

**THE NATURE OF CRIME AND CRIME REPORTING BY VICTIMS IN  
OMU-ARAN, KWARA STATE**

**PROJECT**

Submitted by

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## **DECLARATION**

I declare that, this is an Original project carried out by me in the department of Sociology (Criminology and Security Studies), Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Thomas Adewumi University, Oko-Irese Kwara State.

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## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that, this project was written by Ariyibi Joshua Omokolade, Matric No 20/15SCS003 to the department of Sociology (Criminology and Security Studies), Thomas Adewumi University, Oko-Irese Kwara State.

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## **DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to God Almighty who is the author and the finisher of all faith, the beginning and the end. To him alone be all the Glory!

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First and foremost,I want to give glory to God almighty for the completion of this project

I would like to express my gratitude to my parents Mr and Mrs Ariyibi, for their moral, financial and spiritual support to my academic success.

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**ARIYIBI, JOSHUA OMOKOLADE**

## **ABSTRACT**

*This study aimed to investigate the nature of crime and crime reporting of victims in Omu-Aran, Kwara State Nigeria. The study aimed to understand the experiences and perceptions of victims of crime who reported their cases to the police. Specifically, the study aimed to identify the types of crimes reported by victims, examine the factors that influence crime reporting, and explore the challenges faced by victims during the crime reporting process. The study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to gather data. A purposive sampling technique was used to select a sample of victims of crime who reported their cases to the police in Omu-Aran. Data collection involved both quantitative (questionnaires) and qualitative (interviews) methods. The study found that the most common types of crimes reported by victims were theft, assault, and vandalism. The results also revealed that factors such as fear of retaliation, lack of trust in the police, and lack of financial resources influenced crime reporting. Additionally, the study found that victims faced several challenges during the crime reporting process, including lack of information on the reporting process, lack of support from police officers, and feeling of intimidation. Based on the findings, it is recommended that the police establish a more effective reporting process that takes into account the needs and concerns of victims. Additionally, awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate victims about their rights and the importance of reporting crimes to the police.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	
page.....	i
Certification	
page.....	ii
Dedication.....	i
ii	
Acknowledgement.....	i
v	
Abstract.....	v
Table	of
content.....	vi
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.0 Background of Study.....	1
1.1 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.2 Research Questions.....	4
1.3 Research Objectives.....	4
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	4
1.5 Scope/ Delimitation of the Study.....	5
1.6	Operational
Terms.....	5
	Definition
	of

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1	Conceptual
Reviews.....	7
2.1.1	
Crime.....	7
2.1.2	Crime
Reporting.....	8
2.2	The Pattern and Nature of Crime in Nigeria.....
	8
2.3	Mechanisms for Victim Crime Report in Nigeria and Challenges Encountered.....
	10
2.4	Socio-Cultural Factors Influencing Victims' Crime Report.....
	10
2.5	Public Perception of the Police and Its Effects on Crime Reporting.....
	12
2.6	Theoretical
Framework.....	14

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHOD**

3.1	Research Design.....	23
3.2	Study Area.....	24
3.3	Sampling Population and Sampling Techniques.....	24
3.4	Instrument of Data Collection.....	25
3.5	Methods of Data Collection.....	25



3.6 Methods of Data	
Analysis.....	26
3.7 Ethical	
Considerations.....	27
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS</b>	
4.1 Presentation of	
Data.....	28
4.2 Discussion of	
Findings.....	42
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
5.1 Summary.....	45
5.2	
Conclusion.....	45
5.3	
Recommendation.....	46
<b>REFERENCES</b>	
<b>APPENDIX</b>	

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Crime and its reporting are significant aspects of societal dynamics, influencing both the perception of safety and the effectiveness of law enforcement. The nature of crime and how it is being reported by victims are critical areas of study for criminologists, policymakers, and law enforcement agencies. Understanding these elements is essential for developing effective crime prevention strategies, improving reporting mechanisms, and ensuring that victims receive adequate support and justice. Kwara State, located in the North-Central region of Nigeria, has a diverse socio-economic and cultural landscape. Known as the "State of Harmony," Kwara is characterized by its peaceful coexistence among various ethnic groups and its rich historical heritage. The state capital, Ilorin, is a major urban center with a mix of traditional and modern influences. Despite its reputation for peace, Kwara State, like many other States in Nigeria, faces criminal challenges.

Recent literature highlights the complexity of crime and crime reporting in Kwara State. According to the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2020), crime rates in Nigeria have shown significant variations across different regions, with urban areas typically experiencing higher crime rates compared to rural areas. In Kwara State, the crime rate has been relatively moderate compared to other States, yet there are persistent issues related to underreporting and the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (Adewale, 2019). The state's crime landscape includes both common crimes such as theft, burglary, and assault, as well as more severe crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping. One of the primary reasons for studying the nature of crime and crime reporting in Kwara State is the impact of socio-economic factors on these phenomena. Socio-economic conditions, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of education, are often linked to higher crime rates (Odeyemi, 2018).

Additionally, cultural factors, such as community solidarity and trust in local law enforcement, play a significant role in how crimes are reported. In many cases, victims may choose not to report crimes due to fear of retaliation, lack of trust in the police, or social stigma (Adebayo, 2021). Crime reporting mechanisms in Kwara State have been the focus of various studies. For example, the Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2020) indicates that timely

and accurate reporting of crimes can lead to better crime management and resource allocation by law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, improving crime reporting systems can enhance community trust and cooperation with the police, which is vital for crime prevention (Friedmann, 2018). In Kwara State, several initiatives have been undertaken to address crime and improve crime reporting. Community policing efforts, increased public awareness campaigns, and the use of technology in crime reporting are some of the strategies that have been implemented.

However, challenges remain, particularly in ensuring that all victims feel empowered to report crimes and that their reports are handled efficiently and effectively (Ogunleye, 2020). Omu-Aran, a town in Kwara State, presents a unique context for studying crime and crime reporting. As the administrative headquarters of Irepodun Local Government Area, Omu-Aran has experienced various types of crimes over the years. The town, known for its peaceful coexistence and rich cultural heritage, has not been immune to the challenges of crime that affect many urban and semi-urban areas in Nigeria. The nature of crimes in Omu-Aran ranges from petty thefts and burglaries to more severe forms of crime such as armed robbery and assault. Understanding the dynamics of these crimes and how victims report them is crucial for local authorities and the community. The process of crime reporting by victims involves several stages, from recognizing the crime to deciding to report it and eventually engaging with the criminal justice system.

Each of these stages can be influenced by various factors, including the severity of the crime, the relationship between the victim and the offender, and the perceived effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies (Greenberg & Beach, 2019). In the context of Omu-Aran, it is essential to understand these factors to develop strategies that encourage more effective reporting and support for victims. Research has shown that effective crime reporting mechanisms are crucial for ensuring justice and maintaining public safety. For instance, the Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2020) indicates that timely and accurate reporting of crimes can lead to better crime management and resource allocation by law enforcement agencies. Moreover, improving crime reporting systems

can enhance community trust and cooperation with the police, which is vital for crime prevention (Friedmann, 2018).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The phenomenon of crime is a critical issue that undermines the socio-economic stability and development of any society. In Kwara State, particularly in Omu-Aran, the occurrence of crime and the subsequent reporting by victims present significant challenges that need thorough investigation. Despite efforts by law enforcement agencies to curb crime, the rates remain troubling, and underreporting by victims exacerbates the problem, hindering effective crime prevention and justice administration. Crime in Omu-Aran has evolved over the years, reflecting broader trends in Nigeria. The Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2020) indicates that crime rates have fluctuated, with some areas experiencing increased criminal activities. Kwara State, while not as high in crime rates as some other states, still faces significant issues. Reports of theft, burglary, assault, and more severe crimes like armed robbery and kidnapping suggest a need for a deeper understanding of the underlying causes and reporting mechanisms (Adewale, 2019). The complexity of these crimes and their impact on victims necessitate a detailed examination.

One of the primary problems is the underreporting of crimes by victims. Underreporting is a global issue, but in the context of Omu-Aran, it is particularly problematic due to several socio-economic and cultural factors. Victims may choose not to report crimes due to fear of retaliation, especially in cases involving violent crimes. This fear is compounded by the perceived inefficacy of the police and judicial systems, where delays in justice and perceived corruption deter victims from coming forward (Adebayo, 2021). Additionally, social stigma and cultural norms can discourage victims, especially women and vulnerable groups, from reporting crimes due to the potential for social ostracism and shame. The lack of trust in law enforcement agencies is another significant barrier to crime reporting in Omu-Aran. Studies have shown that trust in police is a critical factor influencing the decision to report a crime. When citizens believe that law enforcement is corrupt or ineffective, they are less likely to report crimes (Odeyemi, 2018).

In Omu-Aran, historical instances of police misconduct and inefficiency have eroded public trust. This mistrust leads to a cycle where crimes go unreported, law enforcement remains uninformed, and criminals continue to operate with impunity. Moreover, the infrastructure for crime reporting in Omu-Aran is inadequate. There are limited channels for victims to report crimes confidentially and safely. In many cases, victims must go to police stations in person, which can be intimidating and unsafe, especially for those living in remote areas. The lack of anonymous reporting mechanisms and the absence of victim support services further complicate the situation (Ogunleye, 2020). The reliance on outdated methods and the lack of integration with modern technology hinder the efficiency and accessibility of crime reporting. Economic factors also play a crucial role in the underreporting of crimes. Poverty and unemployment can drive individuals to crime and simultaneously dissuade victims from reporting. Those in economically disadvantaged positions may feel powerless against their aggressors, who might have more resources or social influence. This economic disparity can lead to a sense of futility in seeking justice, thus contributing to the low rates of crime reporting (Greenberg & Beach, 2019).

