

An Analytical Study of Unemployment and Cybercrime in Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones of Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examines the dynamics of the emerging problems of unemployment and cybercrime in the Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones of Nigeria. The paper is an explorative thematic content analysis of reported cybercrime cases in the Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones of Nigeria. This paper adopts Robert K. Merton's Strain Theory (1938) and Donald McClelland's Theory of Needs (1961). The discussion shows that cybercrime is very high in the Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones, especially in Imo, Rivers, and Edo States. The paper reveals that unemployment is the most significant instigator of youths' engagement in cybercrime. The paper recommends creating jobs and implementing enhanced cybersecurity measures to reduce cybercrime in Nigeria.

Keywords: Unemployment, cybercrime, cyber security, legal framework, public enlightenment

Introduction

In contemporary Nigeria, crime has become a subculture in her existence as the rate of crime in the country has inedible remarks. Nigeria is facing several challenges; among them are unemployment, low investment, high inflation, high levels of corruption, poverty, banditry, kidnapping, cybercrime, etc. Against this bedrock, this paper analytically examined how unemployment has pushed some youths to commit cybercrime (yahoo yahoo). Unemployment in Nigeria today has become every youth's nightmare. It is no longer about going to school and graduating, or learning a trade, but about facing the reality of graduating and joining the ranks of the unemployed, with no hope of a better tomorrow (Solanke et al., 2021). The youth unemployment crisis is not new; what is new is the staggering proportional increase it has reached in recent times. The unemployment problem, which now seems beyond remedy, has produced an army of idle hands, and some of them have decided to punish the society that fails to provide them with means of livelihood and dignity by robbing its members of their property at gunpoint (Solanke et al., 2021). Unemployment refers to the share of the labour force without work but available for and seeking employment.

The complete historical data of Nigeria's unemployment rate 1991-2021, according to the annual World Bank Unemployment Report (2022), shows that;

- Nigeria's unemployment rate in 2021 was **9.79%**, a **0.07% increase** from 2020.
- Nigeria's unemployment rate for 2020 was **9.71%**, a **1.18% increase** from 2019.
- Nigeria's unemployment rate for 2019 was **8.53%**, a **0.07% increase** from 2018.
- Nigeria's unemployment rate in 2018 was **8.46%**, a **0.07% increase** from 2017.



Source: World Bank data, 2022.

<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/NGA/nigeria/unemployment-rate>

Based on the World Bank's statistical analysis, it is sufficient to state that unemployment in Nigeria is rising annually, and this could be a source of cybercrime, which has been bedeviling the nation in recent times. Every moment is the most active activity in the digital age, and it is the most prevalent activity in the twenty-first century. The Internet permeates all spheres of human activity, so does vulnerability to cybercrime grow; the Internet revolution has created some patterns of crime hitherto unknown to humanity and also intriguing new patterns of criminal victimization across the world. Cybercrime issues have become high-profile, especially those that are related to hacking, copyright infringement, child pornography, and child grooming (Pitts, 2017).

Cyber criminals spread malware or lure victims to sites that contain malware and other scams through malicious advertising or 'maladvertising' (Mansfield-Devine, 2014). Cyber-espionage has become a high-value trade (Everett, 2009). Illicit trade has grown on the internet as the deep web hosts darknet marketplaces that sell different kinds of wares such as narcotics and weapons (Chaudhry, 2017). Digital forensics experts believe that a 'digital explosion' of ransomware is imminent in the years to come (Henseler & van Loenhout, 2018). This has raised significant concerns for governments at all levels worldwide.

Governments across the world are concerned about the escalating problem of cybercrime and related vices. In May 2016, the United Kingdom government reported that two-thirds of its large businesses had experienced a cyberattack in the previous 12 months. This development made cyber security a top priority on the UK government's agenda, culminating in the recent £1.9bn investment in a five-year cyber security strategy, which commenced in February 2017 with the commissioning of the National Cyber Security Centre (Kim, 2017).

Similarly, on April 18, 2016 the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) inaugurated a 31-man Cybercrime Advisory Council in Abuja chaired by the National Security Adviser (NSA) Major-General Babagana Monguno (Retd.) with membership drawn from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC),

Directorate of State Security Service (DSS), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Ministries of Trade and Investments, Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Justice, Nigeria Stock Exchange, Nigerian Prison Service, Nigerian Police Force, Galaxy Backbone and so on, with the mandate to create enable environment for knowledge, experience and intelligence sharing among members to offer recommendations for prevention and control of cybercrimes and promotes cyber security in Nigeria (Ewepu, 2016). Similarly, on April 18, 2016 the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) inaugurated a 31-man Cybercrime Advisory Council in Abuja chaired by the National Security Adviser (NSA) Major-General Babagana Monguno (Retd.). with membership drawn from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), Directorate of State Security Service (DSS), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Ministries of Trade and Investments, Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Justice, Nigeria Stock Exchange, Nigerian Prison Service, Nigerian Police Force, Galaxy Backbone and so on, with the mandate to create enable environment for knowledge, experience and intelligence sharing among members to offer recommendations for prevention and control of cybercrimes and promotes cyber security in Nigeria (Ewepu, 2016).

