

## Assessing the Prevalence of Psychopathy among Criminal and Non-Criminal Population in Kaduna State Nigeria

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**Abstract.** This paper examined assessing the prevalence of psychopathy among Criminal and Non-criminal population in Kaduna State Nigeria. Survey method was used to collect 384 participants comprising of both males and females in Kaduna North Local Government area of Kaduna state using Krejcie and Morgan formula to determine the sample size of 384. An adopted standardized instrument of Hare Psychopathic Checklist Revised (PCL-R) 2nd edition was used to collect the data. Four research hypotheses were tested. The results revealed that: The reliability statistics for the scale based on the total number of 20 items was .823 and considered to be highly significant. Criminal population respondent have highly prevalence rate of committing crime more than the non-committing crime more than the non-Criminal population in Kaduna state. Which indicate a mean score of 3.36 with a standard deviation of .497 of 192 Criminal population respondent have highly prevalence rate of committing crime in Kaduna state. While mean score of 2.91 with standard deviation of .422 of 192 non-Criminal population respondent have low prevalence rate of committing crime in Kaduna state. The result also reveal that Non-criminal population were 192 participants for the Non-criminal population, 119 (62.0%) were males with a mean PCL-R score of 48.73 (SD 9.8; n=119) while 73 (38.0%) were females with a mean PCL-R score of 52.06 (SD 9.9; n=73). On the other hand the result shows that Gender of the Norms for the criminal population. Of the 192 criminal population 177 (92.2%) were males with a mean PCL-R score of 50.52 (SD 9.9; n= 177) while 15 (7.8%) were females with a mean PCL-R score of 43.86 (SD 8.7; n=15). Finally, the results indicate that 18- in35 years are the age range that is

highly prevalence to commit crime in Kaduna State. it was recommended that more representative sample should be used, where people from various geographical locations in Nigeria should be included, and there is need to move away from focusing on behavioral correlates (antisocial and criminal behaviors), and to focus more on affective components and find ways to assess these affective constructs in a more valid and reliable manner.

**Keywords:** Prevalence, Psychopathy, Criminal, Non-Criminal and Population

### 1. Introduction

There is an unprecedented upsurge in violent crimes and the gruesome killing of innocent people worldwide (Ayokunle, 2020). The most alarming and terrifying is the present escalation and barbarity, lethality, and trauma the perpetrators unleash on the unfortunate victims across Nigeria's length and breadth. The rising incidents of armed robbery, banditry, assassination, insurgency, terrorism, and ransom-driven kidnappings are the most inhumane crimes that continue to plague Nigeria and other parts of the world (Osawe, 2015). Most countries of the world are under siege, a siege orchestrated by the murderous blood-thirsty, criminally-minded individuals who have indicated an insatiable disposition towards sadism. Okechukwu (2012) contends that the high rate of violent crime of kidnapping for ransom, murder, and terrorism has created an atmosphere of fear, anxiety, and tension and has taken center stage bloodshed and economic setback.

Nigeria is the deadliest country in Africa, recording over 29% of all organized, armed conflict-related fatalities in Africa in 2014, with 6,383 deaths in 2014 (ACLED, 2015), primarily caused by the insurgency in the North East. This is almost twice the number of deaths reported in South Sudan, which recorded 16% of all organized, armed conflict-related deaths. The high rate of crime in Africa has been explained as a product of several factors. These include political factors such as state fragility and state failure and historical factors such as the history of inter-ethnic and inter-racial injustices, including apartheid.

Sugden (2020) reported that from 1980-2019, the Stephanos Foundation record shows a total of 1,785 attacks in 32 states of the country. This led to the death of not less than 28,878 innocent people in 121 ethno religious riots in 19 states, the death of 9,451 lives was lost. Also, Boko Haram militant group was responsible for 701 attacks that claimed 12,812 lives in 15 states. Again, 963 attacks from Fulani Militant groups in 32 states were responsible for 6,615 deaths.

The fund for peace and foreign policy magazine in Nigeria (2019) ranks Nigeria number 14 on the lists of fragile states all over the world. The African leadership Centre of Kings college London published in 2008 a regional security report on West Africa argued that Nigeria accounted for 54% of recorded violent events in West Africa. Nigeria is shaping the trend and pattern of violent events in West Africa. According to the United Nations Centre for Peace and Disarmament (2019), there is a gradual DE legitimization of the Nigerian State by hostile and progressively violent non-state actors, and the estimated five hundred million illicit small arms are circulating West Africa Nigeria is holding 70%.

It is pertinent to state here that there is an unprecedented upsurge in violent crime around the world; some are described as banditry, kidnapping, while others are insurgency and terrorism. These developments indicate an insatiable disposition towards sadism by perpetrators. That is to say that they appear to be pathologically delighted to oppose constituted authority, victimize fellow citizens, and pride in the destruction they mastermind in society. These developments have generated different reactions in many people and places. Whereas the religious moralists feel they are signs and symptoms of moral depravity, the government views them as gross violations of the law. Various approaches have therefore been employed to address these issues.

