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Assessment of the Perception of Security Men on Criminal Profiling as a Tool for Crime Control in Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract:

The study assessed the perception of security men on criminal profiling as a tool for crime control in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study employed survey design with a convenient sampling technique. Two hundred and eleven (211) male and female security men participated in the study from the Nigeria Police Force, Kaduna State Command and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Kaduna State Command. Their age range was from 18 – 48 years and above. Hypothesis one results revealed a statistically significant $X^2(1) = 4.830$, $P < 0.05$ positive perception of the officers' knowledge of criminal profiling and effective crime control in Kaduna State. In other words, the hypothesis was confirmed in this study. Hypothesis two revealed a statistically significant $r(209) = -0.201$, $P < 0.05$ negative relationship between criminal profiling and crime control among officers of NPF and NSCDC. In other words, the hypothesis was confirmed in this study. Hypothesis three result revealed a statistically significant $t(209) = -4.244$, $P < 0.05$ difference between male and female security men perception of criminal profiling in Kaduna State. In other words, the stated hypothesis was confirmed in this study. It is therefore concluded and recommended that there is a perception of the security men on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna and there should be an increased application of criminal profiling by law enforcement as well as enlightenment to ensure effective crime control in the society.

Keywords: Perception, security men, criminal profiling, tool and crime control

1. Introduction

It is not strange to come across crime committed especially violent ones such as murder, rape, arson and terrorism with little or no material evidence directly linking the suspect to the crime thereby making it difficult for the law enforcement to investigate and apprehend the likely offenders and identification of victims. The situation necessitated the law enforcement as well as forensic psychologists and analysts to delve into crime scene analysis to find out patterns, mode of operation, traces, signature, victimology and patterns to aid in identifying the likely offender (Ann, 2015). Within the last two decades, Nigeria has been experiencing a new wave of violent crimes ranging from gruesome murder, aggravated rape, rural banditry, kidnapping and other form of organized crime (Ogechi & Oluwa, 2019). The way and manner these crimes are perpetrated in Nigeria recently, has rendered traditional crime investigation techniques unproductive and ineffective.

Criminal profiling is a tool used by law enforcement agencies to help solve crimes. The purpose is not to identify a specific individual who is the likely offender, but to narrow down a pool of suspects by determining certain characteristics the offender is likely to have. The profile helps law enforcement agencies track down a suspect, or is released to the public to enlist help with determining the identity of the offender (Ainsworth, 2001).

Nowadays profiling rests sometimes uneasily, somewhere between law enforcement and psychology. As a science, it is still a relatively new field with few set boundaries or definitions. Its practitioners don't always agree on methodology or even terminology. Since, its emergence, criminal profiling has been given several different terms to describe the technique (Maurice, 2017). for instance, psychological profiling, criminal profiling, criminal personality profiling, criminal investigative analysis, and behavioral evidence profiling. Regardless, though, of the descriptive label applied, profiling as investigative tool today is entirely intuitive based and represents a less than educated attempt to provide law enforcement agencies with detailed information about the behaviour of an unknown individual who has committed a crime. For example, most published accounts of profiling, which details the methods employed by various individuals, have tended to take the form of semi-autobiographical books and journalistic articles rather than systematic academic work and, hence, are difficult to evaluate from an accuracy or scientific point of view (Maurice, 2017). As such, the one major flaw of current

profiling methods is that most of all profiles emphasizes the various psychological functions that murder has for the offender not what varieties of action the murder actually consists of. Consequently, these profiles make little distinction between the overt crime scene behaviours as they occur in murders and the psycho-dynamic processes that are taken to account for or produce that behavior. Hence, there is little attempt by profilers to differentiate between aspects of the offender's motivations and life-style from aspects of his offending behaviour. Another problem, which exist with profiling, is many profilers view profiling as 'crime scene reconstruction' and completely ignore aspects of psychology (Maurice, 2017). Most published accounts that claim 'new' or 'recent' findings in criminal profiling are often a part of the cultural baggage past down over the years and are fraught with frailties of human thinking such as confirmation bias and selective thinking (Holmes, 2019; Turvey, 2016). Current profiling attempts are predominantly anchored in opinions based on what has already been written or told in the past. On the one hand, some profilers claim that patterns associated with serial offending occur as a result of recognizable mental illness or mental disorder in the offender and these disorders directly relate to and can be classified using a personality theory. On the other hand, some profilers attempt to guess at the motive of an offender based on his crime scene actions and refer to this process as behavioral profiling.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

