# EVALUATION OF CCTV AND BIOMETRICS AS ICT TOOLS FOR CURBING CRIMINALITY IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF EBONYI STATE POLICE COMMAND ABAKALIKI

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## Abstract

*This evaluative study examines the use of CCTV and Biometrics as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by the Nigerian Police Force ((NPF) in curbing criminality in Nigeria. Using the Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki (ESPC Ai) as a case study, the survey research method and interview were the research designs used to elicit relevant responses from a sample of 25 respondents. The study adopted the purposive sampling technique and therefore sought to gather the views of the police officers who are directly involved in Investigation and ICT department/unit. The findings showed that CCTV and Biometrics play crucial roles in crime prevention and have great advantage over the traditional approach for crime prevention but that the Nigerian police however, are very less effective in the use of these technologies for policing. The research also discovered that the Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki has not made significant progress in the use of CCTV and Biometrics for crime control. The study, thus, recommended the immediate installation of CCTV and Biometrics in all police stations across the country; training and re-training of police personnel on the use of ICTs was also suggested as a priority for policy makers.*
Key words: ICT, NPF, Criminality, CCTV, Biometrics.

## Introduction

The application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in virtually every facet of everyday life has given rise to the concept of information society (Etuk, 2017). The application of ICT for development is widespread, cutting across education, building, automobile, journalism, health, policing, agriculture, tourism, transport, among others. ICT is not just used to advance the society; it also provides a powerful platform for the committing of crime and multiplication of social vices. In fact, Adegoke, Philips and Keshinro (2015) explain that the modern approach to criminality has left the traditional method for something more scientific. As a result, the curbing of these criminal activities requires a robust and scientific approach. In many societies of the world particularly in the developing nations, the proliferation of crime is fast threatening the security of lives and property. In Nigeria for example, crimes such as kidnapping, armed robbery, religious crisis, political upheavals, insurgency, rituals and cultism, official corruption, among others are core security challenges. A wide range of these crimes is perpetrated by the use of ICT, and the application of ICT can be effective in preventing these vices. Explicating on the use of technology tools in committing crimes, Tombul and Cekar (2015, p. 286) write, "With advanced software and hardware form of technology they can commit crimes readily, and crimes have now shifted from their previous more observable methods of operation to the digital realm".Therefore, this remains a challenge to the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) such as the Police, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Civil

Defence Corps, the Military, Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS), Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), State Security Service (SSS), among others. In Nigerian Criminal Justice System, the police is the prosecutor, and is directly involved in crime prevention, detection and arrest (Ekwunife, 2016). Aside CCTV and Biometrics, some ICT devices useful in social control include network analysis, DNA research, facial and speech recognition, social media, shotspotter, detection system, crime mapping, GIS, among others (Ratcliffe, 2007; Ibikunle&Adefihan, 2013; Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese&Ogunde, 2011).

**Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to make an assessment of CCTV and Biometrics as ICTs for curbing criminality in Nigeria. The specific objectives include:

i.      To determine the availability of CCTV and biometrics for curbing criminality in Nigeria.

ii.     To determine the availability of CCTV and biometric experts for curbing criminality in Nigeria.

iii.    To discover the extent to which the Nigerian police is effective in the use of CCTV and biometrics for curbing criminality in Nigeria.

**Literature Review**

**Historical Development of the CCTV**

"The first CCTV system was installed by Siemens AG at Test Stand vii in Peenemunde, Nazi Germany in 1942, for observing the v-2rockets. It was first used by the military in Germany to watch the launch of V2 rockets. It was also useful in the development and testing of atomic weapons, enabling observation from a distance (Nadeau, 2012). Today, it is used in both government and military sites. Banks began the use of CCTV in the 1970s and 1980s. Retail shops also queued in the usage to prevent crime. Gas stations have used the CCTV to record drivers who leave the station without making payments for the gas filled. CCTV has helped to monitor traffic. This use began in Britain as cameras were mounted all over the places to also check accidents. Since then, taxis, buses and trains have used them. Parking lots used them to decrease instances of vandalism. In the 1990s, USA used them to track traffic violators and tickets were sent to offenders to pay fines. Presently, homes have CCTVs to prevent intruders and break-ins. Schools and airports use them to monitor and record suspicious activities. CCTV cameras have many advanced features including higher definition and being able to detect and follow motion in areas where there should be none. Jenkins Iain (2011) notes that the CCTV, today, can be found in shops, stadium, train stations, offices and even homes and other private venues. The aim of CCTV installations at all times is to improve safety of the masses by preventing or monitoring the environmental happenings. In 1942, the taking off of rockets and missiles in Germany were monitored with this device. It was also used to monitor some dangerous scientific sites where scientists could not approach for safety reasons. In 1949, it became commercially available in America from a company called Vericon. The dawn of CCTV in UK was in 1953 during the coronation of the Queen. Around 1960s, it was used by the metropolitan police to monitor people during rallies. British railways adopted the use of CCTV after a part of the tracks was vandalized. New York also embraced the technology around this time. In the 1970s and 80s, the use of CCTV was popularized as roads and some underground stations in London adopted the usage. Soccer match venues began the installation of CCTV. During late 80s, parking garages and council estates came on board with the usage.

