

# **The Involvement of Local Leaders in Community Security in Obudu Local Government Area, Cross River State**

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## **Abstract**

The study uses crime management perspective to the involvement of local leaders in community security in Obudu local Government Area, Cross River State. Three hundred and seventy nine (379) respondents were randomly selected for the study. Data were collected via questionnaire and in-depth interview. Descriptive statistics was employed to analyze quantitative data and qualitative data were reported verbatim. Findings revealed that of all the roles played by local leaders in crime management, reporting suspicious person to the police; raising and mobilizing resources to finance community security programmes were some of the most significant roles. It was further established that major channels which information on crime management reach local leaders were through relatives, associates, audio-visual and print media. However, accessing information on crime management strategies via internet was still at the rudimentary level. More so, crime management was impeded by lack of cooperation by members, illiteracy, inadequate funds, ineffective communication and gender discrimination. It was recommended that government should ensure that, local leaders are incorporated into crime management policies and programmes. The police and other formal agencies of crime management should organize seminars, workshops and training periodically in the rural communities to sensitize local leaders and others on modern strategies of crime management. Finally, the National Communication Commission (NCC) should ensure that more communities have internet connectivity so that vital information on crime management can be easily accessed and disseminated to others via internet facilities.

**Keywords:** Local Leaders, Crime, Community Security, Crime management and Roles.

## **La participation des dirigeants locaux dans la sécurité communautaire dans l'Arrondissement d' Obudu, Etat de Cross River**

### **Résumé**

L'étude utilise la perspective de la gestion de la criminalité à l'implication des responsables locaux de la sécurité communautaire dans l'arrondissement d'Obudu, Etat de Cross River. Trois cent soixante-dix-neuf (379) répondants ont été choisis au hasard pour l'étude. Les données ont été recueillies au moyen de questionnaires et interview en profondeur. Les statistiques descriptives ont été utilisées pour analyser les données quantitatives et des données qualitatives ont été rapportées textuellement. Les résultats ont révélé que, de tous les rôles joués par les dirigeants locaux dans la gestion de la criminalité, dénonçant les personnes suspectes à la police; l'élevage et la mobilisation des ressources pour financer les programmes de sécurité de la communauté étaient

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des rôles les plus importants. Il a également été établi que les principaux canaux d'information sur la gestion de la criminalité rejoignant les dirigeants locaux ont été disséminés par des parents, des associés, des médias audio-visuels et d'impression. Cependant, l'accès aux informations sur les stratégies de gestion de la criminalité via l'Internet était encore au niveau rudimentaire. Plus encore, la gestion de la criminalité a été entravée par le manque de coopération par les membres, l'analphabétisme, l'insuffisance de fonds, la communication inefficace et la discrimination entre les sexes. Il a été recommandé que le gouvernement devrait veiller à ce que, les dirigeants locaux sont intégrés dans les politiques et programmes de gestion de la criminalité. La police et d'autres organismes officiels de gestion de la criminalité devraient organiser des séminaires, des ateliers et une formation périodique dans les communautés rurales pour sensibiliser les dirigeants locaux et d'autres sur les stratégies modernes de gestion de la criminalité. Enfin, la Commission Nationale des Communications (NCN) doit veiller à ce que plusieurs communautés disposent d'une connexion Internet afin que des informations vitales sur la gestion du crime peut être facilement accessible et diffusée aux autres par l'intermédiaire des services Internet.

**Mots-clés:** les dirigeants locaux, la criminalité, la sécurité communautaire, la gestion de la criminalité et des rôles.

## **Introduction**

The study is on the involvement of local leaders in community security with a focus on crime management in Obudu, Cross River. It is generally accepted that one of the impediments to the social and economic development of any developing nation like Nigeria is the upsurge in criminal activities. Crime is a social problem that has greater socio-economic and psychological implications on the society. It is part and parcel of all societies of the world which cannot be eradicated completely, but its occurrence can be reduced to a tolerable level so that socio-economic transformation can be witnessed (Osayande, 1996). Obioha (2004) posited that crime is found in every society and as the society grows from a simple to a complex one, crime becomes a more usual occurrence. The United Nations in the 70s observed that as any nation starts to open up, outgrows its traditionalism, and respond to outside influences or new ideas by modernizing, its people and particularly the youths seize the new opportunity, and in doing so, a small but progressive increasing number of them succumb to temptations, and seek illegal satisfaction through crime (Igbo, 2007). The temptation to indulge in crime among Nigerians is still on the increase especially with the battered socio-economic conditions brought about by Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) introduced in the early 80s (Michael, 2010, Ukwaiyi, Agba & Michael, 2013).

Reports on crime as impediments to socioeconomic progress in developing countries are enormous and fast increasing, which have significant socio-economic and psychological implications. In Nigeria, the incidence and rates of crime are fast escalating (Ikoh, 2014, Igbo, 2007, NISER, 2004). The escalation is not only on traditional crime such as armed robbery, but modern crimes such as corruption, white-collar crime, trafficking in human, drugs, arms, violence and organized crime. Obioha (2004) maintained that the capitalist economic system has not only contributed to the escalation of traditional crime, but has also led to the emergence and escalation of crimes relatively unknown to the traditional Nigerian society such as forgery, prostitution and financial crime.

