

INFLUENCE OF GENDER AND LOCALITY ON TENDENCY TO INDULGE IN GRIMINAL BEHAVIOR AMONG YOUTHS IN ANAMBRA STATE

Agu, Stella Akunna¹ & Ozor, Modesta Chinwe².

^{1&2}Department of Educational Foundations (Psychology)

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, Anambra State.

¹E-Mail: akunnastella22@gmail.com & modesterozor2018@gmail.com²

Abstract

The study was aimed at investigating the influence of locality and gender on criminal behavior among youth in Anambra state. The participants in this study were 167 males 68 and 99 females. The participants were from different urban centres which comprised: Awka, Onitsha and Oba. and rural area that comprises Umudioka-awkuzu, Nando and Adazinnu kwu. The participants were selected through stratified random sampling. The age of the participants ranged from 17 to 45 years. 72 item psychopathic deviant scale by Hathaway and Mckinghey (1972) were utilized in this study the instrument was validated and adopted for the use of professionals in Nigeria by Kukoyi (1997). Two hypotheses were tested, the researcher's design was 2 by 2 factorial design. Based on the design, two way analysis of variance was used as a statistical tool to analyze the data gathered. The first hypothesis was rejected at .000<.05 level of significance. While the second hypothesis was accepted at .476>.05 level of significance.

Keywords: Gender, Locality, Criminal Behaviour

Introduction

Despite the enormous scientific investigation on the areas of psychological disorders being conducted by many reputable scholars in Nigeria, much has not been done on the areas of psychopathy or criminality (Igbo 2002). In a bit to narrow this scientific vacuum, this present study is structured and geared towards examining and unveiling some factors that are likely to precipitate psychopathy and criminal behavior that is associated with the disorder such factors are locality and gender.

The term psychopathy was first applied to deviance citizens around 1900. It was later changed to sociopath in the 1930s to emphasize the damage they do to society. Currently researches have returned to use of psychopathy. Some of them use that term to refer to a more serious disorder, linked to genetic traits, producing more dangerous individuals, while continuing to use sociopath to refer to less dangerous people who are seen more as products of their environment (Hirstein, 2013).

Psychopathy can be viewed as a deviant behaviour, which usually erode the norms, values and the moral code of conduct in our society. It can be referred to as a pattern of maladaptive, callous, erratic and antisocial characteristics (Visser, 2010). In addition, (Hare 2003), stated that shallowness of emotions has long been considered a hallmark of psychopathy, with Psychopaths described as lacking in empathy and callous in their emotional responses to others. (Lemart, 2011) defined psychopathic behaviour as those behaviours that are not in alignment with the acceptable cultural norms. It is also construed as a mental disorder roughly equivalent to antisocial personality disorders but with emphasis on affective and interpersonal traits such as superficial charm, pathological lying, egocentricity, lack of remorse, and callousness that have traditionally been regarded by clinicians as characteristics of psychopaths, (Colman, 2003).

According to Million, Theodore, Cohen and Roger (2006); The prototypical psychopath has deficits or deviances in several areas: interpersonal relationships, emotion and self control. They also gain satisfaction through antisocial behaviour, and do not experience shame, guilt or remorse for any harm they may have caused others, instead rationalizing their behaviour, blaming someone else or denying it out right. They also lack empathy towards others in general resulting in tactlessness, insensitivity and contemptuousness. Psychopathy also has a markedly distorted sense of potential consequence of their actions, not only for others but also for themselves. They do not recognize the risk of being caught, disbelieved or injured as a result of their behaviour. (Dadds, 2006).

Learning Theories

Learning theories emphasize the influence of training, observational learning (modeling) and conditioning in the manifestation of psychopathic behaviour. Learning Theories as championed by Bandura (1968) and Watson (1920) argued that people learn how to behave by observing others. They argued that abnormal behaviour (criminality) is learned in the same way the normal ones are learned. This may partly explain why young men are recruited and trained by wealthy armed robbers and international syndicates. Bandura and Walters (1963) as well as Green (1991) have explained that viewing aggressive films produces aggression on the viewer. Also some well to do individual act as role models to the younger ones and this apply to both normal and abnormal behaviour.

According to the social/situational orientation to learning, in arguing on how change or learning occurs. It state that, it is not so much that learners acquire structures or models to understand the world, but they participate in frameworks

that have structure. By implication learning involves participation in a community practice.

