

## **Factors Affecting Youth Criminal Behaviour In Maiduguri Metropolitan Council**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The youth are often faced by a number of factors that are unique. These factors affected youth engagement in criminal behaviour. Youth criminal behaviour has become a global issue and requires immediate attention. Developing nations in Africa particularly Nigeria are characterised by youth which occupied the large population. Therefore, the factors that face the youth are many, and Maiduguri being the study area is not exempted. The main objective of the study is to assess factors affecting youth criminal behaviour in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. The specific objectives are to identify factors that predispose youth in Maiduguri to be involved in crime, assess youth perception of the negative impact of peer influence on crime in Maiduguri. The study reviewed relevant theories such as Differential Association Theory which stated that criminal behaviour is learnt through interaction with other people in a process of communication which the youth does not have control over it. The data were obtained from the questionnaires and the review of relevant literatures. The study involved 200 respondents. The data were analysed based on the respondents' demographic variables and the frequency of responses using descriptive statistics. The result reveals that those youth whom their parents don't tolerate outsiders from discipline them were more likely to engage in crime, it also revealed that those who are allowed to interact freely with peer without restriction were more likely to engage in crime than those who were not. Similarly, the respondents also revealed that negative attitude in the environment studied is one of the major causes of crime. Finally, recommendations were suggested for parents, government and community organisations to provide adequate jobs and enabling environments for business, as this will curb crime among the youth in Maiduguri Metropolis.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Factors, Affecting, Youth and Criminal Behaviour*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The youth of any society are one of the most important aspects of the society who, if vibrant, can help transform the society into a better one, but where the youth are involved in criminal behaviour or deviant attitudes, they could undermine society. The youth serve partly as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself.

The National Youth Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2001) recognize that youth have for long been making important contributions to the development of their individual societies in the areas of agriculture, defence, and transmission of cultural values and so on. This is in addition to the role they played during the colonial period and the struggle for self-rule in Nigeria.

Youth are seen as the building blocks of society and also as the image of society. The United Nations Organization defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States. The Nigerian 1999 constitution also defines youth as individuals within the age range of 18 to 25 years. Abdullahi (2003) defined youth as any person in the period between early childhood and old age. This segment of the population is generally said to be active, restive, adventurous, mobile, and open to new ideas and innovations. In short, it is generally assumed that youth are more favourably disposed to change than the older generation who often resist change and innovation on account of their vast experiences as well as their age-old customs and traditions (Okolacha, et al 1999).

#### **Statement of the Problem**

The influence of youth in criminal activities has being 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 factors that

affect them. Hence, it is important to examine the factors that affect youth that lead to 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.

Earlier studies such as Effiom, et al (2014) gave consideration to the impact of poverty on criminal behaviours among youth in Akpabuyo, Cross River State. Omogho, (2016) on the other hand examined the influence of peer pressure on criminal behaviour in Abraka, Delta state. These studies were however, conducted in different study areas. While a study by Abdullah, et al (2014) was conducted in the same study area as this work, it evaluated the impact of drug use and abuse among youth in Borno State, Nigeria. However, each of these studies is beset by some shortfalls, necessitating the need for further research. Hence, this study considered youth criminal behaviour which has been identified to be more rampant in the study area this study therefore assessed the factors affecting youth criminal behaviour in Maiduguri, Borno State Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to assess factors affecting youth criminal behaviour in Maiduguri, Borno State. The specific objectives are to:

