

## Public Perceptions on the Determinants of Youths' Involvement in Cybercrime in Enugu Urban, Enugu State: A Framework for Social Workers

<sup>1</sup>Oliver I. Eya &

<sup>2</sup>Casmir O. Odo

<sup>1</sup>Department of Social Work,  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka

### Abstract

In the contemporary society, numerous internet assisted crimes are committed daily in various forms. They include identity theft, internet chat room, cyber harassment, fraudulent electronic mails, Automated Teller Machine spoofing, pornography, piracy and hacking. The aim of this study was to examine the public perceptions on the determinants of youth's involvement in cybercrime in Enugu urban, Enugu state. Survey design was used in which questionnaire and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were the major instruments. The questionnaires were distributed to one hundred and forty-four (144) adults (18 years and above) in Enugu urban. Samples were selected using multi-stage sampling technique. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for processing the data. Frequency distribution tables were used in analyzing the data. Qualitative data was collected using focus group discussion (FGDs) and was analyzed in themes after transcription. Outstanding points made by participants were used as verbatim quotes to support the tables. Findings from the study show that 44.3%, 14.3% and 14.3% respondents indicated unemployment, poverty and lack of internet security respectively to be the major determinant on involvement of youths in cybercrime. The study has implications for social work, one of which is for the designing and applying youth-oriented programmes to further sensitize the younger generation on the dangers, effects and risks of indulging in the act of cybercrime.

### Keywords:

Cybercrime,  
Determinant,  
Perceptions, Youth,  
Involvement, Social  
workers

Corresponding Author:

Oliver I. Eya

### **Background to the Study**

Cybercrime has been a social problem as its perpetrators are mostly the youths who are supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow. This aligns with the position of Oluwafemi, Adesuyi and Abdulhamid (2013) who noted that cyber terrorism has become one of the biggest threats to the survival of mankind on the planet. Asokhia (2010) also noted that the global village currently records an increasing criminal behaviour. News of cybercriminal activities continue to fill the pages of the newspaper, it is central to world news and has become a global problem. Okeshola and Adeta (2013) continued by observing that the contribution of internet to the development of the nation has been marred by the evolution of new waves of crime. The internet has also become an environment where the most lucrative and safest crime thrives. Cybercrime has become a global threat from Europe to America, Africa to Asia. Cybercrime has come as a surprise and a strange phenomenon that for now lives with us in Nigeria. With each passing day, we witness more and more alarming cases of cybercrimes in Nigeria, with each new case more shocking than the one before (Okeshola & Adeta, 2013).

In recent times, cybercrime is a new form of crime with its own forms which according to Ribadu (2007) and Okeshola and Adeta (2013) includes; cloning of websites, false representations, internet purchase and other e-commerce kinds of fraud (Ribadu, 2007). Financial fraud, identity theft, credit card theft, cyber theft, cyber harassment, cyber laundering and virus/ worms/ Trojans respectively now abound in Nigeria (Okeshola & Adeta, 2013) which is denting and drilling holes in the economy of the nation. It is also leading to the erosion of confidence in genuine Nigerian commercial credibility and today many western countries with France taking the lead have moved to deny Nigerian businessmen and women who are legitimate the rewards of e-commerce. For instance, France today requires web camera verification for most online business transactions from Nigeria.

Cybercrime has become a serious problem in Nigeria, culminating in the listing of Nigeria as third on the roll of the top ten cybercrime hot spots in the world by a 2009 Internet Crime Report (National White Collar Crime Centre and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010). The seriousness of this problem can be better appreciated when we consider the fact that in spite of the several interventions made by Nigerian government and non-governmental organizations in tackling cybercrime, such as the co-operation between Microsoft cooperation and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) of Nigeria to fight cybercrime, the enactment of Cyber Crime laws by Nigeria government aimed at ensuring the security of computer systems and networks in Nigeria etc (Balogun & Obe, 2010), Nigeria has for four consecutive years (2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009) ranked third on the list of world cybercrime perpetrator countries (National White Collar Crime Centre and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010).