It has been difficult, however, to achieve a common consensus of what criminality entails. Whereas

sociological and psychological descriptions of these tendencies have been described, clinical characterization has been made of them. Sociologists have described this as an antisocial personality. Psychologists describe it as Psychopathy and, together with psychiatrists, have retained it as a clinical construct for the diagnosis of mental disorder that requires diagnosis. Whereas there have been occasional variations in the clinical characterization of Psychopathy over the years by the DSM, Forensic psychologists and criminologists argue for different ways of appreciating the construct. For instance, Psychopathy has been defined differently.

Psychopathy is a disease of the mind in which the psychological state of someone has emotional or behavioral problems severe enough to require a psychiatric evaluation. Psychopathy is an antisocial personality disorder where individuals lack any capacity for remorse, guilt, shame, or regard for the feelings of others. Psychopaths have no concern for others' feelings and a complete disregard of any sense of social obligation. Psychopaths are characterized by a lack of empathy, poor impulse control, and manipulative behaviors. They use charm, manipulation, intimidation, and the use of severe to mild violence to satisfy their own needs.

Based on decades of research, psychopathy has been described as a severe form of personality disorder defined by a range of traits that include the following: (affective) callous unemotional (CU) traits reflecting deficient affective experience, (interpersonal) grandiose and arrogant interpersonal style, and (behavioural) pervasive impulsive behaviour

Psychopathy is derived from two Greek words: 'psych,' meaning soul, and 'pathos,' meaning suffering. They were once used to explain any form of mental illness. Psychopaths can seem just like you or me, but when you are not around them, this is when their mental disorder kicks in. Psychopaths that have been put in jail committed three times as many crimes per year as non-psychopaths. 97% of convicted psychopathic criminals cause at least one violent crime compared to 74% of non-psychopaths. Psychopaths are shown to be more violent throughout their entire life compared to regular people. Psychopaths tend to have a greater chance of failing on parole and mandatory supervision and have a faster failing rate than non-psychopaths. Psychopathy predicts recidivism on conditional release as well as or better than do actuarial risk instruments. Psychopaths recidivate at a rate of three to four times higher than that of non-psychopaths.

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

According to a Presidency source, Nigeria recorded 1177 cases of kidnapping in the space of 14 months from 2016 to 2017. While 525 suspects were prosecuted, 652 are still being investigated (The Eagle Online, 2017). The fact that over 1000 persons were arrested as kidnapped suspects within such a short time speaks volumes of the extent to which the crime has eroded the country's security fabrics.

According to Ayokunle (2020), who reiterated the unprecedented upsurge of violence and gruesome killings of innocent Nigerians by the Boko Haram terrorists, Fulani herdsmen, bandits, and kidnapers in the country, he recalled with nostalgia the gruesome murder of Rev LawanAndimi, the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Michika LGA of Adamawa State, the beheading of 11 persons by Islamic State in West Africa on Christmas day of 2019 in Maiduguri including a bride-to-be. Consequently, four seminarians of the (Catholic) Good Shepherd Major Seminary in Kakau along Kaduna-Abuja road were kidnapped, 35 people were killed, and 58 persons abducted raided ten communities on January 13, 2020 in Chikun and BirninGwari LGA of Kaduna state. These criminals are everywhere operating with impunity, and they have been stopping commercial and private vehicles; police, army officers, and even judges are not exempted. Nigeria is under a siege orchestrated by the murderous blood-thirsty and criminally-minded Boko Haram terrorists, Fulani herdsmen, bandits, and Kidnapers who are all armed to the teeth, dressed in army uniforms, and gradually overwhelming our security agencies. They have been going around invading towns, killing and maiming youths and elders, men and women, raping mothers and daughters, decapitating children and disemboweling pregnant women, and subjecting people to cold-blooded murder (Ayokunle, 2020)

The statistics of persons involved in criminal activities in Kaduna State by 2015 indicated armed robbery 7.6%, murder 2.8%, assault 13.7%, theft 19.3%, rape 3.1%, forgery 6.9%, burglary 13.3%, suicide 1.4%, cheating 14.7%, hurting/fighting 16.9%, and kidnapping 0.46% (Ayuba, Mugu, Tanko, & Bulus, 2015).

According to Hare (2000) where he contended that people who are diagnosed with psychopathic checklist (PCL) as high psychopathic have the tendency of getting involve in violent crimes of armed robbery, murder, manslaughter, homicide, rape, kidnapping, banditry, insurgency and terrorism.

Hare (1980) administered the PCL on a population sample which consisted of 143 white incarcerated males from a British Columbia Prison in Canada. Regression analysis revealed that PCL scores significantly predicted global rating of psychopathy.

Hare and McPherson (1984) examined the relationship between PCL and violence; the study found that criminals with higher PCL scores were more likely to commit violent and aggressive criminal acts than those with lower scores.

