

## Economic Reforms, Living Conditions and Urban Violence: A Situation Analysis of Metropolitan Lagos

<sup>1</sup>Adeyemi Ezekiel O, <sup>1</sup>Adisa Waziri, B, <sup>1</sup>Atere Akinwole A. and <sup>2</sup>Amoo Emmanuel

### Abstract.

Urban poor have suffered significantly from structural adjustment through reduction in employment creation and downward pressure on real wages. The precarious effects of fluctuation in the formal and informal sectors on urban men and women are seldom noticed in the upsurge of urban violence and conflicts. The study specifically examined the impact of privatization and commercialisation on social conditions and livelihood of urban people as the cause of gender differentials in urban violence. Metropolitan Lagos, the study area has been chosen for her level of urbanization and diverse characteristics. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used for data gathering. For quantitative data 252 questionnaires were administered and for qualitative, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and In-depth interview were respectively used to enrich the study. The study revealed that more than two thirds of the respondents were affected by the economic reforms which have negative impact on their living conditions. It was also discovered that, there is strong relationship between incomes, education and ever participated in any forms of violence in the study area. The coping strategies adopted in the study area include; involving children in street hawking, reduction in domestic consumptions, living in low-cost houses, entering big buses popularly know as "Molue" to reduce transportation cost within the metropolitan Lagos, sending children to public school or low-paying schools, and having sizable family size.

### Introduction

The economic crisis of the 1980s and economic reforms in the 1990s experienced in Nigeria have steadily eroded real income from wage labour and made finding wage employment difficult. These economic reforms were designed to control inflation and encourage investment, includes, privatisation stabilisation, and deregulation. For example, privatisation of public-sector enterprises is often associated with large-scale retrenchment of workers. This leads to reduced demand for informal goods and services (as the purchasing power of former public sector employees declines) and increased competition within the informal economy (as many retrenched workers end up working there). Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was described as the medicine that would cure the Nigerian economy of its ailment, distortion and imbalances. Everybody saw the need to realign domestic demand and production patterns and to set economy back on the desirable path of steady and sustainable growth but, not everybody agreed that SAP was the answer. The government of the day went ahead to implement it without articulate the operational significances of the goals and objectives (Odejide, 1997). Analyses of the impact of these policies have revealed that there are internal inconsistencies and short-term

orientations. Little effort was made to build up a genuine awareness and consensus among the parties inside and outside government which are affected by economic adjustment –a vital policy transformation that has affected very drastically the lives of men, women and children of this generation and probably generation to come (Ekpo,1992; Philips, 1990).

However, the World Bank viewed SAP to have generated a considerable level of success since there was said to have been a sharp recovery in the economy from 1986 to 1992 when policy reforms were revised. In terms of broad –based features the GDP of Nigeria grew by an average of 5.4 percent per annum between 1987 and 1992 compared to an average decline of 1.8 percent per annum between 1981 and 1986. Mean per capital household expenditures increased by 34 percent, although neither real income nor real per capital private consumption reached their 1980 levels. Food import bills were about 20% of its value in 1986 (Taiwo, 1997). But the GDP was later decline to 3.5% in 2002 with present levels at 5.3%. The inflation rate presently is 12% compared with the past years which are less that 10% before the reforms. Philips (1997) argued that success with means (e.g. policy instruments, macroeconomic aggregates, etc.,) does not necessarily imply

<sup>1</sup>Department of Sociology, Lagos State University, Ojo Lagos. [gbemibolaa@yahoo.com](mailto:gbemibolaa@yahoo.com)

<sup>2</sup>Department of Economics and Development Studies, College of Business and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota Ogun State.

improvements in the objective condition of the people. He further explained that until the later happens, misplaced ovation and self-delusion will sustained and increasingly be the order. True development can only be measured in people-denominated terms.