No nation can achieve growth or any form of stability that will enhance socio-economic development in an atmosphere of crime and its antecedent, chronic youth unemployment. If the factors that create the feelings of deprivation and frustration associated with youth unemployment in Nigeria are addressed, crime would be reduced to the barest minimum (Ewepu, 2016). Crime has become more rampant than ever in Nigeria. The recent rise in crime in Nigeria is worrisome and disturbing. This is evident in daily news reports of various crimes such as robbery, murder, terrorism, kidnapping, internet scams, and other social media crimes. In most cases, perpetrators of these crimes are youths. The problem of crime in Nigeria has been exacerbated by the high rate of unemployment and economic hardship, which has pushed many jobless youths, some of whom are graduates, into various deadly crimes (Ewepu, 2016).

When people cannot earn an income from legal, legitimate, and socially acceptable work, they turn to illegal activities. These acts are carried out by no one other than the youths who are considered future leaders. Unemployment is a significant challenge in Nigeria today. Despite thousands of graduates produced every year and an abundance of natural and human resources, the unemployment rate is increasing daily at an alarming rate. Youth unemployment is a global problem affecting both developed and developing countries alike. However, while developed countries are taking the threat seriously and restructuring their education and social security systems to abate its growth and avoid an imminent catastrophe, Nigeria seems not to be doing enough (Kim, 2017).

Cybercrime is undoubtedly a contemporary social problem in Nigeria. While it continues to grow in magnitude and complexity globally, awareness of the dynamics and multifaceted consequences of cybercrime seems abysmally low in Nigeria. This is worrisome, given that cybercrime, by its nature, is evolving and that cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated in their operations. Additionally, the number of Nigerians connected to broadband Internet continues to grow exponentially.

Several studies have examined the emergence of cybercrime as a global menace in Nigeria and worldwide. For instance, Warner's (2011) "Understanding Cyber-Crime in Ghana: A View from Below" reported the use of a klepto-theological paradigm created to abet the perpetration of Internet crime. He calls this Sakawa. According to him, Sakawa serves two main functions: it protects the cybercriminal and ensures their financial success. These internet fraudsters use this method to carry out their illegal activities. Again, Jaishankar (2019), in a study titled "The Future of Cyber Criminology: Challenges and Opportunities," opined that cybercrime, or internet fraud, in Nigeria has gone beyond previous methods exposed to Nigerians; it has now incorporated spiritual elements. This has led to the ritual killings in the country for Yahoo Plus.

Again, Tade and Aliyu (2020), in a study titled "Social Organization of Cybercrime among University Undergraduates in Nigeria," assert that undergraduates are primarily responsible for the level of cybercrime in Nigeria. They went further to opine that cybercrime is gradually becoming a subculture among youths in Nigeria and needs to be checked. A study by Melvin and Ayotunde (2018) entitled "Spirituality in Cybercrime: Activities among Youths in South West Nigeria." They saw Yahoo Boys as a unit and analyzed it from philosophical and psychosocial perspectives. They argued that internet fraud has now metamorphosed into ritual killings, spiritual activities, and diabolical means referred to as (Yahoo Plus). To them, this is more prevalent in the Western part of Nigeria, especially Ogun, Ibadan, and Lagos States. Therefore, this paper examines the relationship between unemployment and cybercrime in Nigeria's South-Eastern and South-South geopolitical zones. The high unemployment rate in Nigeria and the rise in cybercrime have prompted the writing of this article. This qualitative approach utilized secondary data and thematic content analysis in the discussion session.

Conceptual clarifications

Unemployment is a global trend, but it occurs mainly in developing countries, with social, economic, political, and psychological consequences. Thus, massive youth unemployment in any country is an indication of far more complex problems (Okafor, 2009). The ILO (2007) report showed that the proportion of world unemployment is steadily increasing and that the number of those without jobs remained at an all-time high of more than 195 million or 6.3 per cent in 2007. There is a consensus on the definition of unemployment. Simply put, unemployment describes people without jobs (Okafor, 2011). The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as the economically active population without work but available and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 1993). According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2009), the labour force of a country is a set of people or citizens who are willing and able to make their efforts available at any given point in time for gainful employment, while the unemployed are individuals who have no work but are looking for work at the time of any study.

