



Patterns of cross-border crimes in Idiroko border community of Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Security of lives and property is one of the fundamental needs for human existence, without which life would have been a reflection of Thomas Hobbes's description of life as poor, nasty, brutish and short. The Nigeria state has been bedeviled with serious security challenges that are occasioned by porosity of land and water borders. As a result the nation experiences increasing transnational border security threats like human trafficking, arms smuggling, insurgent attacks etc. This paper examined the Patterns of cross-border crimes in Idiroko border community of Ogun State, Nigeria. The theoretical thrust of the paper is the Social Disorganization theory. The Mixed method research design was adopted. The study population is 23,258 residents of Idiroko community and a sample size of 394 was generated using Taro Yamane. The major instruments of data collection were structured questionnaire and Key Informant Interviews (KII) guide. The multi-stage sampling technique which involves successive random sampling was used to select the study participants. Through the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software, quantitative data were analyzed and interpreted using frequency counts, percentages, and graphic illustrations, while hypotheses was tested using chi-square (χ^2) inferential statistics and the qualitative data were analyzed using thematic transcription analysis. The findings revealed amongst others that the prevailing dynamics of cross-border crimes in Idiroko Border line include terrorism smuggling, bribing of law enforcement agents, and collaboration of law enforcement officials with criminals, identifying major two patterns of crime- property and human crimes. The patterns of Property crimes which occur through the border line were identified as smuggling of contraband food items, drug trafficking, car crimes and smuggling of natural resources amongst others. Also, the patterns of Human crimes that usually occur in the area are mostly smuggling of illegal migrants, female trafficking, child trafficking, smuggling of human parts etc. The paper concludes that until this tide of border issues are addressed and secured adequately, illegal activities and spate of insecurity that bedeviled the nation would continue to hold sway. The paper recommends amongst others the need for authorities to come up with maximum force in project implementation and infrastructural development of Idiroko border community and stringent penalty for those who commit cross-border crime in Nigeria. This will serve as deterrence for others who might want to involve in cross-border criminal activities.

Key words: Border, crime, cross-border, community, illegality



Introduction

Human mobility (migration) has been a natural phenomenon from the very beginning of human history till date and the basic need behind it is still the same: improved life conditions and increase in individual's utility (Borjas, 1999). Nigeria's status and role as a regional power continues to impact the entire West Africa sub-region. However the country is facing serious security challenges that are perpetrated by transnational, trans-border or cross-border groups, Jihadist movements and armed Fulani herdsmen whom are associated with organized crimes such as human trafficking, money laundering, drug trafficking, arms smuggling or trafficking of weapons, smuggling of goods and services, terrorism, oil bunkering, trafficking in gold/ diamonds, corruption, and business fraud, to mention but these notable few (Adetuba, 2015).

Cross-border crimes are common among countries with porous borders and this is the case among most West African countries like Nigeria. Organized crimes tend to destroy the political, economic and social relationships among countries. As Hatchard (2006) noted, West African states face at least three challenges when tackling cross-border crime. The first is how to deal with crimes that emanate from outside their various jurisdictions. The second concerns investigating the crime with a transnational element and the third involving tracing and then recovering the proceeds of crime that have been moved out of the country where the crime occurred.

Cross-border criminal groups or individuals carry out their illicit activities using major technological tools such as information networks, the financial system and other sophisticated means. They also take advantage of differences in legislation, legal systems and traditions, which often seriously hamper state efforts to respond adequately to the threat of cross-border crimes. Ortuno & Wiriyachai (2009) have maintained that the past few years have been characterized by a significant increase in global criminal activities such as money laundering, trafficking in human and nuclear technology and material, the trade in human organs and migrant smuggling.