The repercussions of underreporting are severe. When crimes are not reported, law enforcement agencies lack the necessary data to allocate resources effectively and develop targeted crime prevention strategies. This gap in data can lead to a misallocation of resources, where areas in dire need of police presence and intervention are overlooked. Furthermore, unreported crimes mean that victims do not receive the justice they deserve, and perpetrators are not held accountable, perpetuating a cycle of violence and lawlessness (Friedmann, 2018). Given these challenges, it is essential to explore the nature of crime and the factors influencing crime reporting in Omu-Aran. By understanding the socio-economic, cultural, and institutional barriers to crime reporting, policymakers and law enforcement agencies can develop more effective strategies to encourage reporting and support victims. Addressing these issues is crucial for improving public safety, restoring trust in law enforcement, and ensuring that justice is served.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

1. What are the patterns and nature of crime in Omu-Aran, Kwara State?
2. How do victims report crimes and what challenges do they face?
3. What socio-economic and cultural factors influence the reporting of crimes by victims in Omu-Aran?
4. What are the perceptions of law enforcement effectiveness among residents of Omu-Aran, and how do these perceptions affect crime reporting?

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

1. To analyze the patterns and nature of crime in Omu-Aran, Kwara State.
2. To evaluate the mechanisms through which victims report crimes and identify the challenges they face.
3. To examine the socio-economic and cultural factors that influence crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran.
4. To assess the perceptions of law enforcement effectiveness among residents of Omu-Aran and determine how these perceptions affect crime reporting.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Understanding the nature of crime and crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, holds several theoretical implications for criminology and sociology. By exploring the patterns and types of crimes prevalent in the area, this study contributes to the broader understanding of crime dynamics in semi-urban Nigerian communities. It provides insights into how socio-economic factors, cultural norms, and law enforcement effectiveness influence crime reporting behavior. Theoretical frameworks such as Routine Activity Theory and Social Disorganization Theory can be enriched by empirical data from this study, enhancing their applicability in diverse socio-cultural contexts. The practical implications of this study are manifold, particularly for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and community stakeholders in Omu-Aran. By identifying the specific challenges faced by victims in reporting crimes, the study can inform the development of targeted interventions aimed at improving crime reporting mechanisms. This includes enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of reporting channels, addressing barriers such as fear of retaliation and mistrust in law enforcement, and promoting community engagement in crime prevention efforts.

Moreover, understanding the socio-economic and cultural factors influencing crime reporting can guide policymakers in implementing policies that promote social equity, economic empowerment, and community cohesion. Strengthening trust between residents and law enforcement is crucial for fostering a safer environment and ensuring justice for victims. Practical recommendations arising from this study can contribute to the enhancement of local crime prevention strategies and the allocation of resources to areas most in need. Overall, this study's theoretical understandings and practical implications aim to contribute to academic discourse on crime reporting behavior while offering actionable recommendations to improve public safety and enhance the quality of life in Omu-Aran, Kwara State.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

This study focuses on investigating the nature of crime and crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria. It will analyze various types of crimes reported in the area, ranging from petty thefts to serious offenses like armed robbery and assault. The research aims to understand crime patterns, mechanisms of crime reporting by victims, and perceptions of law enforcement effectiveness in Omu-Aran.

Despite its focused scope, this study faces limitations such as potential bias in self-reported data from victims, which may lead to underreporting or inaccuracies. The cross-sectional design limits establishing causal relationships, and findings may not generalize beyond Omu-Aran due to its unique socio-cultural context. Challenges include access to reliable crime data and logistical constraints impacting data collection and analysis depth. These limitations should be considered when interpreting the study's findings and applying them to broader contexts or policymaking.

### **1.7 Operational Definition of Key Terms**

**Crime:** For the purpose of this study, crime refers to any act that violates the laws or regulations of Nigeria, as defined in the Nigerian Penal Code or other relevant legal statutes. Crimes include but are not limited to theft, burglary, assault, armed robbery, and kidnapping.

**Crime Reporting:** Crime reporting is the act of victims or witnesses notifying law enforcement authorities or relevant agencies about a criminal offense that has occurred. It includes formal reporting through police stations, emergency hotlines, or online platforms, as well as informal reporting to community leaders or neighborhood watch groups.

**Cultural Factors:** Cultural factors are the beliefs, norms, values, and traditions shared by the residents of Omu-Aran that influence crime reporting and victim behavior. This includes attitudes towards law enforcement, perceptions of justice, community solidarity, and the role of gender and ethnicity in crime dynamics.

**Law Enforcement Effectiveness:** Law enforcement effectiveness pertains to the perceived or actual ability of police and other law enforcement agencies in Omu-Aran to prevent crime, respond to incidents, investigate offenses, apprehend suspects, and provide justice and support to victims.

**Nature of Crime:** The nature of crime encompasses the characteristics and features of criminal activities occurring in Omu-Aran. This includes the types of crimes committed (e.g., property crimes, violent crimes), their frequency, geographical distribution, and any identifiable patterns or trends over time.

**Socio-economic Factors:** Socio-economic factors refer to the social and economic conditions that influence crime and crime reporting behaviors. These factors may include poverty levels, unemployment rates, educational attainment, income distribution, and access to social services and amenities in Omu-Aran.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the nature of crime and crime reporting by victims, with a particular focus on Nigeria and Omu-Aran, Kwara State. It delves into theoretical frameworks, including Routine Activity Theory and Procedural Justice Theory, which underpin the study. The chapter also examines empirical studies on crime patterns, reporting mechanisms, and the socio-cultural and institutional factors influencing these processes.

#### **2.1 Conceptual Reviews**

##### **2.1.1 Crime**

Crime, as a multidimensional concept, has been extensively studied in criminology, sociology, and law, reflecting its complex nature and societal implications. At its core, crime involves the violation of societal norms or laws, resulting in harm or detriment to individuals, communities, or institutions. Scholars have categorized crime into different types based on its nature and severity. Common classifications include property crimes (e.g., theft, burglary), violent crimes (e.g., assault, homicide), white-collar crimes (e.g., fraud, embezzlement), and organized crimes (e.g., drug trafficking, human trafficking). Each type presents unique challenges and requires specific approaches in terms of prevention, enforcement, and justice. Crime patterns vary across different geographical locations and socio-economic contexts. Studies have shown that urban areas tend to experience higher crime rates compared to rural areas, attributed to factors such as population density, socio-economic disparities, and availability of opportunities for criminal activities (UNODC, 2020). Additionally, temporal patterns reveal fluctuations in crime rates over time, influenced by social, economic, and environmental changes within communities.

The causes of crime are multifaceted and interconnected, involving individual, societal, and structural factors. Socio-economic inequality, lack of educational and employment opportunities, family dynamics, substance abuse, and cultural influences all play significant roles in shaping criminal behavior (Adewale, 2019; Odeyemi, 2018). Criminological theories such as strain theory, social learning theory, and routine activity theory offer frameworks to understand how these factors contribute to the likelihood of individuals engaging in criminal activities. The impact of crime extends beyond immediate victims to affect community safety, public health, and socio-economic stability. Victims often experience physical, psychological, and financial harm, leading to long-term consequences for their well-being and quality of life (Greenberg & Beach, 2019). Moreover, communities plagued by high crime rates may suffer from reduced investment, decreased social cohesion, and a deterioration in overall quality of life.

Efforts to address crime involve a combination of preventive measures, law enforcement strategies, and community interventions. Effective crime prevention strategies focus on addressing root causes such as poverty, improving educational opportunities, promoting community engagement, and enhancing law enforcement capabilities (Friedmann, 2018). Community policing initiatives, restorative justice programs, and rehabilitative approaches seek to reduce recidivism and promote rehabilitation of offenders while restoring trust in the criminal justice system. In all, crime is a complex social phenomenon with profound implications for individuals, communities, and society at large. By examining its types, causes, patterns, and impacts, researchers and policymakers can develop holistic strategies to prevent crime, support victims, and promote safer and more resilient communities.

### **2.1.2 Crime Reporting**

Crime reporting is a crucial aspect of law enforcement and criminal justice systems, providing essential data for understanding crime trends, allocating resources, and ensuring public safety. It involves victims or witnesses notifying authorities about criminal incidents, initiating investigations, and potentially leading to the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. Research on crime reporting emphasizes several key dimensions. Firstly, the decision to report a crime is influenced by various factors,

including the severity of the offense, the perceived effectiveness of law enforcement, and the victim's socio-economic status (Adebayo, 2021). Victims may choose not to report crimes due to fear of retaliation, concerns about police responsiveness, or mistrust in the justice system (Ferdinand, 2020). This underreporting phenomenon complicates efforts to accurately measure crime rates and allocate resources effectively.

Studies also highlight the impact of cultural norms and social attitudes on crime reporting behavior. In some communities, there may be stigma associated with being a victim or witness of crime, leading individuals to avoid involvement with law enforcement or official authorities (Abimbola, 2019). Moreover, gender roles and expectations can influence reporting patterns, with women and marginalized groups often facing additional barriers to accessing justice and support services (Ogunleye, 2020). The accessibility and effectiveness of crime reporting mechanisms play a critical role in facilitating victim cooperation and engagement with law enforcement. Research underscores the importance of user-friendly reporting systems, confidentiality assurances, and responsive police practices in encouraging victims to come forward (Olufemi, 2018). Technology and digital platforms have also emerged as potential tools for enhancing reporting efficiency and accessibility, particularly in urban areas (Oladipo, 2021).

Practical implications of understanding crime reporting include improving victim support services, enhancing police-community relations, and developing targeted interventions to address barriers to reporting. Community-based initiatives, victim advocacy programs, and public awareness campaigns are examples of strategies aimed at increasing crime reporting rates and promoting trust in law enforcement (Adeyemi, 2019). In summary, crime reporting is essential for maintaining public safety and ensuring accountability within society. By examining its dynamics, challenges, and implications, researchers and policymakers can work towards enhancing reporting mechanisms, addressing barriers, and promoting a more responsive and inclusive criminal justice system.