Various scholars have advanced reasons for the up surged and proliferation of criminal activities in most developing countries which are detrimental to socioeconomic development (Michael, 2010; Obioha, 2004). Criminal activities are explainable from the moral, sociological, medical and psychological stand point (Tamuno, 1991; Adisa, 1994, Igbo, 2007; Iwarimie-jaja, 2013). The presence of socio-economic and political problems mushrooming in many developing countries breed poverty, inequality, hardship, unemployment and lack of basic necessities. These indicators of a fail state have a link with crime in most developing nations of the world (Obioha, 2004, Michael, 2010). The interaction between economic predicament and crime has been underscored. Ihonubere and Iwarimie-Jaja (1991) maintained that under conditions of deprivation and lack, inequality and poverty, the masses will suffer; these variables have close affinity with criminality in most developing nations. In Nigeria, the acculturating phenomena of urbanization, industrialization and education has brought about social inequalities, which lead to crime as a way of surviving social and economic difficulties (Ohaeri, 1996).

Crime has also been attributed to learning process. Criminal activities have no biological undercurrent rather, there are learn during socialization. Sutherland (1947) posited that exposure to criminal association and definitions favourable to criminal tendencies motivates a person to learn criminal traits, depending on the process of communication patterns, frequency duration, priority and intensity of the learning. From the anomie perspective Merton (1968) argued that in capitalist oriented societies, everybody is enjoined to strive for success goals by approved means. At the same time, opportunities to reach these goals through normatively regulated and approved means are not equitably distributed. They are differentially distributed to the point that individuals will resolve to circumvent the approved means. This means that, when individuals are in a disadvantage situation, they will adopt means that may have criminal undertone. The socio-economic, political, moral and psychological implications of crime on developing societies in general and Nigeria in particular are worrisome.

The proliferation of criminal activities could be blamed on the insatiable desire for political positions and material wealth. The quest for materialism in Nigeria has created enormous problem. Broken homes, poor parental upbringing, greed, bad leadership, influence of the western cultural have close bearing with criminal activities witnessed in Nigeria. The burden of crimes on the public and government are enormous. With the upsurge in criminal activities and attendant consequences, the need to prevent and manage its mushrooming effects becomes expedient. Throughout history traditional societies have various mechanisms by which criminal activities are prevented, controlled and managed. These involve the use of age grade, oracular society, oath taking, banishment and the use of songs (Michael, 2010). Although these mechanisms are still relevant, the utilization of these techniques as crime prevention has drastically reduced in preference for the Criminal Pathway (CP) other words called the Criminal Justice System (CJS), which is saddled with the responsibility of coordinating and administration of the functions of the police, court and corrections in order to prevent, deter and control crime (Iwarimie-Jaja, 2013). Adelemo (2013) pointed out that the government through the formal agencies of social control alone cannot provide the needed security for every Nigerian. This is exemplified in the use of private security organization to manage crime in the urban Centre. While private security organization operatives are found in the urban centers and compliment the formal agents such as the Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp in crime management, the rural areas do not enjoy the services of private security who are known to operate in the urban centers. Alternatively, the rural dwellers apart from the police, rely on the non-formal institutions for crime management. These institutions are age grade, oracular institutions and the use of local leaders. They are known to participate

actively in mobilizing their subjects towards the development of their respective communities. The knowledge and the contributions of traditional leaders in crime management in Africa can never be over emphasized. Nwokoye (2011) argued vehemently that a meaningful fight against criminal activities that would guarantee societal development require the contributions of community leaders. In Africa in general and Nigeria in particular, contributions from community leaders are usually welcome and appreciated by their subordinates. Their subjects often relied on their permissions to take important decisions bothering on their communities, thus, involving community leaders in mobilizing their subjects to contributions towards crime management. This study focuses on the role of local leaders in Crime management in Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State.

### **Community Leaders and their Roles Debate**

Crime management through the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is the most recognized and acceptable means of crime management in modern societies. The problem associated with crime prevention through this model is the delay in delivery of justice with a resultant manifestation in prison congestions (Chukkol, 1996). This has brought into the question the capability of crime prevention through this model. Studies (Michael, 2010, Smith, 2008, Ahmed, 2005) have shown some inadequacies of the criminal justice system in crime management, thus the advocacy for the use of local leaders to participate in crime management in their communities. The main argument in favour of local leaders-based crime prevention is that community leaders are deemed to have a better knowledge of the prevailing conditions (such as who has criminal behaviour) and a better capability to enforce rules, monitor the activities of members of the community, monitor members behaviour and know the best way to correct her member (Platteau & Gaspart, 2003, Ugboh, 2007; Orapin, 1996).

