

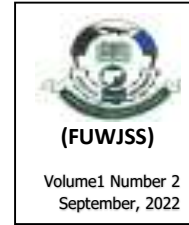
**DYNAMICS OF PROPERTY CRIME
VICTIMISATION REPORTING IN WUKARI
METROPOLIS, TARABA STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

It is well acknowledged that the degree of offences determines victims' decision to report criminal victimization in any society. Criminal victimisation has significant impact on the victim as well as the society at large, because crime victims suffer several loss, injuries and death in most cases. Therefore, the need to report crime victimization to appropriate authorities cannot be over emphasised. In the light of the above, this study examines psychosocial and economic factors affecting the act of reporting property crime victimization to police in Wukari, Taraba State. The study interrogated the psychosocial and economic factors affecting the act of reporting property crime victimization to the police. This was necessitated by the seeming gap in previous study which focused on the predisposing factors of property crime and the commonest property crime perpetuated in Wukari. The survey research design was adopted. Closed-ended questionnaires were administered to three hundred and seventy one (371) respondents. Data were analyzed using relevant statistical tools which include simple frequency, mean ratings, and linear regression. The study found that most cases of property crime victimization were not reported to the police and that psychosocial and economic factors significantly influence victims of property crime to report to the police. Economic cost of reporting and victims' attitude of seeing their victimization as a divine manifestation contributed significantly to discouraging them from reporting to the police. The study recommends that there is the need for crime victims to report cases of victimisation to appropriate authorities.

Keywords: Property crime, police, report, victimization, crime victims

Introduction

Crime remains an inevitable phenomenon depositing variants effects on individuals and the larger society across the globe. Even though no country can claim a zero per cent crime rate, crime occurrence varies across countries with different degrees of effects including the act of reporting to law enforcement agency. Nigeria since the turn of the century has been thrown into the theatre of crime in varying proportions. This is because Nigeria's gallery of crime is replete with the flocked cases of kidnapping, armed robbery, illicit drugs and arm businesses including high violent crime perpetuated by terrorists (Ikoh, 2021).

Aebi (2004) maintained that at the beginning of 1990 property crime reached a significant level owing much to the windows created by large black market for stolen goods in Central and Eastern Europe. Such a peak in property crime may have elicited reactions across Europe at a point in time. Victims and every concerned citizen could either report to appropriate authorities or not depending on the circumstances and lethality of damage incurred. Europe's functional security institutions and literate population could be factors to consider as far as reporting crime is concerned. The sophisticated security gadgets for surveillance and intelligence gathering at the disposal of security personnel ease crime detection and reporting and documentation. Crime could be detected, documented and reported to the public by security agency in the form of briefing even when victims shy away from reporting to the police. Even with this, there are cases of non-reporting of crime in Europe. Ceccato, Lundqvist, Abraham, Goransson and Svennefelt (2021) suggested that a considerable number of crimes committed against animal farmers and their families go unreported to the police in Sweden.

However, reporting crime differs among developed and developing countries. This is not to say that there are no areas of similarities among developed and developing countries as far as reporting crime is concerned. The differences in crime reporting are shaped by the relevance of the incidence and the demographic characteristics relating to reporting crime (Estienne & Morabito,

2016). Boateng (2018) affirmed the roles of demographic factors like age, marital status and employment status of victims on reporting crime. Ageing population may not be predisposed to report their victimization to the right channels. This is because the strenuous processes of going to police station may not be accommodated by the aged. Children and teenagers could also stay off the lane of reporting. Married people could be seemingly responsible and pro-reporting. This could be facilitated by their economic strength appropriated through their employment status. Aside the relevance of an incidence, the level of awareness and proactive disposition of law enforcement agencies could encourage victims to report to appropriate quarters. Yun and Mueller (2011) suggested the level of awareness of the American criminal justice system influence the act of reporting crime among Chinese immigrants.

In Africa, South Africa is one of famous countries with cases of poor act of reporting crime to the Police. Poor Police-civilian relationship leaves a mark on non-reporting of crime. Mbewu, Obioha, Mugari and Boateng (2021) found that poor police public relations particularly police disloyalty, poor support on victims and follow up on cases leveraged people not to report crime to the police in Eastern Cape Province. Most African countries could be affected by this ugly scenario given the poor police-civilian relationship. Citizens' lack of trust on the police has perpetually been at the front burner. Rather than acknowledging the police as friends and confidants worthy to report crime to, a vast majority of civilians prefer not to report crime to the police. Africa's socioeconomic standing places some of her inhabitants on a disadvantageous position not to report crime. This is because reporting crime to the police may not be cost-free in some instances. Footing fares to and fro a police station for follow-up, fear of turning guilt and probable financial and/or material compensation of a third party may be quiet discouraging. Adding to the woes of reporting are socio-cultural factors like stigmatization, shame and name calling which run its course to preclude crime reporting in Africa (Boateng, 2018). Also, post traumatic factors of fear, depression and gory sight of crime scene could be thought provoking.

