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Tweneboah Senzu, Emmanuel

Blackstone Africa-Asia Jurists Center, Njala University, School of
Social Sciences and Law

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Emmanuel Tweneboah Senzu †

INQUIRE INTO THE FAMILY ECONOMY AND SOCIAL CRIME

ABSTRACT

The paper examines social crimes that are common and significantly observed to emanate from the consequential outcome of family economic crisis, which necessitate spillover by reactionary effects of husband and wife, extended towards children, thus, create spiral crime effects at the unconscious level of the family Institution to the society, with its subsequent effects experienced at the conscious level of the society.

Keywords: Family economy, Social crime, Juvenile, Delinquent behaviour, Criminology

Jel Classifications: K14, K36, K42

† Emmanuel T. Senzu, DBA, Ph.D., SJD., is a professor of Constitutional Law and Economic criminology. The Executive Director of Blackstone Africa-Asia Jurists Center, Faculty fellow Njala University, Sierra Leone, West Africa. etsenzu@baa-jurists.org

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A. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

There are sufficient evidences that establishes that, when problems are hard to overcome or arise repeatedly in an individual life, there's a good chance the issue stem from a family of origin, Bowen (1950). He further elucidated that families are an emotional unit, and are interconnected system of interdependent individuals, which their psychology cannot be understood in isolation, rather from the system as a whole. In the postulation of Bowen theory of Nuclear family emotional process, he argued that Nuclear family experience issues in four main areas; which are Marital conflict, Dysfunction in a spouse or partner, Emotional distance, Impairment of one or more children, which result to conflict of criticism on under-performance, over-performance and distance behaviour. He further posits, with the family projection process, there is always a transmission of parents anxiety, emotional concerns, and relationship problems onto the children, who may develop emotional issues as a result, in their growth process.

In many circumstances, instead of parents to address their own problems, they try to fix by perceiving the problems in their children, which remind them of their own. Thus, treat their children as if something is wrong with them. This shapes their development such that the Children grow to embody their parents' fears and perceptions. Bowen, deduced from his study that most human problems are generations deep. And concluded that multi-generational transmission process determines the levels of 'Self' people develop.

The author admit that, though modern day fathers are no longer enforced with the burden of traditionally perceived as solely married breadwinners and disciplinarian in the family, modern research studies on families from all ethnic background suggests that fathers affection and increased family involvement help promote children's social and emotional development.

Fathers role dating back to the 18th Century were primarily to serve as breadwinners, conveyors of moral values and religious education to their children. However, with the advent of industrialization and urbanization, as well as factories emerging as major sources of employments, fathers were forced by social conditions to be distanced from their household and families. This resulted into a growing rates of abandonment and illegitimacy in family structural development.

On the account of mothers, examining from the year (1948) to (2001), there is a changing economic role of women, where the percentage of women employed or looking for job nearly

doubled from (33)% to (60)%, bringing women into the stage of financial power, in tandem with the growing autonomy of women, increasing the rate of divorce and re-marriage, and child birth outside of marriage, resulting into a kind of transition where many fathers have multiple undefined roles.

Research studies emerging from 20th Century did focused more on the sensitivity of mothers to fulfilling their Children's needs. Studies from the 21st Century on family, Child health and Human Development has switch the focus to the fathers towards care-giving as a required modern role. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development conducted a study on fathers care-giving role to the family, and the following were their findings;

- i. If fathers are expected to be care-giving, then, the following conditions are required to their favour...
 - They should have fewer working hours
 - They should have a positive psychological adjustment characteristics
 - Mothers are expected to offer greater marital intimacy

Under the theoretical model of fatherhood, the following major tasks has been outlined;

- Providing financial support
- Providing care
- Providing emotional support
- Establishing legal paternity

In summary of the background and introduction section of this paper, it outline the old and the new theoretical expectations from men and women in marriage union, which leads to formal constituted family system. And how the family structural operations of the past have had a significant effects on it present, and shape the individual personalities.