Hakkanan Nyhol and Hare (2009) studied some offenders charged with homicide, they found out that the offenders who scored higher (30 and above) on the PCL-scale were more likely to leave the crime scene without informing any one of their killings.

Porter (2000) studied sexual offenders with the PCL and result revealed that 64% were involved in raping and molesting, 10.8% were involved in incest, 35.9% for rape, 6.3% for mixed molesting and 6.39% for extra family molesting.

This study intends to validate the Hare Psychopathy checklist and to determine the prevalence rate of psychopathy among criminal and non-criminal population in Kaduna state Nigeria

### 1.2 Objective of the Study

- To determine the reliability statistics of the Hare PCL-R 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition in Kaduna State Nigeria
- To assess the difference in Psychopathy behavior of gender and age between the Criminal and Non-criminal population in Kaduna State Nigeria

### 1.3 Research Questions

- What is the reliability statistics of the Hare psychopathic checklists revised (PCL-R) 2nd edition in Kaduna State Nigeria?
- What is the difference in psychopathic behavior of gender and age between Criminal and Non-criminal populations in Kaduna State Nigeria?

### 1.4 Hypotheses

- There will be no change in reliability/crombach alpha of Hare psychopathy checklist in Nigeria sample and that of the Western British sample.
- There will be no change in psychopathy behaviour of gender and age among criminal

and non-criminal population in Kaduna State Nigeria.

### 1.5 Scope of the Study

The Study will be confined to five community samples in Kaduna North Local Government Area of Kaduna State, which will comprise of criminal population from Maximum security correctional center Kaduna and Non Prison/community population, which consists of four (4) communities of Kabala, Kawo, Gabasawa, and Badarawa areas.

## 2. Concept of Psychopathy

Modern-day conceptualizations of Psychopathy were born with Cleckley's observations described in *The Mask of Sanity* (1941). Cleckley described the psychopath as exhibiting 16 characteristics encompassing four broad domains: interpersonal, affective, cognitive, and behavioral. Congruent with Cleckley's definitions, Robert Hare developed a three-point rating scale to assess Psychopathy, The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) (1991). The PCL-R has become an important research tool. Although Hare developed the scale for research purposes, the PCL-R has also become the sole diagnostic tool for Psychopathy. High rates of internal consistency, inter-rater reliability, and test-retest reliability within the United States and Canada make the PCL-R a popular diagnostic tool for Psychopathy (Bodholt, Richards, & Gacono, 2000).

The modern conception of Psychopathy is the result of several hundred years of clinical investigations and speculations by European and American psychiatrists and psychologists. As Million et al. (1998) put it, "Psychopathy was the first personality disorder to be recognized in psychiatry. The concept has a long historical and clinical tradition, and in the last decade a growing body of research has supported its validity. . ."

According to the PCL, psychopathy involves both behavioural and personality traits. Factor 1 of the PCL thus refers to personality traits and consists of the following items: "glibness/superficial charm," "conning/manipulation," "lack of remorse or guilt," "shallow affect", "callousness/lack of empathy" and "failure to take responsibility for one's actions." PCL Factor 2 refers more to antisocial behaviours and consists of the following items: "need for stimulation/proneness to boredom", "parasitic lifestyle," "poor behavioural control," "early behavioural problems", "lack of realistic, long-term goals", "impulsiveness", "juvenile delinquency" and "revocation of conditional release" (Item 19).

According to Hare (2003), "Item 19 describes an individual who, as an adult (aged 18 or older), has violated a conditional release or escaped from an institution. Violation of conditional release include technical but noncriminal breaches (i.e., drinking alcohol while on parole), or new charges or conviction while parole, mandatory supervision, probation, bail.

Despite much research on various aspects of psychopathy, the history of the concept of psychopathy has been marked by uncertainty and controversy among clinicians and researchers on its definition and diagnostic criteria ( Arrigo & Shipley, 2001). Researchers have given priority to the development of precise inclusion criteria to define homogeneous groups while clinicians have been more interested in developing clear methods for the diagnosis of psychopathy (Arrigo & Shipley, 2001). However, there is a consensus among authorities from different theoretical orientations that the concept of psychopathy describes a distinct entity among personality disorders (Harris, Rice & Quinsey, 1994). Indeed, in considering a cluster of personality traits (Factor 1 on the PCL), in addition to the presence of antisocial behaviour (Factor 2), the scale of psychopathy developed by Hare identifies a group of subjects with specific characteristics. While the diagnosis of antisocial personality according to (DSM), made almost exclusively on the basis of antisocial behaviours, is observed among 28 to 62% of incarcerated peoples ( Bland, Newman, Thompson & Dyck, 1998), the construct of psychopathy identifies a smaller group of individuals with distinctive personality traits that may contribute to their antisocial behaviour.

