

**THE NATURE AND CONSEQUENCES OF JUVENILE  
DELINQUENCY IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF  
ENUGU NORTH LGA, ENUGU STATE**

**BY**

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SOC/2008/037**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
CARITAS UNIVERSITY, AMORJI-NIKE, ENUGU**

**JUNE, 2012**

**TITLE PAGE**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL  
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**JUNE, 2012**

**APPROVAL PAGE**

This research work titled The Nature and Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria: A Study of Enugu North Local Government Area, Enugu State has been approved by the Department of Sociology, Caritas University, Amorji-Nike, Enugu.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the omnipotent, the omniscience and the omnipresence God, the one who never fail those that call upon him, the one whose word is final, the one that is capable of making something out of nothing, praise be to His name through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is truism if I say that no man is an island. Based on this perspective it is necessary to appreciate those who stood by me and contributed in one way or the other, to make this work a successful one.

Before anything, I would like to appreciate the all knowing God, who is the real author of this work, for granting me wisdom and understanding that guided me through this work.

I would like to acknowledge my parents for their support in all ramifications especially, for the morale and financial support, may Almighty God bless and continue to bless and grant them success and long life in all their endeavour. I cannot forget my beloved and wonderful brothers and sisters, John, Emmanuel, Daniel, Samuel, Blessing and Glory for their prayers and encouragement. I would like to thank my uncle, Mr. Emmanuel J. Atteh for his full support, may Almighty God bless him and give me the grace to do the same for his children through Christ our Lord.

My profound gratitude goes to my supervisor and HOD, Mr. C. C. Onwuka, who guided me from the beginning of the work and saw me

through to the end despite temptation, difficulties and trials, he stood by me and encouraged and advised me as his own son, may Almighty God bless him and give me the heart to reward him through Christ our Lord, Amen. Also, I am sincerely grateful to my distinguished lecturers, Dr. F. U. Mbah, Mr. O.E. Orji, Mr. G. O. Oguamanam, Mr. C. I. Eze and Mr. S. E. Abonyi. During the period of my research, their contributions and comments served as a corrective guide towards the success of the work. The knowledge you all impacted in me has yielded its fruit through this work. I say may Almighty God in heaven bless you all through Christ our Lord.

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## ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency is seen as one of the menace that destroys life and property in our society today. Because of the nature of crime committed by juvenile parents, guidance, sponsors and well wishers are worried and disturbed about our future leaders. Crime associated with juvenile include: rape, stealing, kleptomanism, burglary, disobedience, homicide, truancy, vandalization and robbery etc. therefore, this study seeks to look at the nature and consequences of juvenile delinquency. The objective of this study aims at finding out why juvenile engage in delinquent act, why juvenile offenders continue in crime after being punished or sanctioned, what Nigeria government needs to do inorder to improve or educate juvenile about crime and the negative impact of crime on individual and society at large. However, the expected outcome of this study is that to reduce or eradicate juvenile delinquency in our society government and voluntary organization should be involved in the following ways: Government should provide employment opportunities for youths, greater thought should be given to setting up more amenities in the rural areas, stoppage of pornographic films and some American films, where our youths learns techniques in stealing and destroying properties, parents should adopt method of positive and negative reinforcement and government should educate or enlightening parent on the effects of unmet needs like starvation (food), parental care and affection etc. on their children to enable them (parents) make adjustment. Method of data collection used in this study was only questionnaire.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Title Page - - - - -	i
Approval Page - - - - -	ii
Dedication - - - - -	iii
Acknowledgement - - - - -	iv
Abstract - - - - -	vi
Table of Contents - - - - -	vii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION - - - - -	1
1.1 Background to the Study - - - - -	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem - - - - -	3
1.3 Research Questions - - - - -	5
1.4 Objectives of the Study - - - - -	5
1.5 Significance of the Study - - - - -	6
1.6 Definition of Terms - - - - -	7
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW - - - - -	9
2.1 An Overview of Juvenile Delinquency - - - - -	9
2.2 Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria - - - - -	10
2.2.1 Biological Cause - - - - -	10
2.2.2 Parental Cause - - - - -	11
2.2.3 Societal Cause - - - - -	12
2.3 Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria - - - - -	14
2.4 Review of Related Theories - - - - -	15
2.4.1 Social Learning Theory - - - - -	15
2.4.2 Social Strain Theory - - - - -	16
2.4.3 Behavioural Theory - - - - -	17
2.5 Theoretical Framework - - - - -	18



