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ENTRENCHING PUBLIC RELATIONS AS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION STRATEGY TO GENERATE RELIABLE CRIME STATISTICS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: The inclusiveness of education drives sustainable public relations for reliable crime statistics report is determined by power play among critical actors in the sector whose interest are dichotomized into vested and entrenched interests that shaped public opinion on education and crime rate. Access to education can only be inclusive when all stakeholders are involved in its planning, execution and delivery of knowledge in a manner that does not discriminate in access and delivery. However, there is a disconnect between what knowledge is allowed to feed public opinion using public relations by the entrenched and vested interest in the edu-

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cation and law enforcement sectors. While clamor for inclusive education heighten across social class, the cost component of access is not accessible to all. Therefore, the paper argues that deepening equity and inclusiveness in education and law enforcement will neither allow access discrimination nor spurious reportage within the public domain using public relations. It further posits that disparage public opinion on education and law enforcement using public relation mutilate reality and creates false impression that negatively affect planning and development. Edwin Sutherland (1947)'s Differential Association-reinforcement theory of criminal behavior provided the framework while the design was exploratory. Qualitative data was purposively gathered from National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), University of Abuja (UA), and Divisional Police Headquarters Lugbe. The preliminary findings reveal that equity and inclusive education is necessary sustain objective public relation that will not misguide professional and public on crime statistics in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

A reliable, available and accessible crime statistics is a feature of rational and effective criminal justice, intelligence and security administration system critical to the nation's quest for democracy, good governance and economic development. There has been effort by the Nigerian government and NGOs, with the support of foreign governments and international non-governmental agencies, to provide inclusive education for all to ensure informed awareness and strengthened public relations between agencies and society as components of reformed Nigeria's law enforcement, judicial and security agencies. However, appropriate attention has not been given to the development of enabling environment for virile public relations between the society and justice system that boost interaction, confidence, morale and capacity of both actors commitment to develop reliable and valid crime statistical and information systems for planning, operations, monitoring and evaluation. In most cases, reform programmes have been designed *without relevant facts* and relying on cross-national transplantation of models. It is most likely that the reform programmes will be largely ineffective, and may thereby reinforce the wrong notion that nothing works in Nigeria. But nothing works anywhere if planning and operations are based on guesses rather than reality captured by statistics and information.

While clamor for inclusive education heighten across social class, the cost component of access is not accessible to all creating inequality and domination in public relations and opinion about crime. Therefore, to deepen and improve credibility of crime statistics, the public must be informed through inclusive education and security to build confidence and crime data sharing. The focus of this study is to examine inclusive education for sustainable public relations and reliable crime statistics in Nigeria. The development of information management capacity by Nigerian criminal justice and security agencies involves all stakeholders, the police and the policed. It also, requires legislation to create obligations for data, statistical and information management in public service organizations generally and especially the criminal justice and security organisations; sensitization and awareness among leaders, the led and staff of the agencies; political will and support from government and assistance by international NGOs and foreign government agencies in order to provide required resources and measures for the development and institutionalization of data, statistics and information management.

The problem of lack of reliable and valid statistical and information management is not peculiar to the security, law enforcement and judicial agencies. It is an endemic problem that plagues the country's entire economic and political institutions. For example, Nigeria does not have reliable and valid statistical information on the size and composition of her population or on other vital issues like employment/unemployment rates; foreign and domestic debts; petroleum output, export, theft (bunkering) and import; foreign trade; poverty rates; etc. Is it therefore any wonder that nothing seems to work as planned or expected in Nigeria? Things do not work as planned simply because planning is characterized by guesses, and ignorance of relevant socioeconomic and political parameters for policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Arising from these concerns are the following research questions: How do vested interests impact crime statistics? What are the existing indicators exclusive educations that affect crime statistics? What is the correlation between crime statistics and public relations? Significantly, the paper intend to address the questions inclusive education enhanced public relations anchored on confidence building, collaboration to engage crime and

crime report for more credible crime statistics. Bearing this in mind, the study will further provide insight into how inclusive access to education affects public and agency relates towards collaboration and engagement to build and manage crime statistics in the crime control process.