Cybercrime has been defined as 'any crime that involves a computer and a network, where a computer may or may not have played an instrumental part in the commission of the crime' (Casey as cited in Moore, 2010:4). It is the use of computers or other electronic devices through information systems to perpetrate illegal conduct (McQuada, 2006). Cybercrimes are "criminal or harmful activities that are informational, global and networked" (Wall, 2007). They are "computer-mediated activities which are either illegal or considered illicit by certain parties and which can be conducted through global networks" (Thomas & Loader, 2000).

It is noted that over 3 billion people, representing more than 40% of the world population, used the internet in 2016 (Stalans & Finn, 2016). Given the logic of numbers, it implies that a corresponding growth would follow the growth in the number of Internet users, leading to an increase in the number of potential cybercrime victims. This argument is perhaps corroborated by the Internet Crime Complaint Centre (IC3)'s latest report. The report revealed that in 2016, IC3 received a total of 298,728 complaints with reported losses exceeding \$1.3 billion. It identified Business Email Compromise (BEC), ransomware, tech support fraud, and extortion as the most common cybercrimes (Internet Crime Complaint Centre, 2017). Price Waterhouse Coopers' study, The Global State of Information Security 2015, reports that over 117,000 cyberattacks occur daily (Bendovschi, 2015).

Theoretical consideration

This study is guided by Robert K. Merton's strain theory and McClelland's Needs Theory.

Robert K. Merton developed his strain theory in 1938. The theory states that society pressures individuals to achieve socially accepted goals (such as the American dream) despite lacking the means to do so. This leads to strain, which may lead individuals to commit crimes, like selling drugs or becoming involved in prostitution, as a means to gain financial security. Merton argued that when individuals face a gap between their goals (usually monetary) and their current status, strain occurs. When individuals are faced with strain, Merton outlined five different ways that they respond:

McClelland's Needs Theory also refers to the Three Needs Theory: Acquired Needs Theory, Motivational Needs Theory, and Learned Needs Theory. David McClelland propounded this orientation in his 1961 book, *The Achieving Society*, following Abraham Maslow's original formulation of the Hierarchy of Needs in 1941. McClelland highlighted three motivatorsthree motivators that he claimed all humans possess: Achievement need (n-Ach), affiliation need (n-Aff), and Power need (n-Pow), irrespective of gender, culture, or age. He argued that people will display different attributes given their strongest and dominant motivator. Moreover, the dominant need is shaped by culture and life experiences.

The Achievement-motivated individual (n-Ach) pursues his dreams and goals with a strong sense of purpose and seriousness, regardless of how challenging the process may be. Also, such an individual aspires to the highest position of his career. Meeting his goals brings about complete fulfillment to the n-Ach. The n-Pow individual, on the other hand, is motivated by a high position in society, which we can call "authority motivated". The individual desires to command public respect by working towards it. He also enjoys being influential, coordinating other people's affairs, and, very importantly, deriving satisfaction from his personal status and prestige, which dignifies him. Lastly, the n-Aff individual is motivated by affiliation. This individual craves relationships, friendships, and various kinds of associations. His ability to connect and be recognized gives him a sense of fulfillment, and he strives more within a team.

The McClelland's theory of Needs is, by all intents and purposes, a management theory. However, the theory's apparent ability to explain people's behavior not only in a work environment but also in the larger society. These identifiable needs in the theory (n-Ach, n-Aff, and n-Pow) are also the drivers of people's behavior in society. It could explain why people resort to any available means to satisfy their dominant needs. The paramount importance of satisfying an individual's dominant need is particularly evident, and deviant means may be adopted if acceptable methods are absent.

Nigeria today faces rising unemployment, with young people primarily affected. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) observed that, according to the National Manpower Board and the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's youth population is about 80 million, representing 60 percent of the total population. They went on to state that, based on the numbers given, about 1.6 million are underemployed. Doreo (2013) also opined that Nigeria's unemployment rate grows at 16 percent per year, and the youths have been the most affected. For young people, the impact of unemployment can be threatening. This is because some youths are tempted to engage in social vices under pressure from society, as Robert Merton asserted, to meet their daily needs and regain their sense of self. From the foregoing, the massive involvement of Nigerian youths in cyber-criminality becomes understandable. McClelland was succinct in his position that, irrespective of age, gender, and culture, we all possess needs for achievement, affiliationaffiliationaffiliationaffiliationaffiliationaffiliation, and power, with one dominating and invariably conditioning the behavior of the individual in society at large. The economic undertone of Nigerian cybercrime is therefore likely satisfy the individual's

likelyContent analysis.analysis

We shall analytically examine the following sub-themes in this study: the relationship between Unemployment and Cybercrime in the Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria;

reported cases of cybercrime in the Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria; and the Consequences of Cybercrime in the Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria.

