

A STUDY OF CRIME INCIDENCE IN STUDENTS' HALLS OF RESIDENCE IN UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Crime is a social inhumane behaviour that continues to plague every sector in the country, even in the educational sector which was created with a view to bestowing knowledge to the young ones. This study examines the incidence of crime in students' hall of residence in University of Ibadan.

Two female halls of residence, three male undergraduate halls of residence and one postgraduate hall of residence with highest capacity were selected. From these, 4% of the total population of students in the selected halls of residence was chosen. This was summed up to two hundred and eight (208) respondents. Four indices were developed, these are: Crime Occurrence Index (COI), Causes of Crime Index (CCI), Effects of Crime Index (ECI) and Safety Measure Index (SMI). COI and CCI were respectively used to measure incidence and causes of crime in halls of residence while ECI was used to measure effects of crime on students in their halls of residence. SMI was used to measure various crime preventive measures in the halls of residence. ANOVA was used to test the gender and hall variation in incidence, causes and effects of crime as well as level of usage of safety measures among different halls of residence in the University.

The study observed that stealing is the major type of crime in the study area with the highest COI value of 4.10. This and other crime occurred mostly during the odd hours of the day. There is no significant variation in perceived level of incidence of crime among the sampled halls of residence in University of Ibadan. Poor security measures with CCI value of 4.32 is the major contributing factor to level of crime incidence in halls of residence. It was also revealed that one out of two students living in the hall of residence has experienced crime in other hall(s) of residence. There are gender differentials in incidence ($F = 13.326$, $p = 0.001$), causes ($F = 43.821$, $p = 0.000$) and effects ($F = 44.361$, $p = 0.00$) of crime in the study area. Despite the level of crime occurrence, half of the respondents reported that they felt safe in their respective hall of residence.

In order to create and maintain safe environment in halls of residence, the use of conventional security measures like the use of Close Circuit Television (CCTV), security door and locks should be adopted.

Keywords: Crime, students, safety measures, halls of residence

INTRODUCTION

The astronomical increase in crime rate is of great concern to the global community (Animasahun, 2011). Crime has been variously defined. To Adler, Mueller, and Laufer (2001) crime is any human conduct that violates criminal laws and is subject to punishment. Onoge (1993) defined crime as an act or omission which renders the person doing the act or

making the omission liable to punishment under any order in council, ordinance, law or statute. Schmallerger (2004) viewed crime as a conduct violating the criminal laws of a state, the federal government, or a local jurisdiction, for which there is no legally acceptable justification or excuse. Free dictionary (Accessed 13/12/2015) defined crime as an act committed in violation of law where the consequence of conviction by a court is punishment, especially where the punishment is a serious one such as imprisonment. In spite of the differences in the definitions given by authors the fact remains that a crime is an act or omission; prescribed by the state and has a punishment for its occurrence. It is a multifaceted act that pervades all human existence; it is an act of commission or omission that negates any law guiding a group of people (Olukolade and Adeyemo, 2013). Definition and scale of measuring crime varies from one country to another and it is subjected to law of the land. For instance in Nigeria, homosexuality is a crime (The Punch, 2015), but a homosexual is a free man by the law of England (BBC News, 2014).

As environment is dynamic in nature so also is crime, it occurred across different land uses. The dynamism of societies has make crime to transit from the street to other places like schools. Schools are conceived to be valued institutions on which the Nation's foundations are built upon and which serve as arena where the growth and stability of future generations begins (Noonan and Vaura, 2007). Institutions of learning, according to Henry (2000) were believed to be a safe haven for teaching and learning, free from crime and violence. The record and experiences in the recent times negates this with rising tide of crime in schools such that crime in schools and colleges is therefore one of the most troublesome social problems in the nation today, because it does not only affect those involved in the criminal incident, but it also hinders societal growth and stability (Noonan and Vaura, 2007). This has attracted the attention of parents, policy makers and government agencies (Wosu and Ukulor, 2014).

Without a clear understanding of school crime, tracking incidents of crime will be problematic (Hanke, 1996). According to Wali (2007) crime in schools are those varieties of school related problems which are detrimental to the school communication and to the public welfare. This crime ranges from threat to life to theft and violent attacks (Okechukwu, 2012). Noonan *et.al* (2007) stated that situations surrounding crime at school locations vary based on the offender's motive and the intended victim. Incidents involving student offenders and student victims constitute the stereotypical definition of crime at school where the offender and victim are present to participate in the activities occurring at the institution. Crimes in school are in different form. For instance outsiders can commit crime within the school premises and students are the victim; students can also commit crime and outsider is the victim; school at times can also be used as crime scene when the perpetrator and victim are not members of the institution.

Underlying factors for incidences of crime are not farfetched as the larger percentage of the students are youth, Okechukwu (2012) ascertained that creativity and high energy are the characteristics of young people and this will greatly benefit not only the economic prosperity of the nations but also enhance the moral values of the youth if the energy is channeled positively, but when the same energy is used negatively, it will lead to social unrest and economic instability. The effects of crime in schools are felt both by the individuals concerned, the entire school and the society at large. This has serious implication in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria (Amaele, 2006).