Social learning theory “posited that people learn from observing other people. By definitions, such observations take place in a social setting” Merrian and Caffarella, (1991:134). Within psychology, initially it was behaviorists who emphasized how people learned through observation. Later researchers like Albert Bandura emphasized interaction and cognitive processes. One thing that observation does is to allow people to see the consequence of others behaviours. They can gain some idea of what might flow from acting in this way. In other words, psychopathic behaviour can be shape or control by allowing people to see how others (like criminals) are been rewarded of their pass negative behaviours which can change the tendency of people repeating such act in future. According to Bandura (1977:22 both antisocial and social acceptable behaviour are been learned observationally through modeling. From observing others, one can form an idea of how new behaviours are performed and on later occasions this coded information serves as a guide for action.

The Cultural Deviance Theory

This theory is similar to learning theories. Sutherland (1947). Just like any other theorist in his perspective argue that crime is learned. His differential association theory argues that most criminal behaviour are learned through contact with criminal patterns that are present, a acceptable and rewarded that are in one’s physical and social environment. The hypothesis of differential association is that “criminal” behaviour is learned in association with those who define such behaviour favourably and in isolation from those who define it unfavourably and that a person in appropriate situation engages in such behaviour if and only if the weight of the favourable definition exceeds the weight of the unfavourable definition” (Sutherland 1949 p. 234).

Again cultural deviance theory believes that the major tenet of cultural deviance theory is that conformity to the prevailing cultural norms of lower class society causes crime. Lower class subculture has a unique set of values and beliefs which are invariably in conflict with conventional social norms. Criminality is an expression of conformity to lower class subculture values members of the working class commit crimes as they respond to the cultural norms of their own class in an effort to deal with problems of social-middle class-adjustment.

Urban Versus Rural In Criminality

It emphasis is on the habits and mode of life of living organism in their environment. With increase in crime, social scientists turned their attention to the influence of psychical and geographical factors on social life generally and deviant behavior in particular. Shaw and McKay (1972) explained this by reference to the ecology of the city. They found that certain areas of the city had consistently higher crime rate” than other areas. The urban areas are known to harbour more criminals than rural areas. The urban centre also provide increase opportunities for crime due to the heavy concentration of goods and services as well as weaker informal social control in contrast to the situation in the rural areas (Eberinwa 2010) According to Eberinwa (2010) study have shown that the frequency of crime and delinquency is several times higher in the urban areas then in the rural areas. Several violent crimes such as armed robbery, homicides, assaults, rape, prostitution abortion, gambling, money laundering, kidnapping and drugs related offences are very prevalent in cities Shelly. (1981).

People who refuse to conform to prescribed social norms in their village communities and who because of behavioural deviations are social outcast or isolate all migrate to the cities where they are free and unregulated (Igbo 2001). They live in the slum and subscribe to slum cultures, (Shelly, 1981). According to Shaw and McKay (1972) the slum of the city are crime breeding grounds.

Relevance of Urban Versus Rural Environment in Criminal Behaviour

The economic activity of the developed world takes place primarily in urban environment. Urban environment can be said to be healthy, interesting place to live. Urban areas offer jobs, health care, schools and others services that are usually lack in rural areas. On the other hand, the rural economy of a country is considered to be of low status, because most of the work force are farmers or are engaged in other primary activities. Provisions of essential services such as schools, hospitals, shops, public transport and banks, are usually limited at times absent in rural areas. Therefore, young people wish to move to urban areas where higher status jobs are available. New migrants to the cities often lack education or training for the high wage jobs available, have lost opportunity to raise their own food and lack the support of their family units, they become poor in the cities and often live in shanty towns on the edge of the city because of poverty; Eysench, (1973) the slums of the city are crime breeding grounds.

It is noted that poverty, disturbed families and broken home are some major variable that can lead one towards criminal behaviour Eysench, (1973).

Empirical Review

Research studies focusing on the causes of juvenile delinquency have proposed that the structure of the family and the quality of parent child relationships have important implications for the development of antisocial behavior in children and may affect adult criminal behavior across the life course, Genem and Agnew (2007). There studies have primarily examined the major environmental predictors of juvenile crime: family, schools and peer variables from the perspective of social control theory or social hearing, Giordono (2002). Not surprisingly, researcher investigating violent adult criminals report longstanding histories of severe abuse in childhood. Recent national statistics, for example, finds that 14.4% of all men in prison in the United State of America were abused as children and 36.7% of all women in prison were abused as children. U.S department of health and human services, child maltreatment (2006). Research investigating abuse as subsequent anti-social, aggressive acts has linked their factors to the quality of parent-child relationship, throughout childhood and adolescence. Agnew (2005), Farmington (2002).