COMPLEMENTARITY OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CRIME STATISTICS

All over the world, meaningful development cannot take place in an atmosphere of chaos and anarchy. Thus, informed society provides a secured environment *sine qua non* for peace and sustainable development. This is the reason behind every government making efforts to provide security by presenting it as everyone's concern via inclusive education. In Nigeria, right from independence in 1960, the crime statistics has been hijacked by sentimental semantics of ethnicity. That has fueled in the country several security challenges that are both internal and external motivated. Nigeria's historical experience is replete with various degrees of internal and external threats and unrests-ranging from constitutional crises; election crises; census crises; the civil war; inter-state boundary clashes; coups and counter coups and currently insurgency. Most often, these public relations related crises have aggravated and degenerated into unimaginable proportions due to the ineptitude and lack of professionalism on the part of the security sectors (agencies) to nip such crises in the bud. People are oblivious of the existing code of unity more than fanning the ember of disunity that connect the level of literacy and awareness needed for an informed right and wrong judgment. Crime report is often caught in the web of sensationalism and politics rather than calling a spade a spade, semantics is deployed to arouse passion or diffuses criminal content.

In the past, most crises, which the country's security sector had to contend with, were essentially traditional in nature and hence required traditional approaches to solving them. However, with the unprecedented growth of modern science and technology especially of information and telecommunication technology (ICT) and the concomitant unprecedented upsurge in crime especially the insurgency (Boko Haram) onslaught in

the North Eastern part of the country. The inability of the security agencies to act proactively and professionally in pre-emptive reportage using objective principles of public relations has led to the growth of multiple security threats on a sustained scale.

Again, the current general security environment in Nigeria today is said to be that of hopelessness and despair. Indeed, from all indications, there is a general decay in the security architecture and it needs urgent transformations and reforms starting from personnel educational upgrade. In the absence of functioning inclusive education, security institutions, stability, rule of law, security and human rights are threatened. This adversely impacts crime statistics and the prospects for peace and stability. Therefore, with the unprecedented upsurge in crime especially of terrorism and the degree of sophistry with which they operate, it becomes imperative therefore that the various security apparatuses/agencies be reformed to engage public relations strategy in intelligence gathering to be better equipped to march the demands of contemporary security challenges in the country.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS CRIME AND JUSTICE

In 2002, a survey conducted by the Center for Criminal Justice Research and Education on the public's perception of police performance indicated that over 65 % of persons interviewed had little or no confidence in the ability of the law enforcement agencies to prevent or solve crimes. However, about 80 percent of persons surveyed indicated their willingness to provide information to the police regarding criminal activities of which they become aware. Similarly, 88 percent agreed that increased citizens' involvement in law enforcement was a good idea.

It is sad to say, public sentiments and attitude towards policing has taken a turn for the worse. Many community residents are resorting to mob justice instead of turning over criminal suspects to the police. There have been many incidents in which alleged armed robbers have been burned to death. In April 2004, an angry mob burnt down a police depot because the police refuse to turn over to them an alleged ritualistic killer

who had ran to the depot for protection against the mob. Criminals now prefer to turn themselves in to the police or the peacekeepers rather than face justice from community residents.

One key factor responsible for mob justice in Liberia is the failure of criminal justice institutions to deal effectively with criminals. Many citizens feel that the police receive bribes from criminals to set them free. The prisons in Liberia are not secured. Dangerous and hardened criminals often break jail and escape. In March and April 2004, two incidences of jailbreak from the Monrovia Central Prison (the largest prison facility now operating in the country) were reported. Dangerous criminals are now being detained at the Police headquarters withholding cells, which are a little more secured than the central prison.