The Relationship between Unemployment and Cybercrime in South-Eastern and South-South Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria

John (2021) asserts that one of the most significant challenges facing the Nigerian economy is unemployment and crime, which have risen over the years. Nigeria has the second-largest economy in Africa. As impressive as the figures above may appear, unemployment and crime have been among the major problems facing Nigeria. A high level of unemployment, underemployment, and criminality is one of the critical socio-economic problems facing the country. While the labour force grows and the proportion of youth increases, employment growth is inadequate to absorb labour market entrants. As a result, youth are significantly affected by unemployment, which leads some youth to commit crimes.

Moreover, young people are more likely to be employed in low-quality jobs, be underemployed, work long hours for low wages, engage in dangerous work, or receive only short-term and/or informal employment arrangements. The inadequate employment situation of youth has several socio-economic, political, and moral consequences. This has resulted in crimes in Nigeria, which are chronic and rising. Unemployment and crime are so intertwined that it is easy to confuse the two. Although one can be employed and still commit a crime, this is likely to be a case of underemployment. Thus, unemployment includes those who are underemployed. Unemployment and underemployment reflect the failure to make use of an essential factor of production, labour, for fostering economic growth in Nigeria. Low returns to labour, along with high unemployment, indicate crime. Crime makes it difficult to make investments in education and health that would increase a person's productivity. This high level of unemployment has even made some youths join the Eastern Security Network.

Anthony (2019) studied Youths' unemployment and crime in Nigeria: A nexus and implications for national development. He opined that crime is a phenomenon that bedevils various countries across the globe, affecting policies and development. Any nation striving for development must reduce crime to the barest minimum. In recent years in Nigeria, there has been an upsurge in the frequency of crimes committed. This has led to palpable fear among the populace, as the security of lives and property can no longer be guaranteed. The phenomenon of crime has negatively impacted the nation's economic, social, and political life over time. The youth population of any nation represents the driving force for development. However, for the youths to become valuable resources, they must be gainfully employed. The youths are also the most volatile when their energies are misdirected or channeled into wrong endeavours. Available data show that youth employment is rampant in Nigeria, and this has contributed immensely to their involvement in criminal activities. The paper argues that criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, political thuggery, militancy, and other social vices found among the unemployed and jobless youths have significantly contributed to the slow pace of development in Nigeria.

Albert, K. (2018). Youth Unemployment and Crime Control: An Analysis of the Nigerian Experience. This study asserts that the Sub-Saharan population is predominantly young. The economically active population group has accounted for an average of 53% of the region's total population over the past two decades, according to the World Bank (2011). Over 40 % of these youths are without jobs or stable economic income. Also, 64.1% and 50.7% of the region's total youth population live below the U.S. poverty line of US\$1.2 per day. The implications of the population characteristics are significant. Youth unemployment is a global problem affecting both developed and developing countries alike. The rise in cyber-related crime is evidently the result of unemployment. However, while developed countries are taking the threat seriously and restructuring

their education and social security systems to abate its growth and avoid imminent catastrophic retrenchments, Nigeria is not doing enough.

In a study by Usman (2021), "The Effect of Unemployment on Crime in Nigeria: A Panel Data Analysis." The rising trend of crime in Nigeria is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment. The data used in this study consists of 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) spanning 2010 to 2020. Different estimation techniques, ranging from OLS to WLS, between-group estimators, fixed-effect estimators, and Random-Effect Estimator are employed to estimate economic models of crime. The findings show that though employment was found to have a significant impact on armed robbery and cybercrime, it also had a significant impact on kidnapping.

(1) Reported cases of cybercrime in the Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria

Cybercrime is assuming frightening proportions in the Southeast. EFCC raises alarm: The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, says it is worried about the frightening dimensions cybercrime has assumed in the South East. The South East Zonal Head of the Commission, Usman Imam, expressed concern on Friday in Enugu while briefing reporters on the EFCC's activities in the first quarter of 2019. The Imam said that cases of cybercrime, popularly called 'Yahoo Yahoo', had become alarming in the zone. "From investigations so far made, it is unfortunate that some parents are not only aware of their children's involvement but even abet such a terrible crime. "What is very worrisome is that most of the perpetrators of this crime are either students of institutions of higher learning, graduates, youth corps members, or secondary school students learning from their elders. "To think that these criminals are those who will in the future take up the responsibility of leading this country must certainly send shivers down the spine of any right-thinking Nigerian," he said. The zonal head said that the Commission had, within the period under review, seized some exotic cars from the suspected 'Yahoo Yahoo boys' being investigated. He wondered how a student would own a car worth about N10 million, adding that the Commission had been inundated with such matters.

