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# Assessment of Socio-Economic Characteristics as Correlates of Crime Vulnerability in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

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## **Abstract**

This study examines the common crimes experienced in Ilorin neighbourhoods, their spatial variation and the socio-economic and housing characteristics of residents that make them vulnerable to crime. The study was conducted in October, 2015 relying mostly on the designed crime victimization and vulnerability survey questionnaire. A total of 960 copies of the questionnaire were administered on residents selected through a two-stage systematic random and purposive sampling approach in 35 aggregated neighbourhoods of the study area. Among other findings, the study revealed that incidences of crimes vary significantly among the neighbourhoods and that there is an inverse relationship between socio-economic and housing characteristics and exposure to crime when the data obtained were subjected to a Pearson Product-Moment Correlation analysis. The socio-economic, housing and environmental characteristics of the neighbourhoods has a combined value of  $r = -0.810$  at 99% significance level, with housing characteristics of the three having the strongest inverse relationship of  $r = -0.779$ , followed by socio-economic characteristics with a value of  $r = -0.621$ . The study therefore, concludes that neighbourhoods with poor socio-economic and housing characteristics are more vulnerable to crime. As a result, the study suggests that improved inequality and poverty reduction policies and programmes be embarked upon at all levels of governance, periodic urban renewal programmes be undertaken to re-vitalize poor neighbourhoods and increased necessity to factor security and safety concerns into housing and neighbourhood design.

**Keywords:** crime, correlates, housing, neighbourhood, socio-economic, vulnerability

## **1. Introduction**

Urbanization has become a defining phenomenon in the developing world. Current estimates by the United Nations indicate that about 50% of global population now live in urban places, a figure expected to rise to about 61% by 2030 (UN, 2004; UNCHS, 2007; UNFPA, 2007). It is also a cause for concern that a considerable chunk of the envisaged growth in global population would be taking place in the developing

countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, seen as experiencing about the fastest rates of urbanization in history (UN-HABITAT, 2008). The African continent witnessed a 3.3% annual growth rate in the number of urban residents between 1990 and 2000, a rate regarded then as the highest in the world (Pieterse, 2010).

One of the sub-Saharan African countries projected to witness huge

growth in the number of urban residents is Nigeria with Lagos her foremost commercial hub predicted to becoming one of the world's largest five cities by 2030 (UN, 2014; Oyeleye, 2013). Projections have also suggested that the number of city dwellers in Nigeria will reach 100 million by 2020 with the rate of urban growth put at about 5.8% (Agbola, 2004). The unprecedented level of urbanization and population growth rates in Nigeria have thus become sources of concerns as the twin issues are accompanied by increasing hunger, joblessness, severe housing shortages and other manifestations of poverty, thereby increasing the fear of crime and feeling of insecurity among the citizenry (Eguavoen, 2010).

The growth in urban crime rates has thus become a major development challenge in Nigeria (Ahmed, 2012) such that the country has been consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012). The threat of crime and insecurity is not helped by the fact that the average Nigerian has lost confidence in the police, conventionally and statutorily saddled with the responsibility of maintaining peace and security in our communities as a result of underperformance. The country is also seen as not been adequately policed with her population of 170 million people being policed by a total of 370,000 officers and men (Daily Post, 2015), an average of one policeman to 459 Nigerians. For instance, data obtained from the Kwara State Command of the Nigeria Police indicate that 92 and 75 murder cases were reported in 2005 and 2006 and 321 and 331 cases of housebreaking in 2010 and 2011 respectively. The question therefore, is what factors are responsible for the occurrence of criminal activities in

particular neighbourhoods of Ilorin? Can the socio-economic and housing conditions and characteristics among factors that make some neighbourhoods of the city vulnerable to crime.