INFORMATION AND STATISTICAL MANAGEMENT

Information and statistics are sometime used interchangeably. Although the terms are closely related, they are distinguishable. According to Aguolu (1989: 8) information may be viewed as “embodying interrelated or structured data which are required to enable one react knowledgeably as well as to take appropriate decisions”. Statistics are numerical descriptions of data (events, things, persons, etc.). Sellin (in Sellin and Wolfgang 1978: 11) defines criminal statistics as:

... uniform data on offence or offenders that can be expressed in numerical terms, (2) derived from records of primary official agencies, (3) classified, tabulated and analysed to demonstrate inter-group relationships, and (4) published periodically according to a uniform plan ... within criminal statistics definite classes can be recognized. For various purposes it may be useful to classify such statistics according to administrative area (municipal, county, state, etc.), procedural stage (arrest, indictment, prosecution, conviction, etc.) or dominant unit of tabulation (offense, offender)⁴.

⁴ KII/Police personnel/male at Police Post Lugbe, August 2019.

Information and intelligence are derived from analysis, interpretation and evaluation of data (events, things, persons and actions which may or may not be expressed numerically) and statistics. The three terms – data, statistics and information – may be seen on a continuum from data to statistics and information. Practically, information is the product of analyses of data and statistics on people, events, actions and conditions. Ojomo and Alemika (1993: 624) define information as “data and statistics that are collected, analysed and interpreted as tools for planning, decision-making, and for monitoring, and assessing the implementation of plans and decisions in order to determine and improve the degree of functional performance”. Modern economy and politics depend largely on information, which is why it is now assumed by many people that development is now driven by information as a form of knowledge. McAlpine (1975) suggests that it is a “resource for political, social and economic life has underscored the significance of information. It permits people and their societies to solve problems, achieve precision, acquire accuracy, control property and act in the environment”.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, CRIME STATISTICS, JUSTICE AND SECURITY AGENCIES

The various law enforcement and security agencies in the country have not developed appropriate statistical and information management system required for planning, effective operations, monitoring and evaluation of activities and personnel. As a result, citizens find it difficult to hold the government, elected officials and public officers accountable for (a) how well they perform the functions assigned to them; (b) how they use resources allocated to them; (c) how they relate to or process their clients (for example victims, suspects, defendants, remand and convicted inmates, etc.), and (d) whether or not they are able to identify or detect prospective or emerging threats to security and safety, and prevent the threats or control them from escalation when they occur. In essence, the current state of statistical and information management in Nigerian criminal justice and security systems is inadequate for planning, operations, prevention

and control of threats to safety and security. This inadequacy contributes to the ineffectiveness of the agencies in spite of the enormous energy exerted, sacrifice made and deprivations experienced by personnel in carrying out their functions with a view to realizing the objectives for which they are established.

The capacity gained by the police and prisons services, in the past, in respect of criminal statistics production and information procession has declined over the past two decades. Up to the mid-1980s both the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Prisons Service regularly produced and published annual reports that provide meaningful if even limited data and statistics. The Report by the police contained data on arrest, cases prosecuted or under investigation, establishment and strength of personnel; discharges and discipline of personnel. These data were sometimes disaggregated by states. Similarly, up to 1986, the Nigerian Prisons Service also produced and published its annual report with information on inmate population disaggregated by states, age, sex, offence, remand/convict status, first offender/prior convicts; religion etc. In addition, data on custodial death, vocational training, prison industries, inmate earnings and discipline etc. were included. Although the scope of data and the quality of their analysis were inadequate, they nonetheless provided indication of the activities, performance and problems of the services. At present the police and prisons do not publish these reports on regular basis. For example, between 1987 and 2000 the Prison Service did not publish its report (Igwe, 2014). Although drafts were produced for the years, they were not published. Official explanation for this was 'lack of fund'. The Nigeria Police Force failed to publish its Annual Report since the early 1990s.

The official explanation of lack of fund for the publication of Annual Report is not convincing because drafts of these Reports were produced for many of the years and both services have Printing Department. Therefore, explanations for the failure have to be sought beyond lack of fund. There are several reasons why the Nigerian criminal justice and security agencies lack of capacity for effective information management for planning, operations, monitoring and evaluations. The more significant ones are: (a) a historical legacy that views crime statistics as mere product of

activities without additional values; (b) emphasis on operational performance as basis for promotion meant that officers outside general duty do not really commit themselves to the job, and lack of appreciation for non-operational duties as well as poor supervision by superiors compound the apathy; (c) inadequate understanding and appreciation of the role of criminal statistics and intelligence management in effective and efficient delivery of services by the police, judicial and prisons; (d) institutional apathy towards information management by government agencies in the country generally, and (e) lack of necessary skills and resources for statistical and information management. But even more fundamental than these reasons is that successive governments in the country loathe accountability. Therefore, statistical and information management systems that will enable the public to assess their performance were not developed. Even when data and statistics are collated, they are treated as secret documents, locked up and rarely used by government officials and agencies for policy formulation, programme design and evaluating and improving performance.

