

## **Urbanization, Social Change and Criminality in Port Harcourt Metropolis (1999 to Date)**

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### **Keywords**

Urbanization,  
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(1999 to Date).

### **Abstract**

This Study examined the Urbanization, Social Change and Criminality in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria (1999 To Date). Urbanization has been a global phenomenon in the past few centuries, but the lack of proper implementation of the Port Harcourt city's master plan had resulted in the development of slums, ghettos and urban sprawl with the attendant criminality such as armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, piracy, gangsterism, drug addiction and peddling among others. This study is theoretical in approach which utilized the interpretative or exploratory research design. The Peace and Conflict Heritage Theory of Johan Vincent Galtung and that of Frustration-Aggression Theory of Dollard et al, were adopted as the theoretical framework for this study, which aptly analyzed the relationship between urbanization social change and criminality. Data for this study was elicited through secondary research of both published and unpublished materials such as books, journals, magazines, internet etc. and the study utilized content analysis to analyze the qualitative data. Findings from the secondary sources affirmed that urbanization, social change and criminality in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State is as a result of poor implementation of the master plan which led to the formation of these ghettos, shanties or slums which harbor the criminals whose activities often spill over to the metropolis. This trend taints the image of Port Harcourt and Nigeria internationally as the multinational oil companies always use this as an excuse to relocate to Lagos as their operational base instead of Port Harcourt which is closest to their oil rigs, oil wells and flow stations whose coordinates are all located in Rivers State. The study therefore recommends that there should be proper implementation of the Port Harcourt city master plan and the shanties be turned to planned cities with good buildings, electricity, water, good net-work of roads with police posts to check the rising crime rate in Port Harcourt metropolis and its environs.

### **I. Introduction**

Port Harcourt is the capital of Rivers State, Nigeria. It was renamed from Iguocha (meaning hill of the white men) after Lewis Vernon Harcourt, the secretary of the state for colonies by Fredrick Lugard, the governor general of Nigeria at that time. Its geographical coordinates are 4.47° 21' North, 6.5° 55' East. It lies along the Bonny River and is located in the Niger Delta. According to 2006 census, Port Harcourt has a population of 1,382,592. It was founded in 1913 by the British Colonial Administration of Nigeria. After the discovery of crude oil in Oloibiri in 1956, Port Harcourt exported the first ship load from Nigeria in that same year. Port Harcourt became the centre of Nigerian oil economy and it subsequently reaped benefits of its association with the petroleum industry by undergoing modernization and urbanization (Nissi CF, Ogbuefi JU, (June, 2017). Port Harcourt growth, according to (Nissi CF, Ogbuefi JU, (2017) is further due to its position as the commercial centre and foremost industrial city of the former eastern region, its position in the Niger Delta and its importance as the centre of social and economic life in Rivers State. Port Harcourt grew from an area of 15.54 km<sup>2</sup> in 1914 to an uncontrolled area of 360 km<sup>2</sup> in the 1980s. The main city of Port Harcourt is the Port Harcourt City in the Port Harcourt Local Government area, consisting of the former European quarters now called Government Reservation Area (GRA) and new layout areas. The Port Harcourt urban area (Port Harcourt metropolis) is made up of the city itself and parts of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. Port Harcourt which is the capital of Rivers State is highly congested as it is the only major city of the state. However, the greater Port Harcourt urban spans eight local government areas that include Port Harcourt Local Government, Okrika, Obio/Akpor, Ikwerre, Oyibo, Ogu/BoJo, Tai and Eleme Local Government respectively. It is the fifth largest urban area in Nigeria.

According to Darshan Singh Manku, (2013), like Asia the continent of Africa South of the Sahara has low urbanization (about 38%). The region is primarily rural. About 64% of the people live in villages. Urbanization in the region in 2004 varied from 85% in Gabon and 63% in Mauritania to 10% in Burundi, 12% in Uganda and 16% in Ethiopia. In 2010 urbanization in the region ranged from 86% in Gabon and 62% in South Africa and Liberia to 11% in Burundi, and 13% in Uganda.

Region of High Urbanization; In this region percent of urban population is 51 or more. This region includes 14 countries such as Gabon (86%), Djibouti (80%), South Africa (62%), Angola (59%), Ghana (51%), Gambia (58%), Republic of Congo (62%), Botswana (61%) and Cameroon (58%). These countries have a number of towns or cities of the sub-region.

Region of Moderate Urbanization Countries of this class have urban population from 26% to 50% of total population. This category includes Senegal (43%) and Sudan (45%) and many more countries (26 in all) such as Mauritius (43%), Nigeria (50%), Ivory Coast, Benin Republic, Central African Republic, Madagascar (30%), Zaire (35%), Zambia, Zimbabwe (38%), Mauritania (41%), Chad (28%), Guinea, Togo (43%), Mali (35%), Mozambique, Namibia (38%), Tanzania (20%), Sierra Leone (38%), Somalia, Guinea Bissau (30%). These countries are on the threshold of industrialization and many small and large mining, agricultural and mineral produce processing, collecting and exporting towns and countries.

