



Research Paper

## Assessment of Challenges associated with crime pattern in Yola metropolis

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### ABSTRACT

This research work was on the challenges associated with crime pattern in Yola metropolis. Data required for this work was both qualitative and quantitative data. Method of data collection was oral interview and questionnaire administration. The analyses of the data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics. The result discovered that anger, sadness, harm, fear of movement, suspicion, loss of properties in Yola metropolis is growing geometrically. People should report any criminal activity that come their way, this will help the security personnel in checkmating the criminals so as to reduce the crime in the study area. Any hiding areas of criminals should be revealed by the community concern so that fear of movement will be reduced and community should engage into surveillance at any time to reduce the actions of crime in the metropolis.

**KEYWORDS:** Crime, challenges, Harm, Suspicious, Anger and Sadness.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Crime and violence are the man-made hazard (Adinoyi, 2013) that is posing serious problems in cities around the world threatening the quality of life, human rights, social and economic stability and sustainable development (UN-Habitat 2007) of which Yola metropolis is not an exceptional.

Crime is simply seen as 'An action or blunder which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law' (Brantingham, and Brantingham, 1981). It can also be seen as 'an offence which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority (John, et al 2006 and Gordon 1995).' Legally, crimes usually are defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment and/or fine (Newburn, 2007). Murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving, child neglect, and failure to pay your taxes all are common examples (Clarke, 1997). However, as several eminent criminologists recently have noted, the key to understanding crime is to focus on fundamental attributes of all criminal behaviours rather than on specific criminal acts (Haines and Wood 2002; Gottfredson and Hirschi 1990). Instead of trying to separately understand crimes such as homicide, robbery, rape, burglary, embezzlement, and heroin use, we need to identify what it is they all have in common. Much past research on crime has been confounded by its focus on these politico-legal rather than behavioural definitions (Cozens, 2015).

Yola metropolis is one of the moderately populated states in Nigeria, the crime the cities battle with have also encroached localities. The Common type of crimes in Yola metropolis include; murder, rape, insurgency, assault, robbery, abduction for ransom, theft, burglary, auto theft, drug abuse, child abuse etc. for example statistics of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) 2019 shows that Yola metropolis is the third illicit drug consumption incidence in Nigeria. This paper covered statistics of reported challenges faced by people as a result of crime committed by the metropolis it focused on those crimes which undermined the social, economic, physical, and environmental structure to including Assaults, Robbery, Sexual offence/Rape, Drug trafficking/abuse, Burglary, Auto thefts, Vandalism, excluding violent crime of Murder.

