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GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF URBAN CRIME IN HIGHER INSTITUTIONS IN KANO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Every society has its own value system. Crime is defined by mainly these values system. For one reason or the other, there has been crime in every society throughout history though the rate, type, cause and effect on each society might be highly different. The aim of this research is examines the Geographical analysis of urban crime in higher institutions in Kano state. This study employed descriptive research as research design. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were adopted. Interview and data extracted from dairies at security office at each high institution were used as instrument for data collection. Descriptive statistics were used for data analysis such as frequency, percentage while tables bar and pie charts were used for data presentation. Some of the findings of this study indicated that males committed more crimes than females. It was reveals that those between 18-27 years committed the highest crimes (81%) at higher institutions in Kano state, followed by the age-bracket between 29-38 years old (15.7%). It is shown from the result of this research that the crime based on higher institutions in Kano state; drugs abuse and theft are the most common crimes committed at AKCILS, fighting and theft are common at FCET Bichi, with theft as most common crime prevailed at KUST.

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Examination malpractice and theft are found common in SOE Gwarzo; examination malpractice and drugs abuse are in SRCOE Kumbotso. It is also found out that the year 2019 has the highest crime committed in higher institutions in Kano state. On the other hand, this study suggested some recommendations as: the management of all higher institutions should install modern security gadgets such as CCTV, automatic scanner or metal detector as well as adding more security personnel to record all movement of people within the college premises. Orientation of newly and returned students should be exercised regularly to minimize examination malpractice, drugs abuses and other crime.

Keywords: Urban Crime, High Institutions, Kano, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Education improves the development of any society and the youths who occupy significant position in that country should be properly educated in order to improve the society (Osokoya, 2008). As one of the most important sectors in Nigeria, Education is affected by many social problems. Some of these social problems are general and prevalent across the nation while some are specific and peculiar to institution.

In Nigeria, and indeed in higher institutions crime such as property theft is becoming very common among the students in fact property theft being or refers to as the dishonest taking of property belonging to another person (i.e. student) with the intention of depriving him/her its permanent possession, is observed to be increase on our campuses these days. These types of crimes include: Motor vehicle theft, stealing of cell phones, electronics, clothes, handbags, books, jewels, laptop, and computers etc. Property theft like any other forms of crime are a social problems and also one of the issues of concern in many societies throughout human history, (Nura 2011). On the other hand, crime is a universal general phenomenon. Crime has existed ever since the earliest period in history, and it will continue to exist in the future. A society with crime is nothing but a utopia, as possibilities brought about by living as a community, crime will always exist.

However, the issues of crime attracted the attention of many researchers such as: Umar (2017) conducted a research on understand of spatial patterns of urban crime in a developing country. Additionally, Gumus (2004) conducted his research on

crime of urban areas; an empirical investigation in U.S city. Moreover, Olapeju (2016) made his study on analysis of urban crime in Abeokuta city Nigeria. And Cahill (2004) study the geographies of urban crimes; an intra urban study of crime in Nashville, Portland and Tucson, Az. Urban crime is universal, but research suggested that pattern of urban crimes are affected by the nature of cities and the social, economic and geographical environment in which they exist. All these researchers were done on urban crime but their attention not paid on higher institutions. This research intends to cover higher institutions in Kano state: This study explores a geographical analysis of urban crime in Aminu Kano College of Islamic and Legal Study, Federal College of Education and (Technical) Bichi, Kano University of Science and Technology Wudil, School of environmental studies, Gwarzo and Sa'adatu Rimi College of Education. This research enhances the researches that have been done in this field of urban crimes.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this research is to examine "Geographical analysis of urban crime in higher institutions in Kano state. This can be done thorough the following objectives;

- i. To identify the types of crimes within the study area.
- ii. To find out the factors that determines the crime in the study area.
- iii. To identify the year in which the crimes are more committed.
- iv. To determine which gender between male and female committed more crime

Literature Review

Crime is an integral part of any society and it is the study of the police force with the assistance of other law enforcement agencies to prevent and control such. Looking closely at the incidence of crime in both the urban and rural areas in Nigeria, one can clearly see that crimes are still being committed despite the presence of the numerous policemen spread all over the country Haruna (2010).

