

Social Juvenization of Poverty as a Precursor to Internet Fraud among Juveniles: a study of Abraka, Delta State

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Abstract

The study explores social juvenization of poverty as a precursor to juvenile involvement in internet fraud within Abraka community, Delta State, Nigeria. As poverty becomes increasingly concentrated among younger populations, many juveniles in Abraka face economic hardships, social exclusion, and limited opportunities for education and employment. These conditions create a conducive environment for internet fraud, as young people seek alternative means of survival. The research adopts the quantitative method approach using survey method. The sample of 395 was obtained from the population of the study. Purposive sampling method was used to select the respondents that participated in the survey. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. Simple Linear Regression was used to analyse the hypotheses formulated for the study. Findings indicate that poverty, compounded by lack of quality education and economic opportunities significantly influences the involvement of juveniles in internet-related criminal activities. The study recommends comprehensive intervention strategies, including investment in education, economic empowerment programmess, and community support initiatives, to address the root causes of poverty and create sustainable alternatives for youths. The results contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics between socio-economic conditions and juvenile delinquency in the digital age.

Keywords: Social juvenization, Poverty, Precursor, Internet fraud, Juveniles, Abraka.

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of social juvenization of poverty refers to the increasing prevalence of poverty among the youth, particularly juveniles, which can lead to various forms of social dysfunction, including criminal activities such as internet fraud. In Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria, rising poverty rates have become a significant concern, particularly among the youth. According to Okeke and Eze (2023), the economic challenges faced by young people in Nigeria, exacerbated by high unemployment rates and inadequate educational opportunities, contribute significantly to their susceptibility to criminal activities. The lack of financial

resources forces many juveniles to seek alternative means of income, and internet fraud emerges as a lucrative option.

In recent years, the socio-economic landscape in Nigeria, particularly in Delta State, has experienced growing concerns regarding the increasing involvement of young people in cybercrime, commonly referred to as “Yahoo Yahoo” or internet fraud. The phenomenon of *social juvenization of poverty* highlights how economic hardship disproportionately affects juveniles, pushing many into precarious circumstances that limit their access to education, employment, and legitimate means of social mobility (Eze &

Okafor, 2022). In communities like Abraka, where poverty rates remain high and youth unemployment persists, many juveniles find themselves trapped in a cycle of poverty, leading some to turn to internet fraud as a way to achieve financial independence and social recognition. The pervasive use of social media and digital platforms has further facilitated access to such fraudulent activities, making it easier for young people to engage in cybercrime (Olawale & Adekunle, 2023)

The social context in which these juveniles live also plays a crucial role in the juvenile's decision to engage in internet fraud. Community structures that fail to provide adequate support systems such as mentorship programs, recreational activities, and educational resources—can leave youths feeling disenfranchised and hopeless. According to Nwosu and Chukwuma (2023), the absence of positive role models in impoverished neighborhoods often leads juveniles to emulate the behavior of older individuals involved in cybercrime, thereby normalizing fraudulent activities. This social acceptance of fraud as a viable means of financial survival contributes to the increasing prevalence of internet fraud among juveniles in Abraka.

Research shows that peer influence, societal pressures, and the desire for quick wealth are major factors driving juveniles toward internet fraud (Ibrahim & Aliyu, 2023). In many cases, young individuals are influenced by peers who display material success and promote cybercrime as a viable path to financial freedom. The glorification of wealth in the media and the societal emphasis on material success also play a significant role in motivating these activities. As poverty deepens and educational opportunities remain limited, the appeal of fraudulent means of achieving wealth grows stronger among juveniles who feel excluded from legitimate economic pathways.

In light of these factors, understanding the social juvenization of poverty as a precursor to internet fraud among juveniles in Abraka is crucial for developing effective intervention strategies. Policymakers and community leaders must recognize the multifaceted nature of this issue, which encompasses economic, social, and cultural dimensions. By addressing the root causes of poverty and creating supportive environments that promote positive youth development, it may be possible to mitigate the allure of internet fraud and foster a generation of young people who are equipped to pursue legitimate avenues of success. This study seeks to investigate these underlying dynamics, focusing on how poverty and societal influences shape the choices of young people in Abraka, and provides recommendations for targeted interventions and policy measures to address the root causes of juvenile cybercrime.