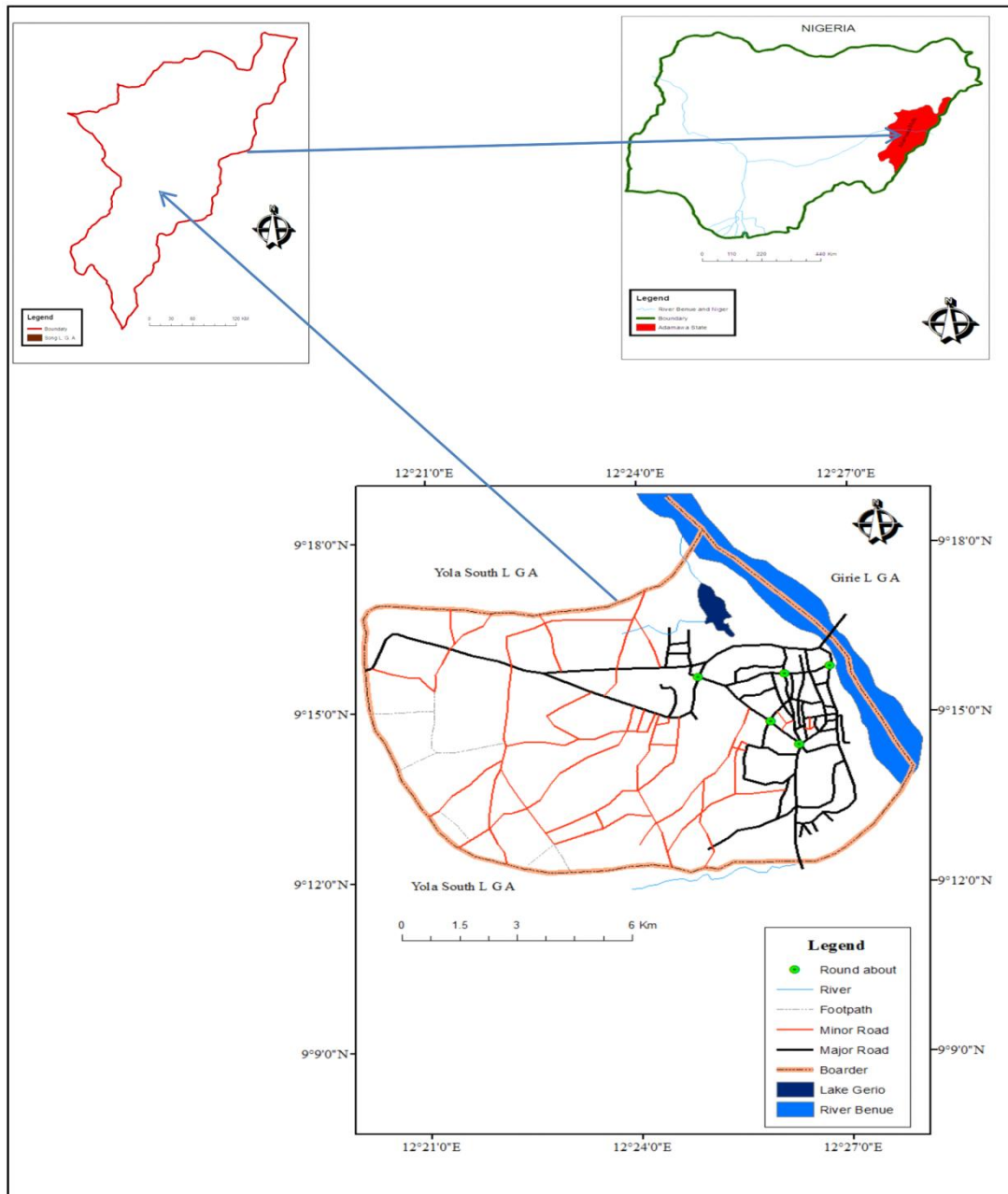
### II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### The study area

The study area is geographically located between the Latitudes 12° 21' 00"E, and 12° 27' 00"E and the Longitudes 9° 9' 00"N and 9° 18' 00"N of the Greenwich Meridian (Fig. 1). It is mainly drain by the Benue

River; a stream that flows southward to join River Niger in the confluence town at Lokoja, and is situated on the western flanks of the Mandara Mountains which forms both their drainage system and relief. The area is bounded by the Girie Local Government Area in the east side and within the state by Yola North Local Government Area to the south, and the West, and. Also, it occupies an area of 903km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 179,874 people (National Population Census, 2006).

Yola exhibits both the dry and the wet tropical climate type which is also referred to as Aw in koppen's classification of world climatic region. The dry season begins in November and ends in March, while the rainy season runs from April to October each year. Annual rainfall is about 900mm with the highest frequencies in July and August. Temperature ranges from warm to hot throughout the year but cold period is experienced between November and February with a gradual increase in January to March. The relative humidity of the area is low but begins to rise from April to August, (Adebayo, 2004).