West Africa has become notorious for instability and armed conflict and is increasingly known for transnational criminal networks. Free movement across borders creates



security threats in the sub-region. Smugglers, traffickers, terrorists and armed robbers traverse the sub-regional borders without major challenge (Addo, 2006). Similarly, Kalu (2010) contended that developing countries, especially in Africa, present a peculiar dimension in security demands as a result of poverty, unemployment, hunger, and increased belligerency among component entities that make up the continent. In Nigeria the Ogun State border has faced its share of criminal activities. For Instance Omoniyi (2004) stated that due to the location of the town along the Nigeria-Benin border, an illegal smuggling trade exists within the settlement. Illegal cross-border trade is carried out by settlers and transient populations using knowledge of the local population to create alternative routes within the border (Omoniyi, 2004). Among the goods smuggled are petrol, poultry, motor parts, drugs, cars and electronics. There exist at least six illegal entry points in the area (Tunde 2011). The frontier post is also used by human traffickers to carry young girls and boys from the Republic of Benin into Nigeria. Sometimes, the underage children are leased by their parents to work in Lagos for a stipulated time frame (Terkula, 2016). Most of the children are taken from Benin to serve as maid or house helps in Nigerian households.

National borders are supposed to be secured areas against illicit activities or criminal syndicates and other illegal transnational transactions that could harm a nation's social order. However, scholars have decried that the Nigerian border lines are porous and major entry point for illegal transactions including the smuggling of contraband products, drug and human trafficking, proliferation of arms etc (Ikome, 2012). Nigeria has 770 kilometers of shared land border with the Republic of Benin, around 1,500 kilometers with the Republic of the Niger, 1,700 kilometers with Cameroon and 90 kilometers with Chad. Nigeria also has 850 kilometers of maritime border in the Atlantic Ocean (Yacubu, 2005). It would be difficult to find any state in the world capable of effectively controlling such extensive borders.

The porous nature of these border lines and fears of its attendant consequences have for the past few decades made the Nigerian government to show commitment in bringing to an end the issue of porous borders and illegal activities committed through the national borders by closing the illegal borders and strengthening the security agencies charged



with border control. Despite efforts of the government, smuggling activities, proliferation of arms and ammunition, drugs and human trafficking etc, have been on the rise (National Bureau of Statistics, 2018).

The intensity of cross-border criminal activities emanating from Ogun state is related principally to its position as one of the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria, and its proximity to the free ports of Cotonou and Lome is another factor that can attract criminal elements into the state. It is assumed that these and other numerous challenges are not far-fetched within Idiroko border; and these may continue unabated if serious actions are not taken to control the border line.

It is in view of the aforementioned issues that this paper examines the Patterns, Consequences and factors responsible for cross-border crimes in Idiroko Border Community. The paper is also guided by this hypothesis; respondents with higher level of education are more likely to identify the patterns of cross border crimes in Idiroko border line than those with relatively lower level of education.

Literature Review

The Concept of Border The international border between Nigeria and her neighboring countries is roughly 4745sq.km. The major border countries with Nigeria are Cameroon (1,690 kilometers) in the east, Niger (1,497 kilometers) in the north, Benin (773 kilometers) in the west, and Chad (87 kilometers) in the north-east. Nigeria also shares maritime boundaries with Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe. The current border corresponds to the inter-colonial border between British and French territories that was set up in 1889. Due to the fact that between these countries hardly any natural boundaries exist, in some parts its exact demarcation remains unclear (Osimen, Anegbode, Akande, Oyewole & Oyindamola, 2017).

In a fast paced modern world with increasing globalization there is a crucial need for borders to be increasingly porous with little or no barriers (Ritzer & Stepnisky, 2014). However the dark side of globalization has brought to fore the need to fend off contrabands, criminals, illegal immigrants, terrorists, jihadists and alien herders, drug traffickers, human traffickers. As the threat level increases, so also is the pressure and

attention on border management. Therefore, borders must necessarily stop, interdict and examine people, conveyances and cargoes at points of entry or exit. Our border performs the dual role of a line that links as well as a line that separates (Willie, 2008). The two border towns which are Seme border in Lagos State and particularly Idiroko border in Ogun State, are of crucial concern to this study due to the large volume of cross-border activities between Nigeria and Benin Republic.