There are many examples of cybercrime in Nigeria some of which include: In July 2001, four Nigerians suspected to be operating a "419" scams on the internet to dupe unsuspecting foreign investors in Ghana were arrested by security agencies. Their

activities are believed to have led to the loss of several millions of foreign currencies by prospective investors (Balogun & Obe, 2010). Two young men were arrested after making an online purchase of two laptops advertised by a woman on her website under false claims. They were arrested at the point of delivery by government officials (Mudasiru, 2015). Ojo and Adeyemi (2012) also reported that Mike Amadi was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment for setting up a website that offered juicy but phony procurement contracts. The man impersonated the EFCC Chairman, but he was caught by an undercover agent posing as an Italian businessman. The biggest international scam of all was committed by Amaka Anajemba who was sentenced to 2½ years in prison. She was equally ordered to return \$25.5 million of the \$242 million she helped to steal from a Brazilian bank. (Ibikunle & Eweniyi, 2013). These examples are just few out of many others. However, there is no specific study that has particularly undertaken an appraisal of the public perceptions on the determinants of youths' involvement in cybercrime in Enugu Urban, Enugu state as a framework for social workers. This is the gap that this present study hopes to fill.

### **Literature review**

According to Okeshola and Adeta (2013) there are characteristic features associated with the adolescents who engage in cyber crime some of which are as follows: age, sex and level of education among others. Cyber criminals are mostly youths between the ages of 20-35 years. This may be due to the early exposure of adolescents to the activities on the internet without proper guidance, which is why cyber crime is more among adolescents. Furthermore, there are encouraging factors that drive adolescents into cyber crime which according to Okeshola and Adeta (2013) abound, such as financial gain, recognition/fame, low rate of conviction or even being caught, easy to perpetrate, frustration/revenge, display of wealth by corrupt politicians and yahoo yahoo boys laziness and quest for wealth (Muraina & Muraina, 2015). Unemployment, weak implementation of cyber crime laws, inadequate equipped law agencies, and negative role model propels the increasing rate of youth involvement in cyber crime (Hassan, Lass & Makinde, 2012).

In aiming high for young people, the following body/organization HM Treasury and DCSF (2007) in their research carried out in England suggested that there is a need to dispel negative perceptions of young people by building better relations between the generations. The extent and nature of interactions between young people and the public has indeed been identified by Halsey and White (2008) in their work at Slough as a factor influencing public perceptions towards causes of crime. This is because the public perception is not always grounded in people's actual contact or interaction with young people.

Hough and Roberts (2004) in their research, found out there had been an increase in the number of cybercrime perpetuated by the adolescent. Nearly two-thirds (64 per cent) of these respondents cited media reports as their chief source of information. Similarly, in his study of 354 respondents on perception of cybercrime among Nigerian youths: a study of

caritas university Umeozulu (2012) found out that 20 respondents choose radio as their source of information representing 5.6%, 47 respondents choose television representing 13.3%, 87 respondents choose the internet representing 24.6% and 200 respondents choose other source representing 56.5%.

Otti (2015) identified urbanization as a major factor in the increase and involvement of youths in cybercrime to a large extent plays a significant role in the way the youths perceive cybercrime. According to the study, the urban population pressure result in a heavy competition amongst the growing populace more especially the youths, as such the youths find it lucrative to invest in the crime of cyber because it is a business that requires less capital to invest. Meke (2012) in his article "urbanization and cybercrime in Nigeria" reiterated urbanization as one of the major causes of cybercrime in Nigeria and urbanization will be beneficial if and only if good jobs can be created in the cities where population growth is increasing, in his article, he emphasized that urbanization without crime is really impossible.

In Nigeria, the unemployment rate is worrisome. It has consistently increased in the last few years. Unemployed youths are readily available for anti-social criminal activities that undermine the stability of society. In the research of Umeozulu (2012) 75 of the 354 respondents representing 21.2% choose unemployment as the determinant of cybercrime. Femi, Dada and Ayibaabi, (2015) in their study of 133 Landmark University students on students' perceptions of impact of unemployment on crime found out that 83.19% (94) of the respondents perceived that youths are involved in crime as result of unemployment; while 16.8% (19) perceived they are not involved because of unemployment. In their study also Tade and Aliyu (2011) reported that the youths perceive cybercrime as an alternative and remedy to the alarming unemployment rate especially among the university graduates

