

IMPACT OF URBAN SLUM VIOLENCE ON WORK IN SLUM AREAS OF PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA

PORBARI MONBARI BADOM¹, KUAPIE NDEEUE²

¹*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria*

²*Rivers State College of Health Science and Management Technology, Oro-owo, Port Harcourt, Nigeria*

© 2023 Porbari Monbari Badom, Kuapie Ndeue

This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>)

DOI: 10.2478/eras-2023-0011

Abstract

Regular violence pervades the slums in Port Harcourt, a metropolitan city where people inhabit for the purpose of work, among other reasons. The curiosity to understand the relationship of work with this violence is felt by the researchers who, from the review of relevant literature, observed that intellectual response to the issue dealt with political violence and effects on social development. The researchers therefore observed an existing gap in knowledge of the relationship between urban slum violence and work in the slum areas of Port Harcourt. Four research hypotheses were posed to guide the study. The study adopted the social disorganization theory in the explanation of the variables of the study. Simple random sampling method was adopted in the selection of the respondents of the instruments of the study, and some slums in the city were selected randomly. The study adopted cross-sectional research design and generated data through survey. The data for the study was generated through the administration of structured questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion. Sample size of 400 was determined by the Taro Yamane statistics. We analyzed data of the study using descriptive statistics. Thus, chi-square statistics was utilized in testing the hypotheses of the study. The qualitative data were organized into conceptual themes and categories. The study concluded that urban slum violence hinders school activities, business activities, fishing activities and employment opportunities for people in the slum areas of Port Harcourt. Thus, the study established that urban slum violence has a negative impact on work in the slum areas of Port Harcourt. Hence, policy recommendations were made.

Keywords

urban, slum, violence, impact, work

Introduction

Urban slum violence in recent times has been on the increase in Port Harcourt, with a seeming debilitating impact on work. Urban slums are of great concern to many people, because a larger number of people reside in city slums. Port Harcourt, the capital city of Rivers State in Nigeria, is replete with a plethora of slums, and this had resulted in the expansion of the city. The slum residents are well-meaning individuals despite their economic deprivation, which may be the reason for residing in the squatter settlement. Urban slums are characterized by the increased influx of people and poor surroundings that makes myriad forms of social vices to persist (Elem & Onu, 2021). “The situation at present is that the streets and neighborhoods of the nation’s urban centers especially the low-income ones are threats of violence occasioned by the spillover of cult activities” (Oruwari & Owei, 2006, 5). Even if other parts of the city may also experience violence and unsafe neighborhood, it is pertinent to emphasize that people living in slums and other inner neighborhoods tend to suffer violence and crime more than residents of other parts of the city (Mudege, Zulu &

Izugbara, 2008). Notably, slums are fraught with vandalism, robbery, rape, cultism, and assault (Elem & Onu, 2021; Ogbonna & Anele, 2022).

Most slums in Port Harcourt are waterfront settlements, which are mostly congested and densely populated, and somewhat a hiding place for criminals. This makes violence and crime thrive in the slums (Omoboye & Festus, 2020).

Over the years, residents of slums in Port Harcourt have been exposed to the risk of criminal violence, which emanated from armed violence (UNDP, 2007). In the opinion of Walker (2008), violence had been rife and orchestrated by unemployed youth within the Port Harcourt waterside slums. Walker emphasized that gang violence had taken a toll in the slum because law and order had failed, and a score of people are injured in spates of violence. Similarly, Nnanna, Onah & Onoyume (2009) stressed that most distinguished attribute of the Port Harcourt waterfronts is the seeming lack of security and the reign of the laws of the jungle.

Udeuhele (2018) argues that there exist a high level of violence and insecurity issues confronting virtually all modern urban centers, and that slums, apart from the rate of violence it is witnessing daily, has been used as a hide-out and haven for criminals. In many parts of these slums, violence has been institutionalized owing to the relative gains accruing to the perpetrators of violence in these slums. Urban gangs and their violent engagement against rival groups, innocent persons, and politically associated killings are a daily reality in Port Harcourt (Oruwari & Owei, 2006, 7).

There are different cult groups within the slum areas, most of the times engaged in war of supremacy with each other. This has often resulted in loss of lives in the slums. "These cult activities, most people believe had their impetus to the slums in Port Harcourt. That slums have become a breeding ground for all manner of criminalities" (Elem & Onu, 2021, 2). Very recently, it was reportedly gathered by the Nigeria info, 92.3 that two persons were killed in a supremacy battle between two rival cult groups in the Elechi beach axis of mile 1, a slum area of Port Harcourt. This explains that violence defines all gang and cult activities within the slums. Even though the violence is apparent to all residents of the city and the government, the police as a government agency have not been able to combat urban slums violence effectively. This is because of many reasons ranging from lack of sophisticated weapons, corrupt attitude of the police, etc.

Furthermore, the state of urban slum violence is not without challenges to different aspects of social life. Most especially, work, which is a prerequisite for human sustenance, is a major aspect of social life (Badom & Girigiri, 2022). In the slums, residents engage in work of different kinds. Some are engaged in slum-based business activities, some engage in school activities as teachers and general work force. In addition, because of the proximity of the residences to the creeks of Port Harcourt most residents engage in fishing activities. Some also are applicants of work organizations that are located within the slums. All these activities and many others will enable residents to fend for themselves. Slum economies play a critical role in fulfilling slum dwellers' livelihood (Rockefeller Foundation, n.d.).

