

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF POLICE VIOLENCE ON ROAD USERS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The researcher investigated lapses in one of the major responsibilities of Nigerian police which is protecting of lives and properties. Assumptions states that, on daily basis, most innocent citizens are violated unjustly by uniformed men. Findings revealed that, to check crime, road blocks are mounted, they extort money from road users whether guilty of offence or not. They use slangs such as “match it”, “park well”, “see me”, “do something”, “bring closing remark”, “watin dey for your boy”, your boy dey hungry, roger, offering, “wash my hand” and “shake body”, in the process of extorting of money. Officers become violent on resistant citizens to the point of inflicting traumatizing injury on victims. Predatory and structural strain theories were used for explanations of factors predisposing police to violence. From sample frame of 412, data was generated from 291 respondents. Data were gathered using quantitative and qualitative instruments. Through the use of statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS), data was analyzed using simple percentage and verbatim quotes.

KEY WORDS: Violence, Victim, Psychological-effects, and Police

INTRODUCTION

The researcher viewed one of the major obligations of Nigerian police which is to protect lives and properties as well as control of crime. Contrarily, with numerous unethical practices, the police are adjudged to have failed in the discharge of their duty. On daily basis, (39 %) of the active citizens are violated and treated unjustly by force men (Hudson 2014 and United Nations 2004). The police are perverted by institutional structures which permit activities that induce violence (Hudson 2014). At various check points, they mount roadblocks and compel road users to pay ransomed amount of money (Ogunyemi 2014). World Health Organization (2020) and Khumalo (2016) suggests that force involves a threat while violence is the use of force especially physical which has likelihood of resulting in injury, death, deprivation or psychological harm. Officers believe that, one of the major ways of asserting authority and commanding compliance is by using force and abusive words. This most times culminates in violence and accidental discharge (Green 2019). An associated investigation, documented 1,422 unintentional discharges, some involving fatal shootings (ibid). Often times, economic and social schedule are jeopardized by stop and search syndrome.

Police is “the civil force of a state, responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of public order” (oxford dictionary 2020 and Soriole 2019). According to Etannibi and Innocent (2000), police force is an attractive career, but their activities is bedeviled with the problems of recruiting, training and indiscipline.

Most of the violence is perpetrated by those who lack expertise in crime control. Lack of expertise pushes officers towards violating the rights of road users. Failure to report and control crimes led to loss of confidence reposed on the police (Hudson 2014).

Extortion and violation of road users by the police is often backed up by various reasons amongst which are dismal package and poor remunerations (Oditia 2015). The police mount road blocks at various check point; a strategy to harass and extort money from road users. With little sound of gunshot, the police run for safety. They pull their uniforms and dash into hiding. The helpless citizens are left to suffer their fate in the hands of attackers.

Statement of Problem

Daily, the huddles of facing police roadblocks and the danger of being violated in the phase of bad roads reinforce fear in the mind of road users. It becomes more depressing and torturing when a life is lost and socioeconomic activities stamped. The duty of the Nigerian Police amidst its numerous responsibilities is to protect life and property. One of the methods adopted by the Nigeria Police in carrying out their duties is by mounting road blocks. Roadblocks according to the police are meant to check mate road users who are suspected to be in possession of contraband goods. Often times, majority of the victims are violated as they become resistant to extortion especially when they know they have not violated any rule. When their papers are complete, road users refuse to become (a) victims of extortion. When this attitude is put on by road users, to intimidate and coerce compliance, they resort to the use of abusive words which often leads to violent confrontations. Psychologically, it has been reported that victims experiences emotional imbalance. Fatal accidents are recorded at road blocks which constitute a great loss to the victim's family and the nation at large.

Objective

The research therefore explored factors responsible for police violence and the possible implications of police violence on victims.