Wegner (2003), explained that reforms are often detrimental to the poor because they entail the elimination of subsidiaries and therefore, the increase in prices of products and services needed by the poor such as water electricity and public transportation. Privatised entities providing essential services have an obligation to guarantee access to all, particularly the poor, marginalised, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups. The right to life can be exercised only if individuals have access to certain goods and services essential for survival, and essential to prevent the violation of their physical and mental integrity. Denial of access to these services could cause grave violations of physical and mental integrity of individuals and groups, and would thus constitute a human rights violation which may lead to violence (Amnesty International, 2004).

Bernier and Dallairre (2002) explained that women are the main users of services, they are most affected by the consequences of the reform, including deterioration in the quality of care, increased waiting times, deinsurance of certain services and transfer of costs, as well as a certain confusion caused by the mergers of institutions and the changes in their services. They further explained that Women working in the public and social services network have been hard hit by the adverse effects of the reform. The aspects that have had the most impact on the working conditions of women employed in the public network are the closing of institutions, the mergers, the redefinition of duties, staff movements, and the huge number of staff departures. Women serving as informal caregivers are feeling the effects on several levels: their living conditions, their health (stress, anxiety, physical and mental burnout), their personal and family lives (role conflicts being a source of multiple tensions). They also encounter obstacles where participation in various social activities is concerned.

All the same, urban poor have generally suffered significantly from these government reforms through reduction in employment creation and downward pressure

on real wages. New categories of the poor have been identified, these include: former state employees who have been retrenched and those who lost industrial jobs as a result of structural adjustment changes. This has led to the rise in female labour force participation as coping survival strategies during economic restructuring. It is important to note that there is increasing reliance on urban informal employment for both men and women but the ability of the informal sector to absorb the unemployed is limited (USAID,2005).

But the precarious effects of fluctuation in the formal and informal sectors on urban men and women are seldom noticed in the upsurge of urban violence and conflicts. This is because the unequal distribution of wealth among the gender class is having multiplying effects on the patterns of women involvement in violence. Studies reveal that urban violence is as a result of many factors, such as inadequate incomes of households are usually combined with very poor and overcrowded housing and living conditions, which serves as fertile, ground for the development of violence (Moser, 1996.) The persistence of mass unemployment is also seen as a potentiality to widen gender inequality and also to serve to influence the rate at which women show interest in violent crimes in urban centres.

Urban violence is estimated to have grown by between three and five percent a year over the last two decades, although there are large variations between nations and different cities within nations. Violent crimes are more visible in cities and there is growing understanding that violence should be considered a public health problem for which there are prevention strategies. Urban violence is the result of many factors, and there is considerable debate about the relative importance of different factors. Certain specialists stress the significance of inadequate incomes which are usually combined with very poor and overcrowded housing and living conditions, and often insecure tenure, as fertile ground for development violence (Masika, Haan and Baden, 1997). Other explanations emphasise more the contemporary urban environment in which attractive goods are continuously on display and create targets for potential criminals. Oppression in all its forms, including the destruction of original

cultural identities, together with racism are also cited as causes (UNCHS 1995)

Looking at the complex interrelationship between economic reforms and its impacts on living conditions, livelihoods, and violence. This paper tries to answer some basic questions using the Neo-Marxian urban theory: To what degree has economic policy reform affected urban dwellers? What have been the most important economic policy changes and in what ways have these been felt? What are the various forms of conflict or violence that exist in both formal and informal sectors in urban centres in Nigeria? What are the coping strategies to adverse economic conditions in metropolitan Lagos? The need to contribute to knowledge on the relationship between urban social conditions and urban violence relative to gender differentials, this study examined specifically the social condition and livelihood of urban people as the cause of urban violence.

### **Methodology**

Metropolitan Lagos, the study area has been chosen for her level of urbanization and diverse characteristics. She derives her importance and prominence as a premier city from her political and economic functions as well as her strategic location on the Atlantic. It has a population of about (7.2m) constituting 5.1 percent of the national population of 140 million (2006 population census figure). At 9 percent per annum growth rate, approximately 300,000 persons per annum or 25,000 per month or 34 persons per hour are added to the existing population (Noah 2000). Metropolitan Lagos is most heterogeneous city in the country. Apart from the major ethnic group, which is Yoruba, it consists of all known ethnic groups in the country with diverse social, economic, political and cultural characteristics. It remains the economic nerve centre of the country. It is the most industrialized city in the country.

