



Current trend and perception of cybercrime: A study of 'Yahoo-Yahoo' practice in Nigeria

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Abstract

The index of cybercrime also known as yahoo yahoo plus in Nigeria as social vice has really reached the acme especially the number of innocent lives involved most especially young girls who are mostly their girlfriends used to make and sustain illicit wealth. The practice has totally been overhaul and this has given a different look to the devilish act in the society at large. To this end, a total of 400 respondents were sampled round Ado-Ekiti using convenience sampling technique. To elicit information, the semi-structured questionnaire was designed in line with the objectives of the study. Findings revealed that 30.5% maintained that poverty is cause of yahoo practice while 3.0% of the respondents said lack of parental care cause yahoo practice. On the economic status of yahoo actors, 66.0% of the respondents said No, yahoo yahoo people are not from rich home, 55.0% of the respondents said No, the families of yahoo people are not influential at all while 39.5% of the respondents said No, yahoo families are learned. For the family support for yahoo boys, most of the respondents 42.0% strongly agree with the statement that parents of yahoo people share the same mentality about ill wealth with them while only 25.0% of the respondents strongly agree that yahoo child or people are jealously guided by their parents. The perception of yahoo practice revealed that 47.0% of the respondents strongly agree that Yahoo practice is seen as satanic and devilish act in all communities while 31.0% of the respondents agree that Yahoo practice has been really modernized and the consequences of yahoo practice showed that 51.5% of the respondents strongly agree that yahoo practice have great repercussion. The study generally recommended that government should rise to its responsibility on the issue of cybercrime in Nigeria via all the financial crime institutions to fight this scourge to the barest minimum.

Keyword: *Yahoo practice, trend, perception, culture and ritualism*

Introduction:

The practice or act of yahoo yahoo is not a new thing in Nigeria especially the southwestern part. This deadly practice is mostly among male and female youths. It is the shortest cut to ill wealth. It is actually a situation where people use different ICT facilities such as Laptop and modern for browsing, they search for customers in different nations of the world. The customer could either male or female and the whole game begins until that foreigner begins to

send money under traditional spiritual influence.

It is worthy of note that with the establishment of financial anti-graft commission and different financial agencies, yahoo practice has taking another phase entirely in terms of the number of people indulging in it, in terms of the age of the actors, in terms of the volume of money they control, knowledge of investment and the kind of reckless life the live and interaction with their herbalist for sustainability of the

evil act and that students of tertiary institutions are many in the act.

It is very important to note that the way and manner an individual, family, group and community see the act of yahoo practice and the actors is very similar. This is simply because the act of yahoo practice is totally in incongruity with the way of life (culture) of the Yoruba people where this evil act is widespread. The number of innocent people especially young female that bears the brunt of yahoo practice cannot be listed. Its against this backdrop that this study intend to investigate the trend and perception of yahoo practice in Nigeria with reference to Ado-Ekiti.

Literature:

Defining the Concept of Cybercrime

A major problem for the study of cybercrime is the absence of a consistent current definition, even among those law enforcement agencies charged with tackling it. To the Council of Europe (COE) Convention on Cybercrime, cyber-crime involves “action directed against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer systems, networks and computer data as well as the misuse of such systems, networks and data” (Council of Europe, 2013). To the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), cybercrimes spans across a diverse scenario including; crimes against children (usually involving child pornography or child rape); theft of intellectual properties and/or publications, phishing, intentional dissemination of malware to national and international internet fraud. Casey considers internet crimes and frauds to be any crime that involves computers and networks, including crimes that do not rely heavily on computers (Casey, 2014). And Thomas & Loader (2013, p.3) conceptualize cybercrime as those “computer-mediated activities which are either illegal or considered illicit by certain

parties and which can be conducted through global electronic networks”.

Thus, in general terms, cybercrime can be defined as crimes committed on the internet using the computer as either a tool or a targeted victim. It encompasses all illegal activities perpetrated by one or more people referred to as scammers, hackers, internet fraudsters, cyber citizens or 419ners, using the internet through the medium of networked computers, telephones and other information and communications technology (ICT) equipment. Cybercrimes target laptops, tablets, mobile phones and entire networks. Mobile merchants are reported to be incurring the greatest fraud losses as a percentage of revenue amongst all merchant segments (Lexis Nexis, 2013).