Muraina and Muriana (2015); Ndubueze, Igbo, and Okoye, (2013) identified desperate quest for wealth and peer pressure as a major determinate and catalyst to the youth engagement in cybercrime. The studies found out that there exists a large gap between the rich and the average, as such many strive to level up using the quickest means possible, since for any business to thrive well, the rate of return in the investment must be growing at a geometric rate with a minimal risk. Most cybercrime requires less investment and a conducive environment. Nigeria is such an environment and many cyber criminals take advantage of that (Holt, 2011)

Most of the youths engage in cybercrime due to societal demand and expectations. The frequent interactions with peers, particularly with deviant peers sometimes lead to the adoption of antisocial behavior for group conformity (Jackson, 2015); (Okeshola & Adeta, 2013).

The role of social work in addressing the increasing youth involvement in cybercrime cannot be overemphasized. It is clearly evident that social workers need more knowledge of cybercrime and its determinants. Consequently, Simth, Farely and Boyle (2010)

suggests that for effective youthful crime intervention and cybercrime reduction there must be the inclusion of effective interpersonal engagement of crime perpetrators in the intervention process. In line with these, social workers by virtue of training, their commitment to societal wellbeing, and the fact that they are uniquely placed within a wide variety setting, also, can take part in the global effort to address the cybercrime epidemic.

### **Theoretical framework**

The theoretical framework adopted for this study is the social learning theory of Albert Bandura. In the disciplines of psychology and communication, social learning theory is most commonly associated with the studies of Albert Bandura (Littlejohn, 1983). Bandura's social learning theory states that perception/action and normative human behavior is learned through a combination of observed behavior, communication with others, encounters with disciplinary action and cognitive modeling (Bandura, 2001; Siegel, 2001). Observational learning occurs when a person watches the actions of another person and the reinforcements that the person receives (Bandura, 1997). To this end, the increasing youth involvement in cybercrime according to postulations of social learning theory is no doubt the outcome of their observational learning of previous one's persons who might have engaged in cybercrime and possibly succeeded in the act. Bandura (1977) noted that most human behaviour is learned observationally through modeling: from observing others, one forms an idea of how new behaviours are performed, and on later occasions this coded information serves as a guide for action.

Various studies have explored cybercrime and its causes, one of the earlier studies is one by Longe and Chiemeke (2008) they examined how access to the internet can boost criminality among the adolescents. Umeozulu (2012) looked at cybercrime among Nigerian youths in Caritas University. Other studies like Adeniran (2008) and Kunnuji (2014) also focus on adolescence, young adulthood and internet use in Nigeria. However, of all these studies, none has undertaken the appraisal of public perceptions on the determinants of youths' involvement in cybercrime and its implications for social work practice in Nigeria. This is the gap this present study hopes to fill. In view of this, the study attempted the following questions:

1. What are the factors that determine the public perception of the causes of cybercrime among adolescents?
2. What are the factors that encourage adolescent's involvement in cybercrime?
3. What are the implications of the findings to social work practice?

### **Study Hypotheses**

1. Higher educated persons are more likely to have positive perception of the governmental effort to curb cyber crime in Nigeria than lower educated persons.
2. The youths are more likely to perceive different factors as the determinant of cyber crime than the adults.

