APPROACHES TO GENERATING CRIMINAL PROFILING BY THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE: A STUDY OF THE KWARA STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS, ILORIN

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Abstract

Criminal profiling is an important instrument in the identification of crime suspects. Its use and application provide assistance to criminal justice professionals in the investigation of crimes, especially violent crimes. It is particularly of great value in solving crime cases, getting clues about crime suspects as well as discovering their locations. There are various manners and methods of generating profiles of criminals such as from scenes of crime, reports of victims and witnesses as well as the suspects themselves. Although these approaches are documented and widely applied in most developed countries, the approaches used in Nigeria are not known. Against this backdrop, this paper seeks to explore the approaches to generating criminal profiling applied by the Nigeria police and compare them with the ones used in developed countries. The study was inspired by routine activities theory. Top-cadre police officers were purposively sampled and interviewed. Results revealed that the approaches to generating criminal profiling employed in Nigeria are quite alien to the ones in advanced countries even though there appears to be a lack of documented literatures on them. These approaches are not known because there are no visible evidences of their application, particularly the lack of modern equipment, technology and trained personnel. Thus, the study recommends that the Nigerian government should invest more on technologies as well as regular training and retraining of police officers, provide functional database systems, fully-equipped forensic laboratories, advanced and sophisticated tools or equipment.

Keywords: criminal profiling, criminal justice, police, approaches, identification, Nigeria.

Introduction

Crimes that are perpetrated in unusual ways, with little or no tangible evidence relating criminals to crimes, are usually challenging for law enforcement officials to investigate. Over the years, forensic analysts and behavioural psychologists have diligently searched for means of identifying criminals based on certain characteristics usually related to specific attributes that their victims possess or an out-of-certain unnatural drive which include their modes of operation, target victims, signature, behaviour and material evidence from previous crime scenes (Ezeanya, 2015). With the use of behavioural forensic science, law enforcement officials pride themselves in solving crimes (including cybercrimes) easily by creating psychological profiles of criminals for an accurate knowledge of their personal characteristics (Labuschagne, 2006; Garcia, 2018). This practice is known as criminal profiling and it has been in existence since the 1960s (Sahni & Choudhury, 2021). Over the years, criminal profiling has not only become a practice its relevance in criminal investigations has increased particularly in the developed countries (Ribeiro & de Matos Soeiro, 2021).

Criminal profiling, as a forensic practice is primarily used to focus an investigation on people who exhibit specific pattern of bebaviuor and characteristics that are evident from the way a crime was committed.

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(Douglas & Olshaker, 1999; Ribeiro & de Matos Soeiro, 2021). It is a global practice that is carried out by revealing people that are most liable to crime commission whilst concentrating on personal characteristics.

The practice is an important law enforcement tool in solving crimes (Geberth, 1981; Douglas *et al.*, 1986). However, the complete awareness of this practice is yet to be established by many law enforcement authorities in many countries (Cook & Hinman, 1999). In Nigeria, for instance, although the criminal justice system is not fully oblivious of the usage and application of profiling as a vital instrument in the investigation of crimes, the practice has not yet attained the level of acceptance, usability, or institutionalization as obtained in other countries' legal systems. (Ezeanya, 2015).

Operationally, certain patterns of generating criminal profiling are peculiar to the developed nations (Mustaffa *et al.*, 2022) which have been applied to violent crimes' investigation such as murder, rape, sexual assaults, and others. However, the investigation of these crimes can prove difficult in situations where there are no experts and trained professionals, DNA database or equipment, bio-data databases, modern technological infrastructures and automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) (Ezeanya, 2015). Many dangers are inherent in this kind of situation, including the discharge of real offenders due to lack of sufficient evidence (s) and conviction of innocent suspects as a result of incompetence of personnel or contamination of evidence.