It is very difficult to classify cybercrimes in general into distinct groups. Cybercrime can take many shapes and can occur anytime or at anyplace. Cyber criminals utilize several methods, depending on their skill-set and their goal. Regardless of the nature of the intentions, each method of cybercrime requires a set of skills, knowledge, resources, and access to particular data or information systems. One classification that is helpful to this study is that by Wall (2001, pp.3-7). He sub-divides cybercrime into four established legal categories:

- a) **Cyber-trespass:** crossing boundaries into other people’s property and/or causing damage, e.g. hacking, defacement, viruses.
- b) **Cyber-deceptions and thefts:** stealing (money, property), e.g. credit card fraud, intellectual property violations also referred to as piracy.
- c) **Cyber-pornography:** breaching laws on obscenity and decency.
- d) **Cyber-violence:** doing psychological harm to, or inciting physical harm against others, thereby breaching laws relating to the protection of the person, e.g. hate speech, stalking.



It sub-divides cybercrime according to the object or target of the offence: the first two categories comprise “crimes against property”, the third covers “crimes against morality”, and the fourth relates to “crimes against the person”. To these we may also wish to add “crimes against the state”, those activities that breach laws protecting the integrity of the nation and its infrastructure (e.g. terrorism, espionage and disclosure of official secrets). Such a classification is helpful, as it allows us to relate cybercrime to exist conceptions of prohibited and harmful acts (Majid, 2016).

Cybercrimes are defined as: "Offences that are committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly, using modern telecommunication networks such as Internet (Chat rooms, emails, notice boards and groups) and mobile phones" Halder & Jaishankar (2011). Such crimes may threaten a nation's security and financial health Saul (2007). Cyber crime can simply be explained as crimes carried out with the aid of a computer system. The internet has offered a lot of platform for useful research purposes; However, Cyber crime is a worldwide problem that's costing countries billions of dollars. According to crime-research.org, as early as 2003 the United States was already leading the world in percentage of cyber attacks at 35.4 percent, followed by South Korea at 12.8 percent. Countries with high rates of computer piracy, such as Russia, have reacted slowly to cyber crime. As a result, many hackers and other cyber criminals can flourish in countries with few Internet crime laws while attacking richer countries through their computer because it lacks rules and codes of a central authority which governs it as such internet has no

geographical demarcation, (Guillane & Fortinet, 2009).

Shinder (2012), define cyber crime as any criminal offenses committed using the internet or another computer network as a component of the crime. Cyber crimes are offences that are committed against individual or group of individuals with a criminal motive to internationally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly using modern telecommunication networks such as internet and mobile phones. Such crimes may threaten nation's security and financial health (Akogwu, 2012).

The contribution of internet to the development of the nation has been marred by the evolution of new waves of crime. The internet has also become an environment where the most lucrative and safest crime thrives. Cyber crime has become a global threat from Europe to America, Africa to Asia. Cyber crime has come as a surprise and a strange phenomenon that for now lives with us in Nigeria. With each passing day, we witness more and more alarming cases of cyber crimes in Nigeria, with each new case more shocking than the one before. It has become a stubborn mouth sore which causes us a lot of pain and shame because criminally minded individuals in the country are stealing and committing atrocity through the aid of the internet online business transactions.

To Vladimir (2015) internet is a global network which unites millions of computer located in different countries and open broad opportunities to obtain and exchange information but it is now been used for criminal purposes due to the economic factors. Nigeria a third world country is faced with so many economic challenges such as poverty, corruption, unemployment amongst others, thereby, making this crime thrive.

The internet services have reduced the world into a global village which makes it look as if

everybody is in the same place at a particular point in time, aside from the fact that the internet has made communication to be easier and faster. A lot of other transactions are consummated at the speed of lightening.

McConnel (2014), argued that cyber crimes differ from most terrestrial crimes in four ways which are: They are easy to learn; they require few resources relative to the potential damage caused; they can be committed in a jurisdiction without being physically present and they are often not clearly illegal. As such, cyber crime has become one of the major security issues for law enforcement agencies and the world in general.

The Cost of Cybercrime

McAfee Inc. (2014) notes that cybercrime is a growth industry. The returns are great, and the risks are low. They estimated that the likely annual cost to the global economy from cybercrime is more than \$400 billion. A conservative estimate would be \$375 billion in losses, while the maximum could be as much as \$575 billion. Even the smallest of these figures is more than the national income of most countries and governments and companies underestimate how much risk they face from cybercrime and how quickly this risk can grow. The cost of cybercrime includes the effect of hundreds of millions of people having their personal information stolen, incidents in the last year include more than 40 million people in the US, 54 million in Turkey, 20 million in Korea, 16 million in Germany, and more than 20 million in China. The most important cost of cybercrime, however, comes from its damage to company performance and to national economies (McAfee Inc., 2014). Cybercrime damages trade, competitiveness, innovation, and global economic growth. What cybercrime means for the world is that:

- The cost of cybercrime will continue to increase as more business functions move

online and as more companies and consumers around the world connect to the Internet.

