

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON REGIONAL POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract: *This study assessed the impact of regional policing on crime prevention with emphasis on Amotekun in Oke Ogun and Ibarapa communities of Oyo State, Nigeria. The main objective of the study was to assess the impact of crime on socio-economic development of residents of Oyo State and the efforts of Amotekun on the prevention of crimes. Descriptive survey was adopted for the purpose of research methodology. A total of 139 respondents were drawn out of the population 1,602,979 using Taro Yarmane's statistical formula and simple random sampling. Copies of questionnaire were distributed to them to generate information relevant to the research questions raised. The methods of data analysis consisted of cumulative frequency tables, figure, simple percentage, mean average and hypotheses were tested using Chi-Square and correlation statistical tools (Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 23). The study discovered that criminal activities have significantly affected the socio-economic development of Oyo State in ways such as decline in investments, limited movements of people, social order disruption, chaos and confusion and it hinders community collaboration and trust. Challenges of regional policing as revealed by the findings include the following; community mistrust, frosty relationship between government security agencies and community members, godfatherism interference, inadequate infrastructure and poor funding and dearth of modern weapons. The study recommended that the State government should intensify efforts by providing more funds for Amotekun which would be judiciously utilized to purchase modern security gadgets in order to reduce armed robbery, kidnapping and banditry within Oyo State. Also achievements of Amotekun should be publicized to the public so as to put more fear in the hearts of criminals or intended criminals to stay off crime. Town hall meetings consisting of members of Amotekun, government officials and other security agencies should be organized regularly as to educate the people about the importance of regional policing and its impact on crime prevention.*

Keywords: *Policing, Regional Policing, Crime, Crime Prevention, Insecurity, Security agencies, Amotekun*

Introduction

One of the key functions of any government is to ensure lives and properties are protected and this basic function is not restricted to any form of government. Over the decades, scholars, citizens as well as politicians have paid cursory attention to the security issues because of its peculiar importance to socio and economic development to the nation. The State set up security apparatus such the Police, Armed Forces and other paramilitary outfits to promote peaceful co-existence among the people and to protect the country against external aggression. Over the few decades, Nigeria has experienced unprecedented

crises, ranging from politics, religious and ethnicity differences. Every geo-political zones of the country has felt devastating effects of conflicts. These conflicts situations have can be traced to Nigeria's independence whereby primordial sentiments have eclipsed the lofty gains of true nationalism. The Biafran war and the pogrom that occurred between 1967 and 1970 in the Eastern region of Nigeria is one event that still lingers in the minds of many people, especially from the Igbos (Olushola and Adeleke, 2020).

The North Eastern part of Nigeria has not been left out in terms of criminal activities. The issue of terrorism attacks carried out by the Boko Haram group has rendered many people homeless; thousand of people have lost their lives while businesses have been shut down. States such as Benue, Plateau in the North Central have also had their fare share of the incessant disputes between herders and farmers which have resulted to unprecedented number of deaths, injuries, lost of properties and other crimes peculiar to communal and religious clashes. North West of the country is not also left out, as Zamfara State has been infested with armed bandits while Kaduna State has become a hub for religious and community clashes; where the Muslims are the majority in Northern Kaduna and in Southern Kaduna, a preponderant Christian population and the battle for supremacy has been ongoing for some years unabated (Olushola and Adeleke, 2020).

Militancy and other agitations from well armed youths in the crude oil endowed South-South region is also very rampant. Ritual killing, kidnapping, communal clashes banditry is rampant the South-West and across the whole country. In the face of deplorable security conditions in the country, the performance of Nigeria Police Force (NPF) across the country has been abysmal. The rate at crimes are committed across the country is quite alarming. The NPF has been poorly funded; ill-equipped; understaffed and undue political interference have been fundamental challenges confronting the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies in the country. The security challenges hitherto mentioned above have made state governments in Nigeria to formulate security initiatives to consolidate the efforts of conventional federal government security agencies. In January 2020, in Ibadan, the governors in the South West part of Nigeria collaboratively established the security outfit code-named 'Operation Amotekun' which it is translated in Yoruba language to mean Leopard. The birth of Amotekun gave rise to the establishment of other security initiatives. On the 5th of February 2020, the Northern governors teamed up to came up with Shega-Ka-Fasa which in Hausa is translated as "I dare you" and it has a Lion as its symbol (Enyiocha and Idowu, 2020; Isenyo, 2020; Hassan, 2020). In the same vein, the Ohanaeze Ndigbo (the apex socio-cultural organisation of the Igbo land) suggested 'Operation Ogbunigwe' as a security initiative (Punch, 2020).

Statement of the Problem

The South West communities have been experiencing several degrees of criminal activities. The high rate of crime in the region has caused members of the communities to generate negative feeling concerning the efforts of security agencies. They have lost properties worth a fortune and there have been wanton killings, kidnapping, armed robbery and other crimes perpetuated by armed bandits within communities in the South West and other parts of Nigeria. The creation of Amotekun by the South-West governors have been greeted by many as a lofty idea in dealing with the prevailing security challenges in the region. Despite its creation, the security outfit has received condemnation from the federal

government arguing that the security outfit operates negates the laws of Nigeria. Also, some of the South West residents have expressed their feelings about the operations of the security outfits. According to a report by Premium times (2021), kidnapping and killings are still rampant in the region despite the security outfit operations. Residents of Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa axis of Oyo State have been hit hard by the herders onslaught and this led to the intervention of a self-acclaimed activist known as Sunday Igboho. Several challenges have impeded the performance of Amotekun and these include; inadequate funding to purchase weapons and security infrastructure; poor intelligent security architecture to perform optimally; poor synergy with members of the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies (Adejumo, 2021). For reasons aforementioned, it is necessary to investigate this study entitled: “A critical analysis of regional policing and crime prevention in Nigeria: Amotekun in Perspective.

There are fundamental questions which this study which be hinged upon and they are as follows:

- i. How do criminal activities significantly affect socio-economic development?
- ii. In what ways Amotekun operations have been able to curb crimes?
- iii. What are the challenges of regional policing in the study area?
- iv. What is the perception of residents concerning the operations of Amotekun in regards to fighting crimes?

Objectives

The major objective of this research is to evaluate the impact of regional policing on crime prevention in Nigeria: a study of Amotekun while the specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. Find out how criminal activities significantly affect socio-economic development in Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa communities.
- ii. Examine the ways Amotekun operations have been able to curb crimes in Ogun and Ibarapa communities.
- iii. Discover the challenges of regional policing in Ogun and Ibarapa communities.
- iv. Find out the perception of residents concerning the operations of Amotekun in regards to fighting crimes in Ogun and Ibarapa communities.

Statement of Hypotheses

The study is guided by the following hypotheses:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between Amotekun efforts and crime prevention within Oyo State.

H1: There is a significant relationship between Amotekun efforts and crime prevention within Oyo State.

