

# Application of Physical Planning and Design Strategies to Urban Violence and Crime Prevention in Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT:** The rate of crime and violence is on the increase globally. Although crime and violence have been part of the Nigerian system since her experience of the civil war, even away from the ancient history of aggression and attack leading to emergence of walled cities, but the scale and magnitude of the nation's experience of these phenomena in recent times, is unimaginable. Series of efforts are continuously being made to put this menace under control but the efforts are really not yielding noticeable results; hence, the need for an alternative measure; this the authors advocate through the application of Physical planning and design strategies. The global trend and the trend of crime and violence in Nigeria were reviewed to establish the basis for the study. The nexus between crime and violence and the environment was also justified; various underlying causes of crimes and violence in Nigeria cut across socio-cultural, economic, political and environmental factors. Some major Physical planning and design strategies, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), urban upgrading, and development control, which have reasonably proved successful both in certain developed and developing nations, were discussed as possible options to prevent and consequently reduce the rate of crime and violence in Nigeria urban centres. The establishment of an agency named CVTPPD by the government, formation of CVTPPD professional association, organization of workshops and conferences, inclusion of crime and violence consideration into building approval process and provision of an overall policy framework to guide the general operation of CVTPPD, are recommended for a successful crime and violence prevention programme in Nigeria through physical planning and design.

KEYWORDS: Application, Physical planning, design, strategies, Crime, Violence, Prevention

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The terms crime and violence, though, are significantly different in meaning, are intertwined both in content and context. While crime is peculiarly used to refer to the act of committing a forbidden act that is punishable by law, violence implies the act of using force to harm or kill someone or damage a property. Definitions of violence often overlap with those of conflict and crime, reflected in terms such as "violent crime". However, there are important distinctions between them; while crime may and may not necessarily inflict physical or mental harm on others, violence by its very nature does. (see Moser [1]) Besides crime, there is fear of crime which is a different phenomenon. (Soomeren [2])

There have been several incidences of crimes and violence perpetrated by individuals and groups on innocent people and communities, often reported in newspapers and media houses. Such crimes and violence, which are of different scales, have always negatively impacted on the socio-cultural and economic development of nations at all levels

of government- local, regional and national. The economic impacts of violence have been associated with poverty, inequality and exclusion which have been seen as a development concern (see Ayanbola [3], Moser and Mcilwaine [4], WHO [5] Fajnzylber et al [6]). In Africa, large scale community violence have indeed led to displacement and mass movement of people, exacerbating the problems of poverty, exclusion and growing mistrust among different groups in society bringing into the fore in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the ethnic issue. (Dung-Gwom and Rikko [7]). This has drawn interest and attention from development scholars and policy makers in different nations of the world.

The insecurity generated by violence is expressed in fear, which has been defined as "repercussion of violence", which has been defined as institutional, cultural and psychological repercussion of violence (Moser, [1]).

Although it is quite difficult to draw a clear and sharp boundary line between different types of violence and crime, policy makers and practitioners in urban issues have made effort to distinguish among different forms of the phenomena in order to aid policy formulations and efforts aiming at reducing/mitigating them. See Table 1 below.

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Table 1: Categories and types of violence in urban areas.

Category of violence	Types of violence by perpetrators and/or victims
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State and non-state violence</li> </ul>
Institutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence of state and some other "informal" institutions including the private sector.</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized crime</li> <li>• Business interests</li> <li>• Delinquents</li> <li>• Robbers</li> </ul>
Economic/Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gangs</li> <li>• Ethnic violence</li> <li>• Street children (boys and girls)</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal partner violence inside the home</li> <li>• Sexual violence (including rape) in the public arena</li> <li>• Child abuse (boys and girls)</li> <li>• Inter-generational conflict between parents and children</li> <li>• Gratuitous/routine daily violence</li> </ul>

Source: Extracted from Moser, C. and A. Winton [8]

As one of the primary functions of every nation's government is the provision of safe living environment for her citizens, the search for solutions to this incessantly growing crime and violence cases around the globe, is continuous. The objectives of this paper therefore, is to review the trend of crime globally and in Nigeria, lay bare, some salient factors underlying crime and violence in the country and establish the relationship between crime and violence and the environment; with a view to providing an alternative platform to the existing control strategies, thereby laying a particular emphasis on the application of physical planning and design strategies to preventing crime and violence through its spatial activities.