There is a dearth of research on criminal profiling in Nigeria. Only few researchers have written on criminal profiling. These few researchers include Adeyemi (2011) and Ezeanya (2015) who explored the application of profiling in the investigation of violent crimes in Nigeria. Ezeanya (2015) also examined the significance of criminal profiling in the Nigerian justice system. However, the few researches have failed to look at the manners and methods employed in generating criminal profiling in Nigeria. Thus, this study is an attempt to bridge the gap and add to existing literature on criminal profiling by exploring approaches of generating criminal profiling adopted by the Nigeria police. The research is to determine how criminal profiling is generated by Nigerian Police Force; to explore the techniques involved in the profiling; to identify stages involved in criminal profiling; how facts are ascertained in the stages of the profiling and to establish the importance of profiling in the future arrest of offenders or criminals.

Review of Literature

Conceptual clarification

Criminal profiling has other names like criminological profiling, psychological profiling, sociopsychological profiling, behavioral profiling, offender profiling, case linkage analysis, crime scene analysis, personality profiling, criminal personality profiling, behavioral consistency analysis, and criminal investigative analysis (Labuschagne 2006; Ebisike, 2007; Ezeanya, 2015; Fox & Farrington, 2018). It is the process of identifying a perpetrator's specific traits through meticulous systematic observation and an analysis of forensic evidence, the scene of crime, known evidences of crime and the victim (Wayne, n.d., cited in Ezeanya, 2015). It is "the development of an investigation by means of obtainable information regarding an offence and crime scene to compile a psychosomatic representation of the known architect of the crime" (Douglas & Olshaker, 1995; cited in Muller, 2000: 235). It is an international practice (Sahni & Choudhury, 2021) that envisages the personality patterns, behaviours and demographic distinctiveness of criminals (Ribeiro & de Matos Soeiro, 2021).

Approaches to generating criminal profiling

Several approaches or techniques have been employed by scholars, law enforcement experts and practitioners in creating criminal profiles (Mustaffa *et al.*, 2022). These approaches, although somewhat similar, have their differences. However, they have been considered by some as being the evolutionary

process of generating criminal profiles (Davis *et al.*, 2018). The approaches include: Diagnostic Evaluation or Clinical approach, Criminal Investigative Analysis or FBI approach, Investigative Psychology or Environmental Psychology approach, Geographic Profiling, Behavioural Evidence Analysis, Behavioural Investigative Advice and Crime Action Profiling (Ebisike, 2007; Petherick & Brooks, 2021).

1) Diagnostic evaluation or clinical approach

Diagnostic evaluations offer an extensive explanation of services offered by mental health experts. (Bradley, 2003). It is the most traditional method of creating criminal profiles commonly used by clinical psychologists and psychiatrists and now widely used in specialized police positions (Ainsworth, 2001; Petherick & Brooks, 2021). Based on their clinical experience, awareness of psychological problems, and understanding of mental health processes, these professionals make an effort to determine the criminal types most likely to engage in a given sort of criminal behaviour. This method tries to analyze crimes and crime scenes from the perspective of criminals with mental illnesses (Ainsworth, 2001). Using this technique, profiles are developed by diagnosing the potential mental pathology and/or style of the criminal. Nevertheless, the way various medical specialists interpret this diagnosis can differ significantly (Wilson et al., 1997). In order to determine the underlying motivations for a criminal's actions, the approach therefore depends on the profiler's clinical judgment (Ainsworth, 2001).

2) Criminal investigative analysis (CIA)

