

Revisiting the Societal Implications of Cybercrime among Youths in Contemporary Igbo Society

Nwokedi, Godswill Okechukwu

Department of Religion and Human Relations

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

+2347066291865 Email: godswillnwokedi@gmail.com

&

Chibunkem Jonathan Felix-Joe

Department of Religion & Human Relations

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam.

+2348119464351 Email: cj.felix-joe@coou.edu.ng

&

Nwaozuru, Johnmajor Chinecherem

Department of Religion and Human Relations

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

+234 816 987 0464 Email: nwaozuruugo@gmail.com

Abstract

This study revisits the societal implications of cybercrime among youths in contemporary Igbo society, focusing on its forms, causes, and effects, while also examining the roles of the Church and government in curbing this growing problem. The research is significant for families, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy, ICT professionals, and other stakeholders involved in combatting cybercrime in Nigeria. It aims to provide crucial insights for academic institutions, serving as a resource for students and scholars in fields such as criminology, sociology, law, computer science, and religious studies. The findings of this study are expected to contribute to the development of future leaders who can use their potential to drive positive societal change. The scope of the study is focused on cybercrime among Igbo youths in South-eastern Nigeria, employing both primary and secondary data sources, including oral interviews, observations, academic books, journals, newspapers, and lecture notes.

Keywords: Societal, Implications Cybercrime, Youths, Igbo Society.

Introduction

The advancement in science and technology has made the world a global village. Whereby people could communicate with each other from different parts of the world as if they are physical close to each other. This advancement in science and technology, has also led to improvement in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) of which the internet is among. This 21st century seems to be the epitome of technology driven era. The internet has been of a great help in this technology driven era however, it could be observed that, some unscrupulous persons are using

the internet to perpetrate heinous crimes in various parts of the world. Nwaozuru (2020) enunciates that internet fraudsters in Nigeria are every day formulating better approaches for executing cyber crime, some even use charms and diabolical means to make their cybercrime activity successful. As they dupe both citizens and others outside Nigeria. Cybercrime or internet fraudster popularly called *Yahoo Yahoo* seems to a hot cake business of which some Igbo youths involve themselves into in order to make quick money. Cybercrime activity perpetrated by some Igbo youths has a lot of detrimental effects on the society. Hence, there is need for the church and government to work together to ameliorate this situation and carry out programmes that would benefit the youths. Which could insulate them from cybercrime and other criminal related activities. The problem of the study is that Technological advancements are supposed to provide the youth opportunities for growth, learning, skills development and expansion of their knowledge base. However, in recent time, Udelue, Mathias and Ezeh (2020) observe that technology has been abused and used for criminal activities which mostly occur through cybercrime activities.

Moreover, in traditional Igbo society, the Igbo value of hard work and dignity of labour permeates the lives of Igbo people; which make them to engage in various decent occupations to earn a living as well achieve success in life. Recently, things have fallen apart as materialism has eaten deep into the fabrics of modern Igbo society. It has been observed that some Igbo youths as a result of materialism which has led to the worship of wealth without recourse to its source; has led some Igbo youths to carry out cybercrime so that they could become rich overnight. Cybercrime activity perpetrated by some Igbo youths has led to economic loss, poor economy, piracy, unauthorized dissemination of information, hacking of bank and social media accounts of users and so on. These are detrimental to the well being of people in the society. To this end, the church, government and other relevant agencies in the society are to rise to this occasion to

ameliorate this social malady. This could be done by formulating appropriate policies to reduce the incidence of cyber-criminality in Igboland by extension Nigerian society.

Concept of Cybercrime

Cyber crime as a concept has several meanings due to its multifarious manifestations. Wall (2015) enunciates that cyber-crime involves criminal activities, in which a criminal offence is committed with the criminal intention to harm an individual using the contemporary communication systems available in internet services and mobile phones. Cybercrime according to McGuire and Dowling (2013) could be cyber-dependent or cyber-enabled. While cyber-enabled crimes use computer and its related activities to carry out its illicit dealings, cyber-dependents rely on computer and its programs to carry out its activities (such as, hacking and malware distribution). In the same vein, Adeleke (2017) views cyber-crime as criminal ventures, involving information technology infrastructure, includes unauthorized access to computer data from or within a computer . With the above descriptions of cybercrime, in this study, cybercrime could be defined as crimes committed with the aid of ICT enabled tools and channels.