As reported above by Nigeria info 92.3, the killings and sporadic shootings witnessed in the Elechi Beach axis of Mile 1, Diobu in Port Harcourt between rival cult groups in the slum have caused business owners to lock their shops and fled the area for fear of the unknown. Similarly, as established by Mudeges, Zulu & Izugbara (2008) insecurity in slum areas may affect parents' willingness to allow their children to go to school or may deter children from being interested in going to school. This is despite the high demands for education in slum areas (Mugisha, 2006). People have always assumed, without any empirical studies, that work in the slums tends to be affected by urban slum violence. This vague assumption needs to be investigated. This is the concern of this study as residents of the slums

often attribute their penury and hindrance of work to the violence in the slums. Thus, this study therefore seeks to examine the impact of urban slum violence on work in the slum areas of Port Harcourt.

The expansion of Port Harcourt and relative slums is apparent, and poor or low-income people who left rural communities in search of greener pasture but lacking the wherewithal to afford standard apartments, occupy the slums. It is an area where inhabitants come from various backgrounds. Slum is considered as a place that enhances frequent crime and violence, even if this can also occur in any other neighborhoods (Agboola, 2009). The unprecedented hike and sophistication of violence is a well-known fact. Violence in the slums of Port Harcourt is not new and is only being aggravated by the enlargement of the city. Port Harcourt is the capital of Rivers State and as a result “is the center of social, political and economic power, which makes it a flashpoint for violence” (the World Bank Social Development Department, 2011). In the opinion of Kio-Lawson (2014), there are thirty-two waterside settlements in Port Harcourt. It is in these waterside settlements and other shanty areas in Port Harcourt that have been the home of violence, which has the possibility of spreading to other parts of the city.

Violence in these slums has taken different forms ranging from homicide, kidnapping, killing to cultism. Iheamnachor (2018) reported that gunmen believed to be kidnappers living within the slum areas murdered and buried a Senior Staff member of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC in Rivers State, after they got a ransom in foreign currency. In similar vein, Okolie (2019) reported that a gang of three gunmen who lived in one of the slums in Port Harcourt killed three police officers after snatching their rifles. The gunmen were said to have mentioned their specialty in stealing within the slum areas of Woji and supermarkets in a slum in Port Harcourt. Similarly, Walter (2008) posited that Prince Akpelu who was in a bear parlor at the time of violence in the slum was shot in the arm and back, and one of his brothers was killed. The said brother of prince was a resident of a rough-violent slum, and these men shot were victims of violent random shooting in one of the slums. Again, there are cult groups who most times are in rivalry and neighborhood-based gangs that operate in these slums. These cult groups and gangs are still in operation even in broad day light in the presence of law enforcement agents (Oruwari & Owei, 2006).

The presence of cults and gangs in slums in Port Harcourt and relative violence done by them is a problem to the residents of the slums and neighborhood in Port Harcourt. This had given people cause for concern. This is because daily life seems to be disrupted. Human Right Watch (2004) argued that daily lives have been affected, schools have been forced to close, economic activity has all but ceased and the homes and property of Nigerians have been destroyed. People who have been left homeless and many destitute have yet to receive promises of financial assistance from the state government.

Relatively, every attitude or mode of behavior is expected to attract either positive or negative impacts. Therefore, the frequent level of violence in these slums tends to affect work in the slum environment and thus attract complaints of hindrance of economic life. One is curious then to know what happens to school activities, slum-based businesses activities, fishing activities, and employment activities in the slums of Port Harcourt. These activities constitute work, as people engage in these activities to sustain life in the slums. Curiosity to investigate the relationship between urban slum violence and work is imperative because prior studies have left this gap. There is a dearth of research in this area. It is therefore deemed necessary by the researchers to investigate the impact of urban slum violence on work in slum areas of Port Harcourt.

The study therefore sought to investigate the impact of urban slum violence on work in slum areas of Port Harcourt, and specifically gave attention to:

1) Examine the relationship between urban slum violence and state of school activities within the slums in Port Harcourt.

2) Investigate the relationship between urban slum violence and slum-based business activities in Port Harcourt.

3) Examine the nexus between urban slum violence and fishing activities in the creeks within the slums in Port Harcourt.

4) Investigate the relationship between urban slum violence and employment opportunities for people within the slums in Port Harcourt.

Deduced from the objectives, it was hypothetically formulated that:

1) There is no relationship between urban slum violence and stoppage of school activities within the slums in Port Harcourt.

2) There exists no nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of business activities within the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

3) There is no relationship between urban slum violence and stoppage of fishing activities in the creeks within the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

4) There exists no nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of employment opportunities for people in the slum areas in Port Harcourt

Literature review

This section is concerned with the literature review. Thus, it is a practical concern with the conceptual, empirical, and theoretical review of relevant literature.

