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Crime of the Crime Fighters: The Involvement of EFCC in Aiding and Perpetrating Cybercrime Offences in Nigeria

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Abstract

The study is a perception study. It examines public perception on the involvement of EFCC in aiding ... perpetrating cyber offenses, and the study seeks to; determine factors that influence the involvement ... EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria and determines whether EFCC effort in curbing cybercrime has enhanced ... accountability in Nigeria. Relaying on social conflict theory, the study utilizes both qualitative ... quantitative research methods. For qualitative data, 36 participants (12 each from the University of Ilo... Kwara State Polytechnic, and Kwara State University) were purposively selected for an In-depth interv... While the content analysis was used to analyzed qualitative data, frequency and percentage table were u... for quantitative data, and some variables were also measured through the 2Likert – scale. The stu... therefore, reveals that most of the EFCC officials are already diving into the same corruption they ... fighting. They go after suspects threatening to arrest them except if they can 'sort' (bribe) them. Some EFC... officials also dine and wine with cybercriminals because of the fear of being assassinated. Therefore, ... study recommends that any EFCC official caught aiding or involving in cybercrime should be expelled a... made to face the law publicly. EFCC should emphasize periodic training and re-orientation of her staff w... their duties as prescribed by the Nigerian constitution. Officers of the EFCC should also be provided w... modern technology and adequate security to discharge their duties without the fear of being assassinated.

Keywords: *Crime; Crime Fighters; Cybercrime; EFCC; Involvement*

Background of the study

It is very unfortunate that the organization that are adjudicated with responsibility of maintaining and enforcing law and order such as the Nigeria police, the military, the Nigeria security and civil defense corps (NSCDC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) etc, have also been aiding crimes. It is a common sight in the country for police officers to be s... collecting money from private and commer... motorists at checkpoints mounted across ... country. Edicha(2017). However, beyond ... checkpoints, police officers are in the habit ... displaying their corrupt tendencies in crim... investigations and other sundry duties (Ladi... 2013). So many crimes go uninvestigated by ...

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police where influential persons, including persons in government, are fingered as suspects or where the suspects "sort the police investigators", a slang for bribe payment (Ladapo, 2013). According to a recent Human Rights Watch report (2012), officers of the Nigerian Police often commit crimes against the very citizens they are mandated to protect. On several occasions, Nigerians who are only making efforts to make ends meet are accosted daily by armed police officers who demand bribes, threatening those who refuse with arrest or physical harm.

On a good number of occasions, the level of police brutality has been exposed through the killing and maiming of those that refuse to 'settle' police officers when they make such demands. Meanwhile, high-level police officers embezzle public funds meant to pay for police operations. The Human Rights Watch report (2012) concludes that the police have become "a symbol of unfettered corruption, mismanagement, and abuse in Nigeria." Much of the blame for the rise in crime and criminality in Nigeria is attributed to the failure of the policing institution. Many people accused the police of been ineffective and inefficient in infighting crime and criminality in the country. The nation's press has been critical of the Nigerian police, especially its abysmal performance in crime control and prevention (Ogunmade, 2002). Officers and men of the force have also been accused of colluding with criminals to commits crimes. They have been accused of lending out arms and ammunition to armed robbers to rob as well as providing information for robbers on when and where to rob. In some instances, the police force men are accused of engaging in criminal activities like robbery, kidnapping, and other nefarious activities (Igbokwe2010).

Aside from the allegation, the military has also been accused of poor performance in fighting crime and the act of colluding with criminals. The military has also come under increasing criticism for acts of extortion at both legal and illegal roadblocks on the streets of Nigeria's major cities and on the nation's highways (Human Rights Watch 2010). The military is also criticized for the problems relating to harassment, threats to kill, and murders. Extortion by the army has been turned into a viable business venture by some personnel in the military force. The acts have reached an alarming state and become a great scandal in commercial cities like Lagos, where extortion has become endemic within the ranks and files of the Force (Human Rights Watch 2010: 26-50; Punch 2010; Olumide and Nwannekanma 2006). The spate by which violent crimes are committed daily and the extent of desecration of law and order indicate the military's lack of capacity to uphold the law and maintain order. Then the Economic and financial crimes commission and Independent corrupt practices commission came up in 2004 to specifically fight such crimes unfortunately the EFCC are found to deep in adding and decreasing crime and even more evident in the second and third party crimes Chimezie, paul, & Joab-peter side, (2011). The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has been perceived as a tool of any incumbent president in dealing with crimes cases. It is invariably accused of selectivity in investigations and prosecutions of cybercrimes cases. The position of the Commission has always been that in a country where corruption is entrenched, it is impossible to commence the prosecution of all crimes at the same time. In any case, the issue of selectivity is adjectival under the circumstances. Most crime suspects investigated and commentators who make these allegations fail to prove that the suspect in a particular case is not corrupt, Punch, (2009). This will appear to be focusing on side issues rather than the substance of the matter.

