



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATION OF SHILLA BOYS ACTIVITIES IN JIMETA METROPOLIS

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Abstract

This study was conducted to examine the socio-economic implication of Shilla Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis of Adamawa state. Data for the study were sourced through the administration of 320 structured questionnaires designed in five Likert scale format out of which 285 were return for analysis. Structural Equation Model (SEM) was employed in identifying the socio-economic implication of Shilla Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis of Adamawa state. The reliability results, normality results and the goodness of fit results revealed that the model is reliable; the data was normally distributed as indicated by confirmatory factor analysis and normality test. The result of the analysis revealed that the coefficient of theft is significant and negatively affects the socio-economic activities in Jimeta Metropolis, implying that the businesses recorded a major setback in their business operating hours, household income and government revenue generation. Moreover, the study also reveals that killing does not significantly affect the socio-economic activities in Jimeta metropolis as indicated by coefficient (-1.86) and probability value of (0.42). This implies that killing has not been recognized as the major activities of the Shilla Boys that affect the socio-economic activities in the area. On the other hand, the social disorder is found to have an insignificant relationship with economic activities in Jimeta metropolis as indicated by coefficient (1.98) and probability value of (0.48). The fact that the Theft is found to be statistically significant at 1 per cent means that government should intensify effort in ensuring safety and protection of all socio-economic activities in the State.

Key words: Socio-economic implication, Theft, Killing, and Social disorder

JEL CODES: O1, M2

1. Introduction

Peace and tranquility are an integral part of human existence. No business or economic activity could thrive in a chaotic atmosphere. Adamawa State in general and Jimeta metropolis, in particular, has been known to be among the peaceful State and metropolis in Nigeria prior to the activities of the 'Shilla' boys with its attendant consequences on economic activities in the State and Jimeta metropolis.

Shilla Boys is a group involve in criminal activities in the Jimeta Metropolis. The criminal activities of the group can better be understood from the meaning of the name of the group. The group's name known to

the people is '*Yan Shilla*', a Hausa phrase which means 'little hawks'. ('Yan' means 'children' while 'Shilla' is Hausa name for hawk bird). The similarity in mode of operation of members of the group with the preying tactics of hawk may have warranted the naming of the group as '*Yan Shilla*' by members of the public. They operate using tricycle that is locally called '*kekenapep*'. The tricycle normally contains the driver and one or two persons masquerading as passengers. They drive to secluded areas where there are very few people, study unsuspected pedestrians especially women with bags or phones or any other valuables, snatch them and zoom off their tricycle.

The activities of the Boys have been causing a serious problem that hampered economic activities in the Jimeta metropolis. People no longer conduct their business activities as before where they operate almost 24 hours daily, due to fear of being attacked, or killed by the 'Shilla' Boys. This had led to the imposition of stringent measures by the government, which include curfew for some hours, which affected the income, productivity, and profitability of businesses in the metropolis. The resultant impact of these activities and attendant restrictions imposed by the government to curtail their activities were reductions in patronage, closing down of existing businesses, new businesses not willing to emerged, capital formation affected also the standard of living of people of such petty business owner tempered. These possessed a serious challenge to the policymakers and researchers alike in Adamawa State to find a lasting solution to the problem.

The extant literature reviewed in the study concentrated on the socio-economic implication of criminality in an economy (see Abubakar, 2015 and Bright, 2018). Little or no attention was given to the area of finding the socio-economic implication of the activities of the 'Shilla' Boys specifically as it relates to theft, killing, and social disorder in Jimeta. Therefore, there is a need to undertake a study on the impact of the activities of the 'Shilla' Boys on economic activities in the Jimeta metropolis.

Furthermore, most of the available literatures reviewed have employed either descriptive statistics or regression analysis in the analysis of the data collected. The current study employs the use Structural Equation Model (SEM) in determining the major factors attributable to the activities of the 'Shilla' Boys, as well as analyzing the data collected in the course of the study. The model is advantageous and has been identified to be the best model for the analysis when using primary data. Two primary advantages of SEM; are that the model makes it possible to study complex patterns of relationships among the constructs in a conceptual model in an integrative fashion. Secondly the measurement of unobserved (latent) variables by observed fallible indicators can be modeled explicitly, and the effect of

measurement error (both random and systematic) on structural relationships can be taken into account.

