

ANALYSIS OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN SOKOTO METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

¹Zayyanu Muhammad Nasir and ²Ibrahim Badamasi Lambu

¹Department of Geography, Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto

²Department of Geography, Bayero University, Kano

Corresponding Author's email: zayyanugandi1@gmail.com



Abstract

This study investigated the nexus between substance abuse and criminal activities in Sokoto Metropolis, Nigeria, highlighting the significant role of drug abuse in fueling crimes such as murder, thuggery, kidnapping, prostitution, and theft. Utilizing a cross-sectional mixed-methods design, data were collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with stakeholders, including law enforcement, health professionals, and community members, supplemented by secondary data from official records. Findings reveal that drugs like Tramadol, Diazepam, Exol 5, Ice, and marijuana are commonly used to enhance confidence and aggression during criminal acts, with a strong positive correlation (Pearson coefficients: 0.595, 0.730, 0.741) between drug use, crime types, and drug sources. Unauthorized dealers, joints, and social networks serve as primary drug sources, exacerbating criminality in areas like Raymond Village and Kwannawa. The study underscores the interplay of socio-economic factors, such as unemployment and poverty, in perpetuating this cycle. It emphasizes the urgent need for targeted interventions, including stricter drug control, rehabilitation programs, and community awareness, to address the intertwined challenges of drug abuse and crime for enhanced public safety and urban governance in Sokoto Metropolis.

Keywords: Substance Abuse, Criminal Activities, Sokoto Metropolis, Drug Sources, Crime Prevention

Introduction

Crime is widely recognized as one of the foremost security problem confronting societies globally. Nations continue to grapple with increasing incidents of homicide, kidnapping, armed robbery, and other forms of criminality, with Africa ranking among the regions most affected (UNODC, 2019). In Nigeria, the rising wave of criminal activities has assumed alarming proportions, manifesting in both violent and non-violent forms such as terrorism, political violence, thuggery, theft, and ransom-driven kidnapping. These trends have been linked to socio-economic challenges including unemployment, poverty, inflation, and weak governance structures (Okechukwu, 2017; Dambazau, 2007).

Amid these drivers, drug abuse has emerged as a critical factor fueling criminality. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022) reported that more than 284 million people worldwide used drugs in 2020, with young people constituting the most vulnerable group. In Nigeria, the prevalence of drug abuse among youths is particularly concerning, as it undermines their creative potential, productivity, and social integration, while simultaneously driving engagement in

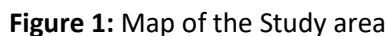
criminal behaviors. A significant body of criminological research (Hussein et al., 2017 Karofi, 2010) affirms the strong nexus between substance abuse and crime, with evidence showing that individuals under the influence of drugs are more likely to commit crimes ranging from petty theft and thuggery to violent acts such as murder and armed robbery (Karofi, 2010). This interconnection has attracted sustained scholarly attention, given its implications for public safety, urban governance, and national development

In Nigeria, the growing rate of criminal activities has become one of the most pressing challenges undermining urban safety and development. Sokoto Metropolis, like other Nigerian cities, has witnessed increasing incidents of violent and non-violent crimes, including theft, political violence, burglary, and kidnapping. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, rural urban migration, and inadequate social infrastructure have been identified as key contributors (Brown, 2005; Aliyu, 2019). However, beyond these structural issues, drug abuse has become a prevalent and worsening menace, particularly among the youth population. Nearly all categories of young people are reported to be actively involved in the abuse of substances ranging from cough syrups and tramadol to cannabis and other illicit drugs (Ekpenyoung, 2012).

Despite the visible association between drug use and criminal behavior, scholarly investigations in Sokoto have remained limited in scope. While some studies have addressed emerging trends in substance abuse (Dankani, 2012; Sarkingobir & Dikko, 2020), very few have explicitly examined how these patterns are linked to specific categories of crime such as murder, thuggery, kidnapping, and theft. Yet, empirical evidence and everyday realities in the city demonstrate that drug abuse often serves as both a catalyst and consequence of criminality. For instance, political thuggery, which escalated after Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, has been strongly associated with the use of illicit substances by youths. Similarly, acts of theft, violence, and even murder are frequently perpetrated under the influence of drugs. This knowledge gap underscores the urgent need to systematically analyze the nexus between substance abuse and criminal activities in Sokoto Metropolis. By bridging this gap, the study provides critical insights into the interplay of drugs and crime, which can inform more effective crime prevention strategies, public health interventions, and policy responses.