## 2. The Study Context

This study was aimed at assessing neighbourhood vulnerability to crime in Ilorin with a view to minimizing vulnerability. Among others, the study examined the common crimes experienced in Ilorin and their spatial distribution as well as the socio-economic, housing and environmental characteristics of neighbourhoods of the city as they constitute exposure factors to crime. Ilorin, the Kwara State capital is regarded as the largest city in north central Nigeria. It is located approximately between latitude  $8^{\circ} 30''$  and  $08^{\circ} 50''$  North of the Equator and between longitude  $04^{\circ} 20''$  and  $04^{\circ} 35''$  East of the Greenwich Meridian (see Figures 1 and 2.) The city, although fast growing, presently occupies an area of approximately 150.59 square kilometers and is about 300 kilometers to Lagos and about 500 kilometers to Abuja, the country's political capital. Ilorin is generally regarded as the gateway between the northern and southern parts of the country and therefore, a melting point for both cultures (Olaleye, Abiodun and Asonibare, 2012).

Ilorin became the capital of Kwara State following its creation in 1967. Being the largest city in the new State, it has since undergone various developmental efforts mostly initiated by both the federal and the state governments (Zubair, 2008). Ilorin boasts of a number of large and medium scale industries, in addition to thriving commercial activities. The city particularly enjoys a good network of

roads and a railway which passes through it to the far north was also to

become a propelling factor for its rapid development.