The issue of urbanization in all parts of the world is not a new phenomenon. Several people have moved from rural communities to urban centers. This among other reasons is sequel to people's perception that the urban area holds greater propensities, better infrastructure for more comfortable living, and greener pastures for its residents (Muggah, 2012).

Urban slum violence

Urbanization in the view of Bobadaye & Fakere (2013) refers to "specific changes in the structure and distribution of urban population as well as in size and character of a settlement: Again, urbanization is perceived as a process by which a settlement is changed from rural to an urban way of living (technology, systems of production, commerce and administration" (Areola, Mamman, Onweluzo & Omotoso, 2008). Urban cities are beset with a myriad of problems (Jay, 2001; Charles, 1979; Hick, 1974; Blair, 1974). Among these challenges are slum formation and violence. Slum is conceptualized as a group of people residing within the same dwelling in an urban area and lacking some basic facilities. The facilities can be one or more of the following: (1) durable housing; (2) sufficient living area (no more than three sharing a room; (3) access to portable water; (4) access to improved sanitation facilities (a private toilet or a public one shared with a reasonable number of persons; and (5) a secured tenure status and protection against forced eviction. In the city of Port Harcourt, slums are mostly waterside or waterfront substandard dwellings. They are generally shanties, which often make residents overcrowded with poor structural buildings and inadequate sanitation and quality life. Slum also exists in areas that are not waterfronts.

In the opinion of Kio-Lawson (2013), slum settlements in Port Harcourt have an increase in the number of residents from about 200,000 to 500,000, the total population being about 1.5 million residents. This is an indicator that a larger number of Port Harcourt residents live in slums. This is supported by Pat-Mbane & Nwadiaro (2012), who stressed that slums are usually densely populated. Owing to the influx of people to the slums, it is imperative to note that normal business and economic activities thrive in the slum areas.

Obafemi & Oduba (2013) argue that intensive commercial and water-based transportation activities are also prevalent in the slums. It is noteworthy the fact that slums in Port Harcourt contribute to the economy of Port Harcourt. According to Breen & Rigby (1996), slum redevelopment projects can be grouped into six main categories, namely: commercial water fronts, cultural educational and environmental waterfront, residential working, recreational and historic waterfronts. The slums in Port Harcourt serve the residents as an environment for work, education, business etc.

Despite the desired aim of residents of Port Harcourt slums to make ends meet through the different economic activities they are engaged in, violence is still witnessed. Clinard & Abbot as cited in Abotutu (2014) observed that slum housing has a significant degree of relationship with deviant behavior. This reveals that slum areas in Port Harcourt are areas where violence is rife. Violence in its entire occurrence is known to constitute human tragedy and other impacts on all strata of social life. Violence occurs in families, schools, work organizations, and even places of worship. Usman (2009) in his narrative compared violence in Nigeria to an octopus, and therefore contend that the spread of violence affects everyone. Violence according to Hornby (2001) is defined as activities involving or caused by physical force that is intended to hurt or kill an individual. Moncada (2013) stressed that violence is the use of threat of physical force to inflict bodily or psychological harm against an individual, community or social group. Similarly, WHO (2002) conceive violence as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, and deprivation.

Violence in whichever form is anti-social and demeaning to an individual. An apt affirmation by Egbue (2012) is that violence by its very nature causes a breakdown of social activities. It generates destruction of some sort, to physical wellbeing and health, to life and property. It usually is behavior necessitating of unwholesome feelings of anger, hatred, frustration, rage and aggrievement. Violence manifests itself as an absence of law and order. It is pertinent to stress that violence is an infraction of the law, as a manifestation of some form of anomie. Violence may also be expressed in a plethora of patterns of social life. Hence, violence may be ethnic in orientation. It could be manifested in clashes between cult groups. Cult gangs and youths who are unemployed can perform violent crimes (Agaegbu, 2012).

Violence in urban slums can act as an inhibitor to economic activities. World Bank (2009) averred that violence can have strong negative impact on economic development by drastically reducing growth and producing long-lasting detrimental social impact. Violence or the fear of it deters investment and stigmatizes neighborhoods, erodes social cohesion, and can limit access to employment and educational activities. On the individual level, residents to urban cities where crime is endemic may decrease or avoid investing in their own human capital, postpone commencement of small-scale businesses, and avoid practicing some forms of solidarity with neighbors because of fear. In recent times, Port Harcourt has had some high levels of violence, most especially in slums. Edozie (2016) argued that high crime neighborhoods in Port Harcourt include areas where slums are located.

Work

Work is something in which people are generally involved in diverse ways. People may work in their little field, growing food to sustain life. People could also work in offices together with others. Work thus changes society positively in many ways and in that process creates for many people a standard of living that produces more than what is required for human basic subsistence. Work is therefore a social and economic phenomenon (Badom &

Girigiri, 2022).

Work as defined by Scott & Marshall (2005) is the supply of physical, mental, and emotional effort to produce goods and services for own consumption, or for consumption by others. Similarly, Watson (2008) aptly refers to it as the carrying out of tasks, which enable people to make a living within the social and economic context in which they are located.

