INVESTIGATION INTO THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL COUNSELLING ON ELIMINATING CRIME AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN EBONYI STATE

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Abstract

This paper is meant to evaluate the psych-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State. Psycho-social means refers to the measures adopted by modifying ones needs or demands conforming to the social norms and values that enables an individual to five a satisfactory life, have adequate interpersonal relationship and above all helps to eliminate crime. It cannot, be denied that psvcho-social means in no small measure serves as a panacea for productive life and equally reduces violent crimes among the secondary school students. Therefore, the achievement of the goals of secondary education in Nigeria is highly determined by the behavioural repertoires of the students who are the fulcrum of all educational activities at that level. Crime such as violent crime, cybercafe crime among others adversely affect the academic achievement of the students and grossly militates against the goals of Nigerian secondary education. This paper therefore reveals that the psycho-social means of eliminating crime includes:improving economic conditions of the students, avoiding notorious activities, modifying ones needs and demands among other and will immensely help to sanitize the society.

Introduction

Pycho-social means of eliminating crime has become a matter of urgent attention especially at this moment when everybody is uncomfortable with rapping, stealing among other crimes. This paper is based on the secondary school students because of the problems associated with the adolescents who are the secondary school students. According to Alao A. (2018), Adolescent is the period of storm and stress. This is the period of crisis, students in the secondary school therefore exhibit unruly behaviours bad attitudes and mischevious activities. Abolade in Aziude (2018) remarks that the social problems in Nigeria today were laid and hatched at the secondary school level of the educational system because it is at the level that Nigerian children are undergoing the critical changes in their lives.

There is no escape from the fact that the crime rate continues to increase every single day despite the governments talking so in any precautionary measures. The truth to be told, the real world is a blend of multiple opportunities and mixed

economics which is why a lot of people get left out. There are many reasons why people commit crimes. Though there has been immense improvement in the safety me security department yet criminals don't seem to give their punches back. Many Indies around the world have given some of the most cliche reasons for why people commit crimes. However, the weirdest thing about the criminal world is that everyday paves way for some people to indulge in crimes. In the intermittent increase of crime such as Anti-social crime, property crime, cyber cafe crime etc made necessary to adopt psycho-social means of eliminating crime. This is wish the view to raise a generation of people who can think for themselves, respect the view and feelings of others, respect the dignity of labour, appreciate those specified under our national goals and live as good citizens and avoid crime.

Psycho-social therefore implies a very close link or relation between psychological (one's mental/internal needs) and social (external and environment demands) factors. The situation often involves blending or harmonizing one's mental needs with the social demands for the promotion of concord, unity, relative pace, and progress in the society and thereby help in eliminating crime in the society and country. According to Chauhan in CASSON (20) the demand for one's social environment may be external or internal (within sell") to whom the individual has to react or get used to.

Furthermore, psycho-social means (factors) such as modifying our needs or demands, conforming to the social norms and values are necessary for adequate interpersonal relationships and will help to eliminate crime. More importantly adequate psycho-social means or factors helps an individual to stay clear from crime. This is because its attainment enables an individual to live a satisfactory life that will enhance productivity and thereby facilitates the elimination of crime among the secondary school students. Consequently crime is caused by poverty, peer pressure, drugs among others and leads to death, school dropout, destruction of property and causes crises. It is in the light of the above that this paper is meant to examine the psycho-social means of eliminating crime among the secondary school students in Ebonyi State. There are many reasons why some people delve into crime and some of the reasons are: (Eze, *2019).*

1. Poverty:

This is perhaps one of the most concrete reasons why people commit crimes. Economic deprivation is seen as a major integrator in this regard. You will be shocked to know that (3) billion people in this world are categorized as poor and

living on a very lower per capital income. UNICEF says more than (1) billion children are living in poverty worldwide more than 20,000 children die due u- poverty everyday in a country where economic deprivation is rampant, it is common for people to engage in criminal acts. The hunger and poor economic conditions are what leads many people to invest themselves in criminal cases.