Research Questions

The following questions were posed to guide this research work;

1. What is responsible for police violence?;
2. Does the use of violence on road users causes psychological imbalance and accident?;
3. Do injury or sudden loss of part of the body as a result of police violence causes mental imbalance?;
4. Does delaying, arrest and discharging of passenger's causes economic backwardness and frustration?;
5. How would you rate the Nigeria police efficient?.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Nigeria's police began with a thirty-member consular guard formed in Lagos Colony in 1861 (Anon 2020). In 1879 a 1,200-member armed paramilitary Hausa Constabulary was formed (Liquin, 2002). In 1896, the Lagos Police was established. A similar force, the Niger Coast Constabulary, was formed in calabar in 1894 under the newly

proclaimed Niger coast Protectorate (ibid). When the protectorates of Northern and Southern Nigeria were proclaimed in the early 19th century, part of the Royal Niger Company Constabulary became the Northern Nigeria Police.. Northern and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914, but their police forces were not merged until 1930, forming the Nigeria Police Force is the principal law enforcement agency which has headquarters in Lagos (Alemika 2017). In the 1960s, under the First Republic, these forces were first regionalized and then much later nationalized (Anon 2020 and Soriole 2019).

In a glance, the Organisation of Nigeria Police Force is as listed below (Liquin 2002). The Force is organised into 37 Commands and the Force Headquarters. Each of the thirty-six states and the Federal Capital Territory is served by a Command of the Force. The task of the force is carried out through six departments: administration and finance, operations, works and logistics, general investigation and intelligence, training, research and planning. The various department were under the headship of Assistant inspector general of police. The 37 State Police Commands are further organised into 8 Zoned district.

Organizationally, the Nigerian police developed internal structures, laws and rules that aid them in carrying out their duty (Anon 2020). The use of force by police officers on commercial vehicles and pedestrians draws much attention. They coerce these commercial and private road users to “roger” them both in cash and kind. Refusal or postponement of payment give rise to the use of abusive words, lost of temper and in most cases a total discharge of the passengers in the vehicle. These acts could infuriate the drivers and may result to emotional outburst. In order to silence whoever that is involved, they use abusive words which in most cases culminate in violence. Police officers have been granted the privilege of using “non-negotiable coercive force” to control citizens’ behaviour and ensure public order (Ano 2020). According to Liquin (2002), Police use of excessive force is also called “police brutality. Brutality refers to use of force by the police. In (2002), liquin examined police brutality using multiple variant analyses at the organizational level. He found out that police use of force has an organizational and individual intonation.

Historically in Nigeria, police violence was embedded at onset in colonial rule. Colonialism structured along indirect/imperial rule which is “hostile to the Institutions of popular self government, favouring forms of political tyranny and social authority which are deadly enemies of effective liberty and equality”. The use of force in colonial days was to silent the native people against their excesses. Given the repressive political structure and exploitative economic relations that constitute the bedrock of Nigerian society, from the onset, the use of force became ingrained in Nigerian policing

Kelling and More (1988), arrived at the conclusion in his study that many victims do not report police violent. The public is always in disadvantage position in reporting violent officers. Thus, many road users do not report excessive use of force; this is so because; they perceive that they are at the mercy of the police. Reporting a police officer to another police officer is just a mockery of oneself. Following the rule of

esprit de corp, which suggests that, they protect and shield each other. There are obstacles to reporting of violent act, for example “the fear of personal reprisal, complex documentation procedure, and the possibility of being prosecuted for false report” (Kelling, et al 1988). The use of abusive words is common among women police officers. This is connected with the “woman” phenomena or self defence strategy. Grennan (Ebisike 2007), validated this by saying that;

Individual-level data provided evidence that women officers act favourably to reducing the likelihood of violence in police-citizen encounters (Ebisike 2007)

Female police officers “initiated fewer detentions and made fewer felony and misdemeanour arrests” (Lersch and Mieczkowski 1996 and Lgun 2002). Matthew and Hickman (2006) revealed that municipal police violence is higher. Abraham and Tennenbaum 1994) reported that, Garner held that laws authorizing police use of deadly force to apprehend fleeing, unarmed, non-violent felony suspects violates the new amendment of the law. To Abraham those arms are meant for self-defence and not to be used against harmless citizens who may be agitating for their right or fleeing for safety. But victims fleeing away have reported, that “the heavy arms are not used for self-defence” (Green 2019 and Kelling and More (1988)). The public has complained helplessly about police arbitrary or unjustly shooting. Police officers used arm violence and deadly force against road users for extortion rather than defending and controlling crime. Armed violence means “the intentional use, or threatened use, of weapons to inflict injury, death, psychosocial harm or damage, which may undermine development”, deadly force are the force likely to cause, or capable of causing death (Khumalo 2016).