The ICPC also stands accused of playing to the gallery. It is always pointed out that public office holders suspected to be corrupt are arrested, investigated, and brought to court with so much fanfare. The case appears to wither away after that. While these points may be valid, it does not amount to playing to the gallery and indeed shows a misunderstanding of the mandate of the commission. Rather, this state of affairs exposes

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the structural weaknesses in the workforce of ICPC. Its functions are limited to investigation, filing charges in court, and diligently monitoring the prosecution of accused corruption cases (Baker 2002). In practice, defense attorneys appear to have perfected the art of delaying the trial of issues in supporting such crime rather than addressing the substance of the charges against the clients. These delays do not serve justice. It is also public knowledge that there is a perverse system of "returns" instituted by some senior police officers, which rank-and-file officers are compelled to pay up the chain of command a share of the money they extort from the public, thereby institutionalizing and promoting extortion-related abuses. According to Human Rights Watch (2012), former and current police officers interviewed have admitted that they must pay money to be assigned to "lucrative postings." While they are there, the officers are mandated to meet daily or weekly monetary targets for their sponsors or risk being "punished" with transfer to a posting with lower extortion potentials. In the account of a police corporal interviewed by Human Right Watch, "we do everything we can to make sure that we meet the returns demanded by our superiors, if we don't have money at the end of the week, we will get money. We will pick someone and arrest them." A good number of those interviewed believe that the "returns" are passed up to the senior ranks in the force, which makes it morally inappropriate for such senior officers to hold subordinates accountable for extortion and other abuses (Human Rights Watch, 2012). The criminal justice system in Nigeria has also been in travails with numerous problems and difficulties, making the administration of justice complex and problematic (Dike, 2008). Corruption and criminal acts, which is seen as widespread in the nation at large, has cause mishap to the administration of the criminal justice system. The activities of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), the operation of EFCC has become increasingly complicated as a result of the crime practice fused in the system (Ethelbert, 2016). Series of criminal-related activities have been recorded since the inception of EFCC (Ekpo, Chime &Enor, 2016). There are audience of pervasive corruption in the numerous patterns of their administration of criminal justice in Nigeria, which stem from fraud offenders/victims (Balogun, 2016) explaining how EFCC operatives demand bribes and large cut of how their operations are guided by politics motivation which shows the extent corruption has infested the judicial administration of justice of Nigeria's apex corruption-fighting body (Agbaje 2012).

As a problem of justice delivery, the corrupt leadership in the EFCC justice system has hindered the low performance of criminal justice administration (Abdullahi, Wakili & Mudashiru 2015). The leadership of the EFCC is considered corrupt and lacks the confidence to fight corruption (Nwoba & Nwokwu, 2018). Rather than fighting corruption, corruption has engulfed the leadership, making them lack integrity and worth not even "one penny" (Enweremadu, 2011). Regardless of the countless cases that the EFCC is currently prosecuting both in the court and outside the court, there is a widespread belief that the disposition and manifestation of the leadership of the commission is politically motivated to favour all time ruling party in Nigeria (PDP i.e. between 1999-2015 and APC i.e. from 2015 –till date) and against the opposition parties (Omoroghomwan 2017, Dike, 2008). EFCC is seen as a tool to silence the voice of the oppositional party's members through instigating and invoking corrupt cases and charges against them. The criminal justice system has been termed to be full of "technocrats" who are incompetent to manage judicial prosecution. The EFCC has always been criticized for its penchant for high-profile arrests and public "invitations" of prominent suspects to come in for questioning before a criminal investigation was complete (Ohiorhenuan, 2015). But the majority of these high-profile personalities are never punished because of their corrupt investigative skills to secure evidence-based prosecution of the offender and couple with the pervasiveness of politically motivated arrest in the

