

PHYSICAL PLANNING: A PANACEA FOR URBAN SECURITY CHALLENGES IN PORT HARCOURT MUNICIPALITY

ABSTRACT: This research tends to focus on Urban Security Challenges and the Role of Physical Planning in fighting crime. In recent times, Port Harcourt has been faced with the problem of insecurity. The aim of this research is to investigate the urban security challenges and the role of physical planning with the objectives of examining the trend of crime over the last five years, to examine the causes of crime in the study area, to examine the use of urban design to improve on crime prevention. The methodology used in this research is both qualitative and quantitative methods, a random sampling was used and five wards out of twenty wards were selected from the study area. A total of one hundred questionnaires were administered after applying the Taro Yamane formula with a ten percent precision level, a scheduled interview was conducted. Data were presented and analysis through the analytical techniques of using tables, charts and maps. In the course of this research, findings were revealed that the main crime activities were caused by organized urban gangs. Burglary, car theft and armed robbery are predominant crimes in the study area. It was found out that police patrol was adequate in the study area; fences are the protective gear found in the study area. The most causes of crime in the area are based on youth unemployment, overcrowding and poverty. As a result of the findings, recommendation were suggested that government should improve the quality of life of city dwellers by creating jobs, police officers and security agencies should be equipped to effectively fight crime. Physical planners should incorporate the concept of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in planning neighbourhoods.

Keywords: Municipality, Physical Planning, Security Challenges, Urban Crime, Urban Security

INTRODUCTION

The security of citizens in some urban cities in the world has become a contemporary issue to the government and her crime fighting apparatus. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) defined security as the degree of resistance to, or protection from harm. It applies to any vulnerable and valuable asset such as person, dwelling, community, nation or organization.

As cities develop, the need for urban security is steadily on intensification all over the world but especially in the fastest growing economy. City management authorities, security agencies, emergency services and citizens they serve are driven by the same objective of making the city a more attractive and safe place to be, for economic and social interactions.

Furthermore, the city management authorities need to ensure the safety and wellbeing of her citizens to safeguard public assets and make highest use of city resources. The need to coordinate the different security agencies to prevent, reduce incident rate of crime, and response time to manage unpredicted crisis situation such as industrial accidents, terrorist alert or natural disasters.

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Besides, as the population becomes more and more concentrated in urban corridors, security has become the cornerstone of urban development for planning brand new urban communities or upgrading existing infrastructure in smaller cities, a well-defined urban security master plan is essential.

Policy-makers need to critically evaluate the specific challenges and develop a cost-effective prevention and urban security strategies based on specific set of requirements and organizational models.

Also, the need to measure the impact of policies set in place, the communicable results to other stakeholders and is able to fine tune their capabilities on an on-going basis.

On the other hand the prominence of security in this quandary is to guarantee human safety and freedom; without the safety of life and property, life is meaningless. Folks would not be enthused to work, live, produce, save and capitalize in an insecure environment because nobody wants to be in a habitation where such person is not sure or assured of personal safety and security of investments, given to the fact, that preservation instinct is said to be the first law of nature.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In asserting the problem associated with urban security, it is very germane to ask the question, if there is any form of security challenge in Port Harcourt municipality?

However it is very apparent that there is problem of insecurity in Port Harcourt municipality. Although in recent times, cities are faced with crime and the problem of insecurity cannot be overemphasized. It is attributed to the increase in growth rate of urban population and has significantly affected the social and environmental quality and life of some city dwellers.

Also, the issue of urban crime and insecurity has made some places in the city to be a "no-go-area" characterized by petty thievery like; shop lifting, burglary to other high profile crime like rape, assault, kidnapping, arson, vehicular crime and urban gangsters.

Furthermore, the ineffectiveness of the statutory organ responsible for physical planning to carryout effective development control measures in enhancing the aesthetic value and ensure that properties and/or developments conforms to the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) regulations. The effective use of development control instruments such as building codes, zoning ordinances, on residential properties such as height of block fences and gates, armed guard barricade and the standard and quality of building materials.

The city dwellers have also neglected the concept of neighbourhood watch (natural surveillance) and the fear of eye-witness to report crime scene. Port Harcourt is growing at a very fast rate and its population. Due to its urban nature, crime is mostly committed in the medium and low income settlements.

The major problem associated with the Nigeria Police Force in Port Harcourt is that they are not adequately equipped to combat crime, leaving them to do little in terms of preparedness in response to crime and they are also reactive instead of being proactive to combat crime.

The use of security aided gadget to prevent insecurity has led to the some distortions in the aesthetic value of most neighbourhoods in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

GOAL

The goal of this research is to conduct an investigation to ascertain how physical planning has responded to urban security in Port Harcourt municipality.

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives are:

- To examine the trend of crime within the last five years in Port Harcourt municipality.
- To examine the causes of crime in Port Harcourt municipality.

- To examine the use of urban designs to improve on crime prevention.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study will cover the following areas:

1. To know the trend of crime in Port Harcourt Municipality in the past to current situations.
2. To examine the role of government in controlling crime in the city.
3. The review various policies on urban security and its achievements.
4. To examine the use of innovative technology to reduce crime.
5. To examine the role of security agencies in crime prevention.
6. To establish the geography of urban gangs in Port Harcourt Municipality.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE STUDY PORT HARCOURT

Port Harcourt, the administrative capital of Rivers State is one of the most industrialized cities in Nigeria. The city is divided along two zones; Northern and Southern Port Harcourt. While the northern part is largely made up of arable land, the southern part is largely made up of array of creeks. There are about four hundred and eighty three identifiable roads in the city. For the purpose of this study, the entire city was segmented into four zones; north, south, east and west using geographic characteristics, Kio-Lawson and Dekor (2014).