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used for data gathering. For quantitative data the Questionnaire method was used and for qualitative, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and In-depth interview were respectively used to enrich the study. In order to make the sample size representative of the whole population in the study area, multistage sampling technique was used.

Fifteen (150) enumerations areas were selected from each of the local governments. From each of the enumeration areas twenty (20) houses were randomly selected from the listing of houses in the street. One household was selected from each of the houses. Within the household one respondent (either male or female) in the reproductive age group 15 and above years was interviewed. In all 252 questionnaires were correctly filled and analyzed for the study. Returned questionnaires were subjected to thorough editing and due to the precoded nature of the questionnaire this facilitated easy entry and analysis. The analysis was subjected into three levels, the univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis. Information from the focus group discussion and in-depth interview were transcribed and organized under different headings that depict different aspects of the discussion and used to explain the quantitative analysis where and when necessary.

### **Results**

#### **Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

From table 1, the age pattern of the respondents indicated high proportion of respondents are in age groups 25-34 and 35-44 years respectively. This implies that majority of the sample population are in the economic active group. It is also a true picture of population with high fertility (NDHS 2003). The marital status of the respondents revealed that almost half of the respondents are married. The education pattern shows that 87 percent of the population had received formal education. This survey confirms earlier studies which pronounced out that, there is a high level of literacy level among respondents in the South Western Nigeria. The distribution of the respondents by religion shows that half of the respondents are Christians, while only 1.9 percent are adherents of African traditional religion. Trading is the commonest occupation among the respondents interviewed, half of the respondents engaged in trading, other occupations are professionals, civil servants, artisan and the least is farming. The reason may be due to the fact that the survey was carried out in urban centre. In the study area 60% of the respondents earn less than N10,000 per month, this shows that majority of the respondents are living below poverty level. Seven out of every ten respondents

interviewed are Yorubas since the study was carried out in Yorubaland. Other major ethnic groups include Igbo, Hausa and others

### Living Conditions

The household living conditions are correlated with violence and are indicators of socio-economic status. The structure and pattern of the households revealed that 52% of the respondents are residing in one room apartment while only 5% residing in flats. Most of the houses have poor structural quality, and insecure residential status. The average number of persons per sleeping room was asked from the respondents. Seventy-seven percent are between 5-10 people while 10% are of the respondents indicated that they are above 10 people living together.. These overcrowded living quarters may increase the chance of transmitting communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and pneumonia in this area. It may also propels violence in the area both domestic and physical violence.

On the sources of drinking water, majority of the households obtain water from the vendor (40%) while only 20% obtained water from the pipe. The water expected to be free relatively free of disease are piped water and water drawn from protected wells and deep boreholes. Water from the vendors is not likely to be relatively free from disease. Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (2003) explained that only 42% of Nigerians has access to clean water. The lack of sanitary facilities poses a serious health problem, 26% of the households have a flush toilet, while majority of the residents have no facility for sewage disposal.

### Perceptions of Respondents about Economic Reforms

From table 3, 77% of the respondents have heard about economic reforms. The sources of the information revealed that majority of the respondents got their information from the electronic media especially radio and television. The economic reforms they are aware of are privatization (45%), commercialization (41%), and deregulation (34%). The respondents were asked whether they were affected by these reforms, 78.3% of the respondents indicated that they were affected with the reforms. On the effect of the reforms on the respondents

50% of the respondent indicated loss of jobs, reduction in the household consumption patterns (21.4%), unemployment (15.0%), and children dropping out of school (9.5%). Seventy-four percent of the respondents indicated that their household consumption pattern have been fluctuating since the introduction of these reforms, while twenty-eight percent revealed that their consumption pattern has decreased. Only 10% of the respondents interviewed indicated that their savings has increased in the last ten years. This was also supported by the focus group discussions participants:

A retiree:

*These reforms have increased unemployment rate in this country. About thousand of us were laid off in my former place of work because of this reform called privatization.*

A school teacher:

*These reforms are affecting families many students have been withdrawn from our school by their parents because they could afford their fees.*

A 45 years old trader:

*These reforms are biting harder, how many families could afford good three meals. Even when they could afford it how many could eat balanced diet every day. Businesses are not moving. At times you will sit in your shop without anybody asking for what you are selling.*

A civil servant :

*You are talking about increase in saving, when thousands have lost their jobs how can they save when there is no income.*

### Urban Violence Experienced by Respondents.

Crime and violence are no longer consider as social problems, but an obstacle to development which erodes the poor's human, physical and social capital with associated economies cost. Respondents were asked if they have ever participated in any form of violence or demonstration. From table 4, (38.1%) of the respondents revealed that they have involved in demonstration. On their level of participation, (65%) explained that their level of

participation is very high. On whether their participation leads to destruction of properties and lives, 60.2% explained that it leads to loss of lives and properties. Eighty-five percent of the respondents have experienced one form of violence and crime within their community.

Crime and violence affect all levels of society the rich and more even the poor, women, men young and old. Urban violence generates a climate of fear. UN-Habitat (2002) explained that the fear of crime and violence are serious threat to the stability and social climate of cities, to sustainable and economic development, the quality and human rights. The nature of the crime and violence experienced, by the respondents include: looting during demonstration (33%), theft (34%), robbery (45%), political violence (48%), ethnic clash (23%), conflict between household tenant and landlord (32%), land conflict (24%) and sexual abuse 27%. The result of the focus group discussion also indicates the wide range of violence and crimes that have witnessed by the respondents; some of the exerts are:

45year old artisans:

*It is a common problem especially those of us that have our shops near motor-parks, anytime there is changes in government within their union, there must be violence which will lead to loss of lives and properties. I lost properties worth thousands of naira last year during their fracas.*

35 year old trader:

*Robbery and theft are most common in this area; young boys are using motor cycle to rob in the mid-day. In some areas you cannot pass certain place after 8.00pm if you are a woman, you will be sexually abuse by these area boys. It is God that saves me last month from this calamity.*

A widow:

*It is only God that can save us from various violence and crimes that we are witnessing in this city; you don't know whether you will return any time you are leaving your home, especially with the high rate of kidnappings by ritual killers.*

A civil servant:

*As you can see by yourself ( He is making reference to the interviewers), some few houses from this place is the joint for those area boys who are smoking hard drugs. Atimes we will*

*not be able to sleep when they are fighting. In some cases they will harass young girls and women. These are the boys that normally rob people at night. Any time there is demonstration and violence you will see them their.*

A 35 year- old sewing mistress.

*I am new in this area, my shop was among those houses burnt down during the last crisis between Hausa and Yoruba. The violence is too high in this city, our government should do something.*

A full-time housewife.

*There are always crisis between land lords and tenants over the unreasonably increase in the house rent. We were ejected by our land lord recently even when we don't own him. Although my husband fought with him reported the case to the police nothing was done. If not for God our property will have been destroyed by rain.*

A University undergraduate:

*There are also domestic violence among husband and wife, among household tenants. I think for those of us who are living in a multi-rooms house we normally witness wife bartering and fights between tenants.*

Respondent were asked about the causes of violence and crime in the city, their responses are unemployment (46%), poverty (45%), religious intolerance (25%), and political instability (19%). Akparata (1994) attempted to provide reasons for urban violence in post civil war Nigeria, arguing that there was an abundance of guns in private hands and times were hard economically. This was also accompanied by deterioration in the standard of education and lack of specific training in areas relevant for sustaining both the agricultural and industrial sector. The continuous unpredictable political atmosphere and lack of progressive management of the economy brought about galloping inflation and concentration of wealth in the hands of the few who were in position of public authority fuelled a sense of hopeless desperation among the masses. This aggravates various forms of violence witnessing in the urban centres. Respondents were asked about the socio-economic characteristics of people that normally involve in violence, 72% of the respondents indicated that those people who

are unemployed may likely to participate in any form of violence or demonstration in the study area, while (41.4%) of the respondents indicated that those in age group 26-35years are normally involve in violence.