## 3. Prevalence of psychopathy among Criminal and Non-criminal Population

Although psychopathy was described by Cleckley in 1941 in relation to criminal behaviour, the concept of the "successful psychopath" or non-criminal psychopath has always remained a central concern of researchers and clinicians (Smith, 1978). Recent literature indicates that psychopathy is not only limited to the prison population, or among those engaged in chronic criminal activities (Hare, 1993). Psychopathy can therefore be found in the general population and among individuals at all levels of society including businessmen, politicians, journalists, lawyers, etc. Through their intelligence and socioeconomic status, individuals with psychopathy can exploit their relationships with others, including friends, colleagues, and family members, without falling into criminality (Hare,

1993). Moreover, some features of psychopathy, such as glibness/superficial charm and fearless, can even be beneficial in certain professions (Lykken, 1995). In a longitudinal study based on observation in a professional environment, Babiak (2000) described how individuals with psychopathy function in a business community using lies and manipulation. Such individuals may be particularly attracted to unstable companies or those in transition, so that they can exploit the chaos that exists, in order to benefit themselves at the expense of colleagues.

Most research on psychopathy has focused on samples of male inmates (Hare, 2003). This makes it difficult to generalize results to other criminal or non-criminal populations, including those residing in the community. The prevalence of psychopathy, in the general population is estimated at 1% (Hare, 2003). Community studies of individuals with psychopathy can help clarify the factors that protect them from criminal or other chronic antisocial activities, and can guide development of appropriate prevention strategies.

#### **4. Prevalence of psychopathy on gender difference among male and female offenders**

The prevalence rates of psychopathy among sexual offenders varies between 3% and 15% (Hart & Hare, 1998; ). However, rates of psychopathy are higher among offenders incarcerated for rape, where the prevalence varies from 35% to 77% (Brown & Forth, 1977; Miller et al, 1994).

Currently, studies show that the prevalence of psychopathy in women is substantially lower than that observed in men. Indeed, Warren and colleagues (2003) found a prevalence rate of 17% in a sample of U.S. women prisoners. They also reported a prevalence of 15% using a similar sample of a U.S. prison. Neary (1990) found a prevalence rate of 11%, and Vitale et al. (2002), 9% in a female sample from a U.S. prison. Thus, the prevalence rates of psychopathy among men are roughly twice that found among than women (Salekin, et al., 1997). These gender differences may reflect broader differences in psychopathology among men and women as well as diagnostic biases.

Indeed, in general, psychiatric epidemiological data show that women have an increased tendency to report internalizing symptoms (depression, anxiety) compared with men who are more likely than women to manifest externalizing symptoms, including substance abuse/dependence, antisocial personality, and aggression (Kessler et al, 1994). However,

gender differences in social norms and sanctions for antisocial behaviour may introduce bias into clinical diagnosis (Hare, 1998).

In Canada, the Correctional Service of Canada conducted a study in which they found that 20% of male inmates had a PCL-R score over 30 (Hare, 1998). Using the same cut-off score of 30 on the PCL-R, studies among incarcerated women found a slightly lower rate of psychopathy. Loucks and Zamble (2000) conducted a study on a sample of 120 women recruited from the Canadian federal system, 11% of women exceeded the score of 30 on the PCL-R. In a study of 103 female inmates, Salekin et al. (1997) found a prevalence rate of 15%. In their study among 528 women prisoners, Vitale et al. (2002) found 9% of women with a score of 30 or more on the PCL-R. In an unpublished doctoral thesis, Strachan found that among 75 Canadian women prisoners, 31% met or exceeded a score of 30 on the PCL-R. She attributed this high rate to the fact that nearly half of her sample came from a high security prison system. Strachan also suggested that the varied prevalence rates of psychopathy among women prisoners may reflect a possible gender bias in some PCL-R items (e.g., criminal versatility, juvenile delinquency, and revocation of conditional release) that may reduce the rates of psychopathy found in women. Summarizing the various studies, Jackson et al. (2002) concluded that the PCL-R scores observed among women are on average 4-6 times lower than those obtained in men. However, the PCL-R remains consistent in its ability to identify psychopathy among women (Vitale & Newman, 2001).

Hare (1991) estimated the prevalence rate among male prisoners between 20% and 30%, while Hart and Hare (1998) revised that estimate to between 15% and 30%. In 2003, however, other studies in other Western countries suggest that the prevalence rate of psychopathy among incarcerated male offenders may vary more widely between 3% (Cooke, 1955) and 39.2% (Hare et al., 1988), for example: Scotland (3%); Belgium (7.8%); Denmark (17%); Sweden (25%); Norway (25.3%); North America (28.4%) (Pham & Côté, 2000, pp. 54-65). This variations may reflect cross-national differences in criminal justice systems as well as broader societal factors.

