



Research Paper

Perception of Cyber-Crime Offenders and Sex Hustlers on Acquisition of Entrepreneurial Values in South West, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study was carried out on perception of cyber-crimes offenders and sex hustlers on entrepreneurial values in South-West, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study population comprised, sex commercial workers and cyber-crimes offenders at correctional services in South-West, Nigeria. The Sample size of the study was One hundred and fifty (150). Purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Three research questions were raised to collect quantitative data and complimented through Focus Group Discussion (FDGs) that was used to collect qualitative data. The research instruments were validated by an expert in Test and Measurement, while the reliability of the research instrument was one done through, test retest method, and 0.63 co-efficient reliability was obtained. The research questions were analyzed, using descriptive statistics (frequency counts, simple percentage and mean). Based on the findings of the study, conclusions were made that, people are involving in cyber-crimes due to their poor living condition and lack of entrepreneurial values to operate business. Also, that, unemployment was one of the causes of prostitution. Based on the conclusions, recommendations were made that youths, should be encouraged to be participants of entrepreneurial training. Also, entrepreneurial training should be made more accessible by the public. Similarly, Entrepreneurship education should be made compulsory at all tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Keywords: Perception, Entrepreneurial values, Acquisition, Cyber-crimes, Sex hustlers

Received 28 Mar, 2022; Revised 06 Apr, 2022; Accepted 08 Apr, 2022 © The author(s) 2022.

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I. Background to the Study

There is no gain saying the fact that Nigeria is a nation that is highly proved to crime. Adebayo (2013, describes crime as a violation of rules to be respected by all members of the society. It is an act that is contrary to the law of the land. The usual patterns of crimes in Nigeria are raping, kidnapping, murder, oil theft, terrorism, robbery, cyber-crimes, bribery and corruption, prostitution, money laundry, human rituals stealing, oil-pipe vandalization, practices, and so on. The prevalence of crime in Nigeria today is a major concern to the stakeholders in a good governance. The impact of crime on economic growth and development is grievous. Obviously, the nation, Nigeria lacks security which has driven away foreign investors, industrialists and multinational oil companies in the country. Ahmad, Ali and Ahmad (2014), assert that crimes uncertainty in the economy and this affects productivity and decrease the real Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P) which is a measure of economic growth. National security is under threat in Nigeria. Military bases are occasionally the major battle grounds for armed banditry and terrorists murdering, man slaughtering, kidnapping, raping, falsification of public documents, rebel are often the case in Nigeria. There is no region in Nigeria that is safe. Measures that

were put in place to guarantee national security and reduce the high level of crimes have not fully achieved the expected results.

Erinsakin (2014), states that perpetual fear, anxiety, unhappiness, confusion, anarchy, psychological, truancy, depression and so on are daily experiences of an average Nigerian. National security in the country has grossly been neutralized. This is a national disaster. In a Nation where protection of life and property cannot be guaranteed, what else? Today, such are the cases in Nigeria.

Several scholars have contended that the major root cause of crime in Nigeria are poverty and unemployment. "An idle brain is a devil's workshop" says an adage. Although crime is a primordial issue but, crime rate in Nigeria since 1999 when the nation fully returned to civilian rule after a long-term political interregnum at alarming rate. Crime becomes a common practice than ever in Nigeria (Oluwalese 2021). This is worrying disturbing and heartbreaking to many Nigerians, harming the development of the country.

"South West, Nigeria in the yesterday was known for peaceful and tranquil atmosphere with adequate protection of life's and properties but in recent times the space of insecurity has taken another dimension (Oluwalese, 2021).

Prostitution has become a normal life and a mean to survive among the ladies. Commercial sex workers become a popular trade for the female. Cyber-crimes and prostitution have been traceable to unemployment in spite of thousand or graduated every year and abundance of national material resource in Nigeria, the rate of unemployment is increasing at an alarming rate, daily in Nigeria Erinsakin (2014), notes that many Nigerians are still battling and wallowing in manacle of squalor, despite the abundance of natural mineral resources like, Kaolin, Battlement, forest, timbers, crude oil glass sand, and so on ordinarily which ought to have been used to put the nation at a greater height of economic growth and development in the comity of nations

Kazini (2016), reveals that in Nigeria, tertiary institutions are producing up to 500, 000 graduates every year, besides, Nigerian graduate who studied abroad and returned home to complete for jobs. Also, poverty has also been identified as factor responsible for crimes in Nigeria. Adefaye (2005), opines that Nigeria is manifesting in an abysmal of industrial performance records is over the years. Ihonbare (2003), observed that many Nigerians are living in destitution, while begging for alms is a popular means of surviving. In a nutshell, the poverty states of Nigerians to some extent have made many people to be involving in cyber-crimes and prostitution.