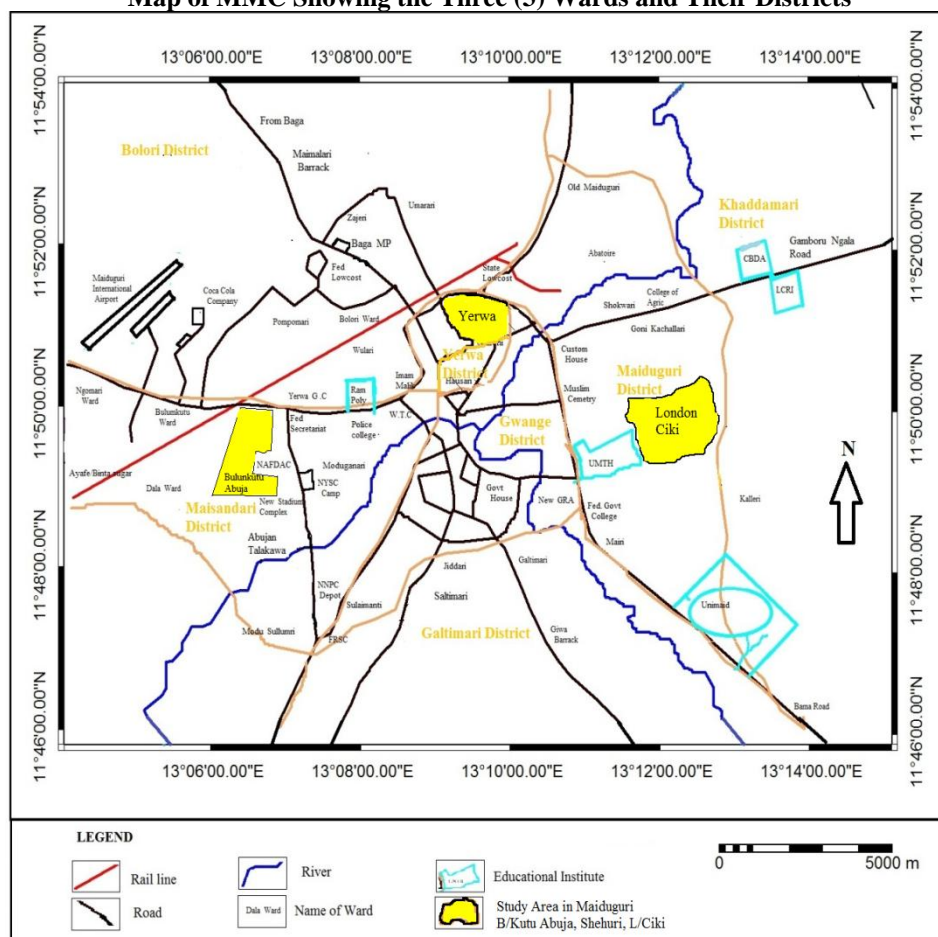
- i. identify factors that predispose youth in Maiduguri to be involved in crime
- ii. assess youth perception of the negative impact of peer influence on crime in Maiduguri.

### **Study Area**

Maiduguri the capital city of Borno State is situated between 11<sup>0</sup>N and longitude 13<sup>0</sup>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 53km<sup>2</sup> 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)

### 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 factors affecting youth 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.

### 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.

### 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 affected 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.

### 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 have influence on youth involvement in crime in Maiduguri, The third section of the questionnaire is on the factors that predispose youth to be involved in crime in Maiduguri and finally the fourth section is on the Youth perception on the negative impact of peers influence on crime in Maiduguri.

A total of two hundred (200) questionnaires were administered for this study. Hence, out of the two hundred (200) questionnaires administered, only one ninety (190) were returned successfully. Thereafter, out of the two hundred (200) questionnaires administered ten (10) could not be retrieved from the respondents. Also out of the one ninety (190) questionnaires collected from the respondents, four (4) out of them were returned blank by the respondents, they refused to fill them. Moreover, six (6) of the questionnaires were found not usable due to incomplete responses and too many cancellations made by the respondents. Thus, finally only one eighty (180) questionnaires were found usable for the analysis.