Review of Conceptual Framework

The term crime has been defined by many scholars in different ways. It can be seen as violation of statutes enacted into criminal law by the state; it is any human conduct that violates criminal law and is subject to punishment.

According to "Sellin" crime is defined as anything which is harmful or perceived to be harmful by the society. For Topinard (1887) "Crime is an intentional act of

commission or omission in violation of the criminal law committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as felony or misdemeanor" for Sutherland (1949)"the essential characteristics of crime is that it's behavior which is prohibited by the state, which is an injury to the state and again which the state will react as last resort by punishment".

Types of Crime

There are basically four (4) major types of crime namely: White collar crime organized crime, victimless crime and conventional crime respectively.

1. **White collar crime:** The term white collar crime was first introduced by Sutherland (1949). According to him, white collar crime refers to "as the offences committed by individual in the process of performing their official assignment. "It is a criminal behavior of business and professional Men, normally regarded as crime because people abuse their official positions. The term covers many types of criminal activities including commercial bribery, misrepresentation in advertisements over and under representation of commodities, tax fraud, bribery of officials, embezzlement, etc. while collar crime is committed by individuals in the course of their occupations for their direct personal gain or benefit.
2. **Organized crime: (syndicated crime):** This refers to the provision of illegal goods and services or provision of legal goods and services in an illegal way. Under normal conditions, syndicated crimes develop a structure that makes it possible to provide illegal services on a regular basis to some businessmen, politicians and even group of criminals form a structure as an illegal enterprises for the purpose of achieving some specific goals, these enterprises include; drug pushers, exchange money black market, labor racketeering, cocaine pushers e.t.c. Organized crime has similar characteristics with formal organization and it operate under normal command and loyalty demonstrated by every member of the group.
3. **Victimless Crimes:** These are crimes that lack apparent harm to others, in other words, they are crimes without victims. However, there may be public reaction toward such crimes. People committing victimless crimes usually perceive themselves as doing normal behaviour because there is absence of complainant, rather they are offence that abuse morality of the larger society, because the society regarded them as immoral behavior which attracted the formation of legal interpretation of them, they include: drug use, prostitution, sodomy, gambling e.t.c

4. Conventional Crimes: Conventional crime can also be subdivided into property and violent crimes based on the entity on which is committed (Usman, Yakubu, & Bello, 2012; Ajaegbu, 2012; Okafor, 2011).

a) Violent Crimes: It is seen as the most inhumane act of brute force against a victim which leading to bloodshed and economic setbacks. This includes raping, thuggering, rubbering, kidnapping, wounding, murdering, terrorism, and so on (Dambazau, 2007; Ajaegbu, 2012; Usman et al., 2012; Soh, 2012; Song, Spicer, Brantingham, & Frank, 2013).

b) Property Crimes: They are those offences committed on properties without using of violence by the criminals in taking one's property. This includes snatch theft, stealing, pick-pocketing, burglary, arson, larceny, theft, wreck, pilfering, and so on (Dambazau, 2007; Prashyanusorn, Kaviya, & Yupapin 2010; Usman et al., 2012; Soh, 2012; Song et al., 2013; Ajaegbu, 2012). In (Dambazau, 2007; Prashyanusorn, Kaviya, & Yupapin 2010; Usman et al., 2012; Soh, 2012; Song et al., 2013; Ajaegbu, 2012).

Property crimes are high volume crimes with cash, electronics, power tools, vehicle and jewellerys often targeted. Hot products tend to be items that are removable, valuable, available and enjoyable with an ease of "disposal" being the most important characteristics.

