

## **POLICE BEHAVIOUR AND IDENTIFICATION OF CRIMINALS IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH STATES**

**Dr. Blessing Osayemwenre Omoroghomwan**

Department of Sociology  
Edwin Clark University  
Kilagbodo, Delta State, Nigeria  
blessynet@yahoo.com

### **ABSTRACT**

Research have proven that identification of criminals by the police is found to have a strong link with Police Officers behaviour which include police use of detection, service, arrest and citation; and force. In criminal identification, while most scholars opine that Western Police focus more attention on proactive policing behaviour as such using more of service and detection to identify crime; studies conducted in most developing countries in Africa show police are giving much attention to reactive policing behavior such as using force, arrest and citation from criminal identification. This study therefore x-rays the four (4) known policing behavioural strategies towards criminal identification among police personnel in Nigeria; particularly the South-South Region. This study adopted the Cross-sectional research design and surveyed 217 respondents. Hypotheses formulated were test using the Linear Regression, focusing on correlation coefficient, F-statistics, T-statistics,  $R^2$  adjusted and the un-standardized Beta parameters. Findings from thus study reveals that police use of service and detection is vital to criminal identification because it will assist and support them to track crime activities. and recommended that Nigerian Police Force should provoke more of participative policing; allowing victims and community members to involve in intelligent gathering process; creating a visible platform for people to assist them.

**Key Words:** Police Behaviour, Criminal Identification, Arrest, Service, Force, Detection

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Research on police globally has focused on four basic types of police behavior: detection, services, use of arrest and use of force (Sherman, 1983). Specifically, police use of detection includes field interrogation, traffic stops and other investigative techniques. The services activities of the police include disputes mediation, citizens' assistance, engagement in problem-solving policing and community policing activities. Police use of arrest and citation is properly seen as the primarily action of the police where the police starts the criminal justice system process and the power of state is manifested on individual. The use of force by the police is manifested as police torturing, brutality and force arrest with or without search warrant (Zhao, & Ren, 2015). The combination in the operation of these four basic police behaviour is frequently used by police in developed countries like in the United Kingdom and the United States. Police in developing countries (like Nigeria) are often privy to the use of force in their policing activities. The effective use of these behaviour are premise on four major factors viz; situational, individual and organizational factors and the community which the behaviour is manifest (Sherma, 1983). The situational factor includes police-citizen encounters influencing police actions such as the characteristics of suspects, victims and legal characteristics. The individual factors include the police officers' characteristics influencing officers' behaviour. Organizational factors include police administrative preferences, police organizational size, level of supervision and line of authority in the police administration. The community factors include public expectation and preferences, crime rates, demographic and political characteristics in the community (Adang & Mensink, 2004). These factors tend to have tremendous influence on police officers behavioural decision to take action on policing functions.

Addressing the problem of crime and criminality is the primary responsibility of the police even though there are other societal activities the police are preoccupied with. Police are empowered by the state to protect lives, property, enforce laws and reduce civil disorder, prevent and detect crime; and apprehend offenders of state laws (Alpert & Dunham, 2004). Police organizations are deemed always ready to proactively identify crime suspects before the offences are committed. Police, globally and in Nigeria, investigate millions of crime on a yearly basis but an unreasonable percentage of investigated crime is conducted with effective criminal identification techniques. The non-usage of the proper identification techniques is linked to why most criminals are never caught and the innocence becomes wrongdoer (Bertomen, 2005). Identification techniques of criminals used by the police are subject to the nature of crime. The use of identification technique is unnecessary when the criminal is caught on the act, the victims know the perpetrators like in the case of domestic violence or the case of self victimization. Identification techniques for criminals are used for several reasons; to test witness ability to identify suspects, for further investigation which give cause to searching, apprehension and questioning of suspects and to gather evidence in the prosecution of criminal cases. Identification of criminals and the effective use of these techniques is subject the characteristics surrounding the police officers behaviour and their decision to take action (Borelli, 2001; Bowling, Gaines, & Petty, 2003). In Nigeria, field interrogation, stop-search and traffic stops are found to be linked to the situational characteristics associated to criminal identification which modifies the police behavioural tendency (Otu, 2006). More often than not, police use of detection, services, arrest-citation and force vary in circumstance surrounding criminals. In Nigeria, there are practical incidences where the use of

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detection, arrest and citation in needed in criminal identification, but the police resolve to use force (Parker, MacDonald, Jennings, & Alpert, 2005).