Region at Low Urbanization: In this region asserts Darshan Singh Manku, (2013), urban population is up to 25% of total population. It includes Burkina. Faso (20%), Eritrea (22%), Malawi (20%), Niger (17%), Rwanda (19%), Burundi (11% = Lowest in the main region), Ethiopia (18%), Kenya (22%), Uganda (13%), and Swaziland (25%). These are primarily backward and rural countries with animal rearing as the main occupation. There are very few cities such as Addis Ababa.

Africa South of the Sahara has few large cities as rural population predominates in the region. Lagos in Nigeria is the largest city of the region. According to U.N estimates its total population in mid 2010 was 105.8 lakh (including suburbs), Kinshasa in Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) was the second largest city (87.5 lakh in mid 2010) of the region. Khartoum (51.7 lakh), Dakar, Addis Ababa (29.3 lakh). Cape Town, Johannesburg (36.70 lakh), Abidjan (41.3 lakh), Luanda, Durban, Nairobi (35.2 lakh), Dar-es-Salam (35.5 lakh) etc are the major cities of the region (each 10 lakh or more.). These are urban agglomerations.

According to the International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice, Volume 3, 1979-Issue 1, www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/Social Change and Criminality. THE UNITED NATIONS [Editor's Note], this article is highly theoretical involving the development of social and legal concepts, yet it is highly recommended for all who are engaged in criminal justice, since it discusses how social change, particularly the rate of change affects human behavior. Social change here is defined in terms of changes in basic societal institutions such as family, religion and education. Individuals maturing in society internalize institutional patterns and learn to live by them. The key factor in the interaction of groups according to institutional patterns is the establishment of basic norms; of conduct. Criminal behavior is defined as deviation from these norms.

Possibly the most urgent question facing all societies today is "how to maintain a reasonable equilibrium in the face of accelerated' social change ~e so that the benefits of this change are not offset by a concomitant increase in crime. When societal institutions change, the character of the control that institutions exert on norms of conduct also changes. One important observation the editor makes in this respect is that all societies seem to move from tight institutional integration to social disintegration where institutions no longer interlock or re-enforce each other. This is particularly evident in regard to the influence of the family, religion and education upon young people, and has led to what is popularly termed a more "permissive" society where there is a great deal less restriction on an individual's social, physical and intellectual mobility. As the editor indicates, social changes of this sort are a "mixed bag" on the one hand it has resulted in an enormous increase in economic wealth, material well-being and educational enlightenment, while on the other hand it has left individuals without adequate ethical frames of reference, producing an increase in criminal behavior. Central in this overall problem is the relationship of, the Law, since it is difficult to define human behavior with the specificity demanded by law. Two features of the law are relevant to any consideration of criminality in the context of social change: its durability and its tendency to expand.

Laws usually remain long after customs pertaining to them have fallen into disuse, and social change introduces new concepts of what is permissible and what is not, but the law is often slow to adopt these new concepts. In addition, as modern societies become more complex, the more quantity of laws tend to multiply to bewildering degree to the extent where the honest citizen can unknowingly commit any number of offences unknown to preceding generations. One example is the effect industrialization has had to produce new areas of crime such as traffic offences, organized crime and white collar crimes together with a blurring criminal acts and shrewd business practices. Closely connected with this is the highly technical problem of judicial flexibility versus judicial restraint. The editor feels nevertheless that if social change is handled wisely crime might even diminish.

A number of suggestions are presented to deal with these perplexing questions. Perhaps a greater distinction would be made between criminal and non-criminal acts. In addition, there would be a greater individualization of justice when a violation of a criminal law was unintentional. There are also a number of important questions in regard to the law. Is the law the best teacher, or is it too formalized and ought a greater reliance be placed on education? If the law doesn't grow or change, is the solution simply to expand the enforcing area? If goals are to be set for the most unstable societal element, namely the youth culture, what is the nature of these goals? Finally, it is obvious that the minimizing of crime requires careful planning, but planning to achieve positive social and economic results. [SOURCE: Article "Social Change and Criminality" was prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations for the third United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Stockholm, 9-18 August, 1965, A/CONF. 26/1. Editor]

### Research Questions

This study sets out to answer the following questions:

*What is the importance of master plans to urban development?*

*What is the effect of the exclusion of the community or elected representatives and civil society in the planning process in the development of cities and towns in Africa?*

*Should countries or states continue to adopt the traditional urban planning methods?*

### Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate; how urbanization affects social change which led to criminality in Port-Harcourt metropolis in Rivers State. The following specific objectives are formulated to aid the study:

*To investigate the causes of urbanization which led to the disruption of the Port-Harcourt Master plan with the formation of slums or water fronts which resulted to criminality in and around the city being a negative social change,*

*To examine the measures employed in curbing the negative effects of urbanization that could help in the protection of the Port-Harcourt original Master Plan to help check the rise of criminality.*

*To investigate how urbanization, social change and criminality has affected the sociopolitical and economic development in Port-Harcourt metropolis in Rivers State.*

*To proffer possible solutions in resolving the consequences of the growth of slums, ghettos, urban sprawl as a result of urbanization which has led to criminal activities in Port-Harcourt Metropolis.*