**Figure 1:** The Study Area

## Methods

The study utilized four of the most popular data collection methods in social science, i.e. observation (paying much attention and personal look on the areas crime usually occur), interview (asking oral constructive

question from the elders and prominent people in the study area about the areas crime usually occur), focus group (organising short term seminar and discussion among the respondents in the study area) and the use of a questionnaire (administering constructive questions to those that can read in the study area). Primary data was collected directly from the field in their original state. Data collection involved the administration of questionnaires across the study area. Questionnaires were used to extract general information of the residents as well as crime challenges that have occurred within the the metropolis.

The sample frame was the entire population of Yola metropolis. According to the National population commission, the 2006 Population of Gombe metropolis was estimated 268000 in 2006. The population is projected to 417036 in 2020 (NPC, 2020). This population figure covers the 10 wards in Yola metropolis as shown in Table 3.1 below; where  $P_t$  denotes projected population,  $P_o$  denotes previous population,  $r$  is the growth rate taken as 2.9%, while  $e$  is the exponential growth constant taken as 2.7182.

**Table 1: population of Yola Metropolis by Local Government**

S/N	Ward	2006 Pop. Census	2020 Projected Pop. ( $P_t = P_o e^{rt}$ )	Population sample of each ward
	Adarawo		46586	46
1	Bako	29930	41874	40
2		26903		
3	Bole Yolde Pate	25670	39943	38
4	Namtari	26963	41954	40
5	Ngurore	28905	44976	43
6	Makama 'A'	21920	34108	33
7	Makama 'B'	26950	41934	40
8	Mbamba	24993	38889	36
	Mbamoi		43314	42
9		27837		
10	Toungo	27929	43458	42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>268000</b>	<b>417036</b>	<b>400</b>

Source: NPC, Adamawa State (2020)

The first sampling technique adopted was stratified sampling technique, stratified sampling is where the population is divided into strata (or subgroups) and a random sample is taken from each subgroup. A subgroup is a natural set of items. Stratified sampling is often used where there is a great deal of variation within a population. Its purpose is to ensure that every stratum is adequately represented (Sanjoy, 2018). Stratified sampling technique helped to stratify the metropolis into wards, and then each ward was selected and select houses from it, after which sampled areas were selected based on the population density.

The simple random sample means that every case of the population has an equal probability of inclusion in sample (Ghauri and Gronhaug, 2005). Disadvantages associated with simple random sampling include a complete frame ( a list of all units in the whole population) is needed, in some studies, such as surveys by personal interviews, the costs of obtaining the sample can be high if the units are geographically widely scattered and the standard errors of estimators can be high.

Random selection was done through raffle draw based on the population of the study area. Residents that were densely, moderately and sparsely populated were selected based on random selection, the names of all the densely populated areas were written then two out of the residents were randomly selected and questionnaire was administered in every third house based on systematic sampling technique.

Systematic sampling is where every sample case after a random start is selected. After selecting the residents randomly based on population density, every third house was selected from the ward. The advantage of this sampling technique is its simplicity.

For the purpose of this research, 400 instruments (questionnaires) were administered to household residents in order to achieve the objectives of the study. The reason for choosing 400 instruments was because the total projected population of Yola metropolis to 2020 was about 417036 (NPC Yola State 2020) and this represents the population size for the study. However, the method used for determining the sample size was Yamane (1967) formula for proportionate sample.

The sample size obtained using the formula was 400 and this represents the total number of questionnaires administered to the respondents. Administrations of questionnaires to household residents were proportionately distributed according to population densities between high, medium and low density area. Therefore, 400 of the total questionnaires were assigned to all the sample areas. 400 questionnaires were divided

among the wards. The questionnaire for each ward was distributed randomly to the respondents which mean random sample method.