The concept of border has been described in different perspective by different scholars with related terms of meanings and ideas. According to Momoh, (1989), a border can be a margin around the edge of something, such as a lawn, garden photograph, and sheet of paper even a country. According to Concise English dictionary (2014), border is defined as a line or narrow area that divides two countries or areas; the lands near this line. In a broad sense, borders define geographic boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdictions, such as governments, sovereign states, federated states, and other sub national entities (Edward 2012). Similarly, Meagher (2003) argued that under international law, each country is generally permitted to define the conditions which have to be met by a person to legally cross its borders by its own laws, and to prevent persons from crossing its border, when these laws are violated adequate sanctions are applied. In order to cross borders, the presentation of passports and visas or other appropriate forms of identification are required by immigration. Also to reside or work within a country's border, Aliens may need special immigration documents or permits that authorize them to do so.

Types of Borderland Three types of borderlands were identified by Momoh (1989) and Afolayan (2000), based on the level and pattern or movement and trading activities within each of the borderlands. These are:

- i. Closed, inert or zero borderlands.
- ii. Open, transit or minimal borderlands.
- iii. Porous 'nation-peripheral' or maximal borderlands.

Concept of Cross Border Crime Cross-border crimes are crimes that have actual or potential effect across national borders and crimes which are intra-State but which offend



fundamental values of the international community (Boister, 2003). In recent times the term “cross-border, transnational or trans-border” is commonly used in the law enforcement agencies and academic communities. According to Concise English dictionary (2014), transnational means extending or operating across the borders or boundaries. The word "transnational crime" describes crimes that are not only international (that is, crimes that cross borders between countries), but crimes that by their nature involve cross-border transference as an essential part of the criminal activity. Cross-border crimes also include crimes that take place in one country, but their consequences significantly affect another country and transit countries may also be involved. Examples of cross border crimes include: human trafficking, smuggling/trafficking of goods (such as arms trafficking and drug trafficking and illegal animal and plant products and other goods prohibited on environmental grounds (e.g. banned ozone depleting substances), sex slavery, terrorism offences, torture and apartheid. Transnational crimes may also be crimes of customary international law or international crimes when committed in certain circumstances. For example they may in certain situations constitute crimes against humanity. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2005), transnational crime by definition involves people in more than one country maintaining a system of operation and communication that is effective enough to perform criminal transactions, sometimes repeatedly. The fragility of states in West Africa, coupled with the weakness of state institutions mandated to combat the crime has contributed to the upsurge of TOC menace in recent times. The complicity, inactive or passive attitude, of state officials in the region and outside, cannot be ruled out.

Article 2(a) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2004, defines a transnational criminal group as a structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with this Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly a financial or other material benefit. Asiwaju (1998) saw it as a set of criminal acts whose perpetrators and repercussions go beyond territorial borders. Cross border crime suggests in simple terms the movement of persons, goods and services across sovereign national jurisdiction in a manner devoid of



acceptable norms and standards. At the local level, the sophistry of organized groups can be described as rudimentary. However, with international linkages, the operational base of organized crime in Nigeria has widened beyond immediate frontiers which is a source of great concern to the government (Ngboawaji, 2011).

Patterns of Cross-Border Crimes

The patterns through which border crimes occur have attracted attention of stakeholders over the years. This entails the identification of strategies or forms of such criminal activities. Bernasco, Lammers and Van der Beek (2016) observed that highest proportion of cross-border crimes in Netherlands occurs in Southern part of the country which borders one of the most densely populated regions with Germany and mainly comprise of smuggling. Similarly, Afolayan (2000) examined trans-border movement and trading in Southwestern Nigeria borderlines and the findings showed that criminal activities within the selected borders occurred through interpersonal informal links with relations of people of close ethnic affinity who fostered smuggling of goods and services, recruitment of child soldiers and mercenaries, terrorists and armed herders. The same goes for the trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALWs) manufactured locally or imported from neighboring countries, drugs or narcotics and human trafficking. Some of these activities are made possible by common ethnic affiliations (in terms of language, beliefs, perceptions and marriages) and at either side of the border an intense economic activities takes place.

Theoretical Orientation: The Social Disorganization Theory

The social disorganization theory was pioneered by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay (1942). The tenet of the theory is that crime occurs when the mechanisms of social control are weakened and less effective (Worrad, 2000). The theory suggests that disorganized communities are characterized by poverty, ethnic heterogeneity, residential mobility, weakened social stability etc. A person's physical and social environments are primarily responsible for the behavioral choices such a person will make. In particular, a neighborhood that has fraying social structures is more likely to have high crime rates.