### **Economic Reforms and Living Conditions of Respondents**

The social consequences of economic reforms on the living conditions were asked from the respondents, it was revealed that the reforms are biting harder on the living conditions of the people since the state withdrawal from productive sector has been extended to the social sectors such as housing, education and health. The impacts of these reforms were revealed by the focus group discussants:

A 46year -old woman:

*Things are very hard; to feed now is becoming difficult. We can not even send our children to higher institutions*

56 year old business man

*To replace my car is a problem. Since I was sacked five years ago, I started small business of cement block making, but there is no constant supply of electricity, the price of diesel is skyrocketing everyday. In some months I will not meet up with the cost of production not to talk of making profit. Two of my children are at home I cannot afford their school fees.*

A civil servant:

*We were ejected from the government quarters because of the issue of monetization. I cannot afford the amount I was asked to pay for the apartment. I have to relocate my family of eight to a room and parlor in this area.*

An artisan

*There is nothing we are benefiting from government since the introduction of these economic reforms, we are buying water, pay for hospital bill, pay for waste disposal, even there are other hiding costs that we are paying for our children who are attending public schools.*

A Trader:

*There are no jobs for our children even when we struggle to train them. Two of my children are graduate looking for jobs. Their father was retrenched from the banking industry because of the bank consolidation reforms.*

The survey revealed that the economic reforms have negative impact on the living conditions of the respondents. Ndiaye (2004) in his study of the impact of reforms in Senegal revealed that living conditions have become very precarious; the level of access to basic services has remained low with only 33 percent of households connected to water supply facilities, 58percent using electricity and 52 percent living in houses which do not belong to them. The impact of the reforms on the living condition will caused competition for essential livelihood resources which may eventually lead to conflict or violence in the study area. The reforms will also increase the level of household poverty in the study area. Oyeleye (2002) explained that poverty in Nigeria has manifested in various forms including low purchasing power, high rate of unemployment, high incidence of crime, poor infrastructure and inability to afford basic necessities of life.

### **Copping Strategies by The Respondents.**

Looking at the impacts of the reforms on the living conditions of the respondents; the coping strategies adopted by the respondents include: Withdrawn children from private school to government schools (26%), relocating to low cost housing (10%) especially those who are leaving in the government apartment. Others strategies are: involving children in street hawking (10), reduce the family size(38%), reduce consumption patterns (45%) and entering public buses popularly called 'molue' (35%). The focus group discussions also revealed that some women in the city have started petty trading to cussing the effect of the harsh economic condition on the households. Chukueze (2007) explained that the harsh economic situation in Nigeria has pushed people to organize their own livelihoods within the formal economy which is facilitated by absence of entry restriction. People can start any type of small business without any particular skill training or significant amount of capital.

### **Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents and ever Participated in Demonstartion/Violence.**

From table 5, 38.3% of respondents in age group 21 –29 years indicated that they have participated in demonstration/violence in

the study area. The level of participation in demonstration is higher among the respondents who are single. Since they are not in unions they probably may not have anything at stake. Interestingly respondents with secondary education (45.6%) have participated in any form of demonstration/violence in the study area. The reason may not be far fetched for the fact that majority are school leavers who are yet to gain admission to the higher institution at the same time there is no job opportunities for them. The study also shown that 80.0% respondents who are unemployed indicated that they have participated in demonstration/violence in the study area. They are most likely to participate. This finding conforms with previous study on the causes of urban violence in Nigeria. Albert (1994) identified causes of urban violence in Africa; these include, high population growth rates with its attendants unemployment, poor wages, poor living condition, urban cultures shocks and poor quality of urban management that is manifested in the crisis in health care, transportation, housing and employment.

