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**CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND WAY FORWARD IN  
MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE, NIGERIA**

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***Abstract***

*This paper examined the causes of juvenile delinquency in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. Juvenile delinquency has been an issue of major concern, receiving attention of all stakeholders at all level, including government, parents, community and other related concerns personality. Despite the efforts from different angles to minimize the challenges of anti-social behaviour of children below the aged of 18 years old proved abortive. In view of that series of studies were conducted by researchers to find lasting solution to the phenomena of delinquency in our society. This paper is central to the phenomena of juvenile delinquency. Qualitative random interview and focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted in some selected areas of Maiduguri, Borno State. Relevant empirical literatures, journals, articles and oral opinion was mingled together to form the study data. Fifty (50) respondents were used as a study samples. A statistical method of simple frequency distribution and percentages addition with chi-square was used to distinguish the respondents' opinions. The findings of the study coincides with the study hypotheses that poor parental supervision, peer group, poverty, hunger, broken homes, or family separation amongst others are the key factors motivating the youths engaged in anti-social behaviour.*

***Keywords:*** Causes; Juvenile; Delinquency; Way; Forward

### **Introduction;**

Juvenile delinquency refers to the anti-social and criminal behaviour involving individuals below the aged of 18 years. Juvenile delinquency has consistently been a problem in the world, Nigeria is inclusive. It is also globally observed that juvenile are treated differently from adults no matter the severity or weight of the crime committed (Powers, M. 2020). Delinquency refers to the violation of a law by a child. It is analogous with the commitment of a crime by an adult. Juvenile delinquency is an issue of great concern in law enforcement, and correctional circles. Delinquency programme for the youth have continually focused on individual behaviour, while ignoring community, family, and neighbourhood factors, which are the most critical factors contributing to delinquency behaviour. Considering the widespread family, societal, community, and individual costs that come with high rates of juvenile delinquency, one cannot help to wonder what the government is doing about it. It is also everybody's concern the government may not be doing enough to make a difference (Power's, M. 2020). Juvenile delinquency has been a burning issue in the recent years, as youth under the aged of 18 years old crime committed reports is higher than the adult crime statistic in most developed and developing nations of the world.

Juvenile delinquency is one of the complex societal issues that all communities are grappling with despite the various measures, not only its prevalence has not diminished but also has intensified and broadened. Delinquency should be considered a sort of behavioural imbalance, yet it originates from the internal and individual motivations of people, take effect from social and environmental factors as well. Therefore, delinquency is caused by multiple reasons, such as biological, psychological and social environmental factors among others (Nourolla, M.; Fatimah, M.; Farhad, J. 2015: 53). Available literatures indicates that the weak juvenile justice system and political interference has immensely contributed to the raising crime cases of young offenders due to the inherent flaws and other related weaknesses including corruption and politics most often undermining the smooth operation of the criminal justice system (Field Survey, 2020). In Nigeria, the prevalent cases of young offenders has been attributed to democratic atmosphere in which

politicians are using the jobless youth to intimidate opponents to achieve their selfish interest.

Juvenile delinquency can cause children to commit crime at a young age. There are a number of reasons why teens commit crimes or behaviour violently with others. A juvenile delinquency is the act of committing a crime at a tender age before the maturity stage, who breaks, a state or federal law by committing a crime. Teens are immature and do not think like matured adults, therefore they are prone to making mistakes or commit of crimes or deviance that are not fully in their control. Teens can break laws for myriad of purposes, beside, there are multiple reasons or factors influencing the youth into juvenile delinquency ([www.secureteen.com](http://www.secureteen.com) 2017).

#### **Statement of the Problems;**

Juvenile delinquency has been the common challenges bedevilling the society and all stakeholders concern such as the parents, security agents, government, judiciary and individuals, as most of the youths have metamorphose into political thuggery and other related anti-social activities. However, most of the politicians of either political parties using the vulnerable youth during election period to create chaos and attacks opponents to win election. Besides being used and dumped by influential politicians to achieve their set goals and objectives. The recent criminal related cases statistic evidence from various security agents bureau shows that the juvenile criminal cases filed was unprecedented and too alarming, that something need to be done to overcome the challenges of disturbing cases of criminal committed by children's below the aged of 18 years old. A reliable intelligent sources revealed that there are approximately (500) five hundred and above children's below the aged of 18 years in the midst of Boko Haram terrorist fighting government forces, holding deadly arms, planting bombs, burning houses, making suicides and killing innocent citizens (Field Survey, 2020). These young criminals were involved in different criminal activities, such as political thuggery, hard drugs abuse and drug business, picking pockets, burglary, shoplifting, vandalizing government properties, Boko Haram insurgents informant, violent crimes, snatching handset and cap, rape, disobedience, homicide, truancy, robbery,