The growing concerns about school crimes necessitate the need to carry out proper investigations to ascertain the causes, effects and possible solutions to crime occurrence in

halls of residence as this is a subset of school system which comprises of students with different upbringing and social behaviour.

THE STUDY AREA

University of Ibadan lies between 7.4417°N of latitude and 3.9000°E and is situated in Ibadan North Local Government of Oyo state. The institution started off as the University College; Ibadan (UCI) which was founded in 1948, occupying, at first, an old site at Eleyele. It later moved to the present site which covered over 2,550 acres of land. The site was generously leased by the chiefs and people of Ibadan for 999 years. The establishment of the University could be traced directly to the report in 1945 of the Asquith and Elliot Commissions which were set up by the British Government in 1943. There were 104 foundation students (including 49 students in teacher training and survey courses) who began their courses at Ibadan on 18th January 1948. The formal opening took place on 25th March, 1948.

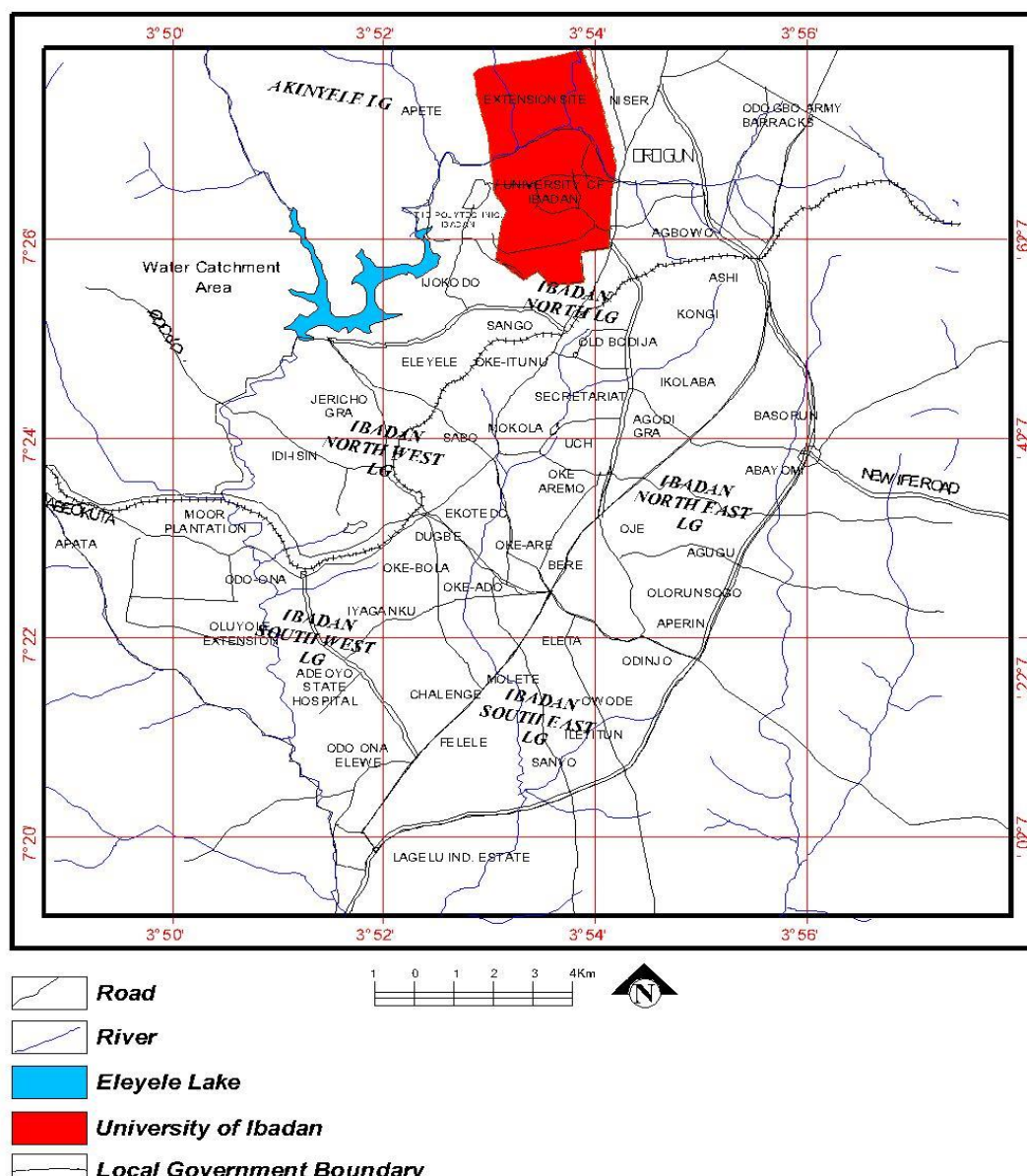


Figure 1: Location of University of Ibadan within Ibadan Metropolis.
Source: Ministry of Land, Housing and Physical Planning, Ibadan. 2005.