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ommission (Ogunesan, 2015). Having these roblems to contend with, the question that rewokes inquiry is to what extent has the ctivities of the EFCC affected prosecution and he administration of Justice in Nigeria? Over 200 onvictions for corruption, money laundering, ank fraud, advance fee fraud were recorded. FCC recovered assets worth over$5 billion in ss than five years. Despite all these efforts to ight crime, there were politicization and lackmail regarding the cases taken to court. ection 308 of the Nigerian constitution grants mmunity. There were public apathy and doubtful ttitudes towards anti-corruption work. Slow ustice system, insufficient commitment by other rms of government, International assets recovery rustration was recorded. Nevertheless, the roblem has grown geometrically in the economy. Alipius (2009) stated that EFCC's efforts to fight rimes and its achievements were proved by the 008 annual report by the United Nations Office n Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which rated the ommission as the most successful anti-corruption gency in Africa and Nigeria. Transparency nternational ratings had moved from 142 in 2006 o 121 in 2008.Despite all these achievements, Alipius (2009) stated further that the commission s faced with many accusations and criticisms rom some quarters. The commission has been a olitical tool, supporting and adding corrupt ractices and criminal acts that their actions and ctivities are not on the rule of law, hence should e scrapped. They further accused the commission n focusing more on enforcement rather than revention measures and the issue of selective nvestigations. He concluded that criticisms could go a long way in encouraging their efforts capabilities. Therefore this study seeks explicitly to examine public perception of EFCC in aiding and perpetrating cybercrime offenses (unlawful acts of using the computer as a tool or target or both. Those acts are engaged through a network of computers (internet) with different technologies that operate beyond the traditional territorial boundaries (cyberspace)). The study, therefore, aims to determine public perception of the involvement of EFCC in aiding cybercrime. That is, the belief or opinion often held by many people and based on how things seem. The study also determines factors that influence the involvement of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria and whether EFCC's effort in curbing cybercrime has to enhance accountability in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

Researchers vented their opinions on why the EFCC and other law enforcement agents engage in crimes and brutal treatments towards civilians or the public. They have a statutory responsibility to protect a state. Therefore, the study is explained with social conflict theory

Social Conflict Theory

The social conflict theory embodies vast social phenomena such as class, culture, race, morals, ethics, revolutions, religion, and many more. Social in this context refers to group conflict between different groups of people, in this case, the police and the citizens, instead of conflict between individuals (Marx, 1971). This theory which originates from the Marxist tradition, basically asserts that the police are an instrument used by the elite and the power to maintain the status quo of inequality. In essence, race and class in an organization determine the dynamic of the relationship between the police and civilians in society; hence, politically powerless and economically marginalized citizens are more likely to experience incidences of police brutality (Holborn, 1995). The inefficiency of the prescribed authority in checking the excesses of the police impunity therefore, reflects as a manifestation of the powerlessness of the minority in the society (Marx, 1971). One of the limitations of this theory stems from the fact that this theory asserts that the police force serves the interest of the elites majorly. However, not all officers in the police force seek to control the subordinate class of citizens in a society, merely some of the officers as there still exist a significant number of officers within the force that carry out their duties

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diligently (Wallace, 2010). Also, this theory postulates that the police exist majorly to serve the interest of the upper class, which is not the case in Nigerian society. While this submission is partly true, it fails to encompass the reality of the Nigeria Police officers and their duties in community.

The theory is relevant to this study "Public Perception on the involvement of EFCC in Aiding and Perpetrating Cybercrime Offences" in the sense that it provides significant understanding to how the Law Enforcement Agencies are been used as instrument by the elite and the powerful in the society to maintain status quo of inequality. The theory also holds that race and class in a society determine the dynamic of the relationship between the police and civilians. Hence the politically powerless and economically marginalized citizens are more likely to experience incidences of police brutality. As a result of the failed state, there is a wide gap between the citizens, bringing about a very low middle-class population, where it is either rich or poor, making most Law enforcement officers devise innovations to generate more income. This wide gap then leads to CONFLICT.

Methodology

The research studied public perception of the involvement of EFCC in aiding and perpetrating cybercrime offenses. Essentially, the study adopts a qualitative research design for an in-depth investigation into the participation of EFCC in Cyber criminality in Nigeria. A quantitative method was also adopted to measure some variables and to generate both frequency and percentage for a comprehensive analysis of the data generated. The population of this study was participants who have once been involved or are still actively involved and have vast knowledge on the issue(s) of EFCC and cybercrimes. The population of this study was purposively drawn from three (3) universities, University of Ilorin, Kwara State Polytechnic, and Kwara State University (KWASU). A total number of 36 participants, 12 participants from each university, were selected for the study. The sampling design used in selecting participants for the study was the Multisampling method which includes the Purposive and Referral sampling/Snowballing method. While purposive sampling was utilized for choosing the schools, Snowballing was used to select participants based on referral. Snowballing is defined as a non-probability technique in which the samples have traits that are rare to find. This is a sampling technique in which existing subjects refer to recruiting samples required for a research study. Participation was selected based on the pre-selection criterion, which goes in line with the research questions.

The research instrument used in this study was an interview checklist. The interview seeks the opinion of individuals in a sample or a population on issues directly related to the objectives of the research study. The interview was directed to the targeted population. Some variables were also measured through the 2Likert - scale measurements ranging from Yes and No to measuring responses. The measurement was done in order to be assertive in some positions of the participants. Validity is a crucial property of measurement that concerns itself with whether a test actually measures what it is supposed to measure (Abiri, 2006). To ensure the validity of the instrument in terms of clarity, appropriateness, and accuracy of words, the comments and criticism of the experts in the Department of Criminology, University of Ilorin, Nigeria, formed the basis of the final draft. Primarily, content analysis was adopted to analyze data generated from the study.