## **2.2 The Pattern and Nature of Crime in Nigeria**

Crime in Nigeria is a multifaceted issue influenced by a complex interplay of socio-economic, political, and cultural factors. As Africa's most populous country and largest economy, Nigeria experiences diverse forms of crime that impact its social fabric, economic stability, and public safety. Nigeria's crime landscape reflects a range of criminal activities, from petty theft and fraud to more severe offenses such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, and cybercrime. The country's vast and varied socio-economic landscape contributes to these diverse crime patterns. Urban areas like Lagos and Port Harcourt experience higher rates of crime compared to rural regions, driven by factors such as population density, economic disparities, and inadequate infrastructure (ILO, 2020).

Historically, socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and income inequality have been identified as significant drivers of crime in Nigeria. High youth unemployment rates, in particular, have been linked to increased involvement in criminal activities as a means of economic survival (Adekunle, 2019). The proliferation of small arms and light weapons further exacerbates crime rates, facilitating violent crimes and conflicts across different regions (UNODC, 2021). Cultural and socio-political factors also shape crime patterns in Nigeria. Ethnic and religious tensions occasionally escalate into communal violence and inter-group conflicts, contributing to insecurity in affected areas (Okeke, 2020). Additionally, corruption within law enforcement agencies and judicial institutions undermines efforts to combat crime effectively, fostering impunity and eroding public trust in the justice system (Ezenwa, 2018).

In Kwara State, located in Nigeria's North-Central geopolitical zone, crime trends reflect both local dynamics and broader national influences. The state's semi-urban and rural composition influences crime patterns, with reported offenses ranging from petty crimes to occasional instances of violent crime (Adewale, 2020). Factors such as proximity to major urban centers, socio-economic disparities, and cultural norms shape crime reporting and law enforcement responses within the state. Efforts to address crime in Kwara State include community policing initiatives, collaboration between security agencies, and public awareness campaigns aimed at enhancing crime

prevention and reporting mechanisms (Adigun, 2021). These strategies seek to mitigate the impact of crime on communities, improve public safety, and restore trust in law enforcement institutions.

In conclusion, analyzing the pattern and nature of crime in Nigeria, with a focus on Kwara State, reveals the complexities and challenges inherent in combating criminal activities within diverse socio-economic and cultural contexts. By understanding these dynamics and leveraging empirical insights, policymakers can develop targeted strategies to address root causes, enhance security measures, and promote sustainable development.

### **2.3 Mechanisms for Victim Crime Report in Nigeria and Challenges Encountered**

In Nigeria, the mechanisms for reporting crimes by victims are crucial for initiating law enforcement responses, facilitating justice, and ensuring public safety. However, the process of crime reporting is fraught with various challenges that affect its efficiency and effectiveness. Victims in Nigeria typically report crimes through several channels, including local police stations, emergency hotlines, online platforms, and community leaders. These reporting mechanisms serve as critical points of contact between victims and law enforcement agencies, enabling immediate response and investigation into criminal incidents (Olumide, 2021). In recent years, advancements in technology have expanded reporting options, with mobile apps and digital platforms providing additional avenues for victims to report crimes anonymously and securely (Ayodele, 2020).

However, despite the availability of these reporting mechanisms, several challenges persist in the Nigerian context. One major challenge is the fear of retaliation or reprisal from perpetrators, which deters victims from coming forward to report crimes (Folarin, 2019). This fear is compounded by concerns over the confidentiality and safety of information shared with law enforcement, particularly in cases involving organized crime or corruption (Ikechukwu, 2022). Another significant barrier to crime reporting in Nigeria is the perception of inefficiency and corruption within law enforcement agencies. Victims often cite instances of police bribery, bureaucratic delays, and lack of follow-up on reported cases as reasons for their reluctance to engage with formal reporting channels (Olayinka, 2020). These challenges undermine public trust in the

criminal justice system and contribute to underreporting of crimes, particularly in marginalized communities and remote areas with limited access to police services (Eze, 2021).

Cultural and socio-economic factors also influence crime reporting behavior in Nigeria. Traditional beliefs, social stigma associated with victimhood, and patriarchal norms may discourage victims, especially women and vulnerable groups, from seeking justice through formal channels (Ogbonna, 2021). Additionally, disparities in educational attainment and awareness about legal rights contribute to low levels of crime reporting among certain demographics, perpetuating cycles of impunity and injustice (Okonkwo, 2020). Efforts to address these challenges include initiatives aimed at improving police responsiveness, enhancing victim support services, and promoting community trust in law enforcement. Community policing programs, victim advocacy networks, and public awareness campaigns play crucial roles in empowering victims to report crimes and access justice (Nwankwo, 2021). Moreover, legislative reforms and institutional reforms aimed at combating corruption and enhancing transparency within the police force are essential for restoring public confidence and improving crime reporting rates (Idowu, 2022).

In conclusion, while Nigeria has established various mechanisms for victim crime reporting, persistent challenges such as fear of reprisal, distrust in law enforcement, and cultural barriers continue to hinder their effectiveness.

## **2.4 Socio-Cultural Factors Influencing Victims' Crime Report**

Socio-cultural factors play a significant role in influencing how victims report crimes in Nigeria. These factors, deeply embedded in the social fabric, norms, and cultural practices of Nigerian society, can either facilitate or hinder the process of crime reporting. One of the primary socio-cultural factors affecting crime reporting in Nigeria is the pervasive stigma associated with being a victim, particularly in cases of sexual violence and domestic abuse. Victims of such crimes often face societal shame and blame, which discourages them from coming forward. This stigma is deeply rooted in patriarchal norms that prioritize family honor and community reputation over individual well-being, leading to underreporting of these sensitive crimes (Ajayi & Soyinka,

2021). Women and girls, in particular, may be reluctant to report sexual violence due to fears of being ostracized or subjected to further victimization.

Traditional beliefs and practices also significantly impact crime reporting. In many Nigerian communities, there is a strong reliance on customary justice systems and community leaders to resolve disputes and address crimes. This preference for informal resolution mechanisms often results in victims bypassing formal law enforcement channels. While these traditional systems can provide swift and culturally relevant justice, they may lack the formal protections and procedural fairness offered by the official legal system, potentially disadvantaging victims (Adegoke, 2019). Religious beliefs and institutions play a dual role in influencing crime reporting. On one hand, religious leaders and organizations can act as advocates for justice, encouraging victims to report crimes and seek redress through formal channels. On the other hand, some religious doctrines may emphasize forgiveness and reconciliation over legal prosecution, discouraging victims from pursuing formal justice (Ogunleye, 2020). The interplay between religious teachings and crime reporting behavior underscores the complex relationship between faith and justice in Nigerian society.

Gender norms and roles further complicate the crime reporting landscape. In many parts of Nigeria, traditional gender roles dictate that men should handle public matters, including interactions with law enforcement, while women are expected to remain within the domestic sphere. This gendered division of roles can limit women's access to justice, as they may feel disempowered or lack the autonomy to report crimes independently (Eze, 2020). Additionally, male victims of crimes, especially those involving sexual assault or domestic violence, may face heightened stigma and disbelief, further deterring them from reporting. Economic factors intertwined with socio-cultural dynamics also influence crime reporting. Poverty and economic dependency can prevent victims from reporting crimes, especially when perpetrators are family members or community leaders who provide financial support. The fear of losing economic security and facing further hardship can compel victims to remain silent (Obi, 2021). This economic vulnerability is often exacerbated by limited access to

legal aid and support services, which disproportionately affects marginalized and low-income groups.

Educational disparities contribute to variations in crime reporting behavior across different socio-cultural contexts in Nigeria. Individuals with higher levels of education are generally more aware of their legal rights and the mechanisms available for reporting crimes, making them more likely to engage with formal justice systems. Conversely, those with limited education may lack this awareness and rely more heavily on informal or traditional justice practices (Ikechukwu, 2019). Educational initiatives that raise awareness about legal rights and the importance of crime reporting are essential for bridging this gap. In summary, socio-cultural factors such as stigma, traditional beliefs, religious influences, gender norms, economic dependencies, and educational disparities significantly impact how victims report crimes in Nigeria. Addressing these challenges requires strategies such as public awareness campaigns, community engagement, legal reforms, and support services that are sensitive to the cultural and social realities of Nigerian society.

## **2.5 Public Perception of the Police and Its Effects on Crime Reporting**

In Nigeria, public perception of the police is generally mixed, with significant concerns about corruption, inefficiency, and abuse of power. Corruption within the police force is a pervasive issue that undermines public trust. Instances of police officers demanding bribes, manipulating evidence, and colluding with criminals are not uncommon. These corrupt practices create a significant barrier to crime reporting, as victims fear that their cases will not be handled fairly or that they may be exploited further (Akinlabi, 2020). The perception of the police as corrupt and self-serving discourages individuals from seeking their assistance, leading to underreporting of crimes, especially in marginalized communities. Inefficiency and lack of responsiveness also contribute to negative public perceptions of the police in Nigeria. Victims often experience delays in police response times, inadequate investigation procedures, and poor case management. These inefficiencies result in a lack of faith in the ability of the police to provide timely and effective justice.



As a result, many victims opt not to report crimes, believing that the effort will be futile or that justice will be delayed indefinitely (Odeyemi, 2019). The perception of police inefficiency is particularly pronounced in rural areas, where resources and personnel are often stretched thin, further exacerbating the challenges of crime reporting. Abuse of power and police brutality have also significantly damaged public perception of the police. Reports of excessive use of force, unlawful detention, and human rights violations by police officers have been widespread. These abuses create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, deterring victims from approaching the police for help. High-profile cases of police brutality, such as the End SARS protests in 2020, have highlighted systemic issues within the police force and have led to widespread public outcry and distrust (Okafor, 2021). The fear of victimization by the very individuals tasked with protecting them makes many citizens wary of engaging with the police.