## **II. Conceptual Clarification**

### **The Debate about Master Plans**

Historically, asserts T.T. Gyuse, D.S.A. Alaci et al. (2017), Master plans have been the basic apparatus for guiding urban development in many cities of the world. A number of prominent cities around the world have been established on the principles of master planning. However, these feats were more often than not achieved with great resistance amidst public discontent (Myers 2011; Alison, Aly, Neil, and Ngobiie, 2010). This has led to the modification of the master planning approach in some countries. Moreso, the results of this traditional planning approach are becoming increasingly less satisfactory especially in developing countries where planning institutions are characteristically weak. Master plans are also seen to provide open ended implementation guidelines which are often based on superficial appraisal of economic potentials of the planning areas and in some cases on needs. The exclusion of the community or elected representatives and civil society in the planning process, along with the tele-guiding and realignment of topical planning consensus to suit certain interests is also being experienced in developing countries.

These identified flaws of master plans together with implementation hurdles are encouraging the exploration of alternative methods in many of the rapidly urbanizing regions of the world as colonial implementations with their tools and mental models developed to contain the industrial (Nallathiga, 2009). This is rightly so because master plans are now seen cities of Northern Europe in very different situations and with scant regard for local cultures and traditions (King, 1990; Home, 1997). As Jenkins, Smith, and Wang, (2006) observed, the nature of this approach to planning was inherently unsustainable. Master plans seldom provide a compelling ratio of detailed land use and elaborate land use regulation or control. Even the customary accompanying zoning ordinances creates rigidity, which rapid urban development and the dynamism it comes with usually nullify.

In addition, Master Planning tends to be inherently weak in complementing the sectoral processes of urban service financing and infrastructure provisioning. It basically is over centralized, non-transparent and not accountable (WHO, 2009). Similarly, a wide ranging international review of skills and approaches for "Making Planning Work", a key document in the attempts to "re-invent planning", coiidudsd that: urban development, planning and service administration should not be fragmented (UN-ESCAP, 1984), things the master planning process is clearly weak in bringing about.

Traditional urban planning has been substantially rejected in practice over the last generation in many poorer countries that are unable to afford or unwilling to prioritize

practices that seek to implement outdated Master Plans (Mwimba, 2006). Mwimba also notes that the current development plan for Lusaka, a city of over one million people dates from 1978 making it incapable of coping with the changes in urban dynamics over the years let alone guide urban development. El-Shaks,(1997) as well observed the inability of governments in Africa to enforce rules and regulations based on their unrealistic nature and sometimes because they are premised on foreign standards. This view can be said to be corroborated by Stiglitz (2002) that contrary to free market ideology, imperfect information and market failure are the norm, not the exception, especially in developing countries.

### III. Theoretical Framework

This study anchors first on Johan Vincent Galtung's Peace and Conflict Heritage Theory. Johan Vincent Galtung was born on the 24th of October, 1930 (age 91) in Oslo, Norway. He was the propounder of the Peace and Conflict Heritage Theory and also the principal founder of Peace and Conflict Studies. His theory became popular with his contributions in sociology in the 1950s, political science; in the 1960s, economics and history in the 1970s and micro history, anthropology and theology in the 1980s (2021 citing Wikipedia). Johan V. Galtung was the main founder of the Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) in 1959 and served as the first director until 1970. Apart from sociology, peace and conflict studies, his other fields also include futures studies and mathematics. Heritage is said to be a symbol of our common ancestors and of the values which all humanity share and through that it is a powerful tool.

Peace and Conflict Studies is a social science field that identifies and analyzes violent and nonviolent behaviours as well as structural mechanisms attending conflicts (including social conflicts) with a view towards understanding those processes which lead to a more desirable human conditions resulting from urbanization, social change and criminality in Port Harcourt metropolis which led to untold hardships necessitating us to look at the theory of Frustration-Aggression which becomes the second theory.

The frustration-aggression theory itself was propounded and introduced by Dollard in 1939 in association with Doob Mowrer, Sear and Miller in their bid to explain frustration and aggression in its totality. However, in (1970), Barkowitz modified it. The major theme of its assumption is that any or all instances of aggression were the results of frustration, which was conceptualized as any event or events that could prevent an individual from attaining his desired goals or objectives, standing on this point of view therefore, the theory explains the upsurge in criminality arising from urbanization which gave birth to social change. Hence, today, we find crimes such as cultism, armed robbery, sea piracy, kidnapping, assassinations, rape, drug peddling and other crimes both in the Port Harcourt metropolis and at the waterfront communities.

These two aforementioned approaches proves the researcher the framework to objectively study the variables in question while also taking into consideration that when societies, institutions change, the character of the control that institutions exert in norms also change with regard to the influence of the family, religion and education upon the



young people giving rise to a more "permissive" society with a great deal less restriction on the individual's social, physical and intellectual mobility, (2021 citing Wikipedia).

**IV. Literature Review**

**Urbanization and its effects**

Urbanization ordinarily is a good thing to any society but it has both positive and negative effects as societal institutions disintegrate after periods of tight integration. According to Maemillan English Dictionary (2007), urbanization is the process by which towns and cities grow bigger and more and more people go to live in them. This is what is referred to as urban sprawl with so many consequences, high demand for houses, or living space, the development of slums which are commonly referred to as 'waterfronts' in Port Harcourt city found to be the breeding ground for criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, sea piracy, cultism among others.