### 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.

### Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion

#### Factors that Predispose Youth in Maiduguri to be Involved in Crime

**Table 1:** Outsiders Discipline of Child by Police Arrest

		Whether Respondent Friends Has ever been Arrested by the Police Before		Total
		Yes	No	
Whether Parents Allow Outsiders to Discipline Child	Yes	16 (48%)	69 (47%)	85 (47%)
	No	17 (52%)	78 (53%)	95 (53%)
Total		33 (100%)	147 (100%)	180 (100%)

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

The finding in table 1 shows the responses of those whose friends were arrested by the police, in order to find out why a question on whether such youth come from the family that allows outsiders to discipline them a lot was asked. The result reveals that about (48 percent) of the respondents said their parents do allow outsiders to discipline them, while about (52 percent) reported otherwise. This finding shows the risk involved in not allowing outsiders to discipline ones child, but if the family doesn't allow outsiders to discipline their child would leave such a child when they see him or with bad friends, such may lead the person to commit crime. Thus, it could mean that most of those youth who do commit crime their parents don't allow outsiders to discipline them.

**Table 2: Child Interaction with Peers by Police Arrest**

		Whether Any of Respondents Friends Has ever been Arrested by the Police		Total
		Yes	No	
Whether Parents Allow Child to Interact with Peers	Yes	43 (47%)	39 (44%)	82 (46%)
	No	48 (53%)	50 (56%)	98 (54%)
Total		91 (100%)	89 (100%)	180 (100%)

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

The finding in table 2 shows that among those whose friends have been arrested by police for one crime or the other, (47 percent) of them were allowed by their parents to interact with their friends including those arrested for one crime or the other, while (53 percent) were not allowed to interact with their friends. While among those whose friends have never been arrested, (44 percent) reported that they were allowed to interact with their peers outside and (56 percent) were not. This finding implies that allowing youth to interact with peers outside may influence them into committing crime by those friends who engage in crime.

**Table 3: Reason for not Allowing Children to Interact with Peers**

		Whether One's Friends can Influence One to Commit Crime		Total
		Yes	No	
Why Parents do not Allow Child to Interact with Peers Outside	No response	72 (44%)	9 (50%)	81 (45%)
	Avoid misbehaving	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	6 (3%)
	Avoid unwanted friends	56 (35%)	6 (33%)	62 (34%)
	Free from harm	16 (10%)	2 (11%)	18 (10%)
	Don't know	5 (3%)	1 (6%)	6 (3%)
Total		162 (100%)	18 (100%)	180 (100%)

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

Table 3 shows that among those opined that one's friends can influence them to commit crime about (4 percent) opined that parents don't allow their children to mingle with outsiders in order to avoid misbehaviour, while (35 percent) argued that it is to avoid unwanted friends. On the other hand, (10 percent) were of the opinion that it is the only means to keep their youth from harm. Among those who think that one's friends cannot influence the person to commit crime, (50 percent) of them did not respond to question of why parents don't allow their children to mingle with peers, (33 percent) were of the opinion that it is meant avoid unwanted friends, (11 percent) of them posited that it keep the youth away from harm, (6 percent) had no opinion. This finding implies that one's friends can influence him to commit crime. Thus, this justify why parents don't allow their children to interact with peers so as to keep them away from bad friends.

**Table 4: Interaction with Peers and How Time is spent with Peers**

	How Youth Spend Time with Friends					Total	
	Watching TV/Listening to radio	Discussion at joint (majalisa)	Play football/basketball/volley ball	Play card	Smoke together		
Whether Parents Allow Child to Interact with Peers	Yes	25 (51%)	41(45%)	7 (54%)	6 (32%)	3 (38%)	82 (46%)
	No	24 (49%)	50 (55%)	6 (46%)	13 (68)	5 (62%)	98 (54%)
Total		49 (100%)	91 (100%)	13 (100%)	19 (100%)	8 (100)	180 (100%)

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

The information presented in table 4 on parents allowing child to interact with peers and on how these youth spend time with their peers show that those who asserted that they watch TV/listen to radio with their friends constitute (51 percent) were allowed to interact with peers and (49 percent) were not. Among those who that joints (majalisa) or gathering of group of friends (45 percent) were allowed to interact with friends and (55 percent) were not. Among those who play games with friends, (54 percent) of them were allowed to interact with friends and 46 percent were not. Among those who play card with their friends (32 percent) of them were allowed to interact with friends and 68 percent were not and among those who smoked with friends, (38 percent) of them were allowed to interact with friends while (62 percent) of them were not. The implication of this finding lies in the fact that the data shows high rate of youth whom parents do not allow them to interact with

friends and that are expose to friends in situations where they can be influenced into bad behaviour like in playing cards they could learn gambling and other bad behaviour, joint (majalisa) they could be initiated into bad groups like the BokoHaram, in watching TV they could watch the wrong films which could lead them into wrong sexual acts and so forth.