- Losses from the theft of intellectual property will also increase as acquiring countries improve their ability to make use of it to manufacture competing goods.

- Cybercrime is a tax on innovation and slows the pace of global innovation by reducing the rate of return to innovators and investors.

- Governments need to begin serious, systematic effort to collect and publish data on cybercrime to help countries and companies make better choices about risk and policy (McAfee In Shinder (2012).

Factors Contributing To Cybercrime in Nigeria

One major factor adduced for the rise in various crimes in Nigeria, most especially cybercrime is poverty. In examining the relation between cybercrime and poverty, it is important not only to define what is meant by cybercrime, but what is meant by poverty, as well. Poverty can be defined in many ways. While some scholars reduce it to numbers, others argue that a more ambiguous definition must be used. While some define it in relations to income, many treat poverty as multidimensional, using indicators such as (i) low income, (ii) low levels of education and health, (iii) vulnerability (to health or income loss, natural disaster, crime and violence, and education curtailment) and (iv) voicelessness and powerlessness (feeling discrimination, lacking income earning possibilities, mistreatment by state institutions, and lacking status under the law).

McConnell and Brue (2015) define poverty as a condition in which a person or a family does not have the means to satisfy basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and transportation. The means include, currently earned income, transfer payments, past savings and property owned. The basic needs have many determinants, including family size and the

health and age of its members. Fields (2014) also defines poverty as the inability of an individual or a family to command sufficient resources to satisfy the basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and other necessities of life.

In 2015, a United Nations (2012) Statement on poverty, signed by the heads of all UN agencies stated: Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and cloths a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.

Also, the World Bank (2013), the major indicators of poverty are: lack of freedom of action and choice; lack of adequate food, shelter, education and health; vulnerabilities to ill health; economic dislocation; maltreatment by public agencies; and exclusion from key decision-making processes and resources in society. Accordingly, poverty depicts a situation in which a given material means of sustenance within a given society is hardly enough for subsistence in that society (Townsend, 2016). Thus, people are considered to be poor if their standard of living falls below the poverty line, that is, the amount of income (or consumption) associated with a minimum acceptable level of nutrition and other necessities of everyday life (World Bank, 2013). In essence, when people are unable to eat, go to school, unable to find employment, or have access to health care, then they can

be considered to be in poverty, regardless of their income.

Ajakaiye & Adeyeye (2012) note that poverty can be structural (chronic) or transient. Structural poverty is defined as persistent or permanent socio-economic deprivations and is linked to a host of factors such as limited productive resources, lack of skills for gainful employment, endemic socio-political and cultural factors and gender. Transient poverty, on the other hand, is defined as transitory/temporary and is linked to natural and man-made disasters. Transient poverty is more reversible but can become structural if it persists. The issue of poverty in Nigeria is a paradox. While Nigeria is a leading oil-producing nation and highly endowed in terms of various natural resources, most of her people are economically poor. As a national data shows, over one-third of Nigerians (35%) live in extreme poverty while 54% are relatively poor. For instance, the Nigeria Poverty Profile 2014 Report of the National Bureau of Statistics provides an insight into the level of poverty in the country. More than half of the Nigerian population lives on less than a dollar a day. The major findings from the survey are as follows:

(a) Relative Poverty is defined by reference to the living standards of majority in a given society. In 2014, Nigeria's relative poverty measurement stood at 54.4%, but increased to 69% (or 112,518,507 Nigerians) in 2010. The North-West and North-East geo-political zones recorded the highest poverty rates in the country with 77.7% and 76.3% respectively in 2015, while the South-West geo-political zone recorded the lowest at 59.1%. Among States, Sokoto had the highest poverty rate at 86.4% while Niger had the lowest at 43.6% in the year under review.

(b) Absolute Poverty is defined in terms of the minimal requirements necessary to afford minimal standards of food, clothing,

healthcare and shelter. Using this measure, 54.7% of Nigerians were living in poverty in 2004 but this increased to 60.9% (or 99,284,512 Nigerians) in 2015. Among the geo-political zones, the North-West and North-East recorded the highest rates at 70% and 69% respectively, while the South-West had the least at 49.8%. At the State level, Sokoto had the highest at 81.2% while Niger had the least at 33.8% during the review period.