Urbanization (or urbanisation) according to Wikipedia en.m. Wikipedia.org. is the population shift from rural to urban areas, the corresponding decrease in the proportion of people living in rural areas, and the ways in which societies adapt to this change, it can also mean population growth in urban areas instead of rural ones. It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as most people begin living and working in central areas.

Urbanization and the Growth of Some of the Most Populous Cities in the World  
 Global urbanization map showing the percentage of urbanization and the biggest global population centres per country in 2018, based on UN estimates. Guangzhou, a city of 14.5 million people, is one of the 8 adjacent metropolises located in the largest single agglomeration on earth, ringing the Pearl River Delta of China. Mumbai is the most populous city in India, and the eight most populous city in the world, with a total metropolitan area population of approximately 18.5 million. Moscow the capital and largest city of Russia, is the largest metropolitan area in Europe, with over 20 million residents in its metropolitan area. Ho Chi Minh City is the largest city in Vietnam with a population in metropolitan area of over 21.2 million people.

Urbanization is often responsible for the myriad of modern problems facing humanity. Although the two concepts are sometimes used interchangeably, urbanization should be distinguished from urban growth, urbanization/urban growth, suburbanization/urbanism which refers to the proportion of the total national population living in areas classified as urban, whereas urban growth strictly refers to the absolute number of people living in those areas. It is predicted that by 2050 about 64% of the developing world and 86% of the developed world will be urbanized. This is predicted to generate artificial scarcities of land, drinking water, playgrounds and so on for most urban dwellers. The predicted urban population growth is equivalent to approximately 3 billion urbanities by 2050, much of which will occur in Africa and Asia. Notably the United Nations has also recently projected that yearly all global population growth from 2017 to 2030 will



be cities, with about 1 billion new urbanities over the next 10 years, in the long term, urbanization is expected to significantly impact the quality of life in negative ways.

### **Urbanization and Other Disciplines**

Urbanization is relevant to a range of disciplines, including urban planning, geography, sociology, architecture, economics, education, statistics, and public health. The phenomenon has been closely linked to globalization, modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization. Urbanization can be seen as a specific condition at a set time (e.g. the proportion of total population or area in cities or towns) or as an increase in that condition over time. Therefore urbanization can be quantified either in terms of the level of urban development relative to the overall population, or as the rate at which the urban proportion of the population is increasing. Urbanization creates enormous social, economic and environmental challenges which provide an opportunity for sustainability with the "potential to use resources much less or more efficiently, to create more sustainable land use and to protect the biodiversity of natural ecosystems". However, current urbanization trends have shown that massive urbanization has led to unsustainable ways of living. Developing urban resilience and urban sustainability in the face of increased urbanization is at the centre of international policy in Sustainable Development Goal 11 "Sustainable cities and communities".

Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture. The first major change in settlement patterns was the accumulation of hunter-gatherers into villages many thousands of years ago. Village culture is characterized by common bloodlines intimate relationship, and communal behaviour, whereas urban culture is characterized by distant bloodlines, unfamiliar relations, and competitive behavior. This unprecedented movement of people is forecast to continue and intensify during the next few decades, mushrooming cities to sizes unthinkable only a century ago. As a result, the world urban population growth curve has up till recently followed a quadratic hyperbolic pattern. Content is available under CCBY-SA 4.0.

### **The United States of America Police Perspective of Social Changes and Crime**

This introductory report for an international conference on "Social Changes, Crime and Police" provides an overview of the relationship between social changes and crime, the role of the police amidst social changes and increasing crime, and the development of crime control policy. It states that current social changes have been determined primarily by revolutionary achievements in science and technology. Advances in telecommunications, traffic facilities, the production of weapons of mass destruction and improvement in the means of production require new structural and ideological forms for human coexistence. Rapid technological development is changing economic and cultural structures. Social changes that particularly influence crime patterns are the development of an international economy and cooperation, the weakening of centralized state control, the growth of

privatization, and the intensification of social inequalities. Crime is increasing in the midst of this social change, due largely to injustices in social conditions, misconceived ideologies, the lack of appropriate knowledge, the abuse of alcohol, and other drugs, disorganized communities, and inadequate crime control policies and structures. Policing in the midst of social change and increasing crime require cooperation between the police and communities to address crime conditions, mount, community wide effort against criminal behavior and reinforce the norms of law-abiding behaviour. Crime control policy must focus not only on a retributive response to crime after it happens but also on the forging of policies designed to prevent crime and develop structures for learning law-abiding behaviours. U.S-DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS BJA BJS V1J, OJJDP OVC SMART 810 7TH ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC-20531.

### **The Effects of Society on Criminology - Lawaspect.com**

The structure of society and its degree of organization are important factors in how they contribute to criminality. Within society there are negative influences of the social environment that contribute to and predispose some people to commit crimes. There are three types of social structure theories that focus on crime and they are social disorganization, strain theory, and culture conflict. These theories examine social structure, social process, social life and how they influence criminal behavior of groups of people.