## Methods

The survey design was adopted for this study. The survey design was chosen by the researcher because it is a research design in which a representative segment of a population is studied and the result obtained, used to make generalization. The study was conducted under Enugu Urban which is made up of Enugu East, Enugu North and Enugu South Local Government areas (LGAs). It is bounded in the East by Nkanu LGA, in the West by Udi LGA, in the North by Igbo-Etiti and Isi-Uzor, and in the south by Nkanu West LGA. Enugu urban is one of the oldest cities in Nigeria. It is made up of 14 residential layouts, namely: Camp, Old Ogui Layout, OguiNew Layout, Achara Layout, Abakpa Nike, GRA, Trans-Ekulu, New Haven, Agbani/Gariki, Ekulu East layout, Maryland, Ugwuaji, Independence layout and Emene (Nnam, Maduako, Nnam & Onwuzuligbo, 2014). According to National Population Census [NPC] (2006) the three LGAs have a combined population of 348, 902 males and 468, 223 females (total of 722, 664). However, the NPC 2006 population of the area was projected to current year and the population of the study was limited to only Enugu Urban adults both male and female. Therefore, only adult male and female from 18 years and above were represented or sampled from Nsukka town. A sample size of 144 respondents was drawn, while 20 participants were selected for the Focus Group Discussions [FGDs] which gave a total of 164 sample size for the study. The sampling technique known as the multi-stage sampling technique was used by the researchers. Out of the 14 residential layouts, three (3) residential layouts will be chosen from the above residential layouts in Enugu Urban. This will be achieved through simple random sampling or random selection. This resulted in the selection of the following residential layouts: Achara layout (Enugu South), Abakpa-Nike (Enugu East) and Maryland (Enugu South). Furthermore, after the selection of three (3) residential layouts, the quota sampling will be used to allocate respondents to each of the selected residential layouts. This can be achieved by dividing the sample size into 3 groups,  $144/3 = 48$ . Therefore 48 respondents will be selected from each of the three (3) selected residential layouts in Enugu Metropolis. This is the final stage; here, availability sampling technique will be employed to locate parents of interest in their respective residential areas.

The justification for the availability sampling is that since there is no sampling frame, the instruments are going to be administered to parents (18 years and above) that can be found who are also willing to participate in the study. This will be achieved through selecting dwellings of respondents by picking the odd street numbers starting from the house with street number one (1) to number three (3) to number five (5) and so on and any youth found in such area will be given the questionnaire. On the other hand, the snow balling sampling will be employed to locate respondents in special school and parents with autistic children in the 3 selected layouts in Enugu Metropolis. The justification for this method is that snow balling sampling is applied to relatively hard to find respondents during the focused group discussion session. Here, once a cybercriminal in the area is found, he/she will lead the researcher and the research assistants to locate other respondents in those residential layouts.

### Data collection and Analysis

Quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection were adopted. The researcher made use of questionnaire (self-administered and other-administered) and focus group discussions (FGDs) as instruments for data collection. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for entry, processing and analysis of the data collected using questionnaire. Descriptive statistics such as, frequency distribution tables and percentages etc was all utilized in describing and presenting of the results. The qualitative data was collected through focus group discussions and was analyzed in themes after transcription. Outstanding points made by participants were used as verbatim quotes to support the tables.

### Results

#### Socio-demographic characteristics

From the analysis of the quantitative data collected, the distribution of respondents by sex shows that 82 (58.6%) of the respondents were male and 58 (41.4%) were females. a male issue. The age of the respondents ranges from 18-61 and above. Majority of the respondents were younger adults. Also, majority of the respondents were single (55.7%) and the marred followed with (37.9%) percentage, while the remaining were once marred (2.1% separated, .7% divorced, and 3.6% widowed). Furthermore, the percentage of the respondents that were civil servants (40.7%) was higher than the others and it is followed by those that were students (27.1%) and traders (19.3%) while the remaining ones were (others 5.7%, artisan 4.3%, famers and unemployed had 1.4%) each. Furthermore, the study shows that majority of the respondents (40.0%) have their tertiary education completed. This is followed by those who have also completed their secondary education (33.6%) and those that are yet to complete their tertiary education (22.1%). In relation to religion affiliation, the study shows that a majority of the respondents (57.1%) were Catholics, followed by Protestants (36.4%) and Anglican (5.7%).

**Table 1:** Percentage distribution of respondents by what they understand by cyber crime

| Perception of cyber crime  | Frequency  | Percentage (%) |
|--|------------|----------------|
| Offences committed against individuals and groups with a criminal motive using the internet.         | 29         | 20.7           |
| Crime committed in which computers or networks are a tool, a target, or a place of criminal activity | 9          | 6.4            |
| Using computers and internet to commit crime   | 17         | 12.1           |
| Using the internet with the aid of computer to carry out illegal transaction                         | 15         | 10.7           |
| All of the above   | 70         | 50.0           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>140</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