Results and Discussion

Public perceptions on the involvement of EFCC in aiding cybercrime

Ever since the establishment of the anti-graft agency in Nigeria, particularly in recent times, there has been commotion and verbalization from different angles concerning the efficacy, level of trust, and reliability of the agency in the fight against corruption in the country. While some Nigerians believe that the agency is carrying out

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its duty of investigating corrupt practices and even prosecuting and arraigning corrupt elements in the law court, others hold that the agency is yet to be serious with its law-assigned duties (Sowunmi, Adesola, & Salako, 2010). EFCC is commissioned with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of the cybercrime Act 2015. They are also empowered to investigate and prosecute those individuals involved in cybercrime (Lawrence, 2016).

It is no longer rumor that many EFCC officials who are believed to prevent cybercrimes by exposing and making an arrest are found involved in aiding cybercrime either directly or indirectly. The EFCC is capable of effective detection, investigation, and control of cyber security since they comprise of different departments and personnel such as the police in their various departments. If they are provided with the necessary autonomy, power, tools, machines, and instruments, they will curb the menace of cybercrime in the country without much stress. Their failure to do so makes the public perceive or believe the EFCC to be a part or in support of cybercrime and criminals. Some of how these crime fighters get themselves involved in the crime they were birthed to eradicate include; Poor investigation of cybercrime cases, not punishing perpetrators of cybercrime, Lack of Integrity in carrying out cybercrime cases, and a few others.

Not punishing perpetrators of cybercrime.

In response to research question 2, do you think the EFCC aid cybercrime by not seeing the punishment of perpetrators of cybercrime in Nigeria? The majority of the participants agree positively to this, saying EFCC is already diving into the same corruption observed in major security agencies within the country. One of the participants responded with this argument:

> Yes, the EFCC encourages cybercrime. If they don't effectively see to the arraignment and punishment of perpetrators of cybercrime accordingly or turn a blind eyes to some culprits either because of political position or influence or there are children of politicians involved in cybercrime and the EFCC dare not prosecute them after discovering that they are children of high politicians in the country. What else do you expect, if the EFCC is closing eyes to offenders? Then, so many more will fearlessly go into it.
> (University of Ilorin/Law student/400level/Male/2021)

From the interviewees' response, it can be understood that EFCC officials are believed to aid cybercrime by not carrying out their functions effectively to a reasonable extent. Turning blind eyes to obvious cases, non-thorough investigation of crimes and punishment of crimes are ways in which the public perceives the organization (EFCC) to aid these crimes. To further bolster this point was a statement from another participant saying:

> EFCC although are doing their very best to reduce the problem of cybercrime in Nigeria, but a few bad ones are also a part of most of these crimes, some EFCC officials hint cybercriminals of their mode of operation and areas in which they are about to raid so that the privilege ones would have a firsthand information and flee that area, they also claim they are investigating a case and they would not do proper investigation and findings, cause the perpetrators might be at large, and they won't have sufficient evidence which makes the case end up being inconclusive or even forgotten (University of Ilorin /Criminology Department /300level/Female/2021).

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Chimezie, paul, & Joab-Peterside, (2011) agree with this statement that the EFCC is found to be deep in adding and decreasing crime and even more evident in the second and third party crimes.

Lack of Integrity in carrying out cybercrime cases

When the participants were asked to give their understanding on the interview question; EFCC Lack Integrity in carrying out cybercrime cases as regards to aiding cybercrimes in Nigeria, it was observed that the majority were of the opinion that there is actually a gross lack of integrity in carrying out the functions the EFCC which they were constitutionally saddled with. When there is no integrity in a system, then compromise on their objectives is inevitable. Lack of the EFCC in carrying out their function, among which is fighting cybercrime, is another way they aid cybercrime in Nigeria. Shockingly, about 70% of the participant's response to the interview question was positive. They argued that most of the EFCC officials, just like the government officials and other crime-fighting agencies in Nigeria, lack or have lost their integrity.