Perhaps the most well-known profiling approach, Criminal Investigative Analysis (CIA), having its roots in early law enforcement, is inductive and abductive (Petherick & Brooks, 2021). The approach is based on crime scene analysis (Ebisike, 2007). The FBI defined CIA as "a process of reviewing crimes from both a behavioural and investigative perspective. It involves reviewing and assessing the facts of a criminal act, interpreting offender behaviour, and interaction with the victim, as exhibited during the commission of the crime, or as displayed in the crime scene" (FBI, 2007, cited in Ebisike, 2007:61). The FBI's Behavioural Analysis Unit (also known as the Behavior Sciences Unit) is responsible for this analysis, which is unquestionably the most well-liked method. In fact, this method is increasingly being used interchangeably with the original idea of criminal profiling (Ebisike, 2007). In numerous instances, the FBI's strategy has proven to be very successful. It represents the first deliberate effort to categorize serious and serial offenders based on behavioral traits (Ainsworth, 2001). The approach looks into operating modes and other behavioural patterns that can be deduced from the characteristics of crime scene in an attempt to comprehend criminal behaviour patterns (Petherick & Brooks, 2021). Crime scenes are broken down by the FBI into four groups: mixed, atypical, organised, and disorganised (Ebisike, 2007).

3) Investigative psychology (IP)

In 1985, David Canter developed the investigative psychology methodology after being invited for a discussion about the potential for using psychology to support police investigations. This method is premised upon his theory that criminals leave behind psychological as well as physical evidence at crime scenes, and by investigating these psychological traces, detectives can learn more about the kind of individual who is most likely to commit a particular crime. (Canter, 1986). The five dimensions of victimoffender interaction served as the foundation for Canter's development of a five-factor model of criminal behaviour. *Interpersonal coherence* (analyzing an offender's criminal actions and relating them to how they interact with others in non-criminal situations), *time and place significance* (attacks in places with personal significance to the perpetrator are more likely to occur there), *criminal characteristics* (classifying offenders, crimes, and crime scenes), *criminal career* (to ascertain whether a potential offender is a career criminal by looking at their past behavior) and *forensic awareness* (for instance, revealing that a criminal

took conscious steps to conceal physical evidence help investigators limit their hunt for suspects with criminal records) (Ebisike, 2007). Thus, investigative psychology utilizes systematic research and mainly depends on the empirical examination carried out on individual crime types (Petherick & Brooks, 2021). ***4) Geographic profiling***

Geographic profiling was created in 1995 by Kim, D. Rossmo, a former police officer of the Vancouver City Police Department. Within the context of the locations and spatial relationships between the numerous crime sites, he focuses on the offender's expected spatial behaviour. (Rossmo, 1997). With concepts from environmental psychology and investigative psychology, geographic profiling is considered as "a strategic information management system used in the investigation of serial violent crime." This methodology, according to Rossmo, was created to aid in reducing the issue of information overload that frequently occurs in such situations. In order to make this approach as effective as possible for unresolved instances, a range of investigative tactics have recently been created. Police departments can make better use of their limited resources by understanding where offenders are most likely to dwell. Geographic profiling analyzes crime scene locations using a computer program called Criminal Geographic Targeting (CGT) in an effort to determine the likely residence of the offender. There are two parts to it: a quantitative/objective component and a qualitative/subjective component (Rossmo, 1997, cited in Ebisike, 2007:90-91).

5) Behavioural evidence analysis (BEA)

BEA is also known as the logical approach to criminal profiling. (Ebisike, 2007). According to the BEA theory, conclusions about a criminal should not be drawn unless precise physical evidence is present (based on a thorough crime reconstruction). (Petherick & Brooks, 2021). Brent E. Turvey, a forensic scientist from the United States, developed BEA. His reasoning is predicated on the availability of observable evidence. Turvey was quite critical of the assumptions and inferences made by other systems, and he believed that before this type of profiling can start, a comprehensive forensic study must be performed on all physical evidence available. Turvey claimed that the following information was employed to support a deductive criminal profile: Victimology, Crime Scene Characteristics and Forensic and Behavioural Evidence (Equivocal Forensic Analysis) (Turvey 2002, cited in Ebisike, 2007: 93-95).