In America the government, television, institutions, families, and communities among others play a huge role in the world years ago and today in why people commit crimes. Society is defined as an organized group of persons associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic or other purposes. Also defined as a part of a community that is a unit distinguishable by particular aims or standards of living or conduct. These definitions alone alienate some people apart and characterize or place them into particular groups. This labeling by society generally has a place for all individuals but is their labeling right or wrong overall? This labeling not only places individuals into a group setting but also tends to eliminate certain individuals or groups of people from particular groups, activities or communities etc, based on age, sex, religious, preference, economic status and other cultural differences. When this is done it can cause people to act out against the individual or group in a negative way through violent or other criminal behavior.

In reference to criminology we can identify three key sociological explanations for crime they are: crime is the result of an individual's location within the structure of society, crime is the end product of various social processes, and crime is the end product of class struggle. These three key explanations basically cover aspects of life that can tremendously affect the behavior of people to make them act out and commit criminal acts because of the presence of criminal behavior in their community. These areas are usually crime ridden because of the poverty level or people being displaced from other regions. W.I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki - "The Polish Peasant in Europe and America" (1920) believed that crime rose amongst people who had been displaced. This crime rise resulted from immigrant's inability to successfully transplant guiding norms and values from their home culture into

the new one. This crime rise became known as the social disorganization theory that depicts social change, social conflict, and lack of social consensus as the root cause of crime and deviance.

This is not only prevalent for people coming from other countries and regions but also for those born and raised in America. In most homes values and positive morals are taught to children but when they are also faced with peer rejection and rejection from other social classes it is hard to hold to the positive things that are taught in the home. This is true for adults in society also if at times faced with adversities and rejection and alienation from other economic classes, social and cultural group? will cause individuals and groups of people to react in a negative and criminal manner as pa back for the treatment.

Crime and deviance arise out of an attempt to obtain the legitimate goals set by society hut through illegitimate means. The sociologist Zygmunt Bauman argues that criminals steal status items in order to appear 'normal' within a materialistic society. Television provides a false normal to its viewers about what life should be like and what type of things people should possess to fit in the world around them instead of being comfortable in their own financial state.

This causes people to go out and commit crimes to gain these materialistic items to fit in where they believe they belong based on commercials, television shows, events and news. Lower class individuals or groups possess some things but instead of obtaining them at a normal rate by working and gaining them in a positive way, they will go out and gain them in any means necessary not realizing that it is not making them appear better or the same but actually giving them out and making true the assumptions that the higher class have about those in poverty levels. This is known as the social strain theory where individuals feel the pressure to reach socially determined goals. This theory depicts delinquency as a. form of adaptive problem solving behaviour committed in response to problems involving frustrating and undesirable social environments. In the majority of society today it is believed that the rich and powerful social elites rule the world. The criminal, justice system and criminal law are thought to be working along with these groups with resulting policies aimed at controlling the poor. These individuals and groups of people that are higher in power set certain standards of living values that they believe are acceptable, morals that fit into their perfect world, and what is believed to be good and acceptable behavior for society at large to abide by. This makes those that are poor or not on equal financial status as these individuals and groups feel as though they have no right or that their voice is not heard. They begin to think that they have no power in the world of the rich and powerful.

There is a movie called Menace to Society (1993) directed by twin brothers Allen and Albert Hughes that takes place in South Central Los Angeles. The main character Caine Lawson (Caine) and his friend Kevin Anderson (O-Dog) live in South Central. Caine is a high school student being raised by his Christian grandmother and father in a low income area of South Central called Watts. Caine graduates from high school but is constantly trying to have

a better life and escapes the crime that is so prevalent in this area and amongst his peers. He in turn begins to sell drugs and obtain expensive cars, jewelry and status amongst his peers and in the streets of where he resides. Caine then gets into a situation that could lead him to prison because of his long-time friend O-Dog killing a Korean store owner in his presence. During the movie they show how they are victimized by police because of where they live and because of their race. They are beaten then dropped off in a neighbouring rival neighbourhood but are helped by the Mexican gang members.

This movie, *Menace to Society* is a great example of all the social structure theories. This shows how society alienates and victimizes people in certain areas then in turn they become to believe that there is no other way of life but through committing crime. Caine makes a statement concerning life in the street. For all the bull.....they try to teach you in high school, I graduated with about half of it. But then, I didn't go to school but half the time. The other half, I was out selling dope. Growing up out here, there was sxxx that couldn't be learned in a classroom.

In conclusion the organization of society though cvvt changing plays a tremendous role in criminality. The standards and 'norms' that are placed on some Americans have them feeling that their back is against the world. Any value system, morals, religious belief, education or lack thereof is judged and deemed as not good enough by those that are in power or of elite status. The government and the laws that are passed based on these value systems and standards of living only set low class people up to be victimized by law enforcement and society as a whole. This type of system put middle class in a situation of fight or flight, basically rise to our status and go along with us or fight to live in America we have set up and the way we see life in it to be lived. Living in society is not hard and doesn't have to lead to a life of crime but some who don't, take the roads they can live comfortably in their means see no other way but to fight the powers of the land and gain the high life by any means they see fit, Schmallegger, Frank *Criminology today: An Integrative Introduction* Pearson, 2012. Allen & Albeit Hughes *Menace II Society* (film, 1993).