The survey also revealed that (60.5%) of the respondents that are affected by economic reforms have participated in demonstration/violence in the urban centre. This also shows the impact of reforms on the people. Especially where people are not employed or have been retrenched from their place of work. Oruwari and Opuene (2006) explained that SAP experiencing a serious contraction in the labour market. This resulted in a large proportion of youths, both in-situ and migrants searching for jobs under the prevailing harsh economic conditions. The presence of this enormous pool of idle youths, who are both skilled and unskilled and sometimes homeless created a fertile ground for deviant activities.

#### **Multivariate Analysis of Socio-Demographic Characteristics and ever Participated in Demonstration/Violence**

From table 7, the age pattern of the respondents shows that people in younger ages are likely to be involved in violence than those in the older ages in the study area. Those in age group 15 – 25 years and 26-35 years are 2.367 and 2.475 times more likely to be involved in demonstration or conflict than age group 45 years and above which is the reference category in the study areas.

Chukueze (2007) in her study revealed that people in age bracket 21 and 40 years are most affected by unemployment, some of them lack qualification for formal employment or any form of wage labour. A very important finding is that as the age of the respondents' increases, there is possibility of not involving in conflict or demonstration. This is natural because some of them would have become mothers and fathers, they will want to lay a good examples for their children.

The marital status did not deviate from the expected pattern, those respondents, who are single are 2.43 times likely to be involved in demonstration or conflict when compared with the reference category. Income has been established as a factor influencing violence or conflict, from the logistic regression, those in lower income less than N120, 000 are 5.3 times likely to involve in conflict or violence in the study area. The reason for this pattern is that majority of the people in this category may not have suitable livelihood which can make them to involve in violence.

#### **Discussion**

Economic reforms have been detrimental to the poor since 1986, this was reflected in the standard of living of people in the country, with reference to education, health, and social resources (including networks and social support mechanism) that enable an individual or household to access food and basic needs. The study shows that reforms have affected the living conditions of people in the study area, three out of every four of the respondents revealed that the reforms are biting them. Offei-Agboagye (1994) in his study on the effect of SAP on women in Ghana revealed that 72% of mothers in those rural areas did not seek medical care for their pre-school children due to the cost, while most parents are complaining about the increasing cost of sending their children to school. It was also revealed that the reforms had affected the consumption pattern of the households, especially when the reforms have led to the increase in the prices of commodity and social services.

Evidences from countries indicate that with declining incomes and high unemployment, households have modified their consumption and dietary patterns and adjusted household expenditures, in many instances in the direction of cheaper and less

nutritious substitutes (Latapi and de la Rocha 1995; UNCHS 1996; Kanji 1995; Moser 1996). In Zimbabwe there is clear evidence that women have modified their lives to a greater extent than men. Women's responses were mainly individual, taking greater cuts in their own consumption, spending more time shopping for bargains and working longer hours for poorer returns (Kanji 1995). The changes in the real income will affect the purchasing power of the household, since most of the elements of the reforms involve retrenchment of workers. Even those that are working especially the income earners will feel the impact, since they are on a fixed income and the burden of friends and relatives that have lost their jobs will be on their shoulders. It is expected in traditional African societies that families will provide the natural framework for emotional, financial, and material support essential for the growth and development of their members.

Anuawon (2004), in the study of the impact of SAP on urban poverty and wage earner observed that on the average, the Nigerian workers spent over two-thirds of their income on food, less than a fifth on non-food items, and had little left to save in the SAP period. The impacts of the reforms were shown on the level of participations in urban violence/demonstration, where one third of the respondents have participated in violence in the study area. The reforms have influence the trade off between positive effects and the negative loads of the urban centres. The cramming of the individuals, occupations and other socio-economic activities into close quarters will provide an environment for violence. Although, city life is not without costs; city dwellers have to face the ill effects of congestion, pollution, long and stressful commutes (Clark, Khan and Ofen, 1988) but the effect of the reforms will aggravate the extent of violence and crimes, especially where there are no livelihoods. The severity of the crime and violence identified by the respondents include, theft, robbery, ethnic clashes, religious crisis, and domestic violence such as; tenants and landlord conflicts and wife battering. It was noted that political violence normally takes the form of clashes between the police and the opposition political groups or between supporters of the government and the opposition parties. It was also discovered that

some of the people that were involved in this political violence are unemployed youth, both school leavers and graduates. Some of them are being paid by politicians to cause havoc during campaign and elections.