Sex Differences

The manual for the Mayer-Salovey-Caraso Emotional intelligences test (MSCEIT) indicates that woman typically score about half a standard deviation higher than men on total E.I (Emotional Intelligence) and also score higher on all subscales. Magen (2002) with regard to psychopaths, the base rate of male psychopaths is considerably higher than that of female psychopaths in forensic settings; Salekin, Rogers and Sewell (1997), Vitale and Newman (2001). And men typically score about one standard deviation higher than women in non-clinical sample; Levenson (1995) Lilienfeld and Andrews, (1996) Pawhus and Williams, (2002). Men also report higher levels of anti-social behavior than women do even in student samples E.g Levenson et al, (1975).

Research suggests that individual with specific disorders, including psychopathy, have a different level of ability to identify emotions in facial expressions; class and Newman, (2006); Kosson, Suchy and Mayer, (2002). More specifically, studies with adult psychopaths Blair (2004) and with children with a psychopathic predisposition (Blair, Collodge, Murray, and Mitchell, (2001), Dadds, (2006); Stevens, Chraman and Blair, (2001) have shown a deficit in their recognition of genitive emotional expression namely; fear.

In 2004 study, Kosson and Suchy, asked psychopathic in-mates to name the emotion expressed on each of 30 faces; compared to the control group, psychopaths had a significantly lower rate of accuracy in recognizing disgusted facial effect but a higher rate of accuracy in recognizing anger. Additionally, when

“conditions designed to minimize the involvement at left-hemispheric mechanisms (like Sadness) were used, psychopaths had more difficulty accurately identifying emotions.

Statement of Problem

In Nigeria today, criminality is like the notorious cankerworm that is eating the moral and social fabric of the society gradually but steadily. However, adequate scientific energy has not been channeled to unveil the factors determining the ugly situation i.e. criminality.

In addition enough literature materials have not been recorded on the areas of psychopaths in Nigeria. As a result of this our understanding has not been broadened with respect to criminal behaviour. Psychopaths have caused myriad of problems, ranging from killing, raping, drug abuse and other immoral acts. Based on the problems, this study is structured to determine the influence of locality and gender on tendency to indulge in criminal behaviour.

Purpose of Study

The major aims of the study are

1. To compare urban and rural people on criminal behaviour
2. To compare males and females on criminal behaviour

Research Hypotheses

1. Will there be any significant difference between people living in the rural areas and urban centres on the tendency to indulge in criminal behaviour?
2. Will there be any significant differences between males and female on the tendency to indulge in criminal behaviour?

Method

One hundred and sixty seven (68 males & 99 females) served as participate in this study. The participants were selected through stratified random sampling from churches, street and market. The participants were of two different localities: Urban centres, (which comprises) Awka, Onistha and Oba). And rural areas (which comprises) Umudioka-awkuzu, Nando, and Adazinnu-kwu). The ages of the participants ranged from 17 to 45 years, with a mean age of 27.94 years

A 72 item psychopathic Deviate scale (Pds) by Hathaway & Mckinley (1967) were utilized in the study. The instrument was validated and adopted for the use of professionals in Nigeria by Kukoyi (1997).

The scoring was based on “Yes” or “No” format. The participants responded to each of the items by endorsing true, scored “1” or false that was scored “0”. The participant’s total score for the 72 item served as the participant’s measure of psychopathic behavior.

Presentation of Result and Data Analysis

In this chapter results were presented in the order in which the hypothesis were tested.

Between Subjects Factors

	N
Gender:	
Female	99
Male	68
Locality:	
Urban centre	112
Rural area	55

The table above indicated the total number of independent variables (Gender and locality) with regard to criminal behavior.

Descriptive Statistics

Gender locality	Mean	STD. Deviation	N
Female: Urban centre	47.18	6.476	76
Rural area	41.87	8.693	23
Total	45.95	7.359	99
Male: Urban centre	48.06	5.313	36
Rural area	42.91	11.724	32
Total	45.63	9.222	68
Total: Urban centre	47.46	6.116	112
Rural area	42.47	10.486	55
Total	45.82	8.144	167

The Descriptive statistics table above summaries the table of mean and standard Deviation of criminal behavior with regards to locality and gender.