CHAPTER THREE:	METHODOLOGY	-	-	-	-	-	19
3.1	Research Design	-	-	-	-	-	19
3.2	Study Area	-	-	-	-	-	20
3.3	Population of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	20
3.4	Sample Size	-	-	-	-	-	21
3.5	Sampling Technique	-	-	-	-	-	21
3.6	Instruments for Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	21
3.7	Method of Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	22
CHAPTER FOUR:	DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	-	-	-	-	-	23
4.1	Presentation of Personal Characteristic of Respondents	-	-	-	-	-	24
4.2	Analysis of Research Questions	-	-	-	-	-	26
CHAPTER FIVE:	SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	-	-	-	-	-	37
5.1	Summary	-	-	-	-	-	37
5.2	Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	38
5.3	Recommendation	-	-	-	-	-	38
REFERENCES		-	-	-	-	-	40
APPENDIX		-	-	-	-	-	42

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

Juvenile delinquency is that behaviour on the part of children which may, under the law, subject those children to juvenile court. Tappan (1972:12) assert that “the nature of juvenile delinquency sprang up from different abnormal behaviour such as stealing, drunkenness, burglary, robbery, rape, homicide, idleness, truancy, prostitution, disobedience, running away from home, kleptomanism and sexual promiscuity. Furthermore, it is nothing but a fact to say that juvenile offenders who after serving a good or complete numbers of his or her punishment in prison and still continue in deviance is because they are associated with adult prisoners. In this regard Mr. Sanusi, project Director of Lawyers continued Education Project (LAWCEP) maintained that “in our society, where the process of trial is delayed unduly, the young offender spends more time with hardened criminals than elsewhere.

Different forms of delinquency have been with man as far back as we can think but modern trends have made them take a very sharp rise. Glucks (1959) found out that juvenile delinquency is not a new occurrence during adolescent years but rather a continuation of anti-social behaviours from childhood due to environmental subjections or family problems affecting his mental development. That is to say that there exit a close link between delinquency and the home environment of the juvenile. The earliest known code of laws (the Code of Hammurabi) took specific note of the duties of children to parents and prescribed punishments for violations. As legal systems were elaborated, the age of offenders continued to be important in defining responsibility for criminal behaviour.

The Nigerian constitution of 1979 defines juvenile delinquency as “a crime committed by a young person under the age of 18 years as a result of trying to comply with the wishes of his peers or to escape from parental pressure or certain emotional stimulation’. Before a youth in Nigeria is classified a delinquent, he must have been arraigned before a juvenile court and proved to be guilty of some offences. Examples of

such offences are habitual truancy, drug addiction, prostitution, stealing, cultism, armed robbery etc. The consequences that juvenile delinquency has caused to Nigerian society are not only devastating but numerous. They destroy both lives and property and they also retard the growth of this country.

Juvenile delinquency has also contributed to the bad image of our country (Nigeria). For the fact that most of the delinquent want to get rich quick, corruption and ritual killings has become the order of the day in coming to our political sphere, they have turn politics into a do or die affair where thuggery and fighting is the norm. This has made politics in our country (Nigeria) a dangerous venture.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

If an investigation or a study is carried out about juvenile delinquency in Nigeria, the result will definitely show that cases like rampant stealing, armed robbery, prostitution, manslaughter, drug addiction, vandalization, truancy, murder, rape, cultism, burglary and

kleptomanism and many other crimes and delinquent behaviour are common among the youth.