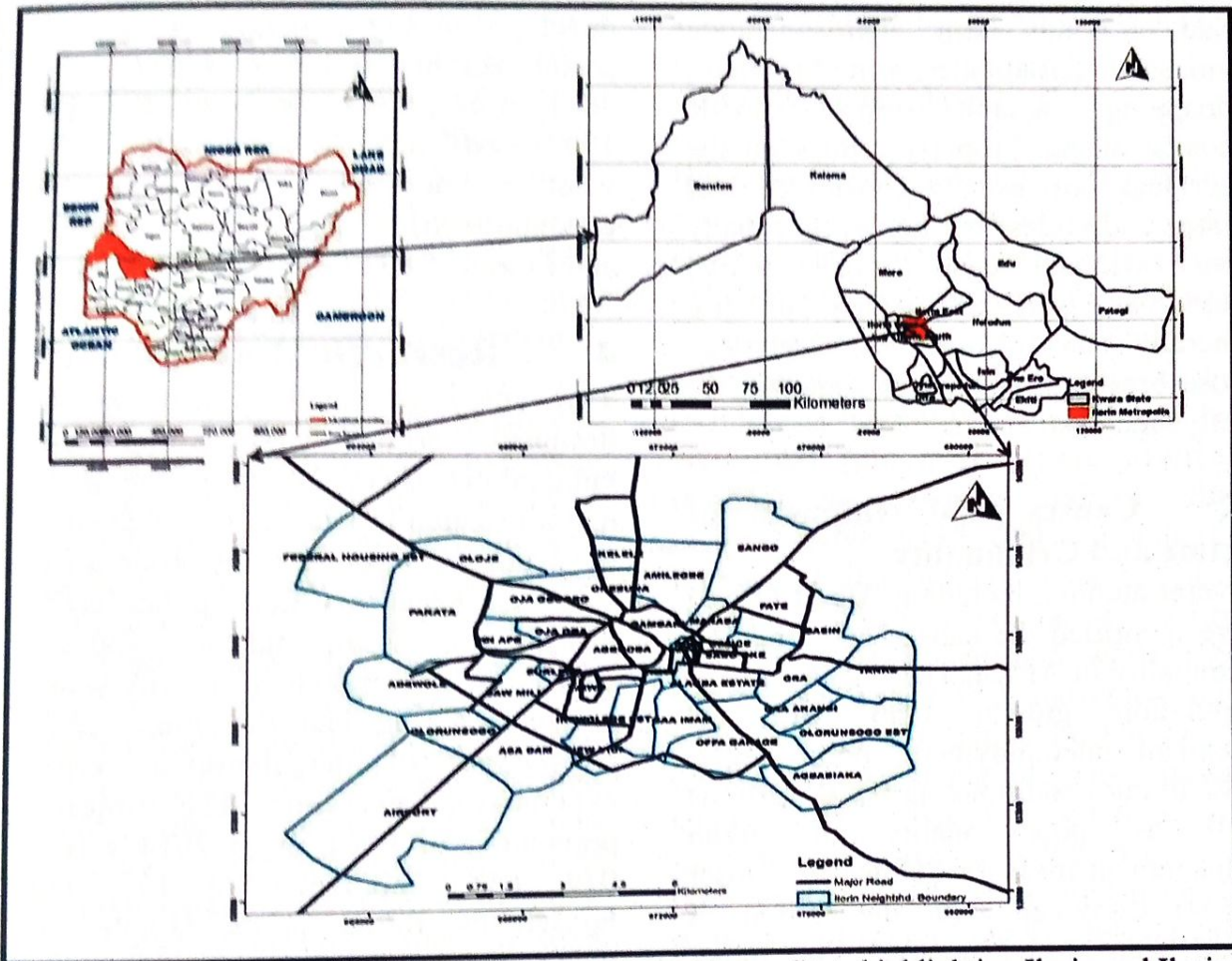


Figure 1: Maps of Nigeria highlighting Kwara State, Kwara State highlighting Ilorin and Ilorin Source: Kwara State Ministry of Lands and Survey, Ilorin (2015).

### 3. Conceptual Issues and Review of Related Literature

#### 3.1 The Concept of Crime

Crime is a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon. Attempts at its conceptualization have been fraught with some difficulties owing to its complexity (Olatunbosun and Oluduro, 2012; Morrison, 2005; Zedner, 2004) which are not unconnected to legal definitions. Therefore, no consensus has been reached for the adoption of a universal definition (Wa Teresia, 2011) but viewed rather mostly from the perspective or background of authors defining the term. Crime is an infraction

of both the basic principles of law and order and the norms of civilized behaviour (Eme, 2012). It is a violation of societal rules of behaviour as interpreted and expressed by a criminal legal code created by people holding social and political power (Siegel, 1995).

The nature of crime in human societies, particularly in the urban centres is diverse. Several attempts at its characterization in the literature have yielded three particular types. These are crimes against persons or personal crimes, property crimes and crimes against public order (Igbo, 2015; Jinadu *et al.*, 2012). Crimes against persons or

personal crimes consist of different types of offences which usually involve causing bodily harm or injury, death or threat to bodily harm. These include homicide, manslaughter, armed robbery, kidnapping, assault, rape, suicide amongst others. Property crimes on the other hand are usually considered less serious and violent but however, equally have tremendous negative impacts on the people as well as quality of life generally. They include theft, burglary or house breaking, arson, car snatching or theft, vandalism and trespass.

### 3.2 Causes and Impacts of Crime and Criminality

Several authors, including Albert (1994) have identified the causes of crime and criminality in Africa. These include high population growth rates with its attendant unemployment, poor wages, poor living conditions, urban poverty as well as poor quality of urban management measures. However, Moser (2004) disagreed with the notion of crime been caused by poverty but rather maintained that research has challenged such believe as too simplistic, contending that interpretations based on statistical modelling have demonstrated that inequality is more influential than poverty as a cause of violence. However, Oxfam (2009) contended that feelings of insecurity, fear of crime and violence are often especially high in large cities and among the poor.

Crime is a huge threat to public safety and a major source of social concern not only in the developing countries but in the entire world today (Badiora and Fadoyin, 2014). It is also regarded as a source of great personal suffering, vast material damage to individuals and groups and places enormous burden on the urban social network (Agbola, 1997). Crime undermines the social fabric by

eroding residents' sense of safety and security (Onoge, 1988). There is a general agreement that crime impedes development and sometime destabilizes social stability (Glasson and Cozens, 2011; Ayres, 1998; Moser and Holland, 1997), although no consensus as to whether development reduces or encourages crime (Fajnzyblber, Lederman and Loayza, 2002; McIlwaine, 1999).

## 4 Research Methodology

This study essentially relied on the designed crime victimization and vulnerability survey questionnaire as the major research instrument complemented by extensive discreet field observation. This was because official police crime records for Ilorin did not indicate specific neighborhoods of the city where crimes occurred and therefore, render comparison of neighborhoods crime experiences impossible. The projected population of Ilorin as at 2014 was 1, 029, 658 comprising of 171, 609 households. Based on the sample size table evolved by Salant and Dillman (1994), a sample of 96 each was to be selected from each of the three local government areas totaling 288. However, researchers have expressed fears regarding response rate from survey research (Sivo *et al.*, 2006; Ankrah, 2007) although it is suggested that a response rate of 50% to 70% can be considered adequate for a questionnaire survey. As a result, the sample size was adjusted on condition of expected 30% response rate ( $288/0.3 = 960$ ). Thus, a total of 960 copies of the questionnaire were administered in 35 aggregated neighbourhoods of the study area, although only 912 were retrieved.