Theoretical Framework

This study was hinged on the Social Contract Theory which was propounded by three great scholars – Thomas Hobbes (1588 – 1679) and John Locke (1632 – 1704) and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 – 1778). The Social Contract Theory is a popular theory that

is widely used to explain the origin of the state (Ogunnoki, 2018). For this study, the contributions of Thomas Hobbes would suffice. The English Civil War (1642-1651) and the occurring events in English during the mid-17th century shaped the perception of Thomas Hobbes. This led to his publication called the “Leviathan” and it was coin from the Holy Bible to mean sea monster – see Job 41:1-34; Psalm 74:14; Isaiah 27:1. In his fictional book, Hobbes made attempts to justify absolute sovereign that has the capacity to maintain law and order in a state. He was of the belief that the state of nature is a product of his explanation of the human nature and he went further to state that all men are equal both in mind and body.

In the view of Hobbes, man is naturally selfish and he submitted that his actions in a state of nature are not borne out of his intellect or rational reasoning but passion, desires and appetites (Appadorai, 1968; Gauba, 2003). Life in the state of nature was full of consistent struggle, unending conflict and a condition referred to as ‘Warre’, where men were against themselves and the life of man was “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short” as there was no common legitimate authority over them. The state of nature lacked morality and development through industry was at the lowest ebb because of psychological fear of violence, death. Hobbes postulated that there are three things that give rise to ‘Warre’ and these include: i) competition ii) difference, and iii) love of glory. Thus, men that sought self-preservation opted to exit the state of nature and established a society and state by deciding a social contract among them. The social contract is an agreement that allows the people to surrender their natural rights and powers this agreement cannot be revoked by the people involved or their generations.

Hobbesian view of the Social Contract Theory has been faulted for the lacuna in the chain of his argument. According to Thomas Hobbes, human action in a state of nature was determined by appetites, desires and passions (Gauba, 2003). How come the savages abruptly became rational beings, capable of reaching peacefully a consensus for their mutual interest of security? is a question left unanswered by Hobbes. Lastly, Hobbesian state of nature, which brutes lived in, cannot be proven with historical evidence. Hence, a number of critics are in agreement that the horrendous state of nature Hobbes wrote about only existed within the walls of his imagination which he penned down in black and white in support of having an inalienable absolute sovereign.

Despite his theoretical shortcomings, Hobbes arguments have been relevant till date in explaining domestic and international security. For instance, the post-colonial state of Nigeria can be examined through some postulations of Hobbes theory. Nigeria as a Federation consists of three-level of government and the 1999 Constitution (as amended) clearly states the government has been legally authorized to protect the lives and properties of the people. Regrettably, the insecurity challenges in Nigeria today can be likened to “state of nature’ and the security agencies such as the Nigerian Police Force, being a part of the executive arm of government has not been very effective in tackling insecurities across the country. Hobbes submissions were dated century ago but it is relevant to our present insecurity situation in the country. This has called for a proper overall of the current security policies and the need for regional policing especially in the South West. The creation of security initiative like Amotekun is a right call to address the insecurity challenges especially within the South Westx region of the country.

Conceptual Analysis

It is imperative to define the following core concepts of this paper in order to have for the interested reader to have a clearer understanding:

Security

The concept of security has plethora of scholarly definitions. However there are key variables which could be linked to the definition of security. These variables include; presence of peace, safety, joyfulness and development of society through the protection of human lives and properties as well as enhancing the dignity of humans as against threat to life or injury. The development of human society and preservation of lives and properties are linked to security. The end of Cold War gave rise to myriad of scholarly perspectives concerning security studies. The dimension of security as a concept includes the following psychology, finance, access to information, public safety, defence as well as military issues. Everybody in the society desires security and there are usually two widely acceptable definition of the concept of security. The explanation of Buzan (1991), puts it as an ambiguous and multidimensional concept which has gained several misconstrued explanations.

Security concerns itself with the procedure that is related to gratifying any kind of threat to the values, morals the members of the society hold in high esteem. This is collaborated by the definition of Buzan (1991), when he observes that security deals with the states having freedom from threats and their capacity to sustain sovereign identity and having functional integrity to fight against hostile changes which are inimical to human survival (Bodunde et al, 2014). From this definition, there is a general consensus that security is when the members of the society are being safe from fear, harm, oppression, anxiety, danger, poverty, injury and possibly deaths. Security has to do with the preservation of the society's important values and a protection to the threat of those values. In the same vein, William (2008), posits that security's main purpose is to eradicate threats detrimental to the values widely cherished by the people, especially those threats harmful to the survival of an object particularly referenced. The freedom from the danger of threats to a nation's survival and its ability to develop by protecting its core values can be summed up as security. Ogaba (2010), submits that internal security can be described as a form of freedom or the absence of those features which could undermine cohesion internally, and the corporate existence of a nations and its capacity to sustain its core institutions for the facilitation of socio-political, economic goals and important values and to satisfy the yearnings of the people.

One can infer that irrespective of the school of thoughts; be it classical, traditionalist or non-traditionalist or state-centric, security is majorly concerned with protection of both living and non-living things from loss or destruction. Nwolise (2008), posits that there are generally two major schools of thoughts (Traditional and Non-Traditional) that explain the concept of security. The traditional school of thought is tilted towards the Cold War concept of security. This school of thought explains that security is concerned with safety from danger and freedom of external aggression or attack. The traditional school of thought gives emphasis to the state as the referent object (Abolurin, 2010). Scholars under this school posit that security is equated with peace and conflict prevention through military means (that is, policies to deter attackers or offensive defence). Walt (1991) definition of

security is line with this school of thought when he defined security as a study of threat, use and control of military coercion. The traditional school of thoughts pays much emphasis on the use of military might or coercion and defence policies employed by the state to engage in a war or avoid war. This school of thought is heavily connected to the military and this why Buxan (1991) observes that security is in an underdeveloped state and needed urgent rehabilitation. Nwolise (2008), opines that the period of Cold War propagated the doctrine that the most effective tool for dealing with threats or attacks is the use of military force.

Crime

The concept of crime has many definitions based on its usage. Merriam Webster Dictionary (2015) defines crime as an act or the commission of an act that is forbidden or gross violation of law. The types of crime which is common in Nigeria are; kidnapping, murder, pick pocketing, robbery and rape to mention a few. Crime is usually associated with the need to punish offenders. However, it could also include action or inaction which results to an individual, group of persons or property violating the criminal law. Generally speaking, the concept of crime involves moral values or codes and its violation which results to punishment (Sammons, 2001).

Put differently, crime is usually perceived as a random nature and committed by people with no connection to the victim. Morrison (2009), submits that media plays a greater part in shaping perception of the public concerning crime, ignorant to the differences between this observations and the reality of crime. There are four frameworks to determine the definition of crimes. The first of these is that crime can be seen from the social construction paradigm but this school of thought makes it difficult to define crime because crime is best explained by culture affiliations or simply put it is culture bound. Media has played the role of making the definition of crime difficult because of how crime is defined in a society is largely dependent on how the media presents it to the general public (Morrison, 2009). Media in this regard refers to both print and electronic media. Governments have formulated measures to curb criminal activities which are enshrined into criminal policy. Some scholars have argued that criminal policy plays the role of defining crime and creating crime rather than to prevent its escalation and this has made it difficult to have a general acceptable definition of crimes (Morrison, 2019).