In Nigeria, cybercrime is popularly known as *yahoo yahoo*. Adejoh, Alabi, Adisa and Emezie (2019) opine that “yahoo yahoo” refers to the activities which entail the use of computers, phones and the internet to defraud unsuspecting victims, especially those outside the country. According to Lazarus and Okolorie (2019), the term “yahoo yahoo” originated from the fact that the use of Yahoo e-mails and Yahoo instant messenger was a dominant medium of communication between perpetrators and victims. Those who are involved in “yahoo yahoo” are popularly referred to as “yahoo boys” with the popularity of Gmail services and use, “yahoo boys” are presently being referred to as G-boys.

In recent time, crime associated with cyber seems to be a hot cake for many Nigerian youths and youths in Igboland are not exempted. Tade and Aliyu (2013) point that the National White Cyber Crime Centre and the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that Nigeria was ranked third in the world with the highest rate of cyber-crime. The recent improvement in technology, has increased the rate cybercrime especially among youths. In addition, Ojolo (2017) decry the usage (if not over use) of internet has exposed many young people to activities related to cyber-crime (for example, yahoo-yahoo), a modern form of theft.

History of Cybercrime

Cybercrime came on board with improvement in ICT of which the internet is a major component of. Stambaugh, Beaupre, Icove, Baker, Cassaday and Williams (2001) trace that the first highly publicized cybercrimes occurred in November, 1988 in the United States (U.S.) when a 23-year old student, Robert Morris, launched a virus (“Morris Worm”) on the internet. Over 6,000 computers of the estimated 60,000 systems linked to the Internet at that time were infected. It cost about \$100 million to repair the infected systems; while Morris got a sentence of 3 years’ probation and a \$10,000 fine.

In Nigeria, it could be said that the history of cybercrime in Nigeria also known as *yahoo yahoo* seems to be much pronounced in this 21st century; as ICT started in Nigeria in the early 1980s. Adirinka (2013) traced the rise of ICT in Nigeria and stated that:

The Nigerian society has witnessed a new wave in computer usage since the time of President Olusegun Obasanjo. Untill then, some computers brought into many schools sat unused for dearth of handlers and knowledge in educating the youths; an instance is the colossal failure that was the machines and equipment brought into schools for the teaching of Introductory Technology in the 1980s. (p. 201).

For Adirinka, ICT was not so functional in Nigeria until Obasanjo's civilian administration which give room for ICT to be appropriated by Nigerians including students of higher institutions. Thus, Adirinka (2013) reported that the most commonly accessed in Nigeria are internet and social media with greater patronage from youths.

Forms of Cybercrime

There are many forms of cybercrime, but this study shall examine the few below. Nwaozuru (2020) observes that various sectors of the nation are vulnerable to cybercrime attack but it could be observed that the banking sector is mostly attacked by cybercrime perpetrators. Many Igbo people especially those who have bank accounts are at the risk of being a victim of cybercrime. Nwaozuru (2020) further enunciates that some of the internet fraudsters try to steal people's SIM card (which a person used to open bank account or to perform other banking services such as internet banking), Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) Cards and other digital devices used by bank customers in order to hack their bank accounts and withdraw their money without their consent.

Another form is the use of various Ponzi Schemes. As a result of the desire to earn quick money, many Igbo youths fall victims to various online money making ventures. A good example is the then reigning Ponzi Scheme called Mavrodi Mondial Moneybag scheme popularly know as MMM. Many Igbo youths got hooked up in the cyber scam as many of them invested their money into it.