The appropriateness and the circumstances affecting the manifestation of police behaviour have been judged as responsible for the poor identification process of criminals. Police performance in criminal identification and apprehension is affected by the nature of behaviour they adopt. For Nigeria Police, they seem to lack the patience to critically investigate and re-investigate, as the case may be, crime charges levied against suspects to prove them guilty or innocent because of the situations associated with criminals such as suspect age, sex, economic family background, educational status and others. These situations, without proper identification procedure, give the police a quick move to identify criminals and crime suspects who may not necessarily be, arriving at poor judgment. It is true that the decision to take action by the police is affected by the four behaviour tendency. But which of them is most effective in the identification of criminals and suspects in Nigeria?

It is against these backdrops that this study attempt to examine the effect of police behaviour in the identification of criminals in Nigeria. This study, in achieving this objective, investigated the following;

- i. the effect of police use of detection on criminal identification
- ii. the effect of police use of services on criminal identification
- iii. the effect of police use of arrest and citation on criminal identification
- iv. the effect of police use of force on criminal identification

And formulated the following hypotheses which were stated in the null form;

- i. police use of detection does not significantly affect criminal identification
- ii. police use of services does not significantly affect criminal identification
- iii. police use of arrest and citation does not significantly affect criminal identification
- iv. police use of force does not significantly affect criminal identification

### **1.1. Police use of Detection**

The word detection implies to find and make a discovery on something. Detection is the extraction of particular information from a larger stream of information without specific cooperation from or synchronization with the sender (Lichtenberg, 2007). In the Law Enforcement Process, detection is finding or identifying a criminal and bringing out any fact that has been hidden. In most countries, crime detection is the business of the police through special law enforcement agencies. The detection of crime can be classified into three phases; the discovery that crime has been committed, the identification of suspect or criminal, and the collection of sufficient evidence for indictment before the court (Hougland, Mesloh & Henych, 2005). Crime detection and identification are done by persons other than the police (such victims of crime or witnesses to a crime). Some crime such that required the subject assent like dealing with drugs and prostitution or those without a identifiable victim are not easily discovered unless an active step is undertaking by the police to identify the offenders. Police use of detection for criminal identification has transcended from the use of physical or manual detective techniques to a much more sophisticated electronic method, guaranteeing reliability and accuracy of the detection (Hopkins, & Beary, 2003). Particularly in Modern and civilized countries, the use of Forensic Scientist for detecting and

identifying criminal has contributed immensely towards police use of detection. One of these first significant achievements in crime detection and identification was the development of techniques for identifying individuals by their fingerprints (Otuyelu, Graham, & Kennedy, 2016).

Ever since this technique of detection was discovered, it has gone through tremendous advancement and countries over the world now tried to incorporate it into their policing practice. Aside the use of fingerprints, that gives a clue of the criminal during investigation, other investigative techniques such as field interrogation, stop and search, traffic stops have been enhanced with the use of modern information technology (Manzoni, & Eisner, 2006). An important part of crime detection is the field interrogation of suspects or criminal, with the aim of obtaining an admission of guilt, which would eliminate the need for a contested trial by the criminal. Sometimes, restrictions on the scope and methods of field interrogation are placed, in order to ensure that suspects are not coerced into confessions by unacceptable means. Though in practice, the effectiveness of these restrictions varies greatly (McCluskey, Terrill, & Paoline, 2005). For example, the Nigeria Police when conducting field interrogation of suspects do inform them that they have the rights to remain silent, to have a lawyer present during the interrogation, and to be provided with the services of a lawyer at the expense of the state if they cannot afford one. However, the actual practice of field interrogation may vary with the condition underling the crime. On traffic stop and search, it is frequent and recurrent exercise undergo by the police in their course duty. The essence of continual traffic stop and search by the police is to properly do a routine check on identifying the activities of criminals and those in disguise to perpetuate crime. With the use of traffic stop and search, the police are regularly aware of the nature of motorist, their dispositions and interrupting on-the-spot criminal missions (Meade, 2006). Traffic stop and search have helped to bring to a halt several on-going crimes such as kidnapping, smuggling, snatching and so on (Mesloh, & Houglan, 2004).