One notable contribution from one participant is this;

> Just as it is no more a thing of dark, of the corrupt practices of the Nigerian military and paramilitary agency (especially the police and other defense agencies), so also is the corrupt practices of the EFCC becoming. There is a gross loss of the appraisable act of integrity, and this result in the compromises seen in some EFCC officials." The participant also disclosed that he has officials of the EFCC that tells him the area in which they are going to raid and that even they sit down together to drink alcohol in a low-key secluded motel and that is when the official would disclose things to him in exchange for grants, financial help, and other mutual beneficial relationship (Kwara state polytechnic /Political Science student/300level/Male/2021)

As a problem of justice delivery, the corrupt leadership in the EFCC justice system has hindered the low performance of criminal justice administration (Abdullahi, Wakili & Mudashiru, 2015) also stated that the leadership of the EFCC is considered corrupt and lacks the confidence to fight corruption, rather than fighting corruption, corruption has engulfed the administration which makes them lack integrity and worth not even "one penny"

Collecting Bribes from cybercrime suspects

In response to the fourth interview question: do you think EFCC supports cybercrime by collecting Bribes from cybercrime suspects in Nigeria? There was an excellent 77.8% positive response. One of the participants even went ahead to give what he called a life scenario, he said:

> When EFCC discovers some of these criminals, they go after them and threaten to arrest them except if the suspect can 'sort them' (bribe) them. And when the suspect complies with their terms, they will just close the case and act as though nothing happen". He gave an instance of when a famous Hip-hop musician popularly known as Bella Shmurda came to Ilorin for a show and a convoy of up to 60 vehicles comprising mostly of cars owned by internet fraudsters made a convoy for the musician. This prompted the EFCC officials to raid and make arrests after the said show, and cybercriminals were asked to pay certain sums of money if they didn't want to be prosecuted, depending on the assets of each person. The participant said he knows internet fraudsters who paid a whopping sum of three million naira as bribe to not be prosecuted.

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(University of Ilorin /Law Student/300level/Female/2021)

Supporting this statement, Balogun (2016) explained that the activities and operations of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) have become increasingly complicated as a result of the crime practice fused in the system Series of criminal-related activities have been recorded since the inception of EFCC. There is audience of pervasive corruption in the numerous patterns of their administration of criminal justice in Nigeria, which stem from fraud offenders/victims. Balogun (2016) further explains how EFCC operatives demand bribes and large cuts and how their operations are guided by political motivation, which shows the extent to corruption has infested the judicial administration of justice of Nigeria's apex corruption-fighting body.

Inadequacy and ineffectiveness of EFCC

This is also believed to be a major indirect means in which the EFCC is perceived to have aided cybercrime. The inadequacies and ineffectiveness of EFCC is a major reason they cannot get sufficient information to arrest or prosecute suspects believed to be involved in cybercrimes and other related crimes.

EFCC has performed its roles in curbing cyber security but is not sufficient to handle corruption which is one of the roots of all other crimes such as cybercrimes. One of the participants who appraised the EFCC for trying their best made a statement worthy of note;

> The EFCC is really trying its best to fight the menace of cybercrime, but corruption in the country is depriving the public of appreciating their efforts. Although they face few challenges in the discharging of their roles, these challenges cause most of the inadequacies and the ineffectiveness we see, but they are still trying their best (University of Ilorin /Criminology Student/400level/Male/2021)

Another participant said:

> The corruption in the country is increasing day by day, and this makes the standard of living in the country to get lower, no jobs for graduates and other harsh conditions for the citizens which prompt youths who are mostly involved in cybercrime to devise other means to cater for themselves, and this begins to grow day by day as people see the success rate of people involved in the crime (Kwara state polytechnic /Marketing Student/400level/Male/2021)

This statement by this respondent brings a relationship between corruption in the country and the result on the citizens and the growing population makes it seem the EFCC are not working. The results also support Ayodeji (2012) that despite the efforts of developing countries to combat this menace of financial crimes, criminals continue to exist as a result of the weak financial system and the persistent civil and political unrest in the affected countries. To the elite theorist, EFCC is established and used as a tool for exploitation rather than for which it was established since it was established by the "few elite' for their selfish interest.

Factors that influence EFCC in aiding cybercrime in Nigeria

Accordingly, reported cases of corruption should be objectively traced regardless of status, ethnicity, or political affiliation of the people involved. It is believed that some of these cybercrime victims are dangerous and influential, and as such, they can hire or organize thugs and assassins after any EFCC official that takes an interest in their case. This is one major reason why most EFCC officials compromise their stands as there is not enough protection for them and their families should incase anything such as threats comes up. This can be seen in The Nation online newspaper of May 18, 2021 which states as follows "There is palpable fear in Osogbo capital

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of Osun State as some suspected internet fraudsters popularly known as 'Yahoo Yahoo boys' stormed the streets to protest against alleged arrest by Economic Financial Crime Commission (EFCC).

The nation gathered EFCC operatives had stormed Adetunji Estate and Hallelujah Estate in Osogbo to arrest suspected internet fraudsters on Monday night. Still, youths in the area waylaid them, preventing them from allegedly taking away 20 vehicles belonging to the suspects. The youths and other suspected fraudsters stopped the operatives from getting out of the estates. It was learnt that the EFCC operatives abandoned the vehicles and ran from the scene.