Road users and commercial drivers suffer high blood pressure or most possibly loss of control in steering when police officers are on any patrol or Escorting. Escorting is the “use of light pressure to guide a person or keep a person in place” (Braga 2019). During the escort road users are intimidated, they are pushed out of the way or flogged with mighty wipe to gain access to pass. A resistance either intentional or otherwise even at holdups attracts severe beating. They often press road user against any available object, place or things. In the process, some are left with injury, maim and disfigurement. The police resort to the use of deadly weapon when subject refuses to respond to verbal commands or other directions. Civilians making physically evasive movements to defeat the officer’s attempt at control, including bracing, tensing, or pushing, or verbally signalling an intention to or prevent being taken into or retained in custody, may develop fighting stance, charges, strikes or kicks an officer or verbally or physically assault the police. Noncompliance of road users to police officers is the fact that, they have lost confidence in them. Road user’s refuses to stop or decline to be extorted, the normative practice are violated. This is validated by the following statement as captured below;

“Participation in dispelling crimogenic social conditions...contribute towards the creation or reinforcement of trust in communities...strengthen the security of persons and property and the feeling of security of persons... investigate, detect as well as set in motion the examination crime within the rule of law”
(Etannibi and Innocent 2000)

These responsibilities have been violated on many occasions, these problems according to several authors is adduced to the fact that the police are inadequately trained for the task of police work. They are poorly remunerated and equipped and resented by the public (Grennan 1987). They resolve to extorting material things from road users. They become prone to react to public demand for effectiveness and politeness rather cynically and aggressive road user. They collect items of any kind ranging from cash, pure water, bread, yam, rice, fish, recharge cards, alcoholic drinks, cigarettes, hard drugs like ‘‘Indian Herm’’, take mixture of alcohol and cocaine or mixture coined and called monkey tail’ etc.

However we often hear that Nigerian police is corrupt, the corruptness is not unconnected with the police extortion of money, aiding and abating criminals. Most times, evidence has shown that they are corrupted by aiding and abating criminals or hide an offensive citizen. All these act balls down to monetary gains. They act unconstitutional and against the rule that set them up. This is vividly captured as follows:

Police brutality is one of the major obstacles to the prospect of the Nigerian police being a positive factor in pro-poor change initiatives. The Nigeria police are involved in unlawful shooting, maiming and killing of citizens. Often, they were laws unto themselves, maiming, killing and detaining persons arbitrarily and with impunity (Etannibi and Innocent 2000).

The Nigerian police are corrupted at different levels. The most popular form of corruption that could be identified with the police is bribery known as extortion of material things both in cash and kind. Secondly, police are known to be corrupted by engaging in what is called ‘aiding and abating’. Aiding and abating is a term used by layers which means helping in the actualization of criminal activities. Reports have shown that police officers give up their guns for robbers to use in robbery. They are also used to secure armed robbers from been shut by any other alerted force during operations. The case is worst when a questionable character recruited as a police degenerate to the extent of joining gangs in robbing activities. They accept bribes from accused persons for termination of prosecution and possible granting them for freedom. Female offenders are hurriedly scabbled for when arraigned at the police station and taken as a concubine, mistress or girlfriend. This situation or affairs exists

while the offender is still in their custody. Most times this situation continues after they are bailed. They easily dish out confidential information to their friends, family members and other significant others who may be under searchlight for a particular crime. The power and immunity of their uniform predispose police officers for various corruptions and crimes that go unpunished. Their violent act is not restricted to their spouse either.