**Source:** Fieldwork 2019

In table 1 above, the respondents' knowledge of what they understand by cybercrime is presented. The result reveals that 20.7% of the respondents understand cybercrimes as offences committed against individuals and groups with a criminal motive using the internet, 6.4% see it as crime committed in which computers or networks are a tool, a target, or a place of criminal activity, 12.1% view cybercrime as using computers and internet to commit crime, 10.7% conceptualize cybercrime as using the internet with the aid of computer to carry out illegal transaction, while the majority of the respondents 50.0% indicated all of the above. This shows that a greater percentage of the respondents (50.0%) align their understanding of cybercrime in line with all the options. In the first day of Focus group discussion one of the discussants defined cybercrime thus:

*Crime has to do with any offence while cyber has to do with network communication. Therefore, any offence one commits using the network communication is cybercrime.*

On the second day, majority of the members of the FGD agreed with the above definitions and gave the definition of cybercrime as thus:

*Cybercrime is any offence committed through the cloud/internet, it does not necessarily mean it have to happen inside the cyber cafe, you can have your laptop, you have your modern in your house, office or anywhere and you commit crime; hack people's information. Such action(s) is cybercrime.*

**Table 2:** Percentage distribution of respondents on views about the factors that drive adolescents into cyber crime

| <b>Factors that drive adolescents into cyber crime</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| Lack of internet security                              | 22               | 15.7                  |
| Greediness   | 24               | 17.1                  |
| Unemployment   | 58               | 41.4                  |
| Poverty  | 36               | 25.7                  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>140</b>       | <b>100.0</b>          |

**Source:** Fieldwork 2019

The table above shows the distribution of respondents' view on the factors that encourage cybercrime. 22 (15.7%) of the respondents indicated Lack of internet security, 24 (17.1%) said greediness, 58 (41.4%) indicated unemployment while 36 (25.7%) of the respondents mentioned poverty. In the table, unemployment has the greater percentage of the respondents (41.4%). This shows that unemployment is the major factor that drives adolescents into committing cybercrime, while poverty has another significant percentage of respondents to be (25.7%). This means that poverty also tops up as a factor that encourages cybercrime.

In the qualitative data (Focus Group Discussion) one of the respondents had this to say:

*The driving factors varies, but I think that inadequate legislation, financial benefits, unemployment, poverty, low costs of executing the crime, low*



*probability of being caught and prosecuted and because the level of stigmatization of cyber criminals has not been so great all these coupled with the fact that it is a crime you can commit without the closest/the next person to you knowing what you are doing”.*

**Table 3:** Percentage distribution of the respondents by what they think can be done to reduce cyber crime

| Views on what can be done to reduce cyber crime     | Frequency  | Percentage (%) |
|---|------------|----------------|
| Employment  | 45         | 32.1           |
| Making and implementing of laws against cyber crime | 19         | 13.6           |
| Parental monitoring                                 | 3          | 2.1            |
| Proper or adequate internet management              | 15         | 10.7           |
| Not applicable                                      | 58         | 41.4           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>140</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

**Source:** Fieldwork 2018

The above table shows the distribution of suggestions of the respondents who indicated “no”, on how the continuous increase of cybercrime can be reduced. The table shows that 45 (32.1%) of the respondents suggested government should create employment opportunities, 19 (13.6%) suggested making and implementing of laws against cybercrime, 3 (2.1%) said that parents should be monitory their children computer and how and what they do when they visit the internet, 15 (10.7%) were of the opinion that government should place proper and adequate internet management, while the not applicable comprise the respondents that indicated yes and don't know. The table shows that higher percentage of the respondents who indicated no suggested that with enough job opportunities for the youths and other unemployed citizens cyber crime may be reduced. In the female category of the FGDs one of the participants is quoted to have suggested “government should provide jobs and all this crime here and there will reduce or altogether be a thing of the past”.

### Test of hypotheses

**Hypothesis 1:** Higher educated persons are more likely to have positive perception of the governmental effort to curb cyber crime in Nigeria than lower educated persons.