The urgent need to deal with the recent surge in violent crimes within the last two decades has generated a lot of fear and anxiety among the populace in view of the limited capacity of the law enforcement to apprehend offenders which is caused by a number of limiting factors such as inadequate trained personnel (experts), poor equipment, little or no data base, inadequate forensic laboratories and limited access to technological tools and advancement in Nigeria. Crimes such as kidnap, abduction, rape, murder, cybercrime and terrorism have tremendously advanced in terms of how they are committed. The archaic and anachronistic traditional eyewitnesses' account and confession ways of investigating crimes by the Nigeria law enforcement agencies have proven ineffective and inefficient (Ogechi&Oluwa, 2019).

Inadequate knowledge and awareness of effective methods and techniques to be applied by the law enforcement is clearly evident considering how criminals or suspects are being handled in Nigeria. Effective and reliable methods and techniques should be given priority considering the complex and sensitive nature of crime control in the society and optimum utilization of resources available. Advanced countries such as the United States of America has one of the most effective crime control measures in place because they are always willing to adopt various techniques that will aid prevention, detection and investigation of crime (Ann, 2015).

These problems pose a great obstacle to law enforcement agencies' function of detecting and investigating crime. In simple terms, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) particularly and other law enforcement agencies are obviously finding it difficult to live up to their expectations in curtailing the new wave of violent crimes across the country. In recent times, Nigeria has been featured in a lot of unpleasant headlines in both local and international media bordering of criminality and lack effective and productive investigative and other crime control techniques in combating the menace holding the African most populous nation to ransom (Ogechi&Oluwa, 2019).

It is generally assumed that anybody within the society is a potential suspect of a crime. Therefore, when the characteristics or profile of the likely offender is known then the whole scope of investigation is then narrowed down to the profile or characteristics that it is pointing towards. In simple terms, criminal profile seeks to aid investigation by narrowing down its scope to facilitate easy apprehension of offenders.

The study seeks to create more awareness to authorities concerned and the general public on criminal profiling and how it can be utilized towards crime control. It will also be an avenue for development of the tool and skills necessary to apply it.

1.2. Objective of the Study

The study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To assess the perception of the security men on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna.
- To determine the relationship between criminal profiling and crime control among security men in Kaduna.
- To ascertain the gender difference in perception of criminal profiling towards crime control among security men in Kaduna.

1.3. Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following questions;

- What is the perception of the security men on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna?
- What is the relationship between criminal profiling and crime control among the security men in Kaduna?
- Will there be gender difference in perception of criminal profiling towards crime control among the security men in Kaduna?

2. Methodology

2.1. Research Design

The study employed survey design. The design allows the researcher to study variables as they are without creating artificial situations. When survey design is employed, an excellent method of descriptive prediction is achieved. The researcher involved participants in which questionnaires were distributed to the participant in other to collect information on the variables that matter in the study.

2.2. Participants

The participant for this study includes Officers of the Nigeria Police Force (Kaduna State Command) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Kaduna State Command) in Kaduna State. The targeted location(s) of the participants are: Kaduna State Police Command Headquarters, BidaRoad, Kaduna and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Kaduna State Command, LafiyaRoad. The estimated total participants were two hundred and fifty (250) participants but only two hundred and eleven (211) were duly filled and returned. The demographic characteristics of 211 officers from Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (male = 116 and female = 95). Age: 18-22 years (N=21, 10%), 23-27 years (N= 34, 16.1%), 33-37 years (N=29, 13.7%), 38-42 years (N=55, 26.1%), 43-47 years (N=50, 23.7%) and 48 years above (N= 22, 10.4%). Marital status: single (N= 63, 29.9%), married (N= 123, 60.7%), divorced (N= 13, 6.2%) and separated (N= 7, 3.3%). Education: primary (N= 13, 6.2%) secondary (N= 120, 56.9%) and tertiary (N= 78, 37%). Organization: NPF (N= 104, 49.3%) and NSCDC (N= 107, 50.7%).