Social disorganization refers to a breakdown in the normal and habitual way of a people. It is usually a time of confusion, disorientation and disillusionment (Igbo, 2007). This is the theme of Achebe's (1958) *Things Fall Apart* – when the social bond that holds a people and their society together slackens or is destroyed by new ideas and practices. Social disorganization theorists argue that whenever and wherever there is social disorganization, there is always an increase in crime and other deviant behavior.

In application, social disorganization model is useful because it analyzes the need for strengthening of social structure in order to abate the challenges of cross border crimes. It is also relevant because it calls for the Nigerian government to critically examine the social structure of Nigerian border lines, ensure the sustainability of means of existence there and improve critical infrastructural needs of the people to avoid leaving them with the option of going into cross-border crimes. Again, providing adequate social infrastructural facilities, employment and also strengthen the capacity of Nigerian border security services to combat the high level of cross border crime besetting the nation.

Methods

This paper adopted mixed method research design. Idiroko border community is in Ogun State, Nigeria. It is a town located on the Nigeria-Benin border along the Lagos Badagry-Porto Novo Highway and politically situated in Ipokia local government of the State. The border line has remained an official crossing point since at least the 1960s. Due to the fact that Idiroko is a border town, it has administrative units of the Nigerian Police, Army, Customs and Immigration (Omoniyi, 2004). The indigenous people of Idiroko are the Yorubas, the Anago and the Egun and languages spoken by residents include Nigerian Pidgin, French, English and Yoruba. However, Idiroko also has a large transient population as a result of cross-border trading activities in the area. Although subsistent farming is the main occupation of majority of the working population in the settlements within Idiroko, the sustaining venture in Idiroko is trans-border trading (legal and illegal activities alike); which made this paper to consider this border line in an effort to ascertain the patterns and factors responsible for cross-border crimes within the area.



The population is 23,258 residents of Idiroko community and a sample size of 394 was generated using Taro Yamane (1967) formula. The target population comprises of security officials of Nigeria Custom Service, the Nigeria Immigration Service, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and adult residents of Idiroko community aged 18 years and above. The major instruments of data generation were structured questionnaire and Key Informant Interviews (KII). The questionnaire was administered by the researcher through the help of two (2) research assistants.

The multi-stage sampling technique which involves successive random sampling was used to select study participants. At first, all the elements in the sampling frame which comprises of the security posts and households at the Idiriko border line were numbered. With the use of lottery method these numbers were placed in a bowl and shuffled thoroughly after which three random selections were made. The selection gives a total of 270 personnel of security agents at the border line. That is, ninety (90) personnel of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) personnel, the Nigeria Custom Service (NCS), and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) respectively. On the other hand, one hundred and twenty-four (124) residents of Idiroko border community were selected. In all, these selections give 394 participants, which make for the study sample size. Out of the 394 copies of questionnaire administered, 10 were not accounted for and unreturned. Hence, 387 copies that were properly filled and returned were used for analysis. However, four KII were carried out on civil servants.

Through the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software, quantitative data obtained were analyzed and interpreted using frequency counts, percentages, and graphic illustrations. The research hypotheses were tested using chi-square (χ^2) inferential statistics. Additionally, the qualitative data gathered were analyzed using content analysis. The process involved transcription and translation. The data were then sorted, edited and cleaned; thereafter, data were arranged in line with study objectives. Extracts of verbatim quotes were used to complement the quantitative data analysis.