**Table 4:** Percentage distribution of respondents level of education and views on efforts of the government at curbing cyber crime

| Level of education | Government efforts at curbing cyber crime |                     | Total               |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
|                    | Yes                                       | No                  |                     |
| Lower education    | 8 (29.6%)                                 | 45 (39.8%)          | 53 (37.9%)          |
| Higher education   | 19 (70.4%)                                | 68 (60.2%)          | 87 (62.1%)          |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>27 (100.0%)</b>                        | <b>113 (100.0%)</b> | <b>140 (100.0%)</b> |

$\chi^2 = .963$ ;  $df = 1$ ,  $p > .327$

**Source:** Fieldwork 2018

Table 4 shows that out of all the respondents who believe that government is doing something to curb cyber crime, 29.6% are lower educated persons while 70.4% are higher educated persons. Also out of all the respondents who believe that government is not doing anything to curb cyber crime, 39.8% are lower educated persons while 60.2% are higher educated persons. Therefore, it can be observed that majority of the higher educated persons 70.4% were of the view that the government is doing much to curb cyber crime Nigeria.

However, a calculated chi square value of .963 was obtained in the study at probability level of 0.05. Assumption significant level of .327 observed from the study is greater than 0.05, indicating that the result is not significant. We then reject the research hypothesis which states that higher educated persons are more likely to have positive perception of the governmental effort to curb cyber crime in Nigeria than lower educated persons.

**Hypotheses 2:** The youths are more likely to perceive different factors as the determinant of cyber crime than the adults.

**Table 5:** Percentage distribution of respondent's age and views on different determinant factors of cyber crime.

| Age            | Factors that drive adolescents into cyber crime |            |              |            | Total       |
|----------------|---|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
|                | Lack of internet security                       | Greediness | Unemployment | Poverty    |             |
| Younger adults | 19(86.4%)                                       | 18(75.0%)  | 37(63.8%)    | 27(75.0%)  | 101(72.1%)  |
| Older adults   | 3(13.6%)  | 6(25.0%)   | 21(36.2%)    | 9(25.0%)   | 39(27.9%)   |
| <b>Total</b>   | 22(100.0%)                                      | 24(100.0%) | 58(100.0%)   | 36(100.0%) | 140(100.0%) |

$X^2=4.470$ ;  $df=3$ ,  $p>.215$

**Source:** Fieldwork 2018

In the table 5 above, “during your last birthday, how old were you?” was recoded into two groups “younger adults” and “older adults”. Out of all the respondents who believe that peer influence is a factor that drives adolescents into cyber crime, 86.4% are younger adults while 13.6% are older adults. Also out of all the respondents who believe that greediness is a factor that drives adolescents into cyber crime, 75.0% are younger adults while 25.0% are older adults. Furthermore, out of all the respondents who believe that unemployment is a factor that drives adolescents into committing cyber crime, 63.8% are younger adults while 36.2% are older adults. Also out of the respondents who believe that poverty is one of the factors that drive adolescents into cyber crime, 75.0% are younger adults while 25.0% older adults. Therefore, it can be observed that majority of the younger persons 86.4% were of the view that lack of internet security was the factor that predisposes adolescents into cyber crime.

A calculated chi square value of 4.470 was obtained in the study at probability level of 0.05. Assumption significant level of .215 observed from the study is greater than 0.05, indicating that the result is not significant. We then reject the research hypothesis which states that the youths are more likely to perceive different factors as the determinant of cyber crime than the adults.

### **Discussion of findings**

In literature, scholars like Muraina and Muraina (2015) understood cybercrimes as being wide spread especially with the increasing accessibility to the internet websites. From the findings of this study all the respondents indicated yes to the question “do you have knowledge of cyber?” This means that all of the respondents are aware of the crime and are capable of filling, providing adequate and useful information to the questions in the questionnaire. Also, the results from the Focus Group Discussion conducted shows that all the respondents were aware of the term cybercrime as they were able to define it. One the respondents in the FGD defined it thus: *Cyber refer to any activities either sales or transaction of services in the cyber space while crime is unacceptable activities. Therefore when merged together, it means all fraudulent, illicit and unacceptable activities related to cyber.*