**Perception on the Negative Impact of Peer Influence on Crime in Maiduguri**

**Table 5: Public Opinion on Factors Associated with Crime among Youth**

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Broken home	42	23
Drugs addiction	82	45
Family background	17	9
Community upbringing	22	12
Peer group influence	17	9
Total	180	100

**Source:** Field Work (2016)

The information in table 5 indicates that (23 percent) of the respondents attributed broken home as the major factor responsible for crime, while (45 percent) believed that drug addiction is the most influential factor. However, (9 percent) opined that criminal behaviour is associated with family background, similarly, (9 percent) perceived peer group influence as the major factor, while on the contrary (12 percent) chose community upbringing as the major factor. Thus, all these factors could have negative impact on youth involvement in crime.

**Table 6: Whether Homelessness Cause Crime by Peer Group**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	163	91
No	17	9
Total	180	100

**Source:** Field Work (2016)

The finding in table 6 reveals that majority of the respondents (91 percent) agree with the assertion that homelessness could lead youth into criminal behaviour. While (9 percent) were of contrary opinion.

**Table 7: Responses on Whether Youth are Aware of the Negative Impact of Criminal Behaviour to Themselves and to the Society**

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	172	96
No	8	4
Total	180	100

**Source:** Field Work (2016)

The information given in table 7 indicates that (96 percent) of the respondents opined that youth in their various communities and environments are aware of the negative impact of criminal behaviour in the society and even to themselves. Only (4 percent) were of a contrary opinion. Question which was asked if most youth are aware of the negative consequences engaging in criminal behaviour then why do they still commit it.

**Table 8: Youth Perception of the Negative Impact of Crime and Their Perception on Whether what Their Fellow Youth Committed was Wrong**

		Whether Youth are Aware of What their Fellow Youth Committed was Wrong		Total
		Yes	No	
Whether Youth are Aware of the Negative Impact of Crime	Yes	14 (100%)	158 (95%)	172 (96%)
	No	0 (0%)	8 (5%)	8 (4%)
Total		14 (100%)	166 (100%)	180 (100%)

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

The information in table 8 indicates that all the youth who have committed an offence while been aware it is bad, they equally opined that youth are aware of the negative impact of crime to themselves and the society they live in. Among those who did not commit offence and those who are not aware that what they did was wrong, (95 percent) of them also agreed that youth are aware of the negative impact of criminal behaviour to themselves and the society they live in. Only(5 percent) were of the opinion that youth were not aware of the

negative impact of their criminal behaviour. Then if both those who have committed crime and those who have not opine that youth are aware of the negative impact of criminal behaviour to themselves and the society why then do they still engage in crime.

**Table 9: Factors that Cause Crime by Environment**

		Whether Environment Causes Crime		Total
		Yes	No	
Factors that Cause Crime by Environment	No response	51(31)	10 (71)	61 (34)
	Influence of bad friends	51 (31)	0 (0)	51 (28)
	Lack of community awareness	17 (10)	0 (0)	17 (9)
	Poverty	16 (10)	0 (0)	16 (8.5)
	Poor parental Upbringing	8 (5)	4 (29)	12 (66.5)
	Unemployment/poverty	23 (14)	0 (0)	23 (35)
Total		166 (100)	14 (100)	180 (100)

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

The finding in table 9 indicates the result of those who opined that one’s social environment can influence person to commit crime, and (31percent) of them did not respond to the question seeking to know the factors that cause crime within the respondent’s social environment. But, (31percent) of them opined that influence of bad friends within that social environment that can influence a youth to commit crime, (10percent) said it is lack of community awareness in such an environment, another (10percent) said it is poverty. Yet another (5percent) opined that it is poor parental upbringing and (14percent) said it is unemployment that may engender crime among youths of such an environment. This finding implies that one social environment engenders crime among youths and top among these social environmental factors are influence of bad friends within that environment and the high rate of unemployment within such an environment.