Another parameter of defining crime is through the lenses of religious doctrine or authority as the case may be. Crime within this premise is concerned with conflict between what ought to be considered as a crime in the society and religion and between religions themselves. In the modern times however, crime can be seen as actions that negates the laws of God given to mankind. This definition is considered as clear but it has some shortcomings because it is argued by many that there are divergent views and interpretations of what actually constitutes the law of God. By this, it is a bit difficult to define crime across religions as different societies are bound on their peculiar belief system and moral values. Furthermore, there could be variations between religious laws and laws of the state. For instance, behaviours such as honour killings and domestic abuses can be sanctioned within a particular religion but would not tally with the tenets of state laws especially in the more developed western societies. The state judgment on crimes is not based on the religious affiliation of the offenders and this further illustrates the difficulty in defining crime within the purview of several perspectives.

Crime is also defined within the boundaries of law of a nation-state. That is, an act can be seen as criminal in line with the laws of the state in which it was committed. This also has created difficulty in defining crimes across nation-states. This is invariable means that crimes must be properly examined under the ambit of the law in which it was committed instead of generalizing its meaning across nation-states. It is pertinent to examine the tenets of the laws of the state where the crimes were committed to really understand if such acts are truly criminal. Morrison (1991), posits that this difficulty of general acceptance of the definition of crime can be eradicated by removing the term 'crime' and to use 'deviance' instead. Morrison posits that deviance is a concept widely recognized around the world and it consists of specific conditions particular to every society. He submitted by adopting the usage of deviance, it would help to eliminate the challenge associated with individual and societal defining the constituents of the composition of crime.

The rate at which crimes are committed on a daily basis in Nigeria is alarming. No region of the country is left behind as regard criminal activities. Nigeria is divided into regions and the South West region is one such regions. The South West region is consisted of six states – Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Lagos and Oyo State. These six states are contiguous geographically and they share similar belief systems, culture and language. This region has experienced pockets of conflicts in recent times. The level of insecurity within these six states has escalated from bad to worst. This is due to the incessant and unabated kidnapping, armed robbery on several major highways of these states. Ritualists, bandits and terrorists have been having a field day by carrying out their nefarious operations on communities within the South West region. The Ondo-Ore, Akure-Owo-Oba, Akoko-Akungba, Ilesha-Osogbo, Abeokuta-Lagos, Ipele-Ido, Ani, Ile-Ibadan. Ilaro-Owode-Idi-Iroko and Ijebu Igbo-Oru-Awa roads and others too numerous to mention have virtually become hot spots and unsafe for commuters to ply due to high criminal activities that occur on a regular intervals (Amaize et al, 2019).

The forms of crimes include the following:

1. Crimes against moral values

Every society has its own moral codes controlling human behaviours and a breach of these codes is considered as crime. In various communities there are families relations and marital relations which are guided by the moral values and culture. An act against these moral values and cultural beliefs is condemned and sometimes punished. For example, in some part of Nigeria, exposure of some certain private body parts in the public is moral crimes. Other examples include seducing a married man/lady, lying are considered as moral crimes.

2. Crimes against public peace and order

The safety of the people living in a community is very essential to their growth and development. The community is a group of living in particular geographical area sharing similar characteristics or who share common values. The peace and order of the community is needed to attract investors and sustain good governance.

3. Kidnapping

Kidnapping has been a rampant criminal act in recent times especially in Nigeria. The act involves the dehumanize torturing of human beings. This form of crime is rampant in Nigeria for the past few years. The story of 'Evans' the Billionnaire Kidnapper is still fresh in our minds. The modus operandi of these kidnapers has posed serious challenge to the

security agency. Most times huge ransoms are been asked from victims and if they fail to pay, the consequence can lead to death of the victims.

4) **Murdering**

The intentional killing of somebody is a crime of murder. Murder case usually attracts severe punishment depending on the gravity of the case. It may result to long years of imprisonment or death sentence form the court of law when the individual is found guilty of murder crime.

5) **Theft by house breaking**

Breaking of house is common in African societies especially in Nigeria. Often times this type of crime is carried out when the owner or the occupants of the house are not around or deep asleep.

Crime Prevention

Adeboye (2013), observes that crime prevention refers to the distraction of instruments that give rise to criminal activities. Put differently, crime prevention can also be seen as the design of attitudes and behaviours or actions geared towards both decreasing the negative effects of crimes and enhancing the sense of protection and security with the main aim of the betterment of the quality of life and reduction of crimes or total eradication within the society. Adeboye (2013) posits that criminologists have categorized three perception of crime prevention which are as follows:

(a) **Primary Prevention:** In this approach, societies make efforts to modify circumstances which has to do with ecology and provides measures for the reductions of crimes tendencies. This stage gives attention to the Police and the three core issues are; increasing the determination, increasing the danger of committing crime and reduction of the likely offender.

(b) **Secondary prevention:** This stage deals majorly with efforts to modify the attitudes and behaviours of people especially those with high tendency to commit crimes. The aim is to change their perception before they would indulge in criminal activities. Under this stage, the mass media, public enlightenment and civil societies play major role.

(c) **Tertiary Prevention:** This is the last stage dealing with the actual offender as the main focus. The purpose of this stage is to prevent future occurrence of crimes and it is also aimed at alleviating or total eradication of crimes within the society. Correctional centres and probation homes are key agents involved at this state.

Meaning of Regional Policing as regards to Nigeria Insecurity Challenges

In Nigeria political space, the year 2020 would be remembered as a year whereby several attempts were made by state governments to float security initiatives along ethnic lines in order to provide security and tame the nefarious criminal activities within their states. Nigeria presently operates Federalism which is separation of powers between the Federal government and component states. Security agencies such as the Military and other paramilitary agencies are under the exclusive list which is under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The states and local governments do not legislate under the exclusive list. There have been clarion call for regional police due to the high rate of criminal activities perpetuated in local communities. The arguments is that the federal police or military would not understand the terrain of the affected criminal localities therefore, a

regional police would be more instrumental to curbing crimes because the local people have a better understand of their areas.

On the other hand, some concerned Nigerians and scholars have argued that the creation of state police would further escalate criminal activities within the states because state governors would use them to carry out nefarious activities such as political witch-hunting of their political opponents, election rigging and other social vices. Regional policing has been a burning issue in Nigeria politics and some state governments have made several efforts to establish some sorts of security initiatives to provide support to the government security agencies in order to prevent crimes.

Amotekun is a complement that gives our people the confidence that they are being looked after by the people they elected into office. We do not want this to create fear in the mind of any one. We are not creating a regional police force. We are not oblivious of the steps we need to follow in forming a State police. We are law abiding citizens of Nigeria. We know that will require a constitutional amendment and we are not there yet. The state government of Oyo State on the 4th of August, 2020, made provision of the sum of 59.7 million naira as take-off grant for the Operation Amotekun (Adeniran, 2020). In the space of seven days later, the Ondo State government launched the pioneering officers of the Amotekun Corps who were trained in Akure which is state capital.