Because of the alarming rate of juvenile delinquency in our country today, governments, parents, guidance, sponsors, teachers, moralists and well meaning Nigerians have all picked interest on its adverse effects in our society. Also the increasing waves of juvenile delinquency in our country place lives, properties and future of our youth at stake. For example, in 1989, records of crime as reported by the Lagos state police command revealed that youths between the ages of thirteen (13) and twenty one (21) were responsible for adult. 13,782 out of 26,259 crimes committed this year i.e. 1989 were juvenile. Such crime ranges from shop looting, drug abuse, fighting, raping and stealing etc.

The similar report also indicated that in the same year (1989) out of 43,000 prisoners serving in various Nigerian prisons, over 23,000 of them were aged between the ages of thirteen (13) and twenty five (25) years. Therefore, this study seeks to look at the nature, consequences and extent of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria among our youth.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The following research questions were used to guide this study:

1. Why do juvenile engage in delinquent acts?
2. Why do juvenile offenders continue in crime after being punished or sanctioned?
3. How can Nigerian government improve or educate youth or juvenile about crime?
4. What are the negative impacts of delinquent or crime on individual and society at large?

### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

The objective of this study is as follows:

1. To find out the extent why juvenile engage in delinquent acts.
2. To ascertain the extent juvenile offenders continue in crime after being punished or sanctioned.
3. To find out what Nigerian government need to do in order to improve or educate juvenile about crime.
4. To determine the negative impact of crime on individual and society at large.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The study looks at the nature and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria. In all ramifications, the study does not claim the fact that all Nigerian juvenile are criminals or culprits or law violators so to say.

The study is very beneficial to learning and development processes and helps our youth to be aware of those things that may lead them to delinquent acts and avoid them. The study will also help parents, guidance, sponsors etc to know those things they need to do in order to prevent their children from so called delinquent acts.

The study goes a long way to unleash those things our government needs to do in order to educate our juvenile and prevent them from future delinquent acts. In conclusion, this study is significant because it seeks to determine to what extent juvenile commit crime, why they continued in delinquent act and as well as the result of their delinquent acts to themselves and society at large.

## 1.6 Definition of Terms

**Nature:** This is defined as the usual way a person or an animal behaves that is part of their character.

**Consequence:** This simply means a result of something that has happened.

**Juvenile:** This refers to a person who has attained the age of 14 but is under 17 years. That is a young person who is not yet an adult (Oxford English Dictionary).

**Delinquent:** It is a person who deviates from or violated the stipulated law that guides code of conduct of a particular country or society.

**Juvenile Delinquency:** Andy (1960:30) defined it as any social deviation by a youth from the societal norms which results in his contact with law enforcement agents. It is an act committed by a young person which violated the stipulated law of that country or society.

**Burglary:** It is defined as a crime of entering a building illegally and stealing things from it.

**Robbery:** It is defined as a crime of stealing money or goods from a bank, shop/store, person etc especially using violence or threat.



**Rape:** This is simply a crime of forcing somebody to have sex with him/her especially using threat or violence.

**Homicide:** This simply means a crime of killing somebody deliberately.

**Stealing:** This means an act of taking something from a person's shop/store, etc. without permission and without intending to return it or pay for it.

**Truancy:** This simply means a practice of staying away from school without permission. It is a crime to juvenile.

**Disobedience:** This is defined as a failure or refusing to do what a person, law, order etc. tells.

**Kleptomanism:** It is simply a mental illness in which somebody has a strong desire, which they cannot control in stealing things. It is common among juvenile.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 An Overview of Juvenile Delinquency**

Juvenile delinquency as defined by Andy (1960:30) “is any social deviation by a youth from the societal norms which results in his contact with law enforcement agents.” The Nigeria constitution of 1979 defines juvenile delinquency as “a crime committed by a young person under the age of 17 years as a result of trying to comply with the wishes of his peers or to escape from parental pressure or certain emotional stimulation.