The author conclude this section by introducing in brief the literature review section of the paper, which will explore further into the diverse ways in the examination of the family economy, as well as, the escalation rate in gender and juvenile crime, observed to have it correlation effects from family crisis due to the construct of modern family economy, having some level of socially derived expectations as burden on husband's relative to wife's and vice versa, thus, creating

room for criminal tendencies within the inter-relationship affairs of the family Institution, hence, spill over to the children as negative effects.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Before the 20th Century, criminal documentary of women in public has been very minimal and in several places female crime reports were non existence. And as argued by (Pollak, 1950) female crime involvement compared to male was largely hidden from public view. He went further to posit, women were observed to be innately deceitful, when combined with the domestic opportunities they had as maids, nurses, teachers, and homemakers. This deceitful nature permitted them to commit undetectable crimes.

Otto Pollak advanced, to explain female hidden crime was chivalry in the criminal Justice system, although there was no major discrepancy between crime rates for men and women, they were treated deferentially by the law due to their gender as female, thereby, keeping the rates of their crime hidden (Klein, 1973 ; Pollak, 1950).

In the late 1960's , there came a renewed emphasis on women issues, which led to a development of women movement into social, political and economic equality with men, as a result had a profound impact on National social agenda in United States, which the wave extended across the globe as a social movement, thus, presented a new perspective of how women and crime were to be examined.

Adler (1975) argued that lifting restrictions on women's opportunities in the market, gave them the chance to be greedy, violent and crime prone as men. In that same year (Simon, 1975) presented an evident study of women increased arrest of property crime, and concluded in the findings that, the likely increased opportunity for women in the workplace has contributed to their increase in the commit of crime, and wondered , whether, the emancipation of women might encourage law enforcement and courts to be more interested in treating men and women the same. However, (Steffensmeier and Cobb, 1981) in their paper, established that the increase in female arrest rates matched perfectly with the daily activities of women in shopping and

paying of female bills, and not those associated with occupational positions as an argument made in the publication of Rita Simon.

In the submission of Messerschmidt (1986), he focused on the differences of power between men and women as an emphasis, and argued, such difference let the women into powerless types of crime like prostitution and small scale fraud, which comes with little reward. Because they were marginalized due to economic destitution. Further more, strong account of feminist criminology research records, were in favour of women against men, for instance, sexual harassment records at the global scale, with the World Health Organization report of (35)% of women world wide, have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence at some point in their life time. Went further to indicate that (71)% of women have been in physical hit or harmed at some point in their life time according to World Health Organization (2013). The United Nation study report in Asia found out that nearly half of (10,000) men interviewed have admitted using physical violence or sexual violence against a female partner. One-fourth of these men according to UN report has admitted of raping a woman or girl but faced no persecution as documented in their writings by (Sengupta, 2014).

The author do further share a common conviction that, throughout the history of gender crime theory, and its current state of development, men have always been pitched to a path of Patriarchal power, with women always perceived as powerless and vulnerable in the social order, with the perception of the social order being favourable to men.

However, the theoretical development of this paper is to critically unearth body of evidences that unmask the unique experiences that shapes modern women criminal involvement, though, they do express themselves in social relationship in a very profound ways.

It is observed that women engages in every category of crime just like their male counterpart, however, their rates of offending is significantly lower than their male offending partners. It is also noted regardless of class, race and ethnicity, women common pathways to crime and addiction are depression, abuse, social and economic pressures. For most women entering into addiction emanates from early trauma in which drugs are used for escape, as well as prostitution and property crimes are often committed for survival. Maternal filicide is another form of crime committed by women, which is mostly accompanied with several reasons why mothers may kill

their children, however, on the basis of psychoanalytical studies not all involve issues of mental illness.

Reiss (1951), posits that 'primary groups' identified as the family, neighbourhood, Schools and the religious Institutions are the basic institutions for the development of personal controls and exercise of social control over the children. Thus, delinquency and delinquent recidivism are the possible consequence of the failure of the 'primary groups' to provide the child with appropriate non-delinquent roles and to exercise social control over the child, while those roles are accepted or submitted to by the child in accordance with the needs. Speaking of the family, Reiss Albert, maintained that there is always a 'social control' over the child's behaviour, when the family milieu is structured so that the child identifies with family members and their accepted norms.

Thus, (Cohen, 1955) contended that poor kids lack the early socialization and resource to compete successfully with their counterparts from more affluent families. Consequently, they are denied status in the respectable society because they cannot meet the criteria of the respectable status system. For instance, if a conventional society, values ambition, responsibility, rationality, courtesy, control of physical aggression, and respect for authorities, these poor kids will place premium on behaviour that violates these principles. Accordingly, status will be accorded to compatriots who are truant, flout authority, fight, and vandalize property just for kicks.