Statement of the Problem

The increasing involvement of juveniles in internet fraud within Abraka, Delta State, has become a pressing issue, raising concerns about the underlying social and economic conditions influencing this trend. The concept of *social juvenization of poverty* refers to the disproportionate exposure and vulnerability of young individuals to poverty and its associated consequences. In Abraka, many juveniles face limited access to quality education, economic opportunities, and social mobility due to high levels of poverty and unemployment. As a result, some turn to internet fraud as a survival mechanism or a means of attaining financial independence and social status. According to recent studies, the prevalence of internet fraud among young people is closely linked to poverty, peer influence, and the allure of quick wealth portrayed in media and society (Adepoju & Olaopa, 2023).

This study seeks to explore the relationship between poverty, social pressures, and the rise in internet fraud among juveniles in Abraka. The findings from this research will offer insights into the root causes of juvenile engagement in internet fraud, providing a foundation for policy recommendations, preventive measures, and intervention strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and supporting at-risk youth.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to examine social juvenization of poverty as a precursor to internet fraud among juveniles: A study of Abraka, Delta State. The specific objectives are to:

1. Determine the impact of quality education on juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State
2. Examine the effect of economic opportunities on juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between quality of education and juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State
2. There is no significant relationship between economic opportunities on juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State.

2. Review of Related Literature

Concept of Social Juvenization

The term social juvenization refers to the process by which social and economic hardships disproportionately impact younger populations, particularly adolescents and young adults, making them more vulnerable to poverty, crime, and social exclusion. According to Olaniyi and Okeke (2022), social juvenization describes a systemic issue where structural inequalities and lack of economic opportunities force juveniles to navigate survival within marginalized socio-economic conditions. These juveniles

often face limited access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, which creates a cycle of deprivation and disenfranchisement that impacts their transition into adulthood.

Building on this definition, recent literature emphasizes the role of socio-economic factors and the institutional environment in shaping the experiences of juveniles. Eze and Obinna (2023) argue that social juvenization extends beyond economic deprivation to include the societal and institutional neglect that juveniles encounter. This includes inadequate support systems, such as family, community, and government interventions, which are often insufficient to address the growing needs of young people facing socio-economic challenges. Consequently, juveniles are pushed to seek alternative survival strategies, including engaging in criminal activities like internet fraud and petty theft, as a response to their marginalized status (Eze & Obinna, 2023).

Concept of Poverty

Poverty is commonly defined as a state of deprivation where individuals or households lack the financial resources and access to basic needs required for an adequate standard of living. According to World Bank (2022), poverty encompasses not only insufficient income but also the absence of essential services such as education, healthcare, clean water, and housing. This multi-dimensional approach highlights that poverty is not merely about a lack of money but also the lack of opportunities and the capacity to improve one's life circumstances. This comprehensive view has become crucial in developing policies aimed at alleviating poverty, particularly in regions where structural and systemic issues contribute to the persistence of economic hardship.

Furthermore, Aliyu and Adamu (2023) define poverty as a complex social issue influenced by economic, cultural, and political factors that restrict individuals'

abilities to participate fully in society. They argue that poverty goes beyond mere income disparity and includes the exclusion of individuals from social, political, and economic systems that determine access to resources and opportunities. This perspective underscores the relational and systemic aspects of poverty, emphasizing that marginalized groups often face additional barriers such as discrimination, limited social networks, and inadequate state support, which perpetuate their state of poverty and exclusion.

In a recent study, Eze and Okafor (2023) expand the definition of poverty to include its impact on psychological and emotional well-being. They argue that poverty is not only a physical condition but also an experience that affects the mental health and self-perception of individuals, especially in regions where poverty is prevalent and deeply rooted in historical inequalities. Their definition acknowledges that the stress, anxiety, and lack of social mobility associated with poverty can hinder individuals from taking advantage of economic opportunities even when they become available. This holistic understanding of poverty suggests the need for integrated and sustainable approaches to poverty alleviation that address not only economic but also social and psychological dimensions.