Furthermore, another form of "yahoo yahoo" is contract and love scams. The love scam involves dating vulnerable and gullible women abroad that are mostly wealthy and single to get financial gains and other benefits. These criminals change their IP addresses to areas of the target location, that is someone could be in Nigeria and pose as someone in the United States of America

(USA). They also possess international phone numbers that aid their disguise. All information given out to the victim are usually fake including pictures to hide identity, making them hard to trace. The contract scam involves e-mail phishing, identity theft, hacking, defamation, credit card theft and so on.

Causes of Cybercrime Amongst Igbo Youths

Unrestricted Access to Internet

With the launching of World Wide Web (WWW), the internet is made accessible to as many that could connect to the internet. The sole purpose of the internet is to bring the world together and to make gathering of information very easy and fast. Furthermore, many social media platforms are launched into cyber space to increase interaction and online social activity with people from various parts of the world. This has given room to unrestricted access to internet by users whereby people in their various comfort zones could do so many things online. Meanwhile, people especially hackers exploit this freedom to hack into people's online accounts and perpetrate various crimes.

Poverty

Poverty is one of things that cause youths to involve in cybercrime since it generates fast cash. Dike cited by Salifu (2010) views poverty as inability of an individual or population to meet the basic needs of food, education, housing, health security, liberty, individual right to property and access to employment and credit needs. It could be observed that lack of finance and the three basic necessities of life (food, shelter and clothing) as root cause of crime. Nduoma quoted by Ukandu (2011) sees these basic needs of food, shelter and clothing as the propelling force that drive men to ignore the legitimate means of livelihood for unethical, immoral and of course

illegitimate ways to satisfy their basic needs. The above viewpoint suggests that what pushes some poor people into committing cyber crime is the monetary gain it yields.

Youth Unemployment

The high rate of unemployment among the youths in Igboland and Nigeria at large has contributed to the high rate of crime of which cybercrime is inclusive. In Nigeria, it could be observed that there are many youths who are qualified and capable to work, yet little or no job is available. According to Abalogu and Nwokedi (2024) the rise in crime and insecurity in can be attributed to unemployment, and absence of youth empowerment which are abetted by inefficient and corrupt police and customs forces. The idle minds became have become the devil's workshop. Accurate unemployment rates are difficult to obtain and generally mean little in a society where many who work are marginally employed and where begging is a socially accepted occupation. Okolo and Nwoked (2025) remarks that youth unemployment is caused by corruption, ghost workers syndrome, nepotism, lack of meritocracy among others. Many youths who are unemployed see cybercrime business as alternative employment opportunity to become rich in no distant time. Therefore, some unemployed and idle Igbo youths venture into it to eke out a living.

Weak Educational System

The quest to be educated has led to the establishment of various schools in Igboland. Many Igbo youths are undergraduates in various tertiary institutions. In recent years, the educational system of Nigeria has fallen bellow international standard as a result of incessant industrial actions embarked upon by various unions in higher institutions. There is no doubt that incessant strikes in Nigeria have resulted to poor academic performance of students thus, they lack employable skills. Igba, Igba, Nwambam, Nnamani, Egbe and Ogoto (2018) observe that over 5 million Nigerian

university undergraduate have no hope of what to do when they graduate from the university. Nigeria undergraduate seems to have developed the spirit of the fear of the future in that make them think of a fast way of breaking through financial bounds when they have graduated. To this effect, they negatively indulge in sharp practices of cybercrime to be able to meet up with their life expectancies before and after living school. Hence they resort to cybercrime as a means of paving ways for tomorrow.

Parental /Peer Pressure

There is a need to understand that young people are initiated into this crime by their peers. It is worthy to note that some people are easily influenced by their friends. When youths see that their friends are earning large sum of money from cybercrime business, they will be in a haste to learn from their friends on how to perform cybercrime. This supports social learning theory, which is of the opinion that criminal activities are learnt. Sometimes, parents have pushed their children into involving in crime. Hanafi (2022) states that the Lagos Police Command arrested Afeez Olalere for allegedly killing the younger sibling for money ritual. The suspect reportedly told the police that his mother took him to a herbalist who told him if he want to be successful in the yahoo business he will have to sacrifice one life and that person must be a sibling to me. Then, his mother suggested that he should use his younger brother who is 21 years old. Indeed, things have really fallen apart, since parents who should shun their children to refrain from crime; are now the ones encouraging and persuading them to join crime.