The atmosphere of reporting crime in Nigeria is somewhat at parallel with other African countries. Poor police-civilian relationship, economic cost of reporting might have been factors making inroads

on reporting crime. As earlier pointed, studies have focused on police-civilian relationship and economic factors influencing report of crime. Beyond this, resorting to the interplay of divine forces and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are deafening and they make up multiple factors discouraging people from reporting crime to the Police in Wukari. Holding on to the idea of divine manifestation is further compounded by the economic cost of reporting to the police. Since victims are expected to take care of their fares to and fro to report including the presentation of evidence, poor economic standings and/or finances are unarguably discouraging to report criminal victimisation. In another context, victims fear that they could be stigmatized and labeled. This fear especially in mixed population like Wukari is a factor in its own right. Victims fear that stigma and label indirectly expose their weaknesses and vulnerability. These factors are interrogated to make up the gap in a number of studies that have focused on the factors of poor police-civilian relationship leveraging crime reporting in other climes. For instance, James and Lee (2015) suggested the role of gender and perception of the public on the police as factors affecting crime reporting. It remains to be uncovered whether these factors among others like economic cost of reporting, divine manifestation, time to go to the police as well as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) have affected the act of reporting crime to the police in Wukari. Also, preceding study by Ahmadu and Valentine (2022) revealed the commonest type of property crime perpetuated in Wukari. In the study, attempts were not made to investigate whether such crime were reported or not to the appropriate authorities and it did not uncover factors that might have discouraged victims from reporting such crime either. From the foregoing argument, this paper is premised on a number of objectives: To find out how socioeconomic factors and post traumatic stress disorder affect the act of reporting of property crime to the Police in Wukari. In so doing, this has elicited the need to ask whether the perpetuation of property crime is reported to the Police or not and the ways socioeconomic factors affect report of property crime to the police in Wukari town? Two hypotheses guided this study thus: Ho: socioeconomic factors have no significant effects on reporting of property crime to the Police. Ho: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has no significant effects on reporting property crime to the Police. It is against this backdrop that the study yearns for empirical investigation into the psychosocial and

economic factors influencing report of property crime to the police in Wukari.

Psychosocial and Economic Factors Influencing Crime Reporting in Africa

Indices that trigger aggregate crime reporting are uncertain (Goudrian, et al, 2004). There are depths of factors that have dialectical effects on crime reporting. Location and/or culture are good factors that could suggest consideration. Depending on the context and type of crime, victims may report to the police. For instance, rape victimization is only reported to the police when victims sustain physical injury (Bachman, 1998). In some occasions, they are not reported and this informed why the crime remains unabated (Sam, Abraham and Stella, 2021). Menard (2003) had affirmed that the severity of the damage incurred and the relationship between victim and offender determine the level of reporting victimization. The adoption of sanctuary policy mechanism positively influenced Latinos to report violent crime victimization to law enforcement (Martinez-Schuldt & Martinez, 2021). The policy instrument graciously foster institutional trust thereby leveraging migrant communities to report cases of victimization to the police. Barring the effective role of sanctuary policies, the lethality of offense determines victims' decision to report crime victimization (Tarling & Morris, 2010). Processes surrounding reportage of offenses might be too engaging to victims. In some cases, the need to avoid unforeseen challenges and level of injuries could affect report of menial offenses to law enforcement agencies. Bachman (1998) observed that rape victimization is reported to the police when victims sustained physical injury and when weapons are involved. Even with this, victims may feel insecure to report cases of fatal victimization to avoid stigmatization.