Nature of Urban Crimes in Nigeria

Urban crime is a universal phenomenon and Nigeria is not spared. All sorts of crimes are committed in Nigeria like any other parts of the world, although the magnitude and nature vary. In some areas, property crimes are more prominent while violent. Crimes are highly experienced in another part of the country. Similarly, in a particular urban area there are these variations between 'hotspots and cold spots' locations. Hotspot locations are those areas where the frequency of crimes is high because of the presence of high crime attractors while on the other hand, cold spot locations are areas with low crime (low crime attractors).

In Nigeria, as many scholars reported, criminal activities are committed on all four categories of crimes: - crime on persons, property, laws and acts. Crimes committed include:- burgling, house and store breakings, auto theft, theft/stealing, pick-pockets, pilfering, snatch theft, shoplifting, vandalism, arson, arm robbery, grievous hurt and wounding, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, sexual har-

assment, aggravated assault, fraudulent acts (419), kidnappings, child abduction, human trafficking, militancy, thuggery, hooliganism, political mayhem, human abduction, assassinations, organized (gang) armed robbery, ritual activities, brigandage, bullying, terrorism, suicide and bomb attacks, amongst others

Major Types of Crimes in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions

Nigeria tertiary institutions were also experiencing crime problems over a long period of time. Most of the crimes committed or existing within the Nigerian institutions are the reflections of the crimes that are dominant within the larger society, among the major crimes that are every common in the Nigerian tertiary institutions are: examination malpractice, secret cult, prostitution, vehicle theft, money, handset, drug abuse and other drug related offence, rape and other related offence, and so on.

Many students shown that most of these crimes are committed by both male and female students within and outside the institutions, and many researchers revealed that some of these crimes committed by students such as property among the students. For instance, several essays were written on prostitution (the use of sex for non-sexual ends) among some female students in most of the Nigerian universities is directly connected to poverty, for instance it is reported that "most of the Nigerian ladies engage in prostitution as an alternative means of livelihood" Nura (2011).

RESEARCH METHODS AND INSTRUMENTS

Research Design

The research design for this work is descriptive. Descriptive research is a research method that describes the characteristics of the population or phenomenon that is being studying, this methodology focuses more on the "what" of the research subject rather than the "why" of the research subject.

Types and Sources of Data

Qualitative data was used in this research where interview was conducted which is purely qualitative. Quantitative data was also used since documented data was collected from security offices on frequent crimes.

Primary source was collected using interview as instrument in the field. While secondary data also used in this research, this secondary data was source from the

documented report, from the security offices in the higher institutions in Kano state.

Instruments for Data Collections

Interviews were used for data collection. The interview was done with the security officers of Aminu Kano College of Islamic and Legal Studies, Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi, Sa'adatu Rimi College of Education Kumbotso, School of environmental studies, Gwarzo and Kano State University of Science and Technology Wudil on what are the factors that determined the crimes within the study area. On the other hand, documented data was used to collect data on frequent crimes at the higher institutions and what types of crimes committed? Which year has the highest crime activities? Between male and female which group has the frequent crime?

Data Analysis

All the data collected through qualitative and quantitative methods (interview and questionnaire methods) were analysed using simple descriptive statistics. Frequency figure was used in analysing data collected; bar charts were employed and pie chart was used as method of data presentation.

RESULTS

Bio-Data of the Respondents

Table 1 indicates that based on gender, males are the more outweigh females in committing crimes 73.9% and 26.1% respectively. However, the highest defaulters caught were students (79%), followed by non-students; with one staff (civil servant). Furthermore, most of them hoping to have Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) which takes more than two-third of respondents. One-third having or hoping to have diploma.; with 20% and 1% bagged SSCE and degree certificate respectively. Note that, there was no record of defaulters in KUST Wudil, that was the reason it was record less than the actual number of criminals. On the other hand, in terms of age, most of the criminals are in range between 18-27 years old, followed by 28-37 age group and recorded zero crime among 47-58 years old. Though, one record was found above 57 years old.