Yuh - Yuh Li, M.S. *Social Structure, Social Control and Crime in Rural Communities: A test of Social Disorganization Theory* Dissertation; The Ohio State University, 2009  
 Social Change Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Approach Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson University of Illinois, Urbana; *American Sociological Review* 1979, vol. 44 (August): 588 -608  
 Encyclopedia of Race and Crime; Helen Taylor Greene and Shaun L. Gabbidon 2009.

**V. Methodology**

This study has to adopt the interpretative research methodology otherwise known as exploratory research design. According to Adi, (2020) who defined .exploratory research as a method used, to investigate and also discuss a problem that is not clearly defined for proper understanding. Therefore, such studies are undertaken to .have a clearer and better understanding of an already existing problem. Interpretative research also known as exploratory research or grounded- theory. Every exploratory or interpretative research design adopts both primary and secondary methods of research, and in the course of this

study, only the secondary research method has been Adopted. Adi, (2,020) asserts that secondary research method is the gathering of information from previously published primary research. The understanding of such a research is that information used is gathered from books, pamphlets, editorials, newspapers, magazines, internet, case studies, journals, manuscripts etc.

Content analysis is adopted in this study to analyze the data so obtained from our secondary sources. Jenna (2021)., contended that content analysis is the best method of qualitative research that focuses on recorded data such as manuscripts, journals, magazines etc. this type of analysis as against other forms is done without necessarily extracting data, from participants, and it is therefore called an unobtrusive research analysis. There are two basic types of content analysis, these are the conceptual and relational content analysis; while the former has to do with repeating concepts in a study, and the later has to do with the relationship between different concepts.

Relational content analysis is further "divide J into three different forms; these are proximity analysis cognitive mapping and affective extraction. For the very purpose of this study cognitive mapping content analysis is adopted. Again Jenna (2021) asserts that cognitive mapping content analysis involves taking different texts from already existing studies arid to assess changes in terms of definition and also meaning over time.

### Findings

The study found out that several people from the East, North and West of Nigeria wanted to have a feel of the new oil economy in Port Harcourt, companies, corporate bodies traders and people from all walks of life including the marine industry; shipping, marine engineers and deck- hand services started arriving Port Harcourt thus as asserted by Nissi CF, Ogbuefi JU (2017) mat Port Harcourt growth is' further due to its position as the commercial centre and foremost industrial city of the former eastern region. Furthermore, it is posited that it occupied a high position in the Niger Delta raid it was important as the social and economic life in Rivers State. For instance, Nissi CF et al also averred that Port Harcourt grew from an area of 15.54km<sup>2</sup> in 1914 to an uncontrolled area of 360k<sup>2</sup> in the 1980s. The Distortion of Port Harcourt. Master Plan as a Result of Non Implementation of iae Settlement Agreement by both the Indigenous People and the Successive Governments.

The distortion of the Port Harcourt Master Plan made by Lewis Harcourt and the colonialists is what has today produced what is known as -waterfront settlements; Okrika waterfront, Bille waterfront, Aggrey estate waterfront, Ogu waterfront and many others that have grown to be known as full-fledged communities counted in the 2006 National Census arid having voting units.

In the accounts of late king Abarn Alfred (JP) Amanyabobo of Okrika, Ado IX, and An Analysis of the Dynamics of Historical Events (1999). On 6th December 1912, Colonial Officials visited Okrika where provisional site was selected. They considered the waters at Isaka to be deep enough and therefore good for such project. The canoe used was fitted by Chief Daniel Oju Kalio. With Lugard during the occasion were Major Lugard (the Political

Secretary), Mr. J. Eaglesome (Director of Works and Railway), Lieutenant H.A Child (Director of Marine) and Major Moorhouse (the Provincial Commissioner for Eastern Province).

Thereafter, Mr. Child rushed to Okrika to discuss the matter with Chief Daniel Oju Kalio, Paramount Ruler of the Okrika people, who advised his people to remain calm and assured them that their interest would be well protected.

Among the Okrika signatories in the agreement were Chiefs Daniel Oju Kalio, David Olunwa Koko, Okorie Okujagu, Fienemika, Amiejubodiema and Okuru. These included Chiefs of Okrika and of the Okrika villages of Obumuton Chin (i.e Obumuton country) who received the payment of the Port Harcourt land.

Chief (Dr.) Abam Alfred (1999), asserted that having dispossessed the indigenous people of their land, the British officials arranged to re-settle them. For the Diobu people, a slight alteration of the boundary of the acquired land was made in order to retain for them one of their compounds, while a fresh site was- acquired from Orno-Eme Chiefs for the new Diobu town and farms, at a cost of five hundred pounds. For the displaced Okirka people of Oburnuton, land was acquired from the MboL (Elems) for a new Okrika villages and farms at a cost of Three Hundred Pounds. But while the Diobu people settled on their new area, the displaced Okrikaris of Obumuton failed to do so, on the land purchased for them because, among others, the area lacked contiguity with the rest of Okrika villages; and it was different from the traditional environment where they could practice their .major occupation which was fishing. Even so, the Colonial Authorities made no other arrangements for them. As a result, the Okrika displaced persons of Obumuton had to settle themselves at the marshy waterfronts of their original homestead, especially, the Okrika waterside, Creek Road foreshore, Enugu street foreshore, Bishop Johnson lane foreshore, Borikiri waterfront and Islands in the neighbourhood. All these according Chief Abam Alfred (1999), formed parts of nearby wards even before the Nigeria Civil War. And that they have infact remained there for over eighty five years.

