Changing Societal Culture and the Conundrum of Cybercrime in Nigeria

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Abstract - The integration of nations through the instrumentality of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) comes with the issue of cybercrime, which has become a 21st century crime that cut across national boundaries. The problematic of cybercrime has become an issue that has put Nigeria on a negative limelight among the comity of nations. Despite government effort at combating the menace, it has become a reoccurring phenomenon. Disconcertingly, the laws enacted and institutions setup has not yielded much results. This study draws on both primary and secondary sources of data. It examines the issue of cybercrime and the activities of cyber impostors by problematizing the relationship between the structure and function of societal institutions. Analysis of responses from in-depth interview reveals that positive values are gradually eroding the Nigerian state. The study therefore indicts poverty, unemployment, greed and desperation, lack and weak family values as well as weak institutions as triggers of cybercrimes in Nigeria. It recommends that all state institutions must work in synergy to curb the threat, the academic curriculum has to be reviewed to accommodate current realities, families need to become active and alive to their responsibility as the first agent of education and discipline. Channels that can guarantee anonymous reportage of cyber ruffians should be created so that well-meaning citizens could whistle blow suspected cases for onward investigation.
Keywords: Cybercrime, Yahoo, Nigeria Culture

I. INTRODUCTION

Africans were always known to be a society that is socially knitted where child nurturing is accepted as a collective responsibility hence children are disciplined by members of the society especially in the absence of the parents. In Nigeria, child rearing is seen as community responsibility where the upbringing of the child especially as it relates to discipline and protection is collectively enforced. In some cases, the community pull resources together to sponsor the education of members. Children are taken from their parents by relatives and communal neighbours to cities to fend for with full responsibility for their welfare. In recent past, people who indulge in criminal related activities are ostracized from the community and in some cases the family is made to serve various degree of punishment. As Adebowale (2014) asserts, in the past, Nigerians were highly guided by appreciated values that led to success stories often told by the aged and old parents, this made Nigerians resilient in their various endeavor and brought the country into limelight. Fafunwa (1974) posits that society use to prioritize the inculcation of values, social responsibility, job orientation and morality hence every responsible member of society serve as a teacher. As developmental strive are achieved, the social aspects of society seems to fade away, which therefore leads to increased crime rate ranging from kidnapping, rape, armed robbery amongst others.

The advancement in information and communication technology has made the world a global village. However, the laudable innovation, which has bridged the barriers caused by distance, has become a tool employed by some to execute various degrees of crime. Nations has been smudged by the evolution of new waves of crime perpetrated via the internet hence the Internet hasbecome a lucrative and a safe environment for crimes (Ndubueze 2012, Okeshola & Adeta 2013 and Igba *et al.,* 2018). Over the years, cybercrime has threatened the global space from Europe to America, Africa to Asia (Ndubueze 2012, Okeshola & Adeta 2013, Dagachi, Sule & Damagun 2014 and Omeire & Omeire 2017).

Cybercrime is fast becoming one of the most prevalent crimes plunging and devastating the modern Nigerian state. Regrettably, Nigeria has a reputation for cybercrime in the international community as one of the hotspots. Cyber crooks are intellectually sound people who understand the psyche of various age AGES, gender, profession and economic strata. As part of their tactics, they manipulate the minds and massage the egos of the most vulnerable group of young adults and even the aged who are so susceptible (Dagachi, Sule & Damagun 2014). Moreover, the victims of cybercrimes cannot be entirely exculpated in their conspiracies in the outcome (Jegede, Olowookere & Elegbeleye 2016). Cybercrime has been given local nicknames across West Africa. For instance, in Ghana it is referred to as 'Sakawa', Cameroon, 'Faymania', and Nigeria "Yahoo Yahoo" also known as "Street" and those involved have been nicknamed "Aza man" in the interiors respectively (Okeshola & Adeta 2013 and Omeire & Omeire 2017) which has led to loss of organizational and household economies as well as loss of human resources as some persons fall into depression after their experience and even death (Okeshola & Adeta 2013). As the number of Internet users continues to rise, more cases of cyber-attack and fraud are recorded. For instance, as at May 2020, there are 122m Internet users in Nigeria (NCC 2020) and strange occurrence that has become part of the daily experience in Nigeria with over 70% organization reported to have experienced cyber-attack (Vanguard 2020). To show the

extent to which internet related crimes damages the Nigerian state, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) in 2016 during a workshop organized to build media capacity in the struggle against cybercrime alleged that Nigeria loses approximately 89.55 billion naira annually to cybercrime (Abutu, 2016).