In crime detection by the police, there is a great power of discretion exercise by them. The police officer power to detect crime arises from the status of the office constable and they do not simply act as directed like the normal employee. The level of discretion exercise by them depends strongly on the task at hand. Though the expectation of the police is to detect and investigate crime but not every crime detected by the police passes through the formal procedure of investigation because adhering sometimes to the formal procedure with some level of police discretion may cause untold injury or even death to the police or the civilian they sworn to protect (Otu, 2006). The basic function of the police is to keep peace, which again requires sensitivity and common sense rather than legalistic intervention at all time.

### **1.2. Police use of Services**

The problems of crime as become more complex to address and the police agencies are developing new trends of handling these problems. Solving the problems of crime has gone beyond the use of arrest, force and physical investigation. Most police organizations respond to the changing pattern of crime by enhancing their equipments, technology and other responsive strategies and philosophies (Wansbrough, 2008). These responsive strategies and philosophies include disputes mediation, citizens' assistance, engagement in problem-solving policing and the use of community policing activities. These services used by the police are among the significant changes global police organizations are currently implementing which Nigeria police signatory is to (Petrowski, 2002; Otu, 2006). The underlying assumption behind these strategic services of the police is that the police organization both in structure and function cannot truly and singlehandedly conduct the crime prevention strategies without the support or cooperation coming from the

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communities they serve. Therefore, these strategic services require significant changes on the police organizational philosophies to meet the contemporary policing needs of the communities.

Police use of services can be classified as a proactive measure of addressing policing problems because this behaviour laid strong emphasis of intelligent gathering and problem solving policing. To further buttress this point, it requires the police engaging in behaviour that will help them get to the root cause of crime i.e. identifying the problems causing crime, not necessarily crime itself, and creating solutions to solve these problems. Without this course, like the reactive policing system, police organization might be unsuccessful in attempting to the problematic of crime totally, whether they engage more personnel or equipments. With these appropriate police behaviour, it possible for them to prevent crime and arrest criminals (Peterson, 1998), create supportive efforts from the community to help identify and detect crime and criminals (Mesloh, & Surette, 2002), and solve the problems associated with crimes (Meade, 2006). The police use of services has also tries to employ the use of community services/community centered policing for easily identification of suspects. Trained police patrolling communities help to resolve community crises, solving family dispute and assisting citizen, usually stay alert gathering intelligence on identify possible crime suspects (Hubbs, & Klinger, 2004). The identification techniques have been found to be most effective and efficient in citizen protection and crime prevention. It is a known fact that citizen expectant from the police behavior affects how the reaction to policy and police officers' activities.

### **1.3. Police use of Arrest**

Studies have noted that Police use of arrest is very significant in achieving success in the criminal justice system. The use of arrest is usually the starting point of the criminal justice system process where the power of the state is manifested on an individual who have wronged the state's laws and regulations. It is believed that on the use of arrest by the police, there is a great amount of police discretion. Scholars have debated the equity of the police decision making on the use of arrest. This debate has centered on whether the police use of arrest is significantly affected by suspects sex, age, location and family background. Judging from the potentially severe socio-cultural, economic and legal backgrounds of most criminal suspects, it is most likely that police discretion or the decision to arrest may be influenced by these factors which ought not to be, if the police must objectively identify the actual suspects. Thus, the discretion to use arrest by the police, influenced by these factors, poses a constant challenge to fair and impartial law application. In essence, a legal criminal justice system that grants the police a broad police of discretion call for selective application of law (Hougland, Mesloh, & Henych, 2005). The police selective application of law in making arrest decision can result to discrimination (Tolliver, Hadden, Brown-Manning & Snowden, 2016)

### **1.4. Police use of Force**

Using force by the police is indispensable in the work of the force because the lives of the officers and the civilians they sworn to protect can be taken if the police are reluctant or not train to use force in criminal situations (Petrowski, 2002). Zhao and Ren (2015) in their work "*How reasonable is the reasonable man: police and excessive force*" reminded us of the Rodney King incident in the early nineties how the their police use deadly force even when the retailing party was defenseless which led to the public outcry and the police across the country staged a re-evaluation policies and training on the use of force by the police. A Gallup census conducted on police mistreatment and the use of deadly force during physical contact with civilians, in 1991,

reveals that 5 percent (of which 9% were minorities) of the respondents claimed being forcefully abused and mistreated by the police even to the extent of using force on them and 20 percent claimed knowing someone who have been physically abuse by the police (Zhao & Ren, 2015). These numbers present the fact that the police use of deadly force and mistreatment is alarming during contacts with civilians. In Nigeria, there are countless of incidence where the police use deadly force on the citizens