Local leaders have adequate knowledge of their communities and can seek the collaboration of members of the communities to sanction any member that deviate from the norms of their community. Considerable argument exists to support the use of local leaders in crime management and control. Adeleomo (2010) pointed out that local leaders knows their subjects and can give a better description of their activities. He further state that, collective consciousness had made it possible for leaders to differentiate between members of their communities and people considered to be aliens. Adeyinka (2011) opine that community leaders are important materials that can assist in crime prevention and control in the developing nations. Community leaders through the mobilization of their subjects, facilitate the arrest of deviating members, provide information to the police and could provide land and accommodations for security personnel. Michael (2010) observed that local leaders apart from providing vital information to the police could willingly handover any of their deviating subjects to the police for interrogation. Okoye (2013) in his study on the role of community leaders in socio-economic development, in Ihiala local Government Area, Anambra state pointed out that local leaders play significant role in crime management. Okoye observed that leader provide materials and information to the formal agencies of crime control about their communities. These materials and information are useful tools in crime management.

Local leaders are known to have sanctioned their deviating members using fines and banishment when the offence is severe. Ademola (2013) had a contrary view about the role of local leaders in crime management in Nigeria. He argued that local leaders indirectly encourage their subjects to indulge in crime. They shield some of their subjects from arrests, leak information to criminals, order the release of suspects in detention, perversion of justice and providing sanctions

that are not commiserate to the norms violated. In continuation of his argument Ademola (2013) further observed that in Africa, traditional leaders have been accused of sponsoring assassination, awarding chieftaincy titles to people with criminal behaviours and others whose source of wealth cannot be ascertain. Similarly, Ayodele (2013) argued that, traditional leaders rather than contributing to crime management, directly and indirectly, encourage criminal activities, through pervasion of justice, and refusal to commensurate sanctions to members that deviates from norms. This brings to question the actual role played by local leaders in crime management. These contradictory positions of scholars on crime management involving local leaders require clarifications so that adequate policy on crime management can be formulated and implemented. The questions now are: What are the roles played by local leaders in crime management; what are the sources of information available to local leaders on crime management; what are the obstacles to crime management by local leaders in the study area?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to examine the role of the local leaders in championing community development through crime management in Obudu Local Government Area, Cross River State. The study seeks specifically to:

- (i) Ascertain the roles played by local leaders in crime management in Obudu Local Government Area.
- (ii) Identify the sources of information on crime management accessible to local leaders.
- (iii) Identify and discuss the obstacles to crime management by local leaders in Obudu Local Government Area.

### **Literature Review and Theoretical framework**

#### **The Role Local Leaders in Crime Management**

Local leaders have always played key role in African society. While their roles in other areas of community development are enormous, their contributions to crime management have been acknowledged across Africa. Nwokoye (2008) observed that, local leader are very influential in many communities in Africa, and that they play key role in advocating and driving social mobilization initiative, that can address crime and violence in their domain. Local leaders are known as government advisers on local affairs and influences policy making that affects the lives of millions of people in most rural and urban population. Blench, Longtau, Hassan and Walsh (2006) acknowledged the contribution of local leaders to development through the maintenance of peace in their domain. They reported that in 2001, Dagwom Rwei of Barakin Ladi in an attempt to maintained peace took prognostic and symbolic action by buying white handkerchiefs for each traditional ruler and community leader and lead a procession of them through the local Government area capital and major settlements. Local Leaders involvement in crime management emphasizes the importance of leaders mobilizing their subjects as a means of strengthening communities for the purpose of preventing and controlling crime in their domain (Smith, 2009, Flora, Flora & Fey, 2004).

Ottong and Bassey (2009) asserted that local leaders guide members of the community to determine and locate the means and resources of achieving the goal of crime management in their

domain. They help community to set objectives, goals and strategies of addressing crime and violence in their community. In rural societies local leaders design and implement projects aimed at preventing crime. Uchechukwu (2102) stated that local leader have the onus of mobilizing their communities for development purpose, in this capacity; they act as linkage between their community. This also involves the mobilization of their subjects to provide information about the activities of criminals to the police.

Adeola (2011) deduced that they remain instruments that help in the maintenance of peace in their domain. Local leaders provide useful information to the police on the activities of criminals. Uchechukwu (2012) reported that in Obudu local Government Area of River State, a gang of criminals were arrested through useful information from one of the youth leaders. Local leaders therefore work in conjunction with their subjects to accomplish crime prevention and control project that will be beneficial to the entire community. An elaborate study by Uchechukwu (2012) on traditional measures of crime control in Lilu, Anambra state among others reported that local leaders are vital tools that mobilize the members of their communities and their resource to manage violence and other forms of criminality. Bassey (2013) observed that local leaders appoint members of the community to watch over the community projects and manage violent behavior. Therefore, the onus of managing social malaise called crime rest party on the community which can be achieved through community leaders.