The study neighbourhoods include Adewole Estate, Fate, Federal Housing

Estate, Gaa Akanbi, Gaa Imam, Oloje, Olorunshogo, GRA, Pakata, Sabo Oke and Irewolede Estate. Sampled neighbourhoods also include Idi Ape, Maraba, New Yidi Road, Agbabiaka, Offa Garage, Oja Gboro, Oja Oba, Okelele and Okesuna. Others are Olorunshogo Estate, Agbo Oba, Sango, Saw Mill, Surulere, Taiwo Road, Tanke, Unity Road, Balogun Gambari, Post Office Area, Alagba Estate, Amilegbe, Asa Dam Road and River Basin Estate.

In administering the questionnaires among the neighbourhoods, a two-stage sampling procedure was adopted. First, the number of streets and lanes in each neighbourhood was determined and listed and every fifth street was selected, while every fifth building in the selected street or lane was chosen for questionnaire administration, starting from the first building. In any selected building one household each was purposively selected for the purpose of questionnaire administration, irrespective of the number of households in such building.

The variables characterized as socioeconomic include educational qualification, occupation, monthly income, size of household as well as number of rooms occupied by households. Others factors considered in this category include, status of household in the building occupied and household's alternative source of power supply. Under housing characteristics factors considered are type of housing structure occupied by household, age of building, major use of building, number of households residing in building and location of households' facilities and conveniences such as bathrooms and kitchens. Factors classified as environmental include description of

housing location, condition of neighbourhood road, whether housing is located close to crime vulnerable spots such as drinking joints, games spots and in areas of preponderance of uncompleted buildings.

However, prior to analysis, the various socioeconomic, housing and environmental (SHE) characteristics data of sampled neighbourhoods collected were assigned numerical codes to indicate direction and magnitude. For example, a monthly income of less than N20, 000 (the least of the available options) was assigned code 1 while income above N150, 000 a month (the highest of the options) was coded 8. Where a Yes answer is a positive attribute it was coded as 5 while a No answer was coded as 1 and conversely, where a Yes is a negative attribute based on the variable being measured it was coded 1 while No was coded 5. The incidence of crime recorded in each of the neighbourhoods as elicited from the responses of each of the 912 respondents were employed as absolute figures and summed up for each neighbourhood.

For the purpose of classifying the study area into different crime density classes based on the frequency of crimes experienced by residents between 2010 and 2014, the Jenk's natural breaks optimization classification technique was adopted to group the neighbourhoods into four classes. The Jenks' natural breaks classification method developed by George Jenks (1967) is a GIS-based method often employed in mapping. The method partitions data into as many classes as desired based on the natural groupings in the data set distribution. It maximizes the variance between classes while at the same time minimizing the variance within classes.

## 5. Results and Discussion

### 5.1 Socio-economic

#### Characteristics of Households

Considering the age of respondents, the highest number was within the age group 26 – 35 years old and constituted 30.5%, closely followed by those within the age group 36 – 45 years old which constituted 29.7%, while those within the age groups 46 – 55 years and above 55 years constituted 22.7% and 10% respectively. The distribution thus shows that a relatively high number of sampled households were headed by relatively youthful people who were mostly less than 55 years old. However, when the distribution was viewed along neighbourhoods, study results shows that respondents in some neighbourhoods such as Oja Oba (69.23%), Agbo Oba (53.13%), Oja Gboro (85.0%), Idi Ape (56.67), Agbabiaka (78.26%), Taiwo Road (60.0%) and Balogun Gambari (53.85%) areas of the city were relatively older and were mostly between 46 years and above, while a considerable number of others in some neighbourhoods such as Adewole Estate (51.85%), Alagba Estate (88.46%), Olorunshogo Estate (73.91%), Federal Housing Estate (75.0%), GRA (100.0), Airport Area (69.57) and Irewolede Estate (82.61%) were relatively younger and were mostly less than 46 years of age. See Table 1 for the distribution of socio-economic characteristics. The educational backgrounds of sampled residents also show some differences along neighbourhoods, although the distribution shows a pattern of relatively educated households across the study area. Generally, the distribution shows that residents possessing either National Diploma (ND) or National Certificate of Education (NCE) constituted the highest

