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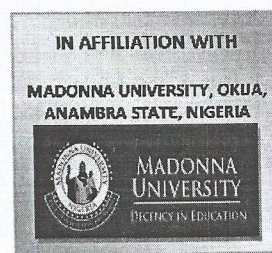
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Editor-in-chief **Dr. Oteh, Chukwuemeka Okpo**

Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Madonna University, Okija, Anambra State
e-mail: oteh@ijsshr.com
Phone: +2348034356286

OR

Dr. E.B.J Iheriohanma

Directorate of General Studies
Federal University of Technology, P.M.B 1526 Owerri, Imo
State Nigeria.
e-mail: injodemarng2007@yahoo.com

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Head, Department of Mass Communication
Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.
Email: nnamdiekeanyanwu@yahoo.com
nekeanyanwu@covenantuniversity.edu.ng

DR. OKOLO, N. C.
Sociology Department
Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto
Sokoto State, Nigeria.
E-mail ngcokolo@yahoo.com

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THE EFFECTS OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS ON EDUCATION SECTOR REFORM
AGENDA: EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIAN PUBLIC SECTOR

ABADA UCHECHUKWU DANIEL (ACIB, ANIM)

Department of Banking & Finance

Madonna University,

Okija Campus, Nigeria

ucheabada@yahoo.com, +2348023862353

&

OKUMA NWACHUKWU CAMILLUS

Department of Banking & Finance

Madonna University,

Okija Campus, Nigeria

Okumanc73@gmail.com, +2348034076419

&

UGWU KEVIN OKOH (ANIM)

Department of Accountancy

Enugu State University of Science & Technology,

Enugu, Nigeria.

kevinugwu@ymail.com, +2348036735211

ABSTRACT

This study examined the effects of budgetary allocations on public sector reform agenda in Nigeria. In particular, allocations to educational sector were examined in order to determine whether they have positive impact on literacy rates of the citizenry. The relevant literature to the study was reviewed to identify and fill the existing gap. The data were presented and analyzed using trend analysis to show the increases and decreases in data trend as well as interactions between variables. The findings revealed that the Federal Government budgetary allocations to the educational sector do not have a positive and significant impact on the citizens' literacy level. Also, it revealed that there is a positive relationship between literacy rate and economic growth in Nigeria.

Keywords: Reforms, Education, Public sector, budgetary allocations.

INTRODUCTION

According to the European Commission (2002), "the quality of management of public finances in Nigeria represents the principal constraint on development". It was against this backdrop that the federal government of Nigeria under Olusegun Obasanjo embarked on far reaching economic reforms designed to deliver sustainable economic growth, wealth creation and improve the quality of life of the average Nigerian.

The economic management reforms which is an integrated package of various economic reforms was kick started in 2004 of which include educational sector reform. Under the educational sector reform, there was a restructuring of some government agencies/institutions and an increased focus on service delivery (Olaopa, 2013). The reforms in this area have given rise to a number of bills and Acts such as the education reform act of 2007.

CHANGE IN PATTERN OF FEMALE CRIME IN AKURE, NIGERIA 2006-2014

ADEKEYE, D.S. (PhD)
University of Ilorin
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
Ilorin.
Email- dsadekeye@gmail.com
Phone: +2348133584449

&

ADEBISI, O. A.
University of Ilorin
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
Ilorin.

ABSTRACT

Nigeria is witnessing a consistent increase in the rate and pattern of female crime, especially after the civil war and the following years that ushered in the oil boom which facilitated corruption on a large scale. Today, women have gradually moved from misdemeanour to heinous crime such as ritual killings, bribery and corruption, armed robbery etc, which call for serious concern. The main aim of the paper is to examine the factors that are responsible for the increase in female crime in Nigeria and to compare the rate or level of crime committed by female as against those of male criminals using Nigeria prison in Ondo State as our case study. The information and data for this paper were gathered through the use interview method as the primary sources, while prison records, textbooks, journals and newspapers served as secondary sources for the paper. This paper depends on women liberation theory and the power control theory as theoretical models. The result of the study revealed that urbanization, literacy level, unemployment and economic situations are majorly responsible for the shift in rate and pattern of crime committed by female. Secondly, it was discovered that there has been a faster increase in the rate of crime committed by female more than male. In 2006, the prison recorded 223 (27%) and 14 (10%) increase in the rate of crime committed by the male and female; by 2014 the data showed 338 (42%) and 73 (54%) increase in the rate of crime for both male and female, but a critical look revealed that there has been a serious increase in the rate of female crime than that of male, this trend pose a serious danger to the family institution in particular and the society in general. Therefore, the study recommends that women should be given equal opportunity in terms of education, skill acquisition, employment and good health care to minimize their involvement in criminal activities.