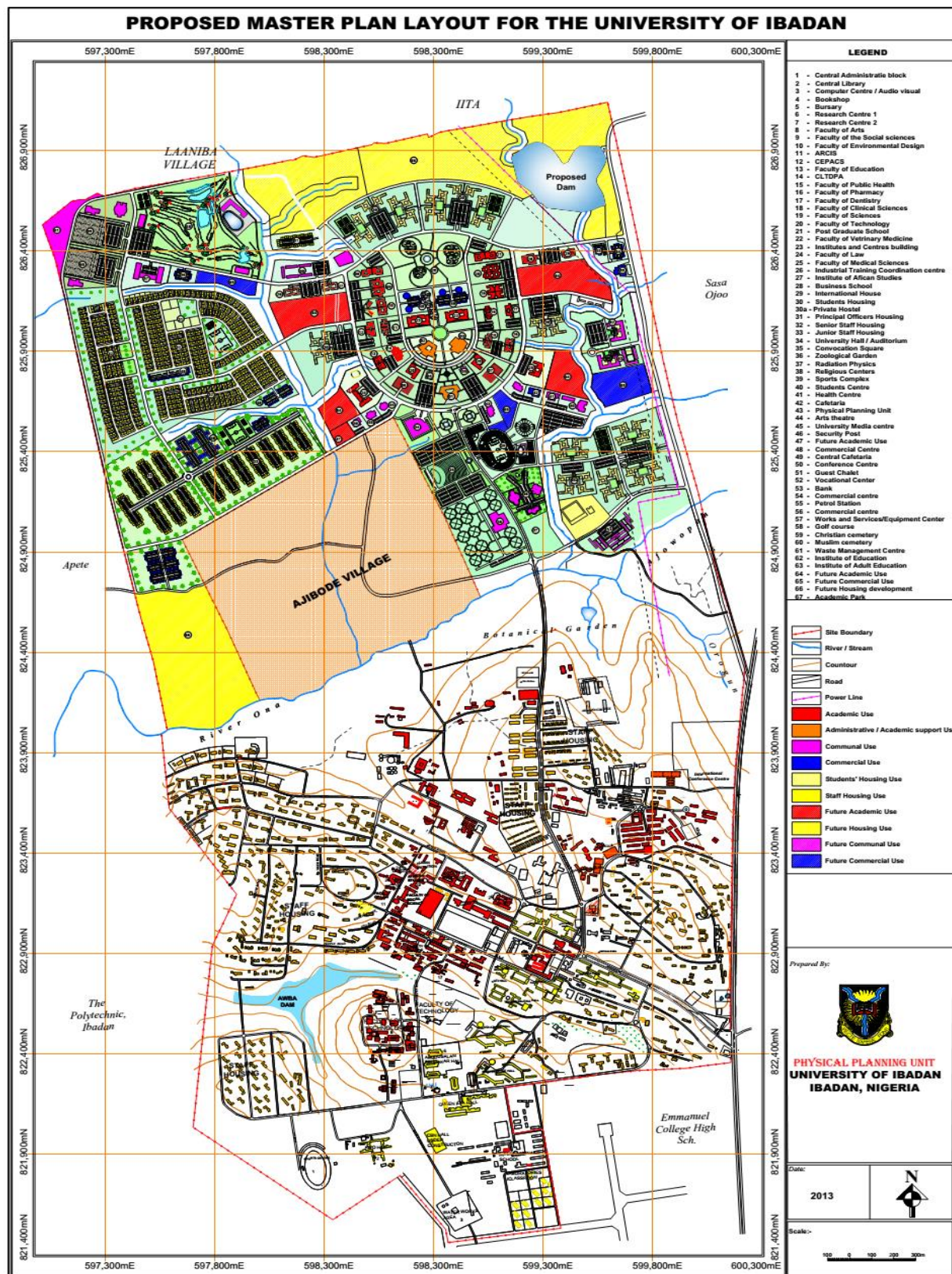


Figure 2: Master Plan Layout of the University of Ibadan
Source: Physical Planning Unit, University of Ibadan, 2013.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study made use of primary data obtained from questionnaire administered to students living in the selected halls of residence of University of Ibadan. Information obtained includes socio-economic characteristics of students, incidence, causes and effects of crime as well as the preventive measures put in place.

The sample frame for the study consist of two (2) postgraduate halls and ten (10) undergraduate (comprising eight male and two female) halls of residence in the University. The sampling method used to choose halls of residence is gender sensitive because the two female undergraduate halls of residence were selected together with three male halls and one postgraduate hall containing male and female population. To determine the sample size, 4.0% of the total students living in the selected halls of residence were chosen which sum up to two hundred and eight (208) respondents. The sharing formula used was based on the capacity of the selected halls of residence as presented in the Table1.