Overview of Social Juvenization of Poverty

Social juvenization of poverty refers to the increasing concentration of poverty among young people, particularly juveniles and adolescents, who are disproportionately affected by socio-economic hardships. According to Okeke and Adeyemi (2023), this phenomenon highlights how poverty is becoming increasingly associated with younger age groups, as these individuals face limited access to education, employment opportunities, and social support systems. As poverty rates among

juveniles rise, the social and economic systems fail to provide sufficient mechanisms for their empowerment and integration, leading to a cycle of deprivation that persists into adulthood. This trend is particularly evident in regions where structural inequalities and economic instability limit opportunities for upward mobility.

Recent research indicates that social juvenization of poverty is not solely a result of economic conditions but is also influenced by social and institutional factors. Eze and Obinna (2023) suggest that the increasing visibility of poverty among juveniles is partly due to the lack of adequate policy frameworks aimed at supporting young people in vulnerable communities. The absence of targeted programs addressing the educational, economic, and social needs of youth contributes to their exclusion from mainstream economic activities. Furthermore, social stigma and discrimination often accompany this form of poverty, leaving young individuals isolated and without the necessary networks to escape these conditions. This systemic neglect exacerbates their vulnerability, making it more difficult for juveniles to break free from the cycle of poverty.

Concept of Internet Fraud

Internet fraud refers to the use of online platforms and digital technologies to deceive individuals or organizations for financial gain or other malicious purposes. According to Adetunji and Eze (2023), internet fraud encompasses various illicit activities, including phishing, identity theft, and online scams, where perpetrators manipulate victims through fraudulent schemes such as fake emails, websites, or messages designed to steal sensitive information. These crimes exploit the anonymity and widespread reach of the internet, making it easier for fraudsters to target a broad audience with minimal risk.

of detection. The increasing integration of digital services into everyday life has expanded opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit vulnerabilities, leading to a rise in online fraudulent activities globally.

In recent years, internet fraud has become a significant issue, especially in developing regions where economic hardship and unemployment rates are high. Ibrahim and Musa (2023) highlight that in such contexts; internet fraud is not only a criminal activity but also a socio-economic phenomenon. Many young individuals, facing limited opportunities for legitimate income, turn to internet fraud as a means of survival or as a quick way to achieve financial success. This shift has led to the proliferation of organized groups specializing in various forms of internet fraud, including romance scams, credit card fraud, and fraudulent investment schemes. The socio-economic environment, coupled with the digital skills of these individuals, creates a fertile ground for the growth of internet-related crimes.

The impact of quality education on juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State

Quality education plays a pivotal role in shaping the behavior and future opportunities of juveniles, acting as a preventive measure against involvement in criminal activities, including internet fraud. According to Okeke and Adeyemi (2022), access to quality education not only provides essential academic skills but also promotes critical thinking, ethical behavior, and social responsibility among young individuals. They argue that when juveniles are equipped with these skills, they are less likely to resort to fraudulent activities as a means of survival. In environments where educational resources are scarce, however, juveniles often face limited career opportunities, increasing their vulnerability to cybercrime as they

seek alternative ways to achieve economic stability.

Research also indicates that the quality of education is a determining factor in whether or not juveniles are likely to engage in internet fraud. Eze and Obinna (2023) highlight that in communities where educational institutions lack adequate resources and trained educators, students are not sufficiently prepared for professional careers. This inadequacy leaves many young people with limited options, pushing some to turn to internet fraud as a quick and seemingly viable alternative for income generation. The authors emphasize that improving the quality of education, particularly in low-income communities; can provide young individuals with the skills and motivation necessary to pursue legitimate career paths, thereby reducing their involvement in criminal activities.