(Cloward and Ohlin, 1960) publication, submitted that there is a disparity of what lower-class youth are led to want and what is actually available to them. Thereby, causes intense frustration and grant access to exploration of non-conformist path as an alternative result, by pursuing illegitimate means, which is accessible in a given circumstance to respond satisfactory to constraint. Hirschi (1969), emphasized in his argument that variation in the strength of social control is what explains variation in the extent to which people engage in crime. He further posits that the control resides in a person's ties to conventional society; to its adult members as (parents, teachers), its Institution (family, school, religious organization), and its believes as in (Laws, normative standards). These different kinds of ties or relationships forms the social bonds. He, therefore, established these four social bonds as; Attachment, Commitment, Involvement and Beliefs. And it was observed, the stronger the bond, the more likely criminal enticements, will be

controlled and that conformity will be ensue. The weaker the bond, the more likely individuals will succumb to their desires and break the law.

From the study of Shaw and McKay (1972), they came to a general conclusion that disorganized neighborhoods helped to produce and sustain 'criminal traditions' that competed with conventional values, which were transmitted down through successive generations of boys, much the same way that language and other social forms are transmitted. Slum youths mostly grow up in neighbourhood characterized by existence of coherent system of values supporting delinquents acts. The observation from Shaw and McKay research study was, juvenile delinquency could be understood only by considering the social context in which youths lived. Which in itself was a product of major societal transformations wrought by rapid urbanization, unbridled industrialization, and massive population shifts.

Beginning from the 1990's, Gottfredson and Hirschi, collaborated to set-out a new thesis on 'Self-control', and posits that the lower the level of self-control, the higher the level of crime as in deviant behaviour and social failure. Hirschi (2004), went ahead to redefines 'Self-control' as 'the tendency to consider the full range of potential costs of a particular act.' In simple put, some people refrain from crime and deviant behaviour because they are able to see the diverse consequence, which such conducts is likely to cause, the possibility to lose attachment, commitments, involvements, and belief they cherish. Those with low self-control, think little about consequences, and hence, are free to pursue immediate gratification, weak in social bonds, because there is little about their lives that inhibits going into crime.

C. EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

The research study uphold an objective of establishing 'causal' explanatory constituent factors to family economic crisis and it significant effects on social crime. Thereby, the method reasonably considered to achieve this objective was Case study analysis, relying on qualitative technique as phase one investigation, whereby, individuals were engaged in a depth interviews for participants perspectives and experiences, others supplied with fully-structured questionnaires for responses.

The second phase of investigation was to adopt quantitative method of analysis, which is based on the positivist assumption that if something exists, then, it exists in some degree, and can

therefore be numerically measured. The results obtained from the two approaches of investigations were subjected to triangulation to ascertain high degree of empirical accuracy in support of the theoretical deduction.

Therefore, to enhanced the validity and reliability of the research findings, several strategies were employed as follows;

Triangulation: The combination of quantitative and qualitative data did provide a more comprehensive view, and validate findings across different sources.

Cross Checking: Preliminary findings from qualitative interviews was shared with participants to confirm accuracy and gather additional insights, ensuring that interpretations align with their experiences.

Peer Review: Engaging with academic peers and industry experts did help to refine the research design and findings, strengthening the credibility of the study.

The study was conducted in the Southern province of the Republic of Sierra Leone, West Africa; precisely at the BO city. The Population size of the Southern province as at the year (2021) National Census, with an estimated projections to the year (2024), is (1, 840,000), with focus on ‘Bo’ as one of the district in the Southern province, which is equally projected in a population size to be around (75,000). Taken into consideration the intended objective of the research under a purposive sampling technique from a non-probability methodical framework, the author purposive sampling size chosen was (100) participants and evaluated under a nominal scale technique to interpret the result both graphical and description text. The sample size chosen was observed to be reasonable and effective representation of the population size relative to the ‘case study’ analyzed within the Southern province.

Ethical considerations was central throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all interview participants, and ensured that they understood the study's purpose, their rights, and how their data will be used. Anonymity and confidentiality was going to be maintained to protect participants’ identities and sensitive information.