This study investigates the effect of Shilla Boys on the socioeconomic activities of people in Adamawa state. The study precisely looked at how the activities of the criminal body in terms of theft, killing and social-disorder generally affect the petty business existence, income level and government's revenue generation.

2. Literature Review

Prominently twelve related theoretical literatures were identified in the study. These theories are: the conflict theory, structural functionalist, relative deprivation theory, the Neo-Malthusian theories, the eco-violence theory, and the theory of the Tragedy of the commons, Securitization Theory, Rational choice theory, Crime pattern Theory, Symbolic Interactionism. Theory and Lifestyle Exposure Theory. However, this study will be anchored on the Lifestyle Exposure Theory to explain the socio-economic implication of 'Shilla' Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis on business operating hours, household income and government revenue in Adamawa State with the view to finding lasting solutions to the criminality of the boys. This theory was chosen because it better explain the socio-economic implications in the context of the Jimeta metropolis economy. It states that one may be at high risk of being victimized due to his lifestyle or business exposure. Shilla boys target mostly petty business owner who are always on transit through *kekenapep* means of transport.

On the empirical front, numerous empirical evidences can be seen studying the menace of crimes in societies. According to Lumun, Tormusa, &Orngu, (2013). The Nigerian daily newspaper reports, television news headlines, and radio announcements have shown that the activities of robbers are increasing at an alarming rate; both the rich and the poor are always in a perpetual state of fear because nobody really knows where and when they will strike. In describing the incidence of robbery, Lumun et al, (2013), argues that it took place on every seventy-five seconds, and half of the robberies known

to the police are committed on the street. A clear example is that of ‘Shilla’ Boys in Adamawa state. This group according to Gumel (2016), represent a gang of youths who engage in the snatching of varieties of items on the street such as; cell phones, palmtops, tablets phones, laptops, handbags, wallets, money, and other valuable items but small in size that can be easily moved. Thus, the act itself is an infringement of the fundamental human right of people in such places. Shalakwan (2016), discerns that Shila Boy’s has led to the falling standard of Adamawa state reputation in the eyes of many, as each day passes, the state witness more and more alarming cases of street robbery. The strain of this crime now imposes on state and federal government of Nigeria, which failed to provide substantial opportunity for youths to reduce their deprivation through legitimate means. Since this kind of crime is linked to some significant imbalances in the existing social system of society. Tompson, (2016). Explaining Temporal Patterns in Street Robbery. Used the crime patterns and the routine activity approach theory. In his finding show that, the presence of darkness increases the likelihood of street robbery occurring, when differences in temperature and underlying trends in the data are accounted for.

There is also study on the Causes and Consequences of Yan Shila Street Robbery in Adamawa State, Nigeria by Balogun, (2019). The study relies on in-depth interview directed at respondents through multi-stage sampling techniques for data collection It was found that unemployment, peers influence, desire for hedonistic party lifestyle and phone owners' negligence are the major causes of the criminality. The major consequences as reveals includes; trauma, grudges, pains, loss of valuable items, bad reputation to the state among others. Babajide & Jude, (2020) conducted study on ‘Beyond Proscription: Rethinking Government Response to ‘Yan Shilla’ Gang Violence in Yola Metropolis of Adamawa State, Nigeria’. The work critically examines the implications of the proscription of the group, and general peace and security of the state. Using the theory of securitization. Primary and secondary data were sourced and utilized for the work. Primary data collected for the work were qualitative in nature. They were collected through in-depth interviews and

focus group discussions (FGDs). A combination of purposive and snowball sampling techniques was used to select participants in the FGD sessions.