The earliest Code of Law (the Code of Hammurabi) took specific note of the duties of children to parents and prescribed punishment for violation. Juvenile delinquency is a behaviour loosely defined as public nuisance which its usual characteristic includes acts that is of anti-social effect. Juvenile delinquency are crimes committed by young ones example rape, prostitution, stealing, burglary, truancy, disobedient, homicide, robbery, kleptomanism etc. And let every other growing social problems it has been subjected to curiosity and serious

investigation. Juvenile delinquency is now the biggest single menace to order that is ravaging our society. The above definition of juvenile delinquency is basically supported by the Oxford Dictionary which defines it as law-breaking by young people.

## **2.2 Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria**

Juvenile delinquency cannot be controlled without at least a reasonable knowledge of its causes. One has to know why the juvenile commit these atrocities to be able to effectively curb the menace. There are reasons which make juvenile go into delinquent acts. As delinquent acts differ in different parts of the world, so also would some of its causes be different. Some common causes of juvenile delinquency in our country (Nigeria) are reviewed below:

### **2.2.1 Biological Cause**

The protagonist of the biological conceptual explains that criminals are predestined towards criminal behaviour by factors such as their biological makeup is the gene which is the carrier of hereditary materials. Apart from the normal xx and xy sex chromosome in man, the

xyy configuration was discovered and people with such chromosome complement are said to have behavioural characteristics of violence and aggressiveness. Kratcoski *et al.* (1979:14) also belong to the school of thought that certain biological factor like body size could trigger the exhibition of criminal behaviour.

### **2.2.2 Parental Cause**

The home is the one of the major factor contributing to juvenile delinquency. As confirmed by Bobby (1951:36) he assert that “firstly we have more and more mothers going to work leaving their children unattended at home or on the street, thereby depriving children at their early age of motherly love and affection.

Onetime head of state also is in support that the home contributes in no small measure. He declared in the Daily Times of July 12, 1977 that, parents have no patience, self control and are not disciplined. He further assert that very irresponsible fathers who always got drunk and too occupied with nocturnal activities would have little or no time for his children neither would the nagging and jealous mother.

Parents no longer chastise their children, they allow their children to do whatever they please and are sometimes angry with anybody who punishes them in the bid to correct them. This gives the child courage to do whatever he likes. Furthermore, poor families find it difficult training their children. This could result to child being exposed to the adult world. A poor family that lives in only a room could be doing harm to the child as privacy would be abused.

Polygamy and children from broken homes and poor family planning is related to poverty and consequently related to juvenile delinquency.

### **2.2.3 Societal Cause**

It is a truism to say that gene and the environment that is, the society is a major shaper of an individual. The society which include peer group and the media plays a major role in delinquent behaviour among youths.

The media has immensely contributed to the delinquent nature of youths. As Greek *et al* (1970:36) puts it, children of today are being

exposed to all kind of movie, pictures and books, the press are no longer censored and film producers take advantage of the current situation for their selfish gains. Recently, cinema halls that show film that encourages sex and violence have increased tremendously and nobody is doing anything about it.

A common adage which says “show me your friend and I will tell you who you are”, described the effects of peer group on an individual. The peer group could be very influential as a greater percentage of a juvenile belong to peer group. They are virtually everywhere, in the church, school and at home.

Another major reason for juvenile delinquency is the luxurious and extravagant lifestyle of the affluence in the society. This could serve as an incentive as the youth would like to be like them. Religious leaders have deviate from preaching precept they now talk about prosperity and with no avenue of acquiring it, the youth, still energetic indulge in violence and crime.

### **2.3 Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria**

The consequences are numerous and devastating as could be seen in the depreciating state of our beloved nation. It's now a stigma to say you are a Nigerian outside the shore of our country. This is because we are assumed to be a nation, whose youth are lawless as could be seen in drug trafficking. Concord Magazine of June 13th 1990 speaks of exceptional treatment given to Nigeria by foreign customs.