(c) The-Dollar-Per-Day Measure refers to the proportion of those living on less than US\$1 per day poverty line. Applying this approach, 51.6% of Nigerians were living below US\$1 per day in 2004, but this increased to 61.2% in 2010. Although the World Bank standard is now US\$1.25, the old reference of US\$1 was the standard used in Nigeria at the time that the survey was conducted. The North-West geo-political zone recorded the highest percentage at 70.4%, while the South-West geo-political zone had the least at 50.1%. Sokoto had the highest rate among States at 81.9%, while Niger had the least at 33.9%.

(d) Subjective Poverty is based on self-assessment and “sentiments” from respondents. In this regard, 75.5% of Nigerians considered themselves to be poor in 2004, and in 2010 the number went up to 93.9%. FCT recorded the most number of people who considered themselves to be poor at 97.9%. Kaduna recorded the least number of people who considered themselves poor at 90.5%.

A major indicator of poverty in Nigeria is unemployment. In broad terms, the term unemployment denotes a condition of joblessness or lack of employment. In other words, anyone who is fit and available to work but fails to get one may be considered as being unemployed for the concerned period. Statistics reveal that the unemployment rate is very high among youth in Nigeria, most of who are university

graduates with computer and internet competence. According to statistics from the 2011 National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria’s overall unemployment rate amounted to 23.9 % of total Labour Force in March 2011, indicating a sharp increase from 14.9% in March 2008 to 19.7% in March 2009 and 23.9% in 2011. When disaggregated by sector, 17.1% of these are in the Urban areas, while 25.6% are from Rural areas. The surveys also reveal that persons aged 0-14 years constituted 39.6%, those aged between 15-64, which is the economically active population, constituted 56.3%, while those aged 65 years and above constituted 4.2%. According to the NBS, the Labour Force in 2011 stood at 67,256,090, of that 51,181,884 are employed while the unemployed are 16,074,205.

From scholarly analysis, one can see the magnitude of unemployment in Nigeria. These unemployed youths have time on their hands and have easy access to the internet to perpetuate cybercrimes. Even if they do not have access to Internet at home, cyber-café’s are readily available throughout the country at relatively low rates for Internet access. All these factors combine to create a new generation of local hackers and cyber-criminals (Olowu, 2013). Although, they may not have deep programming knowledge like experienced hackers who can create their own malware or viruses, they take advantage of many websites available for free that help them understand the basics behind hacking techniques with links to underground hacking sites and even free tools to use.

Cybercrime in Nigeria: Yahoo Yahoo

Cybercrime is a very popular crime in Nigeria. Cybercriminals in Nigeria are notorious for luring people across the planet into fraudulent scams via spam mails, cash-laundering e-mails, and cleverly designed but pretend company partnership offers. Criminals involved in the advance fee fraud

schemes (419) known as “yahoo yahoo” are popularly referred to as “yahoo boys” in Nigeria. Yahoo yahoo is the most popular local name for cybercrime in Nigeria. It usually involves the use of email, particularly through a Yahoo address or yahoo messenger to con unsuspecting victims. The nation has therefore carved a niche for herself as the source of what is now generally referred to as “419” mails named after Section 419 of the Nigerian Criminal Code (Capp 777 of 1990) that prohibits advance fee fraud.

The “yahoo boys” use various methods in getting their victims. Many of these fraudsters patronize cyber cafes, browsing the internet all night, sending scam mails to unsuspecting victims. Many foreigners, especially females, who are seeking for spouses via the Internet have fallen victim of the “yahoo boys”. They pretend to be ready to go into a lasting relationship with these women and subsequently start to exploit them. Some of them get their victims to help in procuring travel documents to where they reside or even to assist in getting residential permits for them. Once they have been able to achieve their aims, they stop communicating with the victim and move on to another target (Adesina, 2012).

In other instances, the scammers use stories of severe life circumstances, tragedies, family deaths, personal injuries or other hardships to keep their victims concerned and involved in their schemes. They also ask victims to send money to help overcome alleged financial hardships.

Many of the victims just lick their wounds and carry on life, but some of the very bitter victims report to the appropriate authorities who often apprehend and prosecute the suspects. The situation is worsened by the fact that several non-Nigerians apprehended for cybercrimes most often claim to be Nigerians before they are thoroughly

investigated and their country of origin established.

