

*Ife Psychol* 2016, 24(1), 37-47

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ISSN: 1117-1421

## **Youth Identity, Peer Influence and Internet Crime Participation in Nigeria: A Reflection**

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The increasing relevance of youth participation in the e-environment and invariably the use of cyber technology has been remarkably accentuated by many scholars. Lately, the affinity inherent in the triad of youth, cyber technology and e-business banding together to form the driving force of progress in the modern economy have also been considerably recognized. However, the unanticipated consequences of the synergy between each of these components are yet to be explored in details. This paper, having identified this gap therefore, explores an aspect involving the intent of youths in their utilization of cyber technology and locates this in the appropriation of the gains in the e-business environment to generate diverse desired ends. The existence of both standardized and non-standardized behaviours in the use of e-technologies has steadily increased the vulnerability of gamut of users in the cyber community. In cognizance of this development, this paper locates the surge in Nigeria's youth's interest in manipulating the Internet for private gains in expressive identity that is both promoting independence and creativity among the studied group. The theoretical anchorage links fraud attraction to the nature of the social psychological composition of the youths. Finally, the paper concluded that though the increase in technological innovations has been of tremendous advantages to the youth population and the society at large, it has also constituted serious challenges in terms of technologically enhanced crime. These crimes include the cyber fraud characteristic of the youth population in many developing nations. This study proffered some pragmatic solutions to the challenges relating to youth-cyber fraud connection.

**Keywords:** Crime, Identity, Peer influence, Technology, Youths

The wide-spread information networks and the development of information and communication technology (ICT) skills across a broader socio-cultural boundaries open new avenues to prosperity that did not exist many decades ago in many parts of the world. Livingstone (2010) attributed this development to the benefits the new technological order confers on the global community. ICT created new opportunities

for self-expression, sociability, community engagement, creativity and new literacies. Nonetheless, it also creates a whole new set of uncertainties for global businesses and other forms of relationship (Salkowitz 2010). Modern technologies exist to target solving all human problems but they still pose enormous threat to the physical and psychological well-being of humans, thereby generating relatively non-predictability of

the unfolding scenario (Stivers, 2001). The ensuing uncertainty is encapsulated in the revealing developments located in negative skills that are capable of thwarting the overall import of modern economy. When examined from the enormity of the cost accruing from the climate of uncertainties and the attendant sporadic growth in negative skill, both impacts are capable of promoting grave consequences. Interestingly, the representation of the youths in the operation of the two is quite astonishing and quite visible cross culturally. It has been reported that behavioural experimentation or at best, crime is often seen in most society as belonging to the domain of young people and vice versa (Brown, 1995:32). Considering the technological media representation of the group therefore, crime and young people are bracketed together (Brown 2002:77). Youths in this group constantly bond together into associations with the view of dissipating energies and in the process becoming innovative in their quest for domain, relevance and survival.

The availability and the permissive (commercial) uses of the Internet technologies have equally encouraged mass youth's participation and as well increased the depth of mal-adaptive uses of the technology globally. Besides, the victims of cyber-crimes cannot be completely exonerated in the complicities involved in the crime. There is complementarily the demand-supply nexus. And in locating the causal factors promoting youth and cybercrime affinity literally, it is important to explore this from the platform where the group draws its existence—the society. The healthy state or otherwise of any society remains the determinant of both substantive and emerging challenges that are capable of impinging on the survival of such entities and concomitantly the occupiers. Most outstanding in this regard is the cultural, socio-economic, and the psycho-physical components of a society that are commonly affected by both external and internal influences and needed to promote national sectoral development. Most germane to the current paper is the exploration on how

these influences help produce the present youth-cyber crime condition in Nigeria. Attention has also been drawn to the role of the state in crime multiplication mainly promoted by the action and inaction of the state actors. Analyzing the state contribution to youth-crime bracketing, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) review (2001) espouses on the failure of Nigeria to achieve the several laudable National Rolling Plans since the early 1960s to date. Factors responsible for this failure include resource constraints, non-availability of data to aid plan execution and ultimately development, plan indiscipline, corruption and bad implementation of economic policies. These malaise triggered multi-faceted economic problems such as declining gross domestic product (GDP), plummeting foreign exchange reserve, burgeoning public debt, persistent slide in the exchange rate, soaring unemployment, accelerating inflation, shortage of basic consumer goods and deteriorating standard of living (p175). Similarly, other studies have reported that the plethora of development programmes at the national and international levels (such as NEEDS, Vision 2010, Millennium Development Goals, 7-point Agenda, Vision 2020) have not improved the economic well-being and livelihood of Nigerian people in particular and Africans in general (Makinde, 2005; Gracia and Fares, 2008). Nigerians are consistently faced with untold challenges as a result of the effects of these variables that are symptomatic of dwindling economy. Significant Nigerians are finding it extremely difficult to survive this excruciating condition while the youths specifically are not left out.