#### **5. Empirical Review**

There has been a dramatic change in the perceived and actual role played by psychopathy in the criminal justice system. Formerly, a prevailing view was that clinical diagnoses such as psychopathy were of little

value in understanding and predicting criminal behaviors. However, even a cursory inspection of the features that define the disorder—callousness, impulsivity, egocentricity, grandiosity, irresponsibility, lack of empathy, guilt, or remorse, and so forth—indicates that psychopaths should be much more likely than other members of the general public to bend and break the rules and laws of society. They lack many of the characteristics important for inhibiting antisocial and violent behavior representing the perfect prescription for asocial, antisocial, and criminal acts. Concerning violence, Silver, Mulvey, and Monahan (1999) commented: *“Psychopathy’s defining characteristics, such as impulsivity, criminal versatility, callousness, and lack of empathy or remorse make the conceptual link between violence and psychopathy straightforward.”*

Although psychopathy is closely associated with antisocial and criminal behavior, psychopaths are, in many ways, different from others who routinely engage in criminal behavior, including those whose criminal conduct is severe and persistent. Some individuals devote most of their adolescent and adult life to delinquent and criminal activities. Among these persistent offenders are psychopaths, who begin their antisocial and criminal activities at a relatively early age and continue to engage in these activities throughout much of their lifespan.

The strong association between psychopathy and criminal behavior is well documented (Hare, 1998; Hare et al., 1999; Hart & Hare, 1997). This association is all the more significant because it occurs even in populations where crime and violence are the norms. Some commentators believe that psychopathy is not essential for understanding criminals (Toch, 1998), but such a belief is inconsistent with the empirical literature. Elsewhere I argued that psychopathy might be “the single most important clinical construct in the criminal justice system” (Hare, 1998). I am not alone in this view. For example, Wilson and Hermstein (1985) wrote, “Among convicted offenders or behavioral tendencies, some concept like psychopathy, sociopaths, or antisocial personality loom above all others as the major predisposing trait, either alone or in combination with other traits...Psychopathy is the prime criminogenic personality trait”. More recently, Harris, Skilling, et al. (2001) concluded that “psychopathy is the most important psychological construct for policy and practice in the criminal justice field” and that the “psychopathy Checklist-Revised is the best available (instrument for its) assessment.” Newman et al. (2002) described this

view as “Echoing the sentiments of numerous investigators who have examined the evidence. “Edens, Petrile, et al. (2001) remarked that the “various commentaries describing the importance of psychopathy have been short of effusive.”

Much of the crime-related evidence for the PCL-R validity is based on its associations with various concurrent or predicted outcome variables. These associations are quantified in multiple ways, including analysis of variance (ANOVA) t-tests, odds ratios, receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analyses, and correlation coefficients (Quinsey et al., 1999). Concerning correlation coefficients, it is worth noting that even a small value can have considerable importance (Rice & Harris, 1998). Rosenthal (1990) has pointed out that the uncritical reliance on  $r^2$  as a measure of the proportion of outcome variance accounted for by the predictor variable leads to the erroneous conclusion that correlations are not useful for assessing risk unless they are very high. For example, he noted that the large randomized, double-blind study on the effects of aspirin on reducing heart attack was terminated prematurely in 1988 because it would have been unethical to continue to deny aspirin to those in the placebo group. The correlation ( $r$ ) between taking aspirin (yes, no) and subsequent heart attacks (yes, no) was .034, and the proportion of variance in heart attacks accounted for by aspirin was .001. Yet, the effect was a reduction in heart attacks in the aspirin group that was large enough to terminate the study.

### 5.1 Genetic Perspective

In behavioral Genetics the antisocial spectrum disorders Gunter, Vaughn and Philibert (2010) reported that family twin and adoption studies have all pointed to genetic contributions to antisocial behaviors. They argued that genetic factor seems to amount for half the variance in both twin and adoption studies.

Waldman and Rhee (2006) investigated psychopathy alone and found that genetic factors explained 49% of variance in psychopathy and psychopathic traits while 51% of the remaining was due to non-shared environmental factors.

In a recent study by Beaver, Rowland, Schwartz and Nedelec (2011) Having a criminal biological father increased the likelihood that a male adoptee scores high on psychopathic traits in a sample of adoptees from the national longitudinal study of adolescent health. However, having a criminal mother did not have an effect. These findings were only seen male adoptees and not females.

## 5.2 Developmental Perspectives

Moffitt (1993) argued that children who start to exhibit defiant and oppositional behaviors since childhood are more likely to exhibit these behaviors in more severe form in late childhood and adolescence. Moffitt (1993) also continued that children i.e. difficult or vulnerable children i.e. impulsive and difficult temperament children who grow up in an inadequate rearing environment i.e. neglecting parents that the transaction between the child and the environment can lead to a poor socialization process and antisocial behavior may ensue. While other adolescent children teenagers engage in antisocial behavior as a form of rebellion and in attempt to obtain a sense of autonomy from their parents and caregiver. Their antisocial behavior is less likely to persist in adulthood.

Patterson, De Garmo and Kautson (2000) investigated the interaction of a child's temperament with parent's rearing style they argued that coercive parent child interaction, influences the development of antisocial behaviors. And also noted that a difficult child who interacts with an insufficiently responsive parents results in a distressed child who by age 2 has escalated his/her antisocial behavior and may exhibit social skills that characterize a child who is diagnosed attention Kochanska (2002) found that inhibitory / effortful control at a tender age directly impacted development of a conscience at school and early school age. He argued that a fearful temperament interacted with parenting style to predict conscience development at age 4 and 5. For fearful but not fearless children, internalized conscience was predicted by a mother's gentle disciplinary methods. However for fearless but not fearful children, internalized conscience was predicted by posture and reciprocal to mother-child relationship.