Furthermore, when people stay for a long time doing nothing they often start netting frustrated. The truth be told by the latest research digital medium and the television play a very important role in telling people about how several criminal acts can be bought to life. We live in a time where the rich are getting richer, and me poor are getting poorer every single day. (Aziude 2018).

2, Peer pressure

This is a new form of concern in the modern world. Many young people commit crimes because they see a lot of their peers engaging in such acts. It is common for high school students and college students to engage in drugs, weed. marijuana and a lot more young age is very critical since one is not filled with wisdom and experience which is why a lot of people make the mistake of becoming criminals for no reason at all. Most youths who don't have a strong will to neglect and or confront minor criminal acts often end up getting involved in big troubles. Unfortunately many young people in this world do not realize that they are doing multiple criminal acts by being a part of things they are not supposed 10 he. Therefore, peer-pressure is another notorious reason for why young people are compelled into joining the bandwagon. (Alao, 2018)

3. Drugs:

Drugs have always been highly criticized by critics. A person who is addicted to drug will at one point in time do something he/she is not supposed to do. Drug addicts are often unable to get rid of addictions as a result of which their life starts getting filled with bad habits. A poor lifestyle compels a person to adopt habits which he/she should distance themselves from. After research, when the most violent criminals were asked about their crimes, they blamed drugs as main reason. Drug addiction is another rampantly growing disease which has slowly encapsulated many parts of the world. As many as 0.7 million people die from drug addiction in US alone.

4. Politics:

This issue is often brush under the carpet but is important to bring it in the spotlight. The drive to get seat is what swings many politicians to equip the youths with weapons and perform

criminal activities. In this day and age it is common tor politicians to hire mobs and rent people at lower prices to break into a building or start a war-like situation within the country. (Animba, 2020). Politics have always been the subject of sever-media scrutiny, and the truth be told, it is often the mother of all the problems in nations which haven't stabilized. In developing countries it is common for politicians to kill people and to be found guilty of murder. There have been several cases in Asian countries where politicians were found guilty of having killed their people in masses.

5. Religion:

Religion is another controversial part of this world. No one can escape from the fact, people still fight on racial divides and sectarian issue in society. Even though practicing own religion is a basic human right many uneducated and illiterate people fail to understand it. In several criminal cases, religious fanatics have been accused of murdering innocent people based on their school of thought. Especial in staunchly religious communities. It is common for people to chop off the heads of their people in case they find somebody talking about the modern world, (*Udeagha 2019).*However in advanced and secular countries, the criminal rate because of religion is fairly less.

6. Family conditions:

Family is also a weak point of any person who is about to commit a crime. If you are not being able to provide for the entire family as a poor person, at one point in time you will think of walking to the negative path to get what your family needs. They claim they need to provide for the family because of which they end up getting stuck behind bars. There are many things which go on within the family compelling a person to get involved in criminal activities. Many young people engage in criminal activities for they believe it is their responsibility to take care of family even if it means to commit a felony. In many murder cases, young people are often caught who then explained how the rich bribe them handsomely to do something they are not supposed to (Umeh, 2019).

7. The societal norms and standards have always been topical.

We live in a day and age where money is valued more than relationships and a normal standard of life in the drive to succeed; many people fail to create a demarcation between their needs and wants. In a society where ever: universities are teaching children to earn money instead of realizing its value.

one can never say crimes won't be committed (Otitle,2016)

Some parents for example have a bizarre habit of comparing their children with other kids that is why their kids often indulge in criminal activities to make a lot of money when people flaunt their wealth in society. It is common for less privileged people to feel compelled to earn more. Therefore, if you are flaunting your wealth in front of the poor and needy or anyone from a middle class background you are contributing to the crime status of the society in some way. (Igbo 2021).