Research instrument/tools include survey, interview, and questionnaires. Research tools provide the input to a study and therefore the quality and validity of the output, the findings were solely dependent on it (Pandey, 2015). Data were collected for this study through field survey, structured interview, and the administration of questionnaires on the data required. The analyses of the data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics. Data obtained in the survey were coded and data files shall be created for analysis using the SPSS data analyses software programme.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### The challenges associated with crime pattern in Yola metropolis

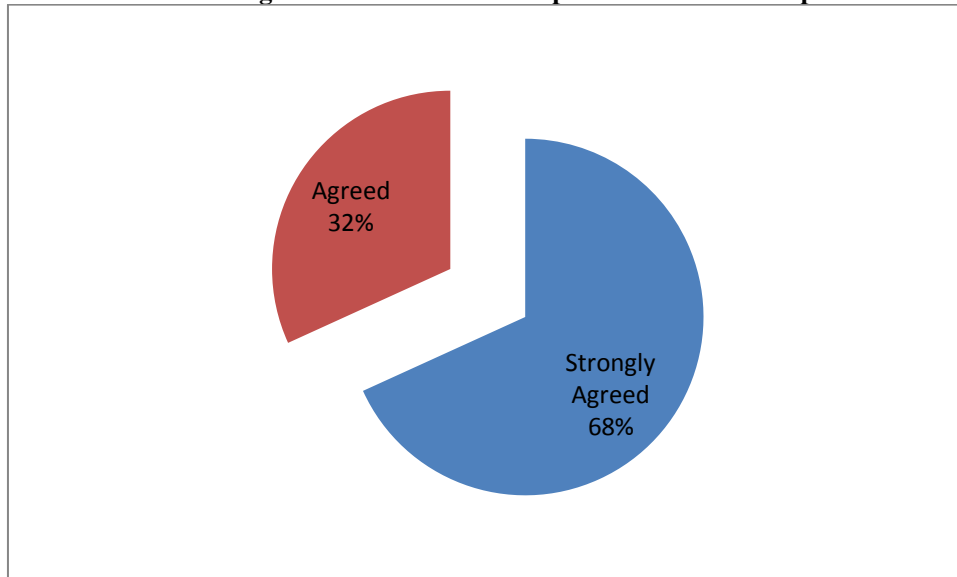


Figure 2: Criminal activities generate anger to the victims in Yola metropolis.

Source: Fieldwork 2021

From figure 2 above, about 68% of the respondents strongly agreed that Criminal activities generate anger to the victims in Yola metropolis, while the remaining 32% just agreed that Criminal activities generate anger to the victims in Yola metropolis. Based on the scale rule as shown by Ravel (2018) and Ngodigha (2016) of likerd scale, the conclusion was that Criminal activities generate anger to the victims in Yola metropolis because the range the data mean falls within the range of 1.68-2.

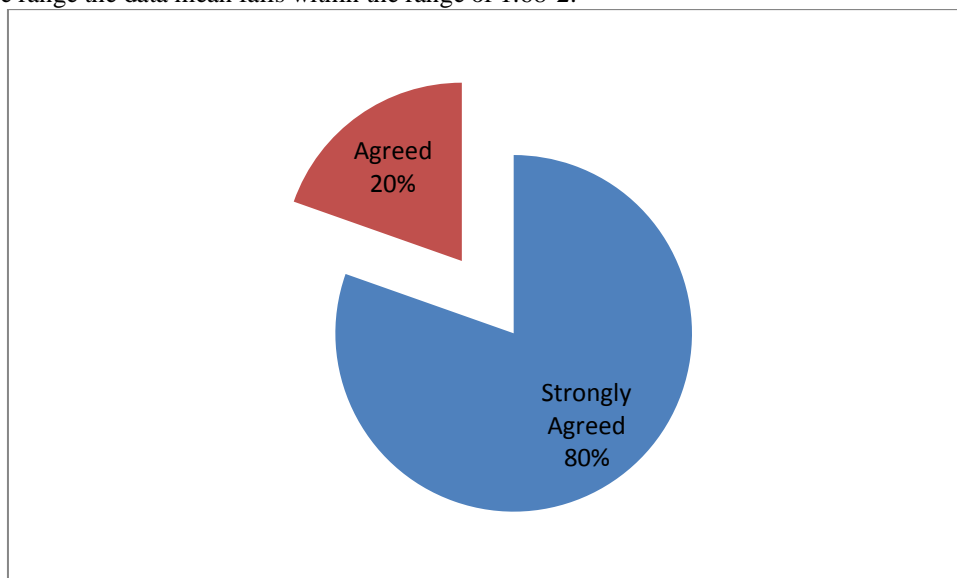


Figure 3: The victims of urban crime always develop sadness in Yola metropolis.