Smith's (2013) perception of the role of local leaders to crime management differs from Uchechukwu (2011). He was of the view that crime management in the community requires a holistic approach. Specifically, he maintained that local leaders should mobilize resource and address the major causes of crime or violence. He acknowledge poverty, unemployment inequality and illiteracy as some of the major causes of crime and violence, Smith (2013) maintained community leaders should be more concern on how they can contribute to addressing these key problems. Once that is achieved, crime and violence will reduce. Smith's (2013) idea is quite empirical, as crime management is best achieved if the fundamental triggers of crime and violence are addressed. In line with smith's thinking, Ayodele and Ademola (2102) observed that community leaders have helped in addressing crime related issues through youth empowerment. They further maintained that local leaders had provided important information on criminals and crime in their community to the police they had facilitated arrest, elected people to serve in various security committees in their domain.

Atete (2009) presented a contrary view on the role of local leaders in crime management. He argued that rather than helping the formal agents of crime control to manage crime, some local leaders are known to have encouraged criminality in their domain. A careful observation of most rural communities revealed that local leaders have championed and encourage violence shield criminal and comprise on many issues that are detrimental to community development. In traditional African society, local leaders and their activities had triggered conflict and violence over chieftaincy tittles that have devastating effects on the society.

### **Sources of Information on Crime Management**

Sources of information on crime management involve diverse medium or notification about how crime can be either controlled or prevented. In modern era, sources of information are diverse. Adelekun (2011) observed that information on crime management could be made available to the rural people through seminars and conference. He advocated for periodic organizations of seminars and conferences to ensure that people are always abreast of the common modalities on how crime can be managed. Accessing adequate information on crime management will go a long way to

address crime and violence problems. This will inevitably bring about development in the community, as criminal activities could be properly addressed. Ayodele and Ademola (2012) pointed out that in most developing nations, television, radio and print media are common channels which people access information beneficial to them. In Nigeria rural communities, audio, visual and print media have become common. Though these channels diverse information can be accessed.

Atukpa- Elayo (2015) acknowledges that information on crime management could be access through the internet. The internet has myriad or multifaceted information on how crime can be managed in the community. We live in information age; access to information has become less cumbersome. Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) had demonstrated that social media can be used to provide information on security issues. Social media has become veritable tool that people in the cyber space used to share information. On crime management could be access via social media. Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) and Atukpa- Elayo (2015) observed that accessing crime management information via social media is problematic if people are literate. More so, the poor internet connectivity and absence of internet accessibility in some rural community affects access to information via this medium.

### **Obstacles to Crime Management**

Crime management is engulfed with impediments. In Nigeria, several efforts to manage crime and violence are surrounded by many problems. Ottong and Bassey (2009) eruditely pointed out that inadequate funds have remained one of the major constraints to developing the community. Nwokoye (2008) maintained that crime management to ascertain rapid socio-economic development of the society requires adequate funds. Without external assistance local community cannot adequately generate resource to manage crime and violence which has become recurrent occurrence in the rural areas of Nigeria. Atete (2012) made this point more elaborate when he analyzed the persistent attack on Tivs communities by Fulani herdsmen. He pointed out that residents of the attacked communities have cried out to government to come to their aids because they do not have the fund to get weapon to defend their communities against external attacks. This persistent attack has thwarted development in the communities. Lack of funds remained impediments to crime management in rural communities (Ottong & Bassey, 2009). The insincerity of local leaders in our rural communities has been acknowledged as one of impediments to community development as leader's sincerity and commitment remain vital in the management of crime and violence in the rural community (Atete, 2012). It is worrisome that leaders in the community often allow their personal interest to override that of their community. Selfish and personal interest affects that of the community, this impact negatively on the developmental programmes of the community.

Uchechukwu (2012) observed that local leaders who are self-centered cannot mobilize the community to contribute their resources towards the achievement of goals, especially as it concerns crime management. He further observed that in many communities' local leaders convert resource of the community meant for development to personal use. Ugwuja (2008) averred that successful crime management for accelerated community development requires the cooperation among groups and individuals in the community. Absence of cooperation prevents the mobilization of human and material resources to achieve the outlined programmes for development. It is clear that lack of cooperation is one of the challenges that impede the development of community. Thus, crime prevention and control cannot be achieved in any community if stakeholders do not work cooperatively (Smith, 2011).

Expounding on the factors that impedes community development, Uchechukwu (2012) observed that most communities do not easily agree upon goal to be achieved. When goals are agreed upon, local leaders and members of the community execute crime management project with enthusiasm. The goals of community development with a focus on crime management should not be the decision of only local leaders and should not be imposed on the people. On the contrary, many local leaders have continued to impose their interest on members of the community. This breeds conflict that affects the role played by leader and other stakeholder in crime management. Ajuola (2012) posited that lack of mobilization of community members by local leaders has negatively affect crime management in the community. Apart from traditional strategies of crime prevention and control, modern strategies are not known to many rural residents. Inadequate information mars the programmes of rural dwellers on the ways to prevent and control crime. This implies that crime management using leaders can be achieved when adequate information is disseminated to members of the community because information is cardinal to the success of any community crime management projects.