Inhabitants of Port Harcourt slums are economically conscious and are therefore engaged in diverse work to sustain life. Most slums are waterfronts, which are close to creeks. As such, most inhabitants are fisher people who engage in the fishing business owing to the nearby creeks and the high demand for fish in Port Harcourt. “There is need to stress that the peculiar environment that organizations find themselves is another critical factor that influences how organizations operate and achieve effectiveness” (Girigiri Badom, 2022). This points out that the proximity of the slums to the creeks makes fishing thrive within the slums. Fisher people who inhabit the slums earn their living from the fishing business, because the fishes harvested are sold in the slum areas and other parts of Port Harcourt. In fact, many Port Harcourt residents rely on the fish caught by the fisher folks in the slum areas for consumption.

Similarly, education is a serious activity that no sane individual will want to be deprived of. Mugisha (2006) averred that there is high demand for education in slum communities even though research has revealed that the slum schools are usually of poor standard.

Empirical review

Even though there is scanty empirical work in urban slum violence and work in Port Harcourt, some related works are worth reviewing. In the opinion of Rosenberg (2014), despite the level of violence in Nigeria and its security challenges, urban violence will not affect all kinds of business. This is the outcome of a qualitative study based on a survey conducted by the researcher.

Besides, Mudege, Zulu & Izugbara (2008) were concerned with how insecurity affects school attendance and school dropout among urban slum children in Nairobi. The paper relies on qualitative data collected in Korogocho and Viwandani slums in Nairobi. The paper gathered data through individual interviews and focus group discussions based on how insecurity affects educational achievement. The paper concludes that insecure slum neighborhoods may have a negative impact on schooling. The reasons given why some children were absent from school during the violent periods include dearth of security within the schools and the slum neighborhoods.

Similarly, Osawe (2015) conducted a study on the issue of rising level of violent crime in Nigeria with implication on socio-economic development. The paper is purely qualitative. Nigeria in the opinion of Osawe has witnessed among others myriad of violent crimes. Osawe maintained that a high rate of violent crime causes a high rate of unemployment, low industrial output, and endemic rural and urban poverty.

Anekwe (2018) also conducted a study, which focused on the examination of security challenges and the implications for business activities in Nigeria. The study is qualitative and relied on secondary data for its result. The study found that insecurity in Nigeria has negatively affected business activities.

Again, in another study, Ogbonna & Anele (2022) “Investigated risk factors caused by waterfront shanty settlements on juvenile delinquents in Rivers State, Nigeria”. The study adopted qualitative research design, using an in-depth interview. The study found that the major crimes committed in the slums are alcohol/drug abuse; theft; vandalism; pick pocketing; assault and prostitution. The study also revealed that the cause of juveniles

committing these crimes in the slums include poverty, lack of basic amenities, unemployment, peer influence, substance abuse, household violence and “absence of schooling”.

Furthermore, Elem & Onu (2021) studied urban slums and cultism in Port Harcourt. The study is a survey, which utilized a quantitative method to generate data. It was revealed in the study that there are slums in Port Harcourt and the existence of slums “created the needed impetus for cultism”. The study maintained that slum dwellers are exposed to harsh conditions of life, crime, and deprivations.

The above studies reviewed all present limitations and a lacuna that necessitated this study because from the researchers’ estimation no particular study has examined the impact of urban slum violence on work in Port Harcourt. It is therefore the intention of this study to fill this gap and contribute to knowledge and to policy in the area of impact of urban slum violence on work.

Theoretical framework

Social disorganization theory was utilized for explaining the phenomena of this study. Social disorganization theory is of relevance to this study. It explains that violent crime’s occurrence prevalent in the poor residential areas of the city is aggravated by the unstructured nature of the slums, thus attracting delinquents and substance dealers, which thus cause high rates of population turnover, economic deprivation, and restricted social contact because the slums have become dangerously undesirable communities. Shaw & McKay (1942) opined that the theory shifts criminological attention from the pathology of people to that of places. The proponents of the theory argue that delinquency does not randomly occur throughout the city, but is concentrated in disadvantaged neighborhoods (Shaw, 2002). The slum areas are perceived as the breeding place of crime (Siegel & Senna, 1991). Social disorganization theory correlates anti-social behavior or crime and delinquency with neighborhood traits. The theory associates crime rates with the characteristics of urban decay and breakdown in the fabric of social existence and life of the environment. The transient populations of the changing neighborhoods are associated with increased unemployment rates and single-parent families associated with high crime rates (Iwarimie-Jaja, 1999).

The theory demonstrates that crime did not randomly occur in the entire city of Port Harcourt but is prevalent in the slum areas. This is because of the marginal nature of the slums, which are homes to the poor. The slums become more congested and harbor criminal youths and gangs. The inhabitants of these slums also carry out economic and social activities. This is because urbanization triggers the economics of the city. However, economic, and social activities in the slum areas do not thrive well whenever there is an increasing crime rate. The social action of youth gangs and cult groups in the slum areas can affect the social and economic activities of residents of the slum area. Anglers and women who rely on fishing for a living can be hindered from going to fishing in the creeks. In addition, the schools within the slum areas and the slum-based businesses may be hindered from functioning. This is owing to the violence in the slum areas of Port Harcourt.