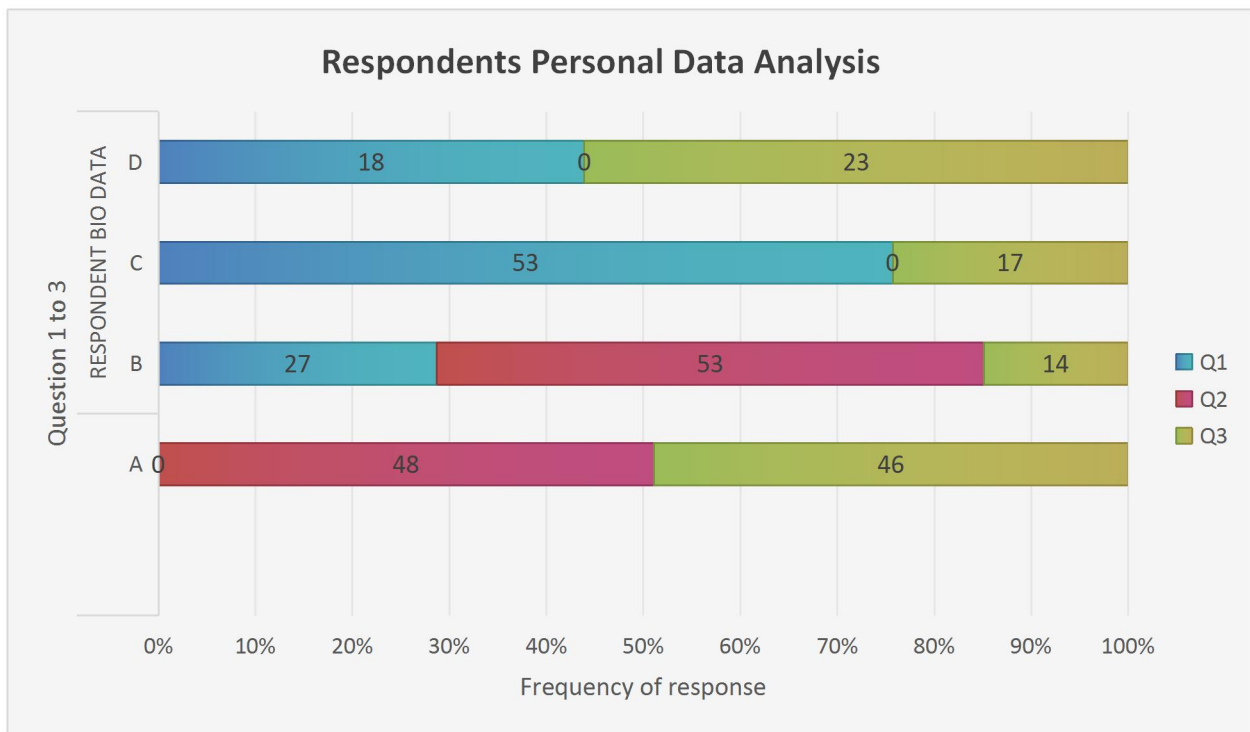
I. Results and Discussion

After the data was collected, the respondents personal information documented as the bio-data study were analyzed, and the following were the findings; It was observed that out of (100)%

respondents (53)% were below the age of (30) years, as the highest participants in the research study, followed by (27)% of participants who were below the age of (20) years and finally, (18)% of the participants noted to be above the age of (40) years. From these participants (53)% were noted to be males, while (48)% were observed to be females.

It was further established from the data that (46) % of the respondents were staying with their parents, (14)% were staying with their relatives, while (23)% of them were legally married in their own rented homes. Which was graphically depicted below as figure S1.

Fig.S1.