Despite the negative connotation on the use of force by the police, the use of force is indispensable and it is an established part of the policy thrust for effective policing. What then justifies the use of force by the police acknowledging the fact that the use of force is n effective policing tool for identifying and apprehending criminals? Before a police officer activates the behaviour on the use of force, there is need for that officer to understand the justification why the force is needed in the identification and apprehension of criminals. The Nigeria Criminal Code states “*when making an arrest, all reasonable means are permitted to be used to affect the arrest. No greater force shall be resorted to than is necessary to secure the identification, arrest and detention of the accused*”. In essence, police use of force is necessary and justified when identifying suspects, making arrest, detaining suspects or protecting an officer or a third party. Walker and Katz (2012) had a slight different opinion on the use of force by the police stating that “*the police may use deadly force only when necessary, that is, when the officer has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or to another person*” (Walker & Katz 2012). This explains that amount of force used should exceed what a reasonable person would deem necessary to make the arrest, detain the suspect, or protect an officer or third party. In identifying criminals, the police are to make frantic effort not to over abuse the force rights or privileges, to ensure that the actual outcome is arrived at. Nigerian Police are learned in the use of torturing of suspects, force arrest with or without warrant, and brutality.

Most criminal or crime suspects confess wrong doing out of overt maltreatment of the police, even when they are not the actual offenders. In the use of force, Nigeria police need to be reasonable and prudent with the necessary skills to complete the task of using force. The level of reasonability and prudence is subject to the police level of training i.e. knowing the policies and procedures on when the use of force is permissive, the actual tool to use, how to assess a threat and how to counter a threat (Walker & Katz, 2012); and liability to the use of force i.e. if an officer refused to be guided by the use of force policies and procedure, the officer and the department can be held civilly and criminally liable. In essence, proper training on the policies and the procedure on the use of force in needed. Police officers use of force is a necessary because no officer knows if or when the use of force must be applied until the situation presents itself. Preparing the officers through policy and procedures training in the use of force to identify and apprehend criminals tend to reduce the liability on the officer and department in use of force cases vis-a-vis maximizing performance in the use of force appropriately. It is also useful to note that police decision on the use of force can be externally influence by the suspects or criminal characteristics. Studies have revealed that police use of force is discriminatory in age and sex. Pollak, (1950) in his work “Criminality of Women” opined that women occupy an advantage position in police use of force against criminal because of their role as mothers and baby-sitters. The police are lenient on them for several social and cultural reasons (Polak, 1950). Age is another factor influencing police decision on the use of force. The elderly who involve in crime are showed mercy when identify, apprehended and to be punished (Engle, & Worden 2003).

### **1.5. Criminal and Suspect Identification**

Criminal or suspect identification is the all about how the police, using the above discussed behavioural traits to identify criminal or suspects. Studies have showed that the method used by a criminal to commit a crime could serve as clue to identify the suspect because many offenders do repeatedly commit crime in similar ways. For example, burglary methods such as; breaking into a house, property stolen type, or the nature of deception practiced by criminal persuading the victim of a fraud, suggest the nature and character of who was responsible for a crime.

The most common method of suspect or criminal identification is the visual identification. The visual identification involves the police presenting to the victims or witnesses an array of alleged suspects either in person or on photographs, who they believe may have committed the crime for the victims of witnesses to identify or recognize the offender(s) or the known criminals. Suspect(s) identified allegedly by the police in this manner is usually asked to take part in a lineup of people with similar characteristics, from which the witness is asked to pick out the suspect. However, researchers have long noted that virtual identification may often not be reliable thereby leading to wrongful convictions of identified persons by the victims or witnesses. Scholars have suggested that the unreliability of virtual identification may result from; cross-racial identification contributes to mistaken identification (Clarke & Thomas, 2015), post-event assimilation which can significantly alter the perception and understanding of the victims or suspects of the criminal (Bertomen, 2005) and the stress in crime such as the presence of weapons (Adang & Mensink, 2004). In addition to victims or witnesses mis-representation of suspects' identity, the police have also been involved in standard manipulation of eyewitness identification procedures to increase the likelihood of witness quick identification of suspects.