Materials and methods

The research adopted a cross-sectional design and generated data through survey method. This is because a correlation design is possible through survey research (Badom & Girigiri, 2021). The slum areas of Port Harcourt constituted the study area of the research. This means that the researchers conducted the survey in the slums of the city. From the researchers’ observation, there are about thirty waterfronts (slums) within the city of Port Harcourt. There is dearth of accurate figures of the population of the slums, owing to the

failure of the government of Rivers State and Nigeria to conduct a census of the slum areas. This prompted the UN settlement program (UN HABITAT, 2009) to stress the urgent need for a thorough enumeration of inhabitants of the slums in Port Harcourt. However, Max as cited in Amnesty International, (2010) in a study of the slums in Port Harcourt chose an estimated population figure of 481,900. It is imperative to accept 481,900 as the population figure of the slum's inhabitants in Port Harcourt.

The sample size was derived from the population figure and determined by the formula in Yamane (1967). The formula is as follows:

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

Where:

n = the sample size
N = population
e = level of precision

In application of this formula to the sample size of the study, we have 400 as the sample size of the study. The study adopted random sampling in selecting the slums, and simple random sampling in selecting the respondents of the study. Primary data were sourced through questionnaire and focus group. 320 copies of the questionnaire were administered and retrieved, while we had eight focus groups. The total number of focus group participants involves persons encompassing both genders in 8 slums totaling 80 respondents. The 80 respondents for FGDs and 320 for questionnaires were subsumed in the sample size of 400. Secondary data were generated from journal articles, textbooks, newspapers, and other unpublished works.

Percentage was utilized for the analysis of demographic data of respondents and research questions, while chi-square was utilized in testing the hypotheses. The qualitative data were generated through the Focus Group Discussions. The eight focus groups were dependent on the objectives of the study, and the research questions. Data were collected with the aid of a tape-recorder and field note. The data was transcribed and content analyzed. In this case, we did a thematic analysis. This was made possible by data coding, organized into conceptual categories and themes. The chi-square formula is:

$$X^2 = \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{fe}$$

Where:

x² = Chi-square
fe = expected frequency
fo = observed frequency

The decision rule is to reject the testing null hypothesis if the chi-square (x²) calculated value is greater than the table value that is 0.05 significant levels, otherwise retain the testing null hypothesis.

Results and discussion

Table 1. Respondents Demographic Data

S/N	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1)	Sex of Respondents		
	Male	167	52
	Female	153	48
2)	Age of Respondents		
	18 – 25	44	13.75
	26 – 33	39	12.19
	34 – 41	48	15
	42 – 49	69	21.56
3)	Level of Education		
	No formal education	24	7.5
	Primary	31	9.69
	Secondary	186	58.12
	Tertiary	79	24.68
4)	Occupational Status		
	Employed	71	22
	Unemployed	249	78
5)	Type of Occupation of Respondents		
	Civil Servant	64	20
	Farming	11	3.43
	Business	98	30.63
	Trading	123	38.44
	Others	24	7.5
6)	Residential mode		
	Stranger in Port Harcourt	304	95
	Native of Port Harcourt	16	5
7)	Category of Trade		
	Petty-trade	78	63.41
	Supermarket trade	19	15.45
	Other trades	26	21.14
8)	Respondents' Durations of Residing in Port Harcourt		
	1 – 5 yrs	83	25.94
	6 – 10 yrs	98	30.62
	11 – 15 yrs	67	20.94
	16 – 20 yrs	43	13.44
	20 and above	29	9.06
9)	Reason for Residing in Port Harcourt		
	Business	72	22.5
	Civil service employment	85	26.56
	Menial job	102	31.87
	Fishing	50	15.63
	Others	11	3.44
10)	Residential Type		
	Block Building	31	9.69
	Shanty	289	90.31

Questionnaire results

Ho1: There is no relationship between urban slum violence and hindrance of school activities within the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1)	Whenever bad boys shoot guns regularly in order to kill people pupils and students will be afraid to go to schools in the slum areas.	98 (30.62%)	82 (25.62%)	56 (17.5%)	84 (26.26%)
2)	I feel that whenever there is an increasing rate of gun shots by armed youths in slums in Port Harcourt, teachers are hindered from going to school to teach students.	102 (31.88%)	97 (30.31%)	68 (21.25)	53 (16.56%)
3)	Regular shootings and killings in slums in Port Harcourt will make schools in the area to postpone educational activities.	115 (35.94%)	85 (26.56%)	59 (18.44%)	61 (19.06%)
4)	It is truthful to say that the schools in the slum areas of Port Harcourt will not be safe when there is increasing level of gun shots and killings by armed youths in slums in Port Harcourt.	92 (28.75%)	99 (30.94%)	79 (24.69%)	50 (15.62%)
5)	I think therefore that if there is an increasing level of gun shots and killings in the slum areas of Port Harcourt by armed youths, effective learning will not go on in schools within the slum areas.	89 (27.81%)	106 (33.12%)	86 (26.88%)	39 (12.19%)

Table 2. Contingency table showing observed and expected frequencies

S/N	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
1	98 (99.2)	82 (93.8)	56 (69.6)	84 (57.4)
2	102 (99.2)	97 (93.8)	68 (69.6)	53 (57.4)
3	115 (99.2)	85 (93.8)	59 (69.6)	61 (57.4)
4	92 (99.2)	99 (93.8)	79 (69.6)	50 (57.4)
5	89 (99.2)	106 (93.8)	86 (69.6)	39 (57.4)

Chi square calculated value = 37.656

DF = (r - 1) (c - 1), where r is the number of row and c the number of column

DF = (4 - 1) (5 - 1) = 3 x 4 = 12 and at 0.05 level of significance.