The discussion so far should not be read as implying that the criminal justice and security agencies do not compile some information on threats to safety and security, reported crimes, cases sent for legal advice, cases under trial, judgment and nature of sentence, incidences of disorder, etc. However, the compilations are grossly inadequate, irregular and inconsistent. Crime statistics produced by the Nigeria Police Force are often inaccurate and sometimes incomplete due to administrative and technical problems associated with declining public confidence (Alemika, 1988; Igwe, & Okoronkwo, 2013).

Prison statistical report in Nigeria contains a range of information on the prisoners, their social background (religion, state of origin, age and sex), criminal record (recidivism, type and length of sentence, offences) and conditions in prisons. It also contains administrative information such as staff training, revenue generation in prison farms and industries, etc. However, it does not contain information on employment and marital status, place of residence (urban/rural) before imprisonment. Because of the captive nature of inmates, the prison can be used by society to generate information on social, economic, political, legal and cultural factors

that facilitate or inhibit criminality. The information, though not representative of offender population, can be used for crime prevention and control within a broad socioeconomic and political development planning framework (Adeyemi, 1993).

Judicial statistics are produced for various jurisdictions (state courts, Federal High Courts, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court). A comprehensive and integrated reporting system for the judiciary is yet to be developed for the country. The data provided in many of the reports pertain largely to number of cases under prosecution or concluded, judgments, type of sentences and sex of suspects. However, the courts can compile data and statistics that will inform government about case management, access to justice, problems of criminal justice administration (delay, overcrowding of judicial and prisons systems, facilities, type of and alternative sentences). The information can guide law-making, enhancement of access to justice and promotion of the rights of victims and suspects/criminals within the criminal justice system. Given the nature of its operation, access to the reports of the State Security Services is not granted to the public. It is therefore difficult to access it. Nonetheless, limited contact with the Service indicates that its preference is for narrative reports rather than a statistical one.

First, there are weekly, monthly and yearly reports by every command of the Service, from the Local Government Area to the State Command and to the national level. The Service also produces incidence and threat reports. Incidence reports offer information on particular events such as conflicts, visit of the President to a state, or important celebrations. Similarly, threat (analysis) or intelligence report deals with emerging issues and conditions that may lead to conflict in the future if not adequately handled. One of the major problems with the reporting system of the Service, as far as can be discerned from distance, is the lack of depth. The report of the Service should contain qualitative and quantitative information on conflicts, casualties from conflicts, and threats to security. Furthermore, such report should be situated within rigorous and professional analysis of the country's economic, political and social conditions, especially as they impact on different communities. It is unlikely that any of the Nigerian security and intelligence agencies can provide a fairly accu-

rate report of the number of violent conflicts and casualty from such conflicts since 1999. But there are foreign government agencies (subversive and espionage intelligence agencies, research institutes and researchers funded by governments) are tracking those conflicts and sometimes using them to manipulate political and economic life in the country in order to promote their own national interests against Nigeria's sovereign, security and developmental interests.

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) does not yet produce annual reports in which it provides data on its operations and administration. Nonetheless, the Agency has tried to occasionally release data on arrests, seizures, prosecution, convictions, Nigerians imprisoned abroad for drug-related offences, etc., through its in-house magazine – *Drug Salvation Force*. What the organization still needs to do is to develop a comprehensive system of data collection and analysis for institutionalized annual reporting system (Alemika 1998).

