

Gender Difference in Crime Involvement in Adamawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract — This paper examines the gender difference in crime involvement between males and females. The null hypothesis tested was that there is no significance difference in gender crime involvement in Adamawa State. The data used for this paper were for the period of 2005 to 2012. Ten crime types that included theft, cheating, trespass, enticement, deformation of character, mischief, force and assault, conspiracy, intimidation, being in possession were considered for this research work. The data obtained were analyzed using Z-Test at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the analysis shows that, there is clear evidence that females commit less crime than males. The study recommends that, there should be Prompt and consistent punishment for male offenders so as to help reduce the incidence of male crime in the State.

Keywords — *Z-Test Statistic; Crime; Gender.*

I. INTRODUCTION

According to Lindsay (2008), defined a crime as been created by the law or is a product of the law. That is, where there is no law, there will be no crime; an act can only be regarded as a crime if there is a law that sees or classifies it as such. The Oxford English Dictionary (2009) defines crime as an unlawful act punishable by the state. It is an act, which could be harmful to an individual, some individuals and the larger society. Through an established system of laws, the society defines what is and what crime is or is not. For an act to be an offense or crime there must be an extant law prohibiting such an act. Consequently, crime occurs when an individual breaks or acts against the law. Crime could be an overt act, omission or neglect that can result in punishment.

In Nigeria, the issue of criminality has been a gender issue females are no longer playing a role of second fiddle, they engage in such activities, in which males do, in order to make a living or to control the family especially where the breadwinner had died. Because of the difficulty in achieving these goals, the tendency of criminality becomes paramount in women's circles. For the fact that female criminality had not been stressed as male, the endeavor is therefore pertinent to fill the gap that has been left open in the body of literature constituting the subject matter to sex differences in criminal behavior (Oluwadere and Agboola, 2011).

According PRAWA (2000) publication, stated that there are significant differences between male and female offense rates (in some cases the ratio is as high as 16:1) in indictable offenses. This has kept the number of women in prison

custody in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world relatively low compared to the men.

There had been differences in the crimes committed by male and female in various stages, throughout the world. Male criminality became the most significant issue in the literary discussion of crime, which gave female criminality little or no attention (Oluwadere and Agboola, 2011). Hence this study seeks to examine the gender difference in crime involvement and to analyze the gender pattern of crime, according to offense type in Adamawa State Nigeria.

Hypothesis:

There is no significance difference in gender crime involvement in Adamawa State.

II. METHODS

A. Study Area

The area of study is Adamawa State located in the North Eastern part of Nigeria, which was carved out of the former Gongola State on the 17th August 1991, with headquarters in Yola. It is bordered by Borno and Yobe State in the North, Gombe State in the West, Taraba State in the South and the Republic of Cameroun from the East (along the Nigerian international border). It lies between latitude 8° N and 11° and longitude 11.5° and 13.5°E. It covers a land mass of 39,742.12 square Kilometers that is about 4.4% of the land area of Nigeria. It has a population of 3,168,101 based on the 2006 census. The state has 21 local Government areas and 50 State Development Areas (Adamawa State Government House Dairy, 2014).

B. Population

The study population covers 11392 people that were convicted of criminal offenses in Adamawa State. The data were extracted from Adamawa State Statistical Year Book 2012.

C. Source of Data

The study was based on secondary data which was extracted from Adamawa State Statistical Year Book 2012 for the period of 5 years from 2008-2012.

D. Test of Hypothesis

The stated hypothesis was tested using Z-test stated below:

$$Z = \frac{p_i - p_j}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{p_i q_i}{n_i} + \frac{p_j q_j}{n_j}\right)}} \sim N(0,1) \text{ at } \alpha = 0.05$$

Where

p_i = the proportion of males

p_j = the proportion of females

q_i = one minus the proportion of males

q_j = one minus the proportion of females

n_i = the number of males

n_j = the number of females

Decision Rule:

If $|Z_{cal}| \leq Z_{tab}$, reject the null hypothesis, otherwise accept.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

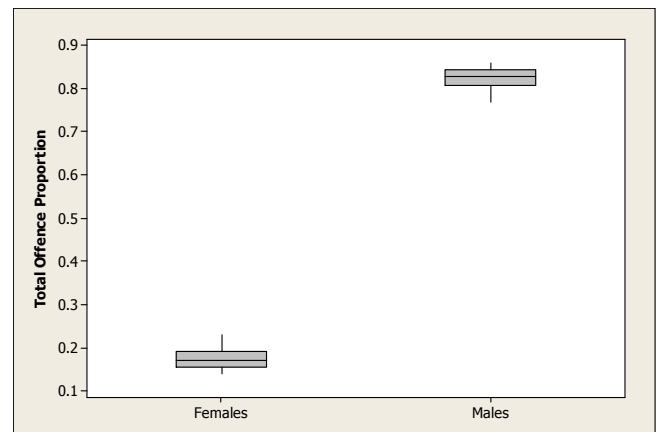


Fig. 1. Show the boxplot of Gender Difference in Offense

Fig. 1. depicts clear evidence that females have lower representation than males do with committing crimes.

In the table above, the proportion of male offense is more than those of the female. A vivid observation revealed that all the criminals are male biased in terms of gender. In all the offenses the hypothesis is rejected. This is an indication that males commit crimes more than females in Adamawa State.

TABLE 1. TOTAL OFFENSE BY GENDER BETWEEN THE PERIODS 2008-2012

S/N	Crimes	P_1	P_2	n_1	n_2	Z_{cal}	Decision
1	Theft	0.86	0.14	1691	284	32.36	Reject
2	Cheating	0.82	0.18	1050	223	22.59	Reject
3	Trespass	0.84	0.16	826	152	21.02	Reject
4	Enticement	0.83	0.17	732	153	19.77	Reject
5	Deformation of Character	0.77	0.23	898	269	18.46	Reject
6	Mischief	0.84	0.16	830	153	21.08	Reject
7	Force & Assault	0.81	0.19	1139	268	23.28	Reject
8	Conspiracy	0.80	0.20	553	141	15.90	Reject
9	Intimidation	0.83	0.17	903	180	21.53	Reject
10	Being in Possession	0.86	0.14	813	134	22.26	Reject

Critical Value $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$

TABLE 2: GENDER PATTERN OF CRIMES ACCORDING TO OFFENSE TYPE BETWEEN 2008-2012

S/N	Crimes	M	F	p_i	p_j	q_i	q_j	Z_{cal}	Decision
1	Theft	1691	284	0.83	0.17	0.17	0.83	31.24	Rejected
2	Cheating	1050	223						
3	Trespass	826	152						
4	Enticement	732	153						
5	Deformation of Character	898	269						
6	Mischief	830	153						
7	Force & Assault	1139	268						
8	Conspiracy	553	141						
9	Intimidation	903	180						
10	Being in Possession	813	134						

Critical Value $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$

The above table presents the gender pattern of crimes, according to offense type. Since Z_{cal} is greater than Z_{tab} we then reject the null hypothesis that male and female crime is same.

IV. CONCLUSION

The bond between gender and crime is strong and insistent, and is likely to remain so. Females have traditionally been much less likely than men to commit crimes. Based on the findings of this research, there is clear evidence from the results that females commit less crime than males. In order to condense this high rate of crime among males in Adamawa State, there should be Prompt and consistent punishment for male offenders so as to help reduce the incidence of male crime in the State.

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