Three types of residential development were identified in the city; the indigenous settlements that had been swallowed up by the city through expansion but still maintain the indigenous names and landmarks, the planned residential areas that came with the city's growth and the area's growing without any form of development control. In each of the zone, inventory of localities or settlements was compiled. Six localities were identified in each zone.

What is today known as Port Harcourt was initially a farmland and secondary forest in the north called Obomuti by the Ikwerre indigenes who reside there. The southern part of the land was occupied creeks used by the Okrika fishermen as transit camps. Due to its geographical location, the area became a meeting point for trade between the upland farmers from the Ikwerre, Ahoada, Abua and the fishermen from the riverine Okrika, Kalabari and Ibani, Okafor, (1973)

With the spread of colonial influence in Nigeria between 1912 and 1914, a seaport and railway line was located in the area. It became a route for the evacuation of agricultural produce and other minerals from Eastern and Northern Nigeria. This singular act increased the geographical significance of the area. In May, 1913, for the purpose of administrative convenience by the Colonial Masters, an

agreement was reached between the Colonial Masters, the Ikwere of the north and the Okrikas of the south. In this agreement called the Hargrove Agreement 30,000 acres of land was ceded to the Colonial Masters of which only 13,000 acres were suitable for physical development, Okafor, (1973).

The name Port Harcourt was given to it by Lord Luggard, the first Governor General of Nigeria. It was named after the then British Secretary of State, Lewis Harcourt. This development increased the status of the area. It triggered off the migration of several European trading firms, traders, businessmen and government establishment into the area from different parts of the country, Okafor, (1973).

The area gradually metamorphosed into a strong commercial and administrative centre south of the country. Its seaport became an export route for such commodities as groundnuts and palm oil. With the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in the region, the young city provided more economic opportunities for persons from all over the

country. This was the beginning of rapid migration into the area. With the creation of Rivers State from the former Eastern Region, the city became the capital of the new State, Okafor, (1973)

The city has recorded an astronomical growth since then and spatially expanding beyond its original boundary. Initial growth was towards the southern axis surrounded by arrays of mangrove swamp. Today, land space here has been exhausted forcing developers to direct development towards the northern fringes made up of arable land. With a population of over 1.5million, the city stands out as one of the fastest growing cities in the country both in commerce and human population.

The city is popularly referred to as the Garden City of Nigeria because of its richness in greenery.