Keywords: Female, Male, Crime, Pattern, Prisons

INTRODUCTION

Since the last two decades, Nigeria has been witnessing unprecedented rise as well as sophistication in criminal activities. Hardly any day passes without reports of crime and criminal activities in the news media as they happen in the different parts of the country. The new crime wave cuts across all sections of the society, involving men, women and children. Presumed changes in the pattern of crimes by women are drawing the attention of the popular media as well as sociologists and criminologists. Most of the early studies of female crime concentrated on two or three main areas: witchcraft, infanticide, and prostitution. In recent times, inquiry into female crime has broadened to include such other crimes as drug trafficking, armed robbery and white-collar crimes in government offices.

The issue of increasing rate and change in pattern of female crime in Nigeria is disturbing. This is so because women by their nature are bearers and nurturers of children; and the social responsibilities that go with these biological and social functions demand that they should be worthy in character. Over the years, society devised ways and means of controlling crime and dealing with those who deviate from its norms

and values. In pre-colonial times, women were more or less restricted to their traditional social roles. The communal system of living added to the internal and external mechanism for crime control, (mainly of ridicule and public disgrace) kept the level of criminal activities by women at a very minimal level. With the introduction of a money economy and emergence of private property during the colonial period, some women began to seek employment outside the home. With increased labor force participation for them, some had the opportunity of getting involved in criminal activities (Adler, 1975; Simon, 1975).

From a political economy approach, it is well known that attitudes, beliefs, motivations and other forms of consciousness do not exist in a vacuum, nor are they mere accidents. They evolve over a long period in the course of man's interaction with his human and physical environment (Ake, 1981). When dynamism is considered, trends and patterns of events are adequately accounted for. Nigeria has gone through many changes over time- political, economic and social. The country is currently experiencing economic downturn which has manifested in poverty, high rate of unemployment, change in values, moral laxity and increased rate of crime and criminal activities.

Objectives of the study

The interest in this study was inspired by the observation that women have moved from traditional crimes of prostitution and stealing to more heinous crimes. Therefore, the paper's main aim is to examining the factors that are responsible for the increase in female crime in Nigeria and to compare the rate or level of crime committed by female as against those of male criminals. The study also aims at examining the socio-economic characteristics of female prisoners in the study area.

Statement of the Problem

There has been unprecedented rise as well as sophistication in crime commission in Nigeria of which women are becoming involved. This new wave in crime cuts across all sections of the society involving men, women and children. Hardly any day passes without reports of crime and criminal activities in the news media as they happen. The trend in female crime became apparent after independence and particularly during and after the Nigerian civil war. It has since assumed different forms and styles. Women have been known in the past to be accomplices but recent events shows they are now active collaborators and sometimes leaders of the gang. They no longer contend themselves with hiding weapons for criminals (Sunday punch, May, 2009). This shift may not be unconnected to the economic situation in the country where there is the quest for materialism and the get-rich-quick syndrome.

A summary of crime reports offers some evidence of change in pattern of criminal behaviour by women in the country. It was reported in the guardian newspaper (6/10/2011) that out of two hundred and forty people condemned to death in Ondo state in 2011, fifty were women. These female criminals received their death sentences for committing murder at different places and for different reasons. Further, many Nigerian women have been arrested in Europe and America over drug trafficking and other social vices. Changes in pattern of female crime in Ondo State and Nigeria in general became apparent after independence and particularly during the civil war (1967-1970) when women were compelled to double their roles as mothers and breadwinners of their individual families as the men were out in the war fronts. Female criminality has since then assumed different forms and styles with the harsh political and economic conditions engendered by corruption and mismanagement of public funds in Nigeria. Women have gradually moved from misdemeanor to heinous crimes such as ritual killing, bribery and corruption and armed robbery. It is these observed changes that the researcher tried to investigate.

