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# The Rising Culture of Quick Money: Social Impacts on Youth and Communities in Ondo State

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## Abstract

This study investigated the rising culture of quick money and its social impacts on youths and communities in Ondo State. Two research questions were raised, and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. A descriptive survey design was adopted. The target population comprised male and female youths aged 17 to 45 in the Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State. The sample consisted of 120 youths—60 males and 60 females—selected from five communities using multistage, stratified, and simple random sampling techniques. A 25-item questionnaire, tested for reliability, was used as the instrument for data collection and was personally administered to respondents. Data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), while hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistic. Findings revealed that factors such as laziness, unemployment, peer group influence, corruption, and parental pressure contribute significantly to the rising culture of quick money. The consequences include loss of life, negative international image, sexual abuse, social isolation, and racism. The study also found no significant differences in the perceptions of male and female youths, as well as between less-educated and highly educated youths regarding the phenomenon. It was recommended, among other things, that a massive campaign and sensitization exercise against the menace be encouraged and actively supported by parents and other stakeholders.

## Keywords

Quick money, Culture, Youths, Social impacts, Communities, Ondo State.

## INTRODUCTION

Demand for this single behavior is permeating every aspect of our lives, day or night. The quick money syndrome, as it is commonly called, is a serious ethical and social problem in Nigerian society today. It is possible to view the quick money syndrome as a disease or disorder that influences people's perceptions of earning or desperately wanting quick money. It pushes people to seek out income-generating opportunities, the majority of which are immoral or unlawful. In essence, this illness causes young people to resort to taking shortcuts through nefarious ways in an attempt to become wealthy. The irresponsibility of many young people is very infectious and has become engrained in their thinking. Our society's high rate of crime and lack of

discipline has made it simpler for young people to commit more crimes in order to earn money. Because everyone wants to get rich quickly and doesn't want to put in the extra effort, honesty, prudence, and dignity of work that will surely pay off in the end, it is extremely concerning that society now promotes some of these "get rich quick" mentalities. Almost every aspect of our society is affected by the quick money syndrome.

The typical Nigerian man lives in poverty. Although Nigeria is endowed with abundant natural, human, and financial resources, the vast majority of its citizens live in extreme poverty due to unequal wealth distribution (World Bank, 2020).

Inequality in wealth distribution, youth unemployment, and corruption, especially among public officials and politicians, have all contributed to the nation's rising poverty rate (Ucha, 2010). Because of these, poverty in Nigeria is linked to several negative outcomes. High crime rates, including cyber fraud, kidnapping, prostitution, and motivated ritual killings for financial gain by the current generation of Nigerian youths, are a few of these effects.

Nowadays, it is thought that the simplest method to get money, get rich fast, and amass fortune in Nigeria is to commit crimes, especially cybercrime or the use of human body parts for money rituals (Osinowo 2019). The get-rich-quick syndrome, also referred to as "how to make quick money," is one of the most common social vices that Nigerian youth associate with the internet and social media. These young people's overwhelming drive to gain money or become wealthy rapidly is not exclusive to Nigerian youth; rather, it is a global phenomenon that has expanded throughout the world as a result of digital revolution (Ajao, 2022).

This mindset is not exclusive to Ondo State youth, though; many young Nigerians today aspire to own large mansions, drive fancy cars, and spend time with attractive young women without having to manage a business. They then engage in a wide range of nefarious activities, such as armed robbery, kidnapping, yahoo-yahoo, murder, and ritual killings, among others, in order to quickly amass fortune. This "quick-money syndrome" has taken a particularly dangerous and reprehensible turn in Ondo State, especially among the youth, whose actions often involve human rights violations.

## Statement of Problem

In today's digital world, skills such as social media content creation, programming, web and mobile app design, video editing, online forex and bitcoin trading, cartoon animation, and computer game development have become legitimate avenues for earning income, often without the need for a university education (Ajao, 2022). However, the situation appears different among many Nigerian youths, who seem to have been negatively socialized into using digital skills for illicit activities. These include glamorized forms of cybercrime such as "Yahoo-Yahoo," "Yahoo-Plus," and other internet fraud schemes involving hacking bank accounts, drug trafficking, armed robbery, prostitution, murder, human trafficking, electoral violence, 419 scams, assassination, kidnapping, and ritual killings. The prevalence of these practices has reached a disturbing level, where common decency is no longer considered common.