The problem of standard manipulation by the police is being overcome by the increasing accuracy of DNA evidence. In criminal identification, the police do not solely rely on visual identification of suspects but on the result from the DNA test conducted. In a country, like Nigeria, where the technological advancement needed to increase accuracy on the use of DNA evidence to identify suspects is not available, the traditional visual identification procedure of criminal still holds strong. This study proposed that even when the visual identification procedure of suspects or criminals is to be used, the procedure should not encourage witnesses of victims to make identifications when they are unsure but instead caution them about the possibility of errors i.e. making sure non-suspects in the lineup are reasonable possibilities for identification, and have the lineup conducted official(s) who have no knowledge of the actual suspect (Bowling, Gaines, & Petty, 2003).

In Nigeria, the police are judge by the public as forceful, brutal and inhumane. The public are of the believe that Nigerian police are insensitive to human feelings, possess negative expectation about the police. These negative expectations the public have about the police affect the police sense of judgment of what the citizen think about them. Nigeria police, on the other hand, are prejudicial and stereotypical in identifying suspects. They based their search, interrogation and arrest on the situational, organizational and community factors surrounding the public rather than real identity suspects.

Disparities and discrimination in the police field interrogation are considered as major cause of the rife between the police and the public. Police officers believe that aggressive field integration and sudden traffic stop are legitimate and effective crime – fighting tactics. The public perceived this are harassment and inhumanity factor used by the police to suppress the populace. When

aggressive anticrime tactics is used, it may result to stereotype of possible suspects particularly those from minority groups.

**2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study adopted the Cross-sectional Research Design using the survey method to elicit responses from personnel of the Nigeria Police Force, in the south-south region of Nigeria (Creswell, 2009), However the study randomly selected Edo and Delta States from the 6 states in the South South, Nigeria. The choice of these two states was based on the growing level of crime in these states compare to other states in the South-South, Nigeria (Dike, 2010). A Purposive sampling technique was used for the study to draw a sample size of 217 police personnel from the police divisions in Edo and Delta States. Data collected for this was done using a structured questionnaire which comprised of five (5) thematic sections i.e. Criminal Identification (5 items), Police Use of Detection (4 items), Police Use of Service (4 items), Police Use of Arrest and Citation (4 items) and Police Use of Force (4 items).

**Variable Measurement:** Variables for this study were measured using items that scaled in a nominally but were later converted to interval data. This allows for variety of statistical techniques in predictive analysis. In developing the measurement for these variable, the agreement continuum were utilized as a standard measure order from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The study measured police use of detection through field interrogation, traffic stops, stop and search, use of finger print and DNA devices, etc. The study measures Police use of Service through disputes mediation, citizens’ assistance, engagement in problem-solving policing and community policy activities. Police use of arrest and citation was measured through police discretionary power, police –citizen encounter, frequent interrogation, etc and police use of force through police torturing, brutality, deathly force, handcuff, impact weapons, etc. To ensure the maximal predictive capabilities of the causal modeling, socio-demographic variables were used to identify the variation in the respondent’s agreement to the changes in the four selected police officers behaviour as they affect crime suspect identification among Nigeria Police Force.

The content validity of the instrument was measured using criminology experts advice and scrutiny and The Cronbach Alpha Reliability value of 0.89 was derived in testing the reliability of the instrument. The items on the questionnaire were weighted on a 5 point likert scale of 5-Strongly Agree, 4-Agree, 3 Undecided, 2-Disagree and 1-Strongly Disagree. For the purpose of analysis, the ordinal items were converted into integer using a weighted mean of each item.

This study employed the descriptive statistics, to showing the mean and standard deviation for each variable in explaining the level of agreement of respondents to the questions raised, and hypotheses formulated was test using the Ordinary Least Square Method, as an estimation technique, to explain the strength of the relationship between the various independent variables and the measures of Criminals Identification in Nigeria with specific focus on the correlation coefficient, F-statistics, T-statistics, R<sup>2</sup> adjusted and the un-standardized Beta. However, the underlying assumptions in the regression model were tested for multicollinearity based on the correlation matrix. The regression model for this study takes the form:

$$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUD + \epsilon \qquad \text{eqn ----- (1)}$$

$$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUS + \epsilon \qquad \text{eqn ----- (2)}$$

$$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUAC + \epsilon \qquad \text{eqn ----- (3)}$$

$$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUF + \epsilon \qquad \text{eqn ----- (4)}$$



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$$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUD + \beta_2 PUS + \beta_3 PUAC + \beta_4 PUF + \varepsilon \quad \text{eqn ----- (5)}$$

Where:

- CI = Criminal Identification
- PUD = Police Use of Detection
- PUS = Police Use of Service
- PUAC = Police Use of Arrest and Citation
- PUF = Police Use of Force
- $\alpha_0, \beta_{1-4}$  = Regression Coefficients
- $\varepsilon$  = Error Term

The analysis was done using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.