In her analysis on gender related issues in Nigeria, Agbenu (2012) maintained that gender related issues accounted for the poor implementations of crime management programmes in some communities. There has been constant discrimination against women in programmes formulation and implementations in rural areas. Uchechukwu (2012) opined that women are often denied adequate participation and representation in crime management in the community due to the patriarchal nature of our society. Women are not given adequate opportunities to participate in crime prevention and control by their male counterparts. Okoye (2013) observed that women are marginalized in the economic, political, religions and legal institutions. There are also marginalized in the social institutions. Often, their contributions toward crime management and community development are not welcomed. The high level of discrimination against women in the community inevitably affects the development of the community.

Finally, it has been established that programmes not initiated by community are most likely to face criticism and neglect by the community. Crime management programmes options should not be imposed. The strategies on how crime in the community can be managed are supposed to be initiated by the community. On the contrary, some crime management programmes are imposed on local leaders by external agents. This inevitably affects the development of the community.

## **Theoretical Consideration**

### **Routine Activities Theory (RAT)**

The Routine Activities Theory (RAT) of Cohen and Felson (1979) is one of the theories of environmental criminology. Although the theory was developed to explain victimization, it can also be used to explain crime management in the community. RAT states that for a criminal event to occur there must be a convergence in time and space of three factors. These are the presence of a motivated offender, the absence of a capable guardian and the presence of a suitable target (person or object). Whether or not these elements converge or coincide is a product of the routine activities (day-to-day movement) of potential targets and offenders. From the premise of RAT people can become victims of crime in the presence of offenders, in the absence of social control agents or mechanism such as street lights and CCTV. Daily activities of people such as going to work, storage of farm produce, pursuing recreation and running errands can bring offenders in contact with suitable victims and target. The likely offender may be the members of the



community, the suitable target may be persons, an object or place while the guardian may be police patrols, security guards, vigilant staff, friends, neighbours or close circuit television (CCTV) system being monitored. In the light of this theory, local leaders can mobilize members of the community to serve as watchmen for the community so as to prevent criminal activities. Similarly, through the mobilization of resources, community can embark on community development such as provision of land and building to serve as police post, provision of patrol vehicles for security operatives, establishment of neighborhoods watch group, installation of street lights and Close Circuit Television (CCTV) in the their communities (potential guardian). This community development efforts when embarked upon by the community via the mobilization of resources by local leaders will help to prevent and control crime in their communities.

## **Research Methodology**

### **Research Design**

The study was a descriptive survey. It was aimed at collecting data in order to examine the distribution, incidence and interaction of sociological phenomena. The study employed quantitative and qualitative techniques to generate data. The triangulation of the quantitative and qualitative techniques ensured the study has a valid outcome

### **Study Area**

The study was conducted in Obudu Local Government Area, Cross River State. It is one of the urbanized local Governments areas in Cross River State. It is bounded in the South by Boki Local Government Area, to the East by Obanliku, West by Ogoja and Bekwarra and North by Vandikya. Obudu has a total population of 160,106 with 83,497 male and 76,629 female (National Bureau of Statistics, 2006). The local government has witnessed rapid influx of people into the town, and socio-economic transformation occasioned by the presence of Federal Collage of Education and other social and economic institutions. Consequently, the city has witnessed proliferation in criminal activities that has serve as impediments to development that require the concerted effort by local leaders to champion and mobilize resources to address the situation. The recent upsurge in armed robbery, cultism, burglary, stealing of farm produce, violence, election fraud, carnage requires the effort of local leaders to compliment that of the formal agents of crime control to manage crime situation so that development can be witnessed.

### **Study Population**

The study focused on the local leaders (men, women, and youth). Three hundred and eighty four (384) of them were sampled for study. Only local leaders identified by the Clan head and others leaders were involved in the study.

### **Sampling technique**

Local leaders were drawn from communities in Obudu. Six (6) political wards were selected from ten wards using the simple random sampling method. All the names of the wards were written on pieces of papers and put in a hat, after proper mixing, six wards were selected randomly. From the six (6) political wards, four (4) communities each were selected using the simple random sampling technique. This make a total of twenty six (24) communities. Fifteen (15) local leaders were purposively selected from Sixteen (16) communities in Alege/Ubang, Angiaba/Begiaka,

Ukpe and Utugwang North political wards. In each community, five (5) men, five (5) women and (5) youth leaders each were selected, while eighteen (18) local leaders were selected from the remaining eight (8) communities in Obudu Urban one and two purposively because of their large population. In each of the communities, six (6) men, women and youths leaders were selected. The leaders of each of the groups were first identified by the Clan Head of each community. The leaders of the groups later identified others leaders in their group. This make a total of three hundred and eighty four (384) respondents.

### **Method of Data Collection**

Quantitative data were generated via the questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section A focused on the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. Section B, focused on the objectives of the study. It was made up of 25 statements on the role of local leaders; sources of information on how crime can be managed, and challenges of crime management. The responses to questionnaire items were designed on a four (4) point Likert scale of Strongly agreed, (SA) =4 Agree (A) = 3, Disagree (D) = 2, and Strongly disagree (SD) = 1. The average of these point is  $4+3+2+1 = \frac{10}{4} = 2.50$ . The interview guide was designed to elicit qualitative data to compliment the quantitative data.