From a traditional viewpoint, reporting cases of victimization echoes society's collective conscience. Entrenching and sustaining shared norms and belief of a society through partnership with law enforcement agency is relevant to safeguarding collective conscience. It is against this backdrop, Mbewu, Obioha, Mugari and Boateng (2021) suggested that the call for safe community drives people to report crime to the Police. Situations may raise their ugly head to preclude victims to report to the police. Calls for safe community may

be frustrated since the intervention of law enforcement officer is not solicited. But sometimes non-report of crime victimization is informed by poor police public relations. Police-public relationship is impaired by police poor loyalty to citizens and poor support on victims and complication associated with follow up for cases. This among other reasons discouraged victims from reporting to the police in Eastern Cape Province of South Africa (Mbewu, Obioha, Mugari & Boateng, 2021).

Socioeconomic and cultural factors like poverty, extortion by the police and taboos prevent people from reporting criminal activities to the police (Ayodele, 2017). This is close to Torrente, Gallo and Oltra (2017) findings which suggested that socio-demographic factors and social differences are strategic as far as crime reporting is concerned. In another context, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder manifests in different ways to impair crime reporting. Insomnia is one of factors of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder suffered by a significant number of crime victims (Krakow, Melendrez, Pedersen, Johnson, Hollified, Germain, Koss, Warner & Schrader, 2001). Sleeping disorder is a disturbing nightmare that can discourage victims from reporting to the right authorities. On the other lane, military veterans who suffered from PTSD were predisposed to engage criminal justice department and leveraged the documentation of arrest for violent crime.

The Nature and Dynamics of Crime Reporting in Nigeria

However, criminal victimisation has registered its presence in different ways. By relying on findings suggesting the perpetuation of crime, it therefore translates that incidences of crime are either documented or victims report to authorities. This implies that Nigeria's social, economic and political spaces are littered with high profile crimes. Supportive findings by Oguntunde, Ojo, Okagbue and Oguntunde (2018) revealed incidences of major crimes making headlines in Nigeria like burglary, rape, fraud, terrorism, robbery, murder, cybercrimes, bribery and corruption and money laundering. As these crimes subsist in Nigeria, victims are not left on their heels in terms of reporting to authorities. But factors shaping the perpetuation of these crimes differ considerably. For instance, private individuals are affected by cybercrime but libraries offering free internet services are more susceptible to cyber fraud (Adomi & Igun, 2008). Ehimen and Bola (2010) put forth a number of cyber crimes

perpetuated against Nigerians ranging from banking fraud to securing unauthorized data network. The heightened rate of cybercrime orchestrated by “Yahoo Boys” occupies the front burner of discourses by experts and social commentators. In terms of burglary crime, Nigerians over the years have responded decisively through mounting of gates and the recruitment of private security guards (Popoola, Alabi, Ojo & Adeleye, 2018).

Nigeria is a multi-ethnic state housing over 250 ethnic groups. Each of these groups occupy distinct geographic area with unique culture. With burglary, rape, fraud, terrorism, robbery, murder, cybercrimes, bribery and corruption and money laundering making headlines in Nigeria, victims’ act of reporting to authorities is influenced by socio-cultural factors inclusive of religion. Religion influences the act of reporting crime to appropriate quarters in Nigeria. This is premised on the fact that both Islam and Christianity preach adherence to divine manifestation in acceptance of misfortunes in the pursuit of life on earth. For instance, Muslims are by articles of faith obliged to accept unfolding life situation either in good or bad fate. This is not to say that religion in its entirety frowns at reporting crime. Regardless of the nature of crime, religion expects adherents to submit to the Almighty God in the event of any misfortune including criminal victimisation. Even with this, the nature of crime encourages reporting (Ayodele & Aderinto, 2014; Adewale, 2019). Very insightful in this regard is the case of cyber crime. Victims of cyber crime report to the various authorities in some occasions. This is vindicated by the actions of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC. The anti-graft agency against the backdrop of shortcomings always comes into action following reports of cases by either private individuals or victims’ institutions or agents. The lethality of cyber fraud might have been a cause for concern to victims. This is because the seriousness of the damage shapes the intents to report to the right authorities (Agency Report, 2022).

The Nigerian police have defied the act of reporting crime with their culture of brutality and dishonesty. Police culture of distrust, violence and torture are at the centre of influence on community’s drive to report to the police (Ike, Singh, Jidong, Ike & Ayobi, 2022). It is against the backdrop of the twists and turns associated with handling of cases in Nigerian police station that people are skeptical of reporting to the police. This is consolidated by the saying “being

first to call the police does not guarantee you victory”. Adding to this puzzle is corruption and bad discretion during investigation (Ojo, 2014).