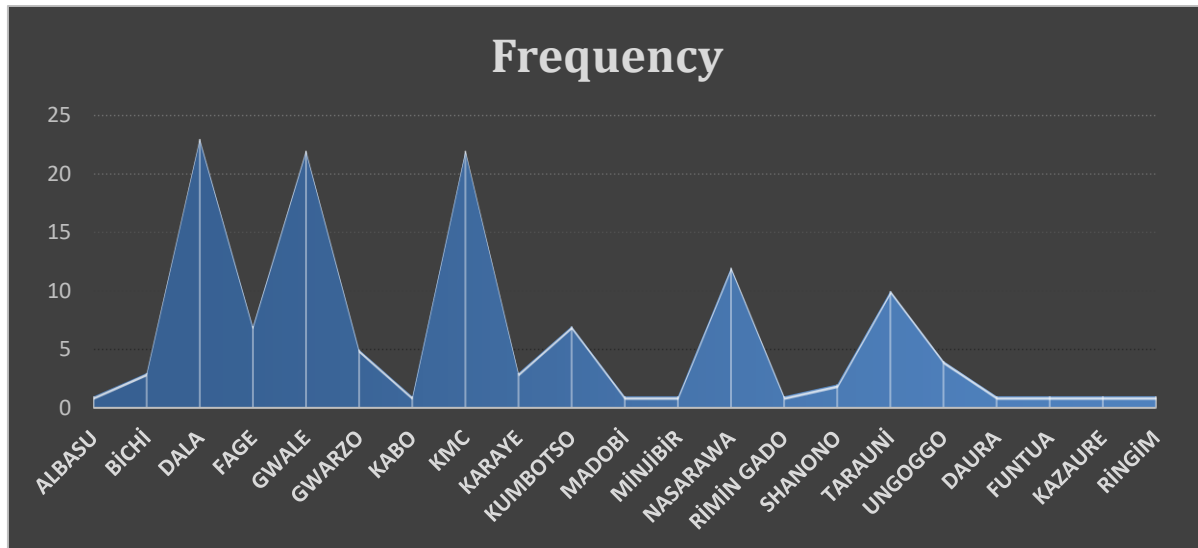
Table 1: Demographic data

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender		
Male	178	73.9
Female	63	26.1
Total	241	100
Occupation		
Civil servant	1	0.4
Student	195	80.9
Non-student	45	18.7
Total	241	100
Educational background		
SSCE	23	20
Diploma	44	36
NCE	62	43
Degree	1	1
Total	130	100
Age		
18 – 27	196	81.3
28 – 37	41	17
38 – 47	3	1.2
48 – 57	0	0
Above 57	1	0.4
Total	241	100

Source: Security dairy of the sampled higher institution

Types of Crimes in Higher Institutions in Kano State

Fig. 1 showcases that Dala local government has the highest defaulters, which are 19.5%, followed by Gwale and KMC with 18.6% each, Nassarawa 10.2%. The lowest crime recorded by local government was that of Albasu, Madobi, Minjibir and Rimin gado which was 0.8% each. This data did not capture the local government of defaulters or criminals in KUST Wudil. This is because, based on the security dairy, there was no local government areas of the criminals.



Source: Security dairy of the sampled higher institution

Fig. 1: Frequency of defaulters based on Local government area

ANALYSIS OF SUBJECT MATTER

Based on the interview, majority of types of crime stated by the security officers coincide with what is security dairy book. The main questions asked during interview are:

What are The Types of Crime?

All the respondents believed that examination malpractice, theft, two fighting and drugs abuse are most frequent crime committed by most of the students.

How do you identify a criminal?

The method security officers use to identify criminal are: using patrol, report from intelligence security within and outside college as well as students, the mode of dressing and their movement. As one security officer stated

“Most of criminals stay at their target for long up to the time they get chance to committed what they intend to do (crime) especially theft”.