Study Area

Sokoto Metropolis is located between latitudes 12°46'N and 13°08'N and longitudes 5°14'E and 5°30'E, covering an approximate radius of 16 km from Gingiya Memorial Stadium (Dankani, 2017; SURPB, 2019). It comprises the entire territories of Sokoto North and Sokoto South Local Government Areas (LGAs) and extends into adjoining portions of Kware, Wamakko, Dange-Shuni, and Bodinga LGAs. The climate of the area is influenced by the interaction of two dominant air masses: the tropical maritime air mass from the Atlantic Ocean and the tropical continental air mass from the Sahara Desert. This interaction creates significant seasonal variations in temperature and humidity. The hottest period occurs between March and May, with average monthly temperatures rising to about 40°C in April (Ismail, 2013). The metropolis has a highly diverse population. The Hausa, Fulani, and Zabarmawa constitute the indigenous groups, but the city also accommodates large numbers of internal migrants from other parts of Nigeria, a demographic trend that dates back to colonial expansion in 1903 and the incorporation of Sokoto into the Nigerian state in 1914. Today, substantial populations of Igbo, Yoruba, and members of many of Nigeria's over 250 ethnic groups reside in the city, alongside migrants from neighboring West African countries such as Niger and Benin. This ethnic and cultural plurality has enriched Sokoto Metropolis with a blend of traditional practices and external cultural influences (Abubakar, 2015; Shitu, 2019).



This study employed a cross-sectional mixed-methods design to examine the relationship between substance abuse and criminal activities in Sokoto Metropolis. The design was chosen for its ability to capture a snapshot of prevailing conditions while integrating both quantitative and qualitative insights. Primary data were gathered through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), while secondary data were obtained from official records of the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), as well as relevant academic and policy documents.

Data analysis combined quantitative and qualitative techniques. Quantitative data were processed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), where correlation analysis was employed to establish the strength of association between substance abuse and crime types. Qualitative data derived from KIIs were analyzed thematically to identify recurring motives, perceptions, and socio-cultural drivers of drug abuse. Findings were presented in tables and

charts, providing both statistical and spatial insights into the nexus between drug use and criminality in the study area.

Results and Discussion

This section discusses the responses obtained from the sampled respondents.

Drug/Substance Frequently Used for Committing Crime

The table 1 provides data on the types of drugs and substances frequently used in the commission of crimes, highlighting their prevalence in a given context. It lists five categories of substances, along with the frequency of their usage and their corresponding percentage of the total occurrences. The substances range from common drugs such as marijuana (referred to as "weeds") to more potent and illicit drugs like cocaine, syrups, and pharmaceutical medications often misused for their psychoactive effects.

Table 1: Drug/Substance frequently used for committing crime

Drugs/Substance	Frequency	Percentage
Weeds: arazona, S.K, Colorado, Laud and normal weed	04	24
Syrups: Codene, Beneline, expectoral etc..	01	6
Tablets: Farin Mallam (exole 5), Tramadol, Refanole (Rochi), Seminole (Swifer). Diaxapam,	06	35
Ice, Cocain, painter injection	05	29
Others	01	6
Total	17	100%

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 1 revealed that, majority of crimes committed in Sokoto Metropolis are being carried out by the use of tablet drugs which constitute 35% of the responses from the KII participant. These drugs cover Exol 5, Tramadol, Refanole, Seminol and Diaxapam to mention but few. Each tablet is mostly used for specific crime to be committed and at frequent time combination of drugs is found to be used. Diaxapam and Tramadol are mainly use among the thugs. Exole 5 and Diaxapam are use among murderers, while prostitute used Seminole Refanol and exole tablet occasionally. People involved in violent acts often rely on certain drugs to prepare themselves mentally and physically for their tasks. According to some participants, these drugs are crucial in boosting their confidence and aggression before committing crimes. One of the thug's participants stated that:

*We mostly use **Diazepam** and **Tramadol** when we are going to carry out our work. These drugs help us feel more confident and aggressive, and they give us the strength to fight or intimidate people when necessary. Sometimes we mix the two drugs to get a stronger effect. Without them, we might not be able to carry out certain tasks as easily. They are very common among us, and we use them almost every time before engaging in any violent acts.*