cultism, prostitutions, manslaughter, break and enter, kleptomania among other things are the little of the many anti-social activities the young criminals committing in society. The increasing waves of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria is too worrisome and alarming that require urgent intervention to minimize the youth abnormality so as to clear ground toward their future journey, hence the youths are the leaders of tomorrow. It is against these backdrop, the researchers want to find out the root causes influencing the juvenile into delinquency or criminal activities and suggests the way forward to control the challenges.

### **Objectives;**

- i. To find the root causes of juvenile delinquency.
- ii. Proffer suggestions to minimize what influencing the youths into delinquency in Maiduguri, Borno State.

### **Research Questions;**

- i. What are the factors influencing youths into delinquency act in Maiduguri, Borno State?
- ii. What are the anti-social activities the youths committing oftentimes in Maiduguri, Borno State.
- iii. In what way juvenile delinquency can be prevented in Maiduguri, Borno State.

### **Hypotheses;**

- i. That poor socialisation, peer group pressures, poverty, broken homes family, single parents families, separated family, genetically acquired behaviour among others are the factors motivating youths into juvenile delinquency in Maiduguri, Borno State.

### **Methodology;**

A qualitative random interview with partial Focus Group Discussion (FGD) method was applied to the target youth to generate information on causes of juvenile delinquency in Maiduguri, Borno State. Recidivist are the top of the research focus. Therefore respondents were selected randomly in

various location of Maiduguri, Metropolitan wards. A convenience sampling methods was used to select the respondents. A fifty (50) respondents were used as the research sample size. Statistical methods of simple frequency distribution and percentages and chi-square was used to differentiate the responses of the respondents. Internets, textbooks and other sources relevant to the subject under study was used and found consistent and relevant throughout the work. Demographic affiliation is not considered throughout the work, hence their physical appearance are sufficient enough to determine their aged and other demographic factors.

### **Discussion;**

Many studies over the years has begun to identify factors that motivating the increase risks of juvenile delinquency in society. The dramatic rise in juvenile violent and anti-social behaviour has generated, a considerable anxiety and substantial concern among the stakeholders of all levels as what to do to minimize the situation and take a measures to prevent it re-occurrence. The juvenile delinquency increasing waves to encourage many researchers to conduct a research to find out the real causes attracting the youth into delinquency practice. The finding of this work in consistent and conformity with the study questions, hypotheses and objectives of the work has adequately generated the basic information needed through the respondent's opinion. Most of the juvenile's delinquent interviewed responses strongly supported the work hypotheses that early childhood pampering by the parents, poor upbringing, joblessness and bad friends and poverty are the key factors influencing them into the most disturbing behaviour of delinquent acts. It is therefore, obvious that bulk of the youth were dragged into the criminal activities by bad peers, lack of job to do, broken families, single parent families, separated families, frequent parent misunderstanding and fighting infront of the children, lack of trust and confidence, genetically inherent psychological problems, parents or family history of substance abuse and criminal behaviour could also likely inherit by the children and act in the same way (cf. Field Survey, 2020). Recent studies Institute of Medicine (2001: 3) opines that early developmental stages factors coupled with prenatal and perinatal disadvantages, such as exposure to drugs, low birth weight, and trauma aiding a child to become

risks for delinquency. He further added that children between the aged of 3-4 years old who are highly physically aggressive are at high risk of becoming involved in juvenile crime activities. He also assumes that abusive parenting, poor parenting practices, or disorganized family and neighbourhood environments could influence the children into anti-social behaviour and full scale juvenile delinquency. According to the Institute of Medicine, a households that provide safety, emotional warmth, and guidance, foster development of non-criminal adolescents with sound Samaritan (Institute of Medicine, 2001: 3-4).