Source: <https://dailynigerian.com/cybercrime-assumes-frightening-dimension-in-south-east-efcc-raises-alarm/>

FCC Arrests 105 Cyber Crime Fraudsters in Port Harcourt by Adejayan Gbenga Gsong on September 4, 2019: The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, said it has made 105 arrests and 32 convictions in cases of cybercrimes within the Port Harcourt region. Port Harcourt's Zonal Head of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, disclosed during a briefing to reporters that two suspects on the FBI list were arrested: Ogbonna Atuokari in Port Harcourt and Chidi Egbeonu in Owerri. Bawa said that, besides the arrest, 41 persons are facing prosecution, while 63 other cases are still under investigation. The EFCC Zonal Head also disclosed that it secured 149 convictions between January and August this year in cases related to crude oil theft. According to Bawa, "The Port Harcourt Zonal Office of the EFCC is working seriously on 13 different cases of cybercrimes in collaboration with the FBI. Among the cases are those of the recently arrested duo, Ogbonnah Atoukarito, formerly based in London, and Alpha Chidi Egbeonu, formerly based in Japan. "The suspects were separately arrested in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, and Owerri, Imo state. Atoukaritou is a leader of a loose syndicate of fraudsters engaged in Business Email Compromise, BEC. At the same time, the other suspect, Alpha Chidi Egbeonu, is suspected to be involved in defrauding IS-based victims and other yet to be identified victims through the buying and selling of goods online. "Generally, the Port Harcourt Zonal Office is peculiar in the investigation of crude oil theft and illegal dealing in oil-related products. The last 8 months have been months of intensive and extensive investigations and prosecution of oil-related and several internet-related cases. The oil-related zone has received internet-related recoveries, including N268,934,375.75; \$2,012,568.00 and £15,000.00 recoveries, and has 162 cases in court."

Source: <https://www.withinnigeria.com/2019/09/04/efcc-arrests-105-cyber-crime-fraudsters-in-port-harcourt-zone/>

EFCC Says Imo Has the Highest Number of Cybercrime Cases in the South East. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC, 2019) said that Imo State, South East Nigeria, presently has the highest number of Cybercrime cases in the geopolitical zone, just as the agency has recorded a total of 90 convictions in the region. It said most of the convicts are graduates, undergraduates, and serving members of the national youths' service corps, NYSC.

Southeast regional Commander of the EFCC, Iman, discussed this at the 16th Anti-Corruption Situation Room (ACSR) program, organized by EDA\UKen University in conjunction with MacArthe thur Foundation and other organizations, which is also a special skills training event on tracing illicit assets and stolen funds, was attended by stakeholders from parts of Nigeria and the South East zone. Iman, who is an Assistant Commissioner of police ACP, expressed worry over the increasing rate of cybercrimes in South- East, particularly Imo State, which was really disturbing, saying that the unofficial statistics he got about the state were alarming. He said: "Imo definitely must have recorded the highest cybercrime cases in the South East Zone. The rate of Cybercrime cases in Imo is alarming, honestly. "I was talking with an Imolite who gave me an unofficial statistic that is disturbing because he told me that among five youths of the state, the likelihood of 3 or 4 are involved in cybercrime. According to Iman, " this is really disturbing, we did some major raids, even the last raid we brought in 31 persons, after the initial forensic analyses of items recorded, about 27 were indicted and being prosecuted. It is disturbing honesty." The zonal Commander, however, urged the government, the media, and other stakeholders, including religious organizations, to join them in the campaign to stop the ugly situation, adding that they cannot afford to continue convicting our youths, who are future leaders, for such crimes. "We need to find out other ways of doing a massive campaign to slow down the trend because it is also giving us a bad name within the community of nations. You see a young man buying a royal bed for N800,000 and cars.

Source: <https://www.africanexaminer.com/efcc-says-imo-has-highest-cases-of-cybercrimes-in-south-east/>

Court Sentences Fraudster to Three Years Imprisonment in Benin; Loses House, Car, and Money in Five Bank Accounts to Victims: Justice Efe Ikponmwonba of the Edo State High court sitting in Benin on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, convicted and sentenced Abudu Gentle Osarobo to three years imprisonment for fraud. Osarobo was arraigned on one count charge by the Benin Zonal Command of the EFCC for fraudulent impersonation and obtaining by false pretence. He had impersonated one Barry Carson, a US military officer, to defraud his victim. The charge against Osarobo reads: "That you, Abudu Gentle Osarobo (m) sometime between 2018 and September, 2021 in Benin City, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court with intent to defraud represent yourself to be Barry Carson, a US military officer and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 48 Laws of Bendel State of Nigeria (As Applicable in Edo State) 1976". Upon arraignment, the defendant pleaded guilty to the charge. In view of his plea, the prosecution counsel, Francis Jirbo, prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendant accordingly. However, the defence counsel, Kenechukwu Ofoedu, pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy. Justice Ikponmwonba convicted and sentenced the defendant to three years' imprisonment or a fine of N500,000. The court ordered that the defendant forfeits to the Federal Government of Nigeria, a 3-bedroom bungalow in Benin City, a Toyota Rav 4 Jeep 2015 Model, Four UBA Manager's Cheques of N10 million, the sum of N2,200,827.05 in his Sterling Bank account, N725,209.47 in his company account - Edorisiagbon Allied Business limited, N30,753.78, in his business account - Edorisiagbon Global Enterprise, the sum of N4,968,731.24 and N40,397.95 in his First Bank and Sterling Bank accounts for the benefit of the victims. The accounts are to be closed afterwards.