Despite the seriousness of this issue, there is a lack of empirical research focused on it. This gap is particularly troubling, as the increasing normalization of these behaviors may have a detrimental impact on communities, including those in Ondo State.

## Purpose of the Study

The aim of this research is to assess the rising culture of quick money and its social impact on youths and communities in Ondo State. Specifically, the study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To identify the causes and challenges associated with the "get-rich-quick" syndrome among youths in Ondo State.
- To examine the social and personal impacts of the "get-rich-quick" mentality on young people in the region.
- To determine effective corrective measures that can help curb the negative effects of this syndrome on the lives of youths in Ondo State.

## Significance of the Study

This study is of immense significance for several reasons:

Firstly, the quick-money syndrome is a serious societal issue in Nigeria, posing a moral and social threat. It calls for urgent intervention by the government, non-governmental organizations, community leaders, and well-meaning individuals to curb its spread and negative impact. This research aims to contribute to these efforts by shedding light on how this issue affects youths and how it can be addressed.

Secondly, the study adds to the existing body of literature on the rising culture of quick wealth acquisition. It will serve as a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and other researchers who may wish to explore this topic further or develop strategies to combat its harmful effects.

Finally, this study seeks to inspire and encourage hardworking, morally upright young individuals. By highlighting the consequences of unethical shortcuts to success, the research emphasizes that persistence, integrity, and hard work remain the most sustainable and rewarding paths in life..

## Research Question

The study was guided by the following questions:

- What are the ways in which youths indulge in quick money syndrome?
- What are the societal impact of quick money syndrome on youths and communities in Ondo State?

## Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study.

Ho1: There is no significant difference in the perception of male and female youth on quick money syndrome.

Ho2: There is a significant difference in the perception of less and highly educated youth on social impacts of quick money syndrome on youth and communities in Ondo state.

## Theoretical Framework

Crime is one of the most complex and ambiguous concepts in sociology and related disciplines. The involvement of youths in Ondo State in illegal activities to acquire wealth quickly—often referred to as the "get-rich-quick" or quick-money syndrome—can be analyzed through the lens of Robert K. Merton's Strain Theory (1938).

According to Merton, society sets culturally approved goals and outlines legitimate, institutionalized means to achieve them. However, when individuals are unable to attain these goals through acceptable means, a state of strain or frustration may develop, leading some to seek alternative—often illegal—ways of achieving success. Merton identified five modes of individual adaptation to societal pressures: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, and rebellion. Of particular relevance to this study is innovation, which occurs when individuals accept societal goals (e.g., financial success) but reject the institutionalized means of achieving them, instead turning to illegitimate or criminal methods. This framework helps explain the engagement of some Nigerian youths in activities such as cybercrime, internet fraud, ritual killings, human trafficking, and other morally and legally unacceptable behaviors.

Furthermore, Max Weber (1864–1920) argued that social science alone may not fully explain why individuals engage in crime. He emphasized the importance of understanding the subjective meanings and motivations behind human actions, suggesting that sociocultural and personal factors must also be considered when analyzing deviant behavior.

Therefore, the theoretical foundation for this study is not based on a single explanation but is drawn from multiple sociological perspectives. Crime, especially in the context of the quick-money syndrome, is best understood through a multidimensional approach—one that acknowledges its roots in social inequality, cultural pressures, and individual agency. This framework provides a comprehensive basis for examining cybercrime, prostitution, human trafficking, and ritual killings as not only criminal acts but also as moral failings that society strongly condemns and seeks to eliminate.

## Concept of Quick Money Syndrome

Quick Money Syndrome (QMS) refers to a behavioral and psychological phenomenon where individuals exhibit an intense desire to acquire wealth rapidly, often through high-risk, speculative, or unsustainable means. It is characterized by the belief that financial success can be achieved without significant effort, long-term planning, or consistent discipline. This desire often manifests in choices that prioritize short-term gains over long-term stability.

From a psychological perspective, QMS can be understood through the lenses of behavioral finance and cognitive psychology. Individuals exhibiting this mindset often fall prey to heuristic biases, such as the representativeness heuristic, where people assume that high-profile success stories—such as lottery winners, celebrity entrepreneurs, or social media influencers—are typical or easily replicable outcomes (Kahneman & Tversky, 1974). This belief fosters unrealistic expectations about wealth accumulation.