Mutiu, OLayiwola, Busuyi and Oluwatoyin (2021). Analysis of Simulated Crime Rate in Lagos State. The study covers ten most prevalent crimes (Assault, Theft, Store breaking, Burglary, Unlawful possession, Rape, Suicide, Murder, Breach of public peace, Armed robbery) during past years. Secondary data collected from the Lagos State Police head quarter was simulated appropriately and analysed statistically using SPSS version 25 for the purpose of the study. Linear regression was used for the data analysis. The result of the analysis shows that there is no interaction between crimes and years at which they were committed. It also shows that there is strong positive association between some crimes committed.

Similarly, the Mildred, (2021) study on ‘An exploration of street robberies at Bungeni village under Makhado Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa’ was reviewed. The technique used was non-probability sampling techniques, specifically purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Data was collected using individual face-to-face semi-structured interviews. Thematic Content Analysis (TCA) was used in analysing the data collected. The research work concluded that, the root of the crises such as widespread poverty, decadence in education, and increase in school drop-out rates have fueled the emergence of the criminal gangs in the state.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted quantitative research design in the form of econometric modeling technique by using questionnaire to generate data and used SEM for analysis of data. Primary data were used to examine the socio-economic implication of “Shilla” Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis of Adamawa state.

3.2 Data and Sources

For the purpose of this study, the researcher used primary source of data mainly because it provide

firsthand information needed to achieve the objectives of the study.

3.3 Method of Data Collection

The researcher used design questionnaire in collecting data from households, commercial trycyclists, 'Shilla' Boys victims, Students, officers of the Nigeria Police, customers of some selected commercial activities (supermarket, shopping malls). The likert five-point rating scale was used which are in the ranging from 1-5 (5=strongly agree, 4= agree, 3=undecided, 2= disagree 1=strongly disagree).

3.4 Model Specification

The model is specified as thus;

$$Y^* = X^* \beta^* + \varepsilon^* \text{----- (1)}$$

The Structural Equation Model (SEM) can therefore be expressed further as:

$$Y = X_1\beta_1 + X_2\beta_2 + X_3\beta_3 + \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 \dots\dots (2)$$

The Structural Equation Model (SEM) can also be specified as:

Where:

Y^* = Socio-economic Implication (i.e. dependent variables, which include, BOH, HI, GR)

X^* = Shilla Boys Activities (i.e., independent variable proxy by TH, KL, SD)

β^* = $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$, (parameter estimates)

ε^* = $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3$, (Error Terms)

BOH = business operating hours

HI = household income

GR= government revenue

TH= theft

KL = killing

SD = social disorder

A priori Expectation

$\beta_1 < 0$; $\beta_2 > 0$; $\beta_3 > 0$; β_4 . Theft is expected to be negative (-), Killing and Social Disorder is expected to be positive or negative (+-).

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

For the purpose of this study, statistical technique will be used and adopt Structural Equation Model (SEM) to analyse the data collected.

Structural Equation Model (SEM) is a statistical technique developed for analyzing the inter-relationship among variables in the model. Structural Equation Model (SEM) will be employed with the combination of confirmatory factor analyzes for modifying and measurement as well as a structural model.

Therefore, Structural Equation Modeling will be used for the entire research objectives. These objectives investigate the socio-economic implication of Shilla Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis. However, before considering the structural model for identifying the implication, latent constructs for each of the variables are obtained through the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) on the measurement model. The latent unobserved variables will be developed from the observed latent indicators extracted from the set of items in the questionnaire. These set of items are trimmed through the test of uni-dimensionality, validity and reliability on the data. Specifically, factor loadings and covariance will be used for uni-dimensionality.

However, Structural Equation Model (SEM) has been identified to be the best model for the analysis for study under investigation. This is because, the variables that will be used in the study does not violate the conditions and assumptions of the model (Structural Equation Model).

3.6 Postestimation Tests

3.6.1 Reliability Test

Reliability and validity are the two most important and fundamental features of any measurement procedure. Reliability is defined as the extent to which a questionnaire, test, observation or any measurement procedure produces the same result on repeated trials. The reliability of the latent construct was evaluated by measuring internal consistency or the extent to which items on the questionnaire measure the research objectives. The internal consistency was measured using the Cronbach's Alpha test. Cronbach Alpha test is the coefficient of reliability that is commonly used as a measure of the internal consistency or reliability developed by Cronbach, (1951).