In which method do you recognize that the accused person is a student or not?

There are no specific ways security officers use to identify whether the suspect is student or not. Some of the methods they use are: by asking the suspected person that “are you a student?” when they answer by “Yes”. Then we can ask him to present I D Card, Course Registration Form (CRF), Examination Card and Admission Letter. These are the most methods use by security officers in higher institutions in Kano state in identifying or confirming the suspected person is a student or not.

Most of the accused person intrudes into the higher institutions in Kano state through some fences, trespassing, and camouflage. As one security officer stated that the criminals take slight advantage from our colleague to intrude into college especially during Zuhr prayer. For examination malpractice offense, they suspected students take advantage of large theatre, no matter how security and invigilators are. Most of small examination rooms do not give chance for examination malpractice to take place.

Where do you forward the suspect for further investigation in case if he or she is not a student of this institution?

Depending on the case and the little information we tap from the suspected person. Mostly we forward to the nearby police station or Hisbah. As one of the security officers identified as

Some of them are sent to the nearest police station up to the court if the case is relevant to. Some of them are sent to the Kano State Hisbah board if the case is relevant to.

If he or she is a student which types of punishment did you take against him/her? Most of the respondents indicate that the punishment of the students is enshrining in the student handbook. Depending on types of crimes they are suspecting them. Sometimes their parent or guidance are called or forward the case to their respective department for taking measures. As one of the security officers identified that We have our own supreme book which is student handbook. We forward the issue to their respective school, head of department or Director Examination if the case is related to examination. Sometime we call on their parent or guidance for briefing them about the situation of their children. The college has disciplinary committee where any breaching of law or policies happened is forwarded the person to. Rarely, we table some issue to the Director Guidance and Counselling.

What are the factors that determine the crime within the institution?

Geography always deals with space and time. Deferent types of crimes are being committed by deferent types of people (young, adult and old; male and female), at deferent times (dawn, day time, twilight and night time), in deferent places (higher institutions, shopping malls, homes, industrial, agricultural, transportation sectors, and so on) and under deferent circumstances. Several factors were identified as causes of the crimes in higher institution in Kano state. But the most frequency of

factor identified are: illiteracy level among the criminal. This illiteracy level includes religious and Western education. Unemployment level is another factor that cause most of crimes in higher institutions in Kano state. Poverty level is the third factor that cause crime in higher institutions in Kano state based on the interview conducted.

This corroborates with findings of (Katsina, 2013; Song et al., 2013; Sewuese, 2014). Broken home is fourth factor. Most of the parent invited, it is clearly understood that there is problem of broken home; whether her or his mother was divorced or died.