### **Method of Data Analysis.**

Qualitative data generated via the questionnaire was described using the frequency and table. The mean value was used to analyze the research questions. A mean value of 2.5 and above was interpreted positively while a means value of less than 2.5 was interpreted negatively. This implies that a mean value of 2.5 was considered significant to draw a positive conclusion. Qualitative data was analyzed using verbatim report and ethnographic summaries. The triangulation of the two methods was ensure that the study gets valid outcome

## **Results and Discussion of Findings**

### **Roles of Local Leaders in Crime Management**

The study established that local leaders play key roles in crime management to ensure that socio-economic development is witnessed. The result in table 1 (about here) revealed that significant role played by local leaders in crime management include; taking important decisions on crime related problem affecting the community, ( $\bar{x} = 3.84$ ), raising funds via donations, levies to finance crime management programmes ( $\bar{x} = 3.81$ ), and acting as a link between government agents on crime prevention and control in the community ( $\bar{x} = 3.80$ ) Similarly, items 5-16 as shown on the table established other significant roles championed by Local Leaders to adequately manage crime situations in their domain.

The quantitative data was buttressed by the qualitative data generated via in-depth interview. One of the Participants in the study from Araru community maintained that:

*No society succeeds or develops without addressing crime. If crime problem must be addressed properly, then government must ensure that local leaders are involved in the fight against crime. We in Araru, work together with other*

*members of the community to ensure that we stop criminals from stealing our farm produce. Our cocoa, yams, maize, plantain and banana are no longer stolen like before because we have mobilized both material and non- material resources to compliment the effort of government in fighting crime in this village. We have the culture of reporting criminals to the community or police. If any of our members in this community commit crime, he or she must be punished. (Male, aged about 45 years)*

This respondent acknowledged the import of local leaders in crime management. This is achieved through appropriate sanctions to erring members and reporting of offender to the law enforcement agents. This contribution to crime management by local leaders has helped reduce the incidence of theft of farm produce in the community. Another Participant has this to say:

*The crime situation in our communities today is not what we can allow for government alone to manage. We as leaders have to mobilize our people to work toward peace and harmony, so that we can see development. We ensure that members that misbehave are sanction. We encourage our people to bring up their children properly and even punish parents who fail in their responsibility to their children. We also screen and commission neighborhood watch group, and ensure that levies and donations towards crime management are collected and used for such purpose.(Male participant, age 52).*

This respondent share a similar view with the former. He was of the view that local leaders mobilize both material and non-material resources, and utilize them appropriately to manage crime in their communities. A Female Respondent in Utugwang North Posited that:

*Nobody wants to live in a community where crime is high. In that type of community, people cannot progress, that is why we as leaders always try to fight crime the best we can. For us, we try to teach our people how to be law abiding, report crime incidence whenever it occurs. Above all we punish offenders through fines and in a serious offence; the person can be ostracized from the community. These measures have helped to reduce crime in our villages.(Female participant, aged 42 years).*

The participants underscore the fact that crime impedes development. In order to witness development, local leaders in conjunction with other members of the community socialize the younger ones into the norms and value of their society. Erring members of the community can be sanction through fines or may be ostracized depending on the extent of the offence. This serves as deterrent to others in the community.

The quantitative and qualitative data presented established that local leader's roles in crime management are enormous. However in our society total reliance or dependence on formal agents of crime management will be catastrophic as there are in short supply and most times incapable of managing crime appropriately due to individualistic and systemic problems. This becomes incumbent on the communities to mobilize both materials and non-material resource to manage crime in their communities, so that socio-economic development can be witnessed. This finding is in consonance with the observation of Ottong and Bassey (2009) that local leaders are valuable assets in crime management in developing society. Local leaders guide members of the community to determine and locate the means and resources of achieving the goal of crime management in their domain .Through local leadership, community set objectives, goals and strategies of addressing crime and violence in their community. In rural societies local leaders design and

implement projects aimed at preventing crime. Ojuola (2012) observed that many rural societies, local leader mobilize their subjects to watch over community projects. The finding also support Uchechukwu's (2102) position that local leader have the onus of mobilizing resources within and outside their communities to champion development. This involves the use of resources to address crime problems. This also involves the mobilization of their subjects to provide information about the activities of criminals to the police.

### **Sources of Information on Crime Management**

Information is catalysts to crime management. Information on security measures are vital in crime prevention in Nigeria. Local leaders can access information on crime management and make them available to other members of the community through diverse medium. Table 2 (about here) revealed that local leaders can access information via various means. A significant (N= 132, or 34.8%) of both male and female participants identified the major source of information on crime management to be relatives and associates. As demonstrated by the respondents, relatives also disseminate information on crime management to others. This implies that even in the modern society, collective consciousness is still high among the people of Obudu, as they relate information that bothers on their welfare to others.

This finding is in tandem with the observation of Uchechukwu (2012) that information on securities or crime prevention can be access via parents, cronies and associates. Security information is easily disseminated by parents and friends to their love ones. Similarly, (N =90, or 23.7%) of the study participant maintained that the sources of information on crime management is access via television and radio, while (N =62, or 16.3%) of the study participants access information on crime management via print media.