Millions of Naira which would have been used at the building of hospitals and schools are used in combating crime as could be seen in the importation of computerized security gadgets by the then administrator of Lagos state Col. Buba Marwa as shown on the network news on February 13, 1997. It's now obviously dangerous to walk late in the night and even in broad daylight for fear of being attacked.

Potential youth who are the future of the nation run the risk of going mad, thrown into prison or rehabilitation centres as a result of crime, drug abuse and other related offences with these in sight who will be the future Biochemists, medical doctors, applied physicists and engineers.

## **2.4 Review of Related Theories**

### **2.4.1 Social Learning Theory**

In 1977 Albert Bandura, a Stanford University Psychology Professor, published social learning theory in which he postulated that human learning is a continuous reciprocal interaction of cognitive, behavioural, and environmental factors. Sometimes called observational learning, social learning theory focuses on behaviour modeling in which the child observes and then imitates the behaviour of adult or other children around him or her (Wiesner, Capaldi, Patterson, 2003:318).

In his research on social learning theory, Bandura studied how violence portrayed in mass media can have a tremendously negative impact on the behaviour of certain types of children watching violent television shows. What he noted was that some children will observe and then imitate the behaviour of the characters on the television screen. From this observation, we can see that or conclude that juvenile delinquency is the result of imitation of aggressive action.



### **2.4.2 Social Strain Theory**

This theory was propounded by Merton in 1957. Merton proposed that a society instills in its citizenry aspirations for upward mobility and a desire for selected goals.

Merton assumed in his theorizing that humans are conforming organisms who only violate the law when the disjunction between goals and means becomes so great that the individual believes he or she can no longer pursue socially sanctioned goals via legitimate channels. According to Merton, a society that emphasizes goals over the means to obtain these goals, and that restricts access to opportunities for legitimate advancement is establishing the conditions for anomie and future criminality.

Agnew's (1992) general strain theory offers a promising framework for understanding juvenile delinquency. A major type of strain according to Agnew's general strain theory consists of experiencing unpleasant events or circumstances, including aversive situations at home, particularly arguments and violence (Broidy, 2001: 21). The social strain theory proposes that adolescent or juvenile are

pressed into delinquency by negative emotional reactions that result from being situated in an aversive situation from which they cannot escape.

### **2.4.3 Behavioural Theory**

This theory was studied by J. Watson, I. Pavlov and B.F. Skinner. It describes the outcome of the consequences of certain behaviour on occurrence of such behaviour in the future. Operant conditioning developed by Skinner is one of the learning methods according to which the likelihood of behaviour is increased or decreased by the use of reinforcement or punishment.

In case of positive reinforcement, certain behaviour becomes stronger by the effect of experiencing some positive condition. In case of negative reinforcement, certain behaviour becomes stronger by the outcome of stopping or staying away from some negative condition. In case of extinction certain behaviour becomes weaker by the outcome of avoiding experiencing some positive condition or stopping some negative conditions.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

Social learning theory was adopted as the theoretical framework. Bandura focuses on behaviour modelling, in which the child observe and then imitates the behaviour of adults or other children around him or her (Wiesner, Capaldi, Patterson, 2003: 318). The theory determines that certain types of children learn to perform violent and aggressive actions by observing and then modeling their behaviour after what they have seen.

In summary, social learning theory state that leaning can occur through the simple process of observing and then imitating others activities.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study adopted survey design. This procedure can cover a broad area of observation using a selected sample from a fraction of a population to analyse a large population such as Enugu North L.G.A. This research design is applied in this study owing to its viability in using a sample drawn to represent the different elements within Enugu North L.G.A., the universe of this study.

May (2001) argue that the application of a survey method is appropriate in obtaining the behavioural pattern of a given population and the concomitant implication of such behavioural pattern on the people and society at large. Thus, survey design is appropriate in a study of the nature and consequences of juvenile delinquency which seek to understand the negative impact of juvenile delinquency in Nigerian society.