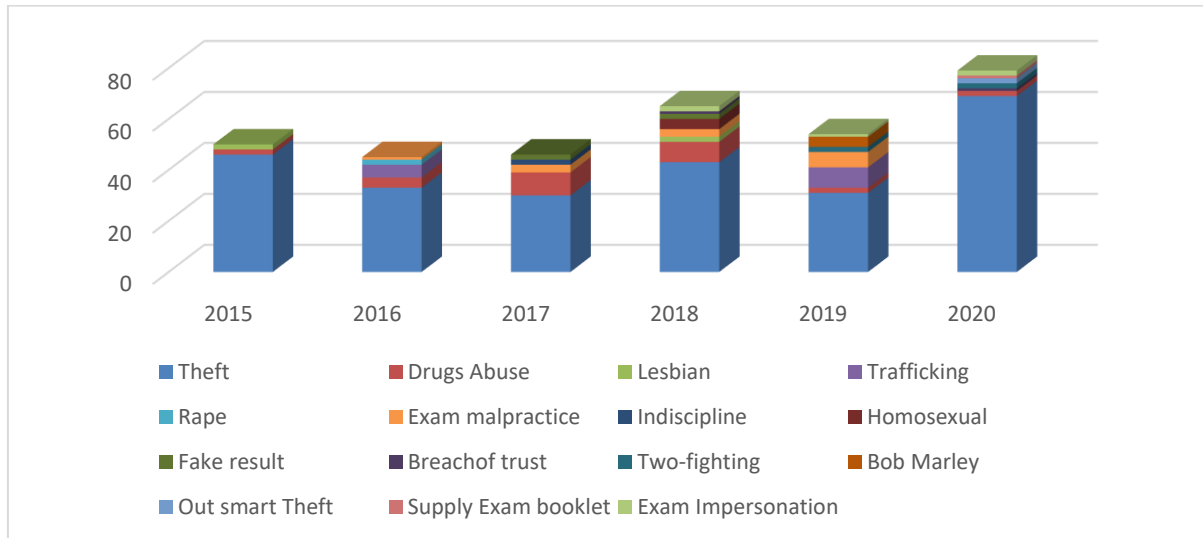
The Year with Highest Rate of Crimes

From Fig. 2, it is indicated that year 2019 has the highest crime among the higher institutions in Kano state which is 21.6% crimes, followed by year 2017 (20.7%). On the other hand, the lowest year recorded the crimes in higher institution in Kano state was 2020. This might be due to lockdown put by the Federal government. Despite only 3-4 months these institutions operated in 2020, though it recorded 11.2%, followed by 2016 which has 14.6%.

In 2015, only 3 crimes were committed with theft has the highest number (50%) while drugs abuse and lesbian have 25% each. This corroborates the finding of Olapeju (2016) which studied the analysis of urban crime in Abeokuta city, Nigeria and identified theft among the highest in 2015. In 2016, the number of crimes increased to 5; but the rate was decreased. Trafficking together with theft were recorded the highest crime committed (29.4% each), drugs abuse was 23.5%. The lowest crime recorded was examination malpractice followed by rape 5.9% and 11.8% respectively. Drugs abuse was the highest crime committed in 2017 (9th times), followed by theft which was 8th times committed. Indiscipline and fake result were the lowest crime committed in 2017 (2-times each), followed by examination malpractice which was 3 times committed. Similarly, 2018 was the most complex years among the higher institutions in terms of crimes.

Almost every crime committed between 2015-2017 and 2019-2020 were committed except trafficking, raping, indiscipline, 2-fighting, out-smart theft and Bob Marley. Homosexual and drugs abuse were the highest crimes recorded in this year; with theft and breach of trust.

Additionally, trafficking was appeared the highest crime committed in 2019 which was 32%, followed by Examination malpractice 24%, Bob Marley and theft have 16% each. The lowest crime committed in year 2019 among higher institutions in Kano state was examination impersonation (4%) and 2-fighting (8%). The year 2020 has theft as the highest crime committed (23.1%), with examination impersonation, 2-fighting, out-smart theft and drugs abuse have 15.4% each. On the other hand, breach of trust was the lowest crime (7.7%) recorded in 2020.