Cronbach's Alpha model is define as:

$$\alpha = \frac{K}{K-1} \left(1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^K \delta^2 y_i}{\delta^2 x_i} \right) \dots (3)$$

Where K is the number of items, $\delta^2 y_i$ is the variance of the observed scored and $\delta^2 x_i$ is the variance of the component, i of the sample. This study will employ a standardized Cronbach Alpha were a high value shows high degree of internal consistency. The accepted cut-off point value has been suggested to be 0.70 (Develles, 2003).

3.6.2 Validity and Test of model fitness

In order to determine the SEM validity, certain fitness indexes are considered. Validity on the other hand, is defined as both inter-item correlation analysis and factor loading. Hair, Black, Babin, Anderson, & Tathan (1998) posit that it examined the extent to which questionnaire measures what it was meant to measure and construct validity of a questionnaire an inter-item correlation with the assumption that the model is fit when the factor loadings are >0.5.

However, The model is considered fit if the value of the Chi-square test statistic is insignificant and at least one of the incremental fit index such as comparative fit index (CFI), the root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA), goodness of fit index (GFI), Tucker-Lewis index (TLI), adjusted goodness of fit index (AGFI) and Normed fit index (NFI) meet the pre-determined criteria as shown in table 3.2 below.

Moreover, Measurement Model is considered as part of data preparation because it is used to measure the construct validity by assessing the factor loading, and access normality of the measurement instruments. It is also used to test the relationships between the latent variables and their observed measures; measurement model in this sense portrayed the links between the latent variables and their observed measures (Byrne, 2010). According to Ho (2006), measurement model states the rules guiding how the latent variables are measured based on the observed variables, and it describes the measurement properties of the observed variables. This means that, the measurement model explain the link between observed and latent

variables (Ho, 2006). In testing measurement model, the researcher is concern about the Goodness-of-Fit indices (model fit), which determine the degree to which the proposed model predicts (fits) the observed covariance matrix (Ho, 2006). Model fit is determine by the following; Chi-square (χ^2), Relative χ^2 (χ^2/df), AGFI, GFI, CFI, IFI, TLI and RMSEA.

One of the most fundamental measure of assessing the Goodness-of-Fit in SEM according to Joreskog and Sorbom, (1993) is Chi-Square (χ^2) statistics, and the model is said to be acceptable if the χ^2 value is less than three times the degree of freedom (Carlmines & McIver, 1981), which is refers to Relative χ^2 . That is; Relative χ^2 should be less than 5. The Adjusted Goodness-of-Fit (AGFI) and Goodness-of-Fit (GFI) indices ranges from 0 – 1.00 (Bentler & Yuan, 1999), with value nearest to 1.00 (≥ 0.9) indicate good fit (Byrne, 2010). Also, Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Incremental Index of Fit (IFI; Bollen, 1989) and Tucker–Lewis Index (TLI; Tucker & Lewis, 1973) ranging from 0 – 1.00. According to Ho (2006) and Bentler and Yuan (1999), CFI, IFI and TLI values close to 0.95 for large sample size is indicating good fit. Finally, Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) proposed by Steiger and Lind (1980), measures the error of approximation in the population. Browne and Cudeck (1989) suggested that, RMSEA value < 0.05 indicate good fit, while value > 0.08 indicate reasonable errors of approximation in the population. Similarly, RMSEA value of 0.06 was suggested by Hu and Bentler (1999), however, BacCallum et al. (1996; cited in Byrne, 2010) have increased on these cut-off points and argued that, RMSEA values ranging between .08 to 0.10 “indicate mediocre fit”, and those values > 0.10 indicate poor fit.

3.6.3. Normality Test

The normality assumption is one of the fundamental assumptions in multivariate analysis (Kline, 2005; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). Normality is characterized by the assumption that the data distribution in each item and in all linear combination of items is normally distributed (Hair, 2006). The assumption is that if the variation from the normal distribution happens to be large, all resulting

statistical test are invalid. This is because the use of the F and t statistics within the multivariate analysis can cause underestimation of fit indices and standardized residuals of estimations.