Public perception is further influenced by socio-economic and demographic factors. For instance, individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds often have more negative experiences with the police, including higher incidences of harassment and extortion. These negative interactions reinforce distrust and reluctance to report crimes (Umejesi, 2020). Additionally, young people, who are more likely to experience police harassment and profiling, generally have a more critical view of law enforcement agencies. This demographic is particularly important, as their experiences and perceptions can shape future attitudes towards the police and crime reporting. Efforts to improve public perception of the police and enhance crime reporting must address these multifaceted challenges. Community policing initiatives, which involve collaboration between police officers and community members, have shown promise in building trust and improving public relations. By engaging directly with the communities they serve, police officers can better understand local concerns, demonstrate accountability, and foster a sense of partnership in crime prevention (Nwankwo, 2021). These initiatives can help to mitigate negative perceptions and encourage more active participation in crime reporting.

Training and professional development programs aimed at improving the conduct and efficiency of police officers are also crucial. Enhancing police accountability through internal oversight mechanisms and independent review bodies can help to address

issues of corruption and abuse of power. Transparent and fair handling of complaints against police officers can reassure the public that their grievances will be taken seriously and addressed appropriately (Idowu, 2022). Additionally, providing adequate resources and support to law enforcement agencies can improve their operational efficiency and responsiveness, making them more effective in addressing reported crimes. Public awareness campaigns that educate citizens about their rights and the importance of crime reporting can also play a significant role. Empowering individuals with knowledge about how to report crimes, what to expect from the police, and how to seek redress if their rights are violated can enhance confidence in the justice system. These campaigns can also highlight positive examples of police work, helping to counterbalance negative perceptions and build a more nuanced understanding of law enforcement (Ogunyemi, 2021).

In conclusion, public perception of the police in Nigeria is a complex issue that significantly affects crime reporting. Corruption, inefficiency, abuse of power, and socio-economic disparities all contribute to a lack of trust and confidence in law enforcement agencies.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.6.1 Routine Activity Theory**

Routine Activity Theory, developed by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979, is a framework within criminology that examines the circumstances under which crimes are likely to occur. The theory diverges from traditional criminological theories that focus on the characteristics and motivations of offenders. Instead, it emphasizes the situational aspects of crime, positing that crime is the result of the convergence of three essential elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian.

#### **Assumptions of Routine Activity Theory**

1. **Motivated Offender:** The theory assumes that there will always be individuals motivated to commit crimes. It does not delve into the sociological or psychological reasons behind the motivation, accepting it as a given.

2. **Suitable Target:** A suitable target can be a person, object, or place that is attractive to the offender. The suitability is determined by factors like value, visibility, accessibility, and the perceived reward of the target.
3. **Absence of a Capable Guardian:** A capable guardian is anyone or anything that can prevent the crime from occurring. This could be a police officer, a security system, a vigilant neighbor, or even environmental factors like good lighting.

### **Strengths of Routine Activity Theory**

1. The theory's straightforward framework makes it easy to understand and apply. It clearly delineates the elements necessary for a crime to occur, which helps in identifying potential points of intervention.
2. By emphasizing the environmental and situational factors, Routine Activity Theory provides a practical basis for crime prevention strategies. Measures like increased lighting, surveillance, and community policing can effectively reduce crime opportunities.
3. Numerous studies have validated the theory's propositions, showing how changes in routine activities and environmental conditions can influence crime rates. For example, Felson and Clarke (2018) demonstrated how urbanization and changing social patterns can affect crime.

### **Weaknesses of Routine Activity Theory**

1. The theory does not address why individuals are motivated to commit crimes, which limits its comprehensiveness. Understanding the root causes of criminal behavior is crucial for a holistic approach to crime prevention.
2. Critics argue that the theory places too much emphasis on situational factors and overlooks broader social, economic, and cultural influences on crime. This can lead to an incomplete understanding of the complexities of criminal behavior.
3. While Routine Activity Theory is effective in explaining opportunistic crimes, it may not be as applicable to crimes that are not dependent on immediate situational factors, such as organized crime or crimes driven by deep-seated socio-economic issues.

### **Application to the Study in Omu-Aran, Kwara State**

Routine Activity Theory is particularly relevant for the study of crime and crime reporting in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria. The theory can help in understanding the patterns and nature of crimes in this specific context by focusing on the routine activities of the community and the environmental factors that facilitate or inhibit crime. In Omu-Aran, the convergence of motivated offenders, suitable targets, and lack of capable guardians can be examined in various ways. For instance, the study can look at specific areas within the town where crimes are more prevalent and analyze the routine activities in these areas. Factors such as poor lighting, absence of community policing, and the socio-economic activities that make certain targets more attractive to criminals can be identified.

By applying Routine Activity Theory, the study can develop targeted crime prevention strategies. For example, increasing street lighting, enhancing police patrols, and encouraging community vigilance can serve as effective guardianship mechanisms. Additionally, understanding the routine movements and activities of residents can help in designing interventions that disrupt the convergence of the three elements necessary for crime. The theory also provides a basis for understanding how changes in routine activities, such as economic shifts, urbanization, and technological advancements, can influence crime patterns. This can be particularly useful in formulating long-term strategies for crime prevention that adapt to evolving social conditions.

### **2.6.2 Procedural Justice Theory**

Procedural Justice Theory, developed by Tom R. Tyler and other scholars, focuses on the importance of fair and transparent processes in the administration of justice. The theory posits that people's perceptions of the fairness of procedures used by authorities, particularly law enforcement, significantly impact their compliance with the law and their willingness to cooperate with legal authorities.

### **Assumptions of Procedural Justice Theory**

1. The theory assumes that individuals value fair treatment and are more likely to accept and comply with decisions if they believe the processes were conducted fairly, regardless of the outcome.
2. Procedural Justice Theory emphasizes the importance of giving individuals an opportunity to express their views and concerns during the decision-making process. This sense of having a voice in the process enhances perceptions of fairness.
3. The theory assumes that decision-making should be unbiased and objective. People need to believe that authorities are impartial and base their decisions on consistent principles.
4. Treating individuals with respect and dignity is a fundamental assumption of Procedural Justice Theory. When authorities show respect, it enhances public trust and cooperation.
5. The theory assumes that authorities should act in ways that demonstrate their concern for the welfare of the people they serve. Building trust is crucial for fostering compliance and cooperation.

### **Strengths of Procedural Justice Theory**

1. Procedural Justice Theory enhance the legitimacy of law enforcement and legal institutions. When people perceive these institutions as fair, they are more likely to view them as legitimate and worthy of support.
2. Procedural justice encourages public cooperation with law enforcement. Studies have shown that people are more willing to report crimes, provide information, and assist police when they believe the processes are fair (Sunshine & Tyler, 2003).
3. Fair procedures increase voluntary compliance with the law. When individuals believe that legal authorities are just, they are more likely to adhere to laws and regulations, reducing the need for coercive enforcement.
4. The principles of procedural justice are applicable across various contexts, including criminal justice, workplace management, and public administration. This versatility makes it a robust theoretical framework.

## **Weaknesses of Procedural Justice Theory**

1. Perceptions of fairness are inherently subjective and can vary widely among individuals and cultural contexts. What one person perceives as fair may not be viewed the same by another, complicating the application of the theory.
2. While the theory focuses on the fairness of procedures, outcomes also matter to people. Even if the process is perceived as fair, an unfavorable outcome can still lead to dissatisfaction and non-compliance.
3. Implementing procedural justice in practice requires comprehensive training, cultural shifts within institutions, and ongoing commitment from authorities. This can be challenging and resource-intensive.
4. Procedural Justice Theory primarily addresses the fairness of processes but may overlook broader structural and systemic issues that affect justice outcomes. Addressing only procedural aspects without tackling deeper inequities can limit the effectiveness of reforms.

### **2.7 Application to the Study in Omu-Aran, Kwara State**

Procedural Justice Theory is particularly relevant for the study of crime and crime reporting in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria. The theory can provide insights into how public perceptions of police fairness and legitimacy influence the willingness of victims to report crimes. In Omu-Aran, negative perceptions of the police due to corruption, inefficiency, and abuse of power may deter crime reporting. Procedural Justice Theory suggests that improving the fairness and transparency of police procedures can enhance public trust and encourage more victims to come forward. For instance, ensuring that police interactions with the public are respectful, unbiased, and consistent can improve community relations and foster a sense of legitimacy. Empirical research supports the application of Procedural Justice Theory in various contexts. For example, studies have shown that when police officers engage in fair and transparent practices, public cooperation increases, even in communities with historically low trust in law enforcement (Tyler & Huo, 2002).

In Omu-Aran, training police officers in procedural justice principles—such as active listening, providing explanations for decisions, and demonstrating impartiality—can

lead to better public perceptions and more effective crime reporting. Furthermore, community policing initiatives that incorporate procedural justice principles can help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. By involving community members in decision-making processes and addressing their concerns transparently, the police can build stronger relationships and enhance their legitimacy (Tyler, 2006). These initiatives can be particularly effective in encouraging crime reporting in Omu-Aran, where public trust in the police may be low.

## **2.8 Empirical Review**

Akinlabi (2020) investigates the pervasive issue of corruption within the Nigerian police force and its impact on public perception and crime reporting. The study utilized survey data collected from various regions in Nigeria to assess the extent of police corruption and its influence on the willingness of citizens to report crimes. Findings indicate that widespread corruption significantly erodes public trust in the police, leading to a reluctance to report crimes. The study highlights the need for comprehensive anti-corruption measures within the police force to restore public confidence and improve crime reporting rates.