8. Unemployment:

The skyrocketing factor in many countries is often the main reason why so many people commit crimes. You will" be shocked to know more than 30% of people in this world are unemployed. It is quiet frustrating after one fails to get a job post studding for years in high school and university. Unemployment is not just an issue relevant to the developing countries but equally common in developed countries. Unfortunately people spend a lot of money on their education, but seldom come across a good job immediately post the completion of their studies. Most youngsters destroy their careers when they engage in criminal activities very early in their lives.

9. Deprivation:

This is another reason for crime rates increasing everyday in countries where there is economics deprivation of even the basic rights. It is common for people to rebel and transition into doing notorious activities. Furthermore, in small communities it is common for people to engage in fights over land, property, wealth etc. therefore to get their voices heard, many people commit crimes for the world to see what they have done. Especially during election campaigns, it is common for angry people to destroy cars, houses and properties to tell the government how cruel they can be if not entitled to their rights. (Ipaye 2017).

10. Unfair judicial system:

People who are not served justice become hostile and often engage in crimes. Though most of the courts of law try to do their best in the right of available evidence and all, but sometimes the innocent are proven guilty in the court which compels them to show the ugly side of their-personality to the world. As many as thousands of people became the judicial system as unfair and commit crimes. Many often kill the members of the winning party when justice is not served to them. In many developing countries, it is communities to kill each other based on simple issue.

There are various types of crime which the secondary school students may involve themselves and should be noted because of its necessity in line with

psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students, *(Eze,2019)*

Types of crime

a. Antisocial behavior: Anti-social behaviour is when you feel intimidated or distressed by a person's behaviour towards you.

b. Arson: Arson is when someone deliberately sets fire to someone else property to damage it or to injure people.

c. Burglary: A burglary is when someone breaks into a building with the intention of stealing, hurting someone or committing unlawful damage.

d. Childhood abuse: Child abuse can happen in different ways, and can include neglect as physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

e. Crime abroad: Crime abroad covers any criminal offence that happens to you while outside England and Wales. This page also includes information about crime on cruise ships.

f. Cyber crime and online Fraud: This term Cyber Crime refers to a variety of Crimes carried out online.

g. Domestic abuse: Domestic abuse describes negative behaviors that one person exhibits over another within families or relationships.

h. Fraud: Fraud is when someone tricks or deceives you to gain a dishonest advantage,

I. Hate crime: hate crime is the term used to describe an incident or crime against someone based on a part of their identity According to (Eze, 2019).

j. Modern slavery: modern slavery is a serious and often hidden crime. It comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, which is the harboring and transportation of individuals for exploitation. In addition to the Psycho-social means of eliminating crime, the prevention as other criteria is itemized below (Igbo, 2021)

The principles of crime prevention

1. Target hardening: make your property harder for an offender to access

a. Upgrading the locks on your doors, windows, sheds and outbuildings

b. Fitting sash jammers to vulnerable doors and windows

c. Using secure passwords to prevent Criminals shacking your online accounts

2. Target removal: Ensuring that

potential target is out of view

a. Not leaving items on view through your windows- i.e laptops, phones, keys, bags.

b. Putting your vehicle in the garage if your have one and not leaving valuables on display.

c. Being cautious about what you post online as it may be used to identity or locate you offline.

3. Reducing the means: Removing items that may help commit an offence.

a. Not leaving tools and ladders in the garden and clearing up any rubble/bricks.

b. Keeping wheelie bins out of reach, as they may be a climbing aid or help transport items.

c. Making sure that bricks and rubble are cleared up.

4. Reducing the payoff: Reducing the profit the criminal can make from the offence.

a. Security marking your property

b. Marking your property in such a way that others will not want to buy from the thief.

c. Not buying property you believe or suspect to be stolen.

5. Access control: working at the measure that will control access to a location, a person or object.

a. Locking your doors and windows to both your house and your

vehicle.

b. Ensuring that fencing, hedges, walls and other boundary treatments are in a good state of repair.

c. Putting a security system in place at a commercial site (entry barriers security guards, ID cards)

6. Surveillance: improving surveillance around homes, or businesses or public place to deter criminals.

a. Removing high hedges fences at the front of your home that allows an offender to work unseen.

b. Consider adding CCTV to a commercial site or public place (Ipaye,217)

c. Establishing a Neighborhood Watch Scheme in your street.