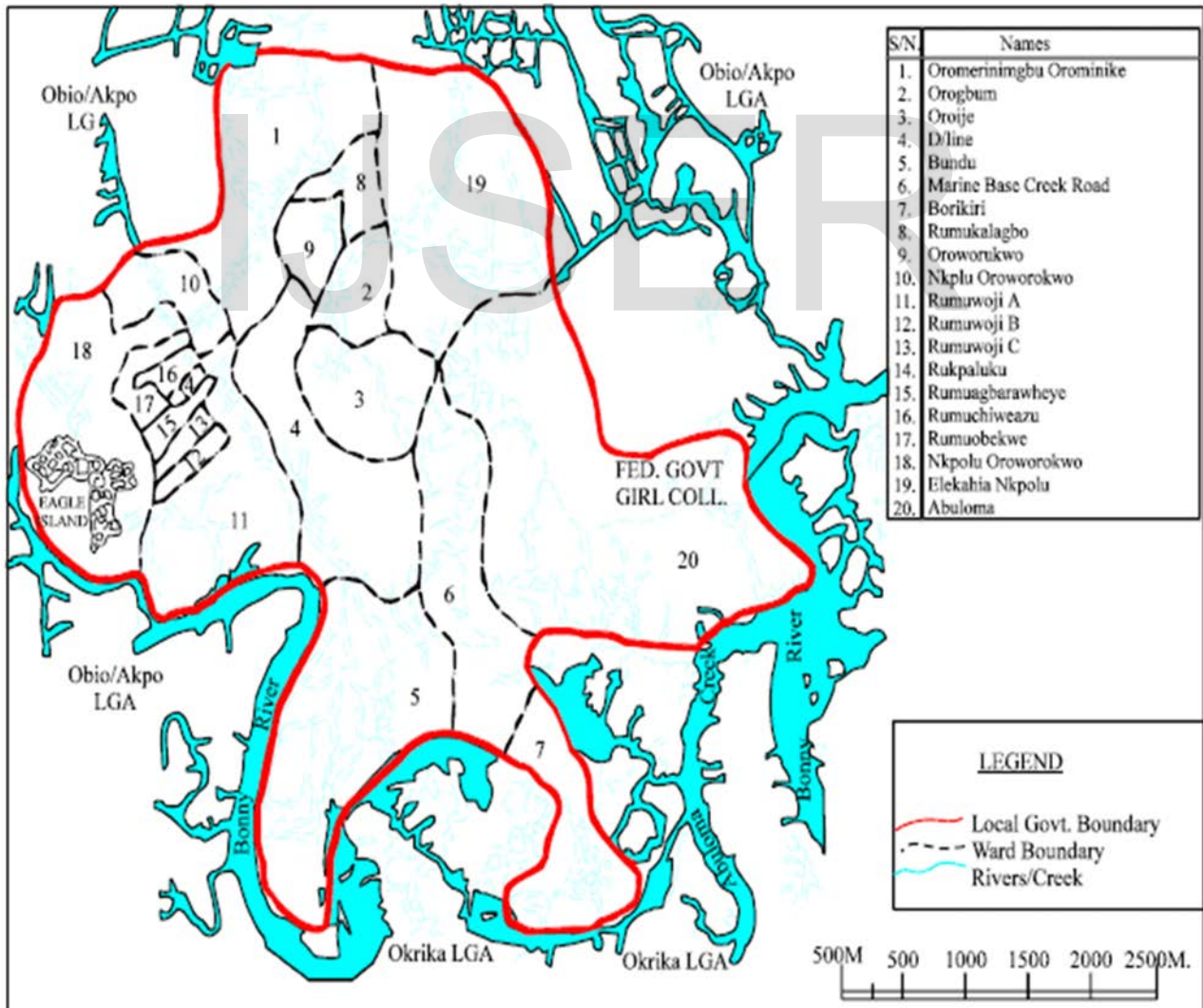


Plate 1: Map showing Port Harcourt Local Government and its political wards.
 Source: Google Earth, 2015

LITERATURE REVIEW

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Rational Choice Theory: The Situational Crime Prevention (SCP). The bone of contention between Rational Choice Theory (RCT) and the Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) is that crime, i.e. SCP as Pease (2008) stated, is that it is tightly bound with the RCT of crime, i.e. SCP is the use of measure directed at high specific forms of crime which involve the management, design or manipulation of the immediate environment in which these crimes occur. So as to reduce the opportunities for crimes' Hough et al, (1980) in Dike (2009)

Rational choice theory explains that people generally act in their self-interest and make decision to commit crime after weighting the potential risk against the rewards.

Social Disorganization Theory was developed by the Chicago school; it linked crime rates to neighbourhood ecological characteristics. The principle of social disorganization theory states that a person's residential location is a substantial factor shaping the likelihood that the person will become involved in illegal activities.

According to the theory, it states that there are ecological factors that lead to high rate of crime in these communities and these factors linked to constantly elevated levels of "high school dropouts, unemployment, deteriorating infrastructures and single parent homes, Gaines and Miller, (2009).

THEORETICAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **Urban place:** This is a place with municipality, corporation, cantonment or a notified town area.
2. **Crime:** An illegal act for which somebody can be punished by the government
3. **Municipality:** Is an urban administrative division having corporate status and usually powers of self-government or jurisdiction.
4. **Security:** Is the degree of resistance to, or protection from harm. It applies to any vulnerable or valuable asset; such as a person, dwelling, community, nation or organization
5. **Surveillance:** Is the monitoring of the behaviour, activities and/or other changing information, usually of people for the purpose of influencing, managing, directing or protecting them.
6. **Physical planning:** This is concern with spatial ordering of land use in both urban and rural settings for the purpose of creating functionally efficient and aesthetically pleasing physical environment for living, working, circulation and recreation.
7. **Vulnerability:** This is defined as the probability of an individual, a household or community suffering physical and socio-economic consequences as a result of risky events and processes and their inability to effectively cope with such risky events or processes.

DEFINITION OF SECURITY

Although the oxford dictionary defines as it "the state of being free from danger or threat, the word security originated from the old French word securite or Latin word Securitas from securus meaning free from fear. Also, the Webster dictionary defines security as "the quality or condition of being free from danger, injury or damage". It is a state of protection against debilitating life threatening event. However, threat can accrue from different sources which are:

- a. Environmental hazards or disaster
- b. Technological hazards or disaster
- c. Interpersonal violence
- d. Social delinquency

CURRENT THREAT TO URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY

Urban security encompasses a wide range of issues associated from basic needs such as food, shelter and health, impact of natural disaster to collective security needs such as protection from urban terrorism. But this study focuses only on crime associated in urban areas such as urban gangs, robbery, theft and human related crime. Urban insecurity poses a huge challenge to the city and national government as well as international security UN-Habitat, (2007).

CRIME AND VIOLENCE

However global trends indicate that crime rate is on the increase. According to the report of the UN-Habitat on security and safety; which stated that over the period of 1980-2000, a total of 2300 to 3000 crimes have been recorded for every 100,000 people. And the trend of crime varies from various regions of the world.

It also, reported that total crime rate fell but significantly increased over continent such as Latin America, Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Africa. Crime and violence are more severe in urban areas and are propelled by rapid growth.

Urban areas in Africa have been reported to have the highest level of burglary with victimization rates of over eight percent (8%) of the population.

However, robbery poses a major threat to urban areas in many developing countries through injury and property loss and also it increases general fear of crime and feeling of insecurity.

Also, there is report initiated policy geared towards reduction of crime. Policies designed to reduce crime and violence fall into several broad categories.

- 1) A local level; these include effective urban planning, design and governance, community based approaches through initiatives such as social capital that seeks to develop the ability of individual to communities to respond to crime. Crime and violence can result in stigmatized neighbourhood or an entire city making such areas "no-go"

areas and these areas eventually losses out in terms of investment or provision of infrastructure by the government and other philanthropists.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF SECURITY AND SAFETY

1. Vulnerability: May be defined as the probability of an individual a household or community falling below a minimum level of welfare or the probability of a suffering physical and socio-economic consequences such as (homelessness or physical injury) as a result of risky events and processes (such as forced eviction, crime), and their inability to effectively cope with such risky event and processes.