Violence is an intentional or otherwise turning the emotional tension into emotional energy, usually by one side of the confrontation at the expense of the other. Some violent situations by the police are for “self-help“. But in any case police have a peculiar culture of dealing with the public known as “culture of violence”. Threats are ‘situational dynamics‘ used to coerce victims. Westmarland (2001) is of the opinion that the police threaten to “use violence if money or valuables are not surrendered, they use violence to obtain compliance other than a demand for money or other valuables (including rape and "bullying")”.

The idea of mounting road blocks is connected with poor remunerations and poverty of police officers (Odita 2015). The only way they augment their pay is by extorting various kinds of items from the public. Roadblocks happen to be one of the avenues of achieving that goal. Come to think of it, is there any salary earner that the pay back home is sufficient for? All employees manage and live within the reach of their pay. Therefore, the attitude of mounting roadblocks under the guise of poor remuneration is a criminal act (Anon 2020). Violence as it appears in real-life situations, is concerned with the intertwining of human emotions of fear, anger, and excitement, in ways that run right against the conventional morality of normal situations (Alemika 2017). Therefore, the use of violence is an estrangement of the human and its self-dignity. Brutality is not primitive and modernization does not curtail it. It was encapsulated and enshrined into Nigeria governing arm for the suppression of natives by colonial masters. This mode of operation was handed down to the Indigenous leaders at the demise of colonial rule to Nigerian premier leaders. Since the structures and administrators under which it was created are still very much in existence, the use of force and violence continues unabated in Nigerian force (Smith, Kaminski, Alpert, Fridell, MacDonald, and Kubu 2010). Hence, violence becomes honourable, happy, ebullient, right *modus operandi* or at least in an in-between zone where it is socially excused and covertly encouraged, like it exists in Nigeria (Greene and Mastrofski 1991 and Oliver 2006).

As could be deduced from the above, poverty as the cry may be, is responsible for police roadblocks and extortion to supplement poor remuneration is an ingrained act in the individual person(s) or administratively. But reports has shown that extortion is a habit formed over a long time. Poverty is not a cogent factor for police extorting the public. According to a Oliver (2006) “e dey their blood”, “ na their way”. Randall (2007) made his observations wherever there was something to spot out in the broad light from policemen. The following vividly captured his observations that poverty is far from the cause of extortions at roadblock and the use of violence by police.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The research made use of both micro and macro theories. Two theories which look at the individual and the structural aspects have been used to explain police violence and brutality

Predatory violence as coined by its proponents is the “use of physical force in the acquisition of wealth or other resources, such as money, property, sexual acquisition of freedom and the use of violence by a nation-state to seize the territory of another nation-state”. “The intentional use, or threatened use, of weapons to inflict injury, death or psychosocial harm undermines development.” The individual becomes traumatized on the road and may lose control of situation. Hence the police forcefully extort items ranging from money to other items, both in cash and kind. Nigerians lose control when strained and constrained beyond limit.

Structural Theory

Violent structure theorist believes that the structure of Nigerian police is built on the notion of violence. During the colonial era, local natives who are owners of land with great authorities were coerced by the use of force with the aid of “local ordinaries” to give up their landed property and valuables. Their major tools of operation that they know to be potent in coercing and enforcing their commands were the use of violence. This violent structure became ingrained even after the end of colonial era in Nigeria. This force became the security measures which now form the major tool of control in Nigerian security institutions.

However, most Nigerian police recruited lack good training. Majority of the Nigerian police officers are under aged (age 12, 14, 17). In most cases lack of basic source of livelihood or hope of furthering their education force a teenager into being a recruit in Nigerian police force. With little or no experience as a result of basic professional qualification coupled with frustrated background (home, economic background), they are most likely to use violence to show might in coercing individual or group in the face of resistance. Hence, as a result of incompetence or inexperience, when they perceive that their authority is been challenged, they resort to physical violence. The police use great degree of force necessary to gain and maintain control. They therefore use abusive words to insult and subsequently may assault their victims. When it gets to its threshold, the victims react with violent retaliation as a result of strain syndrome. When harmless citizens use violence in a moral sense unilaterally, it is social control measure through self-help. The use of predatory (force) violence for the extortion and exploitation of the masses becomes offensive and an act of infringement on human rights. Citizens become resistant to doing offering when they know that their papers are complete and that they have not contravened the traffic rules. Paying any money becomes infuriating. People perceive that the police are inefficient and they are not dedicated to their duty especially when they pull the uniforms and take to their heels. When interrogated, they quickly give the reply that “I am not posted to the crime scene, my domain is here, not that place”.