Amotekun

Amotekun is a security initiative of the Yorubaland in Nigeria and it is a yourba word which is translated in English – meaning “One that looks like a leopard”. Leopard means ‘ekun’ in Yoruba. Put in the right meaning, the word ‘Amotekun’ means a cheetah, but it is generally referred to as leopard. The Operation Amotekun was established on the 9th of January 2020 by the resolution of the six South West governors in Nigeria consisting of six states – Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo and Lagos States (Olawale, 2020). The creation of Operation Amotekun was because of the rising killings, kidnapping, banditry activities within the six states in the South West region which have rendered many injured, lives lost and properties destroyed. In the show of support, the six governors of the South West region made contributions towards the operations of Amotekun by providing 600 motorcycles in total, 20 vehicles each, except Oyo State government which provided 33 vehicles for kick-off (Ojelu, 2020).

The members of the security outfit consisted of local hunters, the members of Oodua Peoples’ Congress (OPC), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the local vigilante groups within the states. The security outfit major role is to assist the police, other security agencies such as the Military as well as the traditional rulers in combating and preventing banditry, terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery and providing better mechanism in settling farmers and herders conflicts within the South West region of the country. For kick-off, Osun, Lagos and Ekiti states employed a total of 1,320 operatives for their activities and they were equipped with dane guns and tasked to comb 52 deadly spots within the six South West states. The operatives of the security outfit will assist police, other security agencies and traditional rulers in combating terrorism, banditry, armed robbery, kidnapping and also help in settling herdsmen and farmers contentions in the region. For the startup, Lagos, Osun and Ekiti states, recruited 1,320 operatives for the operation, while they will carry dane guns like local hunters, operating in about 52 deadly black spots all over the southwest region.

With a prancing and angry Leopard as its logo, the lauded Amotekun Corps will have zero tolerance to criminal activities in the region (Egbas, 2020). This will only be achievable after the said Corps is formally established based on a legal framework. In Part III of Chapter VI, Section 214 (1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) states that “There shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force, and subject to the provisions of this section no other police force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof.” Going by this section of the constitution alone, the setting up of the Amotekun Corps is technically unconstitutional. However, as stated in Chapter II, Section 14 (2) (b) of the said constitution, “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government”. The word “government” here, as interpreted in Section 318 (1) under Part IV of Chapter VIII, “includes the Government of the Federation, or of any state, or of a local government council or any person who exercises power of authority on its behalf;” (WIPO, 2020.). Hence, the onus is on the governors of South West states to take appropriate measures in safeguarding the lives and property within their jurisdiction.

On the 14th of February, 2020, Ekiti State House of Assembly passed the bill setting up the Amotekun Corps in the state (Vanguard, 2020). On the 3rd of March, 2020, Ondo State House of Assembly passed the State Security Network Agency and Amotekun Corps Bill. Similar bills establishing Amotekun were passed same day by the Lagos, Oyo, Ogun and Osun State House of Assembly (Adeyemi et al., 2020). In the political arena of the Nigerian State, the first quarter of 2020 will be remembered as a period several regional security initiatives were floated along ethnic lines. At the launch, Ekiti State governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi, dispelled rumours making the rounds that the new security network is a regional police. Left to him, Amotekun is nothing but a confidence building strategy” and most importantly, about community policing that will not only complement the work of mainstream security agencies in the country which he commended, though according to him are “overstretched”, but will reduce the burden on them (Feyisipo, 2020; PM News, 2020). In his words: “Amotekun is not a duplication neither is it a replacement for the Nigeria Police Force. Amotekun is a complement that gives our people the confidence that they are being looked after by the people they elected into office. We do not want this to create fear in the mind of any one. We are not creating a regional police force. We are not oblivious of the steps we need to follow in forming a State police. We are law abiding citizens of Nigeria. We know that will require a constitutional amendment and we are not there yet” (PM News, 2020).

On the 4th of August, 2020, the government of the Oyo State governor, Seyi Makinde, approved the sum of 59.7 million naira as grant for the take-off of ‘Operation Amotekun’ in the state (Adeniran, 2020). Seven days after, Ondo State governor, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, inaugurated the pioneering officers of the Amotekun Corps who just completed their training in Akure, the state capital. The Operation Amotekun has made some strides in combating criminal activities within the South West region. It is reported that after its inauguration, a month later, the Corps arrested three key members of a kidnapping gang which were Fulani herdsmen according to reports from eye witnesses. (Gbadamosi, 2020). After that victory, Chief Olu Falae farmland at Ilado was raided by suspected herdsman destroying farm produce as well as inflicting several forms of injuries on the workers. Despite the Amotekun’ presence, the attack was carried out unabated (Otabor, 2020).

Empirical Literature Review

Several scholarly works have been carried concerning regional policing and its impact on crime prevention. Odewale and Lamidi (2020) carried a research entitled: “Regionalization of Non-State Security Agencies in Southwest Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges of Amotekun” This study examined the ways and theoretical applications of the operation of Amotekun in the South West region of Nigeria. Their study was to provide relevant information concerning the prospects and security challenges of Amotekun. They adopted a survey design whereby sources of data were mainly generated through journals and textbooks. The study revealed that criminal activities have increased within the South West region but however the rise of crimes can be curtailed and reduced to lowest ebb if the security initiative is well managed. The challenges discovered based on the study include; unnecessary suspicion among the ethnic groups in Nigeria, conflict between security agencies and the use of Amotekun to settle personal conflicts among others. The study recommends the need for a better legal framework from each state in the region in terms of establishment, operations, finance and adequate cooperation among all the government apparatus so as to adequately protect lives and properties. The study concludes that Amotekun should be adequately nurtured.

Monsuru and Rafiu (2016) carried a research entitled: Alternative approach to policing in Nigeria with key emphasis on the need for redefining community policing. The scholars examined the general meaning of community policing and the modalities of its operations with concentration on efficiency and implementation of the concept. The study adopted a exploratory research design where relevant literatures were reviewed and solutions offered to curtail the negative effects of crimes and enhance community policing. Olushola and Adeleke (2020) examined the impact of regional security initiative and the security challenges in Nigeria with focus on Amotekun. The study adopted documentary approach. The study discovered that there are social problems such as kidnapping, killings, theft bedeviling the South West region. The study concludes that there have been laudable efforts form Amotekun to curb insecurity and it gives hope to the people. The review showed that several studies have been done on regional policing but however, few have studies have captured Oke Ogun and Ibarapa communities despite the pockets of criminal activities that have occurred within these communities. Also, the studies reviewed, showed that adequate attention were not given to quantitative research design. Therefore this study seeks o fill these gaps.

Methodology

The research design for this study is Survey research method. Survey involves a detailed and critical examination of a topic or situation with a view to finding out what is and how it is. Survey design is a research method that describes the characteristics of the population or phenomenon that is being studied (Adi, 2019). The dealing with human beings makes the survey research design suitable. The researcher paid attention to ethical consideration when carrying out this study because variables were not manipulated as manipulation could result to physical or mental harm. The researcher chose the survey design because of time constraints. The survey design consists of the systematic collection and presentation of data to give a better understanding of a particular event or object. The

merit of this type of research design is that it can be applied to a large or small population. The method also aids the researcher to elicit information from respondents that are difficult to reach. This design is also based on the thematic approach concerning the core areas of impact of regional policing on crime prevention in Nigeria: a study of Amotekun in Oyo State.