The realization of this and determination to reduce unemployment and alleviate poverty had informed several economic policies, institutional strategies and programmes of which Entrepreneurial development trainees programme (EDTP) is due of such. EDTP implementation is aimed at engenders entrepreneurial values into Nigerian. Erinsakin (2014), states that since 1999, when the country returned to civilian rule, the successive governments had taken initiative to design and implement several poverty alleviation and skills acquisition programmes.

Matanmi and Awodun (2005), note that if Nigeria is willing to move out of her level of unemployment and, rapt attention must be given to development of entrepreneurship culture among the people. This suggest that EDTP could improve standard of living and economic growth and development of the country. According to Ondo state Government (2005), the values which EDTP could engender in people are: innovation and creativity personal entrepreneurial attributes, management of working capital, identification of business opportunities and gaps in the market that can be tapped for economic advantages, organization, implementation and management of business, and so on

In this wise, entrepreneurial values is a collection of knowledge, information and skills that will make individuals to embark on business activities and become successful. EDTP has been good topic for researchers. Observable, from the existing literature much studies have not been carried out on acquisition of entrepreneurial values, among cyber-crimes offenders and sex hustlers in south-west, Nigeria. It was this gap that made the researchers to carry out this study

Statement of the Problem

Crimes seems to have permanently settled with Nigerians. Crimes have been linked with lack of employment and poor standard of living Nigerians crimes have negative effects on the economic growth and development of the country, Nigeria. They are also a threat to security of the Country and individuals

It is the realization of the contribution of unemployment and poverty that had resulted into several policies and programmes of which EDTP is among. EDTP is to make people to become successful in their business activities, they reduce unemployment and poverty rate of Nigerians. Several studies had been conducted on EDTP and allied socio-economic issues. As observed by the researcher, much have not been done on perception on entrepreneurial values on cyber-crimes offenders and sex hustlers in south-west, Nigeria. It was against this background, this study was carried out by the researchers.

Research Questions

Three research questions were raised to guide the guide the conduct of the study.

1. Will acquisition of entrepreneurial values reduce cyber-crimes activities in South-West, Nigeria?
2. Can lack of businesses skills contribute to involvement in prostitution in South-west, Nigeria?
3. Can cyber-crimes be halted, if people are living in a good standard of living?

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study was on perception on acquisition of entrepreneurship values among cybercrimeoffenders and sex in South-West, Nigeria. The specific purpose were to:

1. ascertain the influence of acquisition of entrepreneurial values on cybercrime activities in South-West, Nigeria.
2. determine whether prostitution can be caused by lack of business skills in South-West, Nigeria and;
3. establish whether there is a positive or negative relationship between a good standard of life and cyber-crimes reduction in South-West, Nigeria

Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will be significant in the following ways

Firstly, the results of the study will provide government a reliable information on how to control cyber-crime and prostitution in the country control of management.

Also, the result of the study will enable government to act fast to curb unemployment and poverty challenges, by giving individuals entrepreneurial values.

Lastly, the study will add to the extant literature within the area of the study, thus, becomes a good source of reference material for researches in future. The study will be made accessible by the public through open Educational Resources (OER).

II. Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study population comprised, sex commercial workers and cyber-crime offenders at correctional services in South West, Nigeria. The sample size of the study was One hundred and fifty (150) respondents. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents, twenty (20) sex commercial sex workers who were mainly women were selected from a brothel that had a large number of sex commercial workers and five (5) cyber- crime offenders at each of the correctional services in the six (Osun, Ondo, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti and Lagos)states of South West, Nigeria.

The research instrument used to collect data was self-developed by the researchers, titled, "Rating Scale on perception of cyber-crimes offenders and sex hustlers on entrepreneurial values in South West, Nigeria. It was fashion on four likert rating scale; Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD). The research instrument was validated by an expert in Test and measurement while the reliability of the instrument was done through test- retest method,).63 coefficient reliability was obtained. The quantitative research instrument was complemented with Focus Groups Discussions (FGDS) which was used to collect qualitative data. The three research questions that were raised for the study were analyzed, using descriptive statistics (frequently counts simple percentages and mean).

Research Question One: Will acquisition of entrepreneurial values reduce cyber-crimes activities in South-West, Nigeria?

Table 1: Showing Frequently Counts, Simple Percentages (%) and Mean (X) on will Acquisition of Entrepreneurial Values Reduce cyber-crime Activities in South West, Nigeria?