On Tuesday morning, the suspected internet fraudsters stormed Lameco Junction and Dele Yes Sir Junction to make bonfires and mount roadblocks.

The blockage caused heavy gridlock in all the roads adjoining the junctions.

An occurrence like this makes the EFCC officials not perform their tasks adequately, especially when it concerns cybercriminals who are known to influence the streets or areas.

Accordingly, Nwoba & Nwoku (2018) also listed factors that induce an individual into participating in corrupt activities. These factors are believed to be in two forms which are internal and external. The internal factors that predispose an individual to commit a crime are greediness and ethnocentrism, while the external factors include a poor pay system and weak government institutions.

From the participants' response when probed further, it was observed that some of the factors influencing the involvement of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria are summarized in the table below.

Table 1: Factors that influence the involvement of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Insecurities and threats	12	40
Inadequate evidence for an arrest	3	10
Greed	5	16.7
Peer influence	6	20
Ignorance	4	13.3
Total	30	100

Source: Field survey, 2021

The table above shows that insecurities and threats from criminals are the main reason EFCC officials may get to aid cybercrime either by choosing to be quiet about it, turning a blind eye to it, or refusing to follow up the case. Inadequate evidence for the arrest of the criminals could also make it seem as though the EFCC is participating in or supporting cybercrimes. The constitution does not permit the detention of a suspect for over 48 hours if not charged. Cybercrimes are also complex and easy to be erased and hidden; therefore, Cybercrime perpetrators are also very smart in hiding their tracks. It often seems challenging or impossible for EFCC to detect their crimes. Greed is also a perceived cause of involvement of EFCC in cybercrime. Greed brings about a lack of contempt for what one has. This can be seen in majority of the law enforcement agencies, including the EFCC, which brings about the participation of anti-adjudicated practices from the EFCC officials in exchange for a financial grant from the Cybercriminals. Another factor includes peer influence, in which an already corrupt EFCC official influences the innocent ones. Bad or corrupt top EFCC officials can also lure their subordinates into compromising their integrity. Ignorance, lack of information, or cyber illiteracy of the EFCC officials is also considered a way by

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which they (EFCC) get to aid cybercrime. To restore the full glory of cyber security, those involved have to learn how the cybercrime ring operates and devise strategies to fight the menace. It will always be a losing battle if security professionals are way behind cybercriminals in technological knowledge.

As supported by Daudu (2008), the economic and financial crime commission for example lacks integrity, they are also full of greed and lack proper training, the officers have no respect for the job, they are highly unreliable, and often demonstrate this by involvement in crimes or collusion with criminals involved in cybercrime as a result of greed. In their routine work, they tend to protect the rich or individual with money and wealth engaged in cybercrime. Their status is often used to oppress their fellow citizens through bribery, blackmail, and intimidation. One of the participants also responded with this:

> in Nigeria, the EFCC salaries dose not even make them match up to the average class…they mostly live on loans to achieve anything meaningful…..thereby the EFCC officials see this as an opportunity to enrich their pockets quickly in other to be able to meet their numerous wants
> (University of Ilorin/Accounting student/300level/Female/2021)

Arteaga and López, (2000) supported this statement stating that many young recruits use the EFCC profession to gain capital to start a business. Others have the perception that they can make "easy money" as an EFCC officer.

Lack of national framework and infrastructure facilities of EFCC for the protection and management of electronic payment fraud influence the involvement of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria

This could be seen as the first and foremost reason cybercrime is seen on the increase in Nigeria. There are no sufficient framework and infrastructure facilities to protect and manage all electronic payment fraud effectively. The EFCC, charged with preventing and reducing the incidence of electronic and cyber fraud, has no efficient ways of tackling this menace using the 21st-century approach. Concerning the unavailability of national framework and infrastructure facilities of EFCC for the protection and management of electronic payment fraud, about 33.3% of the participants responded negative, and the remaining 66.7% thought that it has been a lapse on the part of the EFCC and has contributed to the increase in cybercrime.