Findings/Results

Table 1: Distribution of Personal Data of Respondents

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Age	18-27	214	55.5	
	28-37	90	23.2	
	38-47	58	15.0	
	48-57	25	6.4	
	Total	387	100.0	
Gender	Male	206	53.2	
	Female	171	44.3	
	No response	10	2.5	
	Total	387	100.0	
Marital Status	Single	242	62.6	
	Married	122	31.6	
	Separated	13	3.3	
	Divorced	9	2.3	
	Widowed	1	.3	
	Total	387	100.0	
Highest Level of Educational Attainment	First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC)	31	8.0	
	SSCE/WAEC	162	41.9	
	OND/NCE	78	20.2	
	B.Sc/HND	107	27.6	
	M.Sc/PhD	9	2.3	
	Total	387	100.0	
Religious Affiliation	Christianity	75	19.3	
	Islam	295	76.1	
	African Traditional Religion	11	2.8	
	No answer	7	1.8	
	Total	387	100.0	
Occupational Status.	Law enforcement Officials	Custom Officer	56	14.5
		Immigration Officer	47	12.2
		NDLEA Officer	38	9.7
	Residents	Professional/Skilled	58	15.0
		Semi-Skilled	54	14.0
		Trading/Business	53	13.7
		Unemployed/Student	78	20.1
		Others	3	0.8
	Total	387	100.0	

Field Survey, 2019

Table 1 shows that the respondents' age ranged between 18 years to 55 years – with a majority (55.0%) of them falling within the age range of 18-27 years. 23.5% of them aged between 28-37 years, while 6.4% aged between 48-57 years. This shows that there were more young people than older persons in the distribution. With regards to gender, a majority (53.2%) of the respondents were males, while 44.3% of them were females. This simply shows that there are more males than females in the distribution. Data on the



marital status of the respondents indicate that a majority (62.6%) of the respondents were single, 31.6% were married, while 0.3% of them were widowed.

Furthermore the distribution of respondents by educational attainment indicates that a majority (41.9%) of them obtained SSCE/WAEC certificates. This is followed by 27.2% of them who obtained B.Sc/HND certificate. 20.2% of them obtained OND/NCE certificate as well, and 8.0% of them only obtained a FSLC; while a very lower proportion (2.3%) obtained M.Sc/Phd certificates. This shows that academic attainment level for majority of the residents of Idiroko was low. With respect to the respondents' religious affiliation, the data show that a majority (76.1%) of them was Muslims. Christians were only 19.3% of the population; while 2.8% of them were are Africa traditionalists. Finally distribution of respondents by occupational status indicates that a majority (20.1%) of them were unemployed/students. This is followed by 15.0% of them were professional/skilled workers. Custom officers constituted 14.5% of the respondents and those of semi-skilled workers were 14.0%. Immigration officers were 12.2% of the population, while 9.7% of them were NDLEA officers. Those involved in trading/ business constituted 13.7% of the population. Law enforcement officials constituted 36.4% of the samples; while the civil residents constituted 63.6% of the samples.

Patterns of Cross-Border Crimes in Idiroko Border Community

Table 2: Respondents' View on Patterns of Cross-Border in Idiroko Border Community

Options	Frequency	Percent
Through Smuggling	160	41.3
Through Bribing of law enforcement agents	121	31.3
Through organized crime groups	45	11.6
Through collaboration of law enforcement officials and criminals	51	13.2
Others	10	2.6
Total	387	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 2 shows that 41.3% of the respondents were of the view that crimes within Idiroko border mostly occur through smuggling activities. This is followed by 31.3% of them who opined that such crimes mostly occur through bribing of law enforcement agents in charge of the border line. 13.2% of them claimed that the pattern of crime within Idiroko border is mostly observed through the collaboration of law enforcement officials and criminals; while 11.6% of the respondents claimed that crimes within this area mostly occur through the activities of organized crime groups. The least proportion (2.6%) of the respondents believed that there were other patterns they occur. These findings suggest that the patterns of crimes within Idiroko vary in forms, however smuggling activities appears to be the most consistent pattern of crimes in the area. Supporting this view, a KII participant noted that, “...although there are still many forms of crimes that occur through involving both human and drugs trafficking, smuggling of commodities especially food items is mostly observed within Idiroko border” (Female, 43 Years, Civil Servant, Idiroko Community).

In order to gain insight on the patterns of property crimes that occur through Idiroko border, the respondents’ opinion on property crimes which mostly occur through Idiroko border are shown on figure 1.