Theoretical Framework

Victim Blaming Theory

Victim blaming theory was coined by William Ryan in 1971. The theory was ab initio rooted on racial and other forms of injustice against blacks in the United States of America. The theory further focuses on victims’ weaknesses as the chief cause of their victimization. In so doing, victims are held responsible either partly or completely for their victimization and/or predicaments. It could be inferred from the perspective of this theory that, victims could be discouraged from reporting criminal victimization because of fear of invoking public blame on them. Such blame game may take the posture of secondary victimization which at the extreme retraumatise victims. Secondary victimization could register its presence when legal proceedings are involved. Infracton of rights of victims, entitlements and the cost involved in securing legal services are examples of secondary victimization that could retraumatise victims of crime. Therefore, the twin factors of fear of blame and secondary victimization shape the interplay of psychosocial and economic factors influencing report of criminal victimization. Fear of blame justifies the phenomenon of stigma and public label discouraging victims from reporting while secondary victimization like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the economic cost of reporting as well as the time required to and fro the police station are quiet traumatizing hence discouraging crime victims to report their status. This theory does not put into consideration the impact of the social system, social institutions and phenomena on victims’ psychosocial and economic condition preventing them from reporting their victimization. Social impact theory offers a new outlook on the interplay of factors influencing the act of reporting criminal victimization.

Social Impact Theory

This theory was the brain child of Latane Bibb (1981). The theory suggests that individual’s thoughts, actions and/or behavior is influenced by the actions of other persons, social institutions and phenomena. By this, we can infer that the phenomenon of Post

Traumatic Stress Disorder PTSD, social and economic costs of reporting, public stigma and label, divine manifestation and the time to and fro station for feedback influenced crime victims' reporting actions to appropriate authorities.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Wukari, the ancestral home of the Jukun nation. It is an administrative cum commercial and economic centres with an estimated mid-year population of 373,645 by 2021. The choice of selecting Wukari as the study area was informed by its peculiar features of administrative cum commercial and economic centre that has been the centre of attraction in Taraba South Senatorial District. Also, the scars left sequel to the incessant communal conflicts provoked the selection of the study area especially when viewed from the magnitude of impact the crises deposited on property crime victimization. The survey design was adopted because it allows the collection of information from a fraction of the population. Information collected through survey primarily describes the peculiar characteristics of the study population. The population of the study integrated a wider pool of residents who were either victims of property crime or guidance/parents and/or relatives of victims of property crime with first-hand information on the status of crime victims both in pre and post victimisation period. These categories of people are fully engaged in different endeavours like civil service, trading and farming to make a living. Some of them are unemployed. Closed-ended questionnaires were administered to the sampled population. Three Hundred and Eighty five samples were selected via Cochran's sample size determination formula.
$$No = \frac{Z^2 Pq}{e^2} = \frac{(1.96)^2 \times (0.05)(0.05)}{(0.05)^2} = \frac{3.8416(0.05)(0.05)}{(0.05)^2} = 0.9604/0.0025 = 385$$
. Therefore, a sample size 385 was initially determined. Multi stage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. After obtaining the right of participation, the questionnaires were taken to the field by the research assistants drawn from the 2021/2022 final year class of the Department of Sociology, Federal University Wukari designated for an elective course: Sociology of Deviant Behaviour. After a thorough editing, out of 385 questionnaires sent to the field, only 371 were found useable. This represents 96.4% return rate. Both descriptive statistics like frequency

and percentage, mean ratings and inferential statistics like linear regression were deployed for data analysis.

Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Female	147	39.6
Male	224	60.4
Total	371	100%
Age		
Below 30	136	36.7
30-39	118	31.8
40-49	82	22.1
50 above	35	9.4
Total	371	100%
Marital status		
Married	148	39.9
Single	178	48.0
Divorced	25	6.8
Widow/widower	20	5.4
Total	371	100%
Education		
Primary	36	9.7
Secondary	151	40.7
Tertiary	184	49.6
Total	371	100%
Occupation		
Farming	61	16.4
Trading	128	34.5
Civil/public servant	87	23.5
Artisan	48	12.9
Unemployed	47	12.7
Total	371	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table one revealed the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. On sex distribution, there is a higher population of male constituting 65.4% n=224 while 39.6% n=147 made up female population. This shows that male were more accessible than female in the course of the study. In terms of age, a significant population of