This paper draws on both primary and secondary sources of data. The author conducted in-depth interviews. The article is structured into six sections. Immediately following this introduction is conceptual justification, theoretical underpinning, and current trends in cybercrimes in Nigeria, efforts at combating cybercrime in Nigeria, triggers of cybercrime, conclusion and recommendations.

II. CONCEPTUAL JUSTIFICATION

The clarification of the term cybercrime is imperative for a good grasp of the discourse. As used in this article, cybercrime implies any electronic enabled business activities executed on the internet designed intentionally to ensnare and fiddled. Lanshima (2017) posit that cybercrimes are misdemeanors perpetrated against individuals or groups with the intent to deliberately harm or injure the repute of the victim or cause bodily or psychological harm to the victim using modern information communication networks. Cybercrimeis any unlawful conduct carried out against individuals, organizations, communities, property or government which can lead to losses physically, psychologically, and emotionally (Ndubueze 2012).

Contributing to the debate, Wilson (2008) categorized cybercrimes in two: Crime that is directed at computers and crimes that are computer-enabled. At the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, in a workshop devoted to the issues of crimes related to computer networks, cybercrime was divided into two classifications. Cybercrime in a narrow sense is any illicit behaviour targeted by means of electronic processes aim at the security of computers systems and the data processed by them. Cybercrime in a broader sense is any illegal behaviour committed by means of, or in relation to, a computer system or network, including such crimes as illegal ownership and offering or dispensing information by means of a computer system or network.

A cybercrime is a crime executed using computers and networks. This involves a wide range of activities, from unlawful downloading of movies and music files to stealing money from online bank accounts. Cyber criminals are not always financially motivated. Cybercrimes include non-monetary offenses as such as job-related frauds, matrimonial frauds; stealing and misusing sensitive personal information (credit/debit card details, bank account authorizations, etc.); defamation of character on social media; circulation of computer viruses etc. (Maharashtra Cyber 2020:7, Imranuddin,2017 and Maitanmi, Ogunlere, Ayinde, Adekunle 2013). Cybercrime is a crime enabled via

the Internet (Imranuddin 2017: 21-22, Dzever 2016: 4). Again, the Commonwealth Organization (2008), posits that cybercrime not only includes crimes against computer systems (e.g. hacking, denial of service attacks and the setup of botnets) but also conventional crimes perpetrated on electronic systems (such as fraud via phishing and spam; illicit Internet-based trade in drugs, protected group and arms) and prohibited content distributed electronically, (e.g. child sexual abuse material).

Cybercrime is any illegal action relating to an information technology infrastructure: including unlawful access; illegal interruption that involves technical means of non-public transmissions of computers data to, from or within a computer system; data meddling that include unauthorized destruction, obliterating, deterioration, modification or clampdown of computer data; system prying that is interfering with the functioning of a computer system by inputting, transmitting, damaging deleting, waning, altering or quashing computer data; misuse of devices, falsification (identity theft), and electronic fraud (International Actions Against Cybercrime 2007). For Maitanmi, Ogunlere, Ayinde, Adekunle (2013), cybercrime refers to all activities done with criminal intent in cyberspace, which can be categorized into crimes against persons, crimes against business and non-business establishments and crimes against the government.

III. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

In the analysis of social events, theories are essential instruments useful for the elucidation or prediction of social phenomenon. This paper adopts the structural functionalism theory for its theoretical argument. This theory appropriately explains the causal factors responsible for the societal acceptance of the activities of cyber criminals Nigeria. The structural functional theory has as its major proponent Gabriel Almond an American political scientist. Other theorists that have expanded the frontiers includes: Cancian (1968), Merton (1968), Levy (1968), Susser (1992) amongst others. Structural functionalism theory proposed that society is a made up of different structures that performs different functions.