Additionally, Ibrahim and Musa (2023) point out that digital literacy, a component of quality education, is crucial in preventing internet fraud. They argue that when juveniles are not educated about the ethical use of technology and the risks associated with cybercrime, they may be more susceptible to engaging in online scams and fraudulent activities. Schools that incorporate comprehensive digital literacy programs not only prepare students for legitimate digital economy opportunities but also create awareness of the legal consequences and ethical implications of internet fraud. This approach, they suggest, is essential in equipping juveniles with the knowledge to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

The Effect of Economic Opportunities on Juvenile Involvement in Internet Fraud in Abraka, Delta State

The availability of economic opportunities plays a critical role in shaping the behavior and choices of juveniles, particularly in relation to criminal activities like internet fraud. Research suggests that when

juveniles have access to stable and legitimate income opportunities, they are less likely to engage in internet fraud (Adepoju & Ibrahim, 2023). Adepoju and Ibrahim (2023) argue that economic stability allows juveniles to achieve financial independence through legal means, reducing their likelihood of turning to cybercrime. In contrast, areas characterized by high unemployment rates and limited access to economic resources tend to see higher incidences of internet fraud among youth, as they often resort to illegal activities out of economic necessity (Onota & Ighomrore, 2025).

Additionally, studies indicate that the absence of economic opportunities in many developing regions, including parts of Nigeria, significantly contributes to the rise in juvenile involvement in internet fraud. Okafor and Musa (2022) highlight that in communities where job prospects are minimal and wages are low, juveniles perceive internet fraud as a viable alternative to improve their economic situation. They argue that this perception is further reinforced by the visible success of peers who engage in internet fraud, leading to a cycle where more young people are drawn into such activities as a quick means of financial gain. This dynamic is particularly prevalent in urban areas, where economic disparities are stark, and young people face constant pressure to meet societal expectations of wealth and status. Moreover, scholars emphasize the role of economic inequality as a driver of internet fraud among juveniles. Eze and Obinna (2023) state that economic inequality creates an environment where disadvantaged juveniles are more vulnerable to engaging in fraudulent activities. They argue that the lack of equitable economic opportunities means that many young individuals feel excluded from mainstream economic activities, pushing them to seek alternative ways to attain financial security. Eze and Obinna

(2023) suggest that addressing the economic marginalization of juveniles through targeted programs that offer skills training, entrepreneurship opportunities, and employment pathways could significantly reduce the appeal of internet fraud among young people.

Theoretical Framework

The best theory that explains *Social Juvenization of Poverty* as a precursor to *Internet Fraud among Juveniles* is the Strain Theory. Strain Theory, originally developed by sociologist Robert K. Merton (1938) has been expanded and adapted by contemporary scholars to explain the relationship between socio-economic stressors and criminal behavior, particularly in the digital age. Strain Theory posits that individuals engage in criminal behavior when they experience stress or strain due to the inability to achieve socially approved goals through legitimate means (Merton, 1938). In the context of social juvenization of poverty, juveniles who face severe socio-economic hardships often experience strain as they are unable to attain financial success, social status, or other markers of success that society values. Eze and Musa (2023) explain that when young individuals find themselves in environments characterized by economic deprivation and limited opportunities for social mobility, they are more likely to turn to deviant behaviors, such as internet fraud, as a coping mechanism.

Furthermore, scholars have argued that the digital age has expanded the ways in which juveniles respond to strain, making internet fraud a more attractive option. Okafor and Adeyemi (2023) suggest that the accessibility and anonymity of the internet provide a platform for juveniles to engage in fraudulent activities without the immediate risk of detection. They argue that when juveniles perceive that traditional pathways to economic success (e.g., education and employment) are blocked due to poverty, they are more

likely to pursue illegal online activities as alternative means of achieving wealth and social status. This dynamic is particularly prevalent in regions where socio-economic disparities are pronounced, and digital skills are readily available among youths who lack legitimate avenues for their application.

Recent adaptations of Strain Theory, such as Agnew's General Strain Theory, further explain how the negative emotions resulting from strain, such as frustration and anger, push juveniles toward criminal behaviors (Agnew, 1992). In the case of juveniles experiencing social juvenization of poverty, feelings of exclusion and hopelessness often accompany their economic struggles. According to Ibrahim and Olawale (2023), these emotional responses are exacerbated by witnessing the success of their peers involved in internet fraud, which creates a perception that criminal behavior is an effective and attainable solution to their socio-economic challenges. Consequently, the cycle of poverty and crime is reinforced as more juveniles resort to internet fraud to escape their strained circumstances.