Cusson, (1979: 50) as cited in Igbimovia, P. (2012: 143) reported that juvenile delinquents common crimes committing includes, stealing in markets, stores, and in cars, the stealing of motorbikes and pickpocketing. He also added that others criminal activities commonly found, proliferation of petty extortion: youths offer to “watch” an automobile threatening the owner that if he/she refuses they will let the air out of his/her tyres (Cusson, 1972: 50).

Weinberg, S.K. (1964) reported that those who become delinquents in African communities were exposed and susceptible to the influence of delinquent associates most often manifested in stealing or prostitution, delinquency in the various communities is said to have been learned predominantly from association with other delinquents (Clinard & Abbott, 1973; p.196).

Clifford, (1966; p.166) provides a various reasons as feasible causes of juvenile delinquency in African countries. Among these are rapid urbanization, instability within a family structure, lack of employment and educational opportunities, urban migration, the impersonality of urban life, lack of parental control, and individual maladjustment (Cited In Igbimovia, p.2012: 144). He further suggested that turbulence in family relation in family relations; emotional instability, and the spreads of urban culture appear to be far more important for crime and delinquency.

Participants in the first West African Conference in Comparative Criminology suggested the following as causes of juvenile delinquency in Africa. That delinquency in African region caused by a tragic loss of family life and emotional security. According to them changes in family relations and parental roles which occur in the city are destroying the traditional

tribal family; resulted to loss of harmony and communication both between the parents themselves and between parents and children. Other causes of delinquency in Africa was attributed to lack of an adequate State Prevention Policy. The participants also opined that lack of sufficient and competent personnel, specialized institutions, and cooperation between the various public and private services charged with providing care for the juveniles. According to the participants some of the juveniles who suffer from epilepsy are problem children, or are pathologically disturbed are not given specialized therapy which would facilitate their treatment and care (Cusson, 1972: In Igbinovia, p.2012: 145).

Ongom & Mwambingu (1978) asserted that juveniles may be predisposed to become delinquents in African communities on medical grounds. For examples, reports of medical examinations given to inmates of a detention facility in Uganda. The study showed that not only did the juveniles come from poor homes, but they also showed many infections from internal parasites such as hookworm, roundworm, whipworm and schistosomes (Ongom & Mwambingu, 1978: pp.61-64: IN Igbinovia, p.2012: 145). Similarly, Clarysse, (1974) argued that cerebral immaturity and emotionality were key factors in a complex sociological problem which eventually led the youths to appear “different”, and that social labelling was the catalyst which finally resulted in bringing them to a court of law (Clarysse, 1974: Igbinovia, 2012: 146).

The findings of Igbinovia (2019) showed that parental neglects, poor parental control and supervision of childrens, denial of employment and higher education oftentimes prone the juveniles into delinquency acts (Ongom & Mwambingu, 1978). Similarly, Cusson (1972) observed that a good part of maladjustment of minors was due to the neglect of parents who failed to assume the obligations for catering to the educational and social aspiration of their children as well as unpreparedness of youths to adapt to the demands of modern urban life (Cited In Igbinovia, 2012: 146). Elliott, *et al.*, (1985) stated that delinquency was a response to actual or anticipated failure to achieve socially induced goals. According to them, those youths who are unable to revise their goals when faced with this failure are forced to consider illegitimate, alternative means (Claward & Odalins, 1960). Available evidence from various researches showed a

connection between family factors, blocked conventional opportunities, and juvenile delinquency (Gray, P.A., 1987: 1).

Travis Hirschi (1969) concluded that the greater the attachment to parents, the less likely is the child to become involved in delinquency. Supporting the Hirshi, opinion, Conger (1976) posits that when parent's affectional bond is positive and strong, the reduction in delinquency is more likely. Like Conger & Hirshi, McCord, (1983) also concluded that parental rejection was the best predictor of juvenile delinquency.

According to World Bank (2009: 17) most adolescent resort to involve in juveniles delinquency as a result of poverty, hunger, limited access to employment opportunities and income, inadequate and insecure housing and services, violent and unhealthy environments, little or no social protection mechanisms, and limited access to adequate health and education opportunities (Ekpenyong Alfred, & Lasisi, (2012). Similarly, Adesiji (2009) is of the opinion poor housing, overpopulated areas and slums environments that mostly find less privileges individuals are vulnerable for deviant behaviour and delinquency (Ekpenyong, Alfred and Lasisi, 2012: 127). Another study by Nanjala, (2008) concluded that the higher the degree of socio-economic inequality and poverty among the population, the greater the tendency of committing anti-social behaviour (Ekpenyong, Alfred & Lasisi, 2012).