Accordingly, 24% the sample respondents believed that weeds drugs are used for theft and stealing mainly. These include Colorado, Arizona and Laud. Heavy and expensive drugs (Ice, Cocaine and Painter injection) are commonly used among Kidnapers, Murderers and some

prominent thugs which constitute 29%. Syrups and others which covers 6% each are used by newly introduce criminals as they are less expensive and can be shared among friends with less or no charges. Accordingly, some of the convicts stated that:

*We usually use strong drugs like **Ice**, and **Painter injection**. They help us stay focused and give us the strength we need to carry out our operations. When we are planning or executing a kidnapping, these drugs help us stay alert and aggressive. They also help control the fear and hesitation that might come with doing something as dangerous as kidnapping. Most of the time, it is just part of our routine before we go out to do the job.*

In Sokoto Metropolis, drugs such as **Tramadol**, **Diazepam**, ice and **Farin Mallam** are most commonly used by criminals. These substances are chosen for their effects on mood, pain relief, and inducing euphoria, which can lower inhibitions and promote reckless behavior, leading to criminal activities. The misuse/abuse of these drugs is linked to emotional distress, anxiety, and a temporary escape from reality, driving individuals to commit crimes.

Major Sources of access to Drugs

Table 2: Major Sources of access to Drugs

Location/Source	Frequency	Percentage
Drug Dealers	05	29
Pharmacy/Chemist	03	18
Joints	04	24
Hotels/Guest House	01	6
Friends	04	24
Total	17	100%

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 2 shows the response of the origin of drugs among the criminals in Sokoto metropolis as a centre of distribution. It was discovered that drug dealers in various positions are the main distributors in Sokoto metropolis which covers 29% of the respondents. These dealers are those unauthorized drug marketers without a permanent and known place of living. Thus, the distribution of drugs in Sokoto Metropolis is largely carried out by unauthorized dealers who operate from various informal and often hidden locations. These dealers have adapted to the increasing challenges posed by law enforcement and societal scrutiny. One of the drug dealers stated that:

We (drug dealers) don't have a permanent place or official shop, so we usually operate from different locations. Most of us distribute drugs from hidden spots, like joints or friends' rooms, where we can avoid detection.

This is followed by joints and friend room which constitute 24% of the respondents. Most of the syrup's drugs are being obtained from Pharmacy/chemist and they constitute 18% among the sampled respondents. Hotels and Guest Houses are the newly established centres of drugs

business in Sokoto metropolis which led to closure of some hotels in offa roads and Kwannawa areas in the early 2024 as a result of suspicion of drug dealing, kidnapping and armed robbers hiding centres. A participant who happened to be drug dealer said that:

The majority of the syrups and other drugs we sell come from pharmacies or chemists, but sometimes we also use hotels and guest houses as our new distribution points. These places are becoming popular because they provide a more discreet environment for carrying out our business. We've had to adapt to avoid being caught, especially with the rising suspicion of drug dealings, kidnappings, and robberies in the area.

The Link between Frequently Used Drugs and Criminal Activities.

Table 3: The relationship between Frequently Used Drugs and Criminal Activities.

		Name of the drug frequently used for committing crime?	Types of drugs determine one's decision to be involved in Criminal Activities to support Drug use habits?
Name of the drug frequently used for committing crime?	Pearson Correlation	1	.595**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	27	27
Types of drugs determine one's decision to be involved in Criminal Activities to support Drug use habits?	Pearson Correlation	.595**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	27	27

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

One of the emergent and devastating social problems is drug use and or its abuse with its attendant criminality. From the data, the Pearson Correlation Coefficient is 0.595, p-value <0.01. There is a significant relationship. This shows a moderate positive relationship between the two variables (types of drugs frequently used to commit crimes and the types of drugs that influence an individual's decision to engage in criminal activities). This means that certain drugs do not only influence the decision to engage in criminal behavior but they are also involved in the execution of these crimes. This could be due to drug's effects, for instance, aggression, reduced inhibitions, or heightened confidence among others. There is an increasing number of criminalities that are drug induced in the study area. Youth are progressively adopting new techniques for crimes and the consumption and trafficking of drugs and substances into the community to satisfy the rising demand which is also a major crime in the Nigeria. This trend can be connected to inadequate efforts from community members, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders. The study

reveals that almost all participants 100% believed that they were aware of the crimes resulting from drug and substance abuse within the community, From the KII interview, the study found that the form of crime that many of the drug/substance users commit is often violent because they act uncontrollable under the influence of drug/substance. Many of them who use drugs in the study area are political thugs, murderers, thieves and kidnappers; they have to use substance before they can perform effectively. It is obvious that since many of the respondents (abusers) are unemployed they need to commit some form of crime to raise money to buy more drugs. This contributes to the rise in the rate of drug/substance abuse and crime. Two of the respondents indicated that

Substance abuse and criminal tendencies are working hand in hand, they are connected to one another, just like the heart and the blood, and they work together (KII with NDLEA).