Demonstrating the gravity of the problem of cybercrime in the country, in 2007, a young Nigerian musician, Olumide Adegbolu (also known as Olu Maintain) released a hit song called “Yahooze”. The song, which sparked a lot of controversies, speaks of a flashy lifestyle, fancy trips and expensive drinks, if the songstar is able to “hammer” (obtain) 1 million dollars and converts it into Naira (Nigerian currency). Critics argued that the song was a glorification of internet fraud or “Yahoo Yahoo”, pointing out that for a young man to think of living such a life style if he gets such a huge amount of money, he must be a scammer. This has been vehemently denied by Olu Maintain himself claiming that the song was just a reflection of his rise to fame and the change money has made to his life.

The song and the whole controversy that trailed it reflect the current trend of thinking of many Nigerian youth. The quest to possess and ride flashy cars and live frivolous lifestyles have lured many Nigerian youth into the “yahoo yahoo” business. It is not unusual to enter a cybercafé and find that most of the people there are (mainly) boys in their 20’s or early 30’s who are browsing the internet in search of potential victims. There is even what is called “night browsing” where, for a fee, they stay on the internet all through the night to carry out their businesses. The boys often team up to practice their businesses in order to be able to get ideas from each other.

However, in recent times, because of some stringent measures put in place by many financial institutions and various organizations that do online transactions, the cybercriminals in Nigeria apparently suffered a setback in their activities. To this end, the more desperate among them has had to resort to spiritual means to enhance their



businesses. This is referred to as “Yahoo Plus”. Yahoo plus is an advanced form of yahoo yahoo whereby the “yahoo boys” employs traditional spiritual means like voodoo or juju to hypnotize their victims into doing their bidding and parting with whatever amount of money they request for. The yahoo boys indulge in occultic ritual practices to enhance their potential to defraud people. It involves employing traditional spiritual means like voodoo or juju in ensuring that the cybercriminal hypnotizes his victims and thereby brighten the swindler’s chances of getting his victims hypnotised. Once this is successfully done, the victim is guaranteed to keep remitting money from wherever he or she is in the world. There are various strategies deployed in achieving this feat. The yahoo boy approaches a spiritualist or diviner who consults, the “oracle” or the “gods”. He is then given diverse options of rituals to perform. These include sleeping in a coffin for certain numbers of days, sleeping in the cemetery, bringing body parts. In other words, he kidnaps a victim, kills him/her and extracts the body part needed. Some are even told to sleep with virgins as part of the rituals. Most often, young girls are kidnapped and raped and sometimes killed by these ambitious people.

Other forms of rituals performed include sleeping with pregnant women or mad women and sometimes, the yahoo boy may be told not to take his bath for days or months as doing so may have terrible repercussions. Another popular “yahoo” crime in Nigeria is phishing. Phishing is an attack that typically involves sending an email to a victim that looks to the unsuspecting recipient as if it comes from a legitimate source, for instance, a bank. For phishes, an email is sent asking the victim to verify personal information through a link to a fraudulent web page. Once that is provided, the hacker can access the

victim’s financial information. According to Richards (2016), the year 2015 recorded high number of phishing emails from suspected cyber criminals in Nigeria, peaking when the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced deadline for Bank Verification Number (BVN). Cyber criminals swamped unwary bank customers with phish emails to warn them that their accounts were about to be blocked and consequently steal their credentials once they supply their details.

Theoretically, the work of Robert King Merton propounded in (1968) was adopted. Merton argued that society has tremendous impact on individual’s deviance. To Merton, Anomie was conceived as a breakdown in the cultural structure due to disjunction between the cultural norms and goals and the socially structured capacities of members of the group to act in accord with them. He further posits that anomie depends on the degree of divergence between cultural goals through which success and status in society are defined and institutionalized means- the acceptable methods of achieving such goals (Don, 1988). In this conception, cultural values help to produce behaviour that is at odds with the mandates of the values themselves. Anomie gives birth to aberrant behaviour and non-conformity (cybercrime/or yahoo yahoo), which is a symptom of dissociation between culturally prescribed goals and socially prescribed means for realizing these goals. A society that places exceptionally strong emphasis on goal achievement without a corresponding emphasis on institutionalized means of achieving these goals is bound to exert pressures on some members of the society that may eventually resort to the use of any technically expedient means in achieving these goals irrespective of whether the means employed is legitimate or not. The process whereby exaltation of the end generates a de-institutionalization of the means to the end

occur s in many societies where the two components of the social structure are not highly integrated (Nnorom, 2008).