## 2 GLOBAL TREND OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE

For millions of people around the world, violence, or the fear of violence, is a daily reality. Much of this violence concentrates in urban centers in the developing world. These cities are home to half of the world's population and are expected to absorb almost all new population growth over the next 25 years (UN-HABITAT 2007 [9]). The spate of crime and urban violence witnessed across the globe in recent times, is unprecedented even though this may vary from region to region.

UN-HABITAT [10] reported that crime and violence are unevenly distributed across the globe and within nations and cities. Nevertheless, they are pernicious, continuing threats to human security generally, and especially for the poor, who are disproportionately victimized as individuals and whose communities are strongly affected. The work of Dung-Gwom and Rikko [7] noted that urban violence in various forms and magnitude has been on the increase globally in the recent years. Whether these are minor crimes (theft, house breaking, mocking) perpetuated by street children or gang warfare related to drugs and the control of the gang market in Latin America, gun running and shooting in America or the well planned and executed mass attacks by well organized militants (terrorists) in the western countries and sub-Saharan African countries of recent, like el Qaeda, Boko Haram etcetera, or in fact the open communal conflicts and wars in Africa, the reality is that the phenomena of crime and violence have become a major concern worldwide. They further stressed that this may become even more so in an increasingly globalizing and competitive world where access to opportunities are narrowing in light of the recent global economic meltdown. They concluded that incidence of violence would increase unless very pro-active policies and measures are taken to minimize and control it. City- level differences in homicide can be striking (Moser [1]). In Latin America in 2000, rates ranged from 6.4 per 100,000 per year in Buenos Aires to 248 per 100,000 in Medellin (Carneiro and Geraldo [11]). Violence is not manifested in the same way in different cities, even within the same nation. For example in Brazil, between 1979 and 1998, the homicide rate in Metropolitan Rio de Janeiro rose by 35 percent but in Metropolitan Sao Paulo, it increased by 103 percent (Moser [1]). As reported by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), violence causes more than 1.6 million deaths worldwide every year [12]. More than 90% of these occur in low- and middle-income countries. [12] Violence is one of the leading

causes of death in all parts of the world for persons ages 15 to 44. [12]

As cited by Ogboi and Eze [13], UN-HABITAT [10] reported that parts of the world including Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries, are experiencing high rate of insecurity, resulting from poverty and collapse of law and order. United Nations surveys, shows that crime rates at both the global and regional levels have increased steadily over the period 1980 to 2000, rising from 2300 to over 3000 crimes per 100,000 individuals. But this is not the case for all regions. The report showed that 60% of urban residents in developing and transitional countries have been victims of crime over a five-year period, with victimization rate reaching 70% in parts of North America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Africa. As noted by Sani [14], urban crime and violence is fast growing to nearly epidemic proportion in urban areas of the developing countries characterized by rapid growth and change, economic inequality and deprivation, social disorganization and inadequate government service and law enforcement capabilities.

### 3 CRIME AND VIOLENCE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The theory of determinism and the notion that the physical environment can effect or prevent opportunities for crime and violence are not new. It is well established that the character of the built environment can aid or prevent crime and violence. Internationally, the relationship between crime and the physical environment has been studied extensively from various angles over a number of decades (Kruger, 2005). It is well known that the form and character of the built environment can be of great significance as the local setting of a crime (Ogboi and Eze [13], Kruger [15]). Different models explained the setting of the environment relative to human behaviour (Laukaitou-Sideris [16]). Ecological models assume that elements of the physical and socio-cultural environment interact to influence an individual's behaviour and propensity to engage in active lifestyle (Ogboi and Eze [13] Ball, Bauman and Owen [17]). Urban communities themselves are an integral part of understanding the causes and impacts of urban violence and for generating sustainable violence prevention initiatives (Moser and McIlwaine, 2006 [4])

There are three critical elements of a criminal and violent events that must be in place for a crime or violence event to occur. These are the offender, the target/victim and a favourable environment. These elements are

diagrammatically represented in the form of 'Crime/Violence Triangle' in figure 2 below.