Odeyemi (2019) focuses on the inefficiencies within the Nigerian police system and how these affect public trust and crime reporting. Through a mixed-methods approach, including surveys and interviews, the study examines the experiences of crime victims with the police. The results reveal that delays in response times, inadequate investigations, and poor case management contribute to negative perceptions of the police. These inefficiencies deter victims from reporting crimes, as they believe that their cases will not be handled effectively. The study calls for improvements in police training, resource allocation, and operational procedures to enhance efficiency and public trust.

Furthermore, Okafor (2021) examines the impact of police brutality on public perception and crime reporting in the wake of the End SARS protests in Nigeria. Using qualitative data from interviews with protest participants and victims of police brutality, the research explores the deep-seated mistrust and fear of the police. The findings show that incidents of excessive force and human rights violations by police officers create a

climate of fear and distrust, significantly discouraging crime reporting. The study emphasizes the need for police reforms focused on accountability, human rights training, and community engagement to rebuild public trust and encourage reporting.

Umejesi (2020) in his research, investigates the relationship between socio-economic factors and public perception of the police, particularly in low-income communities. The study employs a cross-sectional survey design, gathering data from various socio-economic groups. Results indicate that individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds have more negative experiences with the police, including higher incidences of harassment and extortion. These negative interactions foster distrust and reluctance to report crimes. The study suggests that addressing socio-economic disparities and ensuring equitable treatment by the police can improve public perception and crime reporting behaviors.

Nevertheless, Nwankwo (2021) explores the effectiveness of community policing initiatives in building trust between the police and the public in Nigeria. Using a case study approach, the research analyzes community policing programs in several Nigerian states. The findings demonstrate that community policing, which involves collaboration between police officers and community members, can significantly enhance public trust and cooperation. The study shows that when the police engage with communities transparently and respectfully, crime reporting increases. It highlights the importance of community-based strategies in addressing the trust deficit and improving the overall effectiveness of the police force.

## **2.9 Gaps in Literatures**

Despite the extensive research on crime and crime reporting in Nigeria, several gaps remain in the literature. One significant gap is the limited focus on specific local contexts, such as small towns and rural areas. Much of the existing research, including studies by Akinlabi (2020) and Okafor (2021), tends to focus on urban centers where issues like police corruption and brutality are more pronounced and easier to document. However, smaller towns like Omu-Aran may experience different dynamics that are not captured in studies centered on major cities. These areas may have unique socio-cultural and economic factors that influence crime patterns and reporting behaviors, which are



not adequately addressed in the broader literature. This gap indicates a need for more localized studies that consider the specific characteristics and needs of smaller communities to provide a comprehensive understanding of crime and crime reporting across different Nigerian contexts.

Another gap in the literature is the insufficient exploration of the long-term impacts of community policing and procedural justice initiatives on crime reporting and public trust in the police. While Nwankwo (2021) highlights the potential benefits of community policing, there is limited empirical evidence on its sustained effectiveness over time, particularly in diverse Nigerian settings. Additionally, the impact of procedural justice practices on marginalized groups and how these practices can be tailored to address their specific needs remains under-researched. Existing studies often provide a snapshot of immediate outcomes rather than longitudinal data that could offer insights into the enduring effects of these interventions. Addressing these gaps through longitudinal studies and targeted research on marginalized communities can enhance our understanding of effective crime prevention and reporting strategies in Nigeria.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed in this study on the nature of crime and crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran, Kwara State. It details the research design, sampling methods, data collection techniques, and analytical procedures. By adopting a stratified random sampling approach and utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods, the study aims to capture a diverse range of experiences and perceptions. This chapter also discusses the ethical considerations and limitations of the research, ensuring a robust and rigorous approach to understanding the complex dynamics of crime and victim reporting in the selected locale.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research design for this study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods to comprehensively explore the nature of crime and crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran, Kwara State. Quantitatively, a structured questionnaire will be administered to a stratified random sample of residents to gather data on crime experiences, reporting behaviors, and perceptions of law enforcement. This approach allows for statistical analysis to identify patterns and correlations in crime incidents and reporting rates across different demographic and socio-economic groups. Qualitatively, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders, including victims, law enforcement officials, and community leaders, to gain deeper insights into the socio-cultural factors influencing crime reporting and the challenges faced in the process. This mixed-methods design ensures a comprehensive understanding of the research topic by triangulating quantitative findings with qualitative narratives, thereby providing a nuanced exploration of crime dynamics and victim behavior in the study area.

### 3.2 Study Area



Omu-Aran, situated in the Irepodun Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria, is a town renowned for its diverse population and vibrant socio-economic activities. The town is organized into several wards, each contributing uniquely to its socio-cultural fabric and economic vitality. These wards include areas such as Oke-Ebo, Oko, Oke-Igbon, and Oke-Onigbin, among others, each characterized by distinct community dynamics and developmental challenges (Kwara State Government, 2023). As of 2023, Omu-Aran's population is estimated to be approximately 150,000 people, reflecting a steady growth trajectory driven by factors such as rural-urban migration, economic opportunities, and the town's strategic location within Kwara State (Kwara State Government, 2023). The demographic diversity within Omu-Aran encompasses various ethnic groups, contributing to a rich cultural tapestry that influences local customs, traditions, and community relations.

Economically, Omu-Aran thrives on agriculture, trade, and small-scale industries, which are pivotal to the town's socio-economic landscape (Oyebanji, 2018). The agricultural sector, encompassing both subsistence farming and commercial enterprises, remains a cornerstone of the local economy, alongside thriving markets and trading activities that stimulate commerce and entrepreneurship. In terms of governance and

administration, Omu-Aran benefits from infrastructure developments and community initiatives facilitated by local government authorities and community leaders. These efforts aim to enhance public services, including education, healthcare, and public safety, which are integral to fostering community well-being and resilience against socio-economic challenges.

### **3.3 Sample Population**

The sample size for this study in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, is determined using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample size determination table. Given the estimated population of Omu-Aran at approximately 150,000 people, the researchers aim for a representative sample that balances statistical rigor with practical feasibility. According to Krejcie and Morgan's table, for a population size of 150,000, a sample size of 382 respondents is recommended to achieve a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$ . This sample size ensures sufficient statistical power to generalize findings within a reasonable degree of accuracy across different demographic and socio-economic strata within Omu-Aran.

For qualitative data collection through semi-structured interviews, a purposive sampling technique will be employed to select key informants, including crime victims, community leaders, and law enforcement Agencies officials. Approximately 6 participants will be interviewed to provide in-depth insights into their experiences, perceptions, and challenges related to crime reporting in Omu-Aran. Purposive sampling allows researchers to select individuals who possess valuable knowledge and perspectives relevant to the study's objectives, ensuring rich qualitative data that complements the quantitative findings.

By employing a mixed-methods approach with a total sample size of 382 for quantitative surveys and 6 for qualitative interviews, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of crime patterns and victim reporting behaviors in Omu-Aran. This methodological approach ensures that both quantitative statistical analyses and qualitative narratives contribute to a nuanced exploration of the research topic, facilitating informed recommendations for enhancing crime prevention strategies and improving community safety initiatives in the study area.



### **3.4 Instruments of Data Collection**

The instruments of data collection for this study on crime and crime reporting in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, include structured questionnaires and interviews. The structured questionnaires are designed to gather quantitative data on crime incidents, victim reporting behaviors, perceptions of safety, and attitudes towards law enforcement. These questionnaires ensure standardized data collection across a stratified random sample of residents, facilitating statistical analysis to identify trends and correlations. Semi-structured interviews complement the quantitative data by providing in-depth qualitative insights into the socio-cultural contexts, community dynamics, and institutional challenges influencing crime reporting practices in Omu-Aran. This mixed-methods approach enables a comprehensive exploration of the research topic from both quantitative and qualitative perspectives.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Collection**

The methods of data collection for this study on crime and crime reporting in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, encompass both quantitative and qualitative approaches to gather comprehensive insights into the research topic. Quantitatively, structured questionnaires were administered to a stratified random sample of 382 residents across different wards and neighborhoods in Omu-Aran. These questionnaires are designed to collect quantitative data on crime experiences, perceptions of safety, attitudes towards law enforcement, and factors influencing crime reporting behaviors. The use of structured questionnaires allows for standardized data collection, enabling statistical analysis to identify patterns, correlations, and trends in crime reporting across various demographic and socio-economic groups within the community.

Qualitatively, semi-structured interviews was conducted with 6 key informants, including crime victims, community leaders, local law enforcement Agencies officials, and representatives from Civil Society Organizations. Semi-structured interviews provide an opportunity to explore in-depth perspectives, experiences, and narratives related to crime and victim reporting in Omu-Aran. These interviews will delve into the socio-cultural contexts, community dynamics, and institutional challenges that shape crime reporting practices. By combining quantitative survey data with qualitative

insights from interviews, this mixed-methods approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the complex factors influencing crime dynamics and victim behavior in the study area. This methodological rigor enhances the study's validity and reliability, facilitating nuanced analyses and informed recommendations for improving crime prevention strategies and enhancing community safety in Omu-Aran.

### **3.6 Methods of Data Analysis**

The methods of data analysis for this study on crime and crime reporting in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, involve both quantitative and qualitative approaches to derive meaningful insights from the collected data. Quantitative data obtained from structured questionnaires will undergo statistical analysis using descriptive Statistical tools such as frequencies (f) and percentages (%) will be computed to summarize the nature of crime, victim reporting behaviors, perceptions of safety, and attitudes towards law enforcement among residents of Omu-Aran. Inferential statistical techniques, including correlation analysis and regression models, will be employed to explore relationships between variables and identify factors influencing crime reporting.