Furthermore, overconfidence bias leads individuals to overestimate their ability to succeed in risky ventures, while present bias causes them to excessively discount the value of future rewards in favor of immediate gratification (Thaler, 1999). These cognitive distortions significantly impair rational decision-making, pushing individuals toward behaviors like gambling, speculative trading, cryptocurrency scams, and participation in fraudulent investment schemes such as Ponzi or pyramid schemes (e.g., MMM).

QMS is also reinforced by sociocultural influences. In many contemporary societies, particularly in developing nations like Nigeria, cultural narratives glorify material wealth and success, often ignoring the means by which they are achieved. Social media amplifies these narratives, showcasing extravagant lifestyles without context, thereby intensifying peer pressure and social comparison among youths. In such environments, wealth becomes a symbol of status, power, and respect, driving many young people to seek shortcuts to affluence.

In Nigeria, this syndrome has become increasingly prevalent among youths who, faced with limited economic opportunities, are drawn to illicit or morally questionable activities—including internet fraud (e.g., “Yahoo-Yahoo”), cybercrime, ritual killings, and drug trafficking—as perceived pathways to wealth and social recognition. These activities are often glamorized in music, movies, and online platforms, further normalizing the pursuit of fast money.

In sum, Quick Money Syndrome is not merely an individual behavioral flaw but a multidimensional issue rooted in cognitive bias, economic hardship, social inequality, and cultural conditioning. Addressing it requires both personal mindset change and broader societal interventions.

## Ways in which Youths Indulge in the Quick Money Syndrome.

There is nothing inherently wrong with making money or accumulating wealth through legitimate means, such as hard work, innovation, or entrepreneurship. In fact, striving to escape poverty through diligence and enterprise is commendable. However, the pursuit of wealth without genuine effort—what is commonly referred to as the “quick money syndrome”—has led many youths to engage in unethical, illegal, and dangerous practices. Below are some of the common ways in which Nigerian youths indulge in this trend:

1. **Internet Fraud (Cybercrime):** Internet fraud involves the use of digital technologies to deceive individuals or organizations for financial gain. This includes activities such as phishing, identity theft, romance scams, and business email compromise. According to Warf (2018), internet fraud is not a singular crime but a category encompassing numerous illegal actions committed in cyberspace. What differentiates it from outright theft is that victims often provide sensitive information or money voluntarily, though under false pretenses. In Nigeria, this has been popularly termed “Yahoo-Yahoo” and is glamorized in some subcultures.
2. **Illegal Oil Bunkering:** Illegal oil bunkering refers to the unauthorized tapping and theft of crude oil from pipelines and storage facilities. Between 2002 and 2009, many youths in the oil-rich Niger Delta region took up arms against the Nigerian government and multinational oil companies, citing neglect and exploitation. Amid this unrest, some turned to the illicit siphoning and selling of crude oil as a form of resistance and quick enrichment. The practice continues today in various forms, contributing to environmental degradation and economic loss.

3. **Money Rituals (Ritual Killings):** Money rituals involve engaging in occult practices believed to generate wealth, often through human sacrifice or the use of body parts. This trend has claimed many lives, particularly among youths desperate for instant riches. Adisa (2005) explains that rituals typically involve sacred and sacrificial acts. Unfortunately, in some parts of Nigeria, ritual killings have resurfaced as a shortcut to affluence, promoted by myths, traditional beliefs, and misinformation.
4. **Drug Smuggling and Trafficking:** Drug trafficking is the illegal trade of substances that are banned or strictly regulated. This global black market poses enormous health, security, and moral challenges. In Nigeria, some youths are lured into smuggling drugs across international borders, often unaware of the severe consequences. Penalties in many countries include long-term imprisonment and even capital punishment, as seen in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia (McCollum, 2002). Drug cartels often overlap with other criminal enterprises, including human trafficking and arms smuggling (Holmes et al., 2007).
5. **Kidnapping:** Kidnapping has become alarmingly prevalent in Nigeria and is now a common method of making quick money through ransom payments. Though historically rooted in criminal conflict or political unrest, modern-day kidnapping is largely driven by greed and economic desperation. Adewale (2009) notes that while kidnapping is not a new phenomenon, its current frequency and brutality make it one of Nigeria's most disturbing security concerns.
6. **Gambling and Sports Betting:** Gambling, particularly online sports betting, has become a widespread pastime among Nigerian youths. Binde (2005) defines gambling as the act of staking money or valuables on outcomes of uncertain events. While it can be a recreational activity, many young people—especially students and unemployed graduates—become addicted, hoping to “hit it big” and escape poverty. Moore (2013) identifies youths as a high-risk group for developing problematic gambling behavior. The easy accessibility of betting apps and platforms, often promoted by celebrities, has normalized gambling as a lifestyle rather than a risky activity.