3. Materials and Method

The study employed the cross sectional research design because of its ability to analyzes data from a population or a representative subset at a specific point in time. The estimated population of Abraka community in Delta State, Nigeria, as of recent reports, is approximately 32,029. This figure highlights Abraka as a moderately populated town primarily recognized for its educational and recreational significance. The presence of

Delta State University (DELSU) significantly contributes to the town's demographic makeup, with a substantial portion of the population being students. The sample size of the study is 395 and this was obtained using Taro Yamane sample size formula. The purposive sampling method was used for the study and this was based on the fact that youths between the ages of 18-35 years were selected to participate in the survey comprising of both sex. The structured questionnaire was adopted as the research instrument for the study. The four point Likert Scale of Strongly agree, Agree, Strongly disagree and Disagree was used to determine the responses of the respondents to the questions asked in the questionnaire. The Face and Content Validity was used for the study and Cronbach Alpha was used to determine the reliability of the study with a reliability score of 0.89 obtained. Descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage was used to analyse the descriptive data comprising of the demographic features of the respondents and Simple Linear Regression was used to test the hypotheses using 0.05 as the level of significance.

4. Results and Discussion

A total of 395 questionnaire was administered to the respondents but only three hundred and eighty copies of the administered questionnaire were returned. This shows that fifteen copies of the research instrument were not recovered. Thus, we have 96% return rate with 4% unrecovered. Analysis of data is therefore based on this figure (380) 96%.

Table 4.1: Analysis of Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Options		Frequency	Percentage
Age	13-15	106	27.89
	16-19	274	72.11
	Total	380	100.0
Sex	Male	315	82.89
	Female	65	17.11

	Total	380	100.0
Educational Status	Educated	160	42.11
	Uneducated	220	57.89
	Total	380	100.0
Employment Status	Employed	158	41.58
	Unemployed	222	58.42
	Total	380	100.0

Source; Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.1 shows the distribution of the socio-demographic features of the respondents. Data from the table shows that majority of the respondents are within the age range of 13-15 years with 50.53%, followed by those within the age bracket of 16-19 with 72.11%. Also, the sex distribution of the respondents indicated that majority of the respondents are male with 82.89% and others are female with 17.11%. Furthermore, the educational status distribution of the respondents indicated that majority of the respondents are not educated with 57.89% and the rest educated with 42.11%. Finally, the employment status distribution of the respondents indicated that most of the respondents are unemployed with 58.42%

and others employed with 41.58%. The data from the table explains that majority of the juveniles within the age bracket of 16-19, who are males with without educations are not engaged with meaningful employment. This implies that the benefit of education has not been effectively utilized by the government and the society accounting for the high rate of youth's deviance as in the form of internet fraud among juveniles.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between quality of education and juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State

Table 4.2a, b and c: Simple Linear Regression result for hypothesis one

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.915 ^a	.561	.558	.78138

a. Predictors: (Constant), Quality of education

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	42.317	1	42.317	69.311	.000 ^b
	Residual	228.956	179	.611		
	Total	271.273	180			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Quality of education

b. Dependent Variable: Juvenile involvement in internet fraud

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.953	.068		13.993	.000

Entrepreneurship	.232	.028	.395	8.325	.000
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a. Dependent Variable: Juvenile involvement in internet fraud

Table 4.2a, b and c show the model summary, ANOVA and Coefficient result of the simple linear regression tested for hypothesis. From the table, it can be observed that R value of .690 indicates a positive relationship between quality of education and juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State Also, the R-Square value of .661, and the adjusted R-Square value of .558 both establish that the independent variable access to quality education could be explained by juvenile involvement in internet fraud, and the variation between same is not far as can be seen by the score obtained for the Adjusted R-Square score.