Qualitative data gathered from semi-structured interviews will undergo thematic analysis to identify recurring themes, patterns, and narratives related to crime experiences and victim reporting practices in Omu-Aran. Transcripts from interviews will be coded systematically to categorize responses into themes and sub-themes. These themes will be interpreted in relation to the study's research questions and theoretical frameworks, providing rich qualitative insights that complement and contextualize the quantitative findings. By integrating quantitative descriptive analyses with qualitative thematic analyses, this mixed-methods approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of nature of crime, dynamics, victim behavior, and factors influencing crime reporting within the study area.

Triangulating findings from both data sources enhances the robustness and validity of the study's conclusions, enabling nuanced interpretations and informed recommendations for policy and practice aimed at improving community safety and enhancing crime prevention strategies in Omu-Aran, Kwara State.

### **3.7 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations in this study on the nature of crime and crime reporting in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, are paramount to ensuring the well-being, confidentiality, and rights of participants throughout the research process. Firstly, informed consent was obtained from all participants, clearly outlined the purpose of the study, potential risks and benefits, and their right to withdraw at any time without consequences. Participants' anonymity and confidentiality will be strictly maintained, with data securely stored and only accessible to authorized researchers. Furthermore, the research will adhere to ethical guidelines set forth by institutional review boards and national regulations regarding research involving human subjects. Measures to minimize harm and ensure respect for cultural diversities will be implemented, particularly when discussing sensitive topics such as crime victimization. Participants will be treated with dignity and respect, and efforts will be made to ensure that their voices and experiences are accurately represented in the findings.

Additionally, the researchers will disclose any potential conflicts of interest and uphold transparency in reporting findings to the community and relevant stakeholders. Ethical considerations also extend to ensuring the research contributes positively to knowledge and potential policy improvements in crime prevention and victim support. By prioritizing ethical standards throughout the study, this research aims to uphold integrity, trustworthiness, and accountability in its findings and recommendations.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents and analyzes data collected from the field through the use of a structured questionnaire. A total of 382 questionnaires were administered to respondents in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria. Out of the 382 questionnaires administered, only 350 were completely and accurately filled, while the remaining 32 questionnaires, although returned, were not accurately filled. Based on the 350 completed and accurate questionnaires, the researcher presented and analyzed the data and discussed the findings of the research. To facilitate easy interpretation, simple frequency tables and percentages were used. The analysis and findings were based on the 350 questionnaires returned out of the 382 questionnaires distributed to the respondents.

#### 4.1. Presentation of Data

Under the presentation of data, results were presented in the following tables starting with the socio demographics of the respondents

**Table 4.1: Response Rate Distributions**

<b>Administered</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Retrieved</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>91.6%</b>

#### **Section A: Socio-Demographic Data of the Respondents**

**Table 4.1.1 Age Distribution of the Respondents**

Age of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18 – 37	110	31.4%
38 – 57	105	30%
58 – 77	85	24.3%
78 and above	50	14.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field survey 2024

The data shows that the majority of respondents, 31.4% (110), are within the age range of 18-37 years old, followed by those within the age range of 38-57 years old (30%, 105), then those within the age range of 58-77 years old (24.3%, 85), and finally those aged 78 and above (14.3%, 50). The most prominent age group is the youth category of 18-37 years old.

The high percentage of youths in this age bracket may indicate that they are more likely to be influenced by current trends, attitudes, and behaviors related to the subject under study and the relatively lower percentage of older adults may suggest that they may be less likely to be influenced by current trends or may have different perspectives or experiences that are not well-represented in the sample.

**Table 4.1.2 Sex Distribution of the Respondents**

Sex of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	200	57.1%
Female	150	42.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** field Survey 2024

The data reveals that a significant majority (57.1%) of the respondents, numbering 200, are male, whereas 42.9% (150) are female. This indicates that males significantly outnumber females in the study area and were more readily available to participate in

the survey. The majority of respondents being male may suggest that the study area has a predominantly male population or that men are more likely to participate in surveys or engage with the topic being studied.

**Table 4.1.3 Educational Qualification of Respondents**

<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Primary	55	15.7%
Secondary	60	17.1%
Tertiary	220	62.9%
None	15	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Survey 2023

The data reveals that a significant proportion of respondents, 15.7% (55), have primary education, while 17.1% (60) have completed secondary education, 62.9% (220) have completed tertiary, and the majority, 4.3% (15), hold a none. This indicates that the majority of respondents have attained higher levels of education.

The high percentage of respondents with tertiary education (62.9%) suggests that the study area has a highly educated population, which may be indicative of a higher socio-economic status and greater access to resources and opportunities.

**Table 4.1.4 Occupation of Respondents**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Civil servant	140	40%
Self-employed	120	34.3%
Others	90	25.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Survey 2024

The data shows that the majority of respondents, 40% (140), identify as civil servant, followed by self-employed who make up 34.3% (120) of the sample. A small proportion, 25.7% (90), identify as others. This indicates that civil servant is the dominant religion among the respondents. The high percentage of civil servant (40%) suggests that the study area has a predominantly civil servant population, which may

have implications for how respondents approach and engage with the subject matter being studied.

**Table 4.1.5 Marital Status of Respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Single	125	35.7%
Married	145	41.4%
Divorced	35	10%
Widowed	45	12.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey 2024

**The data reveals that majority of the respondents, 35.7% (125)** were single, while a significant proportion, 41.4% (145), were married. A smaller proportion of respondents are divorced (10%, 35) or widowed (12.9%, 45). This indicates that married is the most common marital status among the respondents. The high percentage of married respondents may provide a representative sample for exploring issues related to marriage and family, while the single and divorced/widowed respondents may offer unique perspectives on alternative lifestyles or experiences.

**TABLE 4.2: Section B: Patterns and Nature of Crime**

S/N	STATEMENT	Respondent (n)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Crime rates in my neighborhood have increased over the past year.	350	52.9%	29.1%	9.1%	5.7%	3.1%
2	Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft) are more common than violent crimes here.	350	34.3%	27.1%	18.6%	11.4%	8.6%
3	I feel unsafe walking alone in my neighborhood at night.	350	38.6%	32.9%	18.6%	4.3%	5.1%
4	Drug-related crimes are a significant problem in my community.	350	47.1%	30%	15.1%	5.4%	2.3%
5	Gang activities have contributed to the crime rates in my area.	350	32.9%	41.4%	12.9%	7.1%	5.7%
6	Cybercrime (e.g., online fraud, hacking) is becoming more prevalent in my community.	350	57.8%	30%	7.1%	1.1%	4%
7	Farmer-herder conflicts are a significant source of violence in my area.	350	38.6%	30%	18.6%	8%	4.9%

**Source:** Field Work 2024

The result shows that the respondents have varying opinions on the nature and patterns of crime in their neighborhood. There is a sense of concern about crime rates, safety, and specific types of crimes such as property crimes, drug-related crimes, and gang activities. Cybercrime and farmer-herder conflicts are also seen as significant issues. The data suggests that the respondents perceive their neighborhood as having a higher crime rate compared to the past year by (52.9%) of respondents. There is a significant concern about feeling unsafe while walking alone at night by (38.6%). The respondents also believe that property crimes are more common than violent crimes by (34.3%). The prevalence of drug-related crimes and gang activities is also a major concern accounting

for (47.1%). Furthermore, cybercrime and farmer-herder conflicts are seen as emerging issues. The majority of respondents feel that crime rates in their neighborhood have increased over the past year. Many are concerned about feeling unsafe at night and believe that property crimes are more prevalent than violent crimes. Drug-related crimes and gang activities are also perceived as significant problems. Additionally, there is growing concern about cybercrime and farmer-herder conflicts.

The results also highlight the need for community-based initiatives to address these concerns and promote safer living conditions.

To further buttress or validate the above result an In-depth Interview was done and the response is as quoted below:

*“Honestly, it's mostly petty crimes like theft and vandalism. You know, people breaking into cars, stealing valuables, and damaging property. It's not like violent crimes or anything serious, but it's still frustrating. Things have gotten worse over the past year or so. I think it's because of the economic downturn and people being more desperate for money. There are more homeless people around, and that can attract other criminal elements. Plus, some of the local businesses have closed down, which has left some areas feeling abandoned and vulnerable”.* **(Male, 45, Self-employed)**

In this study, the key informant describes common types of crimes in their neighborhood as petty theft and vandalism. They share their personal experiences with crime, including having their car broken into and witnessing vandalism on their neighbor's property. They express frustration and anxiety about living in a neighborhood with high crime rates and feel that crime affects their daily life by making them more cautious and vigilant.

One of the Participants responses opined that;

*“Crime rates have increased over the past year.* **(Male, 50, Self-employed)**

In this study, the key informant describes a perceived increase in crime rates over the past year, citing economic struggles and a lack of effective policing as contributing factors. They express frustration with the police presence being inadequate and ineffective in addressing the root causes of crime. The interviewee also notes trends in

types of crime and times of day when crimes tend to occur, as well as initiatives aimed at reducing crime but questioning their lasting impact.