Table 1. Capacity of selected Hall of Residence and Number of Questionnaires Administered

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Halls of Residence</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number of Questionnaire Administered</i>
1.	Kuti Hall (A)	520	10.1	21
2.	Queen Elizabeth II Hall (B)	550	10.6	22
3.	Independence Hall (C)	978	18.8	39
4.	Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall (D)	999	19.2	40
5.	Idia Hall (E)	1,158	22.1	46
6.	Abdulsalami Abubakar Hall (F)	1,000	19.2	40
	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>5205</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>208</i>

Source: University of Ibadan, Student Information Handbook 2014/2015 Session and Author's Compilation, 2015.

At hall level, students were randomly picked by administering one (1) questionnaire per room to any student willing to supply answer to the questionnaire until all the copies of questionnaire assigned for each hall of residence were administered. Data analysis is descriptive. Four indices were developed in this study. These are 'Crime Occurrence Index' (COI), 'Causes of Crime Index' (CCI), 'Effects of Crime Index' (ECI) and 'Safety Measure Index' (SMI). The first and second indices were used to measure incidence and causes of crime in halls of residence. The third index: ECI was used to obtained information on effects of crime on the victim and the fourth index: SMI was developed to measure the safety measure put in place to prevent and or control incidence of crime. COI was measured on the ranking scale of Likert scale as: "very frequent" (5), "frequent" (4), "moderate" (3), "occasionally" (2) and "very rare" (1). CCI, ECI and SMI were measured on the ranking scale of Likert as: "strongly agree" (5), "agree" (4), "undecided" (3), "disagree" (2) and "strongly disagree" (1). The OWV of each variable is the summation of the product of the proportion of response to it and the weight attached to each rating.

COI (Crime Occurrence Index) = $\text{OWV/NR} \dots\dots\dots 1$

CCI (Cause of Crime Index) = OWV/NR	2
ECI (Effect of Crime Index) = OWV/NR	3
SMI (Safety Measure Index) = OWV/NR	4
OWV (Overall Weight Value) = $NRiVi$5

Where

NR_i (f) = Number of Respondent rating variable i

V_i = Weight assigned to variable i ; and

A= Kuti Hall, f = 21; **B**= Queen Elizabeth Hall, f = 22; **C**= Independence Hall, f = 39,

D= Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall, f = 40; **E**= Idia Hall, f = 46; and **F**= Abdulsalami Abubakar Hall, f = 40,

The index values generated for COI, CCI, ECI, and SMI were subjected to Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on gender and hall basis in order to determine the significance or otherwise of the variations calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio – Economic Characteristics of Students in Sampled Halls of Residence

Crime is not an abstract phenomena it occurred in space and time and can be influenced and be compounded by a wide ranging socio-economic and environmental context (Adigun and Adedibu, 2013). This is why the socio economic features of the sampled students are considered here.

Larger proportion of male (59.1%) responded in the study area than female (40.9%). The major reason is that the institution has more male hall of residence than female hall of residence. The age of the respondents varies, majority of the students between the age of 16-25years constituted 49.0%, while other age bracket are 26-35years (42.3%), 36-45years (7.7%) and those above 45years had the lowest proportion amongst the whole population with 1.0%.

Major proportion of the respondents is in the second year of their academic pursuit with 22.1%. Those in first year and third year have the same percentage of 18.3%. Students in the fourth and fifth year accounted for 13.0% and 9.2% respectively. Those undergoing postgraduate programmes accounted for 19.2%. An overwhelming proportion of the respondents are Yoruba with 59.1%, followed by Igbo with 27.4%. Hausa accounted for 7.2% while Non-Nigerians are 6.3% of the respondents. This disparity can be explained by the location of the University.

Respondents who had monthly income/allowance of between ₦ 10, 001: 00- ₦ 20, 000:00 constituted 47.6% of the respondents, 21.6% earned between ₦ 20.001- ₦ 30, 000:00, 19.2% earned below ₦10, 000:00. Respondents who earned between ₦ 30, 001:00- ₦ 40, 000:00 accounted for 9.1% and those who earned above ₦ 40, 000:00 accounted for 2.4% of the respondents. Since the capacity of the students' hall of residence varies. It was confirmed by 46.2% of the respondents that the number of students per room is between 3- 4, 33.2% indicated that there is 5-6 students per room. Larger proportion of the students (62.5%) agreed that the population of students in their hall of residence is moderate while 37.5% of them said the population is not moderate. Students who have been living in the halls of residence for a period of 1-2years have the highest proportion of 46.2%, those living in the

halls for 3-4years accounted for 31.3%. Students living in the halls less than a year accounted for 16.3% and students who had been living in the halls for the period of 5-6years accounted for 6.3%.