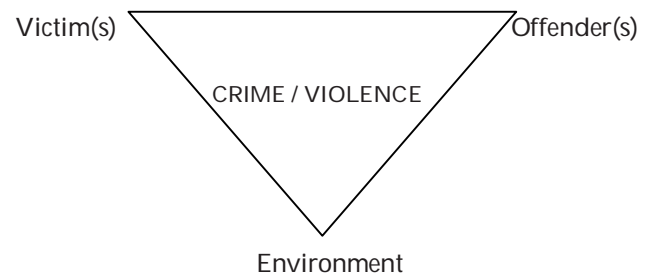


Figure 2: Crime /Violence Triangle

Crime and violence take place in space. All the three elements in the triangle must be present before crime or violence can take place. This implies that the environment can influence the frequency of occurrence of crime and violence. Schlomo Angel [18] in his PhD work on 'Discouraging crime through city planning' in 1968, stated that the physical environment can exert a direct influence on crime settings by delineating territories, reducing or increasing accessibility by the creation or elimination of boundaries and circulation networks, and by facilitating surveillance by the citizenry and the police.

### 4 TREND OF CRIME AND URBAN VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

The situation in Nigeria is in no way different, if not worse, from the generalization made regarding the global trend of crime and violence by the UN-HABITAT [9]. Although crime and violence are not new in the annals of the nation's history. It is on record that people built walls in ancient cities of Kano, Katsina, Zaria, Bauchi etcetera to protect themselves against external aggression and enemies' attack. The spate of violence witnessed in the country over the past decade and a half is however alarming. It is much disheartening to note the pervasive wave of violence ravaging Nigeria as a nation today. Infact it is far from an overstatement to say that Nigeria is fast becoming a free-for-all state where individual's attitude is a factor of his self desire and personal perception. Nigeria is fast degenerating into Hobbesean state of nature where life is short, nasty and brutish. Anarchy is closing in; law and order have lost their sting ... (Eme and Anyadike [19]). Since 1970s when the

backlash of the three year old civil war induced people into criminal activities, acts of violence, senseless killings etcetera have become part of the social burden in the land... But never has the nation witnessed violent crime in its pervasiveness, brazenness and sophistication as in the present times when a combination of socio-political and economic factors conspired to encase us in a cocoon (Eme and Anyadike [19]). Kidnapping, rituals, bank and travelers' robbery occur virtually everyday in the south and Boko Haram insurgency continues to claim lives in the north. Individuals, public and private institutions have attributed reasons to this obscene situations; while some decry our economic, social and political systems, others believe it is religiously induced.

There have been varying approaches and strategies aiming at mitigating the high spate of crime and violence in Nigeria urban centres both by the public and private institutions. Several commissions of enquiry have been set up to look into the immediate and remote causes of such urban violence. Peace advocacy fora, conferences and workshops had been organized to sensitize people and re-orientate them on the need for a peaceful and united nation. State of emergency was declared in Plateau state in 2004 and also in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states for over one and a half years. Media houses and print media are also replete on programmes and jingles advocating peace. These efforts have no doubt, yielded unnoticeable results. The annual budgetary allocation to defence and security programmes, though with a little fluctuation, has also increased considerably both in value and descriptively over the years, most especially compared to other sectors. See Table 2 below.

Table 2: Annual Budgetary Allocation to Security and Defence (2008-2014)

Year	Total Budget	Allocation to Defence	% of total budget
2008	3,580,000,000,000	54,047,841,476	1.51
2009	3,760,000,000,000	223,021,861,244	5.93
2010	4,610,000,000,000	232,044,871,801	5.03
2011	4,484,000,000,000	348,037,047,378	7.76

2012	4,700,000,000,000	359,735,485,991	8.42
2013	4,987,000,000,000	364,165,882,302	7.30
2014	4,695,190,000,000	968,127,000,000	20.62

Source: Authors, 2014.

With all these and countless others, the search for a violent-free and crimeless Nigeria has continued. This paper has therefore advocated preventive measures using physical planning strategies for the planning and designing of our urban areas.

## 5 FACTORS UNDERLYING CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

The aftermath of Nigeria's civil war brought about criminal and violent activities though not on a larger scale as now observed across the country. At broad national and societal levels, crime and violence are factors of a complex range of long-term underlying socio-economic, cultural and political factors as described below.