## Factors Responsible for Quick Money Syndrome Among Youth

The Quick Money Syndrome has become a dangerous and widespread trend affecting youths and communities, particularly in Ondo State. This phenomenon is fueled by a number of interconnected factors, including the following:

1. **Lack of Contentment:** One of the leading causes of the Quick Money Syndrome is a deep-rooted lack of contentment among many Nigerian youths. Many young people compare themselves to their peers who appear to be successful—driving flashy cars, owning businesses, and living luxurious lifestyles. In an attempt to match these standards, they often resort to unethical or criminal means, without considering the consequences.
2. **Poverty:** Poverty is a major contributor. With a struggling economy and limited access to resources, many young people are left with few viable options. As a result, some turn to illegal activities such as money rituals, drug trafficking, prostitution, armed robbery, and smuggling as a means of survival.
3. **Laziness and the Desire for Instant Wealth:** A growing number of youths today shy away from hard work, believing that wealth should come easily or quickly. This mindset discourages persistence, patience, and the pursuit of legitimate opportunities, pushing them toward shortcuts that often end in regret.
4. **Unemployment:** Widespread unemployment is another critical issue. The government's failure to provide adequate job opportunities or to fulfill youth-centered development promises has created a sense of hopelessness. In such an environment, many young people feel they have no choice but to pursue quick money alternatives, regardless of the risks.
5. **Peer Pressure and Influence:** Peer group influence plays a powerful role. Youths are often driven by a desire to fit in or to gain social status among their peers. This pressure can lead to dangerous decisions, as they try to emulate friends who appear to be successful through questionable means. The result is a cycle of depression, anxiety, and in many cases, a short-lived and unstable lifestyle.

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

This study adopted a descriptive research design. This design was chosen because it enables the researcher to collect detailed and factual information about the phenomenon under study. Specifically, it allows for an in-depth investigation into the rising culture of "quick money" and its social impacts on youths and communities in Ondo State.

### Population

The population of this study comprises male and female youths residing in Okitipupa Local Government Area, located in the Southern Senatorial District of Ondo State.

### Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample was selected using a random sampling technique, ensuring that youths were chosen based on their locations within the local government area. A total of five towns within Okitipupa Local Government Area were randomly selected for the study. From these towns, a sample of 60 male and 60 female youths was randomly drawn, making a total of 120 participants.

The distribution of participants across the selected towns is presented and analyzed in Chapter Four of this study.

### Research Instrument

The instrument for this study was a questionnaire on the rising culture of quick money: social impacts on youth and communities in Ondo state. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section A contained questions that sought the demographic factors of the respondents. Section B contained twenty-three statements on the rising culture of quick money: social impacts on youth and communities in Ondo state, categorized into ways, factors responsible, and effects. The 4-point scale was used where a statement was followed by four options i.e., Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree. Agree will be score 1 point, strongly agree to 2 points, disagree 3 points, Strongly Disagree 4 points. The researchers adopted the 4-point scale based on their belief that the fifth option "Undecided" if introduced, will confuse the respondents. A respondent will be expected to select any of these options that correspond to the best of each statement.

### Validity of Instrument

A draft copy of the questionnaire was prepared and submitted to a colleague in a university for critique. After taking into cognizance the suggestion and comments, the final draft of the questionnaire was prepared and submitted to the research supervisor for approval before administration.

### Reliability of Instrument

The questionnaire was tested in (2) two communities not used for the study, within two weeks. Responses to the items in the questionnaire were correlated using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. A reliable coefficient of 0.75

### Method of Data Collection and Analysis

A total of one hundred and twenty (120) copies of a structured questionnaire were administered to selected youths in Ondo State. The direct contact approach was employed—where the researcher met with respondents face-to-face. This method helped minimize distractions, reduced unnecessary delays, and ensured the collection of accurate and reliable data.