2.3. Sampling Size and Techniques

The sampling technique employed in this study was convenient sampling technique considering the nature of the setting and work schedules with 250 security officers but 211 questionnaires were returned. Out of the 211, 116 were male while 95 were female. Convenient sampling technique is a method that allows each member of the population to be selected as a subject. This technique was adopted so as to permit participation of all members of the total population to enable an effective and accurate analysis. The unit of analysis for this study consists of a sample of personnel in Kaduna State, from age 18 and above. The subjects by this method constituted a good representation of law enforcement personnel in Kaduna.

2.4. Instrument

A 21-item self-developed questionnaire was employed by the researcher with the assistance of the supervisor. It was divided into 4 parts comprising 5-items on each part. The first part is bordering on participant's bio data, second part to assess participant's knowledge of criminal profiling, the third part assess the participant's experience on criminal profiling while the last part assessed effectiveness of criminal profiling. The questionnaire was scored in five (5) point scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Undecided (UD), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) for the first and yes or no for the third and fourth part. The estimated total participants were two hundred and fifty (250) participants consisting of male and female officers.

2.5. Pilot Study

Standardization of the instrument was done via face and contents validity of three experts in the field of Forensic Psychology, thereafter, a pilot study was conducted with 50 Personnel of the Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps who were not part of the main study to ascertain the reliability and valid of the instrument. Criminal Profiling Tool Scale (CPTS) which consists of 2 items with 2-point responses options. A Split-Half reliability method was adopted. The results revealed a Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient for the two-half as 0.742 and 0.664 respectively with a Guttman Split-Half Reliability Coefficient of 0.753. Therefore, the instrument was found reliable and valid for this study.

2.6. Procedure

The researchers wrote a letter of introduction introducing themselves to the authorities where the research was conducted and thereafter, after the permission was granted, they proceeded to distribute the questionnaires and explain how the instrument is expected to be used to get the required information. An informed consent form was given to the participants to seek for their consent. Ethical considerations were duly observed as there was no force and were allowed to voluntarily participate, keeping confidentiality to boost their confidence. Duly filled questionnaires were returned to the researcher upon completion by the participants for further analysis.

2.7. Statistics Used

The data gathered from the participants through the use of questionnaire were analyzed by using the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Analysis was carried out with the generation of frequency and simple percentage distribution, mean score value and standard deviation. The hypotheses were further analysed using inferential statistics for the test of Hypotheses. Chi-Square test was used to test the perception of the public on criminal profiling and effect of crime control in Kaduna, Pearson Product-moment Correlation was used to test the relationship between the variables and Independent Sample-t-test was used to test the difference between male and female officers' perception of criminal profiling.

3. Results

3.1. Data Presentation

Demographic Variables		Frequency	Percentages
Gender	Male	116	55
	Female	95	45
	Total	211	100%
Age	18-22 Years	21	10
	23-27 Years	34	16.1
	33-37 Years	29	13.7
	38- 42 Years	55	26.1
	43-47 Years	50	23.7
	48 Above	22	10.4
	Total	211	100%
Marital Status	Single	63	29.9
	Married	123	60.7
	Divorced	13	6.2
	Separated	7	3.3
	Total	232	100%
Education	Primary	13	6.2
	Secondary	120	56.9
	Tertiary	78	37
	Total	211	100%
Organization	NPF	104	49.3
	NSCDC	107	50.7
	Total	211	100%

Table 1: Frequency and Percentages of the Characteristics of Participants

Table 1 presents the frequencies and percentages of the demographic characteristics of 211 officers from Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (male = 116 and female = 95). Age: 18-22 years (N=21, 10%), 23-27 years (N= 34, 16.1%), 33-37 years (N=29, 13.7%), 38-42 years (N=55, 26.1%), 43-47 years (N=50, 23.7%) and 48 years above (N= 22, 10.4%). Marital Status: single (N= 63, 29.9%), married (N= 123, 60.7%), divorced (N= 13, 6.2%) and separated (N= 7, 3.3%). Education: primary (N= 13, 6.2%) secondary (N= 120, 56.9%) and tertiary (N= 78, 37%). Organization: NPF (N= 104, 49.3%) and NSCDC (N= 107, 50.7%).