7. Environmental change: Ensuring your property and wider community looks cared for:

a. Ensuring that domestic/commercial waste is cleared up

b. Reporting issues with fly-tipping or broken Street lights to the relevant authority.

c. Working with the police and local authority to close foot path.

8. Rule setting: Changing our habits by setting rules and positioning signage in appropriate locations.

a. Introducing a rule that the last

person entering/leaving should lock the door and remove the keys.

b. Informing visitors to commercial sites that they must report to reception on arrival.

c. Informal users that a particular site is closed between certain times and should not be accessed.

Purpose of the Study

This study intends to examine the psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State. The study is specifically meant to find out:

1. How does modifying ones needs and demands serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State.

2. How does conforming to the social values and norms of the society serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State.

Significance of the Study

The study will be of immense help to the students because it will enable them, and citizenry to reshape their lives and thereby eschew from crime activities thin hampers productive life.

The study will help the teachers and principals to know that adolescent

sage is characterized with exuberance and should be handled with cushion to enable them live a fulfilled life thereby eliminating violent crime among others.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. How does modifying ones needs and demands serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State

2. How does conforming to the social values and norms of the society serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State.

Scope of the Study

The study covers the three educational zones of Ebonyi State. The zones are: Abakaliki, Onueke and Afikpo Zone. The study deals with the, psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State.

Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design since it is meant collect relevant information on the extent of psycho-social means of eliminating crime in secondary school in Ebonyi State.

Population and Sampling Procedure

192 secondary schools in Ebonyi State comprised the population of the Study. Out of this number 45 Secondary Schools were selected through simple random sampling chosen from the three zones of Secondary Education Board (SEB) of the state.

Instrumentation

The instruments used for data collection in this study is a questionnaire designed by the researcher and is titled "psycho-social means lor eliminating crime" scale (PMHC). It is made up of two parts. Part 1 and 2. Part 1: sought information about the personal data. Part 2: consist of the main items of the instrument meant for answering the research questions. Part 2 is made up of two sections (A and B).

Section A: How does modifying one's needs and demands serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime and

Zone	No of Schools	No of Schools Selected	No of students selected
Ebonyi North (Abakaliki)	61	15	70
Ebonyi Central (Onueke)	59	15	70
Ebonyi South (Afikpo)	72	15	70
Total	**192**	**45**	**210**

Table1:Sample distribution

contains item 1-10, Section B: I low does conforming lo Social norms and values of the society serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime and contains items 11-20. The subjects responded lo a 4 points Likert scale and should mark (V) where appropriate.

Validation and reliability of the instrument

The instrument (PMEC) was validated by three experts in Guidance and Counseling. The observations and comments made by the experts helped in restricting the items and final construction

of the instrument. It was administered to 210 students chosen from the selected school schools used for the study. Chromba Alpha was used to test the reliability of the instrument. The instrument yielded an alpha co-efficient value of 0.69 showing a high figure which implies that the instrument is reliable.

Data collection

The instrument was administered lo the subjects by the researcher through personal contact. All the copies distribute were recovered and used for data analysis.
Data analysis
The result of the data collected were analyzed in percentages to answer the research questions. Each item or statement was analyzed based on the frequency of the respondent that were used for the study. The first research question is slated below:

Research Question

1:    How does modifying one's needs and demands serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebony State.

Discussion of the findings

The result of the findings showed that the secondary school students accepted that modifying one's needs and demands serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating

Crime. Their support to the research questions were proved in the items which includes: Ability to moderate one's preferences (14.7%), avoidance of quest for money (8.4%) among others pave way for crime. The findings were in agreement with Animba (2020) who asserted that providing the school children with the needed help to improve self concept and understanding will help to eliminate crime and violence.