Source: <https://www.efcc.gov.ng/?start=9>

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Source: <https://www.efcc.gov.ng/?start=9>

EFCC Arrests 47 Suspected Yahoo Boys in Owerri, South East Nigeria: The Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, arrested a

total of 47 suspected internet fraudsters from different locations in Owerri, Imo State. The arrest followed actionable intelligence received by the Commission on their alleged internet fraud-related activities. The suspects are: Emenalo Ugochukwu, Eric Chukwuemeka, Uzoma Zebulon Chidera, Ogbuefi Charles, James Joshua Ugochukwu, Nwagbo Junior, Oguike Ifeanyichukwu, Chika Chenya, Bright Iwueze, Chinwendu Okoh, and Bright Iwu Chinecherem. Nkemakolam Ololoh, Iwuanyanwu Bright, Obi Ifeanyichukwu, Ikwumelu Chiemelie, Chidinma E. Epemandu, Obiajunwa Eustius, Duru Joseph, Nwaru Camillus, Nwaru JohnPaul, Victor Chinaza, and Emmanuel Akuakolam. Others are Nkemjika Kelechi, Onuoha Franklin, Zion Elias, Chukwuemeka Nwaogu, Ikwumelu Ebuka, Nwaneri John, Ikwumelu Chibuike, Chinedu Success, Nwoke Michael Chinaza, Derrick Amaechi, Nduaga Ifeanyi, Egeonu Tochi, Onwuzurike Leonard, Uwawuike Chijioke Macdonald, Omere Ifeanyi, Okereke Udoochukwu, Okeke Chukwudi, Ngoka Chukwuka, Obiajunwa Macdonald, Izuka Bierechi, Ajaps Chidera, Onyeze Kelechi, Boladele Awoluwapo, Fabian Ejebu, and Ikeh Joseph. Items recovered from them include several mobile phones, laptops, one Toyota Camry with registration number KUJ 316 BP, one Lexus ES350 with registration number MMA 885 AC, one Lexus IS250 with registration number ABC 821 GY, a Toyota Sienna with registration APP 427, one Lexus ES330 with registration number KWU 43 AA, one Lexus ES330 with registration number YAB 411 CD and one Toyota Avalon with registration number RLU 767 IV. They will be charged in court as soon as investigations are concluded.

Source: <https://globalupfront.com/2022/06/09/efcc-arrests-47-suspected-yahoo-boys-in-owerri-south-east-nigeria/>

Court Jails Truck Driver for Oil Theft in Uyo: Justice Agatha Okeke of the Federal High court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, on Monday, July 18, 2022, convicted and sentenced a truck driver, Ime Asuquo Akpan, to three months' imprisonment for dealing in petroleum products without an appropriate license. Akpan had pleaded ' guilty ' on May 21, 2022, to a one-count charge preferred against him by the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, and was remanded at the Correctional Centre, Uyo, as the court reserved judgment for July 18, 2022. The charge reads: "That you Ime Asuquo Akpan 'M' on or about February 27 2022, enroute Calabar –Itu in Akwa Ibom State within the jurisdiction of this Honorable court had in your possession without lawful authority or appropriate license to deal in about 5,000 litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) and Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK) which products you concealed in sack bags and conveyed in a truck with registration number DRK 700 XA and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 4 (1) of the Petroleum Act CAP P10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and punishable under Section 4 (6) of the same Act". At the resumed session of the court on Monday, July 18, 2022, EFCC's counsel, S. S. Aribido, called a witness, Inainfe Young, an operative of the EFCC who reviewed the facts of the case and tendered relevant documents, which were all admitted in evidence and marked as exhibits. Aribido subsequently prayed the court to convict and sentence Akpan accordingly, based on his earlier guilty plea. Justice Okeke convicted and sentenced Akpan to three months' imprisonment and ordered that the truck arrested with him be forfeited to the Federal Government. At the same time, the EFCC destroys the illegal contents of the truck. Akpan started his journey to the Correctional Centre following his arrest by officers of the 2nd Brigade, Nigerian Army, Uyo, on February 27, 2022, based on verified intelligence that he was conveying about 5,000 litres of illegally refined AGO and DPK, concealed in reinforced sack bags. The convict and the truck with registration number DRK 700 XA were subsequently handed over to the Uyo Zonal command of the Commission.