The findings in table 2 show the respondents view about causes of cybercrime which indicates that unemployment is the most causative factor of cybercrime. This result is in agreement with the findings of Okeshola and Adeta (2013) where majority of their respondents (94%) agreed that unemployment is a causal factor of cybercrime in Zaria. Tshabalala (2014) found out that 55 respondents out of 60 unemployed respondents agree that unemployment increase the rate of crime in the society. Only 5 out of the 60 unemployed respondents did not agree that unemployment increases the rate of crime. This findings also aligns with the research of Umeozulu (2012) which noted that 75 out of the 354 respondents representing 21.2% choose unemployment as the determinant of cybercrime. Femi, Dada and Ayibaabi, (2015) in their study of 133 Landmark University students on students' perceptions of impact of unemployment on crime found out that 83.19% (94) of the respondents perceived that youths are involved in crime as result of unemployment; while 16.8% (19) perceived they are not involved because of unemployment. In their study also Tade and Aliyu (2011) reported that the youths perceive cybercrime as an alternative and remedy to the alarming unemployment rate especially among the university graduates.

### **Social work Practice and cybercrime Management**

Findings of this study suggest that the need for professional social worker to engage in public enlightenment cannot be over emphasized as more young people still get into the habit of going against existing laws to prove maturity. This can be achieved by designing and applying youth-oriented programmes to further sensitize the younger generation on the dangers, effects and risks of indulging in the act of cybercrime. The programmes though targeted at youths should also be extended to the general public. This could be done through seminars, conference and workshops. Moreover, social workers have a role to play in fighting cybercrime through counseling, the social worker deals with the

psychological factors that may have in the first place prompted the indulgence into cybercrime. The perpetrators are helped to improve their coping capacity or ability with peer pressure and every other factor that makes them engage in the act and also through the counseling develop a healthier self-esteem.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The remarkable development in human history through computer technology has no doubt brought transformation in all aspects of life, especially in communication and information technology. Nevertheless, the embracement of the internet has come with a lot of mixed feelings despite its numerous advantages to the people of Nsukka. In Nigeria, people are valued in terms of what they possess and command economically. Conversely, those without economic success are undervalued and the pressure to achieve success is intensified despite the harsh economic condition such as unemployment amongst others. This necessitated the ability of individuals to devise survival strategies and attain economic success by indulging in cybercrime. The perpetrators of cybercrime are not far-fetched, they are our brothers, friends, colleague, distant relatives and neighbours who can be tamed under appropriate circumstances with the right and positive communication, orientation, education and empowerment.

Based on the findings of this of this study, the following recommendations are hereby put forward by the researcher:

1. Government should adequately equip the Police force, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFFCC), Independent Corruption Practices Commission (ICPC) and other security operatives with improved technology to detect and prevent cybercrimes.
2. The study recommends that curriculum which will include courses on entrepreneurship and business management be introduced to both tertiary and secondary schools where they are not in existence and where they are in existence that they should be strengthened to take care of the present problem of unemployment identified as the major cause of cybercrime.
3. The massive campaign and sensitization exercise against the menace should be encouraged and supported by stakeholders.
4. A better economic system, creation of opportunities for the young Nigerians, would also make a lot of differences. Since it was observed that majority of the respondents perceived the involvement of young people in cybercrime as a result of harsh economic condition.

## References

- Adeniran, A. I. (2008). The internet and emergence of yahoo-boys sub-culture in Nigeria, *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 2 (2), 368–381.
- Anderson, S., Bromley, C. & Given, L. (2005). *Public attitudes towards young people and youth crime in Scotland: Findings from the 2004 Scottish social attitudes survey*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive, Retrieved from <http://www.scotland.gov.uk>.
- Asokhia, M. O. (2010). Enhancing national development and growth through combating cybercrime/internet fraud: A comparative approach, *Journal of Social Sciences*, 23 (1), 13 – 19.
- Balogun, V. F. & Obe, O. O. (2010). E-crime in Nigeria: Trends, tricks, and treatment, *The Pacific Journal of Science and Technology*, 11 (1), 343 – 355.
- Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Bandura, A. (1997). *Self-efficacy: The exercise of control*, New York: W.H. Freeman.
- Bandura, A. (2001). Social cognitive theory of mass communication, *Media Psychology*, 3, 265-298
- Farely, O. W., Smith, L. L., & Boyle, S. W. (2010). *Introduction to social work*, United States of America: Pearson education, Inc.
- Femi, A. F., Dada, O. M. O. & Ayibaabi, B. P. (2015). Unemployment and youth criminality: The perceptions of landmark university students, Omu-Aran, Nigeria. *American Journal of Economics, Finance and Management*, 1 (2), 19 – 24.
- Halsey, K., & White, R. (2008). *Young people, crime and public perceptions: A Review of the Literature (LGA Research Report F/SR264)*. Slough: NFER.
- Holt, T.J. (2011). Low self-control, deviant peer associations, and juvenile cybercrime, *American Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- Hough, M. & Roberts, J. V. (2004). *Youth crime and youth justice: Public opinion in England and Wales*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Ibikunle, F. & Eweniyi, O. (2013). Approach to cyber security issues in Nigeria: Challenges and solution, *International Journal of Cognitive Research in Science, Engineering and Education*. 1 (1) 11-114.