Area of Study

The study area for this study consists of two Ibarapa and Oke-Ogun in Oyo State. These areas have the operations of Amotekun and have experienced some sorts of attacks from bandits.

Ibarapa The people of Ibarapa are largely domicile in the South Western area, located in Oyo State, Nigeria. The nomenclature of 'Ibarapa' is derived from the local melon plant, Egusi Ibara. The Ibarapa area is located within the latitudes of 70.151N and 70.551N and longitudes 30E and 30.301E. Ibarapa is approximately located around 100km north of the coast of Lagos and about 95km west of Oyo state capital and neighboring capital of Ibadan (Kola, 2006). The land of Ibarapa is traditionally made up of 7 principal towns known as Ibarapa Meje (Ibara Seven), and villages and farmsteads. These towns consisted of Eruwa, Igangan, Tapa, Aiyete, Ibarapa Central and other key towns.

The three local governments carved out from the Ibarapa people were created by the federal government of Nigeria authorities in 1996 when Ibarapa East was carved out from the old Ibarapa Local Government while Ibarapa Central and North were carved out of the former Ifeloju Local Government area. The seven principal towns can be subdivided further, based on the villages that are organized around each of them. In totality, about 120 different villages litter the landscape (Kola, 2006).

Oke-Ogun Oyo State is a large state located in the South Western region of Nigeria and Oke-Ogun is one of her town highly blessed with natural resources but as a result of mismanagement the town and state at large has remained underdeveloped. There are reports that the town is richly blessed with solid minerals and has no equal when compared to other towns in Nigeria (Jide, 2017). Marble, dolomite and others are in Igbetti, Olorunsogo Local Government and in Oriire. Tourmaline is in Komu, Itesiwaju, Tantalite in Sepeteri, Quartz in Itesiwaju, Columbite, talc and several other minerals in all parts of the region. Indeed, the economic development of Oyo State can be taken for granted on account of the mineral deposits in Oke Ogun. On tourism, that same region is blessed with almost too much. There is the Ado Awaye suspended lake, Igbo Oba in Kisi, Ebedi Hill in Iseyin, Asabari Hill in Saki, Akomare Hill in Igangan and many other natural tourist attractions waiting to be developed. The Ikere Gorge Dam, which has the capacity to boost the agro-industrial development of the whole of Nigeria as well as supply power to the people has been abandoned for years. And the human capital in the area is comparable to what obtains in any part of Nigeria (Jide, 2017).

Population of the Study Population of the study simply means the aggregate of persons from whom data to the study were collected. The population of this study consists of the residents of Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa in Oyo State. The population is placed at 1,602,979 (NPC, 2006).

Sampling Technique/Sample Size The study adopts multistage sampling technique. Multistage is a sampling method that divides the population into groups at various stages for better data collection, management and interpretation. This sampling method was

adopted because it gives the researcher flexibility to choose the sample carefully. Also, finding the right survey sample becomes very convenient. A sample is that small part selected from the whole or population. It is a subset of the population. Sampling arises to reduce the time and money that would be spent if the population were studied and still generate data that are accurate representation for the entire population. Sample size of 152 is chosen out of the entire population under study through the use Taro Yamane (1967) sample calculation formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N= the total population
n= sample size
1= constant
e= margin of error (level of doubt)

Therefore:

n=?
N= 1,602,979
1= constant
e= 8% (level of error from the population)
n= 152.

Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection consists of both primary data and secondary data. Primary data were collected through the use of questionnaire and through observation. The questionnaire was made up of two parts; the bio data of respondents and research questions section related to the objectives of the study. Questions were prepared and administered directly to residents (members of Amotekun inclusive) of Oke-Ogun and Ibadana areas of Oyo State. The research chooses to use questionnaire as one of the methods for primary data collection because of the following advantages:

- (i) To help the research collect concise answers concerning the study under investigation.
- (ii) To get to persons who have tight schedules
- (iii) To give room for cross checking of answers by the respondents
- (iv) It permits more considered answers.

The secondary source of data deals with information gathered from published and unpublished texts which include text books, articles, official reports and statistics, newspaper and journals.

Methods of Data Analysis

The data generated through the questionnaire were arranged in cumulative frequency tables and the mean average was employed by the researcher to either reject or accept research questions. The study employed Chi-square inferential statistics to either

reject or accept the study hypotheses. The decision taken by the researcher is that when the mean of the respondents' responses is 2.50 and above the item(s) were adjudged agreed. On the other hand, when it is 2.49 and below the item(s) were adjudged as disagreed. If the overall mean is greater than 2.49 the question items were accepted. The table below describes the mean range of Likert Scale as used in the study:

Table 1: Mean Score Interpretation

Description	Mean Range	Scale	Decision
Strongly Agree	3.5 – 4.00	4	Accept
Agree	2.5 – 3.49	3	Accept
Disagree	1.49 – 2.49	2	Reject
Strongly Disagree	1.00 – 1.49	1	Reject

Data Presentation and Analysis

The section deals with data presentation and interpretation of results. Data generated from distributed questionnaire were arranged into cumulative frequency tables and mean average was applied using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Hypotheses were tested and results of findings were also discussed.

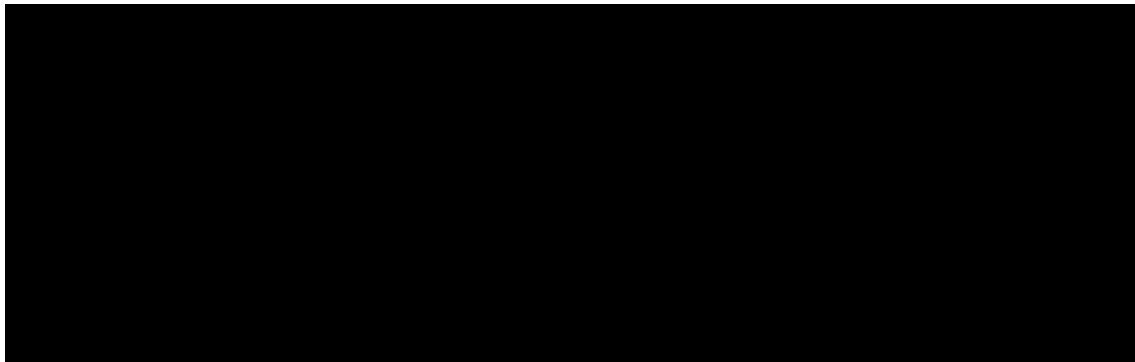
Demographic Analysis of Respondents

Table 2 Gender of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	64	46.0	46.0	46.0
Female	75	54.0	54.0	100.0
Total	139	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Figure 1 Bar chart showing respondents' gender



Source: Field Survey (2022)

Table 2 and figure 1 showed the distribution of respondents based on gender. From the analysis, 64 respondents (46.0%) were male while 75 respondents (54.0%) were female respondents. This indicated that majority of the respondents for this study was female.