Oruwari and Opuene (2007) explained that during electioneering campaign, the politicians supply the gangs' members who are unemployed with arms to harass opponents which eventually have refused to return them after the election. This will now be used for crime and violence after the election. The multivariate analysis also supports the previous findings that those who are unemployed are 2.31 times more likely to involve in violence when compared with the reference category which are those who are professional and are likely to earn higher income. The age categories of those that will likely involve in violence did not deviate from the expected patterns. This confirms that those that normally involve in crime and violence are between aged 20 and 35 years and unemployed. They see their involvement in the violence as a means of getting livelihood. They were prepared for by this life by an inadequate upbringing with poor father or parents who have lost their jobs due to reformation of the economy. The survey results from the focus group discussions show that there are significant financial costs associated with the crime and violence in the study area, such as illegal collection of tolls by gangs and looting during violence. Exerts from the focus discussions are:

A trader:

*Each time there is violence those area boys will be looting our shops. Last year I lost money and goods worth N20,000.*

A street Hawker:

*Even from our petty trading these areas boys will be demanding for N100 each day, apart from the local council officials. If you refused to pay, they will carry your goods away.*

The non-monetary costs are also considerable, some of the impacts mentioned include: children suffering insecurity and mental anxiety, tremendous pressure on the parents of growing girls due to the risk to them and constant fear and insecurity due to the use of arms and guns. Any form of violence will significantly affect the victim and the witness

of such brutal acts. Children living in a violent environment and unstable living conditions are victims of unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances including poverty, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse. This may also propel them to be involved in violence; it may also have impact on their education.

### Conclusion

The promises of economic betterment remain unrealistic in the country despite various forms of economic reforms that have

been adopted by the previous governments, both military and civilian governments. The government needs to provide policy that will reduce poverty level in the country which will be different from the previous poverty alleviation programmes that are enriching the pocket of few politicians and public office holders. There must be clearly identifiable policy that will address the need of the youths and those who are unemployed in the country, if the rate of crime and violence will reduce in Nigeria

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**Table 1 Percentage Distribution of Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Variables	Number of Respondents =252
<b>Sex</b>	Percentage
Male	18.6
Female	81.4
<b>Age</b>	
15-24	15.2
25-34	40.8
35-44	24.8
45 -54	15.2
55 and above	4.2
<b>Marital status</b>	
Single	5.2
Married	90.8
Divorced	1.2
Widow/widower	0.6
Others	1.2
<b>Ethnic group</b>	
Yoruba	70.0
Igbo	23.0
Hausa	1.0
Fulani	
Others	5.2
<b>Religion</b>	
Christainity	53.1
Islam	44.0
Traditional religion	1.9
Others	1.0
<b>Level education</b>	
Primary	29.6
Secondary	47.6
Post secondary	7.2
None	13.2
<b>Occupation</b>	
Farmer	0.4
Trader	54.8
Artisan	3.8
Civil servant	5.8
Profssional	10.4
Full house wife	10.8
Retiree	1.8
Others	11.4
<b>Income</b>	
Under n10,000	56.6
N10,001- N20,000	8.6
N20,001-N30,000	0.8
N30,001-N40,000	
N40,001-N50,000	0.4
N50,001 +	1.8

Source: Author's field survey.