- Hypothesis 1: Hypothesis one stated that, there will be a positive perception of the public on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was test using Chi-Square test in table 2.

Variables	Crime Control		Total	χ^2	SIG.
	Ineffective	Effective			
Knowledge of Criminal Profiling	F(%)	F(%)	F(%)	4.830	0.028
Positive	35(16.6)	91(43.1)	125(59.7)		
Negative	36(17.1)	49(23.2)	85(40.3)		
Total	71(33.6)	140(66.4)	211(100)		

Table 2: Public Perception of Criminal Profiling and Crime Control in Kaduna State

Sig. Level: $P < .05$, $df=1$

Table 2 presents the summary of the Chi-Square test of officer's perception of criminal profiling and crime control in Kaduna. The result revealed that 124(59.7%) of the officers, of which 91(43.1%) displayed positive knowledge of criminal profiling and effective crime control in Kaduna while 35(16.6%) displayed positive knowledge of criminal profiling and ineffective crime control in Kaduna. Also, the result reveal that 85(40.3%) of the officers, of which 49(23.2%) displayed negative knowledge of criminal profiling and effective crime control in Kaduna while 36(17.1%) displayed negative knowledge of criminal profiling and ineffective crime control in Kaduna. Generally, the result revealed that 66.4% indicate effective crime control while 33.6% indicate ineffective crime control in Kaduna State. Further analysis revealed that there is a significant $\chi^2(1) = 4.830$, $P < 0.05$ positive perception of the officers' knowledge of criminal profiling and effective crime control in Kaduna State. In other words, the hypothesis was confirmed in this study.

- Hypothesis 2: Hypothesis two stated that, there will be a significant relationship between criminal profiling and crime control in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was tested with Pearson Product-moment Correlation in table 3.

Variables	M	SD	df	r	Sig.
Criminal Profiling	9.88	2.668	209	-0.201	0.003
Crime Control	17.11	1.139			

Table 3: Relationship between Criminal Profiling and Crime Control in Kaduna State

$$r(209) = -0.201, P < 0.05$$

Table 3 shows the summary results of the Pearson correlation between criminal profiling and crime control. The results revealed the mean and standard deviation scores for criminal profiling (M= 9.88, SD= 2.668) and crime control (M= 17.11, SD= 1.139). Further analysis revealed a statistically significant $r(209) = -0.201, P < 0.05$ negative relationship between criminal profiling and crime control among officers of NPF and NSCDC. In other words, the hypothesis was confirmed in this study.

- Hypothesis 3: Hypothesis three stated that, there will be a gender difference in the perception of criminal profiling among officers in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was tested using Independent Sample t-test in table 4.

Gender	N	M	SD	df	t	P
Male	116	9.2	2.678	209	-4.244	0
Female	95	10.71	2.423			

Table 4: Summary Results of the Difference between Male and Female

Officer's Perception of Criminal Profiling in Kaduna State.

$$t(209) = -4.244, P < 0.05$$

Table 4 shows the summary results of the independent sample t-test, where the mean and standard deviation scores of males (M= 9.20; SD= 2.678) and female (M=10.71; SD= 2.423). Furthermore, the analysis revealed a statistically significant, $t(209) = -4.244, P < 0.05$ difference between male and female officers' perception of criminal profiling in Kaduna State. In other words, the stated hypothesis was confirmed in this study.

4. Discussion

As far as hypotheses is concerned the study has established that there is a positive perception of the public on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna. Thus, first hypothesis states that there will be a significant positive perception of the security men on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna State. The hypothesis was tested with Chi- Square test and the result revealed a statistically significant positive perception of the public on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna State. In other words, there is a statistically significant positive perception of the public on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna State. The finding was confirmed in the study because there is Concurring with the finding of this study, Criminal profiling otherwise known as offender profiling generally refers to a technique employed by law enforcement agencies, especially the police and other security agencies during investigation of crime to ease identification, apprehension of offender and victim identification (Davies, 2018). People commit crimes for various reasons which may include possessing some physical or psychological characteristics, mental disorder on one hand while on the other hand there equally exist various reasons which makes a person more vulnerable to victimhood. Criminal profiling is a behavioural and investigative tool that is intended to help investigators to accurately predict and profile the characteristics of unknown criminal subjects or offenders. Also, Ainsworth (2010) suggests that profile helps law enforcement agencies track down a suspect, or is released to the public to enlist help with determining the identity of the offender; assessment of the offender; providing a 'psychological evaluation of belongings found in the possession of the offender' and offering suggestions and strategies for the interviewing process.