At present, London uses this to monitor over speeding. In the 1990s, ATM booths were guarded with CCTVs. Today, there are more than 2.5million security cameras in the UK alone for crime prevention and detection. It also catches unfaithful spouses, scars off shoplifters and protects employees. CCTV requires not just cameras but other essential accessories like monitors, recording equipment, cabling and brackets to mount the camera.

**Historical Development of Biometrics**

Nadaeu (2012) writes that the practice of distinguishing humans based on intrinsic physical characteristics or behavioural traits can be traced back to thousands of years. With the use of cutting-edge technologies, biometrics identifies terrorists and criminals. Fingerprints were used on clay tablets in 500BC during

Babylonian business transactions. Children's palms and footprints were also used by the 14th century Chinese to distinguish them. In the early Egyptian history, physical characteristics enabled traders to differentiate each other.

Following the industrial growth of 1800s that sparked off rapid growth in the city, standard means of identifying the general public and criminals was imperative. The Bertillion system, also called anthropometrics, was invented by the police in France. This had the ability to record arm's length, height and other body measurements on index cards. Errors were however imminent since there was no standard measurement in place. "Measuring one metric- a fingerprint- became the method of choice in the late 1800s when Edward Henry, Inspector General of Police in Bengal, India, created the Henry system, a classifying system that is still used today" (Nadaeu, 2012, p .1). Consequent upon the spread of computers in the 20th century, there came new possibilities for digital biometrics. Though the use of the iris was suggested in the 1930s, the first attempt at this was not licensed until 1994 while it became available in 1995. At the 2001 Super Bowl in Tampa, Fla, face recognition was used to capture the image of each of the 10,000 supporters through a security camera that checked them electronically against mug shots from the Tampa police. The federal government coordination started in 2003 with the National Science and Technology Council setting up an official sub-committee on biometrics. This led to the formation of Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) by the Defence department to help in tracking and identifying national security threats.

Mayhew (2018) explains that "bio" means "life" while "metrics" means "to measure". Supporting the earlier mentioned author, the automated biometric system has become available over the last few decades due to the widespread of computer processing. Historically, the oldest example that has been used for recognition is the face. As populations increased, the society became complex, hence the need for the introduction of more convenient methods. There is evidence that fingerprints were used as a person's mark in early 500BC. The process of formal use of fingerprints by the police began in South America, Asia and Europe. So it continued till 2013 when fingerprints scanners were designed into consumer targeted smartphones.

**The Role of CCTV in Crime Prevention; the Nigerian Police Perspective**.

Ogunleye et al (2011, p.3) write:

The list of criminal acts is endless: assassinations, kidnapping, arson, organized armed robbery,

vandalization, ritual acts, financial crimes, fraudulent acts, impersonation, economic sabotage, political

brigandage in the general society, prostitution and women trafficking, bullying, raping and assault…

Considering surveillance as a major function of the police in every nation, this study deems it necessary to give some attention to discussing the CCTV which is an ICT tool with inbuilt security monitoring mechanism. The installation of a CCTV at some strategic places "can trigger a perceptual mechanism in a potential offender that if he commits a crime, he will be caught" (Adegoke, 2015, p.19). Hence, CCTV can serve to increase the perceived risk of capture, causing deterrence. CCTV was instrumental in tracking down the perpetrators of Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris where 11 people were feared dead. Its usefulness was also seen in finding out the criminals in Boston's Marathon Bomb attack of Boylston Street USA. Ogunleye et al (2011, p.5) note that "CCTV camera may produce self-discipline through fear of surveillance, whether real or

imagined". Like the CCTV, Olanibi (2012), Ategwu (2013) and Agena (2012) have noted that the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker is an ICT tool that can calculate the exact location of any object on the surface of the earth. It can be used by a radio helicopter pilot to discover the coordinates of the position/location of a person in the event of emergency. This can be hand-worn; it can be installed in buildings, mobile systems, pathways, etc. It is an effective ICT tool in the hands of firefighters, police and the military. Adegoke et al (2015, p.21) add:

> Boko Haram insurgent group had claimed to be occupying Sambisa forest in Borno State, from where they carry out their attacks. With the use of GPS trackers, exact location of this insurgent group could be determined which will aid successful military operation

In order to do effective policing therefore, the police particularly in third world countries must embrace these technologies since crimes themselves have gone digital and digitized. This is most essential as information technologies facilitate creation, storage, retrieval, transfer and application of investigation related information (Gottschalk, 2007). With advanced software and hardware forms of technology, criminals can perfect any crime easily. Generally, crimes have shifted from their previous more notable methods of operation to the digital realm. They also must seek out and put on more highly developed software and technologies to overcome the evils carried out by criminals with the new technologies. Odili-Idiagbor (2013, p.1) reinforces the idea that crime has become so sophisticated that fighting it with traditional means will not yield the desired results, thus, "no place is safe anymore in Nigeria; not even our own little prison yards with high fences surrounding our homes and offices". Looking at Nigerian policing and technology, the above ICT expert explains that the conditions of service and the equipment with which the Nigerian police works are serious challenges to policing in Nigeria.

The role of policing cannot be overemphasized as it makes the fighting of crime come with higher precision, greater results, more cost effective strategies and in a timely manner. This is most necessary since in many situations, the wrong persons are arrested by the police. Sometimes, lack of substantial evidence is experienced and the time delay involved in the old method of investigation enables the culprit to escape. Generally, no part of the world could tackle crime effectively without updated, accurate and timely data; and this can only be made possible by ICT such as the CCTV. In respect to biometrics and policing, Odili-Idiagbor (2013, p.2) writes:

> Deoxyribonucleic acid isolated from blood, hair, skin cells or other genetic evidence left at the scene of crime has helped in apprehending criminals when matched with databases. The days are gone when individuals are identified by just names and photo ID without biometrics.

To all intents and purposes, attempts to manage and control crime in a population of over 150 million people, without a working national, criminal and biometric database which contains fingerprints and DNA databases, will be effort in futility. With adequate database, this can be linked to government terrorist watch list for effective policing. It is expedient that persons carrying firearms should register with the police and this would be stored in the firearm databases so as to criminalize unregistered firearms. It therefore becomes easy to track down a crime by the bullet and firearm used in the operation since there is a record in the database. In North America for example, criminals have been caught using DNA swab from discarded orange juice bottle in the trash bin, shoes and car tyre marks found in crime scene. To fight terror and crime today, the Nigerian Police Force is switching to biometric motor registry. (CW, 2013, p.1) observes that this would enable the police to check the particulars of vehicles with a handheld machine rather than manual checking. Also, "the introduction of the Biometric Central Motor Registration system (BCMR) is against the backdrop of contemporary security challenges bordering on terrorism, high incidence of car theft, kidnapping and

other crimes". This is still in line with the biometric and forensic approach of investigation which this study focuses on. They enable fingerprints to be matched or verified against registered fingerprints collected at the time of registration. This device has the capacity to store information and provide a one-stop forensic base for all kinds of investigations to greatly enhance the police in tracking missing cars and controlling other crimes. The BCMR also has the capacity to grab images from CCTV in cities and the footages could be used to apprehend suspects.

However, Oberiri (2016) explains that these technologies are alien to Nigeria. In some cases, LEAs may prefer some unscientific methods of investigating crimes to the use of ICTs. Netragoankar (2015) corroborates the above when he avers that lack of sufficient software, absence of fund and lack of interest can be serious constraints to the application of ICTs in any sector. The study identifies the presence of poor climatic conditions which affect the accessibility of the internet, being an indispensable element in the use of most ICTs such as the CCTV. In the Nigerian police as well as other sectors, the problem of electricity seems intractable and remains a cul de sac to the fight against criminality. Looking at the use of Biometrics and CCTV for example, power supply is necessary. Aside the police, many organizations that rely on the biometric machine for records of attendance and punctuality have had to face the challenge of poor power supply. In Nigeria, this is seemingly an insurmountable problem where even power distribution offices rely on generators for electricity. The police are not an exemption (Ogidi&Utulu; 2016; Nwanne, 2016; Babatunde, 2015; Inyang, Obu and Obasi, 2017). Undoubtedly, Nigeria police has the challenge of human resource development in the use of ICT to detect crime (Eze, Agbo and Chigbo, 2016). These researchers note that Nigeria is at the spotlight of the international community for its participation in cybercrime, ranking the third in the world and the first within the continent of Africa in the rate of cyber-crime prevalence. In the training of police officers for crime detection, the researchers under review point out that the Nigerian Police Force does not take into account the need of the force in specific tasks and expertise. Next to this is that after training, specific skills are not matched with deployment. There is also every proof that the Nigerian Police is not well equipped with the new technologies. This is evident considering criminals who use the ICTs to intercept communication, hide their identities and operate anonymously.