**TABLE 4.3: Section C: Crime Reporting and Challenges**

S/N	STATEMENT	Respondent (n)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	I know how to report a crime to the police.	350	29.1%	42.9%	15.7%	7.1%	5.1%
2	I feel confident that the police will take action if I report a crime.	350	14.3%	24.3%	7.1%	25.1%	29.2%
3	Fear of retaliation prevents people from reporting crimes in my community.	350	35.7%	29.1%	18.6%	10%	6.6%
4	The process of reporting a crime is too complicated and time-consuming.	350	52.9%	29.1%	11.4%	4.3%	2.3%
5	There is a lack of awareness about the importance of reporting crimes.	350	42.9%	31.4%	14.3%	5.7%	5.7%

The result shows that respondents have varying levels of confidence in reporting crimes to the police and their expectations about the outcome. The majority of respondents feel that reporting a crime is too complicated and time-consuming, while a significant proportion of respondents are aware of the importance of reporting crimes. Fear of retaliation prevents some people from reporting crimes in the community. The data indicates that many respondents are uncertain or unaware about how to report a crime to the police, which may be due to a lack of education or information about the process. This lack of knowledge may be contributing to the fact that only 29.1% of respondents feel confident that the police will take action if they report a crime. The high percentage of respondents who strongly disagree with this statement (29.2%) suggests that there may be a lack of trust in the police or concerns about their effectiveness. The fear of

retaliation is also a significant concern, with 35.7% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that it prevents people from reporting crimes. This suggests that victims or witnesses may be hesitant to come forward due to fear of retribution or intimidation. The process of reporting a crime is perceived as complicated and time-consuming by 52.9% of respondents, which may be due to bureaucratic hurdles or lack of clear procedures. This complexity may discourage people from reporting crimes, especially if they are not confident in the outcome.

One of the key informants' responses buttresses that:

*“Honestly, I've had mixed experiences with reporting crimes. Sometimes I've reported things to the police, but it feels like they don't always take it seriously or follow up on the case. I've reported some critical issues and nothing seems to change. But other times, I've reported something and they've taken action and it's made a difference. So, I guess it depends on the situation”. (Female, 52, Civil Servant)*

In this study, the participant expresses frustration with reporting crimes to the police and local government, citing lack of follow-through and prioritization. They describe their mixed experiences with reporting crimes online and in-person, and acknowledge that it's difficult to determine whether reporting a crime makes a difference. The interviewee suggests that community-based resources and support services would be helpful for dealing with the aftermath of a crime and provides an example of a local non-profit that provides these services.

The informant's responses above also contributed that:

*“Honestly, there are a few challenges. One of the biggest is just getting someone to listen to me. Sometimes it feels like the police are overwhelmed or uninterested, and it's hard to get them to take me seriously”. (Female, 52, Civil Servant)*



In this study, the informant describes challenges such as difficulty getting someone to listen, negative experiences with law enforcement, language barriers, lack of access to technology, and lack of trust as obstacles when trying to report a crime. They also highlight the importance of community-led initiatives and resources for victims of crime, as well as multilingual staff and accessible reporting methods, in order to improve the process of reporting crimes.

**TABLE 4.4: Section D: Socio-Cultural Factors Influencing Crime Reporting**

S/N	STATEMENT	Respondent (n)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Cultural beliefs discourage reporting crimes to the authorities.	350	42.9%	35.7%	12.9%	4.3%	4.3%
2	Community leaders play a significant role in addressing crime issues.	350	52.9%	34.3%	7.1%	2.9%	2.9%
3	Social stigma attached to victims affects crime reporting.	350	42.9%	34.3%	7.1%	7.1%	8.6%
4	Family influence determines whether a crime is reported.	350	35.7%	29.1%	18.6%	12.9%	3.7%
5	Peer pressure can discourage individuals from reporting crimes.	350	42.9%	29.1%	18.6%	6.6%	2.9%

The data shows that socio-cultural factors play a significant role in influencing crime reporting. Cultural beliefs and social norms can discourage reporting crimes to the authorities, while community leaders and family influence can either encourage or discourage reporting. Social stigma attached to victims can also affect their willingness to report crimes. The results indicate that cultural beliefs are a significant barrier to crime reporting, with 42.9% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that cultural beliefs discourage reporting crimes to the authorities. This suggests that certain cultural values or norms may prioritize loyalty, family reputation, or community harmony over seeking justice, leading individuals to keep silent about crimes. Community leaders play a crucial role in addressing crime issues, but only 34.3% of respondents agree or

strongly agree that they do so. This may indicate that community leaders are not effective in promoting a culture of reporting crimes or may be perceived as ineffective in addressing crime issues. The social stigma attached to victims can be a significant deterrent to crime reporting, with 42.9% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that it affects their willingness to report crimes. This stigma can be due to shame, fear of judgment, or concern for reputation, leading individuals to remain silent about victimization. Family influence is also a factor, with 29.1% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that family determines whether a crime is reported. This suggests that family dynamics and expectations can either encourage or discourage reporting crimes. Peer pressure can also play a role in discouraging individuals from reporting crimes, with 42.9% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that it can have this effect. This peer pressure may arise from fear of being judged, ostracized, or losing social status.

One of the informant's responses opined that:

*“Well, in my community, there are certain cultural norms and beliefs that can affect how people report crimes. For example, some people may feel that reporting a crime will bring shame to their family or community, so they might not report it at all”. (Female, 35, Self-employed)*

In this study, the informant highlights how cultural beliefs and practices can both hinder and facilitate the reporting of crimes in their community. They discuss how certain cultural norms can lead people not to report crimes due to shame or fear of retaliation, but also how other cultural values can encourage reporting as a way of protecting oneself and one's community. The interviewee also mentions language barriers as an additional challenge and notes that some community organizations are working to address these issues by promoting cultural sensitivity and providing support services for victims of crime.

One of the key informant's responses opined that:

*“Community leaders can play a crucial role in addressing crime issues. They can help build trust between the community and law enforcement, which is essential for effective crime prevention and reporting. They can also provide a platform for community members to voice their concerns and ideas”. (Male, 38, Civil Servants)*

In this study, the participant highlights the important role that community leaders can play in addressing crime issues by building trust, providing support services, and developing innovative solutions. They discuss the challenges that community leader’s face, including limited resources and lack of expertise, but also suggest ways that these challenges can be overcome through partnerships and collaboration. The interviewee also praises specific community leaders who have been effective in addressing crime issues in their community.

**TABLE 4.5: Section E: Public Perception of the Police**

S/N	STATEMENT	Respondent (n)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	I trust the Nigeria police to protect my rights and ensure my safety.	350	6.9%	27.1%	16%	20%	30%
2	The Nigeria police are responsive to the community’s needs and concerns	350	10%	14.3%	12.9%	24.3%	38.6%
3	Corruption within the police force is a major issue in my area.	350	44.3%	30%	16%	6.9%	2.9%
4	The presence of Nigeria police officers makes me feel safer in my community.	350	12.9%	14.9%	18%	38.6%	15.7%
5	Police-community relations have improved over the past few years.	350	27.1%	32.9%	18.6%	12.9%	8.6%

**Source:** Field Work 2024

The result shows that the public has a mixed perception of the Nigeria police, with a significant proportion of respondents expressing distrust and concerns about police effectiveness. While a small minority trusts the police to protect their rights and ensure their safety, a larger proportion perceive corruption within the force as a major issue. The results indicate that only 6.9% of respondents strongly agree that they trust the police to protect their rights and ensure their safety, while 27.1% agree to some extent. This suggests that many people do not have faith in the police's ability to uphold their rights and protect them from harm. The police's responsiveness to community needs and concerns is also a concern, with 38.6% of respondents strongly disagreeing that they are responsive. This lack of responsiveness may be due to bureaucratic red tape, lack of community engagement, or other factors. Corruption within the police force is perceived as a major issue by 44.3% of respondents, which can erode trust and confidence in the institution. This finding is concerning, as corruption can undermine public safety and perpetuate social inequality. The presence of police officers does not necessarily make respondents feel safer, with 15.7% strongly disagreeing and 38.6% disagreeing. This suggests that the police's presence may not always be perceived as a deterrent or reassuring factor. Finally, while some respondents believe that police-community relations have improved over the past few years (27.1% agree or strongly agree), a significant proportion (38.6%) disagree or strongly disagree. This indicates that there is still work to be done to build trust and improve relationships between law enforcement and the community.

One of the key informant's responses opined that:

*Honestly, my experience with the Nigeria police has been a mixed bag. On the one hand, I have had some positive interactions with them, such as when they responded quickly to a report of a break-in at my neighbor's house and apprehended the thieves. However, on the other hand, I have also had some negative experiences where they were unresponsive or even abusive. (Male, 29, Civil Servants)*

In this study, the informant expresses mixed feelings about the Nigeria police, citing both positive and negative experiences. They highlight specific instances of unresponsiveness and abuse of power, but also suggest ways in which the Nigeria police can improve their relationship with the public, include increased accountability, training on human rights, community policing initiatives, and reforms such as body cameras and dash cams.

One of the key informant's responses opined that:

*Honestly, I think many victims of crime are not confident in reporting crimes to the Nigeria Police. There are several reasons for this. First, there is a lack of trust in the police due to past experiences of abuse, extortion, and corruption. Many people believe that reporting a crime will only lead to more problems for them. (Female, 45, Civil Servant)*

In this example, the informant expresses that many victims of crime lack confidence in reporting crimes to the Nigeria Police due to a lack of trust stemming from past experiences of abuse and corruption. They highlight specific examples of maltreatment and suggest ways in which confidence can be increased, including increased transparency and accountability from the Nigeria police, access to resources for victims, and a zero-tolerance policy for corruption and abuse.

#### **4.6 Discussion of Findings**

This is the discussion of the data presented and analysed in various tables above based on the data retrieved from the field on the topic under studied.

The findings of this study include:

The presentation starts by providing an overview of the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, including their age, sex, education level, occupation, and marital status. The data shows that majority of the respondents are male, between the ages of 18-37 resulting to 31.4% of 110, and have a tertiary education level which is represented by 62.9% of 220 respondents. The study then presents the results of the survey on patterns and nature of crime in the respondents' neighborhood. The results show that respondents have varying opinions on the nature and patterns of crime in their

neighborhood, with a sense of concern about crime rates as strongly agree of 52.9%, safety as strongly agreed of 38.6%, and specific types of crimes such as property crimes as strongly agree of 34.3%, drug-related crimes as strongly agree of 47.1%, and gang activities as agree of 41.4%.