This implies that audio–visual, newspaper and magazine have become common in our communities. The percentage scores column revealed that about 40% of the participants specified that information on crime management is accessed through print and audio visual. This finding confirms the earlier deductions of Ozor and Nwankwo (2006) that information on community development are accessed via television, radio magazines and newspapers. This finding also supported the postulation of Offiong and Uchechukwu (2012) that print media and audio – visual are important channels which information on community development can get to many Nigerians in dire need of development. The study further revealed that less than 26% of the study participants access information on crime management through seminars, conference, workshop and internet. The study clearly demonstrate that even at the age of information and communication (ITC) revolution, the population of Nigerians who can access information through internet is still limited. This is exemplified by the 10.4% of the respondents who maintained that information on crime management can be access through the internet. This findings buttress the position of Michael, Chinwokwu and Arop (2014) that many subscribers to diverse network cannot access information through internet. Many communities especially at the rural areas, have no access to internet facilities, this inevitably affects the level of information dissemination and accessibility. Olubamidele (2012) asserted that many communities in developing nations have no access to internet connectivity, thus sharing information through this channel is difficult in many communities. This finding also contradict the position of Nurudeem (2012) who over amplified the extent of network and internet coverage as mobile phones usage has become common in Nigeria. While it is empirical that mobile phones have become common, many users cannot access internet connectivity with mobile phones partly because their phones do not have the capability of accessing internet or no internet connectivity in their communities.

### **Obstacles to Crime Management**

The quantitative data presented in Table 3 (about here) revealed that of the twenty five obstacles to successful crime management strategies by local leaders, 17 factors are major obstacles that inevitably impede effective crime management, while 8 of the obstacles are not a major impediment to crime management. The most significant obstacles that impede crime management by local leaders in Obudu local government Area as identified by participants include; lack of cooperation from members ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.88), lack of interest in crime management ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.87), inadequate sources of funds for crime management ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.82), ineffective communication ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.81), lack of communication gadgets ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.80), disagreement among local leaders ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.80), gender discrimination ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.78). Other obstacles to crime management include; unwillingness to report criminals and crime ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.74), negative perceptions toward formal agents of crime management ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.20), lack of interest in crime management ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.01), perversion of justice by local leaders ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.05), self-centeredness of local leaders ( $\bar{x}$  = 2.60), and poor implementation of crime management programmes ( $\bar{x}$  = 2.51). The above factors prevent the people of Obudu from achieving the required results in community development via crime management.

This finding substantiates the claim by Ogueri and Nadi (2010) that rural development is hampered by lack of rural people participation, personal interest of local leaders against community interest, lack of awareness, corruption and bad local leadership. It is crystal clear that a communities ravaged by the above indices cannot witness meaningful and sustainable development as incidences of crime will be high.

The objective of crime management cannot be adequately achieved with the enormous internal and external obstacles. This finding also buttresses the observation of Uchechukwu (2012) that community development is affected by insufficient funds and the unwillingness of people to participate in crime management programmes. In most developing nations, people consider crime management as the onus of the government thus their unwillingness to participate actively in programmes designed to control and prevent crime in their communities. Uchechukwu (2012) and Smith (2013) had at different points underscored the constraints to community development. These constraints are lack of cooperation, ineffective communication, inadequate funds and disagreement among local leaders. In line with the finding is the earlier position of Ayodele and Ademola (2012) that poor implementation of crime management programmes remained a major obstacle to effective crime management in Nigeria. Gender bias, negative view of the formal agencies of crime control and clash of interest between neighbourhood watch groups and government are constraints that affect crime management in Nigeria (Ayodele & Ademola 2011). These variable if not appropriately address, criminal activities in the rural society will continue to soar thereby affecting developmental activities of the society.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The study established that local leaders play key roles in crime management for the purpose of achieving community development. Of all the roles played by local leader in crime management, taking important decision on crime related problem affecting the community; reporting suspicious person to the police; raising and mobilizing resources to finance crime management project; acting as a link between government and community members, diffusing and educating rural people on crime management strategies were the most significant role championed by local leader to manage crime in their domain.

It was further ascertained that the major channels which information on crime management reach the local leaders was through relatives such as parents, siblings, friends and colleagues. Audio visual and print media were also considered valuable asset in the dissemination of information on crime management to the people. However, accessing information on crime management strategies via internet was still at the rudimentary level. More so, it was uncovered that the involvement of local leaders in community development through crime management was impeded by lack of cooperation of members, illiteracy, inadequate source of funds, ineffective communication, disagreement among local leaders, gender discrimination and the unwillingness of members to report crime and criminals to crime fighting agents. Moreover, negative perception of crime fighting agents, perceived insincerity on the part of local leaders, and pervasion of justice and self-centeredness of local leaders were obstacles to effective crime management in the study area.