- **Poverty and income inequality**  
Poverty has long been recognized as an important risk factor associated with increased crime and violence in urban areas. Many Nigerians live below poverty level, find it difficult to square up with three daily meals and live in slum settlements characterized by decrepit structures and filth. Inequality in the distribution of income is also a link factor to poverty regarding causes of crime and violence. The gap between the rich and the poor increases by the day; and social goods are inaccessible and unaffordable by majority of the masses thereby making them susceptible to crime and violence, hence are readily available for fomenting violence whenever the rich want to achieve their selfish interests.
- **Social injustice: Crime and violence in Nigeria**  
have been tightly tinged with social injustice and economic inequalities. As noted by Dung-Gwom and Rikko [7], 10% of the people own or control about 90% of the resources and this situation creates despondency and feelings of oppression and marginalization by the majority. The number of people living below the poverty level in the country is over 70% (World Bank, [20]). This scarcity of justice has essentially increased the threat and danger of crime and violence; quality education is very expensive to get, admission into public universities is very tough and the

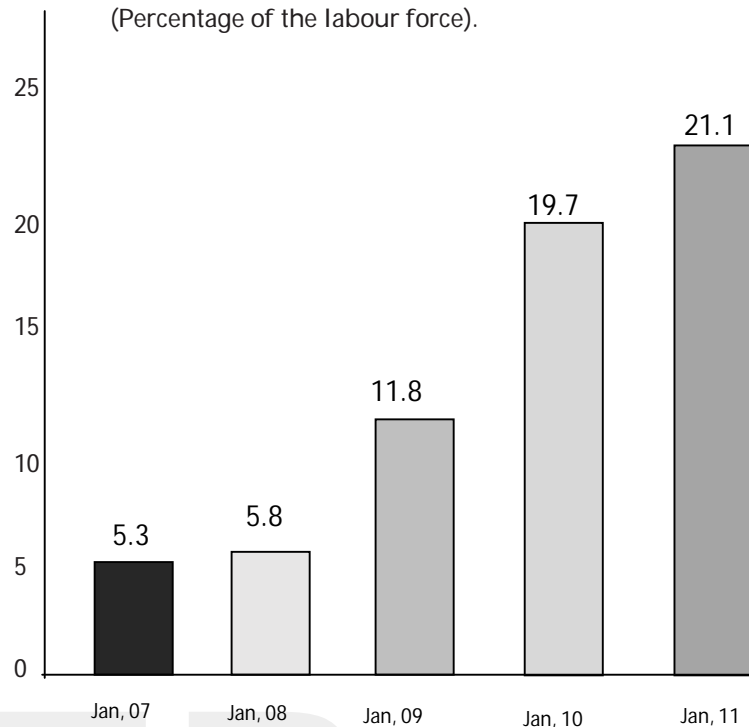
hardship that follows passing through the school is thoroughly exhausting; yet graduates pour out of school in thousands annually without job. Small scale businesses continuously close down for reasons of high cost of operation most especially as has to do with power. The leadership of Nigeria has practically denied the masses basic needs to survive especially in this modern age and is also gradually normalizing 'pain' on the populace. The masses are angered and the broad consequence is that, they have to survive through any means available to them, with violence and crime as potential options.

- High Pace of urbanization

The increased rate of crime and violence in Nigeria is associated with high pace of urbanization. Rapid urbanization places increased pressures on the ability of authorities to meet public security and safety demands. Public institutions are least equipped to deal with the challenges of rapid urbanization. People residing in large urban areas are increasingly vulnerable to crime and violence than ever before. As noted by UN-HABITAT [9], the link between crime and urban areas in Nigeria like other developing countries, can be explained by three factors. First, returns on crime are likely to be higher in larger cities due to the greater concentration of wealthier victims, more opportunities to commit various types of crime, and a more developed second-hand market for the disposal of stolen items. Second, the chances of arresting a criminal might be lower in larger cities because large cities spend less on law enforcement per capita, or have lower levels of community cooperation with the police, or require more police officers per inhabitant to effect an arrest. Finally, larger cities have a greater proportion of crime-prone individuals/potential criminals.

- Youth unemployment: Crime and violence are strongly associated with the growth and proportion of youthful populations and, especially, young males. In Nigeria bank robbery, violent car robbery, house breaking and street muggings and snatching are common criminal activities, a distinctive attribute of the perpetrators is their youthfulness. Unemployment among these young people is a fundamental issue related to crime and violence. Unemployed youths are disproportionately more likely to be perpetrators, as well as victims, of crime and violence. High rate of unemployment, undermines human capital so that work abilities and motivations 'atrophy'. (See figure 3 below).