In a nutshell, the organisation, recruit, promotion and punishment of Nigerian police force may be responsible for the numerous inadequacies associated with Nigerian police force.

METHODS

The research design adopted was descriptive and co-relational research design.. Data used for analyses in this study was gathered through the use of both quantitative and qualitative techniques. The researcher also used the ethno methodologist's technique in data gathering.

The total population was estimated to be 10,154, while the sample frame for study is 412. A total of 291 questionnaires were administered to the following category of road users in Abraka and environs in Ethiope East of Delta State; Commercial drivers/motor Park touts, Market women, the police, students, professionals and middle socio-economic status. The researcher also Survey the public using the in-depth interview method. Nevertheless, the researcher is not unaware of police violence on road users. Personal observation was used to validate what respondents accounted.

Respondent for the research were randomly selected while the various motor parks visited were purposively selected. The researcher carefully selected the parks that are strategic and are well patronized by traveller. Abraka, an institution based community was purposively chosen as the research setting due to the predominance of police violence. From a total of 11 motor parks that were operative, five was randomly selected by balloting. The respondents that were issued questionnaire were randomly sampled. Interview, purposively sampled target respondents who were directly concerned with use of road on a daily basis. This group comprised, bus drivers, agberos, motor boys, police officers and market women.

DATA ANALYSIS

The completed questionnaires were analyzed using the descriptive analytical tool. Raw data were coded, and categorised. The complementary Statistical tools were used to generate frequencies, percentages and contingency (cross –tabulation) tables in analysing data. Being a descriptive study, the analysis of the data presented comparative and relative frequencies and percentages within and between variables. The first section (Table 1) focused on individual experiences of police violence towards them and other members of the public. (Table 2.) Focus on individual encounter with the police and their location. Table 3 and 4 analyzed the possible factors responsible for police violence, and effects of police violence on road users. Table 5 analyzed the relevance of the Nigerian police.

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Police violence on road user

Respondents Experience	Responses		Total
Variables	Percentage Yes	Percentage No	
Ever abused by Nigeria police	99.7%	.3%	100%
Ever slapped	50.2%	49.8%	100%
Ever kicked	19.9%	80.1%	100%
Ever beaten	29.9%	70.1%	100%
Ever injured by police	19.9%	80.1%	100%
Police ever pointed gun at you	90.0%	10.0%	100%
Police ever threatened to shoot you	89.0%	11.0%	100%
Seized your means of transport	88.3%	11.7%	100%
Discharge people from Vehicle	100.0%	100.0%	100%

Table 1.1: Respondent has ever witnessed police violence on others

Respondents observations Variables	Percentage Yes	Percentage No	Total
Police abusing citizen or suspect	100%		100%
police inflicting injury on a citizen or suspect	100%		100%
police pointing a gun at a citizen or suspect	100%		100%
police shooting a citizen or suspect	100%		100%
police receiving bribe	100%		100%
police slapping a citizen or suspect	100%		100%
police kicking a citizen or suspect	100%		100.0%

From the data analysis, table 1 show respectively that, respondents who are road users revealed that they have been abused (99.1%), slapped (50.2%), kicked (19.9%), beaten (29.9%), injured (19.9%), pointed with gun (90.0%), threatened to shoot (89.0%), and in most cases, seize means of transportation (88.3%), as well as discharging of passengers from the vehicle.

Table 1.1 shows that (100%) respondents have witnessed scene(s) where police violate the right of citizens. Majority reported that they have experienced or seen situations where a police officer abuse, inflicts injury, points gun, shoot, receive, slap and kick a suspect.