**Table 10: Youth Crime by Social Environment**

		Whether Peer Influence Causes Crime		Total
		Yes	No	
Whether Young Person’s Commit Crime in Respondent Community	No Response	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)
	Yes	114 (69%)	4 (29%)	118 (65%)
	No	49 (30%)	10 (71%)	59 (33%)
Total		166 (100%)	14 (100%)	180 (100%)

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

The data presented in table 10 shows that among the respondents who agreed that negative environmental factors can cause crime. About (69 percent) agreed that negative environmental factor can cause crime acknowledged that there are youth in their environment that commit crime, while (30 percent) posited that there are no young persons in their community that commit crime. Among those posited that environment does not cause crime, (29 percent) agreed that there are youth in their community that commit crime, while (71 percent) were of contrary opinion. Hence, it can then be deduced that with the high rate of the number of youth who commit crime, environment as most respondents posited actually cause crime among youth.

**Table 11: Youth Crime by Homelessness and Frustration as Causes of Crime**

		Whether Homelessness and Frustration Causes Crime		Total
		Yes	No	
Whether Young Person’s Commit Crime in Respondent Community	No response	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)
	Yes	111 (685)	7 (41%)	118 (66%)
	No	49 (30)	10 (59)	59 (32%)
Total		163 (100%)	17 (100%)	180 (100%)

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

The finding in table 11 shows that about (68 percent) of respondents admitted there are youth who commit crime in their environment, while (30 percent) said otherwise. Among those who disagreed with the assertion that homelessness and frustration can cause crime, (41 percent) admitted having youth who commit crime in their environment, while (59 percent) said otherwise. This finding implies that most communities studied have youth facing frustration and homelessness and which have also contributed as one of the factors that engender youth criminal behaviour in such environment.

**Table 12: Youth Crime by their Causes**

		Factors that Cause Crime in Respondents Community						Total
		No response	Influence of bad friends	Family-breakup	Parents failure	Child neglect	Unemployment /poverty	
Whether Young Person's Commit Crime in Respondent Community	Yes	4 (7%)	49 (96%)	17 (100%)	16 (100)	12 (100)	23 (100)	118 (66)
	No	57 (93%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	59 (44%)
Total		61 (100)	51 (100)	17 (100)	16 (100)	12 (100)	23 (100)	180 (100)

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

The information presented in table 12 shows that majority of the respondents (96 percent) revealed that youth do commit crime in their community, while only 4 percent noted otherwise. Among those who posited that family breakup is a major cause of crime among youth in their community, all of them also noted that there are youth that commit crime in their community. Among those who were of the opinion that parent's failure remains a major cause of youth crime in their community, all of them also revealed that there are youth who commit crime in their community. Likewise among those who noted that child neglect remains a major cause of youth crime in their community all of them also noted that there are youth who commit crime in their community and lastly among those who argued for unemployment and poverty as being the bane of youth criminal behaviour in their community, all of them were on the opinion that youth commit crime in their community. What this finding reveals is the fact that in all communities studied youth involve in criminal behaviour and various factors engenders their involvement in crime or criminal behaviour, there is no single universal factor that pushes youth into criminal behaviour and in treating this phenomenon social scientists must take multifaceted dimension.