the respondents 36.7% n=136 were below 30 years of age. The readiness and accessibility of this age cohort may have accounted for their larger participation in the study. A combination of the age cohorts 30-39 and 40-49 made up 31.8% n=118 and 22% n=82 respectively. Only a meager 9.4% n=35 made up the population of respondents 50 years and above. Aggregate percentage of the age cohorts 30-39 and 40-49 shows that majority of the respondents were drawn from the working population and/or active segment of the population. With a larger population of singles 48.0% n=178 it would translate that most of the respondents were drawn from the active segment of the population. A married population of 39.9% n=148 is more than the average population of singles hence it could be fair to say that the study had access to a responsible segment of the population. Meanwhile, a negligible population of 67% n=25 and 5.4% n=20 made up divorced and widow/widower population apiece. In the area of occupation, 34.5% n=128 are traders. Farming 16.4% n=61, civil servants/public servants 23.5% n=87, 12.9% n=48 and 12.7% n=47 constituted the artisan and unemployed class respectively.

Table 2: Status of Reporting Property Crime and Socioeconomic Factors Affecting Report of Property Crime

	SA	A	U	DA	SD	Mean	STD
Status of Reporting							
Most cases of property Crime are not reported	67 (18.1)	212 (57.1)	16 (4.3)	57 (15.4)	19 (5.1)	3.68	1.094
Socioeconomic Factors							
Economic cost of reporting	67 (18.1)	210 (56.6)	19 (5.1)	57 (15.4)	18 (4.9)	3.68	1.087
Public stigma and label	42 (11.3)	210 (56.6)	26 (7.0)	71 (19.1)	22 (5.9)	3.48	1.104
Consumes time to get feedback	70 (18.9)	228 (61.5)	12 (3.2)	44 (11.9)	17 (4.6)	3.78	1.031
Resorting to divine manifestation	69 (18.6)	178 (48.0)	29 (7.8)	57 (15.4)	38 (10.2)	3.49	1.244

Source: Field Survey, 2021

As seen in table 2, most cases of property crime victimization were not reported given (Mean=3.68, STD=1.094). This poses a cause for concern because all the socioeconomic factors have surpassed the average mean score. This means that, the socioeconomic factors affected cases of report of property crime to law enforcement agency. Victims did not report because it consumes time to frequently go to the police to get feedback on cases (Mean=3.78, STD=1.031), is the most disturbing factor sabotaging the act of reporting property crime to the police even though it has the least divergent opinion. Economic cost of reporting and seeking intervention of law enforcement agency (Mean=3.68, STD=1.087) is a factor to contend with. Victims did not report because they conceived their victimization as a divine manifestation (Mean=3.99, STD=1.244) is a factor that has made considerable repercussion though had the most divergent opinion. On the other hand, victims refrained from reporting in order to avoid public stigma and label (Mean=3.48, STD=1.104) registered its presence in the equation of factors affecting report of property crime. Given the economic cost of reporting crime victimization especially now that the world is battling with global economic crises, victims may continue to resort to divine forces rather than reporting to the police and/or relevant agency.

Table 3: ANOVA Test of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Reporting Property Crime

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std.Error estimate	Sig. F	
1	.285	.081	.069	1.056	.000	

ANOVA						
Sig.	Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	
	Regression	35.992	5	7.198	6.452	.000
	Residual	407.194	365			
	Total	443.186	370			

Coefficients						
Model	Unstandardised coefficient		Standardised Coefficient			
	B	Std. Error	Beta		t	
Sig.						

Constant	1.856	.339		5.475	.000
Flash back & difficult to Forget scene of attack	.150	.066	.122	2.273	.024
Insomnia	.062	.066	.057	.946	.345
Loneliness & Avoidance attitude	.169	.064	.151	2.649	.008
Intrusive memories & negative thinking & mood	.010	.074	.008	.134	.894
Changes in physical & Emotional reaction	.087	.063	.079	1.139	.165

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2022

In table 3, the relationship between the independent and dependent variables is represented by .285. The independent variables accounted for 8.1% change in the dependent variable. The test statistics [$F(5,370) = 6.452, P=.000$] signaled a significant mean difference hence the rejection of the null hypothesis. However, each of the factors of PTSD had unique contribution. Victims flash back and find it difficult to forget scene of event ($t=2.273, \beta=.122, P=.024$) and the creation of loneliness and avoidance attitude ($t=2.649, \beta=.151, P=.008$) contributed significantly to preventing victims from reporting to the police. Meanwhile, insomnia ($t=.946, \beta=.057, P=.345$) and the development of intrusive memory, negative thinking ($t=.134, \beta=.008, P=.894$) as well as victims' physical and emotional reaction ($t=1.139, \beta=.079, P=.165$) did not contribute significantly. However, all the factors positively predicted poor report of property crime to suitable authorities.