6) Behavioural investigative advice (BIA)

Behavioural Investigative Advice (BIA) emerged as a new method of aiding police investigation towards the early 2000s in the UK. The approach attempts to provide a wide range of scientific and psychological support to investigations that include criminal profiling (Rainbow, Gregory & Alison, 2014) thereby giving senior investigative officers additional support and enhancing the process of making decisions during serious investigations by utilizing behavioural science theory, research and expertise. Its use and merit in police investigations is considered a critical step in the incorporation of specialized expertise into policing (Davis *et al.*, 2018). BIA is a progressive method of criminal profiling that is just beginning to receive empirical attention from a growing body of research (Alison *et al.*, 2010; Almond, Alison & Porter, 2011; Marshall & Alison, 2011), and whose advancement is seen as having the potential not only to aid in profiling but also to provide investigative support (Petherick & Brooks, 2021).

7) Crime action profiling

Richard N. Kocsis, a forensic psychologist from Australia, founded Crime Action Profiling. According to Kocsis' clinical expertise and research literature, forensic psychology is the root of profiling. Because of this, this idea of profiling presupposes familiarity with aspects of human psychology and behavior, such as personality dynamics and human psychopathologies. According to Kocsis, the term "crime action profiling" refers to the process of taking criminal behavior into account and inferring characteristics of offenders from that behavior. Crime action profiling's fundamental goal is to "examine offense behaviors independent of any inferred motivations" (Kocsis, 2003, cited in Ebisike, 2007: 93-95).

Stages in criminal profiling

The stages involved in creating a criminal profile have been rightly described by Douglas et al. (1986). These include the inputs used in profiling, decision-making models, crime scene analysis, criminal profiles, investigation, and apprehending. Gathering all available information about crimes, including physical evidence, photos from the crime scene, autopsy reports, witness and victim statements and police reports. All these are regarded as part of the process of profiling inputs. Also noted is comprehensive background information on the victim (Douglas et al., 1986). The criminal profiler organizes "the input into meaningful questions and patterns" during the Decision Process Models stage (for example, what type of murder was it—a spree, mass murder, or serial murder?). What is the main goal?). Also of importance are the scene, pattern and actions that occurred both before and after the crime. At this point, an effort will be made to determine how long it took to carry out the attack (Douglas et al., 1986).

Crime scene evaluation is regarded as the most important stage at which caution must be used, regardless of whether the crime scene is staged or not. The profiler makes an effort to reconstruct the behaviour of the perpetrator and victim at this point in order to identify the sorts of weapons used, the types of injuries inflicted, the classification of the crime scene, the likely offender, and the most likely causes of the crime. (Douglas et al., 1986). During the Criminal Profile phase, the profiler creates a preliminary description of the most likely suspects. The best methods to apprehend the unidentified offender would be advised now that the actual criminal profile has been created. Usually included in a criminal profile are the person's probable age, race, height, gender, marital status, occupation, education, location, and criminal history, history of military service, social skills, sexual preferences, and usage of drugs or alcohol (Douglas et al., 1986).

The investigators receive a written report during the investigation stage, which is what they will focus on. The suspects who fit the profile will be the center of attention. Additionally, any updated information regarding the crime or associated crimes is compiled (Douglas et al., 1986). If any suspect is captured during the stage of apprehension, an interviewing method will be selected. After that, the criminal profile is assessed to determine whether it matches the suspect or not (Douglas et al., 1986).

Theoretical framework

This study employed the Routine Activities theory. It is a relevant theory in criminal profiling. This theory, which is associated with the traditional school of criminology, emphasizes rational decision-making. The theory, developed by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson, asserted that a crime is only likely to happen if three (3) factors come into play: the presence of a likely offender, a victim (a suitable target), and the absence of capable guardianship (Cohen & Felson, 1979). This theory does not investigate what motivates a criminal to commit a crime. Rather, it focuses on people's regular daily activities like going to work, doing chores, attending church, taking vacations, and many more. These commonplace activities are how the offender interacts with their targets. As a result, crimes like robbery, rape, and murder happen when three factors come together in time and space: motivated offenders are present, appropriate targets are available, and capable guardians are not present for those targets. Criminals calculate the reward/punishment equation when committing crimes, according to the routine activities theory, rather than acting passively (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