Source: <https://www.efcc.gov.ng/news/8273-court-jails-truck-driver-for-oil-theft-in-uyo>

Consequences of Cybercrime in Southeast and South-South Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria

Individual Consequence: Every active Internet user is a potential victim of cybercrime. Individual internet users leave online traces that criminals may obtain and use to victimize them. Also,

individuals may inadvertently put themselves at risk of cyber victimization through lax security measures. Hall (2016) points out that experienced cyber thieves with a strategy will usually identify and maliciously target the weakest point, people. Bolle and Casey (2018) note that scammers are attracted to the internet because of the large pool of potential victims and the lack of proximity between them and their victims, which reduces the risk of apprehension. It is believed that no individual is immune to attacks from the determined and organized community of ransomware-wielding cybercriminals (Srinivasan, 2017). Cybercrime victimization can leave a victim emotionally disturbed. For example, Marcum (2014) notes that the damage caused by malware only affects victims financially, but also mentally and emotionally. He points out that while some victims pass the victimization off as a brief annoyance, others would feel violated and exposed, and may have their future internet activities affected.

Social Consequence: The internet enables the creation and maintenance of social relations across vast distances, which may have a transformative social effect (Giddens, as cited in Jones, 2009). The development of the internet and digital technologies has dramatically changed people's perceptions of personal expression and social interaction. People have increasingly embraced computers and the internet. The fallout of this development is the opportunities now available for individuals to use the devices for deviance and criminal purposes (Holt & Bossler, 2014). The increased dependence of society on cyberspace, a domain where cyberattacks and cyberwarfare are prevalent, poses significant risks, as hackers can take over medical equipment, self-driving cars, and flight controls, thereby causing life-threatening damage (Bruijn & Janssen, 2017).

Economic consequences: Cybercrime has a significant negative impact on the global economy. Hughes, Bohl, Lrfan, Margolese-Malin, and Solorzano (2017) observe that while information and communication technology (ICT)/cyber technologies are increasingly embedded in economies and societies, they have produced benefits and risk-related costs. A Ponemon Institute study found that in 2013, cybercrime cost organizations globally an average of \$7.22m per organization, representing a 30% increase from the previous year's study (Brewer, 2014). Cybersecurity spending is said to be at an all-time high, with the global market hitting \$75bn in 2015 and projected to increase to \$170bn in 2020 (Chaudhry, 2017). Similarly, analysts have predicted that 60% of security budgets will be spent on rapid detection and response approaches (Brewer, 2014). The President of the Nigerian Senate, Dr Bukola Saraki, during the Nigerian First Legislative Stakeholders Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Cyber Security held on Monday, 6th November, 2017, disclosed that Nigeria lost about N127 billion to cybercrime (The Punch, 2017). Also, huge revenue is lost to the cyber underground economy, where cybercriminals and their patrons buy and sell stolen digital materials.

Military Operations Consequence: Cyberspace is now recognized as the fifth domain of military operations, alongside land, sea, air, and space. It is also said to be the first artificial domain for military operations. It has been argued that world battles are and will increasingly be fought in cyberspace rather than on the ground and in the air (Lundbohm, 2017). Consequently, many nations have recognized cyberspace as a domain of military operation (McGuffin & Mitchell, 2014).

Law Enforcement Consequence: With the global proliferation of the Internet and networking technologies, policing cybercrime has become a significant challenge for law enforcement agencies worldwide (Luppacini, 2014). The criminal justice system's response to online crime and deviance is further complicated by the borderless nature of the Internet (Holt, Bossler & Seigfried-Speller, 2015). It has been argued that the policing of 'new social spaces' requires a rethinking of the traditional assumptions that policing occurs within national territorial borders, that the police or the state has a monopoly on the use of force, and that the real kind of policing involves the protection of property (Manning as cited in Jones, 2009).

Conclusion

The relationship between unemployment and cyber-criminality is quite observable. This is worsened by the fact that in Nigeria, people are valued in terms of the economic resources they command. Consequently, those without economic success are undervalued, and the pressure to achieve success is intensified despite harsh economic conditions, such as unemployment. This more often leads to the adoption of survival strategies, such as cybercrime. Although a relatively new form of crime, cyber-criminality damages Nigeria's economy and international image, and there is a need to reduce it to the barest minimum using the strategies recommended below. Creativity and high energy are the characteristics of young people in any nation. When channeled positively, they will significantly benefit not only economic prosperity but also enhance the youth's moral values. When the same energy is used negatively, it will lead to social unrest and economic instability. It is disheartening that young people with skills, certificates, and energies have nothing to offer as a result of mass unemployment, but dance to the tune of the politicians who, in turn, use them to manipulate, rig, and destabilize elections.