There are different modes of reaction formation directed at addressing the perceived seemingly irresolvable condition and these range from the exhibition of attitudinal apathy to the feelings of extreme exclusion. The latter explains the response of the youths and thus creates an avenue for myriad of experimentations with both licit and illicit behaviour. In effect, Macwemoisa (2002) argues that the feeling of inclusion or exclusion determines how the youths imagine or identify themselves in relation to

other social groups which they see as one of their own or as the other. The pressing need for survival under the unpredictable climate facilitates competition among diverse groups thus making the most perceived or visibly battered group to opt for palliative measures with its resultant manifestation in crime participation with the view of surviving. The coalition of youthful exuberance, technological permissiveness and state dwindling services to the citizenry become the instigating factors in youth-crime compatibility. The most central to current discourse involves the role of peers in the complexity involved in modern day youth technology-driven crimes.

This paper engages a review of probable causes of youths' incessant participation in crime especially those implicated on the Internet use. It situates youth condition and affiliation with crime activism within the social impart tradition, a socio-psychological approach and establishes the vulnerabilities in the e-commerce environment. It finally proffers strategies needed to curtail youth amenability or proneness to crime.

#### *Theoretical Framework*

In all facets of human interaction, specific attitudes combine with social factors to produce behaviour. This is further reinforced by the subjective norms that are often driven by our beliefs about what others think we should do. In essence, social pressure to conform often leads us to behave in ways that are at odds or incongruent with our inner conviction (Ajzen, 1991). Consequently, when one discusses the complexities of youth identity, peer influence and fraud participation in the modern era, one must explore this from the context of the social psychological ideology underpinning human relationship and existence. Drawing from the inference of Jenkins (2008), modern times as a concept means modern concerns about identity and modern processes of identification. The youth identification logo remains the Internet technology. This is quite obvious when one looks at the major factor impinging on the behaviour of youths of contemporary times in the use of the medium. One of the theories that best situate the current concern is the

social impact theory which presents a more unified understanding of social influence. It states that the amount of influence others have in a given situation is a function of three factors which include: strength, immediacy and number. Considering the impact that peer influence has on cyber fraud participation as presented in these three variables therefore, Latane (1981) posits that social action of any kind and the total impact of others on a specific target, person or group of persons is a function of the interactors' strength and that which is firmly derived from the status of the influencer(s) involved on the one hand, and their appealing abilities (expertise) cum nature of relationship residing in the compelling power possessed by the influencer on the other hand.

Situationally, any given group becomes more influential for two obvious reasons, first, influence builds up as more and more people share their concern and second, is when attempt is made by those external to expropriate the gains that can be derived from participation in the group. In this case, as individual share in the concern of a group increases, the expected innovative response of entrant diminishes and the existing group becomes a reference point for now and future actions. There is a spontaneous acceptance and imbibing of group practices. It also involves their immediacy which becomes more enforcing by intensity or proximity in time and space to the enticer or target. Affiliations are created and oneness is promoted and directed towards the group ideals. The defining characteristics binding the elements in the group together form the basis for compatibility and association. Sufficiently alarming involves the direction and ideological affinities mostly propelling commitment to set ideals to be mirrored by the pursuant. In the fraud arena, the bracketing in age, sex, taste, socio-economic conditions and host of other factors existing among the youths that are mostly involved in cyber fraud often form the basis for association and closeness. The cloud of uncertainties pervading the environment of most developing nations reinforces the closeness observable among the youths. With their attempt of warding off the

predatory impact of recession, exposure to unfavourable standard of living and un-cooperating socio-economic climate of their countries, youths are forced to share their predicament with those having similar life chances. Peer effect then becomes more potent as youths bond together to forge a common way toward surviving perceived excruciating socio-economic crisis. Latane (1981) further stresses that diverse communications among group possess the potential to condition their social thinking. In this regard, people who flock together by reason of identifiable attributes linkable to the group become more similar in their attitudes and beliefs than people having no similar attributes. The shared conditions of unemployment, poverty, hopelessness and bleak future then produce similar response in like manner across the population in the group. The social impact directly impinging on one in the group is easily identifiable and closely connected with the life chances of the others.