The table value of χ^2 at 12 DF = 21.026

The calculated chi-square value (37.656) is greater than the table value (21.026). Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis and retain the alternate research hypothesis, upholding that there is significant relationship between urban slum violence and hindrance of school activities within the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

Ho2: There exists no nexus between Urban Slum Violence and hindrance of Business

activities within the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1)	When there are increased shootings and killings by armed youths in the slum areas of Port Harcourt people are hindered to go out to sell their markets.	107 (33.44%)	99 (30.94%)	58 (18.12%)	56 (17.5%)
2)	I feel that when armed youths in these slums in Port Harcourt shoot guns in the slum regularly in order to kill and destroy people residents are hindered to freely transact business in the area.	86 (26.87%)	94 (29.38%)	76 (23.75%)	64 (20%)
3)	I feel that whenever 'bad boys' continually shoot guns and kill people within slum areas of Port Harcourt people are hindered from going to the market.	69 (21.56%)	108 (33.75%)	60 (18.75%)	83 (25.94%)
4)	Whenever there is regular shooting and killing by armed youths in the slum areas of Port Harcourt, businesspeople who come from different areas to transact business on the slums are hindered from coming to do business in the slum areas.	103 (32.19%)	105 (32.81%)	63 (19.69%)	49 (15.31%)
5)	I feel that regular shootings and killings by armed youths in the slums in Port Harcourt generally hinder every business activity within the slum areas.	95 (29.69%)	80 (25%)	89 (27.81%)	56 (17.5%)

Table 3. Contingency table showing observed and expected frequency

S/N	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
1	107 (92)	99 (97.2)	58 (69.2)	56 (61.6)
2	86 (92)	94 (97.2)	76 (69.2)	64 (61.6)
3	69 (92)	108 (97.2)	60 (69.2)	83 (61.6)
4	103 (92)	105 (97.2)	63 (69.2)	49 (61.6)
5	95 (92)	80 (97.2)	89 (69.2)	56 (61.6)

Chi square calculated value = 36.054

DF = $(r - 1)(c - 1)$, where r is the number of row and c the number of column

DF = $(4 - 1)(5 - 1) = 3 \times 4 = 12$ and at 0.05 level of significance.

The table value of χ^2 at 12 degrees of freedom = 21.026

The calculated chi-square value (36.054) is greater than the critical value (21.026). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected, while we retain the alternate hypothesis that states that there is a nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of business activities within the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

Ho3. There is no relationship between urban slum violence and stoppage of fishing activities within the creeks of the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1)	During periods of regular gun shots and killings by armed youths in the slum areas of Port Harcourt, the creeks are not safe for people.	66 (20.62%)	98 (30.63%)	72 (22.5%)	84 (26.25%)
2)	I feel that when armed youths regularly shoot guns and kill people in the slum areas, fisher people are afraid to go into the creeks to carry out fishing activities.	93 (29.06%)	87 (27.19%)	76 (23.75%)	64 (20%)
3)	Whenever there is regular rate of shootings and killings by armed youths in the slums of Port Harcourt's fisher people who refused to be afraid are either injured or killed.	75 (23.44%)	91 (28.44%)	88 (27.5%)	66 (20.62%)
4)	During periods of regular shootings and killings by armed youths in the slums of Port Harcourt, the women who go out to meet the fisher people to buy fish for onward sale at the market are hindered to do so.	83 (25.94%)	92 (28.75%)	88 (27.5%)	57 (17.81%)
5)	It is therefore truthful to say that fisher people will be hindered from every fishing activity during periods of regular shootings and killings of people in the slum areas of Port Harcourt.	100 (31.25%)	72 (22.5%)	70 (21.88%)	78 (24.37%)

Table 4. Contingency table showing observed and expected frequencies

S/N	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
1	66 (83.4)	98 (88)	72 (78.8)	84 (69.8)
2	93 (83.4)	87 (88)	76 (78.8)	64 (69.8)
3	75 (83.4)	91 (88)	88 (78.8)	66 (69.8)
4	83 (83.4)	92 (88)	88 (78.8)	57 (69.8)
5	100 (83.4)	72 (88)	70 (78.8)	78 (69.8)

Chi square calculated value = 23.932

DF = (r – 1) (c – 1), where: r is the number of row and c the number of column

DF = (4 – 1) (5 – 1) = 3 x 4 = 12 and at 0.05 level of significance.