Types and Incidence of Crime

Crime in halls of residence can be regarded as offences/breaches of hall rules and regulations. Common crime types in halls of residence are:

1. *Stealing*: Unauthorized removal of a property that belongs to another person, with the intention of depriving the person permanently of it.
2. *Squatting of student*: Is an action of allowing a fellow student to occupy a room in which he/she does not rent or otherwise have lawful permission to use.
3. *Squatting of non-students*: Is an action of accommodating someone who is not a student of the University to be living in Hall of residence.
4. *Squatting of rusticated or expelled student*: Is an action of allowing a rusticated/expelled student from the University to occupy a room.
5. *Occultism*: It is an act of belonging to small religion group that is not part of a larger and more accepted religion and that has belief that is not generally accepted.
6. *Rape*: A forcible sexual relation with a person against that person's will.
7. *Drug abuse*: It is the recurrent use of illegal drugs, or the misuse of prescription or over-the-counter drugs with negative consequences.
8. *Assault*: It is an act carried out by a threat of bodily harm coupled with an apparent, present ability to cause the harm.
9. *Internet fraud*: Is an act of engaging in crime using computer network.
10. *Arson*: An act of setting a fire with intent to cause damage.
11. *Bribery*: An activity of making illegal payment, to bribe a person in official positions as a means of influencing their decisions.
12. *Violence*: It is an act which disrupts the peaceful atmosphere that causes destruction, pain and suffering.
13. *Car hijacking*: To forcibly stop and seize control of vehicle in order to rob the owner.
14. *Kidnapping*: To seize and detain a person unlawfully; sometimes for ransom.
15. *Forgery*: The act of making or altering writing or signature purporting to be made by another.
16. *Burglary*: An act of forcibly opening another person's door or window to gain entrance into the room with the intention of stealing.
17. *House breaking*: An unlawful act of breaking into any building at any time of day or night with intent to commit a crime.

The perceived level of incidence crime was measured by an index termed COI. The COI value of any crime type lies between 1 and 5. The highest value of COI attainable by any crime type is 5.0 while the least value is 1.0. The mean COI value calculated is 2.10. Any crime type with higher COI value than the mean have high incidence while those below the mean have low level of incidence. Stealing has the highest crime occurrence index (COI) in the sampled halls of residence with COI value of 4.10. The highest level of incidence of

stealing was indicated for Nnamdi Azikiwe hall. This is a male undergraduate hall of residence. Squatting of students, squatting of non-students, drug abuse, assault and squatting of expelled or rusticated students also have the COI of 3.30, 2.72, 2.70, 2.48 and 2.34 respectively. Other types of crime investigated have low incidence. It was observed that 49.5% of the respondents have experienced crime in other hall of residence. Some of this victim have experience more than one crime in other hall of residence. Common crime experienced by students in other halls of residence is stealing. It was gathered that the commonly stolen items are mobile phone and laptop.

The COI values calculated for the male students were compared with that of the female students in order to investigate the variation in perceived incidence of crime in hall of residence. There is significant variation in the perception of level of incidence of crime between male and female students ($F = 13.326$, $p = 0.001$). This implies that the perception of incidence of various types of crime by male students differs significantly from the way female students perceived it. Though there are incidences of various types of crime in selected halls of residence yet their opinion on level of incidence varies. Thus there is gender differential in the perceived incidence of crime in the study area. This is also confirmed by the result of ANOVA used in comparing the mean COI for the halls of residence. It was observed that there is significant variation in the perception of crime by students living in different halls of residence ($F = 2.359$, $p = 0.048$). This indicates that students' perception of incidence of different types of crime is not the same in the selected halls of residence. This conclusion is vivid in the mean level of incidence of crime in the selected halls of residence. The male halls seem to have higher mean COI: Independence hall (COI = 2.71); Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall (COI = 2.36) and Kuti hall (COI = 2.05) than the female halls: Idia hall (COI = 1.95) and Queen Elizabeth hall (COI = 1.56). The selected postgraduate hall (Abdulsalami Abubakar Hall) with mixed gender has COI of 1.97.

Night time was majorly indicated by respondents for the occurrence of crime types such as squatting of students (46.2%), squatting of non-student (45.7%) and stealing (43.3%). While 23.1% of the respondents affirmed that crime like assault occurred in the afternoon. Crime rarely occurred in the morning and afternoon even though majority of the students would have gone for lectures during these periods. This situation indicts a serious inquiry. Are there better security surveillance moves during the day than night time? Is surveillance made easy in the morning and night time since majority of the students are not in the halls? Do criminals frame anonymity as students to penetrate halls when students are around in their halls? Are perpetrators of crime residents of the halls or outsiders? For some crime types it is understandable that they are committed in the night. Such include various types of squatting which offender will use the night as a cover from being seen by Porters responsible for safe guarding the halls. It could be inferred that security of the hall of residence is porous during the odd hours of the day and this allows criminals to carry out their different activities (see Table 3). This may be as result of difficulty in differentiating between hall residents and criminals.