In addition, the social impact inherent in group morality often transferable from one element in the group to significant other simultaneously generates most observable similarities. Latane (1981) positioned that the existence of people characterized by like-mindedness and bonding into clusters with the intention of realizing group goals help to provide answer to the emerging trend in crime participation among youths of contemporary times. Peer influence, borrowing from Latane (1981), constitutes the dynamic social impact propelling the youths to identify with their counterparts in the cyber fraud environment. Youth within this reality, forms a bond within which their aspirations are articulated, exercised, reinforced and sustained in the atmosphere of similarly held attitudes, group values and their perception of their world (Francoi, 2003). Finally, as the number of sources increases, so often is their influence, their immediacy and number.

Latane and L'Herrou (1996) were also apt to assert that computer technology and its applicabilities have permitted more and more people to interact in cyber space and have also helped produce different groups

with closely identifiable attributes underpinning their pursuits in the cyber environment. Consequently, the most germane in this paper involves the growth in youth technological crimes participation often facilitated by what the latter scholars described as expansion in the web of interaction globally. Hence, the centrality of discussion in this context focuses on the increasing effect of group influence on youth's decision to identify with their peers and participate in the activities that are both positive and negative to conventional expectations.

#### *Review on youth participation and Vulnerabilities in the Cyber Environment*

Within the criminological arena, one is constantly forced to interrogate what factors are responsible for cyber space dilemma situation. It should be clear from the onset that the crossroads at this juncture finds expression in researchers' efforts at severing between admissible and inadmissible conducts in the cyber space. This is essentially due to factors that are relegating the operation, progress and as well as derailing the essence of current ICT cum e-commerce revolution within the global economy context. We are making progress in part and generating retrogression on the other hand.

Salkowitz (2010) identifies three forces driving the world in this present age and these include the youth, ICT and entrepreneurship both generating impact and driving the global economy in new directions and at high velocity. The three are combined under a single concept he called global Net Generation or the Millennials and the emergence of both concepts coincided with the growth or spread of the Internet and the digital media and are collectively socialized within a unique set of expectations, based in part on the capabilities of the new information environment. The content of socialization in this regard carries both positive and negative implications for the world of e-relationship. While significant portion of the youths explore the opportunities available in the ICT and the Internet environment for self development in skill acquisition and

entrepreneurial pursuit, several other predates on unsuspecting victims by dispossessing them of their hard earned resources (both material and finances). The present state is attained as a result of constellation of factors. The youths significantly dominate the ICT world by reason of their level of literacy that helps in the manipulation of the new media.

Second, they are more advantaged in their level of connectivity and access to the Internet. Third, there exists a global dominance of wired relationship driving socio-economic pursuits; and the youths have ability to grasp the complexities of market forces as consumers. Youths influence and presence in the cyber space mostly in the advanced capitalist nations became prominent in the last 15 years according to Salkowitz (2010). Distinctively, in the developing economies such as Nigeria, the Net Generation is said to be evolving gradually. In his view, there is the need to reorient indigenous youths to discard or dispense with existing traditional practices and meet up with the requirement of engrafting work style of digital economy. This sounds persuasive. However, contrary to the position of Salkowitz (2010) on developing economies in the context of Nigeria, one must quickly say that Nigerian youths are not in any wise lagging behind in ICT and Internet utilization either for skill acquisition or for other nefarious activities as in the case of cyber fraud or other cyber related crimes which is a well known development among the youths.

It may be evident that computer literacy among the adult is at low ebb, this should not foreclose the fact that the youths are rapidly catching up with their counterparts in those developed countries. Unfortunately, the mostly registered activism that is collectively detested in the international community involves the indictment of Nigerians and invariably the youths on the perpetration of cyber fraud with the resultant incremental threat on the global economy.

Obviously, diverse reasons have been adduced to this development in several scholarly writings and theoretical

explanations in which most contribution blamed lack of investment capital, deteriorated infrastructure, abysmal performance of the industrial sector, unemployment or at best recession as setbacks affecting significant number of nations in the international community and intensifying the drove at which those affected by their scourge participate in crime related activities. There is a symbiotic relationship between these setbacks and the rising profile of cyber fraud in the international arena. Despite the despicable state “characterizing the nature of access in the developing economies” (especially in Africa) to the new Internet technology and invariably the reduction in virtual interaction, it is worthy to know that several nations that are affected have a significant share in the volume of cyber related crimes currently being harvested in the e-community. Ironically, this points attention to the fact that what is evaluated to be a ‘disadvantaged’ situation in some circumstances or in a country may convey or be made convertible into an ‘advantage’ in other circumstances no matter how negative it may be viewed (Hill & Maughan, 2004).