Table 4: ANOVA Test of Socioeconomic Factors and Reporting Property Crime Victimization

Model Summary					
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std.Error estimate	Sig. F Change
1	.527	.277	.269	.936	.000

ANOVA					
Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	122.864	4	30.716	35.096	.000
Residual	320.322	366			
Total	443.186	370			

Model	Coefficients					
	B	Unstandardised coefficient		Beta	Standardised Coefficient	
		Std. Error			t	Sig.
Constant		1.395	.225		6.190	.000
Economic cost of reporting & seeking intervention of law enforcement		.408	.051	.405	7.952	.000
Public stigma & label		.043	.050	.043	.854	.394
Time consumption to get Feedback from station		.014	.055	.013	.247	.805
Divine intervention		.166	.044	.189	3.763	.000

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2022

Table 4 shows .527 relationships between the independent variables and the dependent variable. The independent variables accounted for 27.7% change in the dependent variable. And there was significant mean difference between socioeconomic factors and reporting of property crime given [F (4, 370), =35.096, P=.000]. However, the economic cost of reporting and seeking the intervention of law enforcement agency (t=7.952, β = .405, P=.000) and attributing victimization to the interplay of divine forces (t=3.763, β =.189, P=.000) contributed significantly to the rejection of the null hypothesis. Public stigma and label (t=.854, β =.043, P=.394) and not reporting because of time consumption to get feedback (t=.247, β =.013, P=.805) did not contribute significantly.

Discussion of Findings

The study is premised on exploring psychosocial and economic factors affecting the act of reporting property crime victimisation in Wukari. Overall, most victims don't report their victimization status to the police. Abraham and Stella's (2021) suggested poor reporting behavior of victims of crime. The socio-economic factors of cost of reporting; public stigma and label; time consumption and resorting to the workings of divine forces disproportionately affected victims and precluded them from reporting cases of victimization to appropriate quarters. Victims could continue to dissociate themselves from reporting given the economic cost involved in it. This is supported by Ayodele (2017) who found the impact of poverty in preventing people

from reporting victimisation to the appropriate agencies. Economic downturn may on a large scale spell doom for the act of reporting crime to the police. When this is fused with the interplay of time required to and fro a station for feedback and the widely held attitude of attributing victimization to the network of divine forces, the tendency to report victimization would reach its lowest intent. Apart from socioeconomic factors, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), also discourage victims from reporting to the police. There is a significant relationship between Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and crime reporting in Wukari. Victims' drive to report is dependent on their psychological wellbeing. In most cases, they felt disturbed by the reoccurring sight of what transpired. Amid this, they do not only suffer from the inability to sleep but retreat from the larger society rather than seeing the imperatives of reporting their attack to the right channels. These factors of PTSD would be exacerbated when victims recount the time expected to and fro a station to get feedback and the monetary cost of reporting their victimization.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study focused on psychosocial and economic factors affecting the act of reporting property crime victimization to the police in Wukari, Taraba State. It revealed that socio-economic factors were responsible for poor reporting of property crime victimization. This is also significantly affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The study has carved out a niche for itself by suggesting that victims' resolutions to divine forces among others added to the frontiers of factors affecting the act of reporting property crime victimization. This is not analogous to the findings of Ayodele (2017) who held poverty as a factor discouraging the act of reporting property crime. Flash back and difficulty to erase scene of attack and victims' loneliness and avoidance attitude after attack are unique factors of PTSD suffered by victims and these have contributed significantly to poor commitment to report to the right authorities. This maintains a different stance given that insomnia was found to be the most disturbing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder suffered by a significant number of crime victims (Krakow, Melendrez, Pedersen, Johnson, Hollified, Germain, Koss, Warner & Schrader, 2001). In a bid to address the crux of reporting criminal victimisation, Victims should prioritise the act of

reporting their victimization status to the appropriate authorities especially the nearest police station. And this should be consolidated with the commitment by law enforcement agencies to expunge in totality cost involved in reporting crime. Government or parents/guidance and/or private individuals in post victimisation period should provide counseling services to control the impact of victims' Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In order to rid of the vexing factor of going to and fro a police station, police and/or sister agencies should provide necessary mechanism to ensure quick attention and delivery of cases of victimization under investigation.

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