Table 2. Students' Perceived Level of Occurrence of Crime in the Hall of Residence

<i>Crime Types</i>	<i>COI for the Hall of Residence</i>						<i>COI</i>	<i>COI-*COI</i>	$(COI-*COI)^2$
	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>			
Stealing	4.47	3.55	4.59	4.68	3.76	3.50	4.10	2.00	4.00
Squatting of student	4.29	2.14	4.59	4.13	2.43	2.20	3.30	1.20	1.44
Squatting of non-student	3.57	1.55	4.03	3.68	1.98	1.50	2.72	0.62	0.38
Drug abuse	3.29	1.81	3.97	2.80	1.85	2.45	2.70	0.60	0.36
Assault	1.23	1.95	3.92	3.58	1.87	2.33	2.48	0.38	0.14
Squatting of rusticated or expelled student	2.95	1.18	3.95	2.65	1.74	1.58	2.34	0.24	0.06
Violence	1.52	1.41	3.05	1.90	1.78	1.93	1.93	-0.17	0.03
Bribery	1.29	1.68	2.21	1.75	2.07	2.13	1.86	-0.24	0.06
Internet fraud	1.48	1.27	2.87	1.50	1.67	2.30	1.85	-0.25	0.06
Occultism	1.19	1.14	1.51	2.08	1.87	1.73	1.59	-0.51	0.26
Forgery	1.05	1.18	1.79	1.45	1.74	1.80	1.50	-0.60	0.36
Rape	1.05	1.14	1.03	1.45	1.76	1.68	1.35	-0.75	0.56
Arson	1.19	1.14	1.00	1.35	1.57	1.55	1.30	-0.80	0.64
Car hijacking	1.05	1.14	1.15	1.20	1.57	1.38	1.25	-0.85	0.72
Kidnapping	1.05	1.14	1.05	1.20	1.52	1.50	1.24	-0.86	0.74
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>30.77</i>	<i>23.42</i>	<i>40.71</i>	<i>35.40</i>	<i>29.18</i>	<i>29.56</i>	<i>31.51</i>		
<i>COI</i>	<i>2.05</i>	<i>1.56</i>	<i>2.71</i>	<i>2.36</i>	<i>1.95</i>	<i>1.97</i>	<i>*2.10</i>		

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2015.

A= Kuti Hall; B= Queen Elizabeth Hall; C= Independence Hall; D= Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall; E= Idia Hall; and F= AbdulsalamiAbubakar Hall.

Table 3. Students' Perception on Time of Crime in the Selected Halls of Residence

Various Crime	Time of Crime										TOTAL	
	Morning		Afternoon		Evening		Night		No response			
	F	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Stealing	42	20.1	35	16.8	37	17.8	90	43.3	4	2.0	208	100.0
Squatting of student	11	5.2	17	8.2	39	18.8	96	46.2	45	21.6	208	100.0
Squatting of non-student	4	1.9	11	5.3	56	26.9	95	45.7	42	20.2	208	100.0
Squatting of rusticated or expelled student	2	0.9	9	4.3	33	15.9	80	38.5	84	40.4	208	100.0
Occultism	3	1.4	4	1.9	21	10.1	63	30.3	117	56.3	208	100.0
Rape	5	2.4	8	3.8	15	7.2	28	13.5	152	73.1	208	100.0
Drug abuse	12	5.8	11	5.2	47	22.6	68	32.7	70	33.7	208	100.0
Assault	12	5.7	48	23.1	44	21.2	33	15.9	71	34.1	208	100.0
Internet fraud	7	3.4	14	6.7	26	12.5	36	17.3	125	60.1	208	100.0
Arson	3	1.4	16	7.7	16	7.7	17	8.2	156	75.0	208	100.0
Bribery	8	3.8	27	13.0	43	20.7	14	6.7	116	55.8	208	100.0
Violence	13	6.3	21	10.1	35	16.8	31	14.9	108	51.9	208	100.0
Car hijacking	4	3.8	5	2.4	12	5.8	31	14.9	152	73.1	208	100.0
Kidnapping	3	1.4	7	3.4	12	5.8	35	16.8	151	72.6	208	100.0
Forgery	6	2.9	14	6.7	19	9.1	28	13.5	141	67.8	208	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2015.

Note: A= Kuti Hall; B= Queen Elizabeth Hall; C= Independence Hall; D= Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall; E= Idia Hall; and F= AbdulsalamiAbubakar Hall.

Causes of Crime Incidences in Students' Halls of Residence

Causes of crime vary across the study area but major cause of crime according to the perception of the respondents is poor security measure with highest CCI value of 4.32. Other causes of crime in decreasing order are poverty (4.26), drugs (4.23), family condition (3.80) and overpopulation with index of 3.66. There is gender differential in perceived causes of crime in halls of residence. It is observed that there is significant variation in the perception of causes of crime between the male and female students in halls of residence ($F = 43.821$, $p = 0.000$). This is however different from the result obtained when the index values were compared on hall basis. There is no significant variation in the perception of causes of crime in selected halls of residence ($F = 2.224$, $p = 0.070$). This is noticeable in the data presented in Table 4. For instance in Kuti hall and Independence hall poor security measure is the factor aiding crime occurrence with CCI of 4.19 and 4.77 respectively but use of drug is perceived as the major cause of crime in Queen Elizabeth and Nnamdi Azikiwe halls with CCI of 4.50 and 4.63 respectively. Poverty is the major contributing factor of crime in Idia hall (CCI = 4.33) and Abdulsalami Abubakar hall (CCI = 4.38).