**Ethical Approval:** All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

**Informed Consent:** Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study

### 3. RESULTS

**3.1. Descriptive Statistics:** This study reveals the age and gender of the police officers that were involved in the survey. From Table 1, the police officers age range was between 22 to 85 years of age, with a mean age of (33±12) years of age, indicating that most of the police officers were in their mid age of service. For gender differentiation, out of the 217, 148 of them accounting for 68.2% were male while 69 accounting for 31.8% were female. This implies that male was more involve in policing activities in Nigeria than female, given the fact that the job of policing involves the assertion of physical strength which male are naturally predisposed to. Aside the age and sex of the officer, their level of experience was also survey which was classified experienced and less experienced, based on their years in office and the different posting covered and training attended. Of the 217 officers, 48.4% of them were classified as experienced officers while 51.6% of them were classified as less experienced officers. This result was largely affected by the level of training they have attended.

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics**

Variable	X±S.D	Min-Max
Age	33±16	22 – 85
	Frequency	Percentage
	Sex (N=217)	
Male	148	68.2
Female	69	31.7
	Level of Experience (N=217)	

Experienced	105	48.4
Less Experienced	112	51.6

Source: Author’s Compilation, 2018

Describing the nature of variables used for this study, table 2 shows the weighted mean of the responses from the respondent’s on the level of agreement to adopting the four (4) police behavioral strategies on criminals’ identification in Nigeria. Revealing from the table, Nigerian Police Force were more predisposed with the use of force (3.79±0.68) as a strategy towards criminal identification. In the ranking, police use of arrest and citation came second (3.66±0.69) and which was followed immediately by the use of detection (3.50±0.53). However, the study reveals that police rarely use the service process for criminal identification (2.79±0.62). The implication of the above is that Nigeria Police, in their line of duty, exert considerable time and energy on policing activities that coerce criminals directly to admit their crime than using the humane approach to retrieve details that go beyond criminal identification which the use of services can provide. The study also shows that the level of police involvement in criminal identification was high as this form a major part of the business of the police.

**Table 2: Descriptive statistics on respondent’s level of agreement on adopting the four (4) police behaviour in criminals’ identification**

Variable (s)	X	S.D	Min	Mix
Police Use of Detection	3.50	.53	1.00	5.00
Police Use of Service	2.79	.62	1.00	5.00
Police Use of Arrest and Citation	3.66	.69	1.00	5.00
Police Use of Force	3.79	.68	1.00	5.00
Level of police involvement in Criminal Identification	3.01	.70	1.00	5.00

Source: Author’s Compilation, 2018

Criterion Mean = 3.00

**3.2. Inferential Statistics:** In testing the stated hypotheses above, the study used the correlation technique, conducted on the variables to show their strength of relationship, as shown on table 3. To further provide explanation for the power of the relationship, the regression analysis statistical technique was conducted, as summarized in table 4.

**Table 3: Correlation Matrix on the variables**

		Police Use of Service	Police Use of Arrest and Citation	Police Use of Force	Level of police involvement in Criminal Identification
Police Use of Detection	r-value	.270**	.076**	.172**	.244**
	p-value	.000	.004	.000	.000
	N	217	217	217	217
Police Use of Service	r-value		.431**	.334**	.274**
	p-value		.000	.000	.000
	N		217	217	217
Police Use of Arrest and Citation	r-value			.698**	.406**
	p-value			.000	.000
	N			217	217
Police Use of Force	r-value				.456**
	p-value				.000

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Source: Author's Compilation, 2018