Table 2: Measurable variables on the factors that influence the involvement of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria

Research Questions	Responses	
	Positive	Negative
Do you think the lack of national framework and infrastructure facilities of EFCC for the protection and management of electronic payment fraud influence the aiding of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria	24(66.7)	12(33.3)
Do the inadequate data on the level and extent of cybercrime affects the performance of EFCC in curbing cybercrime in Nigeria?	21(58.3)	15(41.7)
EFCC is not computer literate. Do you think this affects the aiding of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria	19(52.8)	17(47.2)
Lack of computer forensic laboratory to investigate and analyses	15(41.2)	21(58.3)

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cyber- crime related issues, do you think this affect the aiding of EFCC in cybercrime		

Source: Field survey, 2021

Table 2 presents the measurable variables on the factors that influence the aiding of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria. The table reveals that 66.7% of the total respondents argued that the lack of national framework and infrastructure facilities of EFCC for the protection and management of electronic payment fraud influence the aiding of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria. In comparison, 22.3% of the participants argued negatively. From the above, it can be deduced that majority of the participants believed that the lack of national framework and infrastructure facilities of EFCC for the protection and management of electronic payment fraud influences the aiding of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria. The statement that inadequate data on the level and extent of cybercrime affects the performance of EFCC in curbing cybercrime in Nigeria, the table reveal that 58.3% of the total participants argued that the inadequate data on the level and extent of cybercrime actually does affects the performance of EFCC in curbing cybercrime in Nigeria while a 41.7% responded negatively. This indicates that most of the respondents were of the opinion that inadequate data on the level and extent of cybercrime affects the performance of EFCC in curbing cybercrime in Nigeria.

The statement, EFCC is not computer literate, do you think this affects the effectiveness of EFCC in cybercrime in Nigeria. The table above points out that about 52.8% argued that the EFCC is not computer literate, not all the officials working with the EFCC are conversant with the technology and computers used in the forensic analysis by the agency, and this affects the effectiveness of EFCC in Nigeria while 47.2% were of a contrary view. In considering the statement Lack of computer forensic laboratory to investigate and analyze cyber-crime-related issues, do you think this affects the effectiveness of EFCC in cybercrime? 41.2% of the respondent had a positive view of the statement, while 58.3% had a contrary view. This implies that the lack of a computer forensic laboratory to investigate and analyses cybercrime-related issues does not directly have a huge effect on the effectiveness of EFCC in cybercrime

This statement is backed up by Kirillova, Kurbanov, Svechnikova, Zul'fugarzade, & Zenin, (2017 and Akume & Okoli, 2016, stating the problems hindering the performance of EFCC in Nigeria in fighting cybercrimes that there is no existing law to adequately address challenges of technology with regards to security breaches and online crime, lack of national framework and infrastructure for the protection and management of electronic payment fraud and other cybercrimes, no adequate data on the level and extent of cybercrime damages in the country, the Nigerian law enforcement agencies are not computer literate and lack of computer forensic laboratory within any branch of the Nigerian Police or other law enforcement agencies to investigate and analyse cyber- crime related issues and Inadequate funding by the government.

***The EFCC effort in curbing cybercrime* enhance its accountability in Nigeria.**

As shown in the table below, 55.6% of the participants responded positively to the states seeking to enquire if curbing of cybercrime by the EFCC improves the accountability of the EFCC, while 44.4% have a different opinion. This implies that reducing cybercrime might not necessarily improve accountability because the EFCC is to prosecute cyber-criminal and all financial crimes in the country.To improve the accountability, more efforts will be put into scaling up EFCC tools and skills of identifying and detecting cybercrime and all other financial crimes. 58.3% of the total respondents responded negatively to the statement of whether there been improvement in Arrest, Prosecution, and Conviction of Perpetrators of cybercrime as regard to the effort of the EFCC, while 41.7% were of the positive view. This implies that there have not been increases in arrest, prosecution, and

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conviction of perpetrators of cybercrime. The result of the statement is if the effort of EFCC in curbing cybercrime has stopped the government or officials from using public funds judiciously and responsibly render accounts of how funds were used. Just 19.4% gave positive opinions. The remaining 80.6% are of a contrary opinion. This only implies that the efforts of the EFCC have not stopped the corruption of the corrupt top politicians and policyholder.

Table 3 Measurable Variables to determine whether EFCC effort in curbing cybercrime has enhanced the accountability in Nigeria

Variables	Response	
	Positive	Negative
Does curbing of cybercrime by the EFCC improve the Investigation process of the EFCC	20(55.6)	16(44.4)
Has there been improvement in Arrest, Prosecution and Conviction of Perpetrators of cybercrime as regard to the effort of the EFCC	15(41.7)	21(58.3)
Do you think the effort of EFCC in curbing cybercrime has stopped the government or officials from using public funds judiciously and responsibly render accounts of how funds were used	7(19.4)	29(80.6)
The frequent application of control to a wide range of public administration activities, was this as a result of EFFC effort in curbing cybercrime	11(30.6)	24(69.4)
In the effort to curb cybercrime, do you think the EFCC should take additional steps which are aimed at improving its ability to fight and prosecute cybercrimes through partnership with counterpart agencies in other countries	23(65.7)	12(34.3)