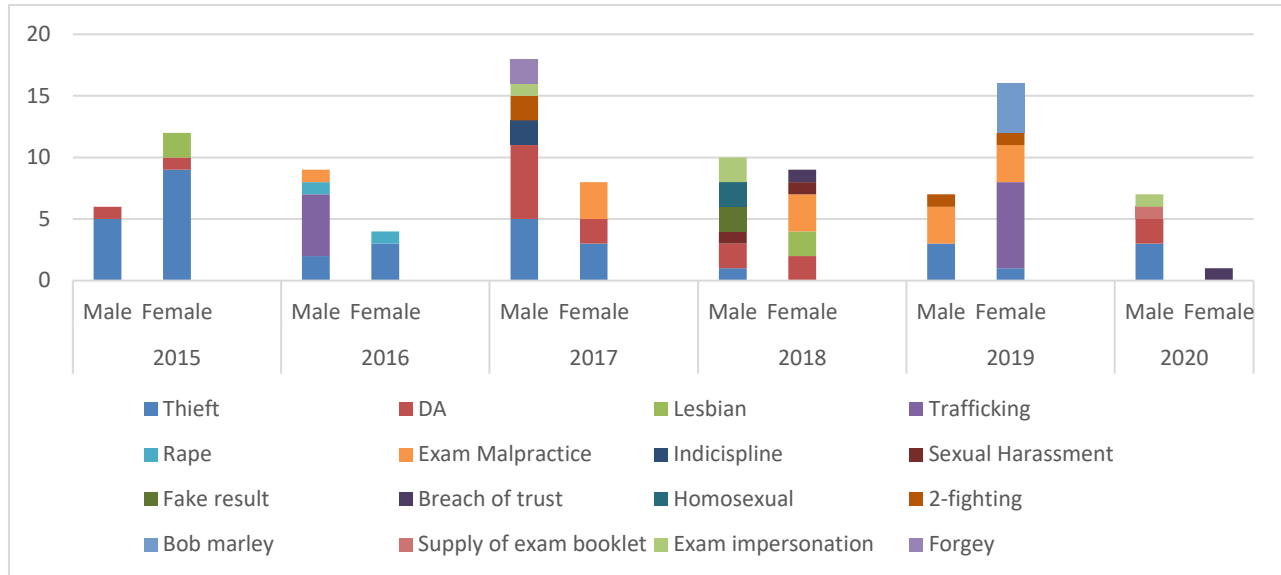
Source: Security dairy of the sampled higher institution

Fig. 2: crime based on year

Crime Committed based on Gender in Higher Institutions

Fig. 3 shows that in year 2015, females committed all the three crimes and even the rate of crimes is higher among females as compared to their counterpart males. In year 2016 males committed higher crimes than females and 3 crimes were committed by males as compared to 2 crimes committed by females. Six different crimes were committed by males as compared to 3 crimes done by females in 2017. Five and six different crimes were committed by females and males in 2018 respectively. The highest crime committed by males was drugs abuse while for females was examination malpractice. Similarly, trafficking was the highest crime done by females while examination malpractice was the top crime done by males in 2019. In terms of rate of crime female committed higher than that of males and even the number of crimes was higher among females than male ones. Only breach of trust was committed by female in 2020 as against 3 crimes by males. Theft was recorded

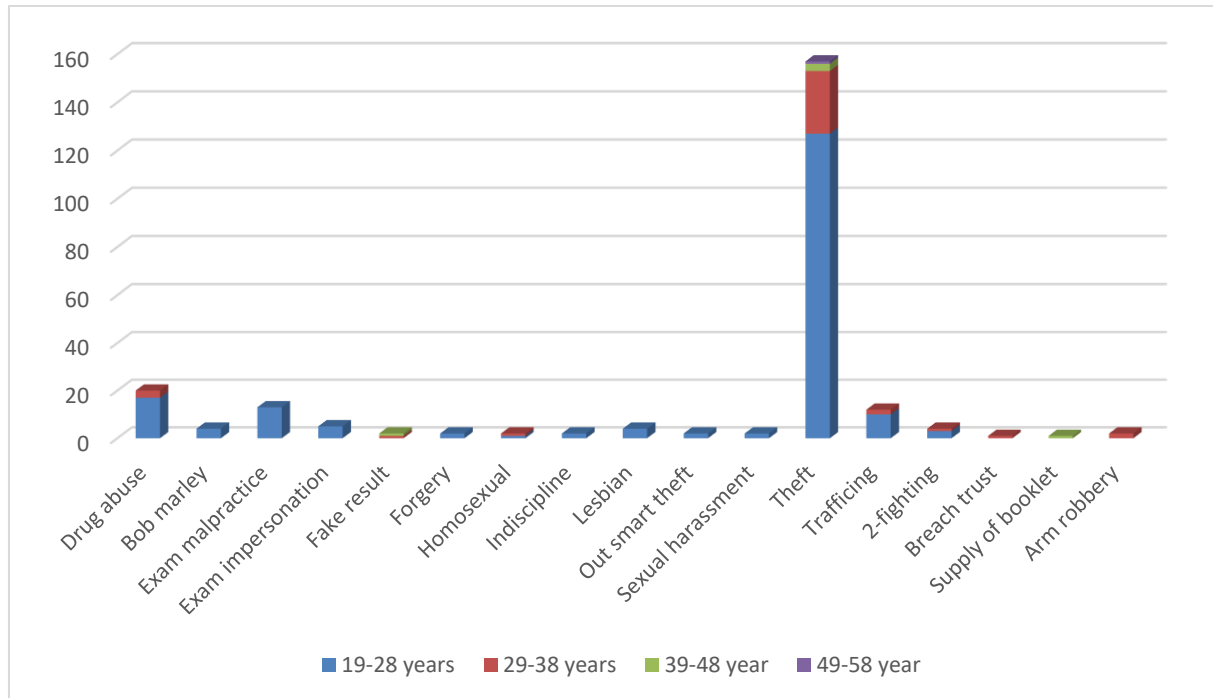
the highest crime done in 2020 which was committed by males. In summary, males committed the most crimes than female. The higher crimes committed by males are: theft, drugs abuse and trafficking. On the other hand, theft was the highest crime committed by females, followed by trafficking and examination malpractice.