To capture the opinions of the respondents, their responses were organized into tables and analyzed using frequencies, percentages, mean, and standard deviation. These statistical tools provided a comprehensive understanding of the rising culture of quick money and its social impacts on youths and communities in Ondo State.



Furthermore, the study's hypotheses were tested using the Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistical method to determine the significance of observed relationships.

## DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS, AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1: Analysis of responses to demographic variables of questionnaire**

Demographic variable	Groupings	Frequency	Percentage
The age bracket of youth	Below 17years	10	8.3
	18-30 years	89	74.2
	31-45 years	21	17.5
Gender of the Youth	Male	60	50.0
	Female	60	50.0
Marital Status	Single	103	85.8
	Married	17	14.2
Qualification of youth	SSCE	10	8.3
	ND/NCE	28	23.3
	HND	21	17.5
	B.Sc	54	45.0
	PGD Above	7	5.9
Religion	Christianity	56	46.7
	Islamic	32	26.6
	Traditional	21	17.5
	Others	11	9.2

The table 1 show the age distribution of the respondents, in this case, 10 or 8.33% of the respondents are below the age of 17 years, 81.11% or 89 respondents range between 18 - 30 years old while the remaining 21 or 17.5% of the respondents are between 31 - 45 years old. The distribution of respondents on the bases of gender revealed that 50% of the respondents were male and 50% of the respondents were female. It thus indicated that both male and female youths were duly represented with the research sample. The result in table indicated that most of the respondents 85.8% of them were single, while 14.2% of the respondents were married.

The survey also sought to know the academic qualification of respondents. In the table, 10 or 8.33% of the respondents are with SSCE, 28 or 23.32% of the respondents are with ND/NCE, 21 or 17.5% of the respondents are with HND, 54 or 45% of the respondents had B.Sc while the remaining 7 or 5.83% of the respondents are with PGD and Above. The

table reveal the religion distribution of the respondents in this case 46.7% are Christian, 26.7% are Islam, 17.5% are Traditionalist while 9.16% of the respondents are neither Christian, Muslim nor Traditionalist.

**Table 2: Perceived ways in which youths indulge in quick money syndrome**

S/N Challenges	S	A	D	SD	Mean	Remark
1 Internet Fraud	50	40	21	9	2.91	Accept
2 Illegal oil bunkering	49	25	15	31	2.77	Accept
3 Robbery	42	38	17	23	2.38	Accept
4 Kidnapping	41	35	26	18	2.84	Accept
5 Gambling / Betting	15	34	28	43	2.33	Reject
6 Human trafficking	38	42	17	23	2.83	Accept
7 Drug smuggling	42	38	18	22	2.83	Accept
8 Prostitution	35	41	26	18	2.84	Accept
9 Cannabis cultivation	21	29	38	32	2.33	Reject
10 Illegal shylock business	50	41	20	9	2.91	Accept

Calculated average= $(4+3+2+1)/4=2.5$  therefore any statement with an average response of 2.5 and above is regarded as perceived ways in which youths indulge in quick money syndrome

#### Answer to Question

An analysis of respondents' views on how youths in Ondo State engage in quick money syndrome is presented in Table 2. The data revealed that a significant proportion of respondents (75%) agreed that internet fraud is a major avenue through which youths in Ondo State pursue quick wealth, while 25% disagreed. Additionally, 61.6% of respondents affirmed that youths are involved in illegal oil bunkering, whereas 38.4% did not support this view.

Furthermore, 66.7% of the respondents believed that robbery is a means through which youths engage in quick money, while 33.3% disagreed. Similarly, 63.4% supported the notion that kidnapping is among the methods used by youths to attain quick wealth, but 36.6% held a contrary opinion.

Only 40.8% of the respondents agreed that gambling and betting are ways youths engage in quick money activities, while a majority (59.2%) rejected this claim. A total of 66.7% affirmed that human trafficking is one of the methods employed, with 33.3% in disagreement. Also, 66.7% of respondents believed that youths engage in drug smuggling, whereas 33.3% did not agree.

In addition, 63.4% supported the claim that prostitution is among the practices adopted by youths to gain quick money, while 36.6% disagreed. When asked about cannabis cultivation, 58.4% did not consider it a means of quick money, while 41.6% believed otherwise.