This theory helps criminal profilers understand how criminals approach their targets and suggests methods for hardening those targets. It also aids in tracking and identifying the methods used by criminals to spy on their victims. Profilers are also able to get the physical characteristics of the suspect as well as to understand the suspect/criminal modus operandi; that is, this particular type of suspect operates when there is no guardian, according to this theory. Also, aside from knowing the suspect's mode of operation, this theory

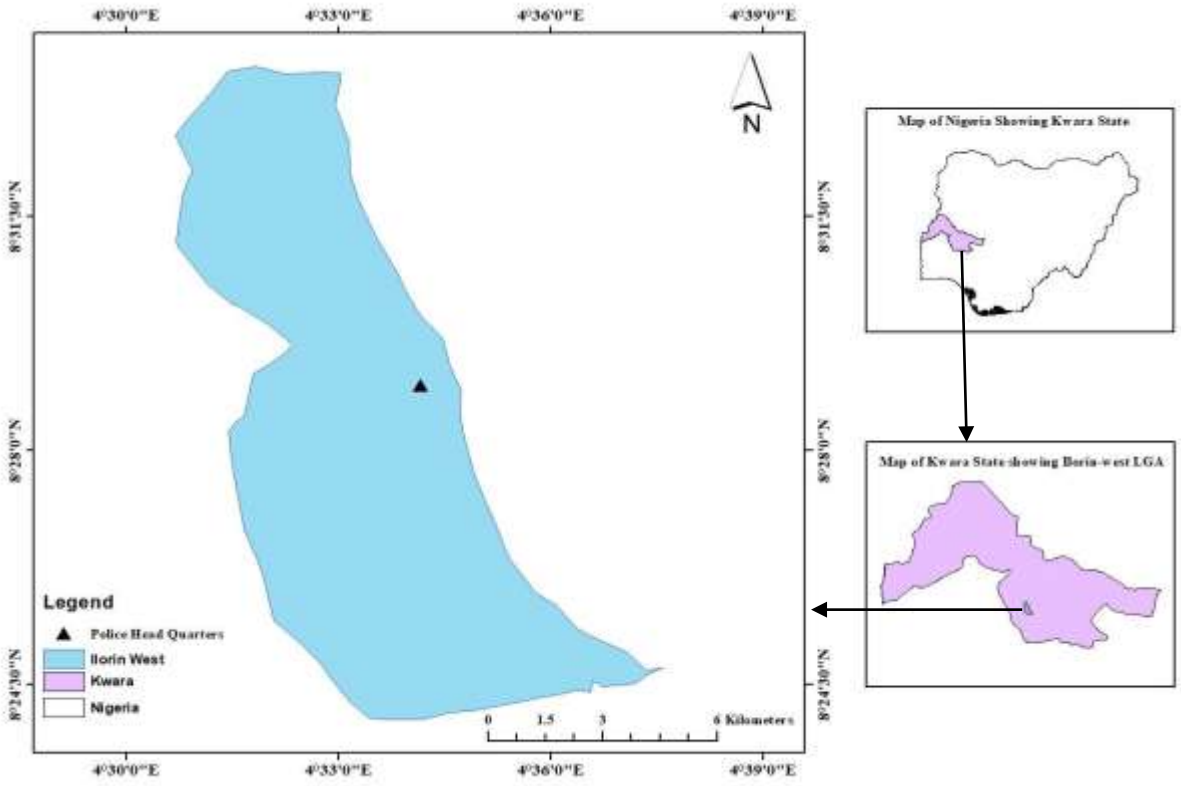
will also assist the profilers in knowing the suspects' location because the suspect will definitely be someone that knows the victims in and out.

Methodology

Research Design: The research was a survey design, an exploratory research that used mainly qualitative method of data collection.