The growth in global flow of business draws strength in the availability of cyber technology and the youths utilize the convergence in the former to articulate and actualize the goals of life under unfavourable circumstances pervading most seemingly economic backward environments. For instance, research clearly shows that economic recession promoting the insurgence of other anti-development variables simultaneously increases cyber related crime for obvious reasons. Recession always puts business in greater risk from out of work IT experts tempted to join the criminal underground to make ends meet (Kirk, 2009). Recession is capable of putting the world at greater risk, engendering the magnitude that had hitherto not been experienced. All these gave the impetus to youths in their resolve to participate in cyber related crimes.

According to Wall (2001), the novel roles of youths in the Internet environment were initially applauded owing to the level of

dexterity displayed (collective exhibited) and thereby occasioning innovative steps that further led to improvement in the Internet technology configuration. However, this was soon forgotten as research sooner or later showed that they constitute formidable threat to the import or the workings of the medium (Chandler, 1996; Duff & Gardiner, 1996; Jordan & Taylor, 1998; Taylor, 1999). The youths constitute what Wall (2001) described as cyber trespassers. The trespassers range from utopian youths to cyber punks. They also include cyber spy and cyber terrorists. When combined together, their activities pose significant threat and make the Internet vulnerable to attacks. However, the most appropriate to the current study is the one he called cyber deception or cyber theft. Cyber theft is the use of computers, as well as communication systems to steal information electronically. By hacking into someone's computer or into a group of computers, cyber thieves can transfer funds into their own bank accounts (Kichura, 2009). This ranges between the adoption of the traditional pattern of theft or other fraudulent strategies or conjoining with modern strategies through surfing with increased potential for the raiding of online bank. Acquisition of wares and monetary gains by a fraudulent means are also inclusive.

Looking at the cost and the diverse evils associated with fraud, one could have as well assumed that the perpetrators and victims of fraud ought to have desisted from committing or facilitating fraud processes. However, it is quite unfortunate that most times the reverse is the case owing to the fact that different factors account for fraudsters and victims getting attracted to the Internet and invariably fraud. On the part of both, it often comes in form of pressure.- Pressure to alleviate or neutralize fear of financial embarrassment and to heck out survival on the part of the perpetrators and the pressure to gain more benefits (financial, physical or material) or to get value for money on the part of victims. Fraud is a constellation of many socio-psychological needs. On this basis, for fraud to be successful, the precipitators of fraud must exhibit three fundamental traits: reasonable pressure,

availability of perceived opportunity and intelligent component of rationalization. These three when combined are what is referred to as the fraud triangle.

Considering the form of pressure traceable to youth involvement in cyber fraud therefore, this can be examined from different dimensions. These carry micro and macro implications in their compelling strength. At the micro level, youths are confronted with financial needs and exposed to frustration due to lack of jobs, and hopelessness especially in Nigeria at the point of high school completion. In the context of the macro, there are quite a number of factors promoting youth participation in fraud. Mainly, the role of peer pressure, expensive marital or extramarital demands on relationships, role failure affecting the family, pervasive nature of corruption, bad economic climate and the quest to belong may jointly reinforce fraud activism.

Discussing opportunity, one may observe that the existence of internet technology, the availability of other users existing in the cyberspace, and the simplicity of being deceived or tricked to gain illicit advantage may also encourage the activities of fraudsters. This is made possible by the fact that the cyber worlds offer places in which to live alternative lives (Burton, 2011:201). The youths are mostly beneficiaries of the net technologies and often equally have the functional ability to detect the loopholes inherent in the system. The loopholes in cyberspace as represented in the Internet technology provide the youths the opportunity to perpetrate sizeable number of anti-social behaviours. This technology facilitates the construction of new identity to aid the youths in achieving their avowed interest (Burton, 2011).

There are gamut of crime associated with the Internet so also are the willing offenders. With the United States topping the list of cyber fraud, research equally informs that the prevalence rate of internet fraud involvement is quite high in Nigeria as the country ranked third of the top ten in the world with the share 2.87 per cent closely

trailing Canada with 3.03 percent participation ( Hitchcock, 2006). In Nigeria's context, cyber fraud involvements are rationalized under the pretext of recovering the lost labour of diverse forefathers whose labours were expropriated by the colonialists and their citizens when they were enslaved in the distant past. In this regard, it is a time of pay back. Apart from their quest toward avowed retaliation, the economic environment in Nigeria is quite unfriendly to the predicaments of the youths. Survival strategy is often anchored on the available opportunities the internet environment offers.