Literature Review

Although, there seems to be a general consensus that the female perpetrate less crime than their male counterpart. There is no agreement as to how the concept should be defined or measured. Without conformity and predictability in human behaviors, society as we know would not exist. Order and stability is the cornerstone of social life. According to Dhirenzo, et al (1990), 'all societies have strong prohibitions against certain types of activities'. Some types of behaviour are universally condemned, irrespective of culture, era or circumstances. Such actions are viewed as being intrinsically wrong and there exist a great deal of consensus among people in different societies on such matter.

Defining crime is a challenge in large part because it is a relative matter as described by Smart (1976). 'It is not the act itself, but the reactions to the act that makes something deviant or criminal'. In the opinion of Obioha (2003), there is no crime without a human being behind it, who is referred to as a criminal. Therefore, legalistically, crime can be defined as behaviours that violate the criminal codes.

Durkheim, (1970) argued that crime is an inevitable and normal aspect of social life. He posits that crime is present in all types of societies. Durkheim believed that crime is an integral part of all healthy societies. It is inevitable because not every member of a society can be equally committed to the collective sentiments – the shared values and moral belief of a society.

Freud (1933) believed that female crime resulted from a masculinity complex stemming from penis envy. He argued that although all females suffer from penis envy, those who cannot make a healthy adjustment to the realization that they do not have a penis, over identify with maleness and are likely to act out in criminal ways. He viewed female criminal as biological or psychologically male in orientation.

In another dimension, Ohaeri (1996) posited that increase in female crime and criminal behavior can be attributed to the feminist emancipation of women, domestic liberalization, civilization, urbanization and changes in family structure which allow women to into paid employment and altered the traditional family setting.

Therefore, studying female crime enables us gain insight into the effects of poverty, incest, abuse, poor judgment, lack of training and mental illness that might cause the female to deviate from the path of normal, acceptable, law-abiding behaviour. In examining female crime, we are able to develop possible solutions and preventive measures in dealing with female crime.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

While most early theories of female criminality explained female crimes in terms of the physiological and psychological makeup of individuals, contemporary scholars in the field of female criminality rejected the idea that female crimes can only be explained in biological terms. They believed that differences in the behaviour of men and women are socially determined and that changes in society have led to changes in behaviour. These set of scholars explain female criminality looking at economic, social and political forces as being responsible for female criminality. For the purpose of this study, the Women Liberation theory and the power control theories are adopted as models.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION THEORY

This is one of the feminist theories which focused on the roles of women's liberation. In 1975, two theorists released similar works contending that when women perceived social equality, they would also expand their liberation into illegal activities. Rita (1975) proposed that the women's movement would allow women greater access to previously all male occupations. With greater access, greater opportunity for crime would follow; especially financial and white collar crimes like fraud and embezzlement. With the publication of "sisters in crime" (1975), Freda Adler added to the property crime prediction of Simon (1975) by forecasting the emergence of a new breed of violent female criminal. She believed that women's liberation would cause women to become more like men in every way including criminality. Changing attitudes and behaviors would cause women to act more like men, which would mean an increase in the levels of female violence.

Women's liberation thesis proposed that women's involvement in crime will come more closely to resemble men's involvement in crime, because as gender differences between women and men continue to diminished, there will be greater social participation and equality. Adler credits the feminist movement with progressive changes in status for women in such areas as the family, marriage, employment and social positions. Previously, women had the same aspirations as men but like an oppressed class, women lacked the power to obtain their goals by legitimate means. The road to success required women to seek status through men by conforming to the male definition of femininity. Women's liberation had altered these restrictions on women's behaviour and her opportunities. Medical, educational, economic, political and technological advances have freed women from unwanted pregnancies, provided them with male occupational skills and equalized their strength with weapons, according to Adler.

Adler (1975) stated further that despite the gains provided by liberation, it comes with negative effects on the women and the society at large. Just as women were charging forth into employment and economic opportunities, they were also pressing into crime. Competition with men in the legitimate workplace was matched by the female criminals fight for her own niche in the criminal hierarchy. Women had become doctors, lawyers, soldiers, etc at the same time; women had become burglars, forgers, embezzlers and terrorists. She dismissed biological and psychological theories as inadequate explanations of female criminality. While conceding the small gender differences between the genders, she insisted on the substantial impact of social forces on human behaviour. Women's liberation, Adler envisaged created new structural opportunities for women in crime. Thus, she characterized the rise of women offenders as connected to their newly acquired skills and masculine traits in an atmosphere of bright opportunity where

in the same way that women are demanding equal opportunity in fields of legitimate endeavor, a similar number of determined women are forcing their way into the world of major crimes.