In most cases, after their politician has used them, they are dumped or left to face their fate when the law catches up. The few available jobs for the battalion of youth job-seekers are politicized, unless the job seeker is "connected. This sad reality explains why most Nigerian youths are resorting to crime as an alternative means of survival due to unemployment.

Recommendations

- i. Job Creation must be the first agenda for every government in Nigeria at all levels. Unemployment, to a very great extent, causes cybercrime. There is an urgent need to create jobs to engage the idle yet enlightened minds of Nigerian youths. This strategy will boost the economy and also reduce cyber-criminality to the barest minimum.
- ii. There is a need to implement laws and enact measures against cybercrime swiftly. Laws against cybercrime in Nigeria still leave much to be desired. The abuse of the internet is on the rise in Africa, and there is no law, or even if there is, the extant laws are too weak to confront it; the institution charged with implementing the laws within the country cannot take proactive measures against cybercriminals because there is no express legislation enacted to criminalize the activities.
- iii. Nigeria should embrace international cooperation. Cybercrime is a global enemy. It is a blight on the gains of ever-increasing global interconnectivity, epitomized by the supersonic rate of communication and connectivity, mostly on social media platforms. If the common enemy must be defeated, there is an urgent need to forge a common front against it.
- iv. Strengthening the institutional framework for coordinating cybersecurity efforts is another measure to curb the menace of cybercrime and reduce unemployment in Nigeria. Enforcement agencies against cybercrime in Nigeria, such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), should be strengthened with greater power and independence.
- v. A public enlightenment and value reorientation campaign should be carried out by all sundry. Cybercrimes are largely avoidable, especially with adequate education. Nigeria should consistently disseminate comprehensive, up-to-date educational messages across various media to prevent falling prey to cybercriminals. Efforts should also be channeled toward value reorientation in light of the high premium society places on wealth.
- vi. Individuals should learn to be content with what they have.
- vii. Everyone should be security-conscious with their personal details.

- viii. Small-scale businesses and entrepreneurship should be encouraged to reduce unemployment among youths in the South-Eastern region of Nigeria, since the populace is industrious and business-inclined.

Establishing a formidable legal and Regulatory Framework for Cyberspace: laws against cybercrime in Nigeria leave much to be desired. Kithi (2002) observed that the abuse of the internet is on the rise in Africa, and that there is no law, or, if there is, the extant laws are too weak to confront it. Ojedukun (2005) highlighted that the institution charged with implementing the law in African countries cannot take proactive measures against cybercriminals because their press legislation is inherently against such activities. The lawmakers should properly understand and gain support for Effoof cybersecurity

initiatives against cybercrime in Nigeria, such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), which should be strengthened with greater power and independence. This is vital to their being able to lord it over the challenging, fast-evolving world of the internet.

Ensuring Adequate Public Enlightenment and Value Reorientation Campaign: Cyber-crimes are largely avoidable, especially with adequate enlightenment. Nigeria should consistently disseminate comprehensive, up-to-date educational messages across various media to prevent falling prey to cybercriminals. Effort should also be channeled toward value reorientation in light of the high premium society places on wealth.

Promoting Cooperation between Actors and Agencies in Cyber-Space Regulation and Enforcement: It has been observed by T.G. George-Maria Tyendezwa, Head, Computer Crime Prosecution Unit, Federal Ministry of Justice, that confrontation (supremacy disagreements) going on between the various intelligence institutions in the state is a serious challenge to cybersecurity in Nigeria. It is therefore instructive that security agencies shed their egos and see themselves as partners in progress, not water-tight, compartmentalized groups. The Nigerian government should accordingly show no discrimination or unwarranted preference for one group over the other.

Embracing International Cooperation: Cybercrime is a global enemy. It is a blight on the gains of the ever-increasing global interconnectivity, which is epitomized by the supersonic rate of communication and connectivity, mainly on the social media platforms (e.g., Facebook & Twitter), and some \$8 trillion in online commercial transactions (George-Maria Tyendezwa, n.d)

Establishing a Formidable Legal and Regulatory Framework for Cyberspace: Laws against cybercriminality in Nigeria still leave much to be desired. Kithi (2002) observed that internet abuse is on the rise in Africa and that there are no laws to address it. Ojedukun (2005) highlighted that the institution charged with implementing the law in African countries cannot take proactive measures against cybercriminals because there is no express legislation that criminalizes the activities. Lawmakers should understand the dangers of failing to pass appropriate legislation to address cybercrime and the severe impacts it may have on the country's economic growth and national capabilities due to the lack of legislation to protect their state's cyberspace.

Strengthening the Institutional Framework for Coordinating Cybersecurity Efforts: Enforcement agencies against cybercrime in Nigeria, such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), should be strengthened with greater power and independence. This is vital to their being able to lord it over the challenging, fast-evolving world of the internet.

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