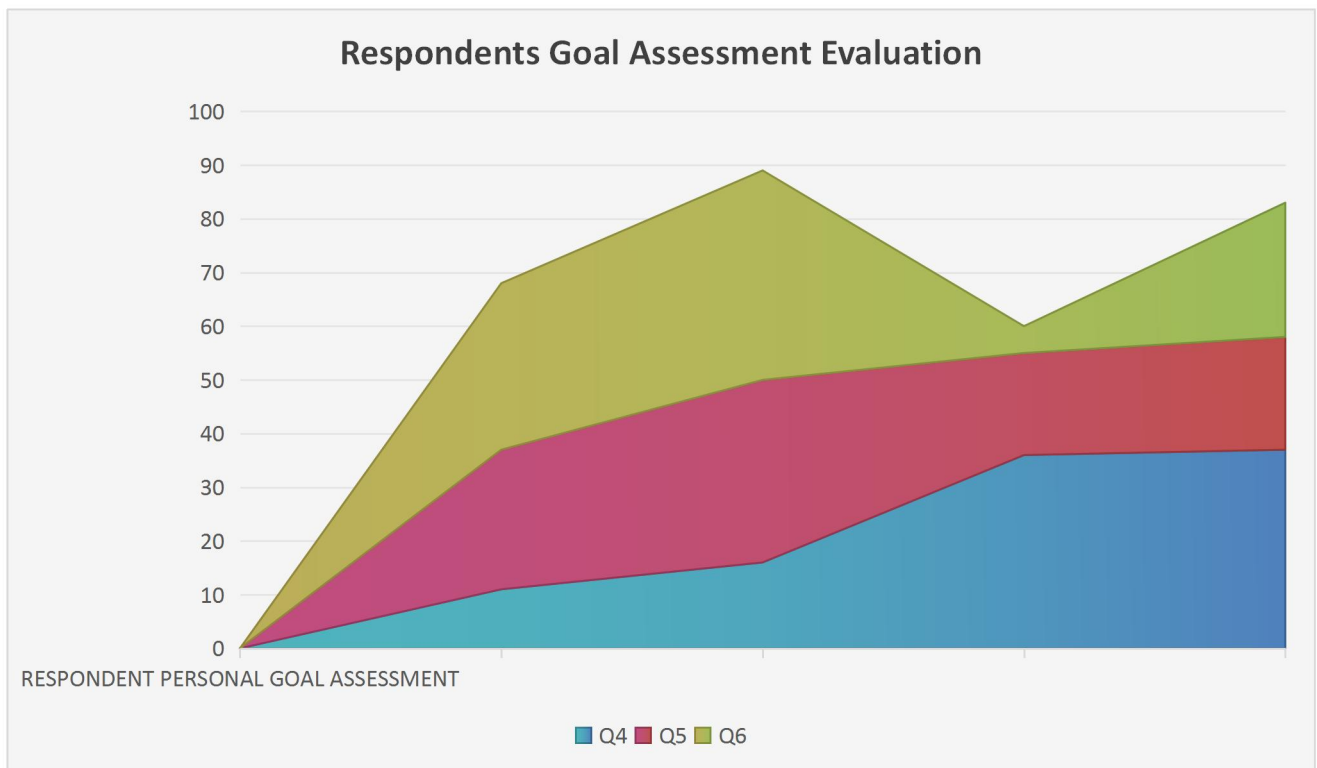
Senzu (2024)

The next phase of research focus and data analysis, was to examine and assess the personal goals of the participants, and the following were the observations; about (37)% of the respondents rated their aspirations for life goals fulfillment to be above Fifty-Percent, while (36)% indicated that the aspiration towards their life goals fulfillment is below Fifty-Percent. The identified (16)% of respondents rated their personal aspirations to life and goals achievement to be below Thirty-Percent, while the remaining (11)% expressed with that conviction that they

have no aspirations in life and choice of goals for achievement, especially, with the current state of Sierra Leone economy as at September 2024.

The respondents were probed further to assess their confidence level in Parental supports towards their life goals achievement, and the following were the outcome of findings; (34)% of the respondents rated their confidence in Parental supports for life ambitions to be below Fifty-Percent, which was the highest figure in that category, followed by (26)% of respondents whose confidence in Parental supports was below Twenty-Percent. Though, there were (21)% of respondents who express strong confidence in Parental supports to their life goals and future ambitions, and rated that confidence level to be above Seventy-percent. Which was graphically depicted below as figure S2;

Fig.S2.



(Senzu, 2024)

The author acknowledging the high percentage aggregate, who did have low confidence in Parental supports, thus, went further to probe, who becomes the next dependant towards life achievement goals in the absence of 'Parental supports'. Strangely, though not surprising, (34)%

of respondents having no confidence in Parental supports, express their trust in Religious Institution for welfare supports, followed by (31)% who had their confidence shifted to External families for assistance, then the (25)% of the respondents indicated that their confidants at that moment was in their marriage partner. The remaining (5)% expressed their confidence in NGOs' as supportive agencies for life achievement goals.