POWER CONTROL THEORY

Hagan (1981:1), in his book “structural criminology” attempts to use a structural methodology to develop theoretical perspectives on crime and delinquency. He proposes the study of social structure in terms of power relations between individuals or groups. A clear understanding of a structural approach to criminology permits the analysis of power-control theory. The power control theory proposes that the class structure of the family plays a significant role in explaining the social distribution of delinquent behaviors through the social reproduction of gender relations. In other words, the structure of the family or the distribution of power within the home, based on the positions that parents occupy at home and outside of the home (for instance at work, etc), play an important role in determining how gender roles will be interpreted and reproduced by children. This process will in turn affect the social distribution of delinquency. Power control theory is concerned with the scientific study of crime and delinquency and proposes the study of the causal relationship between class-structure of the family and the reproduction of gender roles in causing boys to be more inclined to engage in criminal behaviors than girls. Hagan (1981), notes that the concepts of power and control are similar, although generally kept separate for conceptual and empirical purposes. Power theories are generally concerned with the relationship between employer and employee or owner and worker and control theories are also concerned with power issues, but usually as they pertain to the family, for instance between parents and children. Power-control theory studies the relations of power within the family and in reference to the degree to which children are free to deviate from norms.

The two models are relevant to this study because most of what has led to increase in female criminality behaviours can be located in women liberation and a shift in the power control mechanism in the family institution.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research methods adopted in this study was a survey research design. As at the time of conducting this research, there were 135 women in Akure Prison, who have been incarcerated since 2006. Seventy three (73) of the inmates were interviewed, which form the primary source of data. The interview schedule served as the main instrument of primary data collection. The data were coded and analysis using frequency count and percentages. The secondary source of data includes the prison record, textbook, journals and Newspapers.

Table 1: Distribution of Female Criminals by Crime Committed (Akure Prison, 2006-2014)

TYPES OF CRIME	2006	2009	2014	Total	%
Child abandonment	0	2	6	8	5.9
Assault	3	12	20	35	25.9
Stealing	7	14	19	40	29.7
Armed robbery	2	3	7	12	8.9
Murder	1	15	11	27	20
Drug trafficking	0	0	3	3	2.2
Ritual killing	0	0	3	3	2.2
Fraud	1	2	4	7	5.5
Total	14	48	73	135	100

Source: Nigeria prisons, Akure 2015.

The table above shows frequency distribution by types of crimes committed by women prisoners in Akure from 2006-2014. It is observed from the table that there is increasing rate of crime, particularly assault, stealing, armed robbery, fraud, child abandonment, with assault and stealing having the highest percentages of 25.9% and 29.7% respectively.

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Male and Female prisoners in Akure Prison between 2006-2014.

Year	Male	Female
2014	338 (42%)	73 (54%)
2009	250 (31%)	48 (36%)
2006	223 (27%)	14 (10%)
Total	811 (100%)	135 (100%)

Source: Nigeria prisons, Akure 2015.

The table above shows a frequency distribution of male and female prisoners between 2006 and 2014 in Akure prison. From table two, it was found that there was a significant increase in female crime despite the fact that there were more male prisoners over the years. The percentage increase of female criminal was far more is than male crime. There was an increase from 27% in 2006 to 42% in 2014 for male while that of female increase from 10% in 2006 to 54% in 2014.

Table 3: Age and Marital Status of Female Prisoners in Akure Prison (2006-2014)

Age	Single	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Total	%
18-25yrs	55	0	0	0	0	55	40.5
26-35yrs	20	22	6	2	0	50	37
36-45yrs	6	11	0	9	2	28	21
Over-45yrs	0	0	2	0	0	2	1.5
Total	81	33	8	11	2	135	-
%	60	24.5	6	8	1.5	-	100

Source: Nigeria prisons, Akure (2015).

From the table above, majority of the prisoners 77.5% (105) were young, because they are all between the ages of 18 years and 35 years, 60% (81) were single. 40.5% (55) falls within the age bracket of 18-25 years which is the most restless segment of the society. This agrees with the findings from Great Britain, United States of America, Canada and other industrialized countries that prisoners are disproportionately young (Box, 1987).