Table 4. Students' Perceived Causes of Crime in the Hall of Residence

Causes	CCI for the Hall of Residence						CCI	CCI- *CCI	(CCI- *CCI) ²
	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Poor security measure	4.19	4.27	4.77	4.53	3.80	4.35	4.32	0.62	0.384
Poverty	3.90	4.14	4.56	4.33	4.24	4.38	4.26	0.56	0.314
Drug	4.14	4.50	4.41	4.63	3.50	4.20	4.23	0.53	0.281
Family condition	3.23	3.59	4.15	3.75	4.02	4.03	3.80	0.10	0.010
Overpopulation	3.90	2.59	4.62	3.93	2.89	4.00	3.66	-0.04	0.002
Depression and mental disorder	3.90	2.50	4.13	4.53	2.54	3.55	3.53	-0.17	0.029
TV violence	3.23	3.09	3.92	3.58	2.39	2.58	3.13	-0.57	0.325
Racism	2.81	2.64	2.38	3.43	2.13	2.68	2.68	-1.02	1.040
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>29.30</i>	<i>27.32</i>	<i>32.94</i>	<i>32.71</i>	<i>25.51</i>	<i>29.77</i>	<i>29.61</i>		
*CCI	3.66	3.42	4.12	4.09	3.19	3.72	3.70		

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2015.

Note: A= Kuti Hall; B= Queen Elizabeth Hall; C= Independence Hall; D= Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall; E= Idia Hall; and F= Abdulsalami Abubakar Hall.

Adigun and Adedibu (2013) considered fear as an emotional response to crime while the use of safety measure is taken as physical response to crime. Worrying of becoming victim of crime is the major concern of students' living in the hall of residence with ECI value of 4.31(see Table 5). Other effects include loss of property and depression with ECI value of 4.27 and 4.16 respectively. Effects like 'worried of knowing the victim of crime' (ECI = 3.41), post-traumatic stress disorder (ECI = 3.32), disrupts general atmosphere (ECI = 3.26)

and suicide (ECI = 2.39) has the least ECI value. The comparison of effects of crime on gender basis showed that there is significant variation in the perceived effects of crime between the male and female students ($F = 44.361$, $p = 0.00$). In the same vein there is significant variation in students' perceived effects of crime among halls of residence which implies that effects of crime are perceived differently by students living in different halls of residence ($F = 2.699$, $p = 0.03$).

Table 5. Students' Perceived Effects of Crime in Hall of Residence

Effects	ECI for the Hall of Residence						ECI	ECI- *ECI	(ECI- *ECI) ²
	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Worrying becoming a victim of crime	3.81	4.86	4.15	4.55	4.15	4.33	4.31	0.64	0.4096
Loss of properties	4.00	4.64	4.59	4.45	3.78	4.13	4.27	0.60	0.3600
Depression	4.24	4.45	4.59	4.63	4.24	2.83	4.16	0.49	0.24
Feeling unsafe walking alone at night	3.71	4.50	4.36	4.33	3.00	3.63	3.92	0.25	0.0625
Poor academic performance	3.90	3.73	4.21	4.33	2.98	3.68	3.81	0.14	0.0196
Feeling unsafe alone in the room	3.57	3.82	3.97	4.45	2.83	3.58	3.70	0.03	0.0009
Worried of knowing the victim of crime	3.76	2.95	4.08	4.15	2.65	3.45	3.51	-0.16	0.0256
Post-traumatic stress disorder	4.00	2.05	4.03	3.55	3.22	3.08	3.32	-0.35	0.12
Disrupt serenity of environment	3.23	3.00	3.90	3.90	2.15	3.40	3.26	-0.41	0.1681
Suicide	2.05	2.14	2.54	2.63	2.15	2.80	2.39	-1.28	1.6384
TOTAL	36.27	36.14	40.42	40.97	31.15	34.91	36.65		
*ECI	3.63	3.61	4.04	4.10	3.12	3.49	3.67		

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2015.

Note : **A**= Kuti Hall; **B**= Queen Elizabeth Hall; **C**= Independence Hall; **D**= Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall; **E**= Idia Hall; and **F**= AbdulsalamiAbubakar Hall.

Students' Perceived Level of Usage of Safety Measures in Hall of Residence

From direct observation it was observed that all the halls of residence has entrance gate conspicuously located and free from bushes. Hall Potters are in charge of managing and maintaining orders in the halls of residence. The school security unit manage security situation within the campus. The hall Potters carry out surveillance within and around hostels and refer crime cases beyond their control to the security unit. These and other security measures identified in the study area were rated by respondents to indicate their perceived