Referring to the sort of situation which the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society. Dennison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, envisaged and felt that the entire acquisition was raw-deal for the indigenous people "against their wish and against native tribal law, to dispose of the freehold of their land". The culmination of the negotiation for the acquisition of the site "25" square miles containing the Okrika and Diobu farms" was the Alexander George Boyle Agreement of 18th May, 1913. Of the total amount said Chief (Dr.) Alfred Abam (1999), of five thousand, six hundred and fifty pounds paid, in respect of the sale of Port Harcourt land, the Okrika people received three thousand pounds while the Diobu people received two thousand pounds. All the rest received a total of six hundred arid fifty pounds. On the schedule attached to the Deed, the various communities acknowledged receipt of their respective amounts. However, when the (Chiefs of Okrika and Okrika villages of Obumuton Chiri (Obumotu country) received the three thousand pounds they again prepared a separate receipt which was attached to the payment voucher. Indeed, Okrika Chiefs received the highest amount because they sold a large part of Port Harcourt land.



**VI. Discussion**

Before looking at the factors that led to the rapid population explosion of Port Harcourt city that gave birth to the social changes both negative and positive most especially crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, assassinations, cultism, drugs peddling, rape among others. As Chief (Dr.) Abam Alfred (1999) noted that while the Diobu people settled on their new area, the displaced Okrikans of Obumuton failed to do so, on the land purchased for them because of contiguity with the other Okrika communities. It was this that led to the present waterfront communities all of which lie very close to the Port Harcourt metropolis. However, since 1956 that crude oil started to be shipped through the Port Harcourt sea port, it attracted an ever increasing population which is urbanization leading to social change both negative and positive.

Since urbanization is predicted to occur more in Africa and Asia by United Nations standards, before 2050, hence holistic measures with sincerity of purpose ought to have been put in place by the incoming Rivers State governments for the reconstruction of areas at the waterfronts to be given back to the original owners to avoid urban sprawl, shanties or ghettos to forestall heinous crimes that often occur in the Port Harcourt metropolis spilling over to the waterfront communities, bearing in mind according to (2021 citing Wikipedia) that by 2050 about 64% of the developing world and 86% of the developed world will become urbanized.

**The Origin of Crimes in Port Harcourt Metropolis**

Growing up in Port Harcourt metropolis 1970 to date, one is able to have an insight into the social changes that occurred as a result of urbanization as criminality started with some youths taking madras, celorin, marijuana and other banned drugs by mostly out-of-school young boys and criminal minded men who took to playing gamble (Cha-cha), poker, rollet and slot jack machines brought by the Lebanese locally called "Kalo Kalo" this was between the 70s to 80s, the earliest known criminals were Charlie Champagne, son of a police man. He was a big shop lifter in Kingsway stores, Leventis, Chanrais, Kewalram, and Chellarams. Charlie Champagne was caught with his father's police rifle and sentenced to long term in prison, his father was also indicted. Another criminal known within the metropolis was Charlie 195, he was a professional car snatcher with a master key he would open a car and cart away every item in the car, he was a gang/leader who met his Waterloo in Lagos where he was lynched to death for the same crime. Another group was that led by Kofi, born by a Kalahari mother and a Yoruba father. He often used a toy gun or faulty guns to operate. He left Port Harcourt metropolis to Lagos where he was lynched to death. Another notable criminal was Rennar Roy, he was a big highway robber. After robbing in Port Harcourt and Calabar, he left for Lagos where he continued his trade. He was finally caught in Port Harcourt where he was killed by firing squad for armed robbery.

Another notorious group was that of Okada Air, real name Ndibie and Little Cliristo who specialized as pick-pockets and shop lifters, they were succeeded by Goddy P. and



Pissirella alias "Whiteman". They have all been killed except Pissirella who is today a taxi driver.

Another notorious group was that led by Emeka known as "Oja boy", junior brother to Amboy Amabeoku (007) whose father late Chief Amabeoku from Ogu who has a house at Bonny Street since before the civil war. He operated with Chidi, their specialty was burglary, they went about with an iron cutter and acid with their bus and in the mid-night they would operate carting everything in the house of their victim they had police accomplices because wandering was a serious offence in those days. Today, they too have been killed. But one remarkable devil still living would be Suoyo alias Agbalakoko from Nembe, he started his crimes in Port Harcourt metropolis and later joined the billionaire kidnapper Evans both of whom have been sentenced to death in December, 2021 by a Nigeria law court for kidnapping and murder.