**Empirical Review**

"A Computer-Based Security Framework for Crime Prevention in Nigeria", was studied by Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese and Ogunde (2011). Adopting the qualitative research method, the research discovered that crimes such as human abduction, armed robbery, terrorism, bomb attacks, etc are prevalent in the country. Among all the ICTs for crime prevention and control, the study focused only on the CCTV which it saw as a new innovation in Nigeria. The paper showed that people are receptive of the CCTV provided it is run with proper mechanism and by the right organization. To secure the framework, the study recommended that the intended role and operational requirement of a CCTV system are predetermined and agreed. In conclusion, the research noted that the use of CCTV in the security environment can be very advantageous.Ibikunle and Adefihan (2013) studied "Effectiveness of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in policing in Nigeria. "Using the cross sectional survey research method with the multi-stage, simple probability random sampling and purposive technique, the study discovered that the use of ICT and other technologies enhances the performance and effectiveness of the police. In essence, there is a correlation between ICT and the

performance effectiveness of the police. The researchers recommended training for police officers so as to enable them use the ICTs. The study concluded that without advanced technologies, it will be impossible for the police to deal with crime.Adegoke, Philips and Keshinro (2015) researched on "ICT and its Effectiveness in Curbing Crimes and Social Vices". The qualitative research method was used and the study discovered that the proliferation of vices in our society has led to a high level of insecurity. The finding also reveals that the skill with which crimes are perpetrated today requires a robust and scientific approach in its prevention. The research presents special focus on the use of CCTV and biometric trackers to stem up the menace of criminality in Nigeria and concluded by noting that the application of ICT tools will help to effectively tackle crimes in Nigeria, just as it has brought about huge successes in most developed nations.

**Theoretical Framework**

This work is hinged on the Technological Determinism theory. Today, information and communication technologies are leading the way. Harshil (2016) notes that the theory was propounded by the Thorstein Veblen (1857-1929). Writing on technological determinism theory, Nwanne (2016) explains that the communication technology, prevalent in any era has a profound effect on the perception and belief of the people. A people must directly or indirectly make do with what they have, like the Igbo adage that says, "The tree in a community is what the community uses as firewood". Dafoe (2015, p.6) notes that 'technological change determines social change in a prescribed manner'. Under this theory, emphasis is placed on the autonomous shaping of the society by technology. This theory is most apt for a study of this kind because it explains the use of CCTV and biometrics as ICTs for crime prevention. It explains how these technologies have influenced the society by providing reliable platforms to detect crime/criminals. The methods adopted today in managing criminality and social vices have shifted from the traditional method to a more sophisticated scientific approach. A wonderful approach is the use of the CCTV and biometrics by the police. Globally, the use of the ICTs has completely changed the operations of the police and other LEAs.

**Methodology**

This is a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. To gather information on the topic under investigation, copies of the questionnaire were sampled to 25 police officers of the Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki out of a total population of 3,561(www.npf.gov.ng>zone 6). This was done through the purposive sampling technique, deliberately targeting police personnel who are directly involved in investigation and patrol. Interview was also used to elicit relevant responses and explanations from some police personnel. The research design contained a total of 18 items which provided answers to the 4 research objectives that guided the study. Analysis was done using the simple percentage.