Hypothesis two, which stated that there will be a significant relationship between criminal profiling and crime control in Kaduna State was equally established by the study. The summary results of the Pearson correlation between criminal profiling and crime control, the results revealed a statistical negative relationship between criminal profiling and crime control in Kaduna State. Within the last two decades, Nigeria has been experiencing a new wave of violent crimes ranging from gruesome murder, aggravated rape, rural banditry, kidnapping and other form of organized crime (Ogechi & Oluwa, 2019). The way and manner these crimes are perpetrated in Nigeria recently, has rendered traditional crime investigation techniques unproductive and ineffective.

The understanding of profiling as an investigative technique is still not well known by many law enforcement professionals including criminologists, psychologists, forensic psychologists and behavioural scientists (Cook & Hinman, 1999). This suggests that the technique is still developing and requires a lot of skill and practice. Crimes such as kidnapping, abduction, rape, murder, cybercrime and terrorism have tremendously advanced in terms of how they are committed. The archaic and anachronistic traditional eyewitnesses' account and confession ways of investigating crimes by the Nigeria law enforcement agencies have proven ineffective and inefficient (Ogechi & Oluwa, 2019).

The third hypothesis stated that there will be a significant gender difference in the perception of criminal profiling among the security men in Kaduna. The result of the study established a significant gender difference in the perception of criminal profiling among officers in Kaduna State which is hypothesis three thereby, confirming the hypothesis. Supporting the finding of this study, the origin and scope of psychological gender differences are some of the most challenging and fascinating questions for both social and cognitive psychologists, and require interdisciplinary investigations that go beyond simple contrasts between the genders (Eagly & Wood, 2019; Wood & Eagly, 2017). For cognitive psychologists, the innate biological differences such as steroidal gonadal hormone difference (Hines, 2016; Collaer & Hines, 2015), genetic disparity (Heath et al., 1999), and cognitive ability gap (Hyde & Linn, 1988; Miller & Halpern, 2014) reportedly contribute to the differences found between females and males. Social psychologists, on the other hand, tend to focus on social construction explanations, where the importance of societal role differentiations for females and males (Bohan, 2013) provides an explanation for observed discrepancies between the two genders.

5. Conclusion

The study has successfully assessed the perception of the security men on criminal profiling towards effective crime control in Kaduna which is one of its objectives. The study result indicates effective crime control in Kaduna State. According to the study, there is a positive perception of criminal profiling in Kaduna state. The relationship between criminal profiling and crime control in Kaduna has been established where the study revealed a statistically significant negative relationship between criminal profiling and crime control among officers of NPF and NSCDC. In other words, the study finds a significant relationship between criminal profiling and crime control in Kaduna state. The study was able to establish a significant gender difference in perception of criminal profiling towards crime control in Kaduna in its findings. A statistically significant gender difference in the perception of criminal profiling among officers in Kaduna State was deduced from the summary of findings.

6. Recommendations

The study recommends the following:

- There should be increased application and enlightenment on criminal profiling by law enforcement in order to boost efficiency and acceptance from the public.
- A data base should be established and maintained to facilitate the application of criminal profiling. Technology could be used to facilitate the process.
- Training and retraining of law enforcement officers should be improved to enable them cope with rising crime rate in the society as well as new investigative techniques.
- Forensic Behavioural Science should be enhanced through the provision of forensic labs to facilitate easy generation of profiles and forensic evidence.
- There should be increased focus on gender differences in relation to crime perception in the society in future research.
- A synergy should be established between research institutions and law enforcement agencies to facilitate data collection.

7. Implication of the Findings

The study implies the following:

The study implies the existence and application of criminal profiling by security men in Kaduna State, a positive perception of criminal profiling among security men in Kaduna State. This is a significant relationship between criminal profiling and crime rate in Kaduna State. A gender difference in perception of criminal profiling

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