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	MEAN	DECISION
1.	I am involving in cyber- crimes, because I have no business skills	12 8	16 10.66	12 1.33	110 73.33	3.46	Accepted
2.	It is not lack of entrepreneurial values that unable to involve in cyber-crimes	121 80.66	12 8	9 6	8 5.33	1.36	Rejected
3.	If, I am grant fully self-employed through acquisition of entrepreneurial values, I have no business with cyber-crimes again	6 4	5 3.33	7 4.66	132 88	3.76	Accepted
4.	I see cyber-crime as ways of survive	6 4	8 5.33	16 10.66	120 80	3.66	Accepted
5.	I am indulging in cyber-crimes because, I have entrepreneurial skill that will prime my mind set in trading activities	123 82	9 6	13 8.66	5 3.33	1.33	Rejected
6.	My indulging in cyber-crimes is not connected with lack of entrepreneurial value						

	TOTAL	273 30.33	62 6.88	72 8	493 54.77	2.86	Accepted
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Table 1 shows results on research question one. On item (1); 110(73.33); 12(1.33), 16(10.66) and 12(8) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (2), responses obtained were; 8(5.33), 9(6), 12(8) and 121(80.66) respectively for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (3), 132(88), 7(4.66), 5(3.33) and 6(4) responses were obtained for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (4), Responses obtained were; 120(80), 16(10.66), 8(5.33) and 6(4) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (5) (3.33), 13(8.66), 9(6) and 123(82) responses were obtained for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. Finally, on item (6) responses obtained were; 118 (78.66), 15(10), 12(8) and 5(3.33) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed.

Generally speaking, the result reveal the rating scale of four ($x=25$) is lesser than the mean of average of rating scale of four ($x=2.86$).

Research Question two: Can lack of business skills contribute to involvement in prostitution in South-West, Nigeria?

Table 2: Showing Frequently Counts, Simple Percentage (%) and Mean (x) on Can Lack Of Business Skills Contribute To Involvement In Prostitution In South-West, Nigeria?

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	MEAN	DECISION
7.	My poverty status make me to be involving in prostitution	6 (4)	6 4	15 (10)	123 (82)	3.7	Accepted
8.	I did not involve in sex commercial work because of poverty status	126 (84)	14 (9.33)	7 (4.66)	3 (2)	1.241	Rejected
9.	If I have business skills for survival, I would not have venture into sex commercial work	9 (6)	3 (2)	18 (12)	120 (80)	3.66	Accepted
10.	My venturing into sex commercial trade has nothing to do with lack of business skills, rather, interest.	111 (74)	19 (12.66)	8 (5.33)	12 (8)	1.47	Rejected
11.	I see prostitution as an alternative to generate incomes hence I have no business idea, so I have no job	9 (6)	3 (2)	12 (8)	126 (84)	3.7	Accepted
12.	If I have business values idea I will still be a prostitute	6 (4)	3 (2)	17 (11.33)	124 (84.66)	3.72	Accepted
	Total	267 29.66	48 5.33	77 8.55	508 56.44	2.91	Accepted

Table 2 presents the findings on research question two. On item (7), responses obtained were; 123 (82), 15(10), 6(4) and 6(4) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (8), 3(2), 7(4.66), 14(9.33) and 126 (84) responses were obtained for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (9), the following responses were obtained; 120(80), 18(12), 3(2) and 9(6) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (10), 12(8), 8(5.33), 19(12.66) and 111(74) responses were obtained for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (11), responses obtained indicate 126(84) 12(8), 3(2) and 9(6) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. Finally, on item (12) responses obtained were; 124(82.66), 17(11.33), 3(2) and 6(4) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed.

The result indicate that the average rating scale of four ($x=2.5$) is lesser that the mean of average rating scale of four ($x=2.91$) thus, shows that people involving in prostitution do not have business skills. They perceived to learn income for survival.

Research Question Three: Can cyber-crimes be halted if people are living in a good condition of life

Table 3: Frequency Counts, Simple Percentage (%) and mean (x) on, Can Cyber –Crime be halted, if people are Living in a Good Condition of Life?

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	MEAN	DECISION
13.	My poor living condition result my involve in many cyber-crime activity	5 (3.33)	6 (4)	12 (8)	127 (84.66)	3.74	ACCEPTED
14.	My involvement in cyber –crime has nothing to do with my poor living condition	114 (76)	12 (8)	9 (6)	15 (10)	1.5	REJECTED
15.	If I have business skills, I will stop cyber –crime activity	7 (4.66)	9 (6)	13 (8.66)	121 (80.66)	3.65	ACCEPTED
16.	Even if I acquire entrepreneurial value, I will still be involving in cyber-crime activity	124 (82.66)	18 (12)	5 (3.33)	3 (2)	1.24	REJECTED

17.	Acquisition of entrepreneurial value can motivate me to start business value than participating in cyber-crime.	5 (3.33)	23 (15.33)	10 (6.66)	112 (74.66)	3.52	ACCEPTED
18.	Even if I acquire entrepreneurial values, I will still complement it with cyber-crime activity	130 (86.66)	9 (6)	6 (4)	5 (3.33)	1.24	REJECTED
	TOTAL	385 42.77	77 8.55	55 6.11	383 42.55	2.48	REJECTED