Structure is a pattern of action with subsequent formal configurations. Function in this context means an objective consequence which flows from a pattern of action that enables the system to adjust, maintain stability and development (Ottong 2014). According to Fisher (2010) function is any condition or state of affairs resulting from an action of a unit of the type under consideration in terms of structure. The theory regards society as a single interrelated social system, each component of which performs a distinct function. The fundamental distinguishing feature is the combination of its parts and functional integration of system occasioned by the interdependence of the components. Structure may be defined as patterns of observable homogeneity in terms of the action or process taking place.

Contributing to the theory, Cancian (1968) describes two distinguishing categories of functional analysis: traditional and formal. Traditional functional analysis is the most commonly used and relevant to this study. It is based on the premise that all social patterns work to sustain the combination and adaptation of the larger system.Two distinguishing qualities that differentiate the traditional functional analysis from other forms of analysis includes: a social pattern explained by the outcomes of that pattern, and the consequences that must be advantageous and essential to the proper workings of society.

In every society, different functions are performed by different structures. Societal structures are not only limited to certain function rather they are multifunctional and the structures (institutions) can be identified such as the family and the police. The Nigerian society like other states has structures (institutions) that perform various functions. Achieving social stability is not just the responsibility of government or its agencies but the collective efforts of all other institutions in the state. For instance, the police as an institution of state is structured and empowered to maintain law and order. The family performs not just the function of child rearing but also education and discipline. The society is made up of different structures that regulate and maintain social order as well as inculcate morals. The failure of any structure can impact negatively on the entire social system leading to system failure which can be noticed in various forms of crimes in the society.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study adopts the empirical design of qualitative research (Creswell, 2012). The interview tool for data collection was used to find the perception of selected participants as it relates to the scourge of cybercrime in Nigeria. In order to uncover their perception towards the activities of cyber gangsters, five participants were interviewed. Among them, are two females and three males for ethical consideration and to ensure the anonymity of the research participants, their names and place of resident was notsorted for (Flick, 2012). Informed consent to participate was obtained from each participantand there was no audio record of conversations to maintain the natural setting.

V. MANIFESTATIONS OF CYBER CRIME

In Nigeria, perpetrators of cybercrime take advantage of e-commerce platforms with active users to defraud victims locally and internationally. They deceitfully present themselves to unsuspecting targets as legitimate business owners or agents. The advent of social media has given the cybercrimes another phase; cyber criminals create profiles, hack and sometimes buy some existing account from those who choose to sell their account especially old accounts. Psychological scheming is used to source for personal information. One of the ways they carry out their activities as observed bySoomro and Hussain (2019), people using social networking sites receive messages from their friendsor relative requesting immediate financial assistance or investment. Actually, these messages were not sent by their friends or relative but by the criminal who filched their friends' emails and passwords. Furthermore, some profiles are created with the gender intended to fit a particular character. Victims looking for online romance sometimes send call card, internet data and in some cases transport fare or local flight ticket where the location of the victim is far from that of the hoaxer. After such transaction the victim is blocked from accessing the profile.

There has been the infiltration of Nigerian e-space with various forms of share and earn platforms that has metamorphose into Ponzi schemes causingmany to part with their money. These channels have been used to perpetrate cybercrimes. Users sign-up on these platforms with enticing conditions and as the platform grows, new conditions are introduced to increase the number of users on the platform in other to earn more from google AdSense and other ads. The operators and admins are largely unknown. As Abutu (2016) avers, cyber thugs in Nigeria have also taken advantage of the insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria to defraud unsuspecting international organizations and philanthropic individuals who are sending in reliefs in support of the internally displaced persons due to incessant attack by terrorists in the region. The crooks set up websites soliciting for assistance on behalf of the victims.