Table 4 : Frequency Distribution of Reasons that Brought the Inmates to Prison

Factors Responsible for their imprisonment	Percentage
Provocation	46.6% (34)
Economic	30.1% (22)
Conspiracy	23.3% (17)
Total	100% (73)

Sources: Research Survey 2015.

The table above shows, that out of 73 female prisoners interviewed, 46.6% gave provocation as the main reason why they committed the crime. Most of the prisoners in this category were involved in cases of assault. 30.1% gave their reason as economic benefits while 23.3% were cases of conspiracy, either for armed robbery, drug trafficking, ritual killing and fraud.

Table 5: Frequency Distribution of Residence of the Female Prisoners

Place of Residence	Percentage
Urban Area	73% (98)
Rural Area	27% (37)
Total	100% (135)

Sources: Research Survey 2015.

From the above table, seventy three (73%) of the prisoner indicated that they resided in Akure urban areas while (27%) resided in the sub-urban or rural areas before their incarceration. Residence was also used as a variable to determine the impact of environment on the change in pattern of crime. It has been proved by many researchers that more crimes are committed in the urban areas than in the rural areas (Oniboku 1973; Boggs 1965). Adler (1975) writing about female criminality in America explains that urbanization is an important variable to reckon with in relation to environmental influences, traditional role for women decreases, with increased mobility, she argues that people lose stable and continuous personal relationships as they move from rural area to urban center. Moreover, as disintegration of family life grows; the importance of goal attainment is emphasized at the expense of the means to attain the goal. The disruption of social relationship produced by the movement from rural to urban areas result in a sharp increase in crime as the old institution based on kinship become less effective as agencies of social control.

Table 6: Comparing the Educational level and Types of Crime Amongst Female Prisoners in Akure prison (2006-2014).

Types of Offence	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
Assault	19	19	0	38
Stealing	22	0	15	37
Fraud	0	6	0	6
Child abuse	6	6	0	12
Drug trafficking	0	0	4	4
Armed robbery	0	6	3	9
Murder	3	20	6	29
Total	50	57	28	135

Sources: Research Survey 2015.

The table above shows that there is significant variability amongst the levels of educational attainment and the types of crime committed by female prisoners. The table reveals that those who attained secondary education committed such severe crimes as murder and assault. While those with primary education were involved majorly in stealing, while those with tertiary education were also involved in crimes like stealing. The variability of these types of crimes compare by level of education shows that there was a correlation between educational level and types of crime committed by the female prisoners.

Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Respondents Opinion on Why Changes has occur in Criminal Behaviour of Women in Society

Reasons for change	Number	Percentage
Economy Problems	129	96%
Changes in values	6	4%
Total	135	100%

Sources: Research Survey 2015.

From the table above, those who indicated economic problems as a cause of change in the pattern of female crime pointed to factors like poverty, unemployment, poor housing and general lack of financial resources as responsible for the increase in crime rate among women. Those who indicated that the change in female criminality is due to change in values emphasis that the traditional values has been eroded and that the new social values are the root cause of increase in female criminal activities. According to them, the inability of parents to properly fend and care for their children has led to an erosion of parental authority, which paves the way for delinquency and immorality.

CONCLUSION

The study has shown that there is an observable change in the pattern of female crime based on the data collected from Akure prison, it was discovered that women have shifted from crimes like stealing, infanticide and prostitution to armed robbery, drug trafficking, fraud and other heinous crime. These crimes were predominantly crimes that brought the prisoners to Akure Prison. The study noted that, socio-economic conditions as well as societal and environmental factors such as urbanization, literacy and unemployment are the reasons for the shift in pattern and increase in female criminal activities. Other factors include change in family structure and women’s traditional non-economic role of child-bearing and childcare that are now being relegated because of women employment outside the home. As more women get into economic occupations like the men, crime patterns is also bound to change, to become more like men’s and with increasing variety of roles opening to women, their criminal behavior is expected to increase.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- Government should embark on strategies that can reduce the enormous poverty in the country, because many of the inmates confessed to been pushed to commit the crime because of the harsh economic condition.
- The government should create jobs, in order to reduce the high rate of unemployment especially among women.
- The Government and individual family should encourage more school enrolment by the female, starting from primary and up to tertiary level.

-Government should set up empowerment programme that will give a lot of women the opportunity to acquire different skills.

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