### **3.2 Study Area**

The area of study was Enugu North Local Government Area in Enugu State of Nigeria. The local government area, according to the Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Gazette (2009), has an area of 106km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 244,825 (2006 population and housing census).

Enugu North is located in South-Eastern Nigeria. It is situated at the bottom of the Udi plateau, on the rail road from Port Harcourt, the local government is bounded in the North by Udi and Enugu East, in the South by Enugu South, West by Udi and in the East by Enugu East. The urban owes its geopolitical significance to the discovery of coal in 1909 by a team of British geologists.

### **3.3 Population of the Study**

The total population of Enugu State as a whole is 3,257,298 with a population density that is two and a half times the national average. Enugu North Local Government area has an aggregate of 244,825 (2006 population and housing census) officially Gazetted in 2009.

### **3.4 Sample Size**

The sample size of this study is two hundred and fifty (250) possible respondents. The researcher considered this sample size large enough for this study, taking into consideration the statistical analysis. Besides, the sample size is considered appropriate for effective management by the researcher due to time and financial constraints.

### **3.5 Sampling Technique**

A multistage sampling technique was adopted for data collection in this study. The researcher used cluster method to divide Enugu North into four different research zones, specifically; New Haven area, Trans Ekulu and G.R.A., Ogbete and Ogui area and Independence Layout area. Accidental/convenience method was used in selecting respondents from the four research zones as mentioned above. The reason for adopting this method is that it is the most appropriate given the nature of this study.

### **3.6 Instruments for Data Collection**

The questionnaire was the only instrument used for data collection for this study. The researcher engaged the assistance of four research assistants, who helped in the distribution of questionnaires as well as the

retrieval from the respondents. This number of research assistants, were selected for proper management and supervision.

### **3.7 Methods of Data Analysis**

The simple percentage (%) was used for analysis of data. This was done via demographical and contingent tables.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Out of two hundred and fifty (250) questionnaires distributed, two hundred (200) were completed and returned. This analysis of data is based on the returned questionnaires.

**Table 4.1 Distribution of Questionnaire**

<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Level of Responses</b>
Number distributed	250
Number collected	200
Number lost	50

Table 4.1 above, indicates that 250 questionnaires were distributed but only 200 were eventually completed and returned and 50 questionnaires were lost.



#### 4.1 Presentation of Personal Characteristics of Respondents

Q1 What is your sex?

**Table 4.2 Sex Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	120	60
Female	80	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

The table above goes to show that out of the 200 respondents, 120 were male and 80 were female, which constituted 60% and 40% respectively. This shows that the data was slightly biased in favour of males, which was coincidental due to the accidental or convenience method used in distribution of questionnaire.

Q2. What is your age?

**Table 4.3 Age Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Under 18	20	10
19 – 28	40	20
29 – 38	85	42.5
39 – 48	40	20
49 and above	15	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that 20 (10%) respondents were less than 18 years of age and were adolescents since they were not up to 18; 40 (20%) respondents of the sample population were youths who were between ages 19 and 28, this must have constituted mostly university students and partly working class; 85 (42.5%) respondents were between the ages of 29 and 38, and are probably working class; 40 (20%) respondents were between ages 39 and 48; while 15 respondents constituting 7.5% were either 49 years or above that.

## 4.2 Analysis of Research Questions

Q3. Do you witness crime committed by juveniles?

**Table 4.4**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	150	75
No	20	10
Once in a while	30	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table, the 180 (90%) respondents agreed that they witnessed crime committed by juvenile; 20 (10%) respondents do not witness crime committed by juvenile at all.

Q4. How often do you witness juvenile committing crime?

Table 4.5

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
More than 5 times a week	60	30
At most twice a week	50	25
At least thrice a week	90	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In table 4.5 above, 60 respondents admitted that they witnessed crime committed by juveniles at least five times in a week; 50 respondents said they witnessed it at most twice in a week; while 50 respondents said they witnessed it at most twice in a week; while 90 respondents said they witnessed at least three times a week.