Figure 3: Nigeria unemployment rate, 2007-2011  
(Percentage of the labour force).



Source: [www.tradingeconomics.org/](http://www.tradingeconomics.org/) National Bureau of Statistics [21]

- Politics and transition towards democracy

A lot of politics are involved in the violence and crime prevalence in Nigeria urban centres; with politicians with opposing view creating artificial violence using the readily available unemployed youths and using the violence as grounds for discrediting one another. Transition from one political dispensation to another often brings social and economic disruption that may be associated with increased crime and violence, at least in the short term. It is becoming habitual for tension to be high anytime election is approaching in Nigeria. There have been reported cases of violent attacks during political rallies and campaigns as the nation marches towards the 2015 general elections.

- Factors related to urban spatial planning: Parts of many Nigerian cities are poorly planned or entirely unplanned aiding crimes and violent attacks. The spatial factor of urban crime and violence are mostly common in cities and their peripheries, where there are isolated structures and bus stops, uncompleted buildings, dark streets, and where violent crimes take place.

## 6 CRIME AND URBAN VIOLENCE' PREVENTION THROUGH EFFECTIVE

## PHYSICAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN.

The crux of Physical planning is spatial organization of landuses to achieve orderliness, convenience and aesthetics. Poor planning, design and management have been identified as part of the underlying factors associated with crime and violence. From various studies over the decades, there is a general consensus that if the environment is planned, designed and managed appropriately, certain types of crime can be reduced significantly. This group of activities is therefore about manipulating and maintaining the setting within which crimes take place i.e. the physical environment.

Historically, people built walls to protect their cities against external aggressors who might enter their territories to commit one form of crime and/or violence or the other against the inhabitants. As cities grew, maintaining the walls became impractical, and as technology advanced, walls offered little in the way of protection (Rycus [22]). But without the gates and the walls, something had to be done to keep away aggressors and minimize oppression, and to put those believed to be most likely to commit crime or violence at disadvantage.

Although bad urban planning on its own may not necessarily lead to crime and violence as there are some examples of some poorly planned cities with low crime rates in the world as argued by some urban planners but there is a near consensus among city urban planners and city managers that a well-planned urban space help reduce crime and violence. A great number of experiments have shown that particular types of crime can be reduced by modifying the opportunity for crime in the built environment (Soomeren [2]). Researches have also established that there is a significant correlation between residential densities and scale of ethno-religious violence in developing countries. (See Dung-Gwom and Oladosu [23]).

According to the UN-HABITAT [9] as cited by Reis [24],

- Poor urban planning, design and management have increasingly been cited as playing a role in the shaping of urban environments that put citizens and property at risk. Thus, the physical fabric and layout of cities have a bearing on the routine movement of offenders and victims and on opportunities for crime.
- Effective urban planning, design and governance should seek to manipulate the built environment in

ways that are intended to reduce or even eliminate the opportunities to commit crime.

- From planning and policy standpoint, where crimes occur and how places are designed and managed are as important as who the perpetrators are.
- The lack of integration of crime prevention strategies within the comprehensive city planning practices is a factor in facilitating opportunities for urban crime.
- Crime and violence tend to be re-occurring in relatively limited numbers of places that provide niches for offences.
- Research suggests that the physical design and management of the built environment play a role in facilitating or diminishing opportunities for crime and violence.

There are two main approaches/strategies to reduce crime and violence; crime and violence prevention and crime and violence control. While the former prevents crime and violence from happening in the first place, the latter applies certain social controls that impact on the potential offenders. Crime and violence prevention strategies are directed at preventing someone from being a victim by reducing a potential offender's opportunities and abilities to commit crime or violence. Crime and violence control strategies on the other hand, are basically directed at reducing a potential offender's motivation to commit crime or violence through corrective measures; social, cultural or economic interventions. The application of physical planning to mitigate/stem crime and violence are preventive strategies. Some of such major physical planning and design strategies are described below.