2. Resilience: Is the capacity of an individual; households or community to adjust to threats, mitigate harm as well as to recover from risky event or shocks.

It is partly dependent on the effectiveness of risk response outcome. It is the actual loss or damage experienced by individual, households and communities due to a risky event or process? Example is physical injury, death, and loss of assets emanating from crime and violence.

CHALLENGES OF SECURITY IN URBAN AREAS, POOR URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

The problem of poor physical planning, design and management contributes to security challenges in our cities. Relating the U.N Habitat report, the place based crime prevention and reduction theories of defensible spaces; Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) can play a vital role in facilitating or diminishing opportunities for crime and insecurity.

Land use collocations, street layouts, building and site designs, transportation system planning, infrastructure improvements such as lighting and other facilities and landscape maintenance have variable impact on crime opportunity, subsequent incidence and fear of crime.

Similarly, the lack of integration of crime prevention strategies within comprehensive city planning is another factor for urban crime.

Physical planning can make a difference in terms of crime prevention/reduction in addition to effective policing, to informal surveillance and protection of persons and properties.

For instance, street widening programme can open up previously impenetrable urban areas to police and emergency service vehicles. Site design can provide increased prospect for people to observe their surrounding and can reduce criminal opportunity.

URBAN SECURITY POLICY FRAMEWORK IN NIGERIA (2006)

Nigeria recently is suffering from insecurity problems. This insecurity can be related to political tension in the country, they include; kidnapping, suicide bombing, assaults and

other forms of violence. It is as a result of this, that the country put in place the national urban development policy on urban security strategies to reduce the state of insecurity.

The objectives are as follows:

- (a) To make Nigerian cities a safe and secure place for all of its residents.
- (b) To make security issues more the concern and responsibility of the local government, the private sector and civil society in each urban centre.

The strategies used include the following

(1) Government will professionalize the provision of safety and security services through emphasizing these aspects should be like in the training of doctors and paramedics for both curative and preventive healthcare. The town planners, environmental scientists and engineers as well as of personnel engaged in maintaining law and order in our cities should be alive to their sense of duty.

(2) Increase the number, quality and equipment standards of the Nigeria police force to the international standard of one police offer per one thousand inhabitants.

(3) Promote the integration of the efforts of the private sector into a city wide system of security and safety.

(4) Pursue a vigorous programme of security education on how citizens can better secure their lives and property.

(5) Re-introduce and improve positive employment generating opportunities as a means of reducing the security risk of unemployed youth, NUDP (2006).

NATIONAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Urban security is the quality or condition of being free from fear, danger, injury or damage.

It is a state of protection against debilitating life-threatening events. In urban areas, such threats can come from four main sources, namely: environmental hazards, disasters, violence and social delinquency. Security is therefore a fundamental human right, as without it no other development can take place.

STRATEGIES

In order to achieve the above objectives, the following strategies shall be adopted:

- (i) Ensure adequate provision of safety and security services by professionals in all urban centres;
- (ii) Ensure that urban planning and development have adequate security and safety considerations;
- (iii) Strengthen the concept of community policing by enhancing police-community relationships; enforce urban planning regulations and bye-laws that are relevant to aid security;

(iv) Promote the integration of the efforts of the private sector into city-wide system of security and safety;
(v) Promote security education for all citizens to better secure their lives and properties;
(vi) Expand employment generating opportunities as a means of reducing the risks of violence, crimes, and social disorder that may be caused in urban areas by angry and unemployed youth; and
(vii) Encourage the provision, maintenance and sustainability of the use of closed circuit television (CCTV) and other technology by all tiers of government in urban centres, NUDP (2012).

CRIME IN AMERICA

Crime in the United States has been present since colonization. The crime rates have varied over time, with a sharp rise after World War II, before peaking between the 1970s and 1990s.

GEOGRAPHY OF CRIME IN UNITED STATES AMERICA

Crime rates vary in the United States depending on the type of community within metropolitan statistical areas, both violent and property crime rates higher than national average, while property crime was higher crime (Bureau of Justice Statistics 2011).

Region: The FBI divided the United States into four regions; north east, Midwest, south and west;

The lowest crime in 2011, was the Midwest with a rate of 349.9 per 100,000 residents while the region with highest violent crime rate was the south with a rate of 428.8 per 100,000, while the region with the lowest property crime rate was north east with a rate of 2,121.8 per 100,000 residents and the region with the highest property crime rate was the south with a rate of 3,370.8 for 100,000 (FBI, 2011).

NIGERIA INCIDENCE AND TRENDS IN CRIME

In the 1980s, serious crime grew to nearly epidemic proportions, particularly in Lagos and other urbanized areas characterized by rapid growth and change by stark economic inequality and deprivation by social disorganization and by inadequate government service and law enforcement capabilities.

The published crime statistics were probably understated because the rural areas were virtually not policed. The police were concentrated in urban areas where only about 25 percent of the population lived and public distrust of the police contributed to under reporting of crimes.

GOAL

The goal shall be to reduce and eliminate insecurity to ensure security of lives and properties for sustainable urban living and longevity.

OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve the above goal, the Government shall pursue the following objectives:

- (i) Ensure that Nigerian cities are safe and secure; and
- (ii) Ensure that security issues become the concern and responsibility of all tiers of Government, the private sector, civil society and individuals in urban centres.