Target Population*:* The research targeted the Nigeria Police because they are the direct user of the approaches of criminal profiling. The research was limited to the Kwara State Police Headquarters Ilorin, particularly, the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) because this is the department that uses different investigation processes to identify and determine suspects. Figure1 below shows the location of the research area using Arc Geographic Information System (GIS)

Figure 1: Map of Ilorin-West showing Police Headquarters, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.



Source: Diva GIS (Author Modified), 2023.

Sample and sampling procedure: Purposive/Convenience non-probability sampling technique was used to select 30 respondents, five (5) each from six (6) sub units of the State CID. These sub units are Homicide Section, Anti-Robbery Section, Anti-Fraud Section, Anti-Car Theft Section, General Investigation Section and Legal Section. Other sections of the state security are Political and Human Rights Section, Anti-Human Trafficking Section, Surveillance section and Juvenile and Women Center. Eight (8) respondents, two (2) each were also selected from the other four sections that report directly to the State Commissioner of Police at the state headquarters. These sections are: Monitoring Unit, Anti-Cultism Section, Narcotics Section and Anti-Kidnapping Section. The researcher conducted an in-depth interview preeminent in data collection.

This allows for free interactions and discussions based on the different knowledge of the respondents in the different cases; and from different sections on how they generate profiles for offenders.

Instrument for data collection: An interview checklist was used as a guide during data generations. Indepth interview (IDI) was used for data generation. The instrument was developed to capture the main aim and other objectives of the study. The main aim of the study considers the manners and methods employed in generating criminal profiling by the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and the importance of criminal profiling in understanding the personal characteristics of the criminals and in apprehending them. Respondents were also probed further on their initial responses.

The interview was conducted in quiet offices provided by the NPF. The interview which was physical was conducted with the help of three research assistants who were four hundred level students of the department of criminology, faculty of social sciences, University of Ilorin. The lead researcher moderated the interview while notes taking and tape recording were done by two of the assistants and the third assistant assisted with the interview. Even though the oganisation is a regimental one, the interview was polite enough that the officers were free to respond to questions that were asked. The interviews were between 35 munities to 50 minutes,

***Methods of data analysis*:** Data collected through the unstructured interview were transcribed verbatim for content analysis. The analysis was done by the researcher and one assistant differently which were later checked for similarity and differences for data blockage. That is, to eliminate information that her not needed from the interview. This method (consensus data analysis) was adopted to ensure reliability and validity of the interview checklist.

Ethically, respondents were also provided with a consent form and detailed explanations were made regarding their participation in the study. The participants were made to understand that they will remain anonymous and their responses will be confidential to the public.

Results and Discussion of Findings

The importance of generating criminal profiling cannot be overemphasized. It is basically vital for the achievement of success in solving a criminal cases because most criminals do not commit crime once. In places where there is low crime control and prevention, especially, they keep committing crime repeatedly. However, once there are profiling of every one of them, it will be easy to track them, prosecute and convict them accordingly. Criminal profiling is also practiced by the Nigeria Police, although not as advanced as in the western world. Criminal profiling can be generated in several ways through information gathered from various data sources like the victims, witnesses and neighbours after the suspect has been arrested. The excerpt below gives us information about how criminal profiling is generated by the Nigeria Police.
One of the police respondents explains:

> In generating criminal profiling, we work hand-in-hand with our laboratory as well as a team of investigators. Everyone involved in the case will probably have a say about the profiles of a suspect. So, the generation of criminal profiling is mostly via a team collaboration (IDI/Male/State CID/2021).