It is worthy of note that since lifting political activities in 1998, there began population explosion in Port Harcourt City, the metropolis experiencing much of the effects of urbanization, new trends such as cultism, kidnapping, prostitution, assassinations, bunkering surfaced among others. It was from these criminal gangs that the Niger Delta politicians raised the elements they used in winning the elections in 1999, thus giving credence to their existence which finally led to militancy from 2000 - 2009, that late president Alhaji Umaru Yar'dua granted the militants amnesty. Port Harcourt metropolis experienced several deaths through inter-cult rivalries such as Iceland versus Greenland, Deygbam versus Deywell etc, they were legitimized by taking up names like the Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV) led by Comrade Ateke Tom, now king of Okochiri, the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF) led by Asari Dokubo. The arms race that started in Port Harcourt metropolis soon spread to the waterfronts which also developed because of the population explosion of the Port Harcourt City and thereafter, the wanton Id < lings spread to Buguma, Ogbakiri, Ogu, Okuru Ama; Kula, Soku, Ke, Bakana, Bukuma, T'ombia, Bille, 'Bori, Bodo, K-Dere, B-Dere and many other communities in Rivers State. T/.is led to several untimely deaths in thousand including Dr. Marshall Harry, Chief Aminascari Di.abo, some armed forces personnel, chiefs, women, children while several communities were devastated with buildings worth millions of naira destroyed like that of Okuru Ama for example.

However, when Alhaji Asari Dokubo was incarcerated in Obasanjo's gulag in far away Abuja, it led to the formation of the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC), which coordinated the activities of the Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDPVF), the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the Martyrs Brigade and the Torupaka Minafa which late in 2006/7 declared that the militants in the region would soon take hostages as announced by Cynthia Whyte, Spokeswoman for the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC).

Apart from the fallouts from the sharing of the largesse from the Rivers State government, inter-cult rivalries occurred as to who controls "Columbia" in Port Harcourt metropolis "Columbia" is the area from Abuja estate crossing to Creek Road and ending at Bonny Street. Here all sorts of hard drugs are sold including crack, cocaine and heroine,



white, loud, pawpaw, arizona, sha-sha, codeine, marijuana among others. Some of these elements were also involved in criminal gangs that specialized in armed robbery, kidnapping, and assassinations especially in the early days of "Columbia" in late 80s and 90s.

**VII. Conclusion**

Urbanization is the process by which towns and cities grow bigger and more people go to live in them. When this occurs, there arises a high demand for social amenities such as houses (accommodation), good roads, water and electricity as the available ones are stretched to a limit, it is the failure of this that led to urban sprawl, shanties, ghettos or slums as seen today in Port Harcourt where there are new towns or communities rising in the marshy slums of Port Harcourt-waterfronts, where there is inexplicable and uncontrollable, crime rate which has gradually subsided with the appointment of chiefs, CDC, youth leaders and vigilantes in these communities. However, with the "Effect of Social Change on Crime and Law Enforcement" (UN 1965) which states that another important social trend is the massive migration of rural dwellers to the cities, which for many years have had much higher crime rates than the rural areas.

In the area of "Social Change and Criminality", it is agreed that social change based on westernization can also affect the mindset of some narrow minded people leading to occurrences of discrimination and harassment. On a positive note, it can enable individuals to enhance their lives in various aspects such as political, cultural and social among others. As to what is social change and how it affects our development? Social change is a way human interactions and relationship transform cultural and social institutions over time having profound impact on society. Social change is concepts many of us take for granted or do not really even understand. No society has ever remained the same Change is always happening.

The Influence of Rapid Social Change on Civic Community agrees that social change is often found to have negative impacts on traditional community organizations. It is also agreed that mobility has an important impact on the primary mental and physical problems facing society- loneliness, fear of abandonment, agoraphobia etc. Also in the "Positive and Negative Examples of Social Change" we found out moral upbringings have become important and have caused a drop in society. Education of children now is very important and necessary to help they succeed.

In the "Change and Information Overload", negative effects, researchers have indeed found a positive correlation between change and physical illness. The "Life Change Scale" is a psychological tool which measures this chart. There is also threat by natural calamity, environmental imbalance, ecological crises, war, pests, famine are the examples of change in negative direction. In a nutshell, while the term social change is usually applied to changes that are beneficial to society, it may result, in negative side-effects or consequences that can undermine development. This study therefore argues that if governance does not put urbanization in proper perspective, the negative outcome of it can lead to negative social



change in form of various crimes that puts the society and even the individual including the environment at risk.

### **VIII. Recommendations**

Based on the findings as shown above, the following recommendations are made to improve the adverse situations:

*There should be proper sensitization through radio, televisions, newspapers and gazettes etc to ensure the maintenance of the Port Harcourt master plan to forestall the growth of ghettos or shanties.*

*Since it is now difficult to completely remove the communities that have developed at the Port Harcourt waterfronts, the Rivers State government needs to employ a holistic approach in the reconstruction of the communities by creating roads and other infrastructures to create permanent abodes for the indigenous inhabitants instead of threats in bulldozing the houses at the waterfronts.*

*Since crimes are negative effects arising from urbanization and social change, a better law enforcement measures should be applied which brings together the youth leaders, CDCs, the Chiefs and even the ordinary citizens living at the waterfront communities so that the benefits of this change does not rob off on the people making it possible that the advantages of urbanization are enjoyed by the people living on the streets of the metropolis and those at the waterfronts.*

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