Widom (1998) found that both men and woman who were abused or neglected as children were more likely to develop antisocial personality disorder. Luntz and Widom (1996) reported that individuals with histories or childhood abuse and neglect were at increased risk of psychopathy.

## 5.3 Cognitive Perspective

a. Gough's role-taking theory (under the cognitive perspective theory) this theory argues that psychopaths behave the way they do because they are not able to foresee the consequences of their actions and are therefore unable to judge the effect of their behavior from another person's point of view.

Cleckley see psychopaths as socially insensitive persons but Gough (1948) argued that it is because of their cognitive deficit rather than their affective emotional deficit

b. Beck's theory: distortions. Beck argued that the psychopaths views himself as a strong, independent loner and views others as exploitative and deserving to be exploited or as weak and therefore deserving to be preyed upon (Beck, Freeman and Davis, 2006). Following the above view, the psychopath's core beliefs include looking out for oneself, avoiding victimization and sense of entitlement especially to break rules. It is pertinent to know that their world view is personal rather than interpersonal therefore they cannot hold another person's point of view as the same time as their own.

## 6. Research Design

The study adopted survey as its design which enabled the researcher to obtain data on the Participants from the Communities (non-criminal population) and Correctional Settings (incarcerated prison population). The survey is the best method to use since the study is interested in validation of the Hare psychopathic checklist and prevalence of psychopathy in Kaduna State Nigeria

### 6.1 Population, Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The population of the study is the total number of residents in that local government as recorded in the 2006 population census was estimated at 364,575. Male: 187,075 and Female: 177,500. The target population of the study comprises of: Kaduna correctional center, and Kabala, Kawo, Gabasawa, Badarawa communities.

Participants were drawn from two sets of population; namely: incarcerated criminal population and community non-criminal population in Kaduna North Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The incarcerated criminal population was determined by the Kaduna State Correction Centre while the Community Population was from four (4) communities of Kabala, Kawo, Gabasawa and Badarawa. Inclusion criteria were persons between 18-55 years while exclusion criteria are persons that have mental diagnoses and those who are not literate in English language.

To determine the sample size of participants that was drawn from the estimated population of 364,575 from four (4) of the communities, this study adopted Krejcie and Morgan (1997) formula to determine a sample size of 384. Hence, the minimum sample size was 384 participants taking into consideration

variables such as homogeneity in the data, and the sample frame under consideration. The population was systematically categorized into two groups, Criminal population (incarcerated inmates) and non-criminal population (community population).

The study sample size was 384 respondents who were sampled using cluster and systematic sampling techniques. Therefore, in systematic sampling, specific elements, which satisfy some predetermined criteria, are selected. Although the requirements to be used are usually a matter of the researcher's judgment, he exercises this judgment concerning what the researcher thinks will constitute a representative sample for the research objectives.

The demography of participants in the study from the criminal population (incarcerated inmates) is: 92.2% male and 7.8% female. Their age range is from 18-55 years with a mean age of 33.05 and standard deviation of 9.278. While from non-criminal population (community population) is: 62.0% male, 38.9% female

Participants from criminal population (incarcerated inmates) were recruited through purposive and convenient sampling techniques. Purposive because it was only incarcerated inmates that participated in the study, convenient sampling technique allowed only participants who were willing to participate were allowed through informed consent. This is to overcome the general suspicion and fear for research due to negative experiences of violence and ethno-religious crisis.

Participants from non-criminal population (community population) were recruited through cluster sampling technique. The community population was broken into groups which allowed for the desired characteristics participants to be recruited for the study.

## 6.2 Method of Data Collection

The instrument for this study is the Hare Psychopathic Checklist Revised (PCL-R) 2nd edition. The Hare PCL-R is a diagnostic tool that is used to rate the individual psychopathy or anti-social tendencies.

Robert Hare (1980) is the author and proponent of the original PCL-R screening versions. The PCL-R is a list of 20 symptoms ( Glibness/Superficial charm, Grandiose sense of self-worth, need for stimulation/proneness to boredom, Pathological Lying, Conning /Manipulative, Lack of Remorse/ Guilt, Shallow Affect, Callous/Lack of Empathy,

Parasitic Lifestyle, Poor Behavioural Control, Promiscuous Sexual Behaviour, Early Behavioural Problems, Lack of Realistic Long-Term Goals, Impulsivity, Irresponsibility, Failure To Accept Responsibility for Own Actions, Many Short-Term Marital Relationships, Juvenile Delinquency, Revocation of Conditional Release, Criminal Versatility), that requires a forensic expert's clinical judgment to score. Each item is scored on a 3 point ordinal scale ranging from 0-2 i.e. 0, 1, 2. A score of 0 indicates absence of symptoms of psychopathy, a score of 1 indicate possible presence of psychopathy while a score of 2 indicates definite presence of psychopathy.