CRIMINAL STATISTICS AND INTELLIGENCE MANAGEMENT

Democracy rests on accountability and transparency while economic development planning requires statistical and information data-bases. There is widespread perception within and outside Nigeria that the country has an endemic problem of insecurity to person and property. Frequent incidence of ethnic, communal, religious and especially political conflicts involving loss of lives and destruction of property, most of which could have been prevented if there had been reliable information and intelligence management system, fuels the perception. It is intriguing that many nations that are far less safe and more insecure and violent than Nigeria, especially the United States of America, frequently warn its citizens of insecurity in the country. But the Nigeria government often has no coherent response and rebuttal to such subversive declarations by foreign governments because it does not maintain reliable data and statistics on crimes.

Foreign investors point to the assumed high level of crime and insecurity as disincentive to investment in the country. Nigerians themselves

exhibit intense fear of prospects of being victimized. Unfortunately, at present, due to inaccurate population statistics for the country and unreliable crime statistics, it is not possible to accurately analyse the pattern and probability of victimization for the nation's population and groups. The extent of fear of crime and insecurity is used as an indicator of the presence, responsiveness and the effectiveness of security agencies to protect the citizens. However, the government has not developed mechanism for surveying level of fear of crime and other related important.

VICTIM SURVEYS ASPECT OF NATIONAL CRIME AND SECURITY INFORMATION SYSTEM

Even under the best circumstances, official crime and justice statistics will not for various reasons produce adequate data and statistics for the development and implementation of policies that will produce optimal effectiveness and efficiency. Some of the reasons are that being official statistics, they reflect more the activities and responses of the agencies in relation to the problems brought to their attention out of the universe of such problems. The data and statistics are also subject to manipulation by the police and government for political, budgetary and other purposes.

Criminologists have long realized that what compromises official crime statistics in their technical jargonizing they refer to as dark and grey figures as well as manipulation. The problem is more serious at the level of the police, which is the gateway between society and the criminal justice system. This suggests a social disconnection between the police and the policed that can be traced to faulty public relations and erosion of public confidence in the system. However, once suspects are brought within the criminal justice system, statistics become increasingly accurate provided that technical errors are eliminated. Unfortunately, at those levels, crimes and criminals are increasingly screened out of the system making them far less representative of their manifestations in society. As a result of these problems or inadequacies, two important methods for estimating crime levels and public evaluation of laws, crime and conflict levels, safety and security, access to justice, criminologists and sociologists have designed

conduct and performance of criminal justice agencies and agents in society. The two methods are crime survey and victim survey.

Crime survey is also called self-report by criminologists. It involves the study of a sample of the population as regards the types and number of crimes they committed during a particular period, usually during the past year – whether or not detected or reported to the police. This type of survey is undertaken using the questionnaire method of data collection in order to ensure anonymity of respondents and thereby enhance reliability of information. Criminologists who used it to determine the extent to which suspects arrested by the police are representative of the population of offenders in general initially developed the approach. It was also used to analyse the reliability of criminal statistics and whether they represent biases on the part of the police in terms of law enforcement practices, especially arrest and prosecution, of offenders from various socio-economic and political groups.

It has been learnt, using the approach, that the police criminal statistics do not accurately reflect the extent and distribution of criminality in society and among the people from various socioeconomic, political and demographic backgrounds. In essence, police crime statistics underestimate the extent of crime as well as distort the pattern and distribution of criminality among groups in society. The problems vary across crimes. More serious crimes tend to be reported more than minor crimes and to that extent police statistics on minor crimes are less reliable than those pertaining to serious crimes such as murder and robbery. The problem is that people do not detect all crimes that they were victims. But also important is that victims may report minor criminal victimization to the police.

Whether or not people report crimes to the police depends on a range of factors:

- a) Whether they think the police will recover either lost property or apprehend offender and make him/her to face the law;
- b) Whether or not they have access to police;
- c) Whether reporting to police will involve further inconveniences, such as attendances at police stations and courts as witnesses; and

- d) The nature of the relationship between the police and the public. These are issues of police efficiency, accessibility and relationship with the police.