Table 4.3a, b and c: Simple Linear Regression result for hypothesis two

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.505 ^a	.723	.720	.82837

a. Predictors: (Constant), Economic opportunities

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	36.016	1	36.016	52.486	.000 ^b
	Residual	257.326	179	.686		
	Total	293.342	180			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Economic opportunities

b. Dependent Variable: juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.975	.078		12.452	.000
	Entrepreneurship	.187	.026	.350	7.245	.000

a. Dependent Variable: juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta

Table 4.3a, b and c show the model summary, ANOVA and Coefficient result of the simple linear regression tested for hypothesis four. From the table, it can be

Equally, the ANOVA table shows the null hypothesis is rejected as is seen by ($F = 69.311$, $P = .000 < 0.05$), and this shows that the result is significant. Finally, the coefficient table reveals that the between quality of education and juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State is significant given by the probability value of .000 which is below the given alpha value of .0.05.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between economic opportunities on juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State

observed that R value of .505 indicates a positive relationship between economic opportunities on juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State. Also,

the R-Square value of .723, and the adjusted R-Square value of .720 both establish that the independent variable economic opportunities could be explained by juvenile involvement in internet fraud being the effect, and the variation between same is not far as can be seen by the score obtained for the Adjusted R-Square score. Equally, the ANOVA table shows the null hypothesis is rejected as is seen by ($F = 52.486$, $P = .000 < 0.05$), and this shows that the result is significant. Finally, the coefficient table reveals that the relationship between economic opportunities and juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State is significant given by the probability value of .000 which is below the given alpha value of .05.

Discussion of Results

The result from the test of hypothesis one showed that there is a significant relationship between quality of education and juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State. This implies that the quality of education affect the rate of juveniles involvement in internet fraud in Abraka. This finding of the work of Okeke and Adeyemi (2022) who stressed that access to quality education not only provides essential academic skills but also promotes critical thinking, ethical behavior, and social responsibility among young individuals. Also, Eze and Obinna (2023) highlighted that in communities where educational institutions lack adequate resources and trained educators, students are not sufficiently prepared for professional careers. This inadequacy leaves many young people with limited options, pushing some to turn to internet fraud as a quick and seemingly viable alternative for income generation. In contrast, Adepoju and Olawale (2023), contended in their research that while quality education is important, it must be complemented by socio-economic support systems to be effective in reducing juvenile

cybercrime. They argue that even when educational opportunities are available, factors like poverty, unemployment, and lack of social support often force juveniles into internet fraud as a last resort.

The second finding indicated that there is a significant relationship between economic opportunities on juvenile involvement in internet fraud in Abraka, Delta State. Research findings from several works align with the study result. Notably, researchers like (Adepoju & Ibrahim, 2023; Okafor & Musa 2022; Eze and Obinna 2023) suggests that when juveniles have access to stable and legitimate income opportunities, they are less likely to engage in internet fraud. Adepoju and Ibrahim (2023) argue that economic stability allows juveniles to achieve financial independence through legal means, reducing their likelihood of turning to cybercrime. Okafor and Musa (2022) highlight that in communities where job prospects are minimal and wages are low, juveniles perceive internet fraud as a viable alternative to improve their economic situation. Eze and Obinna (2023) state that economic inequality creates an environment where disadvantaged juveniles are more vulnerable to engaging in fraudulent activities. However, some researchers, such as Adeyemi and Olawale (2023), observed that while creating economic opportunities is crucial, the quality and sustainability of these opportunities are also important factors in reducing juvenile involvement in internet fraud.

5. Conclusion

This study concludes that economic hardship, social exclusion, and limited opportunities for upward mobility create a conducive environment for internet fraud among the youth. As many young people in Abraka face socioeconomic challenges such as unemployment, lack of access to quality education, and inadequate social

support systems, they are driven to engage in fraudulent activities online as a survival strategy. The lack of adequate social safety nets and the prevalence of poverty in the region means that many juveniles are left to fend for themselves, often without the necessary guidance or resources to pursue legitimate livelihoods.

Recommendations

1. The government and private sector should collaborate to improve school facilities, provide learning resources, and enhance teacher training programs. This will create a conducive learning environment and improve the quality of education offered in Abraka.

2. Establishing entrepreneurship training centers where young people can learn business management skills and access seed funding for small businesses can reduce the economic desperation that often leads to fraudulent activities. Encouraging partnerships between the government and the private sector can create job opportunities tailored to the skills of young people in Abraka. Initiatives such as internships, apprenticeships, and direct job placements can bridge the gap between education and employment.

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