The first line in the table showed the female gender in urban and rural area with the total participants of 99, have the total mean of 45.95 and standard deviation of 7.359. while the male gender in urban and rural area, with the total participants of 68, have the mean of 45.63 and standard deviation of 9.222. After all, the summary table of the mean and standard deviation with regard to criminal behavior, showed

that both locality (urban and rural area) with total participants of 167 have the mean of 45.82 and standard deviation of 8.144.

Tests of between- subjects effects

Dependent variable criminal behavior

Source	Type III Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Corrected model	951.973a	3	317.324	5.143	.002
Intercept	280170.392	1	280170.392	4541.058	.000
Gender	31.475	1	31.475	.510	.476
Locality	946.659	1	946.659	15.344	.000
Gender & locality	.236	1	.236	.004	.951
Error	10056.637	163	61.697		
Total	361626.000	167			
Corrected total	11008.611	166			

a. R squared = .086 (Adjusted R squared = .070)

A 2-way ANOVA was used as a statistical tool to analyze the data gathered, which help the researcher to provide empirical evidence on influence of gender and locality in the tendency to indulge in criminal behavior and this table proof that:

Hypothesis I

Locality; $.000 < .05$. level of significance. The table above indicated that the first hypothesis which stated that there would be no significant difference between urban and rural in the tendency to indulge in criminal behavior was rejected. Therefore, there was a significant difference between urban and rural people in the tendency to indulge in criminal behavior.

Hypothesis II:

Also the second hypothesis which stated that there would be no significant difference between males and females in the tendency to indulge in criminal behavior was confirmed at Gender $.476 > .05$ level of significance. Therefore there was no significant difference between males and females in the tendency to indulge in criminal behavior.

Implications of the Study

The study implies that gender should not be mainly considered in the course of fashioning out lasting solution to deviant acts being perpetrated by criminals while

variable like locality, according to his studying, implies that certain areas of the city had consistently higher crime rate than other areas. This implication is anchored on the fact that those that live in the urban areas are not desame in measuring of criminal behavior, this implication was also postulated by Shaw and Mekay (1972). in ecological approach to criminality. And also this study implies that male and female are the same with respect to criminal behavior.

Conclusion

The researcher, in consonance with the research outcomes, Concludes that locality or environment can be a predicator of criminal behavior while variable like gender are not among the antecedents of criminal behavior. And also there are other factors such as biological factors (hereditary factor), could also be the predictor of criminal behavior.

References

- Akers, R. (1998). *Social Learning & Social Structure: A General theory of crime & Deviance*. Boston: *Northeastern University press*.
- Akers, R.L. (1988). *Deviant behavior: A Social Learning Approach*. Belmont CA: *wadsworth*.
- Akers, R.L. (1992). *Drugs, Alcohol, & Society*. Belmont Calif: *wadsworth*.
- Akers, R.L. (1994). *Criminological Theories: Introduction and Evaluation*. Los Angeles: *Roxbury publishing Co*.
- Akers, R.L., Krohn, M., Lanza-Kaduse, L., Radoseviah, M. (1979). Social learning & Deviant Behaviour: A specific test of General Theory, *American sociological Review* 44:636-655.
- Alforo, J.D. (1978). Report on the Relationship Between Child Abuse & Neglect & later socially Deviant Behaviour. Albany, NY: *NEW York state Assembly*.
- Ashkar, P.J., Kenny, D.T., & Kenny, D. (2008). Views from the inside: young offenders' subjective Experiences of incarceration, *international journal of offender therapy & comparative criminology* 52 (5) 584-597.
- Bandura, A. (1973). *Aggression: A social learning Analysis*: Engle-wood Cliffs NJ: *Prentice – Hall*.
- Bandural, (1977a). *Social learning Theory*,- Engle-wood cliff, NJ: *prentice – hall*.
- Bao, W., Whitbeck, L.B., & Hogt D.R. (2002). Abuse, support & Depression among Homeless and runaway adolescents. *journal of health and social behavior*, 41, 408-420.
- Barbosa, M.F. (2000). Reincidencia criminal: 20 anos de investigacao neuropsychological (criminal recidivism: 20 years of neuropsychological research) *saude mental*, 2, 29-38.