with 34.9%, followed by those possessing either a Higher National Diploma (HND) or a university degree with 26.6%. Those without any formal education and primary school leaving certificates constituted 3.2% and 6.0% respectively. Majority of the neighbourhoods had residents possessing ND/NCE and above, with a higher concentration in such neighbourhoods as Adewole Estate (81.48%), Olorunshogo Estate (78.26%), Federal Housing Estate (71.43%), Alagba Estate (84.62%), River Basin Estate (82.14%), GRA (87.5%), Irewolede Estate (82.61%) and Fate (80.95%). However, a number of neighbourhoods had a preponderance of residents with secondary education and below and they include Idi Ape (56.67%), Pakata (59.26%), Taiwo Road (60.0%), Oja Oba (69.23%), Offa Garage (76.19%), Agbabiaka (78.12%) and Oja Gboro (85.0%).

The patterns of occupation and income of residents were not quite different from those of age and educational qualification. The study results revealed that the highest proportion of occupation was public/civil servants which constituted 29.2%, followed by those engaged in trading activities, business owners and artisans at 19.4%, 18.6%, and 10.4% respectively. Those engaged in farming constituted 7.2%, while 9.8% were unemployed as at the time of the survey.



**Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics**

Age	(%)	Education	(%)	Occupation	(%)	Monthly Income	(%)
18 – 25	7.1	None	3.2	Unemployed	9.8	<N20, 000	16.7
26 – 35	30.5	Primary	6.0	Civil servants	29.2	N 20,000- N40,000	30.9
36 – 45	29.7	Secondary	23.9	Farming	7.2	N41,000- N60,000	20.5
46 – 55	22.7	ND/NCE	34.9	Trading	19.4	N61,000-N80,000	19.4
Above 55	10.0	HND/B. Sc.	26.6	Artisan	10.4	N81,000-N100,000	7.3
		Postgraduate	5.4	Business owners	18.6	N101, 000-N120,000	3.8
				Retired	4.2	N121,000-N150,000	0.9
				Others	1.2	>N150,000	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9</b>

Regarding income, the highest proportion of residents were those in the monthly income bracket of between N 20, 000 and N 40, 000 monthly which constituted 30.9%, followed by those in the income brackets of N 41, 000 - N 60, 000 and N 61, 000 – N 80, 000 which constituted 20.5% and 19.4% respectively. Residents that earned less than N20, 000 constituted 16.7%. Those in the income brackets of N 81, 000 - N 100, 000 and N 101, 000 – N 120, 000 constituted 7.3% and 3.8% respectively, while a mere 0.4% earned above N 150, 000 monthly.

Although the income pattern in the study area is considered low by this study it was not however different from the general pattern obtained in most urban areas of the country. However, when the pattern of income in the study areas is viewed along neighbourhood, there is a discernible variation. In many of the neighbourhoods more than half of residents earned less than N 41, 000 monthly. It was only in 11 of the neighbourhoods that 50% and above of the residents earned N 61, 000 and above and they include Olorunshogo Estate (73.91%), GRA (71.88%), Adewole Estate (66.67%), Fate (61.90%), River Basin Estate (60.71%) and Asa Dam Road (59.26%). Others in this category are Agbabiaka (56.52%), Tanke (52.94%), Airport Area (52.17%), Irewolede Estate (52.17%) and Federal Housing Estate (50.0%).

The size of households in the study area was also considered. The study results revealed that households with between 7 and 8 members constituted the highest proportion with 40.1%, closely followed by those comprising between 5 and 6 members (37.6%), while those comprising between 1 and 2 members constituted 13.4%. Households with between 3 and 4 and above 8 members constituted 8.3% and 0.5% respectively. This clearly shows that households with between 5 and 8 members constitute 77.7% with an average of 6.3 just about the national average household size of 5.9 for the country (NPC, 2006). There is however, an observable variation in average size of households across the neighbourhoods like other socio-economic characteristics.

