

Socio-Structural Pressures and the Challenges of Survival and Crime Committal in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The continued high poverty indices recorded among Third World countries indicate their inability to attain development goals in target time. Despite development efforts of World Bank and other benefactors, Third World countries have continued to experience underdevelopment. The pervading circumstances are attributed to the ineptitude of leadership in democratic governance and in ensuring equal opportunities for all to pursue decent livelihood. Moreover, poverty and crime have been identified as having twin relationship in undermining development of entrepreneurship and regenerative economy characteristic of the current technology- and market-driven economy. This paper examines the interrelationship between socio-structural pressures, survival needs and crime committal, using observable instances in Nigeria as points of illustration. The social structure is observed to be exerting undue pressures on people for goal attainment without proportionate emphasis on accessible means. This paper is basically descriptive and analytical. It relied mostly on library materials. It contends that the pressures of the social structure on crime committal can be curtailed if the roles of the state are aggressively pursued with the necessary structures for democratic governance. It suggests a stronger integration of rural economy with global market economy, establishment of rural micro finance projects, curtailing incidences of culture of materialism and aggressive moral and attitudinal change as measures to encourage patriotism and discourage criminal propensities as survival strategies.