As the society continues to turn its blind side to these offenders, there has been a new dimension as some persons operate the "business" at a large scale, locally called HK (House ofKings). They invest in computers, sophisticated phones and Internet data. The business is usually setup as a secret office and young people recruited and sometimes pay money to acquire the skill. Depending on the agreement, the young ones are trained in the act of fraud and are paid based on commission while some are just there to learn the act. This explains why some of these cyber crooks are caught in large numbers especially in their base. For instance, EFFC (2019) reported to have apprehended eleven suspected cyber hoodlums at Parliamentary extension, Akai Efa, Calabar, Cross River state. Additionally, twenty-seven suspects were arrested in the Lekki area of Lagos state with sophisticated phones and computers (EFCC, 2020).

The computerization of the banking system has become a threat to Nigerians due to the activities of cyber ruffians. Debit card fraud in which an unauthorized person uses someone's credit card information for withdrawing cash from it or makes purchases (Soomro and Hussain 2019) has become one of the ways of defrauding people. For instance, bank accounts are hacked by criminals posing as customer care representatives requesting to activate or deactivate transactions on account. In the recent past, they send a sort of general message without stating the bank urging the supposed customer to call a certain number to resolve the issue. Some people have become victims due to their ignorance of how online banking works especially with the compulsory linking of account to Automatic Teller Machine

(ATM) cards implemented by most banks due to withdrawal restrictions via counter. Recently, they have improved on their modus operandi by giving accurate information on customers in what seems like they collaborate with bank staff to get customers details and then try to trick customers to get the digits on their ATM card and the pin. As a respondent said;

To continue to "hit it big" we have to up our game (cybercriminals). There's no need requesting for ATM details. When you give information on the prospective victim account (the name of the bank, account number, account balance and last transaction on the account) before the request for ATM pin is made to finalize things.

VI. EFFORTS AT COMBATIN CYBERCRIMES IN NIGERIA

In a bid to reduce cybercrimes, the government has made several efforts especially in the area of legislation with the Cybercrime Act of 2015. Prior to the Act, the criminal laws used by the law enforcement agencies were the Evidence Act of 1948, Advance Fee Fraud Act of 2006, the Money Laundering Act of 2004 section 12(1) (c) - (d), and the Economic and Financial Crime Commission Act of 2005. As such, an appropriate cyber law is required urgently to tackle the activities of cybercrime and ensure cyber security.

One of the striking aspects of the Act states thus:
"as a business concern with Computer Professionals' Registration Council in addition to a business name registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission. Cybercafés shall maintain a register of users through a sign-in register. This register shall be available to law enforcement personnel whenever needed" (Parliament of Nigeria, 2015).

Despite the above aspect of the Act, most cybercafés in the country operate without a license, however perpetrators of crimes on the e-space no longer patronize the services of cybercafes rather they invest in gadgets that can enable a smooth operation from any location (Jegede, Olowookere & Elegbeleye 2016).

The Federal Government (FG) in 2016 instituted a 31-man Cybercrime Advisory Council in Abuja presided by the National Security Adviser Major-General Babagana Monguno (Rtd.) with membership drawn from the EFCC, Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), Directorate of State Security Service (DSS), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Ministries of Trade and Investments, Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Justice, Nigeria Stock Exchange, The Nigerian Prison Service, The Nigerian Police Force, Galaxy Backbone amongst others. The council was mandated to create an enabling environment for experience, knowledge and intelligence sharing amongst members to proffer solutions for the inhibition and control of cybercrimes as well as to promote cyber security in Nigeria (Ewepu, 2016).

To mitigate the activities of cyber charlatans, the National Assembly debated and passed A BILL; the Internet Freedom Bill and the Electronic Data Bill (2001). In the same year, the Federal government set up the National Committee on Advanced Fee Fraud (NCAFF) with a responsibility to develop tactics and clip the activities of charlatans and their agents. This was as a result of Britain, France and the USA planning to blacklist the country unless serious deliberate measures were put in place by government to combat mindless theft of public funds by Nigerian Cyber criminals and their foreign collaborators. Hence the Nigerian government set up NCAFF. This was against the backdrop that Britain, France and the USA were planning to blacklist the country. With a deadline set at December 2002, the efforts of this committee led to the promulgation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), with unlimited powers to trace, track and investigate accounts of any person suspected to be involved in such frauds.