Annual crime rates fluctuated around 200 per 100,000 population until the early 1960s and then steadily increased to more than 300 per 100,000 by the mid- 1970s. Available data from the 1980s indicated a continuing increase. Total reported crimes rose from almost 211,000 in 1981 to between 330,000 and 355,000 during 1984-85. Although serious crime usually constituted the larger category, minor crimes and offenses accounted for more than half the offenses, with thefts, burglary, and breaking and entering covering 80 to 90 percent in most years. Assaults constituted 70 to 75 percent of all offense against persons.

The British high commission in Lagos cited more than 3,000 cases of forgeries annually. In the late 1980s, the crime wave was exacerbated by worsening economic conditions and by the ineffectiveness, inefficiency, and corruption of police, military, and customs personnel who colluded and conspired with criminals or actually engaged in criminal conduct.

In October 1988, the then Head of State General Babangida threatened to execute publicly any police or military personnel caught selling guns to criminals. Indeed, one criminologist argued that the combination of discrimination law enforcement and official corruption served to manage rather than reduce crime, by selectively punishing petty offenders while failing to prosecute vigorously major criminals and those guilty of white collar crime.

The public response to official misconduct was to take matters into its own hands. In July 1987, butchers, traders and unemployed persons in Minna, Niger State vented their wrath over police harassment, intimidation and extortion in a six hour rampage against police and soldiers that was quelled by military unit.

Also in November, 1989, a police team raided suspected stores in Katsina market, the merchants, feared it was police robbery and sounded alarm, attracting a mob that was then dispersed by riot policemen.

As the loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies and public insecurity increased, so also did public resort to vigilante action, Onitsha vigilantes killed several suspected criminals in 1979. In July 1989, after a gang of about thirty armed men terrorized and looted a neighbourhood in Onitsha without police intervention, residents vented their rage on known and suspected criminals and lynched four before riot police eventually restored order.

Drug – related crime emerged as a major problem in the 1980s. At least 328 cocaine seizures were made between

1989, and the number of hard drug convictions surged from 8 in 1986 to 19 in 1989.

PLANNING FOR CRIME PREVENTION

THE PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

If a social survey on user's perception of the quality of life in any built environment is conducted, crime will come up tops on the list. For decades, the public desire for personnel safety and protection from crime has become an overriding precursor of most urban design and planning considerations. People's desire is to feel safe in their homes and public places.

However, neighbourhood or location specific oriented crimes are burglary, assaults, criminal damage and vehicle crime and it is this crime that can be amenable to control and also changes through physical environment. There are three interlinked background issues that can inform response, they include fear, levels and the geography of crime.

Fear of crime is synonymous to actual victimization and this happens to mostly women, and those from minority group live in constant fear for their safety and so avoid certain areas by so doing impose their own curfew, Greed and Robert (1998).

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPETD)

Though Newman (1973) in his work "defensible space" designed to encourage householders to supervise and take on responsibility for the areas in which they live. He proposed four key design measures to overcome the failure of existing mass housing provision:

- (1) **Territoriality:** The subdivision of buildings and grounds into zones of influence to discourage outsiders from entering and encourage residents to defend their area.
- (2) **Surveillance:** The design of buildings to allow easy observation of the related territory.
- (3) **Image:** The design of public housing to avoid stigma.
- (4) **Environment:** The juxtaposing of public housing projects with safe zones in adjacent areas.

KEY COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES FOR URBAN DESIGNERS AND PLANNERS

- (1) Shopping areas can use a comprehensive closed circuit television network and lighting to help reduce shop and car theft.
- (2) Planning controls on rural development will possibility reduce crime.
- (3) The appointment of town centre managers who have a cross-boundary sphere of activity to look after both local authority and commercial interests in their areas.

EFFECTIVE PLANNING THAT CONTRIBUTES TO SAFE ENVIRONMENT

(1) Designing for optimum mix of uses: This approach was proffered by **Jacobs (1961)**, opined that a balanced, stable neighbourhood with heterogeneous mix of demography and activity reduces crime and fear, through informal social control networks and round-the-clock surveillance.

Commercial and leisure areas with concentrations of clubs will greatly increase the risk of certain types of crime or antisocial activity, alcohol fuelled crime such as assault and vandalism.

(2) Designing and maintaining to give the right psychological signals and cues: This tries to explain that, the image factor affects the environment such that, a high quality, cared-for environment will encourage respect for that environment and its users conversely, harsh, fortified and neglected environments may reinforce fear and actual risk.

Brutal surroundings may provoke brutal behavior and can lead to miscreant rising from that environment.

This can be seen as mainly modern housing estates and plazas have found themselves in deteriorating spiral of decline, as those with sufficient wealth and influence moves to elsewhere, leaving behind the poor, the powerless and the desperate.

(3) Designing for control of environment by users: This seeks to engage users and residents in the design and development process so that they have investments in the end result which they wish to safeguard. It follows a participatory approach that enable people to visualize their own design preferences, through constructing and manipulating simple three-dimensional scenarios.

(4) Right-Sizing: Crime flourishes in large unknown environment, small, identifiable communities seems to offer better mutual support and security to their residents and public. Services seem to work better when decentralized to manageable neighbourhood. This is the reason behind right-size neighbourhood being safer.

METHODOLOGY

The research was an observational and case study research The procedure for research design is:

- a. To identify the target population to be surveyed.
- b. The selection of sample size of target population
- c. The design survey instruments and observation procedure
- d. The collection and analysis of collected data.
- e. Discussion of findings.