The higher the score someone receives, the more the psychopathy they exhibit. The items include the behavioral, affective, and interpersonal items thought to characterize psychopathy personality disorder (Hare, 1991). The PCL-R requires raters to make judgments about whether individual Participants display specific characteristics; these characteristics are defined in considerable detail within the test manual.

The PCL-R 2nd edition is a highly reliable instrument and has impressive convenient, predictive and construct validity the PCL-R was designed for use in criminal and non-criminal population, for crime population, institutional files are often readily available. Scoring will be based on the degree to which a person's personality/behavior matches the rating booklet item. Ratings are based on responses to the semi-structured interview and a review of collateral information.

The reliability and validity of the instrument is ascertained as it is an established instrument for measuring psychopathy. Hare used a sample of 4,981 prison inmates and 1,246 of non-inmates to calculate an alpha coefficient of 0.87 for both. Inter-rater reliability was also very high according to Rogers (2001). For a five year time period the test –retest coefficient was presented at 0.89 (Schroeder & Hare, 1983), validity has been supported by factor analyses structure (Hare, 1990) using samples of prison and forensic impatiens.

## 6.3 Procedure and Administration of the Instrument

Researcher obtained official permission from the author of the PCL-R 2nd edition. The study will be preceded by an advocacy visit of the communities (criminal and non-criminal communities). Researcher obtained permission from local government and

prison authorities to conduct research. Research assistants were trained on administration of the instruments. Informed consent was obtained from participants. Community administration of the PCL-R 2nd edition was carried out. Conclude with administration at the Nigerian correctional Centre.

In view of the large population of the respondents for the study, the researcher used three (3) research assistants. The researcher trained the research assistants on the nitty-gritty of the study and how to conduct the study. This was to enable the research assistants to interpret and explain certain items on the PCL-R Checklist.

**6.4 Techniques for Data Analysis**

Inferential statistics was used for the test of hypotheses one, used correlation Analysis to measure the change in psychometric properties/ reliability/crombach alpha of Hare psychopathic checklist in Nigeria sample and that of the Western British sample., Pearson Product-Moment Correlation to measure the change in prevalence rate of psychopathy between criminal population and non-criminal population in Kaduna state, Independent Sample t-test to measure the difference between male and female in prevalence rate difference in psychopathy among criminal and non-criminal population to measure the mean difference in age on psychopathy among criminal and non-criminal population in Kaduna state through the application of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) used in the analysis.

**7. Results**

**Table 1:** Participants Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	296	77.1
Female	88	22.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age</b>		
18-35 Years	255	66.4
Above 35	129	33.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 1 above clearly indicated that there were 384 participants for both prison and non-prison population: 296 (77.1%) were males and 88 (22.9%) were females while 255 (66.4%) of them were aged between 18-35 years and 129 (33.6%) aged above 35 years.

**Table 2:** Reliability Statistics of PCL-R 2<sup>nd</sup> edition in Nigeria

	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range	Maximum/Minimum	Variance	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
<b>Item Means</b>	1.114	.135	1.451	1.315	10.712	.134	.823	20

Table 2 above presents the reliability statistics of the instrument. The reliability statistics of the scale based on the total number of twenty (20) items had a crombach value of 0.823 and considered to be highly significant.

**Table 3:** Mean, Std. Deviation, Std. Error of Mean and T-score for Gender and age of Criminal sample

Gender	N	%	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error of Mean	of Variance	df	t	P
<b>Male</b>	94	92%	35.5909	7.16219	3.34260	31.926			
<b>Female</b>	9	8%	15.4242	9.30084	1.26386	11.876	262	31.482	0.000
<b>AGE</b>									
<b>18-35</b>	60	58%	30.015	7.165	3.3439	37.170			
<b>35above Years</b>	43	42%	16.265	6.854	1.10506	101.75	262	15.931	0.000

Results in the above table shows that the p – value of 0.000 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. While calculated t – value of 31.482 is higher than the t – critical value of 1.96 at degree of freedom of 262. This means that significant difference exist between male and female psychopathy among criminal sample/prison population levels which was

35.5909 and 15.4242 by male and female respectively, implying that there is a high prevalence of psychopathy among male prison population than the female participants .

On age, the results in the above table show that the p – value of 0.000 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. While calculated t – value of 15.931 is higher than the t – critical value of 1.96 at degree of freedom of 262.This means that significant difference exist between ages (18 – 35years & 35 years above) in psychopathy among criminal sample/prison population. Their recorded mean level was 30.015 and 16.265 by 18-35 years and above 35year respectively. It therefore implies that participants within the age of 18-35 years were more prevalent in psychopathy than participants who were between ages 35 years and above.