Table 3 present the finding on research question three. On item (13); responses obtained indicated 127(84.66), 12(8), 6(4) and 5(3.33) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (14) 15(10), 9(6), 12(8) and 114(76) were got for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (15); 121(80.66), 13(8.66), 9(6) and 7(4.66), responses were obtained for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (16); the following responses were obtained; 3(2), 5(3.33), 18(12) and 124(82.66) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. On item (17); responses obtained indicated 112(74.66), 10(6.66), 23(15.33) and 5(3.33) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed.

Finally, on item (18), the following responses, 5(3.33), 6(4), 9(6) and 130(86.66) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. General speaking, result show that the average rating scale of four ($x=2.5$) is greater than the mean of average rating scale of four ($x=2.48$)

III. Discussion of Results

The results on research question one reveals that acquisition of entrepreneurial values could reduce cyber-crimes in South-West, Nigeria. The findings was corroborated by The Guardian(2021),, that many Nigerians especially the youth do involve in cyber-crime due to the high rate of unemployment in the country. “Recent prosecution and conviction of 33 youths members involved cyber-crimes, coupled, with statistics of youth unemployment. Many of the Nigerians who are mainly youths are actually forced by unemployment to take to crimes such as cyber-crime and so on.

The youths’ unemployment and crime situation is heavily surprising, considering that about 60,000 youth graduate from the country tertiary institution yearly out of which nearer 200,000 manage to get jobs. (The Guardian 2021) and Erinsakin (2014) also states that youths are inculcating into crimes such as; Cyber-Crimes, “419” scams, prostitution due to their poor living condition orchestrated by lacks of jobs. This finding was also buttressed by some of the respondents during the FGDS, a respondent had this to say:

I am quite aware that cyber-crime are illegal. However, I had graduated for some years now, there is no job and also not have any vocational skills and business values.

FGDS - A male respondent during Lagos state, Nigeria

Another respondent affirmed that:

If I have opportunity to acquire entrepreneurial skills that can make me to operate business successfully, nothing would stop me from quitting cyber-crimes.

FGDS - A male respondent during Ogun State, Nigeria

Also, the result on research question reveals that lack of business skills causes prostitution in South-West, Nigeria. The findings alike with the opinion of Abdullahi (2015), that socio-economic factors responsible for prostitution among other cause. However, Erinsakin(2014), notes that lack of unemployment is one of the causes and that involvement of women in Entrepreneurial programmed would enable them to acquire the relevant entrepreneurial values, this would help them to be self-employed and earn money for survival. The result was also supported by the response of a female respondent during the **FGDS**.

I have no job, then I see prostitution as a means to survive, but if I have opportunity to acquire business knowledge through entrepreneurial training programme, I may decide to opt for training activities.

FGDS - a female respondent - Ondo State, Nigeria

Another respondent had this to say that;

Prostitution is a lucrative business, which can make due to quit. The business is if I have business skills and enough capital to go about it.

The findings on research question three indicates that poor living is one of the main factors why people are involving in cyber-crimes. The result agrees with the opinion of Olubukola and Adesina (2017), that the high rate of cyber-crimes in Nigeria, could only be partly curb through poverty alleviation. Nigerians are wallowing in an object poverty is also in despite the huge mineral resources that are available in the country. The result is also in consonance with the submission of some respondents during the FGDS.

FGDS – A male respondent - Ekiti State, Nigeria

If my living condition improves, it is then, I can think to stop from perpetrating cyber-crime.

FGDS – A male respondent - Oyo State, Nigeria

Similarly, another respondent affirmed that;

for nothing can stop me from this business (cyber-crimes). My condition of living depends on it, Although, I know that it is an Unlawful “Game”

FGDS – A male respondent - Oyo State, Nigeria

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the society, conclusions were made that, Cyber-crimes activities were as a result of lack of acquisition of entrepreneurial values and poor condition of living of the people. Furthermore, apart from other factors, such as laziness, interest, poor family condition, lack of education and, so on, lack of business skills, (entrepreneurial values) do forces many ladies and woman to be involving in commercial sex work.

IV. Recommendations

Based on the conclusions the following recommendation were made,

1. Government should make accessibility to entrepreneurial programme by the interested people, especially the youth.
2. Youths should be educated through the print and electronics entrepreneurial values for their socio-economic growth and development.
3. The cyber-crimes offenders and prostitution should be well trained on entrepreneurial training at correctional services
4. Entrepreneurial education should be made compulsory at tertiary level of education in Nigeria. This will help to reduce graduates unemployment.

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