Kidnappers requires or ask for drugs from the family of their victims..., we do apprehend suspects who load bike with different drugs such as ice, cough syrups, and even alcohol on their way to kidnappers hid out..... (KII with Police, NSCDC)

Additionally, the presence of illicit drugs and substances in an area can have serious consequences, even sparking criminal activity such as illegal drug trafficking. There has been persistent rise in crime rate in Sokoto and this is compounded by the high rate of drug abuse. Most of the apprehended criminals are often found with substances such as Marijuana, ice, Tramadol, Morphine etc, and they confirmed that they are under the influence of these substances which aid them in carrying out their nefarious activities. Several researchers, across the globe, have explored different dimensions of crime, including types, trends, patterns, processes, causes, consequences and correctional approaches, Dukku (2012) asserts that drug abuse is linked to various criminal offenses, including theft, thuggery, assault, gang warfare, rape, and larceny. Dankani (2012) investigated the increasing misuse of cough syrups in states such as Kano, Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara, and Kebbi, revealing widespread consumption among youths. Likewise, Sarkin Gobir (2020) examined substance abuse among in-school and out-of-school youth in Sokoto, Northwestern Nigeria. Few of the most recent of these studies were reviewed to show what is known about the relationship between drug abuse and crime across the globe in general and in Nigeria in particular. Jatau et al (2021), in their study showed that drug abuse was common among the youths and gives room for a greater risk to the security of the nation.

The data shows a significant correlation between the types of crimes committed due to drug abuse and the specific drugs frequently used in committing those crimes. With a Pearson correlation value of **0.730**, this indicates a strong positive relationship between the drugs consumed and the types of criminal activities engaged in. This suggests that the choice of drug plays a significant role in determining the kind of crime committed. Additionally, the **p-value** of **0.000**, which is well below the conventional threshold of **0.01**, confirms that this correlation is statistically significant; meaning the relationship between drug use and criminal behavior is not coincidental. The data highlights that drugs like **Diazepam, Tramadol, Exol 5, Ice**, and others are closely linked with crimes such as **murder, thuggery, kidnapping, prostitution, and theft & stealing**. Generally, the data strongly suggests that drug abuse directly influences criminal

behavior, with certain drugs being particularly associated with specific crimes. The high correlation emphasizes the importance of addressing drug abuse as a critical factor in reducing the occurrence of these crimes.

The Relationship between Drug Abuse and Crime Commission

Table 4: Types of crime and drug frequently used for committing crime

		Types of crime committed as a result of the drug abuse? (Murder, thuggery, kidnapping, prostitution and theft & stealing)	Name of the drug you frequently used for committing crime?
Types of crime committed as a result of the drug abuse? (Murder, thuggery, kidnapping, prostitution and theft & stealing)	Pearson Correlation	1	.730**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	27	27
Name of the drug frequently used for committing crime?	Pearson Correlation	.730**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	27	27

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: field work, 2024

Drug abuse is a complex and challenging condition that is strongly associated with increased criminal activity. Compared with the general population, drug use is more prevalent among individuals involved in criminal offenses. Drugs are also related to crime through the effects they have on the user's behavior and by generating violence and other illegal activity in connection with kidnapping, theft, murder. A close connection has been found to exist between drug abuse and criminal behaviour in the study area. Many respondents testify this in the KII interview

Criminal activities closely related to the usage of drugs/substances because use of drugs impairs judgement and make someone do things extraordinary... people who abuse drug have high chance of committing crime... (KII Vigilantee & kidnapper)

The Link between Drug Sources and Criminal Behaviour

Table 5: Relationship between Drug Sources and Criminal Behaviour

		Types of drugs determine one's decision to be involved in Criminal Activities to support Drug use habits	Source of Drug Abuse
Types of drugs determine one's decision to be involved in Criminal Activities to support Drug use habits	Pearson Correlation	1	.741**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	27	27
Source of Drug Abuse	Pearson Correlation	.741**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	27	27