Table 3 Educational Qualification of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18-27 years	22	15.8	15.8	15.8
28-37 years	44	31.7	31.7	47.5
38 - 47 years	41	29.5	29.5	77.0
48-57 years	15	10.8	10.8	87.8
58 years and above	17	12.2	12.2	100.0
Total	139	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Figure 2: Bar Chart Showing Respondents' Educational Qualification



Source: Field Survey (2022).

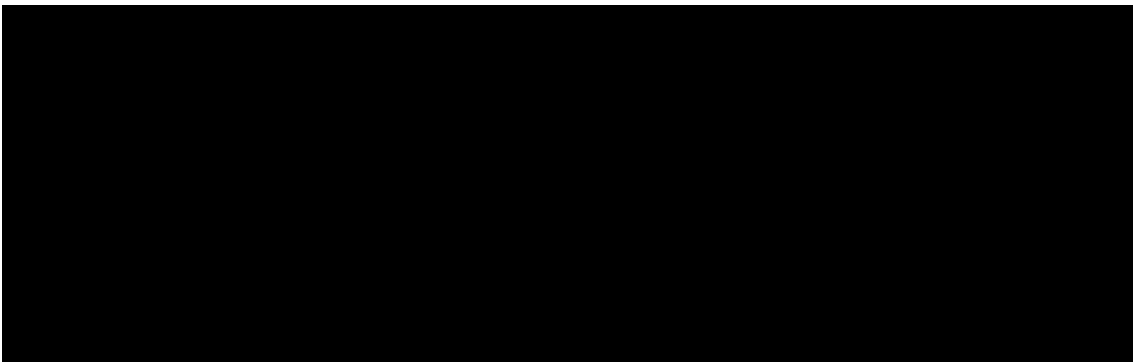
Table 3 and figure 2 displayed the educational qualification of respondents. From the analysis, 22 respondent (15.8%) fell between 18-27 years, 44 respondents (31.7%) fell between 28-37 years, 41 respondents (29.5%) fell between 38-47 years, 15 respondents (10.8%) fell between 48-57 years while 17 respondents (12.2%) fell between 58 years and above. This implies that majority of the respondents fell between 28-37 years old.

Table 4 Marital Status of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Single	97	69.8	69.8	69.8
Married	42	30.2	30.2	100.0
Total	139	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Figure 3: Bar Chart Showing Marital Status of Respondents



Source: Field Survey (2022).

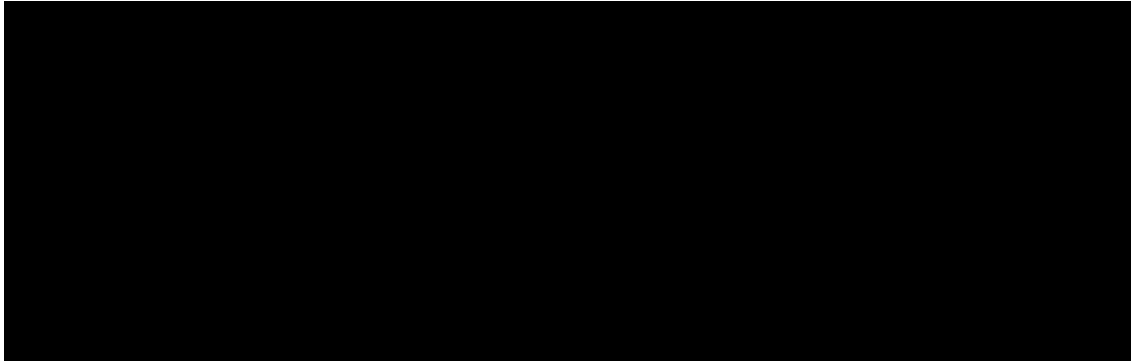
Table 4 and figure 3 displayed the marital status of respondents. 97 respondents (69.8%) were single while 42 respondents (30.2%) were married. This means that majority of the respondents were single.

Table 5 Educational Qualification of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Pry Sch	4	2.9	2.9	2.9
SSCE	16	11.5	11.5	14.4
Diploma/HND	52	37.4	37.4	51.8
First Degree	44	31.7	31.7	83.5
Masters/PhD	23	16.5	16.5	100.0
Total	139	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Figure 4 Bar Chart Showing Educational Qualification of Respondents



Source: Field Survey (2022).

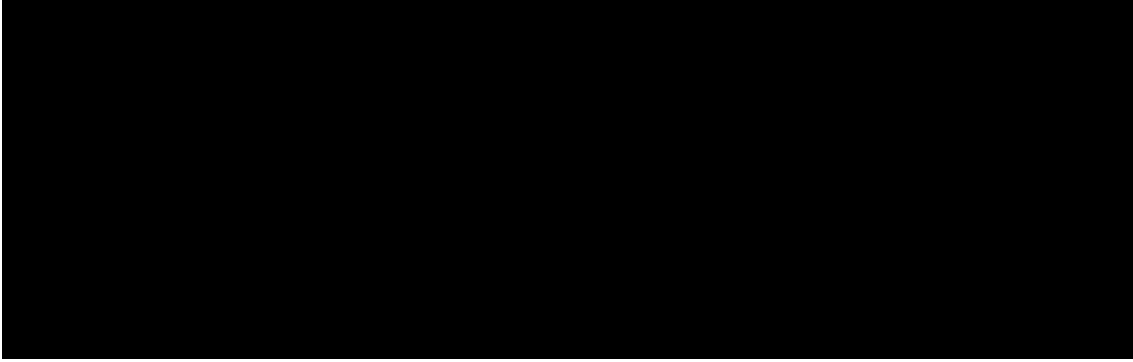
Table 5 and figure 4 displayed the responses on educational qualification of respondents. From the analysis, 4 respondents (2.9%) were holders of primary school certificates, 16 respondents (11.5%) were SSCE holders, 52 respondents (37.4%) were Diploma/HND holders, 44 respondents (31.7%) were First Degree holders while 23 respondents (16.5%) were Masters/PhD holders. This means that majority of the respondents were holders of Diploma/HND.

Table 6 Spoken Languages of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yoruba Only	32	23.0	23.0	23.0
English Only	26	18.7	18.7	41.7
English and Yoruba	71	51.1	51.1	92.8
Others	10	7.2	7.2	100.0
Total	139	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Figure 5: Bar Chart Showing Spoken Languages of Respondents



Source: Field Survey (2022).