*Synergizing among the Youths Peer Influence, Internet and the Modern Economy*

There are ample evidences of social research reporting good conducts among youths, so also studies also provide information on youths' anti-social behaviours. Delinquent behaviour is ubiquitous. No country yet investigated is free of misbehavior on the part of its young people, and every country on which some information exists registers some involvement by at least some juveniles across its borders in acts that might legitimately be called delinquent or criminal behaviour (Hartjen, 2008:45). In part, one may be permitted to say that youthfulness and crime are synonymous for obvious reason. This is a period needed for experimenting with opportunities that often land youths in a collision course with the law. Barberet, Bowling, Junger-Tas, Rechea-Alberola, Kesteren and Zurawan (2004) liken this period to that dominated by vast number of misconducts among youths. It is characterized by disorders, mischief activities and social status behaviour including crime. Youths consist of the segment of human population who are more prone to discounting distant reward more steeply than the rest of the population and when pressured or threatened by factors external to their survival, they often jettisons empathy, and invariably develop no commitment beyond the immediate set of payoffs (Hill & Maughan, 2004).

The role of social network or group influence on initiating and reinforcing both positive

and negative behaviours has been widely reported by different scholars. For instance, Research reported the contribution of group influence in youth positive behavioural outcome (Hibbard (1985); House, Landis & Umberson, 1988; and Valente (1994). Similarly, studies have also reported that peer influence accounts for a significant portion of youth misbehaviours (Kandel, 1973; Fraser & Hawkins, 1984; Seeman, Seeman & Sayles, 1985; Donohew, Hoile, Clayton, Skinner, Colon, & Rice, 1999; Dorsey, Sherer, & Real, 1999). The general opinion of these scholars is that group identity influences individual behaviour and this by implication suggests that the individual in the web of social interaction feels affinity and desires connection with the reference group.

The component triggering the affinity lies in the cognitive component of an average youth. Considering this fact, Tian and Keep (2002) argue that cognitive antecedent embodies the dilemmas that provide a logic or reason in support of bonding with other youths as well as going forward with fraud career. It should be noted that group identity in cyber fraud consists of individual's aspiration to emulate others with high level skill in internet manipulations for private gains. Sequel to this, is a condition for successful affiliation which is also a factor of perceived similarity between potential internet surfers and those referents. Research has equally shown that individuals are influenced not only by the behaviour of significant others in the social environment but even more so by the behaviours of those with whom we hold similar attributes and dispositions (Philips & Cartensen, 1986).

The scope, forms and content of criminal organizational system among the youths vary along an extended continuum. They range from simple co-offending decisions to seize an available and attractive criminal opportunity to sophisticated design to monopolize a given market or geographical territory (Morselli, 2009:1). Just like any other human organizations, youth organization is quite often dominated by ceaseless trend of experimenting with opportunity. The youth world has been

conceived differently by scholars as a network society (Castell, 1996); connected age (Watts, 2003) and a network driven information economy (Benkler, 2006). In the context of this world, youths exercise their unrestricted freedom in any area of concern in internet uses.

Historically, youthful evolution is a function of the prevailing enlightenment or intense awareness clearly demarcating one generation from the other which may be either positive or negative. Consistently, there is a semblance between the youth world and the nature of crime that is most prevalent among the group. Reviewing the advancement in crime participation among youths from one epoch to another therefore, it is evident that the growth in youth crime is both materialistic and opportunistic in nature. While this category shares the same love for self sustenance through resource acquisition, it nevertheless, cherishes those incentives offered by socio-technological environment. Goal getting constitutes the value that human society across all ages has subscribed. Youths converge around criminal values and strive to accomplish a set goal. The quest to achieve the desired social values in this regards is driven by the existence of enablers or incentives. Most enablers capable of encouraging youth participation in crime in the late modernity include availability of other youths offering, mentoring; friendship influence; possibility of resource sharing (adequate supply of skills, tactics and socio-technological environment needed to perpetrate crime); group solidarity or affinity toward the realization of a common concern; life event and the existence of power holder capable of allaying the risk associated with crime activism.