The respondent further explains the essence of generating criminal profiling. According to him, criminal profiling is basically crime solving and of course, every crime problem cannot be solved perfectly. So, it is to make sure, first and foremost, that the innocent do not suffer for what they do not do and to also make sure that the community is safer so that whoever commits an offence is apprehended and punished. Another respondent reported that they generate the profiles of every suspect or criminals they deal with; the generation of a criminal profiling is done in the police laboratory; that the generation of such profiling is

not the responsibility of a single department but requires the collaboration of different departments. He reports thus:

> Generating a criminal profile involves taking necessary information about the suspect which also includes taking some unique features about him such as height, complexion, weight, bank details, passport details and others (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

The above excerpts confirm the need to generate criminal profiling for every suspect that passes through the criminal justice process so that every crime problem is attended to even if it is not successfully solved. The making of a criminal's profile initiates the investigation of such a case. There are techniques or strategies employed in order to generate the profiles of a criminal. Though they may differ from those employed in the advance countries, they still serve the same purpose to solve crime riddles. Accordingly, a respondent reveals different techniques of generating a suspect's profile. He identifies quizzing as the first technique usually adopted by investigators. The respondents explains:

> There are different techniques of generating the profile of a suspect and the first is from the suspect himself. Once we have a suspect at hand, we ask him information about himself, his background. Then, we take him to the police laboratory to get his fingerprint and take his pictures (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

The above submission was confirmed in the explanation of most respondents. Other techniques involve asking his family members, friends, and his neighbours about him. Concerning this, a respondent gave the following explanation:

> We get information about a suspect by going out to inquire about him, visit his house, his neighbours and friends as well as other family members. We also speak to people who know about the crime committed, who probably know something about the crime we are investigating. So, those are the people that can also help us with the information we need to successfully generate the profiles of a suspect (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

A respondent gave an elaborate explanation on the techniques employed during the generation of criminal profiling as follows:

> The techniques we adopt include the physical technique and the electronic technique which is recently introduced. The physical technique includes filling the forms first, taking fingerprint on hard paper and these are done after the suspect is brought in and the information are filled into the already prepared criminal profiling form. The second technique which is the electronic technique is taking the information electronically. Most of the suspects' information are gotten after they are arrested. His fingerprint is taken, his pictures and other information about him are taken like his background information, and others. We only profile a suspect that is apprehended and a provision is made for that in the law. The Administration of Criminal Justice Law of the State and Administration of Criminal Justice Act of the Federation give room for criminal profiling for record purpose (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

Another police respondent gave an explanation regarding the methods they adopt in generating a criminal's profile from the perspective of a crime scene investigation. This justification resembles the criminal investigative analysis (CIA) or FBI approach described by Ebisike (2007) and Petherick and Brooks (2021). In their opinion, the process involves reviewing crimes from both a behavioural and investigative perspectives. In order to understand patterns of criminal behavior, the approach is based on the analysis of crime scenes and involves looking into the method of operation as well as other behavioral patterns that can be inferred from crime scene characteristics. The respondent describes as follows:

> The first technique is to observe the crime scene, check the nature of crime committed, the time and day and the type of weapons used. We get information about a suspect through investigation, arrest, interrogation and visiting the crime scene. When we visit the crime

> scene, we look out for so many things and the forensic investigation comes into play here. Also, we try to get eye witnesses and victims' report (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

The techniques of generating offender profiling explained above were somewhat different but slightly resemble those of the advanced countries. According to Ebisike (2007) and Petherick and Brooks (2021), the techniques or approaches majorly employed include: clinical approach or diagnostic evaluation, FBI approach or criminal investigative analysis, investigative or environmental psychology approach, geographic profiling, behavioural evidence analysis (BEA), behavioural investigative advice (BIA) and crime action profiling. One of the respondents also confirmed the contrast between criminal profiling in Nigeria and that of advanced countries as follows:

> …no! You can't compare techniques of criminal profiling in Nigeria with that of advanced countries like USA. They use more sophisticated methods involving high technology. They have accurate data base for everyone in the country, even the criminals. Thus, it's easier for cross profiling, identification and apprehension of offenders. Ironically, Nigeria is still using manual record {analog} for profiling or record keeping. (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