Breakdown of Igbo Indigenous Value System

Igbo indigenous value system frown at idleness, laziness and illegality, especially stealing. Igbo indigenous value system promotes the philosophy of dignity of labour and value hard work. Some Igbo proverbs also buttress the importance of hard work like: *Aka ajaaja, na-ebute onu*

mmanu mmanu (he who works, eats), *Aruo n'anwu*, *erie na ndo* (work first then enjoy later) and many more. This is a pointer to the fact that in older times, stealing or other crime of any sort was unacceptable. But in modern times, crimes such as cybercrime are pronounced, and proceeds of such crimes are warmly received by our social institutions. Criminals are now bestowed with chieftaincy titles. The traditional values of integrity and honour have been replaced by money. With this erosion of values, crimes such as cybercrime is gaining ground in modern Igbo society.

Corruption and Weakness in the Banking and Security Sector

Although the security agencies in the nation are making efforts to combat crime yet it could be observed that corruption is not far-fetched in the security sector. Nwaozuru (2018) decries that the security agents are weakened for instance, Agbakwuru (2020) reports that President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the immediate suspension of Ibrahim Magu as Acting Chairman of the EFCC. This is not unconnected to fraudulent and corruption perpetrated by Magu. He was later replaced by Abdulrasheed Bawa in 2021. Nwaozuru (2020) opines that it is observed that sometimes instead of the security agents to arrest violent crime offenders, they prefer to collect bribe and release them. So such immoral acts by the security agents will encourage people to join cybercrime gangs without fear of being prosecuted by the law.

In the banking sector, Nwaozuru (2020) observe that internet fraudsters Popularly known as *Yahoo boys* who steal from the banking sector sometimes are assisted by unscrupulous top ranking bank officials who help to exchange the hard currencies they got from their foreign victims into Naira notes.

Effects of Cybercrime

The impact of cybercrime is not only limited to the victim; it spreads its impact on the society. The effects include:

Loss of Revenue

One of the main effects of cybercrime on an economy is the loss of revenue. Various states government in the East and Nigerian government have spent millions of naira in fighting cybercrime over the years. Also the government has lost lot of revenue due to low foreign investment in the nation. During the era of this Ponzi Scheme called Mavrodi Mondial Moneybag scheme popularly know as MMM. Many Igbo youths including undergraduates invested their money into it with the hope of making much profit, little did they realize that it was a scam. Many Igbo youths lost their money and this affected their business and education.

Damaged Reputation

The reputation of Igbo nation by extension Nigeria in the comity of nations has been damaged as a result of involvement of Igbo youths into cybercrime and other violent crimes. Odey (2001) notes that everywhere in the world Nigerians are generally feared as dogs, dreaded like criminals cautiously approached like snakes and avoided as leper. The impact of cybercrime already has a detrimental influence on Nigerian citizenry/economy.

Poor Academic Performance and Truancy

Undergraduates are expected to focus on their academic pursuit in order to achieve academic excellence and as well garner skills which could make them employable in the labour market after graduation from the higher institution. Recently, it could be observed that many undergraduates have deviated from pursuing academic excellence to pursuing wealth at all cost. Some of them have chosen to earn money through fast means, which of cybercrime is among. It could be observed that some students have dropped out of school to concentrate more on various activities they assume could bring quick money while others have paid less attention to their studies to focus more on cybercrime activity. Many students are having poor academic

performance because they concentrate more on various activities they think that could bring quick money to them; such as cybercrime (*yahoo yahoo*), than their academic pursuit.