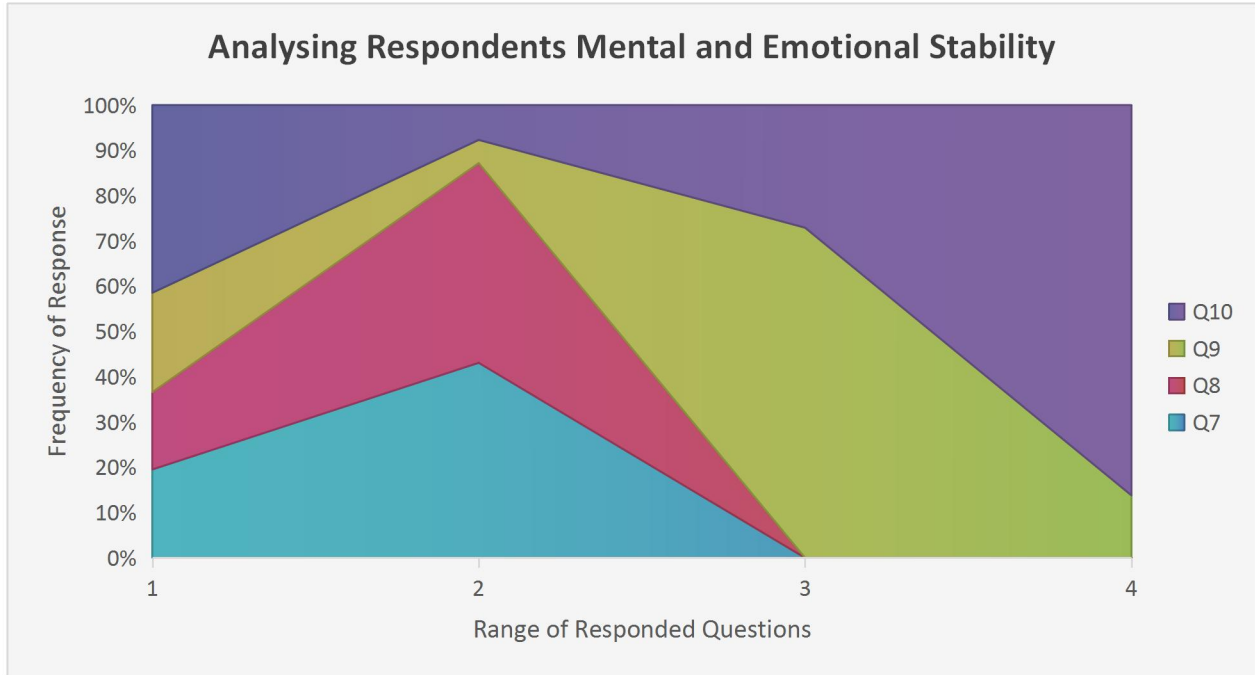
Acknowledging the caliber of respondents, which the research study was interacting with, and a clarity to the in-depth understanding of their aspirations and goals of life, and to whom they hold loyal to within the social circle, it became very eminent, to assess their mental and emotional stability to draw accurate theoretical conclusions. Hence, the question asked, whether any of the participants responding to the questionnaire have had any form of Police case? Appreciating the stigma to that question, all methods required to masked the respondents stigma effects to enable a secured, and a honest feelings for a truthful responses were adopted, which, out of the (100) respondents, (16) indicated they have had Police issues before, while (84) respondents indicated none of such circumstance have they experienced in life up to the moments of the research engagement with them.

We went further to probe, whether any of such Police cases had led any of them to be incarcerated or sent to Prison, and the response was that (14) of them has been incarcerated before, but the (86) of them have no such experience, yet. We went further to examine how the respondents manages their emotional stress and depression, and (70)% of them claimed they confide all their difficulties and worries to their God. While the (18)% out of (100)% respondents, indicated the family has been their first source of contacts in matters of emotional destabilization. (10)% of the respondents expressed their confidence and trust in their marriage partners as an emotional distress and relieve resource personnel.

Acknowledging, the analysis from how the respondents goes about managing their mental and emotional challenges, we went further to probe, who serves as their capable trustee to share private confidentiality with, which was an assessment to measure their level of social loyalty, It was observed that (34)% of the respondents rely on families as trustees, and (26)% expressed their trust in their Religious Institutional leaders to share matters of privacy and confidentiality, followed by (25)% of respondents who declared that they had no trust in any body to the extent

of sharing confidential issue with. Finally, (15)% expressed their sincere confidence and trust in their partners as a reliable personality to share their confidential matters with. Which was depicted graphically as figure S3 below;

Fig. S3.