Source: Fieldwork 2021

The result in figure 3 signified that about 80% of the population strongly agreed that the victims of urban crime always develop sadness in Yola metropolis, while the remaining 20% agreed that the victims of urban crime always develop sadness in Yola metropolis. The oral interview conducted on the victims of criminal activities such as stealing and raping justified that the sadness could not worth forgiving. Moreover, the decision rule as shown by Ravel (2018) and Ngodigha (2016), of likerd scale concluded that the victims of urban crime always develop sadness in Yola metropolis because the data mean fall within the range of 1.6-2.

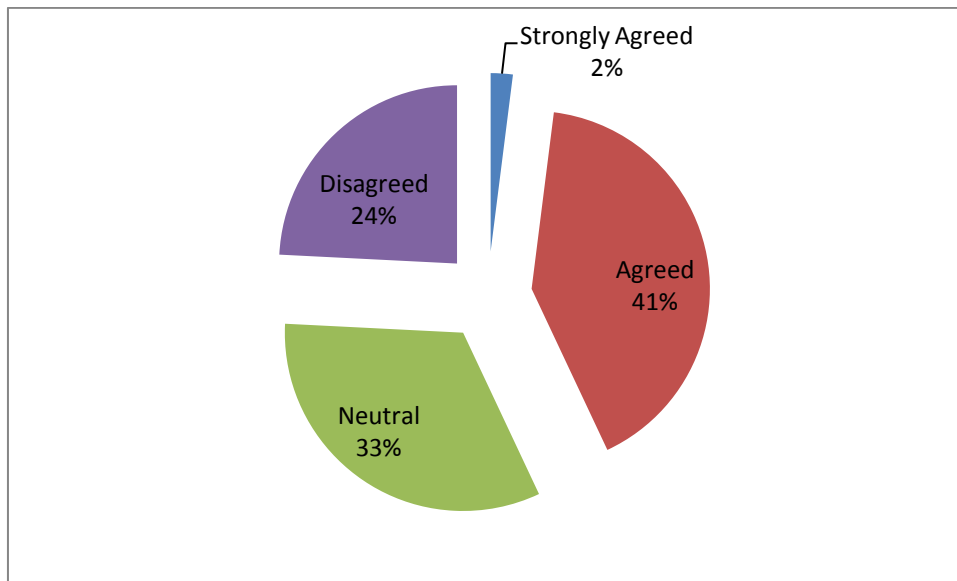


Figure 4: People fear movement in the night due to criminal activities in Yola metropolis.

Source: Fieldwork 2021

The result postulated in figure 4, about 41% agreed that People fear movement in the night due to criminal activities in Yola metropolis. 33% were neutral about the statement that People fear movement in the night due to criminal activities in Yola metropolis. About 24% disagreed that People fear movement in the night due to criminal activities in Yola metropolis, while 2 of the respondents strongly agreed that People fear movement in the night due to criminal activities in Yola metropolis. Based on the decision rule as shown by Ravel (2018) and Ngodigha (2016), People do not fear movement in the night due to criminal activities in Yola metropolis because the range of the likerd scale that the data mean of 1.31 falls into was 1-1.75.