Table 2: Contacts with the Police in respect to Stop, Search, Arrest and Detention

Respondents contacts with police on the road	Responses in Percentage			
Variables	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Ever stopped and searched by the Nigeria police	80.1%	19.9%		
Location of stop and search contacts	49.8%	10.0%		
❖ At work				
❖ In a vehicle on a journey	69.8%			
❖ In a vehicle within town	20.3%			
❖ On a street	10.0%	10.0%		
❖ Within residence	10.0%			
Period or time of contact	80.1%			
➤ Day time				
➤ Dawn				
➤ Evening	29.9%			
Ever arrested by Nigeria Police	99.7%		.3%	
• Once	29.9%			
• Twice	10.0%	10.0%		
• Thrice or more	49.8%			
Offence for which you were arrested	49.8%			
Disobeying Traffic rules				
Theft				
Fighting				
Overloading	29.9%			
Incomplete papers		29.9%		
Expired Licence	19.9%			
Refusal to stop at check point	69.8%			
Refusal to police extortion	69.8%			
Ever detained by a police	49.8%			
How Long,	19.9%			
▪ Minutes				
▪ Hours	39.9%			
▪ Days	10.0%			
▪ Weeks				
▪ Years				

Table 2 above revealed that, (81.1% & 19.9%) of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that, they have been stopped and search by Nigerian police for various reasons at different locations ranging from work place, in a vehicle on a journey, vehicle within town, on a street, within residence.

Table 3: Factors responsible for police violence

Variables	Responses	
	Yes	No
Gender	49.1%	50.9%
Age	48.5%	51.5%
Poverty	29.9%	70.1%
Resistance from Road users	10.0%	90.0%
Abusive words from road users	19.9%	80.1%
Pressure from boss to meet target	89.0%	11.0%

Table three above shows that the relationship between gender and police violence are at variance. It therefore means that being a female or male is not a factor to becoming violent, it is a cooperate culture that is been exhibited by majority. (51.5%) who responded (yes) which is a slightly higher than (48.5%, No) show that age affects rate at which a police officer is violent. The younger ones according to the interviewee, wants to show skills and expertise. They become more prone to using violence in enforcing compliance. They only hand over the case to a superior when the situation goes out of control. (70.1% yes) as against (29.9% No) agreed that poverty has no correlation with extortion and police violent behavioural manifestation. Those interviewed revealed that it is part of them by saying 'e de their blood'. According to a respondent, who said as captured verbatim, "Na their way". Thus (89.0%) revealed that police violence occurs as a result of pressure from their boss who expects them to remit certain amount of money at the close of the day. To validate this assertion, an interviewee accounted that, 'they extort this money to fuel and repair their car'. To this respondent, these acts remain ingrained because, when Government provides them with car, buses or Bikes popularly known as Okada as the case may be for operation and patrol, they are not financed to maintain them for day to day operation. Apart from culture of violence, a respondent revealed that, police violence is recurrent especially officers who is addicted to the use of alcohol and use of hard drugs.

Table 4 Effects of police violence on road users

Variables	Responses	
	Percentage Yes	Percentage No
Frustration	100.0%	
Conflicts	90%	10%
Depression	69.4%	30.6%
Loss of emotional control	60.1%	39.9%
Accidents	89.3%	10.7%
Emotional outburst	50.2%	49.8%
Loss of resource	89.0%	11.0%

There are numerous effects of violence on road user who have encountered or witnessed violent scenes. Respondents agreed that police violence result to frustration. Police violence create conflict and depression in victims. Victims lose emotional control, it leads to fatal accidents and loss of tangible resource both in human and material.

Table 5 The Nigeria police are efficiently and relevant.

Variables	Responses	
	Yes	No
Nigerian police are Relevant	97%	3%
Nigerian police are efficient	31%	69%

From the above table, 97% agreed that the Nigerian police are relevant but 69% who though agreed that they are relevant perceived that they are inefficient. In other words, in as much as that they are relevant, the Nigerian police have been deficient in carrying out their duty.

Results shows that police violence have psychological and economic problems on victims. This has created psychological problems often leading to life injury, pain and death of helpless citizens. Against the predictor and strain explanations of police violence, a total of 29.9% and 69.8% respondents revealed that most violence is caused by overloading or refusal to stop at check points. Noncompliance is largely responsible for psychological frustrations, injury and death of many road users. Road users are enjoined to obey the rules governing roads and its users. Conscious or otherwise use of violence should be avoided. Best-trained and most honest candidates should be employed as police officers.