On measuring the correlate between policing behavior and criminal identification, the study reveals that the level of police involvement in criminal identification is positively and strongly related to police use of detection ( $r\{217\}0.244$ ;  $p<0.001$ ), police use of service ( $r\{217\}0.274$ ;  $p<0.001$ ), police use of arrest and citation ( $r\{217\}0.406$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) and police use of force ( $r\{217\}0.456$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). Beside the police behavioral strategies correlating their involvement in criminal identification, the result also shows that police use of detection strongly correlate police use of service ( $r\{217\}0.270$ ;  $p<0.001$ ), police use of arrest and citation ( $r\{217\}0.076$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) and police use of force ( $r\{217\}0.172$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). Police use of service was also positively and significantly correlating police use of arrest and citation ( $r\{217\}0.431$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) and police use of force ( $r\{217\}0.334$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). Finally, there was a positive and significant relationship between police use of arrest and citation and police use of force ( $r\{217\}0.698$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). By implication, the Nigeria police level of involvement in criminal identification is strongly influence by their use of force, arrest and citation than the power of service and detection. This can only also supported by the strong relationship existing between police use of force and police use of arrest and citation. Presenting and analyzing the strength of these relationships among the variable, table 4 result shows the summary of the five (5) regression model testing.

**Table 4: Summary of regression analysis**

Regression Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> - adjusted	F(p-value)	B	T(p-value)
$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUD + \epsilon$	.244 <sup>a</sup>	.060	.059	90.029(0.000) DF (1,216)	C(1.889) $\beta_1$ 0.320	15.825 (0.000) 9.488(0.000)
$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUS + \epsilon$	.274 <sup>a</sup>	.075	.074	115.093 (0.000) DF (1,216)	C(2.148) $\beta_1$ 0.308	26.160 (0.000) 10.728 (0.000)
$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUAC + \epsilon$	.406 <sup>a</sup>	.164	.164	279.529 (0.000) DF (1,216)	C(0.1918) $\beta_1$ 0.410	28.482 (0.000) 16.719(0.000)
$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUF + \epsilon$	.456 <sup>a</sup>	.208	.208	373.381 (0.000) DF (1,216)	C(0.1714) $\beta_1$ 0.465	24.842 (0.000) 19.323(0.000)
$CI = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 PUD + \beta_2 PUS + \beta_3 PUAC + \beta_4 PUF + \epsilon$	.507 <sup>a</sup>	.257	.255	122.444 (0.000) DF (4,213)	C(0.791) $\beta_1$ (0.216), $\beta_2$ (0.070), $\beta_3$ (0.162), $\beta_4$ (0.301),	6.468 (0.000) $t_1\{6.818$ (0.000)} $t_2\{2.348$ (0.000)} $t_3\{4.744$ (0.000)} $t_4\{9.108$ (0.000)}

Note: C= Contact; Significant Level ( $p<0.05$ )

Source: Author's Compilation, 2018

The test result shows whether Police use of Detection (PUD), Police use of Service (PUS), Police use of Arrest and Citation (PUAC) and Police use of Force (PUF) significantly affect

Criminal Identification (CI). Given the existing relationship, as analyzed above, the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ -adjusted) value for the 5 model shows a collective 26% ( $R^2$ -adjusted =0.255) variance on the level of police involvement in criminal identification could be explained or blamed on the changes in police use of detection, police use of service, police use of arrest and citation and police use of force. However, on an individual note, model I shows 6% ( $R^2$ -adjusted =0.059) variance on the level of police involvement in criminal identification is explained by the changes in police use of detection strategy of policing. On model II, the variance of 7% ( $R^2$ -adjusted =0.074) shows that police involvement in criminal identification is explained by the changes in police use of service strategy of policing. On model III, the variance of 16% ( $R^2$ -adjusted =0.164) implies that changes police involvement in criminal identification is explained by the changes in police use of arrest and citation strategy of policing and Model IV showing a variance of 21% ( $R^2$ -adjusted =0.208) implies that changes police involvement in criminal identification is explained by the changes in police use of force strategy of policing. By implication, police uses of force and arrest and citation have a stronger influence on their level of involvement in criminal identification in the South-South region of Nigeria. The F- statistic values with their associated probability values of 0.000, for all the 5 models reveals that regression models on the overall are statistically significant at 1% level which means that the models are valid and can be used for statistical inference. Presenting the Unstandardize Beta of the regression co-efficient of these models, On a separate or single factor loading, the changes in police use of detection, causes a 0.320 units change in criminal identification by the police, the changes in police use of services, causes a 0.308 units change in criminal identification by the police, the changes in police use of arrest and citation, causes a 0.410 units change in criminal identification by the police and the changes in police use of force, causes a 0.465 units change in criminal identification by the police. But on the four (4) factors loading, police use of force (0.301units) causes a higher change on criminal identification than police use of detection (0.216), police use of arrest and citation (0.162) and police use of service (0.070) in the south-south region of Nigeria. Finally, the t-test results for the 5 models with the associated probability value of 0.000 shows that there is a significant and positive difference between the statistical variables. This implies that the use of detection, services, force, arrest and citation significantly influence police involvement in criminal identification in the south-south region of Nigeria.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Arising from the presentation and analysis of the data the study reveals that Nigerian Police Force, on their line of duty, put considerable time and energy on policing activities that force suspected criminals to directly admit to crime committed during criminal identification. They rarely use the service approach which gives attention to retrieving detailed information beyond crime identification. This could be argued that the reactive policing style practiced by Nigerian Police, as claimed by Alemika (1988), is responsible for their use of force because they fall short of the adequate investigative skills for criminal identification. These findings support the empirical works of Dike, (2010) and Dufka, (2010) who stressed that police agencies that lack adequate training and professionalized conduct would rather result to the use of force approach to policing.