The percentages were 30%, 25% and 45% respectively. This goes to show that a total of 75% of people in Enugu North witnessed crime committed by juveniles not less than three times in a week and only 25% witnessed it two times or less than in a week; meaning that most people in Enugu North witnessed it very often.

Q5. Do you know why juvenile commit crime?

Table 4.6

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Biological makeup	100	50
Parental makeup	90	45
Societal makeup	10	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table, 100 (50%) of the respondents viewed that biological makeup are what make juvenile to commit crime; 90 (45%) of the respondents felt that parental makeup are capable of influencing juvenile and push him or her to commit crime, while 10 (5%) of the respondents said that juvenile engage in criminal act as a result of societal makeup.

Q6. Do you think that there is any positive impact on juvenile offender?

Table 4.7

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	10	5
No	160	80
I don't know	30	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table, 10 (5%) of the respondents viewed that or accepted that there is positive impact on juvenile offender, 160 (80%) respondents said No. that is there is no positive impact on juvenile offender while 30 (15%) respondents do not know whether there is any positive impact on juvenile offender.

Q7. Do you think that government has done something to educate or improve youth or juvenile about crime?

Table 4.8

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	110	55
No	50	25
I don't know	40	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table indicates that 110 (55%) respondents agreed that government have done something to improve or educate youth or juvenile about crime, 50 (25%) respondents disagreed that government have not done anything to educate or improve juvenile about crime, while 40 (20%) respondents did not know whether government have done anything to improve youth or juvenile about crime.

Q8. 12 years old child can be held responsible for his or her crime

Table 4.9

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Agree	30	15
Disagree	160	80
I don't know	10	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table, 30 (15%) respondents agreed that 12 years old child can be held responsible for his or her crime, 160 (80%) respondents disagreed that a 12 year old child cannot be held responsible for his or her crime while 10 (5%) respondents said that they do not know whether 12 years old child can be held responsible for his or her crime or not.



Q9. Burglary is a juvenile crime

Table 4.10

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Agree	170	85
Disagree	20	10
I don't know	10	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table, 170 (85%) respondents agreed that burglary is a juvenile crime, 20 (10%) respondents disagreed that burglary is not a juvenile crime while 10 (5%) respondents said that they do not know whether burglary is a juvenile crime or not.

Q10. Do you think that kleptomanism is a juvenile crime?

Table 4.11

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	150	75
No	20	10
I don't know	30	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table, 150 (75%) respondents agreed that kleptomanism is a juvenile crime, 20 (10%) respondents disagreed that kleptomanism is not a juvenile crime while 30 (15%) respondents said that they do not know whether kleptomanism is a juvenile crime or not.

Q11. What do you think is the best way to reduce juvenile crime or stop juvenile from crime?

Table 4.12

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Agree	120	60
Disagree	60	30
I don't know	20	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table 4.12, indicated that 60 (30%) respondents thought that juvenile delinquency increase in our society as a result of inadequate parenting, 120 (60%) of the respondents were of the view that it is not inadequate parenting that increases the rate of juvenile delinquency in our society while 20 (10%) respondents said that they don't know.

Q12. Does over or excess indulgence promote juvenile delinquency in our society?

Table 4.13

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Agree	110	55
Disagree	50	25
I don't know	40	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table 50 (25%) respondents agree that excess indulgence promote juvenile delinquency in our society, 110 (55%) respondents disagreed that over or excess indulgence does not promote juvenile delinquency while 40 (20%) respondents does not know whether excess indulgence promote juvenile delinquency in our society or not.

Q13. Does over or excess indulgence promote juvenile delinquency in our society?