POPULATION AND SAMPLING

The target population in the study is the residents in Port Harcourt City Local Government Area and is made up of twenty (20) wards.

The population of Port Harcourt City Local Government Area is 440,399(1991 population census statistics) and was projected to 2015 using the exponential method with the growth rate of 5.0% to 1,275,952 persons which the formula

of Taro Yamane was used to determine the sample size with 10% precision (confidence) level. Expressed by the formula

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = Sample Size
 N = is Total Population
 e = Error Margin (10%)
 1 = Constant.

$$\frac{1,275952}{1+1275952(0.01)}$$

$$n = \frac{1275952}{12760.52}$$

n = 99.99 approximately 100 questionnaires.

The sampling technique is probability sampling. The sampling method used was the stratified random sampling in which members of population were first divided into strata (wards). Out of 20 wards in the study area 5 wards were randomly selected and it constituted the sample frame of the research.

Table 1: Questionnaire distribution in the study area

S/N	LOCATION	NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRE
1	Eagle Island	16
2	Diobu	25
3	Abuloma	17
4	Elekahia	24
5	Rumukalagbor	18
	TOTAL	100

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Data was collected through primary, secondary sources and focus group discussions.

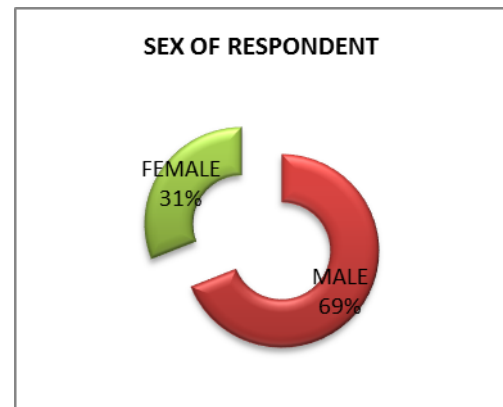
ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES

The analytical techniques used to analyze data in the research work was subjected to large descriptive analysis, using a simple statistical analysis such as the use of tables, charts, and maps The use of photograph was also adopted.

FINDINGS

The following were findings of the research

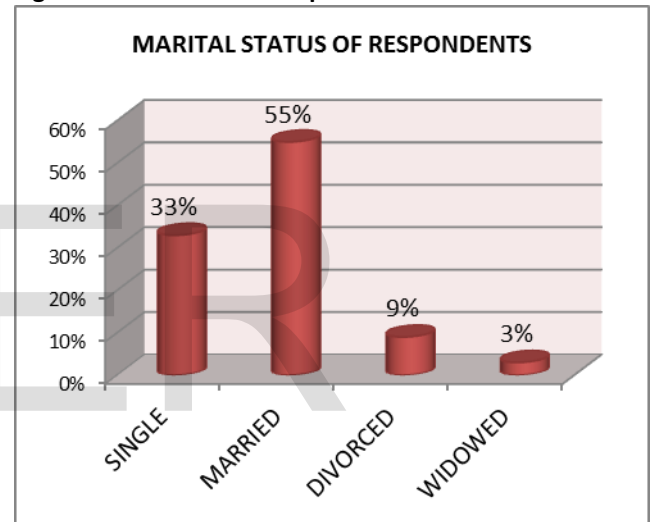
Fig. 1: Sex of respondent



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Figure 1 show the sex of respondents and 69% of the sampled population is male while 31% are female. It indicates that the place is a male dominated enclave.

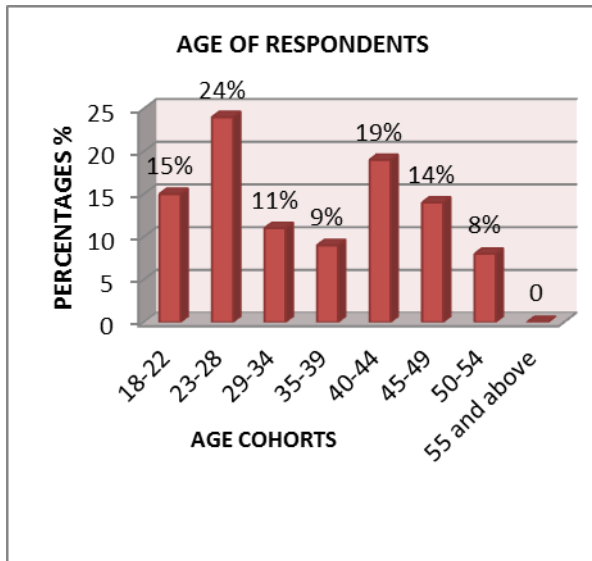
Fig. 2: Marital status of respondents



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Figure 2 above shows the marital status of the respondents; 33% were singles, 55% were married, 9% divorced, and 3% were widowed.