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: field work, 2024

The Pearson Correlation Coefficient is 0.741 a strong positive relationship between crimes and source of drugs. P-value (sig.2-tailed) is 0.000 which is statistically significant at the 0.01 level ($p < 0.01$). Moreover, the correlation suggests that the types of drugs that lead individuals to criminal activities is connected closely to the sources of the said drugs. For instance, communities like Kwannawa with easy access to drugs have more tendencies to experiencing higher level instability, because obtaining drugs from illegal sources translates to exposure to criminal networks. From the study it found out that abusers get their drugs from joints around the neighborhood and from their friends because they have ample time to visit joints to relax and mingle with friends. It is also at this joints that they even get friends that buy drugs as well as give them money to buy, some of the joints according to the respondents include:

- i. Tea Joint (*Wurin mai shayi*)
- ii. Herbal Tea Joint (*Wurin mai tsiimi*)
- iii. Motor park
- iv. Local drugs vendors (*Yan togo*)
- v. Hotels / guest house
- vi. Patent chemist
- vii. Uncompleted buildings
- viii. Public secondary and primary schools (after working hours)
- ix. Snooker joint (back of stadium)
- x. Under bridge, etc....

Raymond Village is where every dealer in Sokoto comes to buy Drugs, you can get any drugs you want and the place is safe for us. (KII with Drug dealer)

There are different types of drugs that youths can abuse today. The widespread availability of these substances is particularly alarming, as many are concealed within commonly used household products that are ordinarily perceived as harmless. Our society has been turned into a battle ground infested with crime and drugs. It becomes compelling therefore to carry out research to establish the factors that might compel the youth to resort to drug use. United Nations reports, observation from experts, studies of criminal activities from across the world, education, work and health reports in all cultures, all point to serious problems of crime, induced or at best associated with drug abuse. The most vulnerable group of persons to drug abuse are the youths. Hence, the population at the highest risk of drug use and or abuse and crime are those in the age range most needed for productive work and nation building or development. Thus, evidently drug and crimes pose very great and grave challenges to nation building and development of the society.

Conclusion

The study on the nexus between substance abuse and criminal activities in Sokoto Metropolis, Nigeria, reveals a significant and complex relationship between drug abuse and various forms of crimes, including murder, thuggery, kidnapping, prostitution, and theft. The findings indicate that substances such as Tramadol, Diazepam, Exol 5, Ice, and marijuana are frequently used by criminals to enhance confidence, aggression, and focus, thereby facilitating criminal behavior. The strong positive correlations between drug use, specific crimes, and drug sources underscore the critical role of substance abuse in driving criminality. Unauthorized drug dealers, joints, and friends' networks serve as primary sources of these substances, with emerging distribution points like hotels and guest houses further complicating enforcement efforts. The study highlights that drug abuse not only fuels criminal activities but also perpetuates a cycle of dependency, as unemployed youths often resort to crime to sustain their drug habits. This interplay poses significant challenges to public safety, urban governance, and national development in Sokoto Metropolis, necessitating urgent and targeted interventions to address both drug abuse and its associated criminal outcomes.

Recommendations

1. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and other security agencies should intensify efforts to dismantle illegal drug distribution networks, particularly targeting unauthorized dealers and emerging hubs like hotels and guest houses. Regular raids and surveillance in identified hotspots such as Raymond Village, motor parks, and uncompleted buildings should be prioritized.
2. Government should provide community-based awareness programs to educate youths and residents about the dangers of drug abuse and its link to criminal behavior. These campaigns should involve local leaders, schools, and religious institutions to promote drug-free lifestyles and highlight the social and legal consequences of substance abuse.
3. Authorities concern should establish accessible and affordable drug rehabilitation centers in Sokoto Metropolis to provide treatment and counseling for individuals struggling with substance abuse. These centers should offer tailored programs to address the psychological and social factors driving drug dependency among youths.
4. Government and stakeholders should implement youth empowerment programs, including vocational training and job creation initiatives, to tackle unemployment and

poverty, which are key contributors to drug abuse and crime. Economic opportunities can reduce the reliance on criminal activities to fund drug habits.

5. Drug control agencies should strengthen regulations and monitoring of pharmacies and chemists to curb the illegal sale of prescription drugs like Tramadol, Diazepam, and cough syrups. Collaboration between health authorities and law enforcement can ensure stricter oversight of drug dispensing practices.