**Table 13: Qualification of Respondents by Their Opinion on The Negative Impact of Crime**

Respondents Qualification		Respondents' Opinion on the Negative Impact of Crime					Total
		Prosecution	Going to jail	Harmful to society	One will be denied opportunity in the society	causes corruption and social decay	
	Primary	0 (0%)	7 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	93(52%)
	Secondary/TC	6 (18%)	28 (45%)	10 (31%)	19 (70%)	8 (31%)	70 (39%)
	B.sc/B.A/ PGDE	23 (70%)	19 (31%)	15 (47%)	0 (0%)	18 (69%)	16 (8%)
	M.SC/M.A/ PhD	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (22%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Others	4 (12%)	8 (13%)	0 (0%)	8 (30%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
<b>Total</b>		33 (100%)	62 (100%)	32 (100%)	27 (100%)	26 (100%)	180 (100%)

**Source:** Field Work (2016)**Note:** percentages in brackets

The result in table 13 presents the opinion of the respondents on the negative impact of crime. The results showed that 18 percent of the respondents were of secondary/TC qualification, (70 percent) had B.sc/B.A/ PGDE qualification, and (12 percent) had other qualification, no one who was of primary school qualification saw prosecution as a consequence of committing crime. For those who saw going to jail as consequence of committing crime, (11 percent) were of primary school qualification, (45 percent) secondary/TC qualification, (31 percent) were of B.sc/B.A/ PGDE and (13 percent) were of other qualifications not listed here. Among those who saw crime as being harmful to society, none were of primary qualification, (31 percent) were of secondary/TC qualification, (47 percent) were of B.sc/B.A/ PGDE qualification, and (22 percent) were of M.SC/M.A/ PhD qualification. Among those who noted denied opportunity as consequence of crime, none were of primary qualification, (70 percent) were of secondary/TC qualification, while (30 percent) were of other qualification not listed here. Among those who recognised corruption and social decay as consequence of crime none were of primary qualification, (31 percent) were of secondary/TC qualification, (69 percent) were of B.sc/B.A/ PGDE qualification. Considering this finding it can deduced the more ones educational qualification the more likely he/she becomes more aware of the varying consequences of crime. As it can be seen that the only consequence respondents of primary qualification were able to identify was going to jail.



## **II. 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 objectives tried to identify factors that predisposes youth in Maiduguri to be involved in crime. The result presented on the discipline of the child by outsiders. The result reveals that those youth whom their parents don't tolerate outsiders to discipline their children were more likely to engage in crime. This means that allowing child to do thing in the community without being punished or cautioned by outsiders is more likely for them to engage in criminal behaviour than those who are been discipline. This result corresponds with the finding of Sears (1995). His work revealed that discipline is necessary to help children become comfortable in expressing themselves, learning from the environment to handle hunger and developing self-confidence.

Similarly, the result indicates that youth who is allowed to interact with their peers without restriction were more likely for them to engage in crime than those who were not. This means that children that interact with their peers who are already in crime within the community would likely influence them to commit crime. This result supports the work of Ojo (2012) that perceived youth from broken home who mingle with criminals peers are more likely to be influenced in committing crime since the peers are likely to become an alternative family to them.

The second objective looked at the perception on the negative impact of peer influence on crime in Maiduguri. The finding on how peer influence causes crime, indicates that majority of the respondents were on the opinion that negative attitude of most of the people in the environment studied is one of the major causes of crime in Maiduguri. This study supported the work of Ojo (2012). The study opined that poor environmental factors are more likely to push youth into crime since the environment is the source of their happiness.

Finally, this study looked at the position of homelessness as the source of crime in Maiduguri. The findings revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that homelessness can cause crime among youth in the study area. This means that youth that lack proper accommodation are likely to engage in crime. This study confirms the work of Ojo (2012) who shows youth from broken home who mingle with criminal peers are more likely to be influence to commit crime since the peers would likely become an alternative family to them.

## **III. CONCLUSION**

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

The first objective revealed that youths become prone to criminal behaviour when parents do not monitor the kind of friends they mingle with. Whenever they are allowed to interact with other youth who are already into criminal behaviour, they socialise the novice youth into criminal behaviour.

The second objective showed that most of the youth are aware of the consequences of the crime they commit in their societies, but yet they still engage in it. This of course is a case of the internalisation of the attitude of crime.

### **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.

#### **Recommendations to Government**

- i) 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.
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.

#### **Recommendations to Parent**

- i) 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.
- ii) 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.

- iii) 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.

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