Fig.3: Age of respondents

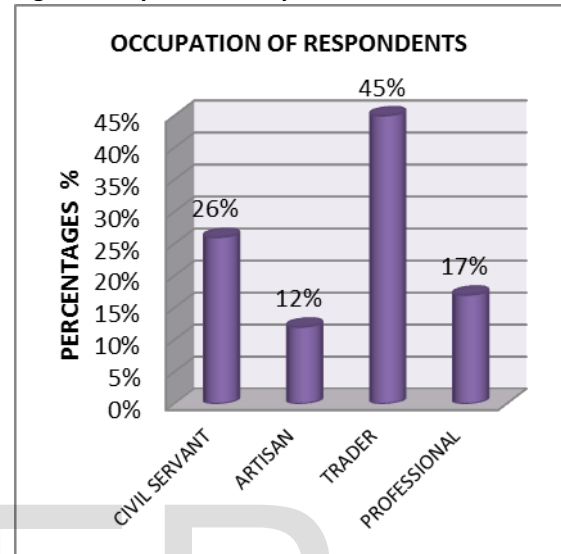


Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Figure 3 above shows that the highest number of respondents fall within the age cohorts of 23 – 28 years with 24%, 19% made up of age cohorts 40 – 44 years, while 15% of the respondents are from age cohorts 18-22 years and 8% are made up of 50 – 54 years. This chart represents the most active workforce that is domiciled in Port Harcourt and are likely be affected by crime.

Figure 4 shows the educational status of respondents in the study area and it indicates that 48% of the respondents have attained secondary school, 24% had also attained tertiary education, 19% of the respondents have completed primary school and 9% of the respondents had no formal education. However, it shows that the average sampled population is literate.

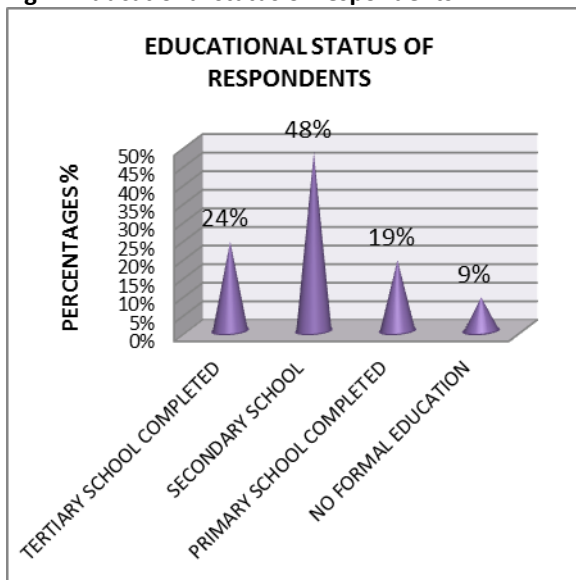
Fig. 5: Occupation of respondents



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

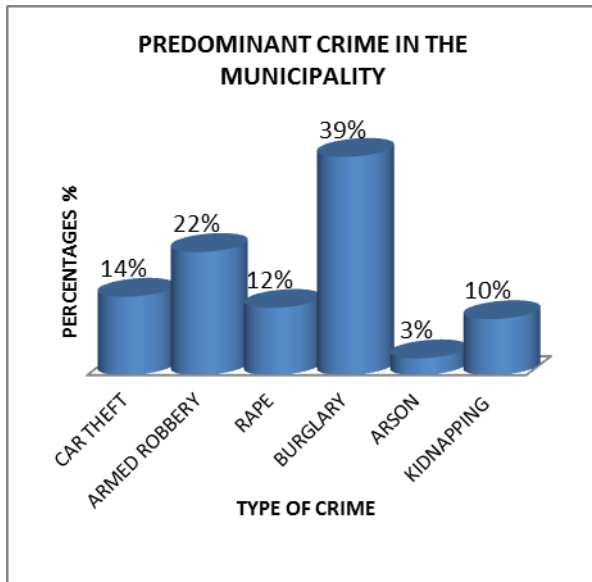
Figure 5 shows the different types of occupation, 26% of the respondents are Civil servants, 45% of the respondents are traders, and 17% of the respondents are professionals like engineers, and nurses etc while 12% are artisans.

Fig. 4: Educational status of respondents



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

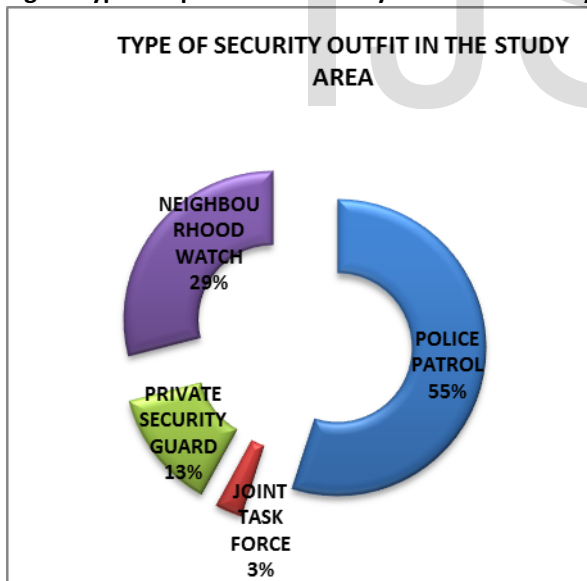
Fig. 6: Predominant crime in the study area



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Figure 6 above shows the predominant criminal activities that occur in the area, burglary have the highest with 39% followed by armed robbery which has 22%, car theft had 14% and arson 3%. From this observation the most predominant crimes in the study area are burglary, armed robbery and car theft.