(Senzu, 2024.)

D. THEORETICAL POSTULATIONS

The following are the derived theoretical postulations from the empirical studies;

I. Juvenile gender delinquent behaviour and incarceration records of male against female holds a proportional ratio of 3:1. With such data argued to be the minimum threshold boundary across West Africa region.

II. Juveniles from 'poor' family background, do have high records of the male adopting aggressive and survival instinct methods for economic pursuits purpose as compared to the female counterpart

///. Juveniles that lacks social bonding, are weak in 'self-control' and quick to commit crime.

1. **Juvenile delinquent behaviour and Incarceration theory;** In accordance to the empirical analysis and observations, we arrive to a confident conclusions that at any given circumstance the rate of Juvenile incarceration is higher among the male than the female, and mostly with the ratio proportion between the male and female calculated to be 3:1. And the established causal findings were noted to be the actions and the desire of most 'poor' families, rushing their juvenile male, ill-quipped to wrestle with the economic realities of life in adulthood, assuming responsibilities and roles beyond their knowledge , experience and wisdom. Hence, due to their immaturity, exposes them to crimes, which they may be totally ignorant of, in most cases.

2. **Juvenile survival and economic pursuits theory;** When Juveniles finds themselves in a circumstance whereby, there is lack of parental or family protection to respond to their basic needs of life, thus, causes them to be economically vulnerable and socially exposed, with huge burden of constraint to respond to, in their state of immaturity, create a mental struggle to their male gender to forcefully accept the burden of life pressures and the competition imposed by peer-groups of responsible families, to instinctively stand-up for themselves as adults and restore their self-esteem within the common society. As a result pursue economic ambitions in an adventurous manner, and mostly, unguarded by parental advises, therein, exposes them to criminal traps, fellowships of gangs and ghetto networks. With the female counterpart, mostly perceived as frail in street life, get attracted to the position of side-chick for most Male street adults in exchange for their protection in a highly risky environment they are exposed to, creating the channel towards their profession in prostitution practice, which they initiate themselves with a false hope to obtain an economic power out of that business to restore their social dignity.

3. **Juvenile vulnerability and crime exposure theory;** On the basis of empirical studies and observations, we deduce that the weaker the social bond between the Juvenile and the family, the higher is the vulnerability and exposure to crime due to lack of self-control in

all forms of social dealings, which is accompanied with poor decisions, thus, makes the juvenile a quick victim in the perpetration of crime. Herein, the social bond is considered as a comprehensive commitment from a Juvenile to an Institutional norms and values, either family, school or a religious organization, and becomes attached to it governing principles due to the significance of symbolic social rewards it offers, and its acceptance as standards of tradition in a conventional society.

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APPENDIX

Administered Questionnaires

[PERMISSION REQUEST]: Dear respondents, the below set-out questions is for your sincere response and it is strictly for Academic research exercise to inform government policies, therefore, all sensitive information's provided by you will be treated with the utmost confidentiality as an ethical requirement, and shall accept the consequences thereof, if confidentiality of information is unethically breached with the established causal source to be my negligence. It should take you a maximum (15) minutes approximately to complete the questions...

RESPONDENT CODE.....

Q1. Age Bracket

- a. Below 10 years b. Below 20 years c. Below 30 years d. Above 30 years

Q2. Gender Type

- a. Female b. Male c. Bi-sexual

Q3. Relationship Status

- a. Stays with Parent b. Stays with Relatives c. Stays alone d. Married

Q4. How close are you to the aspirations of life as a personal assessment

- a. No aspirations b. Below 30% c. Below 50% d. Above 50%

Q5. What is your confidence level in Parental supports to your life achievement goals

- a. Below 20% b. Below 50% c. Below 70% d. Above 70%

Q6. To exclude Parental supports, who is your next dependant for your life achievement goals

- a. External families b. Religious Center c. NGO's d. A Partner

Q7. Have you ever had a Police case before

- a. Yes b. No.

Q8 Have you been incarcerated before

- a. Yes b. No

Q9. When emotionally destabilize, who has been your first source of contacts

- a. Family b. Partner c. God d. Privately managed

Q10. Among your current network, who is your trustee to share private confidentials with willingly.

a. Family b. Partner c. Religious leader d. No body