In contemporary Nigeria, strong emphasis are places on success goals without equivalent emphasis on institutional means of attaining these goals. The society is characterized by a heavy emphasis on success and wealth without a corresponding emphasis on legitimate means and avenues to be used in achieving success. Everything in Nigeria these days is driven by the desire for success irrespective of the means used in achieving success (Okwilagwe, 2001). The country has become a commercial venture and no longer a place for cherished moral values that would encourage selfless service. Everyone is out to make quick money and patriotism is endangered. There is a disjunction between the culturally acclaimed goals and the institutional procedures for achieving these goals. The attenuation of this over time is the anomie that now characterizes the Nigerian society. The society, as it is constituted today, is founded on faulty/fragile education, political,

economic, physical and social environment that cannot produce a better tomorrow (Obasi, 2009). The country is bedeviled with social and economic ills such as cultism, malpractices, moral decadence, embezzlement, social injustice, corruption, and all forms of anti-social vices. It has become a society where the custom is to decorate miscreants, scam artists and violators of national trust with national honours and appoint them to exalted public offices (Onyechere, 2013).

Methods:

This study explores descriptive design. The population for this study was the entire people of Ado-Ekiti, the state capital. A total of 400 respondents were selected using convenient sampling technique. Both primary and secondary data were used for this study. The primary data was obtained using semi-structured questionnaire while the secondary data were collected via different sources. The quantitative data was analysed using SPSS and the data were presented using frequency and percentage and charts where useful.

Figure 1: Causes of Yahoo Practice in Nigeria

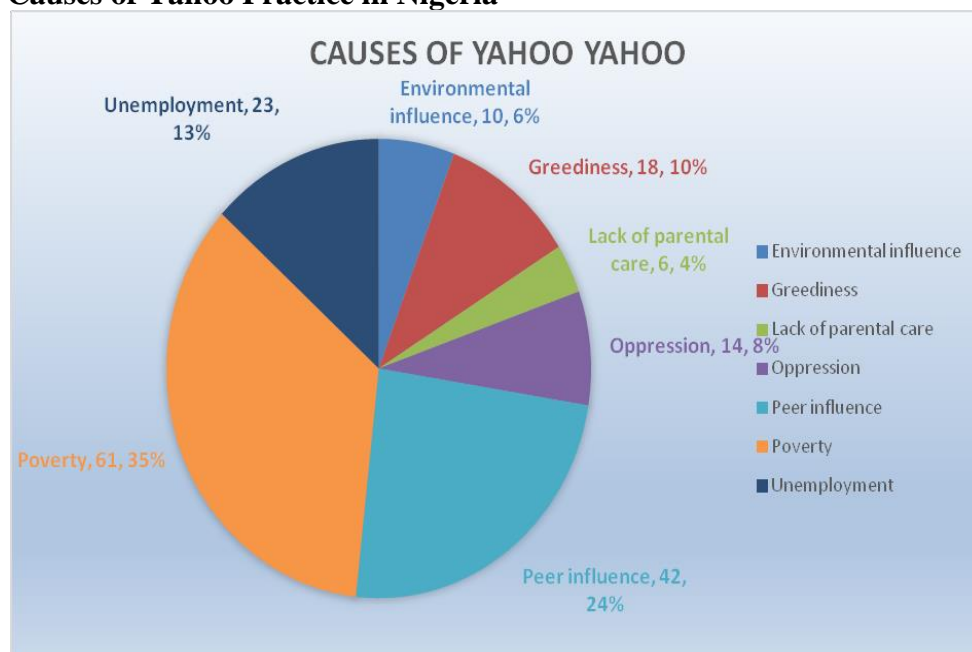


Table 1: Economic status of Yahoo People

Items	YES		NO		Don't Know		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
People in yahoo yahoo are from rich home	24	6.0	264	66.0	112	28.0	400	100.0
Family of yahoo yahoo people are influential	62	15.5	220	55.0	118	29.5	400	100.0
The household of yahoo yahoo people help other people	86	21.5	168	42.0	146	36.5	400	100.0
The family of yahoo yahoo people have unlimited access to everything in life	62	15.5	204	51.0	134	33.5	400	100.0
The yahoo yahoo families are learned.	94	23.5	158	39.5	148	37.0	400	100.0

Source: Field work, 2019

Findings:

Chart 1 is on the causes of yahoo practice. Majority of the respondents 30.5% maintained that poverty is cause of yahoo practice, 21.0% argued that peer influence is the cause of yahoo act, 11.5% said unemployment is the cause of yahoo practice, 9.0% said it is greediness while 3.0% of the respondents said lack of parental care cause yahoo practice. From the above, it shows that a lot of things are responsible for the cause of yahoo practice. That is, the cause may differ from one person or place to another.