DISCUSSION

Violent behavior is defined as intentional use of physical force against another person. A respondent revealed that, “the use of violence by Nigerian Police is perceived as a source of pride and honor, especially among the new recruited male police officers. To them, violence portrays competence and might. The intentional use of words, or weapon to threaten and inflict injury, or psychosocial harm on road users according to respondents leaves the victim traumatized. This psychological trauma lowers performance thus development. In most cases, the driver experience emotional outburst and becomes unstable and aggressive while on the journey. After release, they lose control, in anger they drive rough. Victims suffer systems imbalance. This has led to the collision of most aggrieved driver with another oncoming vehicle(s). Furthermore, drivers who try to negotiate to escape police check points often collide with another vehicle. Some run into the bush. These acts have caused a lot of multiple accident involving big Lorries and other smaller cars. In this instance, larger percentage of road users perishes like animal. Experiences have shown that the police are not remorseful when these negative happenings occur. In a situation where the victims are lucky to survive, the police drag them even half-naked and barefoot, many with bruised faces and scares are taken to their “joint” where they will be charged heavily.

The hypothesis which states that, Poverty is responsible for roadblock and extortion was rejected. Results showed that it is an inherent practice found in police officers. An interviewee recounted by saying, “e no be poverty, e dey their blood”. Hence, they develop different vocabulary like “match it”, “park well”, “see me”, “do something”, “closing remark”, “watin dey for your boy”, your boy dey hungry, roger, offering, “wash my hand” and “shake body”, are used in the process of extortion.

Results have shown that, the use of abusive words and violence on road users often result to psychological imbalance, this often leads to accident. In an attempt to escape extortion at police check point, many drivers collide with other vehicles. Some encounter robbers as they pass illegal roads on bush part just to escape extortion. Wrong and unexpected roadblocks have resulted to instant deaths. Many sustain life injuries as a result of police reckless act. The psychological trauma leaves many as psychiatric patients.

The hypothesis which suggests that, delaying, arresting and discharging of passengers has economic implication holds true as drivers are compelled to pay some fine. Refusal to pay leads to discharge of passengers who are likely to demand for refund of transport fare. This situation causes economic loss and frustration for not only the driver but their family that are dependent on them. It is obvious that, the extortion of material wealth either in cash or in kind is not supported constitutionally. Mounting roadblocks by police officers has many implications other than the intended aims and objectives. On gender, men are overwhelmingly the most aggressive user of violence and force to enforce compliance by road users. Nevertheless, female police officers also use aggressive method approach when faced with a challenging situation. Age, it is relative, but young police officers are more prone in using forcing on the road users. Concerning upbringing, those that is prone to using force and chronic violence where raised in violent situations.

CONCLUSION

From the above analysis, Nigerian police is relevant but are perceived as inefficient due to organizational and individual factors. Road users unavoidably encounter police violence on daily basis as they embark on daily routine. Culture, institutionalized structures and habit rather poverty are major factors responsible for unwholesome act. This brutal experience suffices in two mutually excluding dimensions. The use of fierce physical force and the other non-physical force such as verbal abuse of persons demean authority that empowers them. Reason for violating victims ranges from incomplete papers, illegitimate, unlawful trespass and conveyance of contraband goods. The aftermath from the incidents that occur as a result of the encounter by road users and police has left many as a life patient in hospital and homes. The economic implications of police violence are enormous. We hope that the recent law forbidding police violence on road users by the police will stand the taste of time while addressing road and police related hazards

Recommendation

In line with research findings which are in tandem with professional model, only the best-trained and most honest candidates should be employed as police officers. The

bureaucratic rules and regulations should be use strictly to closely supervise police officer and their activities. To control police behaviour, proper behaviour should be rewarded. Promoting police officers based on their amount of remittance to their boss should be discouraged. A dignified method of promoting officers based on hard work will not only reduce the scrabble on the high way but also inculcate the habit of hard work.

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