Hirshi, (1969) assumes that children with strong social bond will commit less crime than those who have weak social bond. Karen (1995) added that there should be a good relationship between the mother and the child so that the child will not develop mistrust and anger. If a child develops anger and mistrust then that child becomes a child without a conscience and behaves in an anti-social manner. According to Zigler *et al.*, (1996: 310) observed that children who are frequently expose to environmental violence experience the symptoms of fear, anxiety and stress which leads to delinquent behaviour in the later stage (Ekpenyong, Alfred & Lasisi, 2012).

### **Theoretical Perspectives on Causes of Juvenile Delinquency;**

- **Social Responsibility Approach:** The social responsibility approach of crime focus on an individual's reasons for committing crime. A



concept inherent in social responsibility is that of freewill. Approaches of social responsibility behave people commit crimes and deviant due to freewill, or because they choose to do so. The crime might be fun, easy or simply provide an adrenaline rush. For example, a man robs a convenience store because it is fun and challenging to get away with the crime (Golden, J., 2018: 75; Seidel, M., 2018: 91).

- **Social Problems Approach:** The approach asserts that crimes are committed due to matters beyond the control of the criminal. People might commit crime and deviant because of poverty, racism, social status and other constructs that hold criminal down. For example, a man robs a convenience store to get money for medicine for his new born baby. He cannot afford the medicine because he cannot find a job in his impoverished community (Cited In: Golden, J., 2018: 75; Seidel, M., 2018: 91).
- **Rational Choice Approach:** The proponent rational choice believe that individual is responsible for himself, and blame cannot be put on other environmental factors. Beckers (1963) is of the believe that most juvenile delinquents and other criminals assess the possible deviant or crime, weigh the costs and benefits, and choose the decision they feel provides the best reward to risk ratio. According to them, the removal of opportunities and raising the price for deviant and criminal activity are the best ways to minimize or stop juvenile delinquent or crime (Cited in Golden, J., 2018: 75; Seidel, M., 2018: 91; DIVICO, T., 2018: 92).
- **Social Control Approach:** Social control theorists deal with the social situations that provide for potential delinquency (Sanders, 1981). Assume that the motivation for delinquent behaviour is a part of human nature and that everyone would naturally commit crimes if left without controls (Vold & Barnard, 1986). Social control approach is aimed at providing support to the family delinquency relationship. Hirschi (1969) stated that delinquent behaviour results when an individual's bond to society or its institutions such as the family is weakened or broken. Hirshi, discussed four elements of this bond; attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief.

According to Hirshi (1969) if an individual's affectionate ties to significant others, such as the family are strong the individual is therefore attached to others and will be less likely to deviate than the unattached individual. One who values affectionate ties to significant others is likely to risk losing these ties and thus less likely to engage in delinquent behaviour, while being delinquent (Hirshi, 1969: In Gray, P.A., 1987: 7).

- **Parental Rejection:** Hirshi (1969) argued that there is an inverse relationship between the extents to which a youth is attached to his/her family and involvement in delinquent activities. According to Rohner, (1975), rejection is viewed as parental behaviour that is characterized by withdrawal and or absence of affection and warmth. Rejecting parents often dislike or resent their children, and view them as burdens. They are often cold, distant, physically, and emotionally unavailable to their children's needs. These rejecting parents pay little attention to, and spend as little time as possible with their children. The child who has been seriously rejected has not learned how to give love, because he/she has never received love (Gary, 1987). Most often the rejected youths may be looking faraway to gain revenge for their resentment, thereby resulting to delinquency as a way to compensation (Garbarino & Gilliam, 1980). Available evidence emerged from various scholars that youths from unaffectionate homes are more likely to be delinquent. The affectionate family can prevent delinquency. Therefore, lack of affection, and rejection by parents were among the factors highly associated with delinquency (Slocum & Stone, 1963; Gove & Crutchfield, 1982; Ruther, 1972; Alsgtrom & Havinghurst, 1971; Greene & Yawkey, 1982; In Grey, 1987: 9). In addition, Hindelang, (1985) concluded that the bond to parents does act as a deterrent to juvenile delinquency. Similarly, Conger, (1976) assumed that when parents respond to their children's communications and the affectional bond is positive and strong, the reduction in delinquency is more likely. Wilson & Hernstein, (1985) stated that parental warmth facilitates attachment, thereby leading the youths to value and appreciate parental approval, and thus will attach a high value