Imprisonment

Due to the menace of cybercrime in the society, the government in order to curb this menace has promulgated laws punishable to cybercrime. Internet fraudsters upon arrest by security personnel will be prosecuted by law and sent to prison for years as stipulated by the criminal code of Nigerian Constitution. There are many Igbo youths who have been arrested and imprisoned for cybercrime offences both home and abroad. Notable among them are Obinwanne Okeke also known as Invictus Obi, Chibuzo Kelly Vincent among others.

Measures to Combat Cybercrime Amongst Igbo Youths

Improvement in Security and Communication Sector

The previous administrations have made efforts to fight cybercrime. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is major anti-corruption agency set up by the administration of President Obasanjo's government to fight against cybercrime and other monetary related offences. Since the establishment of this commission, EFCC has made attempts to arrest and prosecute many cybercrime offenders. EFCC has been relentless in its drive to stamp out cybercrimes from Nigeria. Under the leadership of Abdulrasheed Bawa, it has upped the ante. Osaghale (2021) reports that in 2021 alone, the commission has arrested over 1500 internet fraudsters and have so far secured over 900 convictions. Victims of internet fraud have also been restituted through the efforts of the commission.

However, there is need to equip the security sector with modern crime detection equipments like General Positioning System (GPS), closed camera television, digital communication gadgets, sophisticated weapons to fight cybercrime perpetrators. The

communication sector are to be provided with intrusion detectors, and prevention through firewalls, anti-virus, anti-spam and antispyware (Ayo, 2010). This will help to curb the activities of cyber crime amongst youths in Igboland and Nigeria at large

Church-Government partnership in Investment in Agricultural Sector

Igbo people are enterprising in nature. They flourished in commerce and agriculture before the oil boom in 20th century. It could be observed that recent years, there has been a decline in investment of agriculture in the region as the government depends mostly on oil revenue. This has created food insecurity and youth unemployment. The present administration has encouraged youths to deeply involve in agriculture. In order for this to be actualized, the present government has established various agricultural programmes such as National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), N-Agro and so on. NALDA (2021) under the Presidency, are saddled with the mandate of harnessing the full potentials of the vast arable lands in Nigeria, empowering small holder and large scale farmers and mechanize, support the drive for food and fiber security. Youths will be trained on modern farming system and later be empowered to establish their own Agro businesses.

The church is not exempted in this issue. It could be observed that when the Christian missionaries came to Igboland, they found out that the socio-economic life of the indigenous people were in a low state. Thus, they introduced mechanized agriculture. For example the missionaries made Onitsha, Owerri, Aba and so forth centre for commerce, trade and agriculture. This brought employment and improved the standard of living of Igbo people. Since many youths have no well paid jobs, there is need for the church to invest adequately in agriculture to provide employment for the teeming youths. It is worthy to note that some churches in various states in Igbo land, have keyed into investment into the agricultural sector to generate employment

to the youths. For instance in Anambra State, Nwokolo (2018) confirms that Anglican Communion Diocese on the Niger (DON) Women's Ministry has acquired about 51 hectares of land for rice and cassava production for commercial purposes. This will increase youth employment in the area.

Giving Vital Information to Law Enforcement Agencies

For effective policing, there should be a cordial relationship between the law enforcement agencies and the citizenry. This is expressed in a slogan, Police is your friend. Meaning that citizens will join hands with security men to fight crime in the society. cybercrime is a social problem that affects the entire society. To this end, Igba, Igba, Nwambam, Nnamani, Egbe and Ogodo (2018) state that the public can contribute in reducing cybercrime by reporting any person seen engaging in cybercrime to the law enforcement agent and the law enforcement agent should also help by allowing the law to take control in respect of the person's position in the society.