3.7.3 Multicollinearity test

Multicollinearity normally occurs when two or more variables are related with one another with high value of correlation say 0.9. The absence of Multicollinearity among variables is also one of the important assumptions of estimating a causal relationship among variables. The correlation between the variable with less than 0.9 indicate that there is no presentence of Multicollinearity. However, to confirm the absence of Multicollinearity among variables, variance inflation factor test is considered

with the assumptions that VIF value variable which is < 10 indicating the absence of Multicollinearity.

3.6.4. Measurement of Model

For the purpose of this study, Socio-economic implication in Jimeta metropolis (EI) is the dependent variable which will be measured by number of businesses operating hours, household income and government revenue in Jimeta metropolis which is proxy by theft (TH), killing (KL), and social disorder (SD). As such, four (4), and four (4) relevant questions will be theoretically raised to stands for a latent construct of theft (TH), killing and social disorder (SD).

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Summary of Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mini mum	Maxi mum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
K1	285	1.00	5.00	4.0737	.53554	-1.734	.144	10.367	.288
S1	285	1.00	5.00	4.0491	.58536	-1.704	.144	7.123	.288
T1	285	1.00	5.00	3.8842	.71498	-1.107	.144	3.084	.288
Valid N (listwise)	285								

Source: Source: Author's Computation, 2023

Table 1 above is the descriptive statistic on the Socio-economic Implication of Shilla Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis. The mean value of killing (KL) is 4.0737 units while the minimum and maximum values are 1.000 and 5.000 respectively. The standard deviation of 0.53554 implies that the data deviated from the mean value from both sides by 0.53554 units. This shows that there is no wide dispersion of the data from the mean value. The KL data is negatively skewed or skewed leftward (-1.734) implying that most respondents strongly agreed or agreed that killing affect socio-economic activities in Jimeta metropolis.

On the other hand, the mean value of social disorder (SD) is 4.0491 units while the minimum and

maximum values are 1.000 and 5.000 respectively. The standard deviation of 0.58536 implies that the data deviated from the mean value from both sides by 0.58536 units. This shows that there is no much wide dispersion of the data from the mean value. The SD data is negatively skewed or skewed leftward (-1.704) implying that most respondents strongly agreed or agreed that social disorder affect socio-economic activities in Jimeta metropolis.

Similarly, the mean value of theft (TH) is 3.8842units while the minimum and maximum values are 1.000 and 5.000 respectively. The standard deviation of 0.71498implies that the data deviated from the mean value from both sides by 0.71498units. This shows that there is no wide dispersion of the data from the

mean value. The TH data is negatively skewed or skewed leftward (-1.107) implying that most

respondents strongly agreed or agreed that theft affect socio-economic activities in Jimeta metropolis.

Table 2: Correlation

			Estimate
THEFT	<-->	KILLING	.76
KILLING	<-->	SDISORDER	.98
THEFT	<-->	SDISORDER	.83

Source: Author's Computation, 2023

The correlation analysis in Table 2. Indicate how each of the variable correlate with one another in the model. In this regard, Correlation that exists between

theft killing is found to be 0.76, killing and social disorder is found to be 0.98, theft and social disorder is found to be 0.83.

Table 3: Summary of Results

Hypotheses			b	Beta	S.E	C.R.	P	Decision
ECOIMPL	<---	THEFT	-0.79	-0.83	0.29	-2.83	0.00	Accepted
ECOIMPL	<---	KILLING	-1.52	-1.86	2.30	-.81	0.42	Rejected
ECOIMPL	<---	SDISORDER	1.41	1.94	2.75	.70	0.48	Rejected

Source: Author's computation using SPSS AMOS Version 21

Note: ECOIMPL – Economic implication; TH:- Theft; KL:- Killing, S.E.:- Standard Error; CR:- Critical Ratio.