6.1 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) – CPTED was originally coined and formulated by a criminologist, C. Ray Jaffery [25]. Many authors, planners and non-planners, have since then developed and improved on his work. The strategy seeks to dissuade offenders from committing crimes by manipulating the built environment. It relies on the ability to influence offenders' decision that precede the criminal acts. CPTED has been applied in many developed countries such as USA, Canada and European countries (where it is called

Design Out Crime). It has also been well applied in South Africa with a good result. Although with the history of apartheid, the structural arrangement of South African cities may to a large extent, differ from those of Nigeria, notwithstanding, as a developing country which shares a number of characteristics with South Africa, application of CPTED strategies will no doubt, reduce crime in Nigerian cities if well applied.

CPTED strategy is based on a member of principles which include:

**Natural surveillance:** Natural surveillance is a design strategy of placing physical features, activities and people in such a way as to maximize visibility and foster positive social interaction among legitimate on their escape routes. Natural surveillance increases the thread of apprehension by taking steps to increase the perception that people can be seen. This can be done through:

- Design of streets to increase pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Placing windows overlooking sidewalks and parking lots
- Leaving window shades open.
- Using passing vehicular traffics as a surveillance asset.
- Creating landscape designs that provide surveillance, especially in proximity to designated points of entry and opportunistic points of entry.
- Using the shortest, least sight-limiting fence appropriate for the situation.
- creating lighting design that avoids poorly placed lights that creates blind-spots for potential observations and miss critical areas and ensuring potential problem areas such as pathways, stairs entrance/exist, parking areas, ATMs, phone kiosks, mailboxes, bus stops, children's play areas, recreation areas, etcetera, are well-lit.
- Avoiding too-bright security lighting that creates blinding glare and/or deep shadows, hindering the view for potential observers.
- Placing lighting along pathways and other pedestrian- use areas at proper heights for lighting

the face of the people in the space (and to identify the faces of potential attackers).

**Territoriality:** Territoriality is a sense of ownership of one's living or working environments. Territoriality and people's sense of ownership are encouraged when residents identify with the spaces and where the space and its configuration are legible to them. A sense of ownership and responsibility for a particular environment improves the likelihood of passive observers intervening (as modulators of a crime). Place should be designed and managed in ways that encourage owners/users to take responsibility for them and feel responsible for their use, upkeep and maintenance. Territoriality can be increased through clearly defining public and private spaces, utilizing the human scale, limiting unused open space etcetera.

**Image and aesthetics:** This is done by ensuring that the physical appearance of an environment creates a positive image and instill feelings of safety in users.

**Access and escape routes:** Certain types of criminal events and sites are often deliberately chosen for their ease of access to escape routes by the offenders prior to perpetrating the crime. Similarly, the availability of access and escape routes also add to the safety of potential victims. Areas of refuge, such as vacant land, where people can hide and which have clear routes of escape from a crime are obvious havens for offenders. For example, houses of neighbourhoods near or adjacent to tracts of open land are often the targets to repeated burglaries. Car hijackings are often planned to allow quick escape. The layout of the transport routes and the juxtaposition of different types of space influence the ease of access and escape. Clear signposting of streets, buildings and exit routes are important ways of assisting potential victims. The design of elements such as subways also to be considered carefully to reduce perceptions that one will not be able to escape from an offender.

**Target hardening:** The attractiveness of vulnerability of potential targets can be reduced by, for instance, physically strengthening it or installing mechanisms that will increase the effort required to commit an offence.

An effective application of CPTED has the potential of:

- reducing opportunities for crime through well planned pedestrian routes and appropriately designed informal trading areas.
- minimizing potential danger posed by criminal and violent activities by reducing and managing open spaces, vacant land and uncompleted buildings.
- providing sufficient and appropriate lighting in public open spaces and along streets and pedestrian routes.
- ensuring compatibility in landuse pattern of cities.
- providing adequate space for city policing.
- providing adequate infrastructure and facilities such as roads and telecommunication that improve interaction between community and the police.
- managing the built environment efficiently, cutting the bush along the road, trimming vegetation when and where required, etcetera.