**Data Presentation and Analysis**

Basically, data for this study were gathered from the police officers of the Ebonyi State Police Command, Abakaliki which is the case study. Data, here, were subjected to analysis, using the statistical tools of tables and simple percentage

## Table 1: Analysis of Bio-Data of the Sample Population

| Case | Item | No. of Respondents | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sex | Male | 18 | 72 |
| | Female | 7 | 28 |
| | **Total** | **25** | **100** |
| Unit /Dept | ICT | 16 | 64 |
| | Investigation | 9 | 36 |
| | **Total** | **25** | **100** |
| Years of Experience | 1 - 5 years | 8 | 32 |
| | 6 - 10 years | 7 | 28 |
| | 7 - 15 years | 6 | 24 |
| | 16 - above | 4 | 16 |
| | **Total** | **25** | **100** |

Table one above indicates that 72% of the respondents are male, while the remaining 28% are females. Respondents from the ICT unit constitutes 64% of the sample and 36% of the respondents are from the investigation department. Looking at the years of experience of the respondents in the police force, 1-4 years constitute 32%, 6-10 years constitute 28%, 7-15 years constitute 24% while 16 years and above constitute 16% of the sample population.

### Table 2: Percentage Responses of Respondents on the Availability of CCTV and Biometrics for Curbing Criminality by the Ebonyi State Police Command.

| S/N | Item | Yes/ % | No/% |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Does the Nigerian Police, Ebonyi State Command Abakaliki have CCTV to curb criminality? | 2 (8% ) | 23 (93%) |
| 7 | Are biometrics in place to curb criminality in Ebonyi state? | 4 (16%) | 21 (84%) |
| 8 | Are there vehicles installed with CCTV for the ESPC Ai? | 0 | 25 (100%) |
| 18 | Does Nigeria Police Force Ebonyi have the equipment to monitor the environment from a central control room? | 0 | 25 (100%) |

In table two, 8% showed that the Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki has CCTV while 92% of the respondents answered in the negative. 84% indicated that Biometrics are lacking while 16% answered in the affirmative. The entire sample (100%) indicated that the NPF Ebonyi State Command has no vehicle installed with CCTV and also showed that the command does not have the capacity to monitor the community from a central control room.

**Table 3: Percentage Responses of Respondents on the Availability of the CCTV and Biometrics Experts by Ebonyi State Police Command**

| S/N | ITEM | YES/% | NO/% |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Do you think Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki has enough trained CCTV and Biometrics personnel? | 3 (12%) | 22(88%) |
| 12 | Is there collaboration between the ESPC Ai and other LEAs for effective use of CCTV and Biometrics? | 0 | 25 (100%) |
| 13 | Do Police Officers in ESPC, Ai undergo compulsory ICT training for crime control? | 6(24%) | 19(76%) |
| 16 | Does the ESPC, Ai use CCTV and Biometrics for crime control? | 6(24%) | 19 (76%) |

In table 3, 88% indicated that ESPC, Abakaliki does not have enough trained CCTV and Biometrics personnel while 12% answered positively. The entire sample agreed that ESPC, Abakaliki does not work in collaboration with other LEAs for the effective use of CCTV and Biometrics. While 24% agreed that the officers of the Nigerian Police undergo a compulsory ICT training for crime control, 76% refute this claim. On the use of Biometrics and CCTV for crime control, 76% rejected while 24% accepted the item.

**Table 5: Percentage Responses of Respondents on the Extent to which the ESPC Abakaliki is Effective in the Use of CCTV and Biometrics in Curbing Criminality.**

| S/N | ITEM | YES/% | NO/% |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | Does the ESPC, Abakaliki have a viable and robust ICT Unit? | 9 (36%) | 16 (64%) |
| 19 | Are there ICTs for forensic investigation at the ESPC, Ai? | 0 | 25 (100%) |
| 20 | Has the command ever used the CCTV and Biometrics to track down armed robbery and murder scenes in the State? | 0 | 25 (100%) |
| 9 | Do you think that power supply is a challenge to the effective use of CCTV and Biometrics by the command? | 18 (72%) | 7 (28%) |

In table 5, it is evident that the ESPC, Abakaliki does not have a viable and robust ICT unit, this is confirmed by 64% and 36% respectively. The entire sample confirmed that the command does not conduct forensic investigation, and also responded in the affirmative that the command has not used CCTV and Biometrics to track down offenders (armed robbers and murderers). On the issue of power supply, 72% confirmed that it is an interference on the effective use of CCTV and biometrics (if any) by the command while 28% indicated that it is not a challenge.

**Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations**

**Discussion of findings/interviews**

The major discussion, significance and objective of the study are such that enable the Nigerian Police, the government and the larger society to make an assessment of information and communication technology for crime prevention and security. The four objectives that guided this study provided the following results:

(i)     **Availability of CCTV and Biometrics for Curbing Criminality by Ebonyi State Police Comma**nd.