Unfortunately, the public rating of the Nigeria Police Force on these issues is poor (Okonkwo, 1966; Tamuno, 1970; Kayode, 1976, 1993; Alemika, 1988, 1993a, 2003b; Ahire, 1993; Rotimi, 1993; Lewis *et al* 2001) due to historical factors and temporal political and institutional constraints (Alemika and Chukwuma 2000). Crime survey suffers several weaknesses. A typical questionnaire from crime survey contains more question on minor crimes with which the respondents are more comfortable while there is tendency to avoid questions on more serious and sensitive crimes. The method depends on the respondents' willingness to provide reliable response. But respondents tend to underreport serious crimes that they committed. They may also forget some or report crimes outside the period covered by the study. Nonetheless, the approach usually provides a broader view of the extent and pattern of crimes in society as well as the safety and security concerns of the citizens. Crime survey therefore complements official crime statistics.

Victim surveys, the second and an alternative approach, attempt to obtain a reliable picture of the extent and pattern of crime in society through victimization report. This is the opposite of the crime survey. It asks respondents about their experience of criminal victimization during a specified period, usually a year. The assumption is that if people are less likely to report their criminal conduct, they are nonetheless more likely to report crimes committed against them. It has been discovered that this approach generates comparable data as the crime survey. But it also suffers some of the weaknesses associated with crime surveys such as inability of respondents to accurately remember criminal victimization events involving them. Respondents may also misreport the timing of their victimization: exclude events that occurred during the period covered by the study or include reports of events that occurred before or after the period covered by the survey.

INCREASED CAPACITY FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND INFORMED PUBLIC RELATIONS

The development of capacity for reliable and efficient criminal justice statistical and information system in Nigeria will require diverse resources and measures – political will, institutional building, inter-agency cooperation and coordination, administrative commitment, expertise, information technology hardware and software; reliable energy, communication and transportation infrastructure, and attractive conditions of service. It is worthwhile highlighting how these resources will impact on the development and institutionalization of the capacity.

The discussion above indicates that there are two major sources of data and statistics on crime, conflict, safety and security in society. These are official statistics and surveys (crime and victims). At the national level, all the three sources of information have to be coordinated and synthesized for analysis and publication so that information produced can be used by government, businesses, groups, communities and individuals as basis for co- production of security and safety with criminal justice and security agencies. The proposal for capacity building is discussed below.

TOWARDS DEEPENING RELIABILITY IN CRIME REPORTAGE

Several measures need to be taken for the development and institutionalization of capacity for effective reportage and management of official criminal statistics and criminal/security intelligence analysis in the country's criminal justice and security agencies. Some of the required measures are as follow:

The policy-makers and leaders of the criminal justice and security agencies need to be sensitized to the need for reliable data, statistical, criminal and intelligence management system in their respective organizations and for all the organizations as a national system. In order to achieve this goal, the government, civil society organizations, academic institutions and experts as well as international and foreign agencies

(assisting with funds and other form of assistance for the reform of the security and judicial system in the country) should create opportunities for the sensitization of relevant officials through workshops and seminars, funding for pilot projects and training;

The consciousness through inclusive effective education about the significance of reliable data and statistics for effective performance will need to go beyond the policy-makers and leaders. Therefore, a curriculum on criminal justice and security statistical management should be developed for all entry-level courses and subsequent staff courses in the various training schools and staff colleges of the agencies and services. The development of syllabi for the courses can be supported or funded by the government, individual services, or NGOs drawing on expertise within the security and intelligence agencies, and Nigerian academic institutions (especially criminologists, computer software development and data-base management professionals). Training of personnel is critical to the development of capacity in criminal statistical system. However, the best approach to ensuring institutionalization is to have civilian and operational staff complement deepened in such agency/public relations that see crime and security as common concerns that must be collectively engaged and addressed.

However, civilian professional and technical staff should drive and operate the work of information management within the security and criminal justice agencies. Not only does this accord with global development where police and security officials are increasingly being divested of non-enforcement and operational functions to enable them concentrate on their core duties but it also solves the problem of officers considering their deployment to non- operational duty as punishment and therefore attend to such duties with resentment. For the success of the programme, very good working conditions and attractive benefits should be provided in order to attract and retain professional criminology and social science researchers, computer software and database management professionals, and statistical analysts and data entry technicians. Furthermore, staff in the department should enjoy professional development and relative career autonomy.