Enactment and Implementation of Cyber law

Furthermore, the federal government should accent to strategic law that can prevent and reduce cybercrime. Ojolo (2017) points that the National Assembly (legislature) of Nigeria promulgated the "Anti-terrorism economic and financial crimes and allied matters" law. The law provides for the establishment of a standing commission known as the "Anti-terrorism, Economic and Financial Commission" whose primary responsibility is to confront this hydra-headed malaise of terrorism, financial crimes which of course include 419 scams and other cybercrimes. The law makes provisions for stringent punishment for convicted offenders. Such provisions include confiscation of properties and passport of convicted offenders as well as long jail terms (Olayemi, 2014). Furthermore, Udelue, Mathias and Ezech (2020) point to the Cybercrime Act of 2015, which

makes the provision that any individual or group of individuals found guilty of hacking or unlawful accessing of a computer system or network, are liable to a fine of up to ten million (N10 million) naira or a term of imprisonment of 5 years (depending on the purpose of the hack). The full implementation of these laws are necessary as they will put fears to youths and also make parents give reasonable advice to their children not to engage in any form of cybercrime Such.

Need to Revitalize Igbo Indigenous Value System

The African or Igbo indigenous value system is worthwhile as it promote the development and progress of the society. Igbo values may be taken to mean a set of institutionalized ideals which guide and direct in their daily lives. They include; hard work, dignity of labour, virtues of respect, courtesy, decency, propriety, honesty and righteousness. If these values could be revitalized and inculcated into the minds of the youths from a tender age and they remain discipline to hold these values through to adulthood, they would be inoculated from crime especially cybercrime. To this end, the media should anchor programmes that portray these values such as the story about Unoka and Okonkwo in Things Fall Apart. Unoka was a lazy man and died a poor man but his son Okonkwo was held on to the dignity of labour, hardworking, diligent and became successful. Such programme could help youths to learn to do the right things avoiding evil.

Conclusion/Recommendations

Materialism has eaten deep into the fabrics of modern Igbo society. It could be said that the present society worship wealth without recourse to its source. This has made youths to desire become rich overnight neglecting the value of hard work and dignity of labour. Hence, many youths have joined cybercrime as a shortcut to wealth. This has negative implications on the

victims, perpetrators and the entire society. The church, government, media, relevant agencies should adopt strategic approach towards curbing such menace in the society.

The study recommends that the Church should partner with government in providing employment to the youths through adequate investment in agriculture, establishment of vocational and industrial training centres, youth empowerment programmes and so on. The media should anchor programmes that would sensitize youths on the dangers and implications of cybercrime. Moreover, the government should ensure that people perpetrating cybercrime when arrested should be punished in accordance with the law. All these will in doubt curb the trend of cybercrime in Igboland and the entire Nigerian society.

References

- Abalogu, D. M & Nwokedi, G. O. (2024). Contemporary Trends of youth empowerment and employment in Nigerian society: A Socio-Christian perspective. *Journal of Religion and Human Relations (JORAHR)* 15, 1, 172-190.
- Adejoh, S. O, Alabi, T.A, Adisa, W.B. & Emezio, N, (2019) . Yahoo boys phenomenon in Lagos metropolis: A qualitative investigation. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 13,1, 1–20.
- Adeleke, R.G. (2017). Perception of cybercrime among nigerian youths: A case study of Caritas University. Retrieved on 24th November 2024, from <https://uniprjects.net/projectmaterials/perception-of-cybercrime-among-nigerianyouths/>
- Adirika, B.N. (2013). Educating the net generation: A curriculumist's perspective. In C.Samuel, L.L.M.Okeke & O. Nwachukwu (Eds.). *Discourse on Nigerian history, culture and social development*, (pp.201-218). Enugu: John Jacob's Classic.
- Agbakwuru, J. (2020). *Breaking: Buhari suspends EFCC boss, Magu*. Retrieved on December, 25th, 2024, from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/07/breaking-buhari-suspends-efcc-boss-magu/>
- Alfred, L. D., & Anslem, O. B. (2009). The application of epidemiology to computer viruses. In *Journal of Computer and Security*, 7, 2, 139-145.
- Augustine, C.O. (2010). *Cybercrime and certification: Issues and probable policies for Nigeria*. A paper presented at Database International Conference in Nigeria.