Source: Security dairy of the sampled higher institution

Fig. 3: crime based on gender

Fig. 4 reveals that those between 18-27 years committed the highest crimes in Kano state higher institutions with more than 81%, followed by the bracket between 29-38 years old (15.7%). While the lowest percentage was those between 48-57 years old. This indicates that youth are the most dominant among the criminals



Source: Security dairy of the sampled higher institution

Fig. 5: Crime and Age of the defaulters

Based on the higher institutions in sampled in Kano state, the highest percentage recorded are: theft was the most common crime committed in four institutions in Kano state out of five sampled institutions. Except in SRCOE which has examination malpractice the highest committed therein. The second common crime occurred in these higher institutions was drugs abuse which was common in all higher institutions except School of Environment, Gwarzo. Similarly, the third common crime happened in higher institutions was examination malpractice which was presence Saadatu Rimi College of Education and School of Environmental Studies, Gwarzo. Though, all the higher institutions have problem of examination malpractice as a crime, but other crimes outweigh it except in KUST Wudil (which is State University).



Source: Security dairy of the sampled higher institution.

Fig. 5: Highest crime committed based on higher institutions in Kano State

CONCLUSION

With regards to the findings of this study, the researcher arrived at the following conclusions: the researcher concluded that, males committed more crimes than females. Most of criminals range 18-27 years old. Dala local government has the highest defaulters, followed by Gwale and KMC. However, the most frequent factor as identified during the interviewed conducted are: illiteracy level among the criminals, unemployment level and poverty level is the third factor that cause crime in higher institutions in Kano state based on the interview conducted.

Also, based on the finding of this result, it is concluded that there is difference in terms of crimes committed at higher institutions in Kano state. It is also concluded that the 2019 has recorded the most crime activities in higher institutions in Kano state. This might be due to the recession Nigeria experienced during 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are given:

- It is recommended that the management of all higher institutions should mount or install modern security gadgets such as CCTV, automatic scanner or metal detector as well as adding more security personnel.
- It is also recommended that all students must have their identification card immediately they registered with higher institutions in order to avoid intruders.
- Entrepreneurial course together with practice should be enforced in all secondary and higher institutions to avoid economic hardship as one of the causes of crime among higher institutions in Kano state.
- Based on the result, it is indicated that examination malpractice is among the common crimes practice in higher institutions in Kano state. So, orientation should be conducted on newly admitted and even returned students on examinations rules and regulations.

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