VII. TRIGGERS OF CYBERCRIMES IN NIGERIA

Cybercrime among youths is a conspicuous symptom of institutional dysfunction. A situation in which pecuniary success is valued over hard work and morality. This state emerged largely because of structural inequalities, blocked opportunities; Nigeria quota system policy and government neglect of youths has increased their vulnerability and proclivity to engage in cybercrime (Omeire & Omeire 2017). The conjoined twin social economic condition of unemployment and poverty are two sides of a coin that is ravaging majority of Nigerian families. There has been high rate of unemployment amongst youth with majority of unemployed graduates roaming the streets and a good number of underemployed young people. Graduate youth unemployment stands at 59.2 % with a growing population estimated to be about 200m of which over 50% are young people. As Olayinka (2019) puts it, over 93 million Nigerians still live-in poverty, and a minimum of three million slipped into extreme poverty between November 2018 and February 2019. A study on Nigeria indicates that of the 10 African countries sampled, the rate of poverty overtime has been considerably high at 86.9%. Again, data on poverty headcount in the year 2000 climaxed at 79.6% but recorded its lowest level in 1997 with a headcount allotment of 44.7%. On average, between 1960 to 2015, poverty headcount in Nigeria was 61.8% of the population. This considerably high level of poverty in Nigeria calls for government responsiveness in curbing the threat due to the negative consequences on the cyber space (GCIP 2019).

In a recent report by the World Poverty Clock, 46.5% of Nigerians are extremely poor and live below the poverty line of $1.90 per day. According to the World Poverty Clock (2019), Nigeria is the poverty hub of the world with extreme poverty increasing by almost six persons per minute. Sadly, the transfer of financial burden to some young people when they are financially incapacitated. As

one of the respondents explained on why people engage in criminal activities due to family expectations:

People engage in cybercrime because of several factors depending on the individual. One can go into cybercrime because of family background. A situation where the family can barely afford two square meals, and members are expected to fend for themselves at tender age while some of us engage in cybercrime in other to lift the family from the reach of poverty, unemployment is another reason. In Nigeria, some parents who are low-income earners are able to financially support their wards through school such wards by societal standards are expected to contribute financially to educate other siblings and due high rate of unemployment in the land and my inability to secure an average job, cybercrime become the alternative to make it big and quick.

Unfortunately, some perpetrators have been arrested alongside close family members and in some cases their spouses as their accomplice. For instance, in 2019, an Ikoyi High Court, Lagos state remanded a culprit and mother for alleged Internet related fraud of $82,570 (EFCC 2019). In 2020 the EFCC arrested a culprit who was alleged to have swindled unsuspecting victims of their hard-earned monieswas arrested alongside his mother and girlfriend as the accomplices in Agbor, Delta State (Kumashe, 2020). Again, a Lance Corporal and others was arrested including their girlfriends in the Lekki area of Lagos state for cyber related crime (Soni, 2020). In Sokotostate, a man was arraigned alongside his two sons and a friend as collaborators (EFCC 2019). While most of these crimes have been attributed to unemployment, some employees had committed other mind-blowing cybercrimes. BBC (2019) assert that, in 2019 a Kirikiri Maximum prison inmate, Hope Olusegun Aroke alleged to have defrauded his victim to the tune of $1m despite being remanded in prison for a similar crime. It was revealed that the controller aided him and the medical doctor in charge of the medical facility who had fraudulently issued a medical report that gave him pass to leave the facilities to a hotel where the culprit was rearrested.

According to Falayi and Ajayi (2018), in May 2017, an Ikeja High Court sentenced a prisoner, IkechukwuOgbu, to eighteen years imprisonment for swindling his victim, Patrick EdetChukwu, of a sum of N12. 3 million while serving a ten-year sentence at Kirikiri prison. Similarly, in October 2017, a jailbird of the Kuje prison, IfeanyiEzenwa, was accused of operating a fake bank alert fraud while in detention. He was accused of defrauding an orthopedic medical store of two-wheel chairs and N50, 000, and duped Elizade Motors into handing over a vehicle, which his partner, DahaltuYahaya, sold for N12million. No doubt the activities of these jailbirds were aided by those employed to oversee their affairs. As Oyekola (2020) assert, two members ofthe academia in Kwara state were arrested by the EFCC for cyber related fraud. Young people less than eighteen (18) years of in secondary schools that ought to focus on acquiring skills are gradually becoming part of the

system. Despite the condemnation of cybercrimes especially due to itsadverse effect on the Nigerian state, a respondent confirmed the culpability of some members of society when he opined that:

The society supports our (cyber hooligans) activities with silence and some openly celebrates some of us the source of wealth doesn't matter. Some of these luxury homes you see are majorly leased to people into cybercrimes and some of these landlords and landlady knewour source of income. In fact, in some areas, the cost of apartment is determined by us (cybercrime operators). Unfortunately, we set the standard especially if the area enjoys stable power supply. Secondary School students are also involved. Regrettably some of us also have religious houses and their prayers as a backup for success in the "business". Some law enforcement agents prefer to go after flamboyant looking guys; not to bring themto justice but to stifle them and make something for themselves. In some cases, top rank security officers give protection to these "boys" that is, a situation where lower-level officers apprehend a suspect, a call from "oga" (superior) will squash the case. To avoid embarrassment from security agents when we go out, some of us "hire" security agent as a guide to escape arrest.

These situations are intensified by the gratuitous emphasis on wealth and material possessions by the Nigerian society where the end seems to validate the means (Dagachi, Sule and Damagun 2014). In some cases, police escort are assigned to private individuals with questionable or no verifiable source of income. Although, the society seems perverse, despite what seems like a societal norm as expressed by the above respondent, some Nigerians still frowns at the activities of cyber criminals and will readily give information to law enforcement agents to help curb their activities. It is against this backdrop that a respondent posited that:

Though the society frowns at cybercrime and its activities, law enforcement agencies in some cases do not spare culprits, but majority (from my experience and that of myfriends) will request for money. Some parents even go as far as reporting their children and wards that they suspected to be involved in such activities to law enforcement agents. Some house owners have made it a part of their tenancy agreement when they let houses to single. Even some parents outrightly reject gifts from their children suspected to be internet but due to lack of education and values some members of society act otherwise.

The family isrelegated to the background in the pursuit of financial gains asparents no longer make out time to nurture their children and inculcate the endearing values Africans are known for. As Adebowale (2014) rightly puts it, the society is bereft of expected societal values that could be traced down to "the family". Some parents are no longer mindful of the right values to teach the children. Some children had their developmental stages in violent family that affected them in giving dignity and respect to human

being. Nigerian families today are under unparalleled financial, social and environmental pressure, making it difficult for parents to create loving, stable homes for their children to learn values and instilit in the society. Again, another respondent has this to say:

People sleep in their houses and walk on the streets feeling a bit safe because some of us are always at home "pressing" (perpetrating cybercrime). There is huge inequality in our country; hence some family members are silent about the activities of their siblings/relatives that are into cybercrimes. Some of our modern musicians are directly or indirectly encouraging cybercrimes, not only by their dressing and show of affluence on social media but also their lyrics. Theadvert of smartphones that can virtually function like a computer has made our job easy. While I know that what we are into is morally wrong and self-seeking and it will be okay if our activities to be nipped, government must as a matter of urgency put in measures to reduce the inequality before coming after us. Failure to do so may led to some other forms of insecurity.

The wide spread of young peoples' involvement in cybercrimes has invariably mitigated the incidence of armed robbery, large scale kidnapping for ransom, burglary amongst others especially in the streets due to the diversion and wide acceptance of cybercrimes amongst the youth. As Abutu (2019) opines that increased technology in the mobile industry and its subsequently penetration has made the cyberspace a treasured field for the exchange of goods and services for monetary compensation, but such use also stimulates cybercrime. In a study carried out by Suleman (2018), of 18 Nigerian hip-hop musical lyrics (2008-2017), it was revealed that while the intent of the musicians may not be to support cybercrimes, their lyrics may give confidence to cyber gangsters with the intent that some of the people they look up to encourage what they do.