Lastly, a substantial 75.8% of respondents affirmed that the illegal Shylock business is a pathway to quick money among youths, while 24.2% disagreed.

In summary, as presented in Table 2, out of the ten listed statements, only two were rejected by the majority of respondents, indicating a general consensus on the prevalence of various illegal and unethical activities associated with the quick money syndrome among youths in Ondo State.



## Text of hypotheses

### Hypothesis 1

Ho1: There is no significant difference in the perception of male and female youth on quick money syndrome .

There is significant difference in the perception of male and female youth on quick money syndrome .

**Table 3: X2- test showing gender perception on ways in which youths indulge in quick money syndrome**

Factors	Male		Female	
	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected
	mean	mean	mean	mean
1 Internet Fraud	2.94	2.5	2.90	2.5
2 Illegal oil burkering	2.58	2.5	2.56	2.5
3 Robbery	2.90	2.5	2.66	2.5
4 Kidnapping	2.54	2.5	2.73	2.5
5 Gambling / Betting	2.42	2.5	2.47	2.5
6 Human trafficking	2.68	2.5	2.88	2.5
7 Drug smuggling	2.81	2.5	2.74	2.5
8 Prostitution	2.84	2.5	2.83	2.5
9 Cannabis cultivation	2.41	2.5	2.32	2.5
10 Illegal shylock business	2.87	2.5	2.85	2.5

Using the chi-square statistic  $X^2 = \sum (E_i - O_i)^2 / E_i = 0.586$

**Table 4: Table to Test Hypothesis 1**

Grouping	N	d.f	X <sup>2</sup> (calculated)	X <sup>2</sup> (tabulated)	Decision
Male	60	115	0.585	155.02	Ho Accepted
Female	60				

The first hypothesis sought to ascertain if there is a significant difference in male and female perceptions on ways in which youths indulge in quick money syndrome. The result of the X2 test computed and tested at 0.01 level of significance and 115 degrees of freedom, as shown in the table above, indicates that X2 calculated (0.586) is lesser than X2 tabulated (155.02), the difference in gender perceptions is not statistically significant as there is no evidence that gender perception differs meaningfully in this context. Therefore, the null hypothesis is therefore accepted.

Ho2: There is no significant difference in the perception of less and highly educated youth on social impacts of quick money syndrome on youth and communities in Ondo state.

There is a significant difference in the perception of less and highly educated youth on social impacts of quick money syndrome on youth and communities in Ondo state.

**Table 5: X2-test showing the perception of less and highly educated youths on social impact on youth and communities in Ondo state.**

Factors	Highly Educated		Less Educated	
	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected
	mean	mean	mean	mean
1 Lost of life	2.87	2.5	2.92	2.5
2 Violence	2.77	2.5	2.7.8	2.5
3 Social Stigma	2.91	2.5	2.62	2.5
4 Racism	2.84	2.5	2.71	2.5
5 Sexual abuse	2.94	2.5	2.79	2.5
6 Increased crime rate	2.98	2.5	2.66	2.5
7 Moral decadenece	2.81	2.5	2.76	2.5
8 Economic strain	2.88	2.5	2.84	2.5
9 Ritual killing	2.95	2.5	2.90	2.5
10 Psychological distress	2.77	2.5	2.84	2.5

Using the chi-square statistic  $X^2 = \sum \frac{(E_i - O_i)^2}{E_i} = 0.991$

$E_i$

**Table 6: Table to Test Hypothesis 2**

Grouping	N	d.f	X <sup>2</sup> (calculated)	X <sup>2</sup> (tabulated)	Decision
Highly Educated	82	115	0.991	157.73	Ho Accepted
Less Educated	38				

The second hypothesis sought to know if there is any significant difference in highly educated and less educated youth in Ondo State. The result of the X2 test computed and tested at 0.01 level of significance and 115 degrees of freedom as shown in the table above, indicates that X2 calculated (0.991) is lesser than X2 tabulated (157.73). The null hypothesis is therefore accepted. This implies that there is no significant difference in the response of less and highly educated youths in Ondo State.

## Discussion of findings

Based on the analysis, findings revealed that only two (2) of the ten statements were rejected by respondents as not being among the means through which youths indulge in quick money practices in Ondo State. The data in Table 3 indicate that 66.7% of the respondents identified the major avenues through which youths seek quick wealth to include: internet fraud, illegal oil bunkering, robbery, kidnapping, human trafficking, drug smuggling, prostitution, and illegal Shylock business.