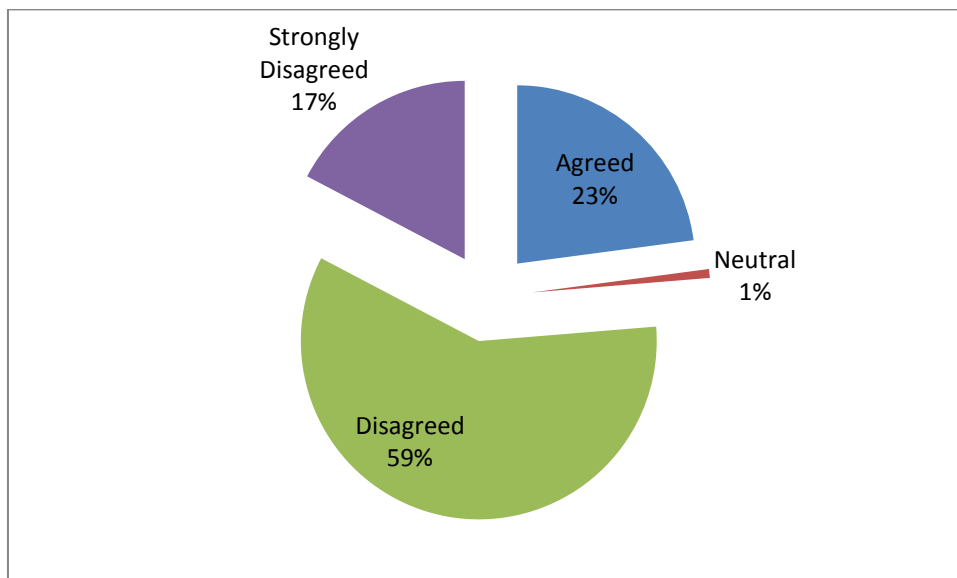


Figure 5: Criminals always harm people in Yola metropolis.

Source: Fieldwork 2021

Figure 5 indicated that about 59% of the respondent disagreed that Criminals always harm people in Yola metropolis, 23% agreed that Criminals always harm people in Yola metropolis, 17% strongly disagreed that Criminals always harm people in Yola metropolis, while the remaining 1% of the population were neutral about the premises that Criminals always harm people in Yola metropolis. The conclusion based on the decision rule as shown by Ravel (2018) and Ngodigha (2016), of the likerd scale would be that Criminals do not always harm people in Yola metropolis since the data mean of 2.29 falls within the range of 1.76-2.51 which is termed as disagreement.

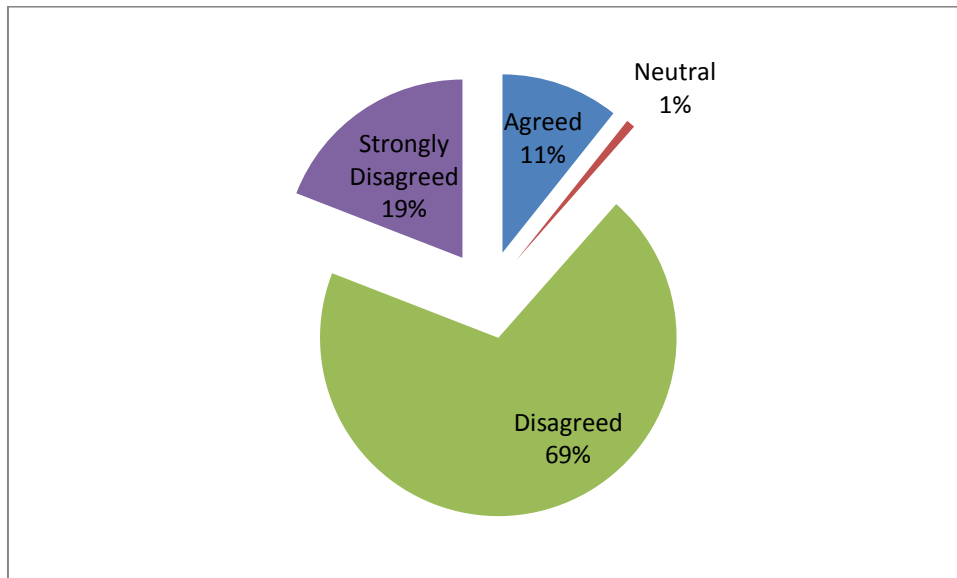


Figure 6: High rate of criminal activities always cause suspicion in people in Yola metropolis.  
Source: Fieldwork 2021