- Ayo, E. (2010). Convergence and policy issues in ICT sector. In G.O. Ajayi (Ed.). *National information and communication infrastructure, policy, plans and strategies* (pp. 28-50). Abuja, Concave.
- Hanafi, A. (2022). Greedy youths in search of quick fortune resort to money rituals, send victims to early grave. February 25, 2025, from <https://punchng.com/greedy-youths-in-search-of-quick-fortune-resort-to-money-rituals-send-victims-to-early-grave/>
- Igba, D.I., Igba, E.C., Nwambam, A.S., Nnamani, S.C., Egbe, E. U. & Ogoto, J. V. (2018). Cybercrime among university undergraduates: Implications on their academic achievement. In *International Journal of Applied Engineering Research*, 13, 2, 1144-1154.
- Lazarus, S., & Okolorie, G. U. (2019). The bifurcation of the Nigerian cybercriminals: Narratives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) agents. In *Journal of Telematics and Informatics*, 40, 14–26.
- National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) (2021). *Mission and vision of National agricultural land development authority*. Abuja: Government House Press.
- National Youth Policy of Nigeria. (2009). National Policy on Sports. Abuja: Government House Press.
- Nwaozuru, J. C. (2020). *The quest to get rich quick by Nigerian youths*. Retrieved on 10th December, 2024, from www.bambooks.io
- Nwaozuru, J.C. (2018). *The role of religion in the amelioration of kidnapping in Abia state*. A B.A project submitted to the Department of Religion and Human Relations Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka.
- Nwaozuru, J.C. (2019). *Appraisal of Social Media Among Undergraduates in Nigeria: Blessing or Burden*. Retrieved on 14th December, 2024, from www.bambooks.io.
- Nwokolo, E.N. (2018). *Take up your cross daily and follow me*. An address delivered to the Diocesan Women's Conference at All Saints' Cathedral. Onitsha.
- Odey, J. O. (2001). *The anti-corruption crusade: The saga of crippled giant*. Enugu: Snapp.
- Ojolo, T. (2017). *Youth perception on yahoo-yahoo (cybercrime): a case study of Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria*. A thesis submitted to the Department of Criminology and Forensic Studies, faculty of Humanities, School of Applied Human Sciences, University of KwaZulu Natal, Howard College, Durban, South Africa.
- Okolo, E. A. & Nwokedi, G. O. (2025). Empowering the youths for self-reliance: A Panacea to unemployment in Nigeria. *Crowther Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 2, 1, 123-140.
- Olayemi, O.J. (2014). A socio-technological analysis of cybercrime and cyber security in Nigeria. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 6, 3, 116.
- Osaghale, W. (202). *EFCC: Separating facts from fiction*. Retrieved on 10th December, 2024, from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/10/efcc-separating-facts-from-fiction/>

- Salifu, N.S. (2010). *Poverty alleviation programme in Kogi State* . A thesis submitted to the Department of Public Administration, and Local Government, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
- Stambaugh, H., Beaupre, D., Icove, D., Baker, R., Cassaday, W., & Williams, W. (2001). *Electronic crime needs assessment for state and local law enforcement*. Retrieved on December, 25th 2024, from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/186276.htm>
- Tade, O., & Aliyu, I. (2011). Social organization of Internet fraud among university undergraduates in Nigeria. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 5,2, 860–875.
- Udelue, M.C., Mathias, B. A. & Ezech, S.S. (2020). Socioeconomic correlates of youths involvement in cybercrime: Perceptions of residents in Onitsha South L.G.A, Anambra State, Nigeria. In *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Reviews*,10,3, 66 – 79 .
- Ukandu, M.I. (2011). *The menace of kidnapping in Nigeria state: A study on the strategic role of religion in the amelioration of violent crime*. An MA thesis submitted to the Department of Religion and Cultural Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- Wall, D. (2007). Cybercrime: The transformation of crime in the information age. *Journal of Criminology*, 2, 5, 23-40.
- Wall, D.S. (2015). The Internet as a conduit for criminal activity. In *Journal of Cybercrime*, 2, 6, 7-14.