## 5.2 Housing Characteristics of Households

The housing characteristics examined are type of housing structure, number of households in building and location of housing conveniences. The study results revealed that the most common types of housing structures in the study area generally were blocks of flats (semi-detached) (29.5%), compound structures 20.9%, rooming houses 15.7%, bungalows 8.4% and 1.21% resides in duplexes. The cross tabulation of housing types occupied by neighbourhoods also show a pattern of

variation similar to socio-economic characteristics as some neighbourhoods had preponderance of some types of structures than others. There are 6 neighbourhoods with a proportion of between 40% and 60% of bungalow houses and these are GRA (40.63%), New Yidi Road (40.91%), Alagba Estate (46.15%), Adewole Estate (51.85%), Irewolede Estate (60.87%) and Airport Area (60.87%). Neighbourhoods with a proportion of between 40% and 60% of compound housing include Idi Ape (56.67%), Agbo Oba (40.63%), Balogun Gambari (42.31%), Maraba (43.33%) and Agbabiaka (43.48%).

The study result shows that 10.2% of sampled households occupied single room, 31.9% lived in 2 rooms, while 36.2% occupied 3 rooms. Households that made use of 4 rooms constituted 18.3%, while 3.4% lived in more than 4 rooms. Similar to most of the socio-economic characteristics considered, the numbers of rooms occupied by households also varied across the sampled neighbourhoods. Similarly, the study results revealed that households occupying buildings alone accounted for 23.4%, while those residing in buildings housing between 2 to 3 households accounted for 29.9%. Another 18.9% of sampled households' occupied structures housing between 4 and 5 households, while those in dwellings housing between 6 and 8 households accounted for 27.6%. Only 0.22% of sampled households' resided in buildings housing more than 8 households. In summary, the

pattern shows that more than half (53.29%) of households in the study area lived in dwellings housing between 1 and 3 households (see Table 2 for the distribution of housing characteristics).

In the pattern of housing design some crucial facilities repeatedly used by household members are either located in-house or outside the main building structure. As part of exposure factors in housing environment this study sought to examine the locational pattern of some of these facilities in sampled buildings. The study revealed that a total of 48.36% of sampled houses had their bathrooms located within the main buildings, while the remaining 51.64% had theirs separately located outside the main building, behind the main house in many instances. Similarly, a total of 51.86% of sampled household had their kitchens indoors, while the remaining 48.14% had theirs outside the main buildings.

### **5.3 Common Crimes in Ilorin**

The most commonly experienced crimes in Ilorin as identified by residents are shown in Table 3. The table shows that residents identified petty theft or stealing (72.59%), house breaking (61.73%), assault (46.38%), armed robbery (29.39%) and rape or indecent assault (19.63%) as the most commonly experienced crimes among the neighbourhoods of the city. Other commonly experienced crimes are automobile theft (19.19%), Kidnapping (6.14%) and murder (0.77%).

**Table 2: Housing Characteristics**

Housing Type	(%)	No of Rooms Occupied	(%)	No. of Households in Building	(%)
Compound	20.94	1	10.2	1	23.4
Bungalow	8.44	2	31.9	2-3	29.9
Semi-detached	29.50	3	36.2	4-5	18.9
Detached	8.66	4	18.3	6-8	27.6
Rooming house	15.67	>4	3.4	>8	0.22
Duplex	1.21				
Others	15.58				
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's analysis, 2016

**Table 3: Commonly Experienced Crimes in Ilorin**

Crime Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Petty Theft/Stealing	662	72.59
House/shop Breaking	563	61.73
Assault	423	46.38
Armed Robbery	268	29.39
Rape/Indecent assault	179	19.63
Automobile theft	175	19.19
Kidnapping	56	6.14
Assassination	7	0.77

Source: Author's Analysis, 2016

#### 5.4 Spatial Pattern of Criminality in Ilorin

While some neighborhoods' generally recorded high incidences of crimes, the frequencies were moderate and low in others. Based on the Jenks' classification technique adopted, neighbourhoods with totality of crime incidences of between 11 (0.47%) and 35 (1.50%) cases (irrespective of type) are regarded as low crime neighbourhoods, while those recording totality of crime frequency of between 47 (2.01%) and 68 (2.91%) are regarded as moderate crime areas. Those with a totality of crime frequency of between 75 (3.21%) and 93 (3.99%) cases are regarded as high crime areas, while those with frequency of between 115 (4.93%) and 117 (5.02%) cases are regarded as very high crime areas (crime hot spots). The spatial classification of the neighborhoods by frequency of crime incidences is shown in Table 4.