The table value of χ^2 at 12 degrees of freedom = 21.026

The calculated chi-square value 23.932 is greater than the critical value χ^2 (21.026). This therefore necessitates the rejection of the null hypothesis. Thus, it is here established that there is relationship between urban slum violence and stoppage of fishing activities within the creeks of the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

Ho4. There exists no nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of employment opportunities for people in the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1)	When there is regular shootings and killings in the slums, work organizations in the slums ready to employ workers will be hindered from carrying out the exercise during the period in the slum areas of Port Harcourt.	105 (32.81%)	82 (20.63%)	67 (20.94%)	66 (20.62%)
2)	I feel that regular shootings and killings by armed youths in the slums in Port Harcourt hinders job applicants from going out to search for jobs in the area.	83 (25.94%)	61 (19.06%)	97 (30.31%)	79 (24.69%)
3)	I feel that employees who may have been hired to start work by organizations situated in the slum areas will be hindered from starting work if there are regular shootings and killings by armed youths in the slum areas of Port Harcourt.	77 (24.06%)	90 (28.12%)	99 (30.94%)	54 (16.88%)
4)	I think that individual businesspeople who are in need of employing anybody to work for him/her will not be allowed to do so during periods of regular shootings and killings by armed youths in the slum areas of Port Harcourt.	89 (27.81%)	81 (25.31%)	76 (23.75%)	74 (23.13%)

Table 5. Contingency table showing observed and expected frequencies

S/N	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
1	105 (88.5)	82 (78.5)	67 (84.75)	66 (68.25)
2	83 (88.5)	61 (78.5)	97 (84.75)	79 (68.25)
3	77 (88.5)	90 (78.5)	99 (84.75)	54 (68.25)
4	89 (88.5)	81 (78.5)	76 (84.75)	74 (68.25)

$$X^2=24.75$$

DF = (r – 1) (c – 1), where r is the number of row and c the number of column

DF = (4 – 1) (4 – 1) = 3 x 3 = 9 and at 0.05 level of significance.

The table value of x^2 at 9 degrees of freedom = 16.919

The calculated chi-square (x^2) value (24.75) is greater than the critical table (16.919). Therefore, in conformity with the decision rule, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternate form of the hypothesis is retained. It is therefore established that there exists a nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of employment opportunities for people in the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

The study examined the impacts of urban slum violence on work in slum areas of Port

Harcourt in Nigeria. The revelation of both the structured questionnaire and focus group discussions produced the following similar results: The first finding is relatively derived from research question one. It was revealed that there is a significant relationship between urban slum violence and the stoppage of school activities within the slums in Port Harcourt. It then means that urban slum violence causes school activities to halt in the slum areas of Port Harcourt. The finding supports that of Mudege, Zulu & Izugbara (2008).

Secondly, the study found that there is a nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of business activities within the slum areas in Port Harcourt. The slum areas have inhabitants who do day-to-day business of different kinds to make ends meet, but during periods of regular urban slum violence as revealed in this study, business activities will be hindered. This finding established a fact different from the finding of Rosenberg (2014) which stressed that urban violence will not affect every business.

Thirdly, fishing activities remain one of the vibrant works embraced by most slum dwellers in Port Harcourt. This is because most of the slums are waterfront settlements, and the fishing business is lucrative. As revealed in the study, urban slum violence has a relationship with hindrance of fishing activities in the creeks within the slums in Port Harcourt. It is therefore pertinent to stress that fishing activities will be hindered and since this is the work people do to sustain their lives, their work and sustenance will be affected.

Finally, it was also revealed just like the above and through the two means of data collection and related analyses that there exists a nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of employment opportunities for people in the slums in Port Harcourt. Since all the values of work by the findings of this study are hindered by urban slum violence, it then stands as the finding that urban slum violence has negative impact on work in the slum areas of Port Harcourt. In other words, urban slum violence causes negative impact on work, by way of hindering work in the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

Conclusion

From the findings in this research, the study concludes as follows:

- 1) There is a relationship between urban slum violence and hindrance of school activities within the slums in Port Harcourt.
- 2) There exists a nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of business activities within the slums in Port Harcourt.
- 3) There is a relationship between urban slum violence and hindrance of fishing activities in the creeks within the slum areas in Port Harcourt.
- 4) There exists a nexus between urban slum violence and hindrance of employment opportunities for people in the slum areas in Port Harcourt.

Based on the findings of this study we make these recommendations for policy implementation:

- 1) Government should devise a method for the control of cultism and gang wars in the slums as a way of curbing urban slum violence.
- 2) Government should protect the residents of the slum areas by deploying security personnel with sophisticated rifles to the slums.
- 3) Government should provide and station gunboats at the creeks to protect citizens who do their own legitimate work and businesses within the creeks.
- 4) Government should build police stations at the slums and regularly change the personnel to avoid familiarity and connivance by the security personnel with criminals in the slums.
- 5) The slum residents should report suspected gang members and cultists including groups residing in the slums to the government to rid the slums of cultists and gang members.

6) There should be a native authority established by the Government to register and take security details of every resident of the slums. In this case every new resident must be made to be registered before he or she is allowed to reside in a particular slum.

7) The Government should build the slums to a standard living residence for those who have no place in the city to settle and install CCTV camera in the slums on high poles to check the activities of people. This will expose hidden acts and make the slums uncomfortable to criminals and cultists in the area.