The above table talks about the economic status of yahoo yahoo people base on the general public's knowledge. The table shows that 66.0% of the respondents said No, yahoo yahoo people are not from rich home, 55.0% of the respondents said No, the family of

yahoo people are not influential at all, 42.0% said No, the household of yahoo people do not help other people, 51.0% also said No, the family of yahoo people do not have unlimited access to everything in life while 39.5% of the respondents said No, yahoo families are learned. It is very clear from the above analysis that yahoo people and their immediate family are not from economically well off that is why they indulge in getting ill wealth or quick syndrome money. Also, they family do not help other people in need at all. Even the yahoo people do not help people any how except those that they want to use for the sustenance of their ill wealth or those they want to use for ritual. Simply put, yahoo people are from wretched homes or abject poverty homes.

Table 2: Respondents views on Family support for Yahoo Child

Items	SA	A	I	D	SD
Parents of yahoo people share the same mentality with them that yahoo money is ill wealth	168 (42.0%)	118 (29.5%)	68 (17.0%)	26 (6.5%)	20 (5.0%)
Parents take their yahoo child to spiritualist to sustain their ill gotten wealth	98 (24.5%)	94 (23.5%)	82 (20.5%)	52 (13.0%)	74 (18.5%)

Parents do not care how and where their child get the money from	148 (28.5%)	104 (26.0%)	126 (11.0%)	82 (20.5%)	170 (14.0%)
Parents advice their yahoo child not to be lavish in spending	116 (29.0%)	92 (23.0%)	70 (17.5%)	58 (14.5%)	64 (16.0%)
Yahoo child or people are jealously guided by their parents	100 (25.5%)	98 (24.0%)	72 (18.0%)	70 (17.5%)	60 (15.0%)

Source: Field work, 2019

Here, the general public opinion is also sought on whether or not the parents of yahoo people support them. Majority of the respondents 42.0% said **strongly agree** parents of yahoo people share the same mentality about ill wealth with them, 24.5% of the respondents **strongly agree** that parents of the yahoo people take their children to spiritualist to sustain their ill gotten wealth, 28.5% of the respondents **strongly agree** that parents do not care how and where their child get the money from, 29.0% of the respondents also **strongly agree**

that parents advice their yahoo child not to be lavish in spending while 25.0% of the respondents **strongly agree** that yahoo child or people are jealously guided by their parents. From the above analysis, it revealed that despite the well rich way of life known as culture of the Yoruba speaking people in the southern west of Nigeria who cherish their family name and integrity to protect, some parents ignored and dam the culture to give the necessary supports to their children especially those taking good care of them not minding the source of their ill wealth.

Table 3: Trend and Perception of Yahoo Practice in Nigeria

Items	SA	A	I	D	SD
Yahoo practice is seen as satanic and devilish act in all communities	188 (47.0%)	118 (29.5%)	38 (9.5%)	26 (6.5%)	30 (7.5%)
I hate yahoo practice and those who practice it	98 (24.5%)	144 (36.0%)	32 (8.0%)	52 (13.0%)	74 (18.5%)
Yahoo practice has really change from what it used to be	148 (37.0%)	104 (26.0%)	70 (17.5%)	82 (20.5%)	100 (25.0%)
The actors of yahoo practice are becoming expert by each day	180 (45.0%)	126 (31.5%)	12 (03.0%)	42 (10.5%)	40 (10.0%)
Yahoo practice has been really modernized	118 (29.5%)	124 (31.0%)	52 (13.0%)	32 (8.0%)	74 (18.5%)