- Baumvinol, D. (1993). The Average Expectable. Environment is not Good Enough: A response to scar. *Child development*, 64, 1299-1317.
- Becker, H. (1997). Outsiders: studies in the sociology of Deviance. New York: free press.
- Blair, J., sellers, C., Strickand I., Clark, F., Williams A., Smith, M., et al (1996). Theory of mind in the psychopath. *Journal of forensic psychiatry*, 7, 15-25.
- Blair, R.J.R., college, E., Murray, L.K., & Mitchell, O.G. (2001). A selective impairment in the processing of sad and feardul facial expressions in children with psychopathic tendencies. *Journal of Abnormal child psychology*, 29, 491-498.
- Book, A.S., Quinsey, V.L., & Lengford, D. (2007). Psychopath and the perception of Affect and vulnerability. *criminal justice and behavior*, 34, 531-544.
- Cale, E., & Likenfieds, S. (2002). Sex differences in psychopath & Antisocial personality disorder: A review & integration. *Clinical psychology review*, 22, 1179-1207.
- Conger, R.D. (1976). Social control & social learning matrix of delinquent behavior criminology: *An interdisciplinary journal* 14:17.
- Cox, J., De Matteo, D.S., & Foster, E.E. (2010). The Effect of psychopath checklist- Revised in capital cases: Mock Jurors' Responses to the label on psychopath. *Behavioural science and the law*, 28 (6), 878-891. Doi: 10.1002/Bs/. 958.
- Dandura, A. (1969). Principles of behavior modification. New York: Holt, Rinchart & Winston, 1969.
- Dolan, M., & Fullam, R. (20006). Face effect recognition deficits in personality – disordered offenders. *Association with psychopath psychological medicine*, 36, 1563-1569.
- Eberinwa, O.M. (2010). Urban Development & Administration in Nigeria (2nd ed) *urban crime*, 253.
- Fagan, A.A. (2005). The relationship between adolescent physical abuse & generated cycle of violence. *journal of family violence*. Volume 20, No. 5, 279-290.
- Farington, D.P. (1989). Early predictors of adolescent aggression & adult violence. *Violence & victims*, 4, 79-100.
- Ganem, N.M., & Agnew, R. (2007). Parenthood & adult criminal offending: the importance of Relationship quality. *Journal of criminal justice*-35, (6) 630-643.
- Goltfredson, M., & Hirsch, T. (1990). A General theory of crime Stanford: *Stanford university press*.
- Guay, J., Ruscio, J., Hare, R.A. (2005). The latent structure of psychopaths when more is simply more, *manuscript submitted for publication*.

- Hare, R.D. (2003). *The psychopath checklist- Revised manual (2nd ed)* Toronto, Ontario, Canada: multi Health systems.
- Haris, G.F., Skilling, T., and Rice M.E. (2001). The construct of psychopaths. *crime & justice*, 28, 197-264.
- Hemphill, J.E., Hare, R.D., & Wong, S. (1998). Psychopaths & Recidivism: A review *legal & criminological psychology*, 3 (part 1), 139-170 Retrieved from <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal>
- Henning, K., & Feder, li. (2005). Criminal prosecution of Domestic violence offences: an investigation of factors predictive of court outcomes. *Criminal justice & behavior*, 32(6), 612-642. Doi:/0.1177/0093&54805279945.
- Lee, C. (2007). The Judicial response to psychopathic criminals: Utilitarianism over retribution. *law & psychology review*, 31125-136 Retrieved from <http://www.law.ua.edu/law-psychology/index.php>.
- Mayer, D., Salovey, P., & Caruso, D.R. (2002). Manual for the Mayer- Salovey – Caruso Emotional intelligence test (MSCEIT). Toronto: *Multi-Health systems*.
- Patrick, C.J., Bradley, M.M., & leng, P.J. (1993). Emotion in the criminal psychopath: startle reflex modulation. *Journal of Abnormal psychology* 102, 82-92.
- Paulhus, D.L., & Williams, K.M. (2002). The dark trial of personality: narcissism, Machiavellianism & psychopath. *Journal of Research in personality*, 36, 556-563.
- Skinner, W.F., & Fream, A.M. (1997). A social learning theory analysis of computer crime Among college students. *Journal of Research in crime & Delinquency*. 34, 495-518.
- Sutherland, E.H., & Cressey, D.R., (1974). *Criminology*, New York: Loppincott.
- Taylor, J.G (1992). *The behavioural Basis of perception* New haven. Conn: *Yale university press*.
- Thornberry, T.P. (1987). Towards & Interactional theory of Delinquency. *Criminology*, 25: 863-891.
- Thronbeny, T.P., Wei, E.H., Slouthamer- Loeber, M., & Ian Dyke, J. (2000). Teenage fatherhood & delinquent behavior, *office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency prevention Washington D C*.
- Vitale, J.E., & Newmann, J.P. (2001). Response preservation in psychopathic women. *Journal of Abnormal psychology*, llo, 644-647.