Over the years and especially in this political dispensation, corruption in Nigeria has become a source of concern because it has neutralized efforts of all stakeholders aimed at the eradication of poverty and hunger in Nigeria (Akinbi 2003). With jumbo sized maximum wage by those in government in an economy where minimum wage per month is less than $100. Huge rents accrue to the states has been plundered by those charge with the responsibilityto oversee the equitable distribution of our commonwealth. Some political office holders who have been found to have mismanaged state resources have been allowed to roam without any form of accountability. In some cases where people are brought before the law, it is done based on party affiliation. For example, the ex-governor of Lagos contravened the money-laundering act during the 2019 general election. Despite the recent call by thousands of Nigerians who signed a social media petition no move has been made by the financial crime agencies (Nwachukwu, 2020).

The efficiency of the judicial system is measured by its adeptness to meet the objectives of "deterrence,

incapacitation, retribution, rehabilitation, and reintegration" (Ukwayi & Okpa 2017). One of the issues that have affected the state ability to curb crimes is the slow judicial process. Though laws are in place to checkmate this menace, issues that pertain to the judicial has continued to hinder the smooth operation of the laws. There have been judicial bottlenecks that have impeded the process of justice. People are psychological triggered to commit crimes where the judiciary process operates based on selective justice. A situation where the long arm of the law is too short to catch up with some people yet strong and long enough to others when same crime is committed encourages crimes.

The society is divided into two distinct groups when it comes to financial crimes: "Yahoo boys" and "Yahoo men". While the former are defrauding people using the Internet, the later does its own via public office. Unfortunately, the boys seem to be learning from the "men" on how to live a good life and since the "men" do not show good examples to the "boys" and the "boys" do not have same opportunity as the men because the men seem to have made elective position their birthright by either running for positions, handpicking or full support for candidates of their choice. To live a flamboyant life, the "boys" have resorted to crimes.

Social media influences young people to engage in cybercrime because it increases awareness (both positive and negative), peer pressure. The achievements of friends and social networks are displayed on social media. This shameless display of luxury, affluence, and ostentation during poverty which has already overtaken society is exercised on the platform of social media. Social media ought to make life easier as people can keep up with loved ones, classmate, colleague, and friends by eliminating distance barrier. However, people have converted such platforms to place where luxurious life is displayed hence, young people begin to admire and mesmerize these lifestyles to the extent that they begin to desire it for themselves andmap out ways to acquire such. Some in a bid to afford such, engage in cybercrimes. Their initial successesin such adventure makes them think that they are wise and since legitimate hard work has been eliminated, they spend the proceeds lavishly and continueto look for other victims to scam. They are thus caught in the circle thus lack the ability to engage in other productive ventures.

VIII. CYBER CRIME IN NIGERIA: THE WAY FORWARD

The study reveals that unemployment and poverty are the major drivers of cybercrime, which is gradually navigating towards societal reorientation. The problematic of greed and excessive quest for wealth and fame has made many to accumulate wealth at the expense of others. Laws have been put in place to address the issues of cybercrimes in Nigeria however theextent by whichthese laws have been able to effectively reduce the phenomenon remains an issue. For the struggle against cybercrimes and cybercriminals to yield

the desired results, every stratum of society must be actively involved.

The forgoing discourse reveals some pertinent issues regarding cybercrime crimes in Nigeria. Firstly, to forestall the activities of those who engage in cyber fraud, families must begin to frown and discipline their children/wards and perpetrators must be brought to book which will serve as deterrent to others and those who aid them. The government should not only make laws but also make the already existing laws to be effective. The federal and state governments should create industrial hubs to accommodate handful of those graduating variousinstitutions yearly as well as make the environment investment friendly so as to attract investors and encourage young entrepreneurs. Again, monthly stipend should be paid to all graduates. Parents and society should discontinue the act of pressurizing their children/wards rather bring them up to uphold integrity and dignity of labour. There is also the need to review the academic curriculum at all levels to adequately address the issue of cybercrime and its triggers as well as its adherent dangers. As a matter of urgency, our religious institutions and highly revered traditional stools should speak against cybercrime and reject gifts from people with questionable wealth. This is because Nigeria is a religious nation, and everyone belongs to a particular religion and has someone they respect and adhered to their instructions. Finally, channels that can guarantees the safety of citizens should be created to encourage the people to report suspected cyber criminals.

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