Moreso, it was perceptibly observed from the study that conforming to the social norms and values of the society serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State. The following items below supported the Research Question and include establishing harmonious relationship (18.9%). improving economic conditions (12.0%) were made evident in the study among others.

The findings were in agreement with Eneasator in Otite (2016) who slated that improving economic conditions and familiar school climate help to modify ones' needs and learning productivity that eliminates crime.

Recommendations

that all hands should be on deck to see that effective harmonious relationship exists in the school thereby helps to avert violence and reduces crime. Coupled with that, it is also important to provide the

'Fable 1: Numbers and Percentages of responses on How does modifying ones needs and demands serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Ability to moderate one's preferences.	7(14.7%)	4(8.4%)	-	1(2.1%)
2.	Proper career choice	5(10%)	6(12.6%)	1(2.1%)	2(4.2%)
3.	Self contentment	JK6.3%^	2(4.2%)	4(8.4%	1(2.1%)
4.	Responsible use of internet	2(4.2%) '	3(6.3%)	-	1(2.1%)
5.	Avoidance of compulsive buying and selling	6(12.6%)	2(4.2%)	1(2.1%)	-
6.	Positive thinking	3(6.3%)	1(2.1%)	2(4.2%)	4(8.4%)
7.	Avoidance of quest for money	2(4.2%)	4(8.4%)	2(4.2%)	-
8.	Avoidance of pre-marital sex	1(14.7%)	5(10%)	-	1(2.1%)
9.	Lack of Luxurious life	4(8.4%)	2(4.2%)	1(2.1%)	-
10.	Avoidance of wrong motives	5(10%)	ʳ6(12.6%)		-

The table shows that secondary school students supported that modifying one's needs and demands serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating 'crime. Items that strongly agree with the research question are, ability to modify one's preferences (14.7%), Avoidance of compulsive buying and selling (12.6%), Avoidance of premarital sex (14.%), lack of luxurious life (8.4%)while proper career choice (12.6%), Responsible use of internet (6.3%), Avoidance of quest for music} ,8.4%), Avoidance of wrong motives (12.6%)also agree with the statement and sell" Contentment (8.4%) strongly disagree coupled with positive thinking (8.4%) which also disagree with the statement.

Research Question 2: How does conforming to social values and norms of the society serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State.

Table 2: Numbers and percentages of responses on how does conforming to the social values and norms of the society serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime among secondary school students in Ebonyi State.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
11.	Establishing harmonious relationship	9(18.9%)	1(2.1%)	4(8.4%)	-
12.	Improving economic conditions	6(1 2%. 6)	4(8.4%)	4(8.4%)	-
13.	Dedication to one's duties	2(4.2%)	3(6.3%)	-	-
14.	Relating with good friends	4(8.4%)	5(10%)	1(2.1%)	2(4.2%)
15.	Avoiding notorious activities	6(12.6%)	1(2.1%)	-	3(6.3%)
16.	Obedience to school authorities	3(6.3%) ^	3(6.3%)	4(8.4%)	-
17.	Sound judgment/upbringing	2(4.2%)	3z96.3%)	-	4(8.4%)
18.	Adequate supervision of school activities	9(18.9%)	4(8.4%)	3(6.3%) 1	-
19.	Effective study habits.	3(6.3%)'	6(12.6%)	-	1(2.I% 1:
20.	Proper planning for the future	8(16.8)	1(2.1%)	-	

Table 2: shows that the secondary school students supported that conforming to the social values and norms of the society serve as a psycho-social means of eliminating crime. Some Items strongly agree to the statement and they are Establishing harmonious relationship (18.9%), improving economic conditions (12.6%). avoiding notorious activities (18.9%), while the other items such, as: Dedication to one's duties (18.9%), Relating with good friends, (10%), Effective study habits (12.6%) agree to the Research Question and other items like obedience to school authorities (8.4%), Strongly disagree to the statement and finally, sound judgment (8.4%), proper planning for the future (16.8%)) disagree lo the statement or Research Question respectively.