Observations in table two showed that the ESPC Abakaliki does not have CCTV and Biometrics for crime prevention. From the interview that followed on why 2 respondents responded positively to the availability

of the CCTV, it was gathered that there are about three CCTVs mounted in three sensitive offices which include the commissioner's office but all the CCTVs are within the central police station and do not monitor any event outside their immediate centres of installation. As for the Biometrics, the command can conduct investigation on fingerprint but not in all cases. Biometrics, of which fingerprint analysis is a part of it are parceled to Lagos for proper analysis. Table two also shows that the command has no vehicle with CCTV installation and cannot monitor the Abakalaiki Community from a central control room.The above findings agree with the writings of Tombul and Cekar (2015) that LEAs have not yet embraced the new technologies for crime prevention. The study of Umoh (2017) also corroborates same thought when it revealed that the introduction of ICTs such as CCTVs and Biometrics for crime prevention is still neglected in the developing nations and this accounts for the margin between the type of crime in developed and developing nations.

**(ii)Availability of CCTV and Biometrics Experts for Curbing Criminality by the Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki.**

Table three revealed that the ESPC Ai does not have enough trained CCTV and Biometrics personnel. This is understood as there will be no experts when the facilities are not in place. The Police which is at the forefront of curbing criminality does not have these information tools, therefore, other LEAs do not have them. Hence, there is no collaboration between these agencies in the use of CCTV and Biometrics. On the compulsory ICT training for Police officers, the interviewee noted that the compulsory ICT training by the police is not enough to acquaint the officer with a good knowledge of ICT, seeing that such trainings range between one week and three months. The above is in consonance with the findings of Ibikunle and Adefihan (2013) that the police requires training on ICT in order to combat the menace of modern criminality. Besides, Abowaba (2016) came up with the finding that one of the challenges facing the police in the use of ICTs is their inability to share information with other related State and National Levels agencies.

**(iii).Assessing the Role of CCTV and Biometrics in Curbing Criminality.**

From the findings in table 4, the usefulness of CCTV and Biometrics in fighting against crime cannot be undermined. It is useful in detecting criminals, it can inform where and when a crime took place. It can play a significant role in intercepting the actions of criminals before they are perfected. CCTV and Biometrics provide substantial and indubitable evidences in the case of criminality. Adegoke, Philips and Keshinro (2015) lend credence to this when they discover that ICT tools will help to effectively tackle the menace of criminality in Nigeria. This also agrees with the research carried out by Ogunleye, Alese and Ogunde (2011), stressing that the close circuit televisions, among the ICTs, is very crucial to combat crime such as abduction, armed robbery, terrorism and bomb attacks. In the writing of Punch Newspaper (May 29, 2009, p.7) the Nigerian police force is encouraged to embrace the new technology because digitized crimes cannot be combated with the traditional method of tackling crime. The absence of the new media in tackling crime is not only seen in Nigeria. In many developing nations, there is still a wide gap in government's investment in ICT for crime control. The interviewee for the study hinted that the government is passive about the provision of these ICT facilities because the leaders are also afraid that the devices will be used to monitor or place them under surveillance.

**Conclusion**

This study has made an attempt to assess the use of ICT for crime prevention by the Ebonyi State Police Command Abakaliki. In spite of the weight of ICTs on criminality and social vices in many parts of the world, this research gleaned that basic ICT tool, for tracking down criminals such as the CCTV and Biometrics are

lacking at the Ebonyi State Police Command. In the absence of these ICT tools, professionals to man them are also not available. The study however, agreed on the usefulness of ICT tool for effective policing but the facilities and human resources are lacking completely. Considering the fact that the Police are the number one body saddled with the responsibility of arresting and prosecuting suspects and offenders, and looking at the wave which ICTs are making in every sector towards the advancement of the society in all ramifications, it is a shocking revelation that these necessary tools are lacking.

## Recommendations

In the light of the above revelations and increase in the spate of criminality, recommendations for this study are as follow: It is necessary and imperative that basically, CCTV and Biometrics be installed in all police stations across the country. With this, the spate of gruesome and undetected murder in Ebonyi State must reduce significantly. With the provision of these ICT tools comes the training and recruitment of qualified professionals to operate them. Police patrol team must also use vehicles with CCTV installation for effective policing and surveillance. Intensive ICT training for the police, particularly, the officers in ICT/ investigation departments should be compulsory and at intervals. To think security, the government in power must invest in ICT tools in order to raise a competent machinery like FBI. In a world where ICTs are fast changing the world, the use of traditional approach for crime prevention cannot ensure an effective policing.

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