**NOTE:** Variation in the value is due to the exclusion of non –response category.

**Table 2 Percentage Distribution of Households Living Conditions**

Variables	Number of Respondents =252
<b>Types of dwelling unit the family Occupies</b>	
Single Room	52.7
Room and Parlour	32.3
Self Contain Apartment	15.0
Rooms in a House	
<b>Average No of Family</b>	
< 5	32.8
5-10	57.2
10 & above	10.0
<b>*** Source of drinking Water</b>	
Pipe water	20.0
Well/Spring protected	22.0
Borehole Hand Pump	23.2
Well/Spring unprotected	18.0
Vendor	40.0
Others	5.4
<b>Time to Water Source</b>	
Less than 15 mins	23.4
More than 15 mins	76.6
<b>****Type of Toilet Facility</b>	
Bush/Dung Hill	23.4
Toilet on Water	27.3
Flush to Sewage	26.3
Flush to Septic Tank	21.2
Covered Pit	37.5
Others	12.0
<b>Main Types of Refuse Disposal</b>	
Disposal within compound	12.0
Unauthorized Refuse Heap	88.0
<b>***Type of drainage</b>	
No drainage	19.0
Flowing drainage	20.4
Stagnant gutter	40.2
Open drainage	15.8
Underground drainage system	2.6
Closed drainage	0.4
Others	1.6

Source: Author's field survey. \*\*\*Multiple responses are allowed

**Table 3 Perceptions of Respondents About Economic Reforms**

Variables	Number of Respondents =252
<b>Heard of Economic Reforms</b>	
Yes	77.4
No	22.6
<b>Economic Reformation Heard of</b>	
Privatisation	45
Commercialisation	41
Deregulation	34
<b>Have you or any of your relatives affected with the reforms</b>	
Yes	78.3
No	21.7
<b>Effect of Reforms</b>	
Loss of jobs	50
Reduction in Household consumption	21.4
Unemployment	15
Children dropping out of school	9.5
<b>Impact of Reforms on Household Income</b>	
Increased	10
Decreased	68.5
Fluctuation	21.5
<b>Impact of Reforms on Household Saving</b>	
Increased	10.0
Decreased	64
Fluctuation	25.5
<b>Impact of Reforms on Household Consumption</b>	
Increased	10
Decreased	16
Fluctuation	74

Source: Author's field survey

**TABLE 4. Perception Of Respondents About Violence**

Variables	Number of Respondents =252
<b>Ever participated in Violence/Demonstration</b>	
Yes	38.1
No	61.9
<b>Level of Participation</b>	
High	65.0
Low	35.0
<b>*** Major Causes of Violence</b>	
Unemployment	46.0
Poverty	45
Religious Intolerance	25
Political Instability	19
Ethnic Intolerance	10
<b>People that normally involved in violence</b>	
Unemployed	72.6
Employed	27.4
<b>Age- groups that normally involved in violence</b>	
15-25	28.1
26-35	41.4
36-45	19.5
46 and above	10.0
<b>Educational background of people involved in Violence</b>	
None	21.0
Primary	29.2
Secondary	30.3
Post Secondary	19.5

Source: Author's field survey.

**Table 5. Coping Strategies Adopted By The Respondents**

Variables	Number of Respondents =252
<b>**Copping Strategies</b>	
Withdrawal of children from school	10.0
Leaving in low cost housing	10
Reduced family size	38.5
Street Hawking	28
Petty trading with government work	10
Reduce consumption pattern	45

Source: Author's field survey. \*\* Multiple Responses are allowed.

**Table 6. Logistic Regression of Socio-Demographic Characteristics and ever Participated in Demonstration/Violence**

Variables	ODD RATIO
<b>Place of Residence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>AGE</b>	
15-24 Years	2.367
25-34 Years	2.475**
35-44 Years	1.21*
45 & above	RC
<b>Marital Status</b>	
Single	2.43*
Married	2.23*
Divorced	1.65*
Widow/Widower	RC
<b>Ethnic Group</b>	
Yoruba	0.98*
Ibo	0.87*
Hausa/Fulani	0.52**
Others	RC
<b>Income per Annum</b>	
< N120,000	5.410
N121,000-N240,000	2.918
N241 & Above	RC
<b>Education</b>	
None	5.030
Primary	3.587
Secondary	1.962
Post Secondary	RC
<b>Occupation</b>	
None	2.32
Trading	1.485**
Public/Civil Servant	.982*
Artisans	1.3250
Professionals	RC

RC indicates the reference variable