CRIME AND VICTIM SURVEYS

Crime and victim surveys require expertise in social survey data collection and analysis methods. The development of capacity in this respect is not strictly that of the criminal justice and security systems. There is capacity for the conduct of such survey in the country using expertise available from the country's universities, social science research institutes, social science research and advocacy-based NGOs, the Federal Office of Statistics and the National Population Commission. However, the capacity and expertise will have to be mobilized, coordinated and deployed. There are several ways that these can be done. Two scenarios are provided as follow:

The government may establish a National Crime and Victim Surveys Panel, chaired by an expert in social science survey method applicable to crime, justice and security fields. Members should be drawn from the academia, social science research institutes, justice and law enforcement reform NGOs, Federal Office of Statistics and the National Population Commission. The Panel will have overall responsibility for the surveys. However, it could and should contract the technical assignment of conducting the survey (data collection, analysis and report) to a credible survey research organization either in the universities or social science research institute or in the private sector. This approach may be appropriate as a pilot project for three years – that is such a Panel exists for three years and conducts two annual surveys. This still leads us to problem of institutionalization.

A second scenario will be for the government to request a university or a social science research institute (e.g. Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research NISER) with strength in social science survey research to create a Centre for Crime and Victim Surveys. The Centre should have its budget approved directly by government in order not to under-fund it. But the staff shall be employed as regular academic and professional staff of the university or research institute. The advantage of this is that it immediately creates a prospect for institutionalization and an environment conducive to intellectual work and challenges.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Differential Association-reinforcement theory Edwin Sutherland (1947), who originated this theory, saw deviant behaviour as the result of socialisation. It is a sociological theory that sees deviance as learned by individuals being socialised by a group of people who engage in and accept deviant behaviour. In a classic Sociological study, Howard S. Becker (1963) pointed out the importance of friendship groups in the process of learning to smoke marijuana. When people start using marijuana, they usually rely on their friends to supply the drug until they are relatively experienced users. Furthermore, people learn how to enjoy the effects of marijuana from their friends. Knowledge learned suddenly becomes power to educate others.

Many sociologists maintain that classroom interaction can only be fully explained by reference to the wider society (Igwe, 2014). In particular, it is argued that the definition and organisation of knowledge in the classroom must be seen in terms of the nature and distribution of power in society as a whole. Thus dominant groups in society have the power to define what counts as knowledge in the educational system. If classroom knowledge is based largely upon the knowledge of dominant groups, schooling will automatically favour the children of the powerful and discriminate against those from lower social strata.

Similarly, however, the explanations of differential educational attainment that have been presented so far have been based largely on a positivist perspective. They have seen man reacting to stimuli external to himself to social forces beyond his control. Thus, the behaviour of students in the educational system is explained as a reaction to their position in the class structure. Those at the bottom of the stratification system are programmed to fail, those at the top to succeed. They have little say in the matter since their behaviour is largely shaped by forces external to themselves. Many theories of deviances are based in part on official statistics provided by the police, the court, and various government departments. Such statistics provide evidence of the extent of deviance and information about the social characteristics of the deviant, for example his class position. But

official statistics cannot be taken at face value and therefore nor can theories which are based on their use.

This section examines the reasons why official statistics must be handled with caution. There is increasing evidence to suggest that there is a systematic bias in favour of the powerful in the application of the law. As a general rule if an individual has committed a criminal act the higher, he is in the stratification system the less likely he is to be arrested if arrested to be prosecuted if prosecuted to be found guilty and if found guilty to be imprisoned. For examples various studies have shown that middle class delinquents are less likely to be arrested and prosecuted than their working-class counterparts. If this is so then the assumption that many forms of criminal deviance are largely working-class phenomena may be incorrect and theories which attempt to explain deviance as a response of individual or group to their position in the stratification system may also be incorrect.