Furthermore, 77.47% of the respondents attributed the causes of quick money syndrome among youths to several key factors such as lack of contentment, poverty, laziness, unemployment, peer group influence, corruption, and parental

pressure. Regarding the consequences of this syndrome, 66.7% of the respondents stated that it could result in loss of life, damage to Nigeria's international reputation, social isolation, exposure to racism, and incidents of sexual abuse.

The findings on the rising culture of quick money and its social impacts on youths and communities in Ondo State align with previous research. Warf (2018) posits that internet fraud encompasses a wide range of illegal and illicit activities perpetrated in cyberspace, often by individuals who are separated both temporally and spatially. Similarly, Brenner (2009) highlights the complex nature of cybercrime, noting its distinctiveness from traditional crime.

Ndu (2010) also supports these findings. He argues that the current behaviors of many youths reflect a departure from traditional African values of modesty and moral discipline. Instead, contemporary youth culture, influenced by materialism and moral decay, is characterized by acts such as prostitution, greed, robbery, kidnapping, human trafficking, drug smuggling, and various other vices.

Additionally, the study found no significant difference in the perception of male and female respondents regarding the social impacts of the quick money culture. This outcome may be attributed to the objectivity of the respondents during the completion of the questionnaire, as gender did not appear to influence their judgments.

Similarly, no significant difference was found between the perceptions of less educated and highly educated youths on the subject. This result may be explained by the emotional and mental state of the respondents at the time of completing the questionnaire, which possibly influenced a uniform pattern of responses regardless of educational background.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it could be noticed that majority of ways in which youths indulge in quick money are: internet fraud, illegal oil bunkering, robbery, kidnapping, human trafficking, drug smuggling, prostitution and illegal shylock business. It also reveals that: lack of contentment, poverty situation which breeds hunger and starvation and predisposes member of such families especially our youths to engage an illegal means of survival, laziness, unemployment, peer group influence, corruption and parents pressure, even in communities where there are no strong social control against delinquent behaviour, religious commitment and involvement protect youth from antisocial behaviour both minor and serious. All these are factors responsible for the rising culture of quick money: social impacts on youths and communities of Ondo State, which could lead to lost of life, bad image among international communities, sexual abuse, social isolation and racism.

## Implication of Findings

The findings of this study have implications. Participants indicated that youths are the greatest capitals of any society. For long, Nigeria's reputation is dragged into a ditch globally for various crimes being perpetrated by some marginal elements. Country's name is being associated with many vices among which are cyber-crime and financial fraud through internet. With her rebranding mission of 'Good people, Great nation' the late former, Minister Professor Dora Akunyile of blessed memory, has try to salvage the country's image, the rest is now left with the youth to follow suit. Our youths should serve as two edge-swords a recipe for disaster or potential for development.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends the following:

- As a matter of urgency, government and other related stakeholder and other key player of the Nigerian Economy should try and create more job opportunities for our young youths in order to alleviate their involvement in negative societal behavior.
- The massive campaign and sensitization exercise against the menace should be encouraged and supported by parents and other stakeholders.
- Government should create jobs employment from time to time as most graduates stay far above the age of 35 years before getting their first formal job, this will reduce unemployment rate in Nigeria.

- Government should try and sensitize the Police force, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corruption Practices Commission (ICPC) and other security operatives on how to detect and prevent the with technology in shylock business.
- Government and administrations should ensure that youth centres are built at least in every local government in Nigeria; this is necessary in order for young people to be engaged in creative works and development through these centres.
- Finally to curb and eventually eradicate quick money syndrome among youths, parents need to enrich their wards with the power to distinguishing right from wrong. They should ensure by teaching moral to their children in order to empower them with spirit of stewardship. Finally to curb and eventually eradicate quick money syndrome among youths, parents need to enrich their wards with the power to distinguishing right from wrong. They should ensure by teaching moral to their children in order to empower them with spirit of stewardship.

## Recommendations for further studies.

- Qualitative Follow-Up: Conduct interviews or focus group discussions to understand why both groups perceive issues similarly.
- Wider Sample: Extend research beyond Ondo State to test if the findings are consistent across different region in Nigeria or West Africa.

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