to the withdrawal of this parental approval. McCord, (1983) revealed that abused, neglected and rejected youths had higher rates of delinquency than did the loved youths. McCord, concluded that parental rejection was the best predictor of juvenile delinquency. Supporting the McCord's opinion, Olweus (1980) added that the mother's negativism (parental rejection) contributed to the development of child aggression and leading into juvenile delinquency. On another hand, Hepburn, (1976) findings indicated that strong ties to the family serve to limit the extent of delinquency. Poole & Regoli (1979) found that childrens having low family support engaged in more serious delinquency (Grey, 1987: 14).

Another area of concern directs attention to the extent to which parents provide insufficient supervision and control of children. According to Baumrind, (1978) youths whose parents pay little attention to them are less likely to establish strong attachments to their parents. However, parents who exercise a high degree of supervision and control tend to produce conforming children (Grey, 1987). Whereas, parents who provide poor supervision and control tend to produce delinquent children (Glueck and Glueck, 1950; Olweus, 1980; Patterson, 1982; West and Farrington, 1977; Wilson & Hernstein, 1985; Reid, *et al.*, 1981; Grey, 1987). According to Covin, (1982) deviant behaviour can occur in families where discipline is too strict, lax and inconsistent. Ivan (1958) assumed that most delinquent behaviour was a result of insufficient social control.

### **Synopsis of Bridges, 1927 Factors Contributing to Juvenile Delinquency in Society**

- i. Physical factors**
  1. Malnutrition
  2. Lack of sleep
  3. Developmental aberrations
  4. Sensory defects
  5. Speech defects
  6. Endocrine disorders
  7. Deformities

8. Nervous diseases
9. Other ailments
10. Physical exuberance
11. Drug addiction
12. Effect of weather

(Cited in Bridges, K.M.B. (1927: 532-534)

**ii. Home conditions**

1. Unsanitary condition
2. Material deficiencies
3. Excess in material things
4. Poverty and unemployment
5. Broken homes
6. Mental and physical abnormalities of parents or siblings
7. Immoral and delinquent parents
8. Ill-treated by foster parents, step-parents, or guardians
9. Stigma of illegitimacy
10. Lack of parental care and affection
11. Lack of confidence and frankness between parents and children
12. Deficient and misdirected discipline
13. Unhappy relationship with siblings
14. Bad examples
15. Foreign birth or percentage
16. "Superior" education of children

(Cited in Bridges, 1927: pp532-534)

**iii. Mental factors**

1. Mental defect
2. Superior intelligence
3. Psychoses
4. Psychoneuroses
5. Psychopathic instability
6. Abnormalities of instinct
7. Uneven mental development
8. Obsessive imagination

9. Mental conflicts
10. Repression and substitutions
11. Inferiority complex
12. Introversion and egocentrism
13. Revengefulness complex
14. Suggestibility
15. Contra-suggestibility
16. Adolescent emotional instability
17. Sex habits and experiences
18. Habit and association
19. Lethargy and laziness

(Cited in Bridges, 1927: pp532-534).

**iv. School conditions**

1. Inadequate school building and equipments
2. Inadequate facilities for recreation
3. Rigid and inelastic school system "The goose step".
4. Poor attendance laws and lax enforcement.
5. Wrong grading
6. Unsatisfactory teachers
7. Undesirable attitude of pupil towards teachers
8. Bad school companions and codes of morals

(Cited in Bridges, 1927: pp.532-534)

**v. Neighbourhood conditions**

1. Lack of recreational facilities
2. Congested neighbourhood and slum milieu.
3. Disreputable morals of the district
4. Proximity of luxury and wealth
5. Influence of gangs and gang codes
6. Loneliness lack of social outlets
7. Over stimulating movies and shows