Table 4.14

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Agree	120	60
Disagree	60	30
I don't know	20	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above Table 4.14 indicated that 120 (60%) of the respondents agree that inadequate parenting increase juvenile delinquency, 60 (30%) of the respondents disagree while 20 (10%) of the respondents do not know whether inadequate parenting increase juvenile delinquency or not.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary**

The data collected and analyzed in this study has broadened and created additional useful insights on the nature and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria and as well provided recommendation which will help terminate or reduce juvenile delinquency in Enugu North Local Government Area.

The aim of this study was to know why juvenile commit or continue committing crime and what to be done in order to reduce or terminate this menace. It is well known that juveniles commit or continue crime as a result of biological makeup, parental and societal makeup. The study also showed that rape, kleptomanism, burglary, stealing, robbery, truancy, disobedient, homicide and lie are common among juvenile.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

This research work conducted on the nature and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Enugu North shown that parents, government and the society in general could help to eradicate this social vice. If all hands are on deck it will be a reality one day. Give the children a sound and moral upbringing and when they grow up they will never deviate from it.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

A well organized institution with its collective personnel can initiate necessary changes in the youths conceptions.

The government and voluntary organizations should be involved in fighting these delinquent acts through the following ways:

1. Recreational facilities should be provided for our youths.
2. Parents should be enlightened on the effects of unmet needs like starvation (food), parental care and affection, etc. on their children to enable them (parents) make adjustment.
3. Government should provide employment opportunities for youths.

4. More social worker's should be trained and deployed in schools to help in behaviour modification of the children.
5. Avenues should be created for complain to the social welfare.
6. Parents should adopt a method of positive and negative reinforcement.
7. Government should stop pornographic films and some American films where our youths learn techniques in stealing and destruction of properties.
8. Government should give greater thought to setting up more amenities in the rural areas.



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## APPENDIX I

Department of Sociology  
Caritas University  
Amorji-Nike, Enugu  
21st April, 2012.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am carrying out a research on the nature and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria: A study of Enugu North Local Government Area, Enugu State.

The objective of the questionnaire is to assist in obtaining relevant information which will assist in the success of the research work. You are hereby assured that information gathered with this questionnaire is basically for academic use and it will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thanks for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Etifit, David Edet

## APPENDIX II

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Please select by ticking (✓) in the box provided.

1. What is your sex? (a) Male [ ] (b) Female [ ]
2. What is your age range?
  - (a) Below 18 [ ] (b) 18 – 27 [ ] (c) 28 – 37 [ ]
  - (d) 38 – 47 [ ] (e) 48 & above [ ]
3. Do you witness crime committed by juveniles?
  - (a) Yes [ ] (b) No [ ] (c) Once in a while [ ]
4. How often do you witness juvenile committing crime?
  - (a) More than 5 times a week [ ]
  - (b) At most twice a week [ ]
  - (c) At least thrice a week [ ]
5. Do you know why juvenile commit crime?
  - (a) Biological makeup [ ] (b) Parental makeup [ ]
  - (c) Societal makeup [ ]
6. Do you think that there is any positive impact on juvenile offender?
  - (a) Yes [ ] (b) No [ ] (c) I don't know [ ]

7. Do you think that government has done something to educate or improve youth or juvenile about crime?

(a) Yes [ ] (b) No [ ] (c) I don't know [ ]

8. Twelve (12) years old child can be held responsible for his or her crime.

(a) Agree [ ] (b) Disagree [ ] (c) I don't know [ ]

9. Burglary is a juvenile crime.

(a) Agree [ ] (b) Disagree [ ] (c) I don't know [ ]

10. Do you think that kleptomanism is a juvenile crime?

(a) Yes [ ] (b) No [ ] (c) I don't know [ ]

11. What do you think is the best way to reduce juvenile crime or stop juvenile from crime? Please fill in below.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

12. Does over or excess indulgence promote juvenile delinquency in our society?

(a) Agree [ ] (b) Disagree [ ] (c) I don't know [ ]

13. Do you think that juvenile delinquency increases as a result of inadequate parenting?

(a) Agree [ ] (b) Disagree [ ] (c) I don't know [ ]