

## **ASSESSMENT OF FAITHBASED CRIME PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN A THIRD WORLD CITY: CASE OF IFO, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Religion has assumed a prominent position in reducing crime in our modern society with individual faith playing the fundamental role. This study investigates faith based crime prevention measures in the residential areas of Ifo. A total of 267 copies of a structured questionnaire were administered among the residents of the study area using a multi stage sampling technique targeting the household heads. Six indices were developed. These include Crime Incidence Index (CII); Christian Crime Preventive Measure Index (CCPMI); Islamic Crime Preventive Measure Index (ICPMI); Traditional Crime Preventive Measure Index (TCPMI); Effectiveness of Crime Preventive Measures Index (ECPMI) and Reasons for Usage Index (RUI). CII and CCPMI was used to measure residents' perception of crime incidence and level of usage of Christian crime preventive measures while ICPMI and TCPMI was used to measure level of usage of Islamic and traditional crime preventive measures respectively. ECPMI and RUI was used to determine residents' perceived level of effectiveness and reasons for usage of crime preventive measure respectively. ANOVA was used in testing the spatial variation in the level of usage of faith based in the study area. The study observed that house breaking and gambling have the highest level of incidence with CII value of 3.85 and 3.79 respectively. The study revealed that bible is the majorly used (ICPMI =2.78) and the most effective (ECPMI=2.79) Christian crime preventive measures while 'turari' is the majorly used (ICPMI=2.80) and most effective (ECPMI=2.86) Islamic crime preventive measures. The study observed that there is no spatial variation in the level of usage of both Christian and Islamic crime preventive measures among the three residential densities (for CCPMI,  $F=1.264$ ,  $p=0.301$ ; for ICPMI,  $F=0.470$ ,  $p=0.31$ ). There is however spatial variation in the level of usage of traditional crime preventive measures ( $F=46.557$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). 'Eti -agbeko' was the majorly used (TCPMI = 1.57) and most effective (ECPMI = 2.09) traditional crime preventive measure. The study recommended a critical examination of faith based crime control devices because of the seeming abstractness associated with it.

**KEYWORDS:** Assessment of Faithbased Crime Preventive Measures in a Third World City