Festinger (1954) recommends the assessment of appropriate mode of conduct by comparing ourselves with others in our social milieu. When we are unsure about how to behave in a new or unfamiliar situation, we look to the behaviour of others. When others engage in certain form of behaviour, they provide us with social approval cues and we view a type behaviour as correct in a given situation to

the degree that we see others performing it (Cialdini, 1984; Cialdini, 2001). Consequently, it can be said that, youth in cyber fraud business engage in it, in part, as a result of prevalent norms among the economically battered group and in part to overcome the excruciating socio-economic circumstances in which they find themselves in Nigeria. The perception of belonging to the same socio-economic predicament and the experience of scuttled aspirations inform the borrowing of ideas from one another in an attempt to guarantee their survival within a society they have perceived as totally unfriendly.

The existence of strain caused by economic closure forms the basis for group identity and several resultant activities located in crime. The hopelessness generated by Nigeria's socio-economic climate of mass unemployment, deprivation, hunger, starvation and poverty affects the studied group's behavioural choice. Research has linked current social crisis to youth unemployment (Sesay, Ukeje, Aina & Odebiyi, 2003). Concomitantly, other research work also lamented the state of poverty in Nigeria (Ajayi, 2006; Ozughalu, 2008). Establishing affinity between poverty and crime, NISER report (2003) asserts that when poverty is coupled with high levels of economic and social aspirations, the stage is set for criminal activities particularly official corruption, robbery and dealing in illegal goods and services. It is incontestable that the medium of cyber space creates an avenue for money making both legally or otherwise under the social climate of poverty and mass unemployment mainly affecting the youths. It presents the opportunities towards warding off of predatory factors inherent in economic backwardness of nations. This accounts for the rising rate of cyber related crime in Nigeria and other parts of the world.

The existence of correlation between group members' economic situation (pulling people of a similar situation together) and the personal need to ameliorate the excruciating economic conditions often generates a systemic effort towards the adoption of fraud as a way out. Engagement in cyber fraud is



strengthened by the belief in the capacity of the referents to manipulate the computer for personal gains. It also involves the belief that referents will engage in criminogenic behaviour in relation to cyber fraud.

### *Conclusion and Recommendation*

The modern age can best be described as the youth age. Everything about the socio-technological composition of the world promotes the acceleration and improvement of standard of life for both living and the unborn generations. Ironically, despite the manifold conveniences provided through scientific innovative efforts, the youth-crime participation in this technological age is on the increase for several reasons.

Many factors were noted to be promoting this trend. Apart from the fact that youths of contemporary times are privileged to have varied technologies at their disposal, they are equally at vantage ground to benefit from their outputs. Notwithstanding, these advantages are with one hick-up or the other. With so many of them utilizing the medium for self-development, it is uncontestable that so many others have adapted the medium for nefarious activities. The major causes of this development are both structural and socio-psychological when measured in terms of their predisposable effects on youths and invariably capable of jump-starting youths to adapt technologies into non-conventional uses. The implication of this may be devastating if left unchecked. Consequently, this paper proffers three antidotes to the increase in youth—technological crime participation.

First, value reorientation that is directed at the youths is quite central to curbing the menace of crime that is becoming rife among the youths. Globally, things are mainly falling apart; the yesteryears morality is consistently paving way to internet-based morality among the youths. This form of morality is not supportive of the coerciveness that is germane to living in an harmonious society that will benefit all and sundries. A risk free society is also a prerequisite to enhancing development

needed to forge the world ahead. The rearticulation of values, its dissemination and spontaneous assimilation is quite important to producing a desired society. The advocacy in this context is moral rebirth.

Second, the role of administrative authorities in revamping national economies that will be supportive of full capacity utilization leading to the maximization of production that will reduce poverty, unemployment and negative experimentations among youths should be vigorously pursued. The challenges of mal-governance, citizens' plight insensitivity, policy failures, uncoordinated programmes and several other problems fanning insecurity, hopelessness and crime must concertedly be checked to pave way to sporadic development in all the affected societies.

Confidence building among the youths is the third component for eradicating youth-crime participation in the modern society. The thought of destined failure and the over blown perception of impossibility directed at venturing towards achieving the goals of life should be discouraged by implementing the former two strategies explained above religiously. Confidence building in the youths commences from the grass-roots and at the micro level; it should constitute part of the national core value. The slogan should be 'you can make it positively, tell yourself you can.' By constantly affirming this, it will give the youths a sense of direction and their actions will not only become positive, but progress oriented.

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