- Jackson, C. O. (2015). *Perceptions of juvenile delinquency among students of university of Nigeria: Nsukka secondary school*, Unpublished B. Scproject, Department of social work, University of Nigeria Nsukka.
- Kunnuji, M. O. N. (2014). Adolescence, young adulthood and internet use in Nigeria: A review of what is known and unknown. *International Journal of Economy, Management and Social Sciences*, 3 (1), 11 – 17.
- Littlejohn, S. (1983). *Theories of human communication*, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Longe, O. B. & Chiemekwe, S. (2008). Cybercrime and criminality in Nigeria: What roles are internet access points in playing? *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 6 (4)132 – 139.
- Meke, E. S. N. (2012). An article: Urbanization and cybercrime in Nigeria: Causes and consequences. Retrieved from [www.ejournalofscience.org](http://www.ejournalofscience.org).
- Mudasiru, S. O. (2015). Democracy, plea bargaining and the politics of anticorruption campaign in Nigeria (1999-2008), *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 9 (9), 335 – 348.
- Muraina, M. B. & Muraina, K. O. (2015). Peer pressure, parental socioeconomic status, and cybercrime habit among university undergraduates in Southwestern Nigeria. *International Journal of Technology in Teaching and Learning*, 11 (1), 50-59.
- National White Collar Crime Centre and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (2010). *Internet crime compliant Centre IC3, Internet Crime*, Retrieved from <http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreports.aspx>.
- Ndubueze, P.N., Igbo, E. U. M. & Okoye, U. O. (2013). Cybercrime victimization among internet active Nigerians: An analysis of socio demographic correlates. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 18 (2), 225-234.
- Ojo, S. & Adeyemi, O. O. (2012). Globalization and the emerging criminality in the face of growth in information and communication technology, *International Journal of Science and Knowledge*, 1 (1), 56 – 66.
- Okeshola, B. F. & Adeta K. A. (2013). The nature, causes and consequences of cybercrime in tertiary institutions in Zaria-Kaduna State, Nigeria, *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, 3 (9), 98.
- Oluwafemi, O, Adesuyi, F. A. & Abdulhamid. S. (2013). Combating terrorism with cyber security: The Nigerian perspective, *World Journal of Computer Application and Technology*, 1 (4), 103-109.

- Otti, C. N. (2015). *Factors that encourage cybercrime among youths in Nsukka L.G.A of Enugu State*. Unpublished B. Scproject, Department of social work, University of Nigeria Nsukka.
- Siegel, L. J. (2010). *Criminology: Theories, patterns and typologies*. Belmont: Wadsworth Cengage learning.
- Tade, O. & Aliyu, I. (2011). Social organization of internet Fraud among University Undergraduates in Nigeria, *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 5 (2), 860 – 875.
- Tade, O. & Aliyu, I. (2011). Social organization of internet fraud among University Undergraduates in Nigeria, *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 5 (2), 860 – 875.
- Tshabalala, N. G. (2014). Crime and unemployment in South Africa; revisiting an established causality: Evidence from the Kwazulu Natal province. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences MC SER Publishing, Rome-Italy*, 5 (15), 519 – 528.
- Umeozulu, F. (2012). *Perception of cybercrime among Nigerian youths*, Unpublished B. Scproject, Department of mass communication, Caritas University.