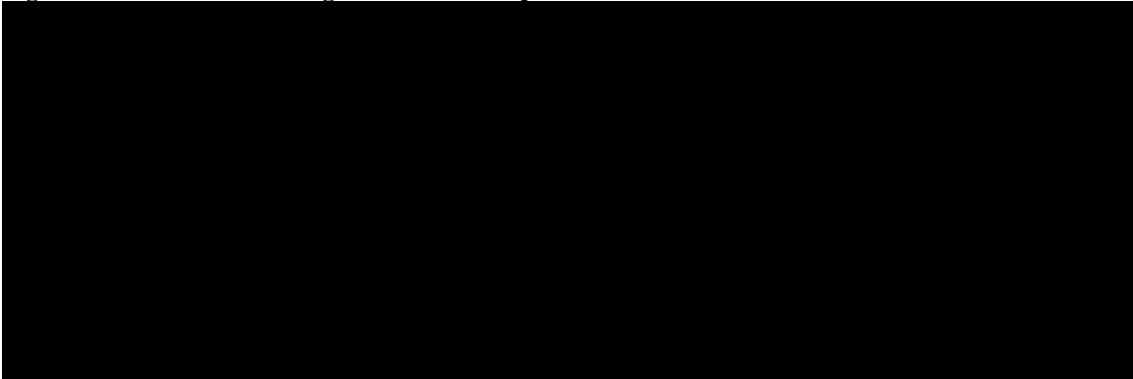
Table 6 and figure 5 showed the distribution of respondents based on their spoken languages. From the analysis, 32 respondents (23.0%) could speak only Yoruba, 26 respondents (18.7%) could speak English only, 71 respondents (51.1%) could speak both English and Yoruba while 10 respondents (7.2%) were residents who speak languages aside English and Yoruba. This means that majority of the respondents could speak English and Yoruba fluently.

Table 7 Location of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Oke-Ogun	83	59.7	59.7	59.7
Ibarapa	56	40.3	40.3	100.0
Total	139	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Figure 6: Bar Chart Showing Location of Respondents



Source: Field Survey (2022).

Table 7 and figure 6 displayed the respondents' location analysis. 83 respondents (59.7%) were residents of Oke-Ogun while 56 respondents (40.3%) were residents of Ibarapa. This shows that majority of the respondents were residents of Oke-Ogun region in Oyo State.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 8: Responses on how criminal activities significantly affect socio-economic development in Oyo State

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
Decline in the rate of investments	139	3.0	.95	Agreed
Limit in the local people round of social and economic activities	139	3.2	.84	Agreed
Disrupts social order	139	3.3	.90	Agreed
Creates chaos and confusion	139	3.4	.87	Agreed
Hinders community collaboration and trust	139	3.1	.93	Agreed
Valid N (listwise)	139			

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Table 8 displayed responses on the effect of criminal activities on the socio-economic development of Oyo State. From the analysis, Majority of the respondents agreed that criminal activities causes decline in the rate of investments as shown in the mean score of 3.0 (Agreed) and SD of .95. The mean score of 3.2 (Agreed) and SD of .84 indicated that criminal activities causes limitation in the social and economic activities of the local people. Another impact of criminal activities on socioeconomic development in Oyo State is that crime disrupts social order. This is shown by the mean score of 3.3 (Agreed) and SD of .90. Other effects include it creates chaos and confusion and hinders community collaboration and trust which are represented by the mean scores of 3.4 (Agreed), 3.1 (Agreed) and SD of .87 and .93 respectively.

Table 9 The impact of Amotekun on curbing crimes within Oyo State

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
Kidnapping, armed robbery and killings have reduced drastically	139	1.7	1.0	Disagreed
Bandits are scared to carry out their nefarious activities	139	2.9	.96	Disagreed
Residents are willing to corporate with security agencies to share information	139	3.0	1.0	Agreed
Weapons proliferation has been eradicated within communities in Oyo State	139	1.6	.86	Disagreed
Valid N (listwise)	139			

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Table 9 displayed responses concerning the impact of Amotekun on curbing crimes within Oyo State. From the result, kidnapping, armed robbery and killings have not reduced

drastically according to the mean score of 1.7 (Disagreed) and SD of 1.0. The results also showed that respondents disagreed that bandits are scared to carry out nefarious activities as shown by the mean score of 2.9 (Disagreed) and SD of .96. The mean score of 3.0 (Agreed) and SD of 1.0 indicated that residents are willing to co-operate with security agencies to share vital information. Weapons proliferation within the state has not been totally eradicated as shown by the mean score of 1.6 (Agreed) and SD of .86.

Table 10 Challenges of regional policing in the study area
Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
Community mistrust on regional policing	139	3.1	.94	Agreed
Antagonistic relationship between the government security agencies and community members	139	3.4	.85	Agreed
Godfatherism leading to shielding or protecting criminals within the communities	139	3.4	.84	Agreed
Inadequate infrastructure for regional policing	139	3.1	.91	Agreed
Poor funding and dearth of modern weapons	139	3.2	.85	Agreed
Valid N (listwise)	139			

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Table 10 showed the result from responses on challenges of regional policing in the study area. The mean score of 3.1 (Agreed) and SD of .94 indicated that community mistrust is one of the challenges impeding regional policing in Oyo State. The mean score of 3.4 (Agreed) and SD of .85 indicated that antagonistic relationship between the government security agencies and community members serves a challenge to regional policing as revealed by the mean score of 3.4 (Agreed) and SD of .85. Shielding or protection of criminals by so-called godfathers also impedes regional policing in Oyo State as this revealed by the mean score of 3.4 (Agreed) and SD of .84. Inadequate infrastructure for regional policing serves as a challenge as revealed by the mean score of 3.1 (Agreed) and SD of .91. Poor funding and dearth of modern weapon also impedes regional policing in Oyo State. This is revealed by the mean score of 3.2 (Agreed) and SD of .85.

Table 11: Residents' perception concerning operations of Amotekun in fighting crimes in Oyo State
Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
Residents rate the performance of Amotekun highly	139	2.7	1.0	Disagreed
Residents are willing to partner with Amotekun to fight crime	139	3.2	.86	Agreed
Residents perceive the operations of Amotekun to be biased and selective	139	1.8	.90	Disagreed

Amotekun are always proactive and prompt in tackling criminal activities	139	1.8	1.0	Disagreed
Valid N (listwise)	139			

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Table 11 displayed responses on residents’ perception concerning the operations of Amotekun in fighting crimes within Oyo State. The mean score of 2.7 (Disagreed) and SD of 1.0 indicated that some of the residents do not rate the performance of Amotekun highly. Results showed that residents are willing to partner with Amotekun to fight crime as revealed in the mean score of 3.2 (Agreed) and SD of .86. The mean score of 1.8 (Disagreed) and SD of .90 indicated that residents do not perceive the operations of Amotekun to be biased and selective. The mean score of 1.8 (Disagreed) and SD of 1.0 indicated that Amotekun are not always prompt and proactive in tackling criminal activities.

Test of Hypotheses

Re-Statement of Hypothesis

Ho: There is no significant relationship between Amotekun efforts and crime prevention within Oyo State.

H1: There is a significant relationship between Amotekun efforts and crime prevention within Oyo State.

Table 12: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	160a	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	149	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.6	1	.199
N of Valid Cases	139		

Source: Computed Data (SPSS 23).

Table 12 shows the test of independence between the column and row variables using Pearson chi-square and from the table the significance value (Asymp. Sig) is low (0.000) and statistically significant. The value indicated the existence of a relationship between the two variables.

Table 13: Symmetric Measures

	Value	Asymptotic Standardized Errora	Approximate Tb	Approximate Significance
Interval by Interval Pearson's R	.109	.132	1.288	.200c
Ordinal by Ordinal Spearman Correlation	-.346	.117	-4.317	.000c
N of Valid Cases	139			

Source: Computed Data (SPSS 23).