6.2 Residential Area Upgrading: Variation exist in the level of violence and crime within cities. Although more prosperous areas suffer violent crime, usually property related, severe violence is Generally concentrated in lower income/high density residential areas of the city (see Oladosu et al [26], Dung-Gwom and Oladosu [23] Moser [1]). Over 80% of Nigeria populace are poor (see Sani, 2013) living in high density, violence and crime pruned areas. Opening up of these homes of deviant behaviours through the provision of adequate roads with necessary lighting facilities, well managed open spaces, and adequate provision for city policing in terms of both space and location, will no doubt significantly reduce the rate and intensity of crime and violence in such areas of Nigerian cities.

6.3 Development Control: Development control is an Exclusive tool of physical planning that is most useful for crime and violence prevention. The free-for-all attitude of Nigerians does not exclude their activities in the built environment. Buildings are indiscriminately erected without recourse to property lanes, drains and setbacks, most especially in the high density residential areas; security fences are raised to heights without control, communities and estates are gated absurdly, landuse mixtures are not co-ordinated, building codes are regularly contravened, etcetera. All these provide comfortable atmosphere for criminal activities and violence. Effective application of development control strategies in the light of crime and violence prevention should focus on:

- Eliminating negative landuses such as prostitute homes, beer palour, drink joints, hotels etcetera, which are potential attractors to criminals, from major landuse areas like residential and commercial.
- Regulating height and types of fences in residential areas. Fences should be of moderate height and enable interaction between the streets and the compound. This reduces fear of crime by potential victims and maximizes fear of committing crimes by the offenders.
- Give a minimum duration within which an acquired plot should be developed or otherwise the right to the plot be revoked. This will prevent criminals from having safe haven within the cities.
- Ensuring strict adherence to property lines and setback to booster unhindered visibility and passageway among buildings for easy policing. This will also lock out possible escape routes for on the run violent attackers.
- Avoiding bushes within the city; and street plants, parks and gardens should be effectively monitored and policed to prevent hideouts for offenders.

## 7 RECOMMENDATIONS/ IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

As a guide for successful implementation of crime and violence preventive measures described in this work, the following are recommended:

- Establishment of an agency called Crime and Violence Prevention Through Planning and Design (CVPTPD) by government. The agency should operate at all tiers of government- national, state and local.
- CVPTPD Association should be formed and such should be given legal backing by the legislature to enable them operate to full capacity.
- Provision of crime and violence prevention should be a significant factor of consideration in the approval process of any building plan.
- Conferences and workshops should be organized by both planning authorities and other public agencies as well as the organized private institutions in the built environment to equip practitioners on the practice of planning and designing out crime and violence. The media should aid the course through audio-visual programmes aimed at enlightening the public on the practice.



- There should be an overall policy framework structuring out the general operation and practice of crime and violence prevention through planning and design.

## 8 CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The strategies discussed in this paper if well implemented, will no doubt, reduce the rate of occurrence of crimes and violence in Nigerian cities. The implementation may however be bedeviled with certain challenges as envisaged.

- Corruption and judicial bankruptcy: Many Nigerians are financially and socially corrupt. The planning authorities and agencies responsible for implementation of these strategies may fail to do the right thing in favour of their corrupt attitudes, thereby frustrating the success of development control regulations and policing. Instrumentality of the judiciary to the implementation of this type of programme through punishment of contraveners and offenders as deterrent to potential offenders, may equally be weakened by corrupt practices.
- Low level of literacy and high rate of poverty: The literacy level is still low in the country and as such many people do not appreciate the need for such regulations. Related to this is the level of poverty; many citizens only think of the means of survival and boarder less about the aftermath effect of living in violence-proned environment. They do not appreciate the need for upgrading.
- Various violence that had occurred in the country made many youths to be in possession of arms thereby giving easy access to criminal and violent activities.
- Many Nigerian cities are ancient cities with many slum settlements. The huge financial implications of opening up such places may be quite high and as such poses political challenges.
- Finally, urban planners and others like police, required for the implementation of the CPTED/CVPTPD strategy, may not have adequate knowledge and information for their relative newness in the country. They may therefore be in the dark regarding what to do and how to do it.

## 9 CONCLUSION

The need for an alternative to the current practices and strategies of crime and violence control in Nigeria is imperative. It is believed that the implementation of CVPTPD will significantly contribute to crime prevention in the nation. However, its limitations should be

acknowledged; environmental planning and design interventions of this sort suitable for a location may not be for another. It is therefore important to analyze each situation very well before adopting the recommended planning and design strategies in this work.

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