As a result of the classification method adopted, 7 neighbourhoods of Ilorin are regarded as low-crime areas. These are

Adewole Estate, Federal Housing Estate, GRA and Irewolede Estate. Others in this category are Olorunshogo Estate, Airport Area and Alagba Estate. Neighbourhoods classified as moderate-crime are 10 and include Fate, New Yidi, Okelele, Oloje, Olorunshogo and Sabo Oke. Others in the category are Saw-Mill, Surulere, Balogun Gambari and River Basin Estate. Sixteen (16) neighbourhoods are classified as high-crime areas and they include Asa Dam Road, Amilegbe, Post Office Area, Unity Road, Tanke, Sango, Offa Garage, Okesuna and Pakata. Others are Oja Oba, Oja Gboro, Agbabiaka, Maraba, Idi-Ape, Gaa Imam and Gaa Akanbi. Only two neighbourhoods are regarded as very high crime areas and these are Agbo Oba and Taiwo Road.

When the various neighbourhood sums of crime experienced earlier shown in Table 3 was subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) the result revealed a statistically significant variation in crime experienced among the neighbourhoods

(see Table 5). The ANOVA result of  $F = 160.676$  with a level of significance  $P = 0.001$  implies that there is a statistically significant variation in the incidence of

crime among the sampled neighbourhoods.

**Table 4: Classification of Spatial Pattern of Criminality**

Classification	Neighbourhood	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Low Crime		32	1.37	
	Adewole Estate	15	0.64	
	Federal Housing Estate	11	0.47	
	GRA	35	1.50	
	Irewolede Estate	26	1.11	
	Olorunshogo Estate	15	0.64	
	Airport Area	31	1.33	
	Alagba Estate			
	<b>7</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>7.07</b>	
Moderate Crime	Fate	62	2.66	
	New Yidi Road	47	2.01	
	Okelele	64	2.74	
	Oloje	52	2.23	
	Olorunshogo	68	2.91	
	Sabo Oke	52	2.23	
	Saw-Mill	58	2.49	
	Surulere	60	2.57	
	Balogun Gambari	67	2.87	
	River Basin Estate	65	2.79	
		<b>10</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>25.50</b>
	High Crime	Asa Dam Road	89	3.81
Amilegbe		93	3.99	
Post Office Area		89	3.81	
Unity Road		77	3.30	
Tanke		86	3.69	
Sango		84	3.60	
Pakata		78	3.34	
Okesuna		79	3.39	
Oja Oba		91	3.90	
Oja Gboro		87	3.73	
Offa Garage		80	3.43	
Agbabiaka		87	3.73	
Maraba		87	3.73	
Idi-Ape		80	3.43	
Gaa Imam		79	3.39	
Gaa Akanbi		75	3.21	
		<b>16</b>	<b>1341</b>	<b>57.48</b>
Very High Crime	Agbo Oba	115	4.93	
	Taiwo Road	117	5.02	
	<b>2</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>9.95</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2333</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Source: Author's Analysis, 2016

**Table 5: Analysis of Variation in Criminality among Neighbourhoods of Ilorin**

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	23085.234	3	7695.078	160.676	.000
Within Groups	1484.652	31	47.892		
Total	24569.886	34			

Source: Author's Analysis, 2016

### 5.5 Correlation of Socio-economic and Housing Characteristics and Exposure to Crime

While Table 6 shows the generated SHE scores of the various neighbourhoods, Table 7 shows the level of correlation (relationship) between criminality pattern recorded in the study area and the socio-economic characteristics, housing and environmental (SHE) conditions in the study area.