We recommend that government in its attempt to manage crime in the society should ensure that local leader are incorporated in crime management. The police and other formal agencies of crime management should periodically hold seminars, workshops and training in the community to sensitize the local leaders and others on modern strategies of crime management, local leader, should ensure that resources earmarked for crime management projects are used for such purpose so that development can be witnessed. Similarly, the National Communication Commission (NCC) should ensure that more communities have internet connectivity so that vital information on crime management and other related issues can be access through computers and mobile phone users. Finally government, nongovernmental organizations and philanthropist should ensure that local leaders with good track record on crime management are encouraged through positive sanctions. This will enable them to work more towards the development of their communities, so as to witness accelerated development.

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## Appendices

**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents on the Role played by Local Leaders in crime Management in Obudu**

S/N	Roles played	$\bar{x}$	Decision

1.	Taking important decision on crime related problem affecting the community.	3.84	Significant
2.	Reporting suspicious persons in the community to the police	3.82	Significant
3.	Raising funds via donations, levies to finance crime management programmes	3.81	Significant
4.	Acting as a link between government agents on crime prevention, control and community	3.80	Significant
5.	Ostracizing erring members of the community	3.79	Significant
6	Resolving disputes among members of the community	3.76	Significant
7.	Diffusing, and educating the rural people on government/NGOs intentions for community as regards crime management	3.62	Significant
8.	Facilitating the arrest of erring community members by the police	3.50	Significant
9	Reporting incidence of crime to the police	3.42	Significant
10.	Handling over erring members to the	3.0	Significant
11	Mandating erring members to pay fine	2.9	Significant
12	Designing plan of work for crime management in the community	2.82	Significant
13	Maintenance of peace and harmony between communities	2.71	Significant
14	Socializing members into the norms of their society.	2.71	Significant
15	Legitimizing neighbourhood watch group	2.68	Significant
16	Sensitizing community on the need to be law abiding	2.61	Significant
17	Empowering community members	2.42	Not Significant
18	Ensuring that assistance from government/Non-governmental organization reaches the benefices.	2.33	Not Significant
19	Providing financial and technical assistance to members of the community in need.	2.32	Not Significant
20	Ensuring that government belonging in the community is safe.	2.31	Not Significant
21	Settling of disputes among criminals	2.30	Not Significant
22	Reporting formal agents of crime management to government	2.30	Not Significant



23	Ensuring erring couples in the communities are separated.	2.28	Not Significant
24	Providing farm inputs to erring members of the community	2.2	Not Significant
25	Mobilizing members of the community to arrest criminals in another community	2.0	Not Significant

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2015; cut-off point = 2.5

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by sources of information on crime Management in Obudu**

S/N	Sources of Information	Frequency		Total	Percentage
		Female	Male		
1	Television and Radio	49	41	90	23.7
2	Print media	36	26	62	16.3
3	Relatives and Associates	73	59	132	34.8
4	Seminars, Conferences and workshop	32	24	56	14.8
5	Electronic media (internet)	21	18	39	10.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources:** Fieldwork, 2015.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents on Obstacles to Crime Management by Local Leaders in Obudu**

S/N	Obstacles	$\bar{x}$	Decision
1.	Lack of cooperation from members of the community	3.88	Major Obstacle
2.	Many members of the community are not educated	3.87	Major Obstacle
3.	Inadequate sources of funds for crime management	3.82	Major Obstacle

4.	Ineffective communication	3.81	Major Obstacle
5.	Lack of communication gadget for members.	3.80	Major Obstacle
6	Persist ant disagreement among leaders on important issues	3.80	Major Obstacle
7.	Gender discrimination	3.78	Major Obstacle
8.	Punishment not commensurate with the offence by community members	3.76	Major Obstacle
9	Unwillingness of members of the community to report incidences of crime/criminals to police	3.74	Major Obstacle
10.	Negative perception of members of the community towards formal crime management agents.	3.20	Major Obstacle
11	Perceived insincerity on the part of leaders.	3.05	Major Obstacle
12	Lack of interest in crime management by community	3.01	Major Obstacle
13	Perversion of justice by local leaders	2.82	Major Obstacle
14	Interference by government in the using management strategies of the community	2.61	Major Obstacle
15	Self- centeredness of local leaders	2.60	Major Obstacle
16	Insufficient funds for crime management	2.58	Major Obstacle
17	Poor implementation of crime management programmes in the community.	2.51	Major Obstacle
18	Frequent changes in political leadership	2.34	Not a Major Obstacle
19	Lack of government support for crime management at the community level	2.41	Not a major Obstacle
20	Corruption among local leaders in the management of funds.	2.32	Not a major Obstacle
21	Awarding chieftaincy titles to people with questionable behaviour.	2.30	Not a major Obstacle
22	Lack of government/NGOs commitment in crime management.	2.22	Not a major Obstacle
23	Excessive rainfall in the community	2.21	Not a major Obstacle
24	Demise of a local leader.	2.08	Not a major Obstacle

25	Communal crisis	2.04	Not a major Obstacle
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**Sources:** Fieldwork, 2015, Cut-off Point=2.50