References

- Abubakar S.I. (2015). The Nature and Distribution of Property Crimes in Sokoto Metropolis. An M. Sc Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Geography Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.
- Aliyu, A.K. (2019). Poverty in the North Western part of Nigeria 1976-2010: Myth or Reality. *Sociology international journal*. 3(5) 19-32.
- Dambazau AB (2007) Criminology and Criminal Justice 2nd Edition. Ibadan: University Press.
- Dankani, I.M. (2012), Abuse of Cough Syrups: A New Trend in Drug Abuse in Northwestern Nigeria States of Kano, Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara and Kebbi. *International Journal of Physical and Social Sciences*. Volume 2, Issue 8, August
- Dankani, I.M. (2017). Consequences of compulsory land acquisition on the livelihoods of the urban poor in Sokoto metropolis, Nigeria. *Zaria geographer* 24(1).100-117.
- Dukku, A. M. (2012). The availability-proneness theory: The Gadagi Experience in Kano, Nigeria. *Bayero Sociologist: A Journal of Sociological Studies*, 1 (3): 90-103
- Ekpenyong, S. N. (2012). Drug abuse in Nigerian schools: a study of selected secondary institutions in Bayelsa State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education*, 5(3), 260-268.
- Brown, S. (2005). *Understanding Youth and Crime: Listening to Youth* (2nd edition). Berkshire: Open University Press.
- Eniolorunda, N.B. and Dankani, I.M. (2012) Assessment of urban growth pattern in Sokoto metropolis, Nigeria using Multitemporal Satellite Data. *Nigerian Geographical Journal*. 8(1) 107-121
- Hussein, M. D., Mukhtar, J. I & Umar, M. B. (2017). Drug-crime nexus among Nigerian youths: A solution through crime prevention strategies. *KASU Journal of Social Sciences (KJSS)*, 8 (1): 155-166.
- Idowu, O. A. (2021). Prevalence of Mobile Phone Theft and Its Control in Kano Metropolis, Nigeria. *Afe Babalola University Journal*, 1(1).
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356974054_Prevalence_of_Mobile_Phone_Theft_and_Its_Control_in_Kano_Metropolis_Nigeria[(https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357052255_Prevalence_of_Mobile_Phone_Theft_and_Its_Control_in_Kano_Metropolis_Nigeria)]
- Ismail, A. (2013). Analysis of Meteorological Drought in Sokoto State (1970 to 2009). M.Sc Dissertation, Geography Department. UDUS. January 5th.
- Jatau Al, Sha'aban A, Gulma KA, Shitu Z, Khalid GM, Isa A, Wada AS and Mustapha M (2021) The Burden of Drug Abuse in Nigeria: A Scoping Review of Epidemiological Studies and Drug Laws. *Public Health Rev.* 42:1603960. doi: 10.3389/phrs.2021.1603960.
- Karofi, U.S. (2010). Drug-crime nexus: An alternative explanation. *Bayero Sociologist: A Journal of Sociological Studies*, 1 (3): 35-45.
- Okechukwu EMEH (2017). Analysing Nigeria's current crime surge in Vanguard Newspaper, January 5th.
- Rilwanu, A. (2021). The Implications of Street Children on Security in Sokoto Metropolis [Sociology Project]. Afribary. <https://afribary.com/works/the-implications-of-street-children-on-security-in-sokoto-metropolis>[(<https://afribary.com/works/the-implications-of-street-children-on-security-in-sokoto-metropolis>)]
- Sarkingobir, Y. and Dikko, M. (2020) 'Substance abuse among in-school and out-of-school youth in Sokoto, Northwestern Nigeria', *Journal of Applied Sciences and Environmental Management*, 24(9), pp. 1545–1550. doi:10.4314/jasem. v24i9.10.

- Shamaki, M.A., & Dankani, I.M. (2010). An Overview of Poverty and Access to Electricity Supply in Sokoto Urban Area. In *Contemporary issues in Infrastructural Development and management in Nigeria: A conference Proceedings. ISBN* (pp. 987-37051).
- Shitu, R.N. (2019), Domestic Energy Usage in Sokoto Metropolis, Unpublished M.Sc Dissertation, Department of Geography Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.
- SURPB. (2019) Sokoto State Urban and Regional Planning Board, in Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Abdullahi, A "Problems of Solid Waste Generation and Disposal in Urban Areas; Case Study of Sokoto Metropolis" Geography Department, UDU, Sokoto.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2019). "United Nations 2011 Global Study on Homicide"
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; 2022. World Drug Report Available from: <http://www.unodc.org/statistics>. Accessed" 16/9/2022