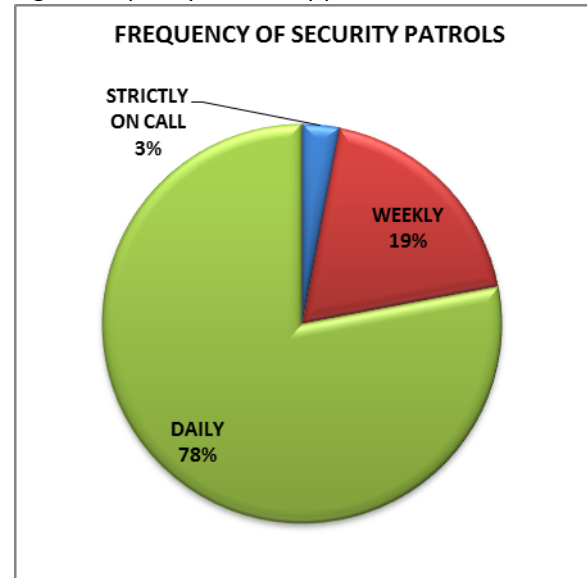
Fig. 7: Type of operational security outfit in the study area



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

The chart shows the security agencies that are involved in preventing crime, 55% of the respondent attributes the operational security agency as police patrol, 29% to neighbourhood watch, 13% to private security guard and 3% of the respondents claim that they see the Joint Taskforce.

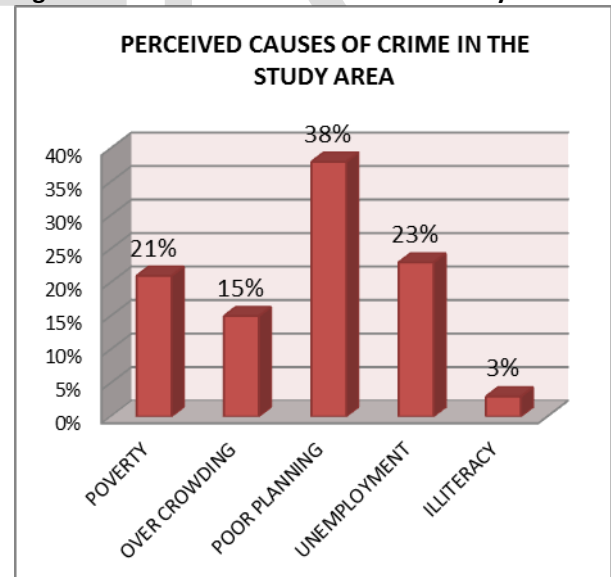
Fig. 8: Frequency of security patrols



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Figure 8 above shows the frequency of security patrols, 78% said the patrol is done on daily, 19% said weekly and 3% said strictly when they are called upon.

Fig. 9: Perceived causes of crime in the study area



Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

The figure 9 above shows the respondents perceived causes of crime in the study area, 21% said poverty, 23% said unemployment, 15% said overcrowded population, 38% said unplanned environment, and 3% said other illiteracy.

Table 2: Suggestions to improve security

SUGGESTED WAYS OF IMPROVING SECURITY IN THE STUDY AREA	%
Create employment	22
Eradicate corruption	5
Prosecute offenders	20
Improve police patrol(high visibility policing)	17
Provide street light	10
Proper planning of environment	12
Educate the public on security (enlighten the public on	5
Create access and existing road	9
	100

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Table 2 above shows the opinion of respondents on how to improve on the security challenges in the study area. 22% of the respondents suggested that government should create employment, 5% suggested proper planning of the environment and the like.

CONCLUSION

From the findings in the study, municipal insecurity has adverse effect in the society when it is attributed to crime. The research was an expository research on urban security and physical planning. Thus it was seen that physical planning has a great stimulus on urban security.

It has been established that the predominant crimes in Port Harcourt Municipality are burglary, armed robbery, car theft and rape.

And most of the environmental conditions of the neighborhoods are unplanned, it is characterized by darkness as there are no functional street lights and through the Likert scale of preference, majority of the sampled population strongly agreed that their neighbourhood is safe despite the criminal activities that take place in the area.

Therefore, the need to incorporate planning measures to reduce the risk of insecurity that will lead to fear to reside in an area through the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), equip security agencies to combat crime, bring to book crime perpetrators and the need to improve on neighborhood watch, which is a people-oriented approach.

Improve population database and the use of electronic gadgets such as street cameras and close circuit television and also ensure biometric registration of Port Harcourt residence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Urban security challenges is a multi-dimensional problem that need the collaboration of various institutions concerned with tackling security such as the government and professionals in the physical development process and the entire public.

Having identified the urban security challenges and the role of physical planning in combating crime, the following recommendations were reached to help reduce the security situation in most urban areas like Port Harcourt Municipality.

- 1) Physical planners should incorporate the Crime Protection through Environmental Design (CPTED) concept in planning for neighborhoods and broad land-use plan in order to tackle security issues in urban areas.
- 2) Government should improve the quality of life of her citizenry by creating jobs for the youths and unemployed and create conducive environment for all.
- 3) Government should adequately equip the police and other security agencies so that they can effectively fight crime to the barest minimum.
- 4) The police should take it as a point of duty to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of crime after thorough investigations.
- 5) Citizens should engage in neighborhood watch and boost natural surveillance in their respective neighbourhoods.
- 6) Geographic Information System and security plan should be integrated by government in the city management plan of Port Harcourt municipality.
- 7) Improve database and the use of high technological gadgets like dome cameras, closed circuit televisions in densely populated neighbourhoods to improve security in urban areas.
- 8) Visibility Policing and as well as a very coordinated vigilante Scheme should be put in place.
- 9) The security agencies should try to restore public confidence in them to encourage effective crime reporting in notorious neighbourhoods.

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