This finding shows that respondents believe crime rates have increased over the past year, and many feel unsafe walking alone at night. This indicates that there is a sense of concern and fear among the community members. The high proportion of respondents who feel unsafe at night may be due to a lack of trust in the police or concerns about their effectiveness. The study also presents the results of an in-depth interview with a key informant who describes common types of crimes in their neighborhood as petty theft and vandalism. The concerned informant expresses frustration and anxiety about living in a neighborhood with high crime rates and feels that crime affects their daily life by making them more cautious and vigilant.

The presentation further discusses the results of the survey on crime reporting and challenges. The results show that respondents have varying levels of confidence in reporting crimes to the police and their expectations about the outcome as strongly disagree of 29.2%. The majority of respondents feel that reporting a crime is too complicated and time-consuming as strongly agree of 52.9%, while a significant proportion of respondents are aware of the importance of reporting crimes as strongly agree of 42.9%. Fear of retaliation prevents some people from reporting crimes in the community as strongly agree of 35.7% represents this opinion. The study also presents the results of an in-depth interview with a key informant who expresses frustration with reporting crimes to the Nigeria police and local government, citing lack of follow-through and prioritization. The findings of this data indicate that, barriers to crime reporting includes fear of retaliation, lack of awareness about the importance of reporting crimes, and complicated reporting processes. These barriers may discourage people from reporting crimes, which can perpetuate the cycle of crime and violence.

The presentation then discusses the results of the survey on socio-cultural factors influencing crime reporting. The results show that cultural beliefs and social norms can discourage reporting crimes to the authorities as strongly agree of 42.9%, while

community leaders and family influence can either encourage or discourage reporting as strongly agree of 52.9% or 35.7% showed respectively. Social stigma attached to victims can also affect their willingness to report crimes as strongly agree of 42.9% represents this view. This finding shows that, socio-cultural factors play a significant role in influencing crime reporting.

Cultural beliefs, social norms, and community leaders' influence can either encourage or discourage reporting crimes. The stigma attached to victims also affect their willingness to report crimes.

The findings of this study suggest that the public has a mixed perception on the Nigeria police, with a significant proportion of respondents expressing distrust and concerns about police effectiveness. The results indicate that only a small minority of respondents trust the police to protect their rights and ensure their safety, which suggests that many people do not have faith in the Nigeria police's ability to uphold their rights and protect them from harm as strongly disagree of 30% represents this perception.

The lack of trust in the Nigeria police is further exacerbated by the perception of corruption within the force as strongly agree of 44.3%. A significant proportion of respondents perceive corruption as a major issue, which can erode trust and confidence in the institution. This finding is concerning, as corruption can undermine public safety and perpetuate social inequality. The results also suggest that the police's responsiveness to community needs and concerns is a concern. Large proportions of respondents disagree or strongly disagree that the Nigeria police are responsive to the community's needs and concerns as strongly disagree of 38.6% represents this opinion. This lack of responsiveness may be due to bureaucratic red tape, lack of community engagement, or other factors, while some respondents believe that police-community relations have improved over the past few years, a significant proportion of respondents agreed with this view which is represented by 32.9%.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter comprises of the summary of the study, the conclusion of the research findings, and it also includes recommendations based on the research findings which will contribute to the existing body of knowledge in solving problems of nature of crime and crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran, Kwara State.

#### **5.1 Summary**

The study found that crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran is influenced by various factors, including the severity of the crime, the victim's socio-economic status, and their perception of police effectiveness. The study also identified that victims' trust in the police and fear of retaliation are significant barriers to crime reporting. Furthermore, the



study found that victims often face challenges when reporting crimes to the police, including corruption, lack of resources, and inefficient response times.

The study concluded that addressing these challenges is crucial to improving crime reporting rates and ensuring justice for victims of crime in Omu-Aran. The findings suggest that there is a need for improved police-community relations, increased trust-building initiatives, and enhanced services for victims of crime.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

Based on the findings of this research;

This study aimed to investigate the patterns and nature of crime in Omu-Aran, Kwara State, as well as the mechanisms through which victims report crimes and the challenges they face. The study also examined the socio-economic and cultural factors that influence crime reporting by victims in Omu-Aran and assessed the perceptions of law enforcement effectiveness among residents of Omu-Aran.

The findings revealed that crime reporting in Omu-Aran is influenced by a complex array of factors, including the severity of the crime, victim's socio-economic status, and their perception of police effectiveness. The study also identified various forms of police brutality experienced by victims, including physical assault, emotional distress, and economic exploitation.

The study found that victims face numerous challenges when reporting crimes to the police, including fear of retaliation, lack of trust, and inadequate police response. Furthermore, the findings suggest that socio-economic and cultural factors, such as poverty and cultural beliefs also play a significant role in shaping crime reporting behaviors of the people in the community.

The findings of this study highlight the complex and multifaceted nature of crime and crime reporting in Omu-Aran. The results suggest that crime is not just a matter of individual deviance, but is also shaped by broader social and economic factors. Furthermore, the study reveals that crime reporting rates are influenced by a range of factors, including trust in the police, fear of retaliation, and the perceived effectiveness of the criminal justice system. These findings have important implications for policymakers and practitioners seeking to reduce crime and improve crime reporting rates in Omu-Aran. To address these issues, we recommend that policymakers and

practitioners prioritize community engagement, improve police-community relations, and develop more effective strategies for supporting victims of crime. Furthermore, the findings show that there is a need for greater support for victims of crime, including improved access to services and resources.

### **5.3. Recommendations**

Based on the research findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Police in Omu-Aran should prioritize a more empathetic and responsive approach to victim support, recognizing the complex social, economic, and cultural dynamics that shape crime reporting behaviors and experiences also the Law enforcement in general should adopt a more compassionate and proactive approach to serving victims, taking into account the nuanced interplay between social, economic, and cultural factors that can influence their willingness to report crimes.
- ii. The Nigerian police force training should prioritize the development of officers' problem-solving skills, cultural competence, and community engagement abilities, allowing them to tackle the complex social and economic factors that contribute to crime and build stronger relationships with the community, focusing on strategies that enhance their understanding of the community's dynamics, and equip them with culturally sensitive communication skills to foster trust and cooperation with local residents."
- iii. The Nigeria Police Force should engage with residents of Omu-Aran to understand their perceptions of law enforcement effectiveness and use this feedback to improve policing practices and increase trust between law enforcement officials and the community.
- iv. The Nigeria Police Force should undertake a regular review of its policies and procedures to ensure they are informed by international best practices and domestic laws, and that they prioritize transparency, accountability, and community engagement. This can help build trust between law enforcement officials and the community, and ultimately lead to increased crime reporting rates.

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## **Appendix i**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

Dear Respondent,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important research study titled "The Nature of Crime and Crime Reporting by Victims in Omu-Aran, Kwara State." This study aims to understand the various aspects of crime and the reporting behaviors of victims within your community. Your insights will contribute significantly to identifying patterns of crime, the effectiveness of crime reporting mechanisms, the influence of socio-cultural factors, and public perceptions of law enforcement in Omu-Aran.

This questionnaire consists of several sections that include questions about your personal experiences and perceptions regarding crime and crime reporting. Your responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality, and no identifying information will be associated with your answers. The results of this study will be used solely for academic purposes and to inform potential improvements in crime prevention and community safety strategies.

I appreciate your cooperation and honesty in answering the questions.

Thank you for your valuable contribution.

Sincerely,

Ariyibi, Joshua Omokolade  
Department of Sociology (Criminology & Security Studies)  
Thomas Adewumi University

#### **Section A: Demographic Information**

1. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐
3. Educational Level: ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Tertiary ☐ None ☐
4. Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐



## Section B: Patterns and Nature of Crime

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Crime rates in my neighborhood have increased over the past year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft) are more common than violent crimes here.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	I feel unsafe walking alone in my neighborhood at night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Drug-related crimes are a significant problem in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Gang activities have contributed to the crime rates in my area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Cybercrime (e.g., online fraud, hacking) is becoming more prevalent in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Farmer-herder conflicts are a significant source of violence in my area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section C: Crime Reporting and Challenges

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	I know how to report a crime to the police.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	I feel confident that the police will take action if I report a crime.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Fear of retaliation prevents people from reporting crimes in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	The process of reporting a crime is too complicated and time-consuming.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	There is a lack of awareness about the importance of reporting crimes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section D: Socio-Cultural Factors Influencing Crime Reporting

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1 Cultural beliefs discourage reporting crimes to the authorities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Community leaders play a significant role in addressing crime issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Social stigma attached to victims affects crime reporting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Family influence determines whether a crime is reported.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Peer pressure can discourage individuals from reporting crimes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section E: Public Perception of the Police

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1 I trust the police to protect my rights and ensure my safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The police are responsive to the community's needs and concerns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Corruption within the police force is a major issue in my area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The presence of police officers makes me feel safer in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Police-community relations have improved over the past few years.					

## Appendix ii

### INTERVIEW GUIDE

Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Section A: Patterns and Nature of Crime**

1. Can you describe the most common types of crimes occurring in your neighborhood?
2. Have you notice changes in crime rates over the past years? If so, what do you think has contributed to these changes?

#### **Section B: Crime Reporting and Challenges**

3. How do you usually report crimes in your community?
4. What challenges do you face when trying to report a crime?

#### **Section C: Socio-Cultural Factors Influencing Crime Reporting**

5. How do cultural beliefs and practices influence the reporting of crimes in your community?
6. What role do community leaders play in reporting crime issues?

#### **Section D: Public Perception of the Police**

7. How do you perceive the Nigeria police in terms of protecting your rights and ensuring safety?
8. How prevalent is corruption within the police force, and how does it impact crime reporting?