REFERENCES

- Abotutu, A.A. (2014). Urban slum characteristics in the Niger delta region of Nigeria. Imperatives for improvement. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 19(10).
- Agaggbu, O.O. (2012). Rising youth unemployment and violent crime in Nigeria. *American Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 2(5), 315-321.
- Agboola, E.B. (2009). Dimensions of criminal behaviours in cities. In A.L. Adesina, O.O. Olufayo, & Adefolaju (eds., pp. 81 – 87). *Perspectives on urbanization in Nigeria*. Lagos: Bolabay.
- Areola, O., Mamman, M., Onweluzo, F.A. & Omotoso, O. (2008). *Geography for WASSCE & SSCE*. Ibadan: University Press Plc.
- Badom, P. M. & Girigiri, B. W. (2021). Training cum development and productivity of workers in Nigeria Agip oil company, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research*, 4(4), 49-67. Doi: 10.52589/AJSSHR-910MPQJF.
- Badom, P. M. & Girigiri, B. W. (2022). Global pandemic and work organizations: Impacts of covid-19 on work in Nigeria. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, VI(IV), 455-462.
- Blair, T. L. (1974). *The international urban crisis*. New York: Hill and Wang.
- Charles, W. (1979). *Elements of human geography*. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd.
- Egbue, N.G. (2012). Socio-cultural factors in Nigerian male youth violence: Relationship with education and employment. *J. Soc. Sci.*, 12(1), 1-10.
- Elem, M. & Onu, A.O. (2021). Urban Slums and Cultism in Port Harcourt. *Journal of City and Development*, 3(1), 1 – 5.
- Girigiri, B. W. & Badom, P. M. (2022). Institutional framework, management and coordination of disaster situations in Nigeria: Theoretical Standpoint on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, VI(II), 50-60.
- Hick, U.K. (1974). *The Large City: a world problem*. London: Macmillan.
- Iwarimie-Jaja, D. (1999). Juvenile delinquency and adult crime: a theoretical exposition. *Nigerian Journal of Criminal Affairs*, 1, 41-65.
- Jay, M. (2001). Cities at risk. *Habitat Debate* 7(34), 1-4.
- Kio-Lawson, D. (2013). *The squatters of Port Harcourt, Nigeria: Their identity, wants, characteristics and policy options*.
- Moncada, E. (2013). The politics of urban violence: Challenges for development in the global south. *St. Comp Int. Dev.* 48, 217-239.
- Mudege, N. N., Zulu, E.M. & Izugbara, C. (2008). How Security Impacts School attendance and school dropout among urban slum children in Nairobi. *IJCV*2(1), 98-112.
- Mudege, N. N., Zulu, E. M. & Izugbara, C. (2008). How Insecurity impacts on school attendance and school dropout among urban slum children in Nairobi. *IJCV*, 2(1), 98-112.
- Muggah, R. (2012). *Researching the urban dilemma: Urbanization, poverty, and violence*. Ottawa: International development centre.
- Mugisha, F. (2006). School enrolment among urban non-slum, slum and rural children in Kenya: Is the urban advantage eroding? *International Journal of Educational Development*, 26, 471-82.
- Obafemi, A. A. & Oduba, T. V. (2013). *Waterfronts redevelopments in Port Harcourt metropolis: issues and socio-economic implication for urban environmental management*.
- Ogbonna, U. D. & Anele, K. A. (2022). Risk factors posed by waterfront shanty settlements on juvenile delinquents in Rivers State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities Social Science and Management* 2(5), 178-190.
- Ogbonna, U.D. & Anele, K.A. (2022). Risk factors posed by waterfront shanty settlements on juvenile delinquents in Rivers State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities Social Science and Management*, 2(5), 178- 190.
- Omoboye, I. F & Festus, I. A. (2020). Urban slums: Environmental sustainability at a crossroad. *Saudi Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 172-176. Doi: 10.36348/sjhss.2020.vo5i03.008.

- Oruwari, Y. & Owei, O. (2006). *Youth in Urban violence in Nigeria: A case study of urban gangs from Port Harcourt*. Working Paper No. 14.
- Pat-Mbane, E. & Nwadiaro, E.C.C. (2012). The rise in urban slum in Nigeria: Implications on the urban landscape. *International Journal of Development Review*, 17.
- Rockefeller Foundation, (n.d). *What is a slum economy?*
- Scott, J. & Marshall, G. (2005). *Oxford Dictionary of Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Shaw, C. R. R Mckay, H.D. (1942). *Juvenile delinquency and urban areas*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Shaw, V.N. 2002). *Substance use and abuse. Sociological perspectives*. USA: Praeger Publishers.
- Siegel, L.J. & Senna, J.J. (1991) *Juvenile delinquency theory, practice and Law*. MN: West Publishing Company.
- Udeuhele, G.I. (2018). Urbanization and insecurity in Nigeria: The issues, challenges and prospects for national development. *Middle East Journal of Scientific Research*, 26(1), 68-77.
- Usman, S.M. (2009). *Causes and consequences of Youth involvement in electoral violence*. A paper presented at a one-day workshop on Youths against electoral violence, Organized by Arewa patriotic vanguard in collaboration with Independent national electoral commission (INEC) for youths in the North West Zone of Nigeria, 12 November.
- Watson, T.J. (2008). *Sociology, work and industry* (7th Ed.) England: Pearson education limited.