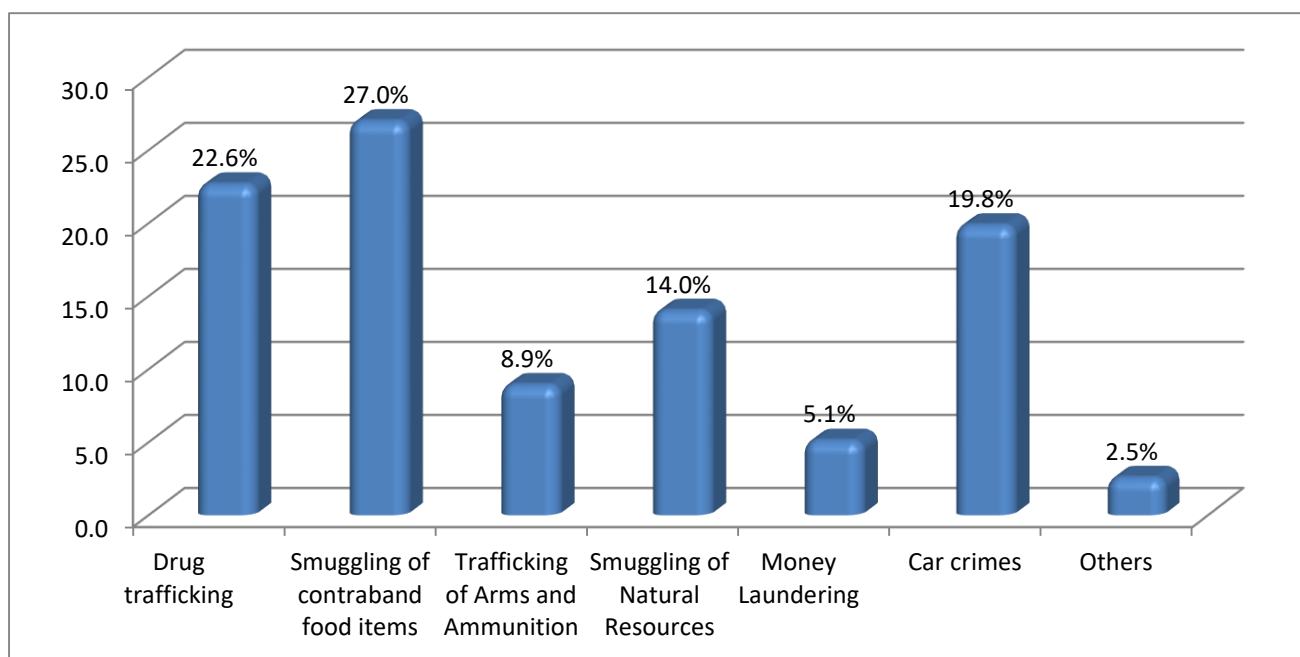


Fig. 1: Respondents’ View on Property Crimes that mostly occur through Idiroko Border



Figure 1 contains data on the crimes that mostly occur through Idiroko border line. As can be seen on figure 1, many of the respondents (27.0%) were of the opinion that smuggling of contraband food items is the prevailing pattern of crime that occurs through Idiroko border. Another significant proportion (22.6%) indicated drug trafficking and 19.8% were of the view that car crimes are the most observed pattern of crimes within Idiroko border. Again, 14.0% of them had it that smuggling of natural resources is mostly observed.

Furthermore, human related crimes which are usually perpetrated through Idiroko border corridor were ascertained and shown in table 3.

Table 3: Respondents' Views on Human Related Crimes at Idiroko Border

Options	Frequency	Percent
Kidnapping	45	11.5
Child Trafficking	75	19.3
Female Trafficking	91	23.7
Smuggling of illegal Migrants	119	30.8
Smuggling of Human Parts	52	13.5
Others	5	1.3
Total	387	100.0

Field Survey, 2019

Table 3 shows that majority (30.8%) of the respondents indicated the smuggling of illegal migrants as the most human related crime that occurs through Idiroko border. This is followed by 23.6% of the respondents who were of the view that female trafficking is the most occurring pattern of human related crime and 19.3% pointed to child trafficking as the most occurring. The findings were corroborated by a KII participant who submitted thus,

Cross-border crimes take various patterns like human and drug trafficking, smuggling in illicit goods and services, child and arms trafficking etc. These patterns of crime are not new to Idiroko and applicable to other borders in Nigeria (Female, 40 Years, Civil Servant, Idiroko Border).