Analyzing the empirical linkages between policing behavior and criminal identification, police use of force in the South-South Nigeria, had a stronger and positive relationship with criminal identification than police use of service, detection and arrest and citation. This implies that Nigeria Police are favorably more disposed to the use of force in criminal identification. In criminal identification situation, where Nigerian Police are less likely to use detection, there is a

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strong disposition towards the use of service than use of force, and instating evidence-based arrest could be better achieved with the use of service than the use of force. Darroch, (2009) and CLEEN, (2015) in a separate studies, opined that Nigeria police hurry through the criminal identification process; coercing suspects to admit to offence without proper investigative procedure. This act makes most criminals go unnoticed and unpunished in the criminal justice process. Corroborating these findings, Nadal, and Davidoof, (2015) claimed that police use of service for crime identification gives a veritable opportunity to invoke evidence-based criminal prosecution process and aid criminal arrest with less forceful engagement.

Identification of Criminals is a function of the use of detective skills, community services, instituting arrest and the introduction of force during arrest process. More often, Nigerian police seek less of community services/assistants and proactive use of detection, but focus on the use of force and arrest threat to identify criminals. Therefore, the greater change in Nigerians' Police ability to identify criminals is a function of the use of force and arrest than detection and services. The less use of detection and community services create a substantial gap for the police to gain useful and intelligence supports from the communities in the South-South Nigeria (Clarke, & Thomas, 2015). Drawing for the findings, it could be inferred that Nigeria Police do not conduct the proper investigative process in criminal identification before arrest and prosecution is carry out. Without sufficient evidence, the actual criminals are hard to identify and innocence become culprits. The use of force more than service and detection by the police in the South-South, Nigeria have created and sustain an unfavorable public image for the them which they need to work on if they must regain their pride of policing the public through re-visitation of their investigative techniques; capitalizing on a more humane and less brutal behavioral disposition.

### **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Criminal Identification, contrary to how and what the Nigeria Policing system operate, goes beyond the sole involvement of Law Enforcement Agencies. This studies point to the fact that achieving crime identification, the principal agents are the victims and the communities these crimes are observed. Nigeria Police should recognize the vital roles victims of crime and communities who are the observers play in criminal identification because it will assist and support them to track crime activities. The use of force and arrest could help the police achieve but not as much as the use of service and detection because using service and detection to identify criminal informs and empower victims of crime and communities members of the need to take responsibility for the their own safety and be more conscious of who offends them. Forceful arrest and citation could be misrepresenting and misleading and this is why this study recommends that Nigerian Police Force, particularly those in the South-South Region, should be more provoke participative policing; allowing victims and community members to involve in intelligent gathering process and creating a visible platform for people to assist them. Criminal identification is impossible when the citizens are isolated from the process. This study therefore calls for a policy framework empowering Nigerians to assist the police on intelligence gathering and reemphasizing, through conscious orientation, that security business is everyone's business.

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Omoroghomwan, Blessing Osayemwenre PhD is currently the Head of Sociology Department, Edwin Clark University, Kiagbodo, Delta State, Nigeria. Omoroghomwan is currently a Social Research Consultant and has a Social Research Based Organization. His core interest areas are Criminology, Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution; and Sociology of Development. Among his publications are:

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