Table 3 contains the coefficients of structural equation results on the socio-economic implication of Shilla Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis of Adamawa state. The dependent or outcome variable is socio-economic implication (ECOIMPL), while the predictors or independent variable are theft (TH), killing (KL) and social disorder (SD). The coefficient of theft and killing are negatively related to socio-economic implication. This implies that one unit increase in theft will decrease the socio-economic implication in Jimeta metropolis by -0.83 units. Also one unit increase in killing will decrease socio-economic implication. This implies that one unit increase in killing will decrease the socio-economic implication in Jimeta metropolis by -1.86 units. On the other hand there is positive relationship between socio-economic implication and social disorder in Jimeta metropolis. This implies that one unit increase in socio-economic activities in Jimeta metropolis by 1.94units.

However, the coefficient of theft found to be statistically significant at 1 per cent as indicated by probability values of 0.00 respectively, hence the null hypothesis are rejected.

4.2 Discussion of Major findings

This study investigated the socio-economic implication of Shilla Boys activities in Jimeta metropolis in Adamawa state, Nigeria. Data for the study are primary were sourced through the administration of 320 structured questionnaires designed in five Likert scale format out of which 285 were return for analysis. The study covered the period from 2022 to 2023. Structural Equation Model (SEM) was employed in identifying the Shilla Boys activities of theft (TH), killing (KL) and social disorder (SD) on socio-economic implication in Jimeta metropolis of Adamawa state. However, some of the major findings of the study are highlighted below:

i. The result of the study concluded that theft is significantly and negatively affecting the socio-economic activities in Jimeta metropolis as indicated by coefficient (-0.83) and probability value of (0.00). Implying that the businesses recorded a major setback in conducting a socio-economic activity in Jimeta metropolis of Adamawa State when the Shilla activity (theft) increases.

ii. Moreover, the study reveals that killing has not significant effect on the economic activities in Jimeta

metropolis as indicated by coefficient (-1.86) and probability value of (0.42). This implies that killing has not been recognized that the major activities of the Shilla Boys that effect the business activities in Jimeta metropolis.

iii. On the other hand, found a positive relationship between social disorder and economic activities in Jimeta metropolis as indicated by coefficient (1.94) and probability value of (0.48). Meanwhile, the study found that the link between the two does not cause any harm to the business activities since the Shilla Boys were not engaged in creating riot.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study investigated the socio-economic implication of Shilla Boys in Jimeta metropolis of Adamawa state, Nigeria. The result study concluded that theft is significantly and negatively affecting the socio-economic activities in Jimeta metropolis by reducing the business operating hours, household income and government revenue generation.

However, the finding of this study corroborated with study of Mutiu, OLayiwola, Busuyi and Oluwatoyin (2021). Analysis of Simulated Crime Rate in Lagos State. The study covers ten most prevalent crimes (Assault, Theft, Store breaking, Burglary, Unlawful possession, Rape, Suicide, Murder, Breach of public peace, Armed robbery) during past years. Secondary data collected from the Lagos State Police head quarter was simulated appropriately and analysed statistically using SPSS version 25 for the purpose of the study. Linear regression was used for the data

analysis. The result of the analysis shows that there is no interaction between crimes and years at which they were committed. It also shows that there is strong positive association between some crimes committed.

Adamawa State government should formulate law that will prevent businesses which are aimed at providing more income to businesses and household that will inturn generate more revenue to the State. The government of Adamawa State should lunch awareness campaign in all the media stations, and placing of posters in public space which renounce the activities of Shilla Boys and the punishment awaiting anyone found guilty of the act. They should also carry-out the campaign on social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn among others, because they are the platform for sharing ideas.

The pedestrians and strangers should avoid visiting unfamiliar, isolated, and places that are uncovered by street lights in the night. They should avoid openly and careless holding their items, so as to reduce motivating Shilla Boys. While place business owners should quickly report any suspicious person to the appropriate authority.

The government of Adamawa should provide poverty reduction programmes that will capture unemployed youth and also fund should be given to youths who acquired some skills so that they will be able to start-up a business firm.

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