level of utility in each hall of residence in the school (Table 5.3). An index termed Safety Measure Index (SMI) was developed to achieve this. The mean level of usage of safety measure in the whole institution is 4.47, a value higher than the mean SMI of different halls. Queen Elizabeth has the highest SMI in the study area with 4.61 while Kuti hall has the lowest SMI of 4.22. The presence of street light was identified as a safety measure of high usage (SMI = 4.72). Others in this category are: school security system (SMI = 4.62); security doors (SMI = 4.57) and burglary proof in the room (SMI = 4.53). Availability of surveillance camera and contribution of paramilitary are not the key preventive measures against crime occurrence as they have the least SMI of 4.24 and 4.13 respectively. Though the presence of safety measure cannot totally stop crime but may reduce level of incidence as well as increase the time for the perpetrators to carry out their evil act. These observable differences in perceived level of usage of safety measures on hall basis is not significant ($F = 1.076$, $p = 0.393$). This notwithstanding there is significant gender differential in the perceived level of usage of safety measures in halls of residence ($F = 72.571$, $p = 0.000$). This implies that the male students perceived level of usage of safety measures differently from the female students.

Table 6. Students' Perceived Level of Usage of Safety Measures in Hall of Residence

Safety measures	SMI for the Hall of Residence						SMI	SMI-*SMI	(SMI-*SMI) ²
	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Street light	4.76	4.64	4.74	4.70	4.76	4.70	4.72	0.25	0.063
School security system	4.67	4.77	4.67	4.53	4.46	4.63	4.62	0.15	0.023
Security door	4.67	4.55	4.74	4.58	4.63	4.25	4.57	0.10	0.010
Room burglary	4.43	4.59	4.87	4.58	4.65	4.33	4.53	0.06	0.004
Surveillance camera	3.38	4.68	3.87	4.55	4.59	4.38	4.24	-0.23	0.053
Paramilitary organization	3.38	4.45	4.08	4.28	4.35	4.23	4.13	-0.34	0.116
TOTAL	25.29	27.68	26.97	27.22	27.44	26.52	26.81		
*SMI	4.22	4.61	4.50	4.54	4.57	4.42	4.47		

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2015.

Note : A= Kuti Hall; B= Queen Elizabeth Hall; C= Independence Hall; D= Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall; E= Idia Hall; and F= AbdulsalamiAbubakar Hall.

Students' Perceived Level of Safety in Hall of Residence

Half of the sampled respondents in the study area indicated that they feel safe in their respectively hall of residence, 26.0% of them reported that they are fairly safe, 22.1% feel very safe, while 1.9% of the respondents said they do feel not safe. Feeling of safety is subjective it can never be the same for two individuals even under the same situation. However the fact that majority of the students feel either very safe or safe with cumulative average of 72.1% indicates that hostel environment is relatively safe for habitation of students.

Overwhelming proportion of respondents (76.2%) from Kuti hall, 52.5% from Nnamdi Azikiwe hall, 50% of respondents each from Idia hall and Abdulsalami Abubakar hall and 46.2% of respondents from Independence hall indicated that they feel safe living in their hall of residence. A significant 40.9% of respondents in Queen Elizabeth hall reported that they are very safe in their hall of residence. Approximately a little above 70% of the students feel safe in their respective hall of residence. Despite variation in perceived level of incidence there is a general feeling of being safe.

Table 7. Students' Perceived Level of Safety in Hall of Residence

<i>Feelings</i>	<i>Halls of Residence</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<i>Kuti Hall</i>	<i>Queen Elizabeth Hall</i>	<i>Independence Hall</i>	<i>Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall</i>	<i>Idia Hall</i>	<i>Abdulsalami Abubakar Hall</i>	
Very safe	0.0	40.9	30.8	17.5	21.7	20.0	22.1
Safe	76.2	27.3	46.2	52.5	50.0	50.0	50.0
Fairly safe	23.8	31.8	20.5	30.0	23.9	27.5	26.0
Not safe	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	4.4	2.5	1.9
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2015.

Note: A= Kuti Hall; B= Queen Elizabeth Hall; C= Independence Hall; D= Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall; E= Idia Hall; and F= Abdulsalami Abubakar Hall.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The study observed that there is significant variation in the perceived incidence, causes and effects of crime across the selected halls of residence. Night and evening time are also identified as the crime prevailing periods. The findings revealed that factors such as poor security measures, poverty, drugs among others are factors responsible for high crime incidence in the study area. Despite the level of incidence of crime more than seventy percent of the residents however feel safe. The study suggests the following measures of reducing incidence of crime in halls of residence. University hall of residence should be designed or redesigned with installation of conventional safety gadgets such as alarm system, CCTV, automated security doors. School security should be assigned to each hall of residence instead of dedicating the duty to hall Potters only. Visitors and residents should pass through the security or hall potter for check and registration of properties. Residents should be issued with residency identification card. This will assist in tracking the strangers. Fresh students should be properly oriented on security issues in hall of residence so as to reduce the probability of becoming a victim of crime. School crime is a deviant act as a result of confusion, frustration and sometime share wickedness, students should therefore be subjected to compulsory counseling for self-understanding, reorientation for overcoming life challenges instead of resorting to crime.

Adherence to these recommendations will undoubtedly lead to extreme reduction in crime incidence and will make the halls of residence a safe haven for students.

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