The result of figure 6 indicated that those that disagreed that High rate of criminal activities always cause suspicion in people in Yola metropolis were about 69%, 19% strongly disagreed with the statement that High rate of criminal activities always cause suspicion in people in Yola metropolis. About 11% agreed that High rate of criminal activities always cause suspicion in people in Yola metropolis, while the remaining 1% were neutral about the assertion that High rate of criminal activities always cause suspicion in people in Yola metropolis. Therefore, the decision rule as shown by Ravel (2018) and Ngodigha (2016), concluded that High rate of criminal activities always causes suspicion in people in Yola metropolis was disagreed.

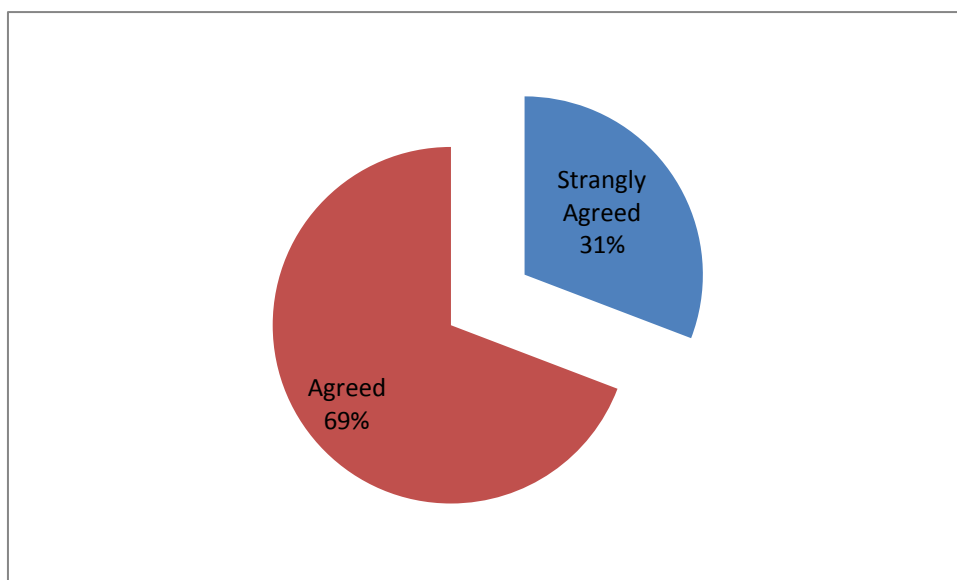


Figure 7: High rate of criminal activities practiced result to loss of properties in Yola metropolis.  
Source: Fieldwork 2021

The result presented in figure 7 postulated that about 69% of the respondents agreed that High rate of criminal activities practiced result to loss of properties in Yola metropolis, while the remaining 31% strongly agreed that High rate of criminal activities practiced result to loss of properties in Yola metropolis. The decision rule as shown by Ravel (2018) and Ngodigha (2016) concluded that High rate of criminal activities practiced result to loss of properties in Yola metropolis was agreed since the data mean of 1.31 falls within the range of 1-1.5 liker scale.

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATION**

People should report any criminal activity that come their way, this will help the security personnel in checkmating the criminals so as to reduce the crime in the study area. Any hiding areas of criminals should be revealed by the community concern so that fear of movement will be reduced. Community should engage into surveillance at any time to reduce the actions of crime in the metropolis. Government should empower the security personnel so as to minimize the action of criminals in the study area.

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