(Cited in Bridges, 1927: pp532-534)

**vi. Occupational conditions**

1. Irregular occupation
2. Occupational misfit
3. Spare time and idleness
4. Truancy
5. Factory influences
6. Monotony and restraint
7. Decline in apprenticeship system

(Cited in Bridges, 1927: pp.532-534)

**Merton Anomie/Strain Theory**

According to strain theory, delinquency is a consequence of the frustration youths experience when they are unable to achieve desirable goals (i.e. material success and social status). Society stresses that youths, like everyone else should use the legitimate means, such as a good education and a good job to attain these desired goals. For some youths, if they follow society's means, they are unlikely to achieve society goals. The social structure blocks certain youths from attaining these goals in acceptable ways, causing them to turn to illegitimate means. Thus, delinquency is assumed to be primarily caused by a dysfunction between culturally induced goals and access to legitimate means (Grey, 1984: 30). According to Merton (1939) those who adopt the goals of society but lack the means to attain them seek alternatives such as crime. The desire to be successful can motivate youths to break the rules when faced with blocked opportunities. Merton, developed a typology of the modes of adaptation that can be used when an individual is confronted with anomie. These modes are used to explain how deviant behaviour is produced by the social structure, and can be applied to juvenile delinquency (Bartollas, 1985).

The first mode of adaptation is conformity, which is the most common mode where youth accepts both the goals and means of society. The second mode is innovation; youths accept the goals but reject the legitimate means of attaining them. The third mode is ritualism; the youths reject the goals but continue to accept the legitimate means for attaining them. The fourth mode is retreatism; youths reject both the goals and the legitimate means for attaining them. The final mode is rebellion; the youths reject both the

goals and means of the larger society, but substitute new ones (Merton, 1939; Grey, 1984: 31). In separate study, Cohens, (1955) shows how the conditions lower-class life produce delinquency. Teachers and school officials use middle-class “yardstick measures” to evaluate lower-class youths. Subsequently, status frustration or foreign of lower-class success, causes them to engage in deviant behaviour. Similarly, Cloward & Ohlin, S. (1960) shows that blockage of conventional opportunities causes lower-class youths to engage in delinquent behaviour. They argued that Merton only discussed the availability of legitimate means for achieving success and ignored illegitimate means. Their theory further posits that America society encouraged everyone to strive for material wealth but at the same time made it very difficult for lower-class youths, who had failed within the educational system, to achieve this material wealth by legitimate means. These lower-class youths were therefore forced to seek illegitimate means such as delinquency to achieve their goals. Moreover, if they had successful adult criminals in their neighbourhoods, youths could join delinquency subcultures or adopt illegitimate means. Hence, just as legitimate opportunities were necessary for success by legitimate means, illegitimate opportunities were also necessary for success by illegitimate means (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960; In Grey, 1984: 32).

### **Critical Theory on Juvenile Delinquency;**

This encompasses a set of explanation by various sociologists on how differences in numerous characteristics such as gender or race can lead to an increase in rates of crimes among different members of society. Other documents focus on group differences on how those in positions of authority trigger commitment to crime by young people (Coleta *et al.*, 2007; In UKessay.com, 2018). Racial differences traditionally, can be associated with the Marxism approach which postulates that those in positions perceived superior are the most likely to dictate the pace as goes the infamous saying that “he who pays the piper, calls for the tune”. Marxist approach argued that people those who own production claims to have the greatest say in making any decisions pertaining that particular line of production. Larry *et al.*, (2008: 227). Argued that others who are the minorities will have to go by what they have dictate such as the type of

work to be done, by who and how. Biases that lead to discrimination of certain specific minority groups among the many world societies have lead not only to unresolved conflicts, but also in an increase in juvenile delinquency especially in the American societies. This finding among the most recent approaches in criminal justice system that explain why delinquency is on the rise in such social set ups where a particular race fell more superior than the other to the extent of treating the latter as subordinates (Larry, *et al.*, 2008: 229; In UKeassys.com, 2018). Racial abuses for example can be tracked right from the social status of many societies with less cosmopolitan places being affected more. This implies that where a group of people is in small numbers, biases is more prevalent. Perceptions on people weak economically greatly affected young people relations with, view of the opposite class. It is evident in many societies across the globe that these young people will always behave in a very suggesting that they are opposed to what pertains those perceived as opponents (Agnew, 2005: 119). This usually results in numerous conflicts, as antagonistic beliefs are ever experienced with majorities emerging triumphant over the minority's eventually encouraging deviant and crime, especially among the youths (Cited In UKessays.com, 2018).