Another respondent from Idiroko in Ogun state affirmed this finding in another KII session. According to him,

These patterns of cross-border crimes are not actually new within Idiroko community and in many occasions, security agencies are involved in the smuggling activities. Some of the shops within the border area belong to security officer's wives and relations (Male, 45 Years civil servant, Idirioke Community).

Hypothesis Result

Respondents with higher level of education are more likely to identify the patterns of cross border crimes in Idiroko border than those with relatively lower level of education.

Table 4: Chi-Square Result on the Relationship between Respondents' Level of Educational Attainment and Patterns of Cross-Border Crimes

Perceived Patterns of Cross-Border Crimes	Respondents' Educational Qualification					Total
	FSLC	SSCE/WAEC	OND/NCE	B.Sc/HND	M.Sc/PhD	
Through Smuggling	14 (8.8%)	64 (40.0%)	16 (10.0%)	62 (38.8%)	4 (2.5%)	160 (100.0%)
Through Bribing of law enforcements Agents	8 (6.6%)	48 (39.7%)	36 (29.8%)	25 (20.7%)	4 (3.3%)	121 (100.0%)
Through organised crime group	5 (11.1%)	23 (51.1%)	6 (13.3%)	11 (24.4%)	0 (0.0%)	45 (100.0%)
Through collaboration of law enforcement officials and criminals	0 (0.0%)	22 (43.1%)	20 (39.2%)	9 (17.6%)	0 (0.0%)	51 (100.0%)
Others	4 (40.0%)	5 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%)	10 (100.0%)
Total	31 (8.0%)	162 (41.9%)	78 (20.2%)	107 (27.6%)	9 (2.3%)	387 (100.0%)

Pearson Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 64.470$, $df = 16$, $N = 387$, $p = .000$

The Pearson's Chi-square test was run to test the relationship between respondents' level of educational attainment and their likelihood of identifying the patterns of cross border crimes in Idiroko border. Result of the test shows a statistically significant evidence to accept the stated alternate hypothesis, ($\chi^2 (16) = 64.470$, $p = .000$). This implies that respondents with higher educational would likely identify the patterns of cross border crimes than those with relatively lower level of education.



Discussion

Having examined the patterns of cross-border crimes in Idiroko border community of Ogun State, Nigeria, the paper discovered that there are different patterns of cross-border crimes in the area. The prevailing patterns of cross-border crimes were found to include smuggling, bribing of law enforcement agents and collaboration of law enforcement officials with criminals. The patterns of property crimes which occur through the border line were smuggling of contraband food items, drug trafficking, car crimes and smuggling of natural resources amongst others. Also, patterns of human related crimes that usually occur through the border line is mostly smuggling of illegal migrants, female trafficking, child trafficking, smuggling of human parts etc. These findings align with Afolayan (2000), who reported that criminal activities within Southwestern borderlines of Nigeria occur through interpersonal informal links with relations of people of close ethnic affinity and foster smuggling of goods and services.

Conclusion

This paper conclude that crimes within Idiroko border line vary in patterns ranging from smuggling, to deliberate collaboration between law enforcement agents and criminal elements in the cross-border criminal activities. Such patterns of crime however constitute serious socioeconomic implications for the nation in general and host community particular. The paper therefore submit that until this tide of border issues are addressed and secured adequately, illegal activities and spate of insecurity that bedeviled the nation would continue to hold sway.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for possible policy implementation;

1. Authorities should come up with strict and stringent penalty for those who commit cross-border crime in Nigeria. This will serve as deterrence for others who might want to involve in cross-border criminal activities.



2. The needs for the provision of modern gadgets and the retraining of security Agencies cannot be overemphasized. An African adage says that to fight desert encroachment one has to live in the desert. There is therefore need to actively involve the indigenous people of border communities, especially the youth in the fight against cross-border crimes. They should be selected and trained to assist the other security personnel in checkmating cross-border criminal activities in their community because they understand the environment better than most security agents that were only posted to stay for a short period of time.

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