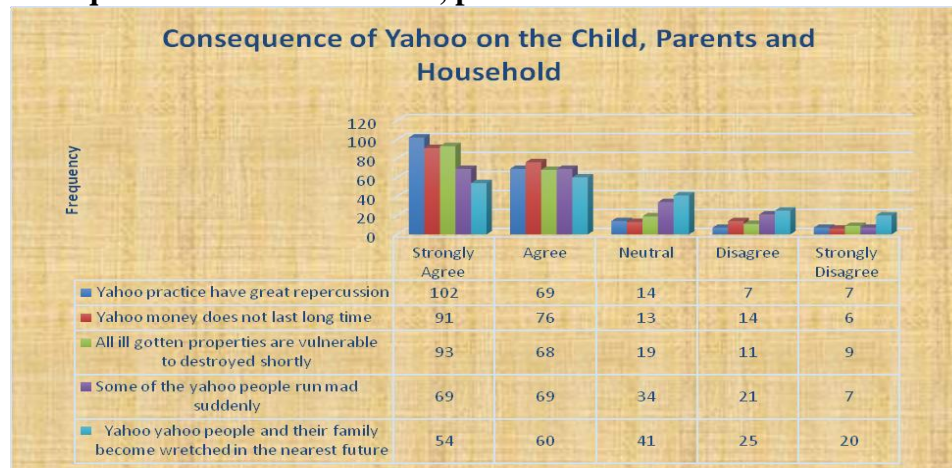
Source: Field work, 2019

The above table measures the perception and trend of yahoo practice among youths of Nigeria. From the table, most of the respondents 47.0% strongly agree that Yahoo practice is seen as satanic and devilish act in all communities, 36.0% agree that I hate yahoo practice and those who practice it, 37.0% strongly agree that yahoo practice has really change from what it used to be, 45.0% strongly agree that The actors of yahoo

practice are becoming expert by each day while 31.0% of the respondents agree that Yahoo practice has been really modernized. It can be concluded that yahoo practice in Nigeria has really changed in terms of age of those involved, materials used and the amount of money they make and it increases every day.

Consequences of Yahoo on the child, Parents and Household

Figure 3: Consequences of Yahoo on child, parents and household



Source: Field work, 2019

In respect to the consequences of yahoo on those that practice it, their parents and household. The above chart 51.5% of the respondents strongly agree that yahoo practice have great repercussion, 45.5% strongly agree that yahoo money does not last long, 46.5% also strongly agree that all ill gotten properties are vulnerable to destroy very soon, 34.5% strongly agree that some of the yahoo people suddenly run mad while 30.0% of the respondents agree that yahoo people and their families become wretched within short time in the future. From the above, it can easily be concluded that yahoo practice has just short term to live. That is, there is no any meaningful gain in yahoo practice. At the end of it all, the yahoo actor and their families become subject of lasting ridicule and shame.

Discussion

Yahoo practice is a major social problem and a menace in our society today especially the southwest Nigeria. It is a practice that each day it recruited more followers or practitioners because of the wealth that youths both male and female get through this evil practice. The practice now attracted teenagers who have very strong passion for making money not minding how long or short the wealth will last. It is important to mention

that there are more younger male than their female counterpart in this satanic act.

The practice of yahoo has really change from the way it is done before to a “more modernized form” due to the introduction of some new things into the practice such as the use of materials which has change from laptop to very expensive android mobile phone that is very fast and is capable of attracting network anywhere anytime. Also, the age of those who are engage in yahoo practice are so surprising. In fact, students in secondary schools are into the practice too. The quantity of money they get in hard currency from their customer is very alarming when they change it into Nigeria currency. This is done in collaboration with the bank manager who will also get some percentage from the total amount they made. Now, some of the yahoo boys are into investment such as building for commercial purpose, student hostels, transportation and big boutiques etc.

Furthermore, the ritualism in the practice of yahoo is another major change in the practice. The actors are told by their herbalist to visit any dunghill and eat innocent people’s feases with bread. The person that passes the feases is automatically in problem for life.



With all the above, the entire community does not in any way support this evil practice because it is against the culture of Yoruba people and it is also against humanity because of the lives of people it takes for sustainability of their ill gotten wealth. Yahoo practice has change and the society does not perceive it as anything good at all.

Conclusion:

It is doubt that the practice of yahoo yahoo among youths in Nigeria especially in the southwestern part of Nigeria increases like burning fire daily. The practice attracts new members each day both male and female. It is noteworthy that the norms, mores and value of the Yoruba people has completely affect their perception of yahoo yahoo practice as an act or practice that is not acceptable with the paradigm of Yoruba culture. Therefore, an average Yoruba person does not see anything good in the act, practice, the actors, their families and those that support them in one way or the other. The practice has taking a new dimension in terms of techniques, the money they control and knowledge of investing the money they make through rituals.

Recommendation:

The following recommendations were attained within the findings of this study. They are:

- i. The generality of the people in the community should hence forth perceive yahoo practice as a menace that is inimical to mankind;
- ii. Government at all tiers should rise up to curtail the spread of yahoo practice in the community;
- iii. The law enforcement agencies and anti financial agents should be up and doing in dealing with yahoo practice and all the actors.
- iv. Parents and guardians should ensure that the bring their children up in a cultured way.

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