between 18 to 35 years is regarded as adults. So any wrong offence committed by them is a crime. Moreover, this age bracket is more likely to be prone to crime because is the stage where by the youth finish their secondary education and advance to tertiary education. Thus, in this stage they might mingle more with friends and stay outdoors than at home. This finding supports the work of Cloward and Ohlin (1958) who argued that most gang/thug criminal's members are male, fall between the ages of 18 and 25, and come from impoverished or socially excluded urban backgrounds. Moreover, youth gangs/thugs are heterogeneous in their structure, criminal and violent activities, and links to the local community.

On the literacy level of the respondents the result showed that most of them had University degrees followed by secondary certificates. This means that the youth in the study area could be more prone to crime. This is because high literacy level could result to having high level of unemployed youth. This finding confirms the result of (Curtain, 2004 and Edwin, 2007) which reported that unemployment and frustration are contributory factors of youth involvement in crime.

Furthermore, on the family size of the respondents, the result revealed that most of the respondents were from large family size. This means that large family size has its effects on those who commit crime because overall we see most large family sizes have high percentage of those who commit crime. This is because large family size could result to having high level of freedom. The result coincides with the work of (Derzon and Lipsey, 2000; Wasserman and Seracini, 2001). Who argued that youth from large and small family sizes were

involved in criminal behaviour, in fact small family size had higher crime rate compared to some of the large family size studied.

The second objective was to assess whether peer has influence over youth involvement in crime in Maiduguri. The finding of the study revealed that most of those who committed crime were as a result of the influence of bad friends, this means that youth in Maiduguri Metropolitan council could be prone to committing crime as a result of the influence of bad friends. The result correspond with the work of Salami (1994) who argued that peer group influences happen due to high rate of unemployment, influence of bad friends, bad leadership and corruption.

On whether ones friend can influence their fellow friends to commit crime, the result indicated that most of the respondents were on the opinion that one's friends could easily influence their fellow friends to commit crime. This means that majority of the youth who has friend can easily be influence by them to commit crime. This study confirms the work of Brim (1966). The study asserts that youth are easily influenced through peer group by encouraging them whom they live together in the community as family.

In another finding on how can a friend influence their fellow friends to commit crime, the finding revealed that majority of the responses were on the opinion that a friend can influence their fellow friends when they adopt their lifestyle. This means that there is likely for most of the youth in Maiduguri to involve in crime when they adopt what their fellow friends do. This study is in line with the work of McCord, Wisdom & Crowell (2001). They opined that where poverty exists and also influence of bad friends in a neighbourhood, there is likelihood that more youth will be involved in crime.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, it is pertinent to note that this study, does not claim to have provided or found the ultimate solution to the youth involvement in criminal behaviour, but another step has been taken in this direction and has contributed to finding out the remedies to peer influence on youth criminal behaviour.

The first objective of the study, it can then be concluded that boys or males are more prone to crime among youths. So any attempt to tackle this phenomenon must as a matter of fact focus on this group of youth. Some of the factors influencing youth to commit crime or that make them to be prone to criminal behaviour include having higher level of education but being unemployed or underemployed. Employment and enabling environment are critical to addressing this issue.

The second objective showed that the environment the youth find themselves is one of the factors that affect them. Social environment ranges from the kind of people found there (influence of bad friends), poverty and unemployment rate, parental upbringing. Like it is said, the social being is a product of its social environment; when our youth become criminal we must look into the environment that socialises them, in it may lay some answers.

8. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations are given on how to curb crime among the youth in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council.

8.1 Recommendations to Government

The government should provide both jobs and enabling environment for businesses to thrive. This would make it possible for these unemployed youth to have something doing.

Security of lives, property and business premises should be ensured by the government. This would create enabling environment for the private sector to provide more jobs for the youth.

The government should create awareness of the consequences of criminal behaviour to the youth and the society itself, through the media; both electronic and print. It should also use schools and religious groups.

8.2 Recommendations to Parent

Awareness should be created for parents on their role in helping their children not to grow into crime in the society. They need to be aware of the kind of friends their children mingle with, the time they spend and what they do during such times.

Parent should also endeavour to provide basic needs for their children; shelter, food, clothing, and so forth as the absence of these basic needs could push the child seeking to resort to whatever mean possible.

Parent should encourage their children to work hard in order to improve their standard of living.

8.3 Recommendations to Community

The community should provide an enabling environment to the youth by empowering them to be self reliant through acquiring of entrepreneurship skills such as tailoring, mechanic, welding, and building etc.

The community should provide the youth with the awareness on how to secure admission to go school in

order to avoid committing crime

Sustainable development should be improved by the community to enable youths regain their strength for future purposes.

References

- Borno State Polio Eradication Program, (2011). Ministry of Health Maiduguri.
- Brim, O. O. and Wheeler, S. (1966). *Socialism after Childhood*. N.Y., John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Cloward, D., and Ohlin A. (1958). "Gang Homicide, Delinquency and Community." *Criminology*. 26, (3): 381-405.
- Curtain, A. (2004) and Edwin, C (2007). Socio-Cultural Factors in Nigeria Male Youth Violence: Relationship with Education and Employment. *Journal of Social Sciences*; 12(1): 1-10 (2004/2007).
- Derzon, J.H., and Lipsey, M.W. 2000. The Correspondence of Family Features with Problem, Aggressive, Criminal and Violent Behaviour. Unpublished Manuscript. Nashville, TN: Institute for Public Policy Studies, Vanderbilt University.
- McCord G. (2001), Distance to Parents and Geographical Mobility. *Population, Space, and Place*, 14, 327-345. doi:10.1002/psp.509.
- National Youth Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2001) Federal Ministry of Development Abuja.
- Omogho, E. (2016) The Influence of Peer Pressure on Criminal Behaviour in Abraka, Delta State.
- Salami M. (1994). "The Role of Youths and Politicians in Electoral Violence in North-East Nigeria" in Oluwalana, B. *Electoral Violence in Nigeria: Issues and Perspective*, Ed), Lagos, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.
- Sutherland H. (1947), *The Principles of Criminology*. 4th edition. Philadelphia: Lipincott.
- Waziri M. (2011). *Spatial Pattern of Maiduguri City: Researcher's Guide*: ISBN 978-49-589-2-3.