Source: Field survey, 2021

Like other hidden and illicit activities .such as trafficking of drugs and humans, corruption (in its entirety) has become a terrifying phenomenon that defies all kinds of measures (Beare, 2003). No doubt EFCC has really done great jobs in the past exposing and arresting crime perpetrators some of those affected include: Badejo Ajiola, Ganiyu Sa'id, Sola Okanlawon, Odunlami Toyin, Modupe Akinlola, and Ibrahim Aladele. All the officials were staff of the Ogun state government House Accounting Department.(Aiyetan, 2007:23-25; Adeyemo, and Yishau, 2007: 27; Onyechere, 2004:3-6); The arrest and detention of former House of Representatives speaker Dimeji Bankole in June 2011 over N10billion loan obtained by the House which was alleged grossly mismanage (Yusuf, 2011:1&2); the arrest of former governors Adebayo Aloa Akala of Oyo state, Aliyu Akwe-Doma of Nassarawa state, and Gbenga Daniels of Ogun state in October of 2011 for allegedly misappropriating public funds amounting to about N101 billion while in office as Chief Executives of their various states (Ganagana., and Adebayo, 2011: 5). Despite all these success still there's still a long way to go as the list of cybercrime seems to be inexhaustible. To answer the second research question: Has there been improvement in Arrest, Prosecution and Conviction of Perpetrators of cybercrime as regard to the effort of the EFCC. Given the impact of the operations of the EFCC in controlling corruption in Nigeria, one would be tempted to assume that the Commission is not confronted with challenges. However, on the contrary, the EFCC in its bid to regulate or combat

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corruption in Nigeria is faced with Hercules challenges. One of the challenges confronting the EFCC as such stands as an impediment against effective control of corruption by the Commission is the unfriendly judicial process in the country. The legal tools of stay/delay of proceedings in the prosecution of corruption cases have resulted in about 2,000 unfinished cases of the Commission outstanding in courts spread across the country as of 2011 (Nanaghan, 2011). A participant made an interesting statement on additional steps which are aimed at improving EFCC ability to fight and prosecute cybercrimes through a partnership with counterpart agencies in other countries

> Yes EFCC can partner with other foreign agencies around the world because most of the EFCC officials know little or nothing about the cybercrime. If they can join forces with some other agencies they can be taught and guided on how to tackle cybercrimes perpetrators (Kwara State University /Law Student/400level/Female/2021)

Supporting this statement Okogbule, (2006) also stated that the EFCC Collaborating with government bodies both within and outside Nigeria carrying on functions wholly or in part analogous with those of the commission concerning the identification, determination of the whereabouts and activities of persons suspected of being involved in economic and financial crimes, the movement of proceeds or properties derived from the commission of economic and financial and other related crimes, the exchange of personnel or other experts and also undertaking research and similar works with a view to determining the manifestation, extent, magnitude and effects of economic and financial crimes and advising government on appropriate intervention measures for combating same

Conclusion

Majority of the participants were of the opinion that EFCC is already diving into the same corruption that is observed in other security agencies within the country, it can be understood that EFCC officials are, to a reasonable extent, believed to aid cybercrime by not carrying out their functions effectively. Also, it was observed that majority were of the opinion that, there is actually a gross lack of integrity in carrying out the functions the EFCC were constitutionally saddled with. When there is no integrity in a system, then compromise on their objectives is inevitable. Lack of the EFCC in carrying out their function, among which is fighting cybercrime, is another way they aid cybercrime in Nigeria. Shockingly, about 70% of the participant's response to the interview question was positive.

The study also reveals the involvement of EFCC in cybercrime via collecting bribes from cybercrime victims. While EFCC does not have sufficient framework and infrastructural facilities the officials do not also have adequate cyber knowledge and training that can make them effective in investigating cybercrimes to a logical conclusion. Though, some cybercrime victims are dangerous and influential people and as such, can hire or organize thugs and assassins after any EFCC official that takes an interest in their case. This is one of the major reasons why most EFCC officials compromise their stands as there is not enough protection for them and their families should incase anything happens. Hence, the study concludes that majority of the EFCC officials, if not all, could to some extent be categorized as Cybercriminals perpetrating directly or indirectly through aiding and abating cyber offenses.

The study, therefore, recommends that government should re-orientate the EFCC on their duty according to the Nigerian constitution and enact laws that would discourage them from aiding cyber offenses. EFCC should be trained with the Fundamental Human Rights as enshrined

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In the constitution to prevent the deliberate infringement of these rights. Only trained and qualified officers should be dispatched to be in charge of classified criminal investigation cases. Government should also empower EFCC to investigate and prosecute those involved in money laundering, not only cybercriminals; checks and balances should be used in criminal investigation cases, and officers should be assured of their protection before, during, and after any criminal cases or investigation. This would enable them to put in their best and uphold the country's glory.

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