Decision Rule

Reject the null hypothesis if the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value and accept otherwise. At 5% level, the critical value corresponding to the sample size is 139. At 5% level of significance and degree of freedom of 9, $\chi^2 = 149$. Therefore, since the calculated value (160a) is greater than the likelihood ratio value (149), we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant relationship between Amotekun efforts and crime prevention in Oyo State. Also, the result showed that there is a positive correlation between Amotekun's efforts and crime prevention in Oyo State ($r = 0.109$; $P = 0.000$). By positive relationship, we mean an increase in a variable will lead to increase in the other variable.

Discussion of Findings

This study assesses the impact of Amotekun on regional policing in Oyo State specifically. The results showed that majority of the respondents were female and respondents within the age bracket of 28-37 years which explained the fact that youths were more active in crime and regional policing such as Amotekun and other vigilante outlets within Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa areas of Oyo State. Married respondents were more than the single respondents and majority of the respondents had Diploma/HND qualifications which revealed that people of these areas were educated and have knowledge of the social vices in their communities. Majority of the residents could speak English, Yoruba and other indigenous languages fluently which implied that there is a good means of communication among the people in their communities. The study focuses on key areas in Oyo State where there have been pockets of conflicts, killings, kidnapping, banditry and the areas selected were Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa.

The findings showed that criminal activities significantly impede socioeconomic development of Oyo State. The findings of this study showed that crime affect the socioeconomic development of Oyo State in terms of decline in investment, limited activities of the people, disruption of social order, chaos and confusion as well as it hinders community collaboration and trust. This finding corroborate with the research findings of Asongo and Terseer (2021) which revealed that crimes have negative consequences on the youth themselves, family and society at large. These have affected the stability of the country and caused underdevelopment.

There have been pockets of criminal activities within communities in Oyo State, especially Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa. The creation of Amotekun was seen as a step in the right direction to nipping crimes to the board. The findings of the study revealed that Amotekun has made efforts. However, there have been lapses. The findings showed that kidnapping, armed robbery and killings have not reduced drastically. Also weapons proliferation has not been eradicated within the communities. Despite these, residents have not relented in disseminating vital information bordering on security to security agencies. The clamour for regional policing has been a topical issue in Nigeria in recent times due to the high rates of criminal activities. From the findings, regional policing within Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa areas have been marred by several challenges. There have the issue of community mistrust, frosty relationship between government security agencies and community members, influence of godfathers to shield criminals, inadequate infrastructure and poor funding and

dearth of modern weapons. These challenges have been identified by residents to be some of the key issues affecting regional policing. To corroborate these findings, Kelling and Moore (1988) discovered that challenge facing regional policing includes satisfying the security priorities of members of the community as victims, suspected offenders, residents, visitors, indigenes, settlers and business owners. Furthermore, Moore and Recker (2016) observe that informal means of social control prevents property crime more than violent crimes in a society.

Residents of Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa have perception concerning the operations of Amotekun in regards to their efficiency in fighting crimes. Residents do not rate the performance of Amotekun very high as revealed by the findings of the study. This may be due to pockets of criminal activities in Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa despite the operations of Amotekun in these areas. Also some residents have the perception that the operations of Amotekun is positive as some of them believe that their operations is not elements of bias and selective and Amotekun have not been proactive and prompt always when tackling criminal activities within the communities in Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa.

Conclusion

Regional policing and crime prevention has been a topical issue in Nigeria due to numerous kidnapping, killings, terrorism, banditry, armed robbery activities. The study concludes that there is significant relationship between criminal activities and socio-economic development in Oyo State. There is no significant relationship between impact of Amotekun and its operations to curb crimes within Oyo State. Also, there is there is significant relationship between challenges affecting Amotekun and regional policing in Oyo State. Finally, there is significant relationship between residents' perception and performance of Amotekun in fighting crimes in Oyo State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made by the researcher:

1. The Oyo state government has much work to do prevent crimes within the state. The security sector should be given utmost attention so as to reduce the negative impact of criminal activities on the socio-economic development of the state. By nipping crimes to the board, the state would enjoy local and foreign direct investments.
2. The State government should intensify efforts by proving more funds for Amotekun which would be judiciously utilized to purchase modern security gadgets in order to reduce armed robbery, kidnapping and banditry within Oyo State by
3. Achievements of Amotekun should be publicized to the public so as to put more fear in the hearts of criminals or intended criminals to stay off crime.
4. Town hall meetings consisting of members of Amotekun, government officials and other security agencies should be organized regularly as to educate the people about the importance of regional policing and its impact on crime prevention.
5. The government should set up measures to dissuade godfathers attitude of shielding criminals within the communities. Criminals should be identified and dealt with decisively under the ambit of the relevant laws.

6. The relationship between the state government and security agencies should be strengthened so as to enhance regional policing within the communities.
7. The state government should make adequate budgetary provision for acquisition of modern security gadgets for Amotekun and other security agencies so as to boost their performance in crime prevention.
8. The leaders of Amotekun should be proactive and prompt in responding to crimes within the communities in Oyo State. They should show more bravery and intelligence and carry their members along.

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APPENDIX

SECTION A: Personal Information of Respondents

Please tick or fill in the space provided below as appropriate

1. Gender: Male { } Female { }
2. Age Bracket: 18 – 27 years { } 28 – 37 years { } 38 – 47 years { } 48 – 57 years { } 58 years and above { }
3. Marital Status: Single { } Married { }
4. Education Qualification: Primary School Certificate { } Secondary School Certificate { } Diploma/HND { } First Degree { } Masters/PhD { }
5. Language Spoken: Yoruba Only { } English Only { } English and Yoruba { } Others { }

6. Location: Oke-Ogun { } Ibadara { }

SECTION B: Research Questions

Research Question 1: How do criminal activities significantly affect socio-economic development in Oyo State?

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD
1	Decline in the rate of investments				
2	Limit in the local people round of activities				
3	Disrupts social order				
4	Creates chaos and confusion				
5	Hinders community collaboration and trust				

Research Question 2: What is the impact of Amotekun on curbing crimes within Oyo State?

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD
1	Kidnapping, armed robbery and killings have reduced drastically				
2	Bandits are scared to carry out their nefarious activities				
3	Residents are willing to cooperate with security agencies to share information				
4	Weapons proliferation has been eradicated within communities in Oyo State				

Research Question 3: What are the challenges of regional policing in the study area?

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD
1	Community mistrust on regional policing				
2	Antagonistic relationship between the government security agencies and community members				
3	Godfatherism leading to shielding or protecting criminals within the communities				
4	Inadequate infrastructure for regional policing				

Research Question 4: What is the residents' perception concerning the operations of Amotekun to fighting crimes within Oyo State?

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD
1	Residents rate the performance of Amotekun highly				
2	Residents are willing to partner with Amotekun to fight crime				
3	Residents perceive the operations of Amotekun to be biased and selective				
4	Amotekun are always proactive and prompt in tackling criminal activities				

Key:

SA-Strongly Agree A-Agree D-Disagree SD-Strongly Disagree.



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