### **Conclusion;**

This paper has established facts in relation to causes of juvenile delinquency in society. There exists a lot of individual and societal factors responsible for committing deviance and crimes by juveniles. Several literatures and theoretical perspectives were reviewed to understand the root causes that motivates youths to engage in anti-social behaviour and thereby commit deviance and crime. Among the theories reviewed includes, social responsibility approach; social problems approach; rational choice approach; social control approach; and anomie or strain approach of Robert, K. Merton as well as Marxian critical approaches for juvenile delinquency. From the opinions of the empirical literatures and theoretical approaches digested, it is glaring that flaws and weak individual decision and choice; poor parental supervision and upbringing; peer group; socio-economic inequality; imbalance social structure; family instability as well as broken home; societal system inequality and



opportunities blocked are some of the principal indicators influencing youths or juveniles to resort for committing deviant and crime with a view to achieve their set goals.

Other empirical studies and findings of this paper push the blame of the current juvenile delinquency phenomena to weak juvenile justice systems and lack of standard facilities for juvenile's delinquency rehabilitation and reformation as well as policies and programmes of curbing the menace among youths in society. The study findings has revealed that most of the youths believed to be delinquent and recidivist interviewed. In various locations were drug addicts battling with abject poverty and hunger. However, the study shows that the Borno State as at time of compiling this paper has only two (2) reformation centres that is approved school and remand home. Unfortunately the present administration of Borno State under the leadership of Governor Baba Gana Umara Zulum had recently discharged the juveniles criminals from the (2) two identified juveniles correctional institutions and converted the institutions into standard skills acquisition centres train jobless youths in various job skills to become self-reliant and economically independent. Although, the Borno State Government under the leadership of Governor Baba Gana Umara Zulum is on right track to prioritize job creations for jobless youths and officially banned youths from being use as political thugs by politicians. It is really a fantastic decision, yet something need to be done to make the juvenile justice system a standard organization or structure of reforming and rehabilitation of young offenders rather than taken for granted (Field Survey, 2020).

### **Recommendations;**

1. That the superb efforts of Borno State Government under the leadership of Governor Baba Gana Umara Zulum for building top class skills acquisition village to train jobless youths in various job skills to make them self-reliant and economically independent is highly commendable. These could no doubt drastically minimize the index of juvenile delinquency cases, if properly implemented and continuous without any hindrance.

2. That the juvenile's justice systems and the correctional, or juvenile rehabilitation institutions should as a matter of urgent important to reform and suit the contemporary day atmosphere. The legal policies and programmes towards reforming the delinquents should be revisited.
3. That parents should be sensitive of socializing their children, thus intensify supervision, assessing and monitoring the movement of their children in order to prevent them from possible contact with bad friends.
4. Government should endeavours to re-admit the schools dropout amongst the juveniles delinquents and equally assists them throughout their studies period including their wearing cloths, friends and healthcare, hence their parents could not afford to pay their school fees and other school related and personal expenses.
5. Government should provide a well-established and equipped juveniles rehabilitation institution with sufficient management staff who are supposedly auxiliary social workers with vast humanitarian experience.
6. Parents should also endeavours to provide the basic essentials needs of their children so as to avoid external influence to turn down their instructions and directives. It is obvious that providing the needs of the children so as to prevent them from eyeing peers materials that could influence them to take deviant alternative to meet their needs.
7. That the parents should be observant of their children physical appearance and his both emotional and mental stage in order to understand changes in attitudes and behaviour of the children and where necessary intervene and correct the abnormality.
8. That parents and other family members should establish good cordial relationship with the children so as to foster love, belongingness and cohesion among the members of the family, thus guarantee discipline, obedience and morality.
9. That parents, neighbourhoods and community leaders has a role inculcating discipline whenever the children goes abnormal path of life.

10. That the parents should monitor and regulates the kinds of movies and social media the children are watching in order to prevent them from experimenting the immoral attitudes watched.

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