Even if the bias referred to above were removed official statistics would still not provide sociologist with reliable evidence about the extent of deviance. As a result, they would not provide reliable information on the social characteristics of deviants for example their social class, ethnicity, age, sex, occupation and place of residence. Statistics on crime and delinquency illustrate these points. They are based on crimes known to the police. Such figures may bear little resemblance to the actual number of crimes committed. The United States president commission on law enforcement and the administration of justice found that many victims of criminal acts did not report this fact to the police. The rate of non-reporting was over 50% for certain crimes.

Methods: While the design was exploratory. Qualitative data was purposively gathered from National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), University of Abuja (UA), and Divisional Police Headquarters Lugbe, ABUJA. Purposively, six key informants, two from each category were sampled. Key informant interviews were conducted.

Major findings: The findings reveal that inclusive education is necessary to sustain objective public relations based on trust and inclusive

security framework that sees crime as societal ill and its report as social responsibility of all (agency/public).

Recommendations: Harmonise vested and entrenched interest through inclusive education. To avert miscarriage of justice that compromise crime statistics, inclusive security needs to be deepened. Inclusive security should characterise our security architecture.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONALISATION

The strategies outlined in the discussion under the official statistics and surveys above are appropriate in the short-run. But in medium and long-terms a comprehensive national framework for the development and institutionalization of capacity for crime, conflict, criminal justice and security information management must be evolved. In addition, the country must address its problem of lack of reliable information in all aspect of the country's social, economic, political and cultural life. To do this will require constitutional, legislative, institutional and infrastructural development as follow:

There should be a constitutional provision that makes the conduct of census compulsory every ten years after the next census (once again scheduled for 2020), failing which any government responsible should be impeached.

Freedom of Information law should be enacted without further delay. The legislative lukewarm and executive hostility to a draft FOI Bill, sponsored by a coalition of civil society organizations, in the National Assembly merely show the contempt which the rulers have for citizens, importance of information, accountability and transparency in government. FOI laws are designed primarily to give effect to the full import of citizenship in a democratic society (which are that power belong to citizens; elected officials are representatives of the people and owe the electorates the obligation to explain how and why they use the mandate given to them by providing information on all aspects of government policies,

operations and actions), FOI laws promote transparency and accountability and ultimately good governance and democracy;

There should be a law prescribing that at least 5% of annual budget in each of the recurrent and capital expenditure categories of every government agency should be spent in producing and publishing comprehensive and reliable data, statistics and information on the major functions and activities of the agency. Such Reports should be taken into consideration during budget hearing or defence and budgetary allocation by the National Assembly. For example, if an organization failed to produce and publish its Report for a previous year within nine months into a new year, its leadership should be subject to serious sanctions, including loss of tenure, for undermining accountability and the rights of citizens to know what their government and elected officials are doing on or in their behalf, and with public resources;

Policy development and co-ordination for all the criminal justice and security agencies in the country; Developing a system of reliable data, statistical and information management in each of, and across, the agencies in the nation's criminal justice and security system;

At least on annual basis, conduct (either directly or through agents), produce, publish and disseminate official and survey data, statistics and information on crime, conflicts, security, safety, crime and criminal justice administration, including experience and perceptions of citizens regarding them. Develop support and fund scientific criminological legal social science and policy research that will enhance the knowledge and practice of crime prevention and control, conflict prevention and resolution, criminal justice and security administration;

Develop, support, organize and fund training programmes, workshops, seminars, and conferences that will enhance the knowledge and practice of crime prevention and control, conflict prevention and resolution, criminal justice and security administration; Publish, support or fund the publication of books journals reports or production of programmes on radio and television or other electronic media (films, multimedia, etc.) that will enhance the knowledge and practice of crime prevention and control, conflict prevention and resolution, criminal justice and security administration;

The commission should be of the A grade and its budget should be directly appreciated by the National Assembly. For the Commission to attract and retain qualified staff, its conditions of service should at least be comparable to those in the universities and research institutes. Its principal focus should be the development of statistics, information, policies and programmes for crime prevention and control, and for the enhancement of safety and security, based on criminological and social scientific theoretical and empirical knowledge. The Commission should collaborate with existing legal institutions like the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies National Judicial Institute and the Nigerian Law Reform Commission so that comprehensive approach to the guarantee of safety, security and justice can be developed and sustained in the country.

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