In Nigeria, the profiling information of a suspect is gotten majorly from the suspect himself through interrogation. Sometimes, the information are gotten from people around him who live in his area or the complainants, among others. The stages involved in generating the profiles of criminals may also differ. One of the respondents explains that writing down the profiling information in a document (manual documentation) and keeping the information safe for future use is among the stages. Another respondent clearly stated that the stages include investigation, apprehension, behavioral pattern and mode of decision making. This is similar to the stages outlined by Douglas *et al.* (1986) including profiling inputs, decision process models, crime scene assessment, investigation, and apprehension. A respondent explains that the stages are a bit burdensome but straightforward. He outlines them as follows:

> … taking suspect's statement, profiling stage, analyzing stage, further investigation stage, checking of the information gathered and analyzing them to determine the facts about them (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

One of the respondents decided to be more elaborate as he explains:

> The first stage basically involves talking to the suspect because when the suspect is brought, either arrested or invited, we speak to him first. That way, we get to know the kind of person he is. We get to know what he does and how he thinks from the way he answers questions. So, he is always the first point of call for profiling. Secondly, we speak to people who know him in his everyday life: his wife, his neighbours, his friends and all the people that know him so as to get more fact about him (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

The response above quite confirms the stages involved in the criminal profile generating process identified by Douglas *et al*. (1986). Some stages explained by Douglas and his colleagues almost have similar goals as the ones identified by the respondents. After the profiling information have been generated, they will be checked if they are capable of successfully arresting, investigating and prosecuting the suspect. The record department of the police will also take and keep the criminal profile record for future purpose. A respondent gave this explanation below:

> After the profiling information is completely gathered, the next thing we do is to try to see if the information can help us in successfully investigating and prosecuting the suspect. Secondly, we keep it for record purposes in case we are able to gain a conviction, it goes into the records. So, if after jail term, he commits similar or another crime/offence, we can go back to the records to use it for future prosecution (IDI/Male/State CID/2021)

Concerning the aforementioned, the generation of criminal profiling entails the involvement of many people including the reports of victims and witnesses. Although, not all information given help to solve a case, the

profiling information does assist in investigating crimes and arresting suspects and consequently, solve some criminal cases. Also, the type of techniques adopted depend solely on how well an investigator can use his/her intuition or intelligence.

Conclusion

Even though the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) does not utilize advanced technologies in criminal profiling like the US, UK, and China, criminal profiling still remains an important tool for investigation and apprehension of offenders by the Nigeria Police Force. Criminal profiling is acknowledged as playing a vital role in crime and criminal investigation as well as the identification and apprehension of crime suspects, especially when the right approaches are employed. Most criminals are unknown in Nigeria and this is because the Nigeria Police can only generates her profiles after arrest and interrogation. Thus, lack of and advanced technology makes it quite difficult to get useful hints and clues about unknown criminals. Where clues that are helpful in tracking a suspect are gotten, the identification becomes difficult considering the absence of database and the few crude and outdated equipment in use by the Nigeria Police. Hence, if the Nigeria Police is equipped with the necessary advanced equipment or technologies, training and expertise, they can match the level and dexterity of law enforcement personnel in advanced countries.

The study therefore recommends that the Nigerian government heed to the plea of the Nigeria Police in easing their affairs by providing equipment and tools necessary for the NPF to perfectly discharge her statutory duties and responsibilities, particularly in the prevention and investigation of crime. To resolve the issue of criminal profiling and raise the standards to those levels in advanced countries, both private and the government sectors need to invest more in getting modern technologies that will enhance the performance of the Nigeria Police in generating the profiling of criminals. The government should provide functional database systems, fully-equipped forensic laboratories and sophisticated tools for the NPF. The Government should also attach adequate importance to the regular training and retraining of police officers. There is also the need for collaboration between government (at all levels) and individuals, philanthropists, or organizations so as to provide modern technologies and adequate trainings for the officers of the NPF. This would enable the officers to meet global standards in crime prevention. In all, crime profiling would provide the data base for offenders and reduce the rate of recidivism in the Nigerian correctional institutions.

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