The three factors of socio-economic characteristics, housing and environmental (SHE) conditions recorded a combined r value of  $-.810$ , wherein P-value =  $0.000$ . This implies that together they correlate strongly with crime occurrence in the study area.

Individually, the socio-economic, housing and environmental characteristics recorded r values of  $-0.621$ ,  $-0.779$ , and  $-0.574$  respectively with P values of  $0.000$ . This implies that there is a strong negative correlation of these factors with criminality pattern recorded in the study area. The negative sign implies that as the socio-economic characteristics, housing or environmental conditions improves, there is a corresponding decrease in crime recorded in the study area and vice versa. Individually, housing characteristics factor has the strongest negative correlation with criminality pattern, followed by socio-economic and environmental condition.

**Table 6: Socio-economic, Housing and Environmental (SHE) Scores of Neighbourhoods**

Neighbourhood	SHE Score	Neighbourhood	SHE Score	Neighbourhood	SHE Score
GRA	67.48	Tanke	53.91	Pakata	48.08
Federal Housing Est.	63.93	Fate	53.41	Okelele	47.74
Olorunshogo Estate	62.43	Agbabiaka	53.3	Oloje	47.54
Irewolede Estate	61.81	Gaa Akanbi	53.05	Post Office Area	47.48
Airport Area	61.39	Olorunshogo	52.86	Gaa Imam	46.68
Adewole Estate	60.93	Unity Road	52.35	Taiwo Road	46.46
Alagba Estate	60.15	Maraba	52.3	Agbo Oba	45.91
New Yidi Road	57.95	Amilegbe	52.21	Balogun Gambari	45.54
Asa Dam Road	56.37	Saw Mill	51.79	Oja Gboro	44.05
River Basin Estate	55.61	Sango	50.35	Oja Oba	41.65
Surulere	55.39	Offa Garage Rd.	50.14	Idi Ape	38.7
Sabo Oke	54.43	Okesuna	48.13		

Source: Author's Analysis, 2016

**Table 7: Correlation of SHE Characteristics and Exposure to Crime**

Variables	Sum of Crimes	SHE	Socioeconomic	Housing	Environmental
Sum of Crimes	1	$-.810$	$-.621$	$-.779$	$-.574$
SHE Score	$-.810$	1	$.785$	$.906$	$.779$
Socioeconomic	$-.621$	$.785$	1	$.666$	$.543$
Housing	$-.779$	$.906$	$.666$	1	$.616$
Environmental	$-.574$	$.779$	$.543$	$.616$	1
No. of Observation	35	35	35	35	35

\*\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Source: Author's Analysis, 2016

## 6. Conclusion

This study has not only revealed that the socio-economic and housing characteristics of neighbourhoods constitute vulnerability or exposure factors to crime in Ilorin, it has equally revealed that experiences of identified crime types varied significantly among the neighbourhoods of the city. This study therefore, concludes that urban neighbourhoods with poor socio-economic status and housing conditions are more vulnerable to crime and criminality than those with better socio-economic profiles and housing conditions.

## 7. Recommendations

While acknowledging the fact that incidence of crimes and criminality cannot be totally eliminated within housing neighbourhoods where people interrelate daily, vulnerability or exposure to crime can be minimized considerably through the following measures.

1. As much as possible development planning policies and measures that significantly address poverty and inequality reduction among the people, particularly urban residents should be vigorously pursued at all levels of governance in the country.
2. That concern for security and safety of occupants is significantly factored into urban housing and neighbourhood design and development process.
3. To address the poor physical condition of the urban centres such as Ilorin, the study recommends the need for periodic urban renewal programmes, particularly in the old, poor and blighted neighbourhoods of the city. This will allow for periodic upgrading of neighbourhood

facilities and infrastructures. Improved neighbourhoods facilitate socio-economic development, liveability and poverty reduction.

4. This study also recommends that the current structure of physical development control measures be reviewed, particularly with the growing number of poorly designed, planned and developed housing and neighbourhoods even in emerging suburbs. There is an urgent need for improved urban planning and management in all its ramifications, one that significantly takes cognizance of the pervasive insecurity in the light of the increasing impact of urbanization in the country.

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