From the above results it clearly indicates that out of the total 103 participants who scored above the cut-off point/bench mark of 25 which is the indication of psychopathy among criminal sample/prison population, it therefore means as follows that there is a high prevalence rate in psychopathy among the male gender than the female gender at the prison population/criminal population level in Nigeria. And those persons between ages 18-35 years of age are more prevalent to psychopathy than those between ages 35 years and above at the prison population/ criminal population level in Nigeria.

**Table 4:** Mean, Std. Deviation, Std. Error of Mean and T-score of Gender and age of Non-Criminal sample

Gender	N	%	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error of Variance	df	t	P
Male	58	69%	30.015	7.168	3.2260	262	31.682	0.000
Female	26	31%	16.265	6.635	1.5638			
<b>AGE</b>								
18-35	55	65%	57.5530	9.36864	3.2260	262	31.482	0.000
35above Years	29	35%	20.1301	6.63591	1.5638			

Above is the mean descriptive statistics between male and female in psychopathy among non-criminal sample/non-prison population/community sample. Their recorded mean gender levels were 30.015 and 16.265 for male and female respectively, with a mean difference level of 13.750 implying that male participants at the non-criminal/non-prison/community sample were more prevalent to psychopathic tendencies than the female participants.

On Age results, the above table clearly indicated that the p – value of 0.000 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. While calculated t – value of 31.682 is higher than the t – critical value of 1.96 at degree of freedom of 262.This means that a significant difference exist between age difference (18-35 years & 36 years above) in psychopathy among non-criminal sample/non-prison population/community sample. Their recorded mean age difference level were 57.5530 and 20.1301 by 18-35year and 35year above respectively, with a mean Age level difference of 37.4229 implying that participants between ages 18-35year were more prevalent to psychopathy compared to their counterparts who fell between ages 35 years and above. Following the above results it clearly indicates that out of a total of 84 participants who scored above the cut off/ point/bench mark of 21 which is the indication of psychopathy among non-criminal sample/non-prison population/community sample, it therefore means as follows that there is a

high prevalence rate in psychopathy among the male gender than the female gender at the non-prison population/community level in Nigeria. And those persons between ages 18-35 years of age are more prevalent to psychopathic tendencies than those between ages 35 and above at the non-prison population/ community level in Nigeria.

### 8. Discussion of Findings

The reliability statistics for the scale based on the total number of 20 items was .823 and considered to be highly significant. This result is in agreement with the works of Rogers (2001) where he reported that Hare used a sample of 4,981 prison inmates (male) and 1,246 inmates (female) to calculate an alpha coefficient of 0.87 and was very high.

Consequently Schroder and Hare (1989) reported that for a five (5) year time period the test-retest coefficient was presented at 0.89. The result is also in line with the Studies of Hare (1991)which revealed that Corrected item total correlations between the scores on the individual item and the sum of scores (Cronbach’s alpha = .63), ranged from 0.21 to 0.31, and interclass correlation (ICC) = .85 (absolute agreement) (CI = .72 to .92). Internal consistency for corrected total items without items 18, 19, 20 is .63.

The results of data analysis shows that the psychometric properties of the PCL-R in this study were good compared with those observed in North America and some European countries. The PCL-R psychometric and predictive qualities are excellent (Fulero, 1995, and Stone, 1995).

The result in hypothesis 2 clearly revealed Morbidity pattern for psychopathy between gender and age of criminal/prison population and non-criminal/prison population in Nigeria. It indicates that the Male gender population and persons who fall between age 18-35 years for both criminal/prison population and non-prison population have highly prevalence rate of committing crime in Nigeria.

The result for Criminal/Prison population indicated that  $p$  – value of 0.000 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. While calculated  $t$  – value of 31.482 is higher than the  $t$  – critical value of 1.96 at degree of freedom of 262 and recorded mean value of 35.5909 and 15.4242 by male and female respectively. For age the  $p$  – value of 0.000 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. While calculated  $t$  – value of 15.931 is higher than the  $t$  – critical value of 1.96 at degree of freedom of 262. This means that significant difference exist between ages (18 – 35years & 35 years above) in psychopathy among criminal sample/prison population. Their recorded mean level was 30.015 and 16.265 by 18-35 years and above 35year respectively.

The result for the Non-prison population revealed that their recorded mean gender levels were 30.015 and 16.265 for male and female respectively, with a mean difference level of 13.750 implying that male participants at the non-criminal/non-prison/community sample were more prevalent to psychopathic tendencies than the female participants.

On Age, results clearly indicated that the  $p$  – value of 0.000 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. While calculated  $t$  – value of 31.682 is higher than the  $t$  – critical value of 1.96 at degree of freedom of 262. This means that a significant difference exist between age difference (18-35 years & 36 years above) in psychopathy among non-criminal sample/non-prison population/community sample. Their recorded mean age difference level were 57.5530 and 20.1301 by 18-35year and 35year above respectively, with a mean Age level difference of 37.4229 implying that participants between ages 18-35year were more prevalent to psychopathy compared to their counterparts who fell between ages 35 years and above.

The result was supported by the work of Hare (1991) who reported that 25% of Male prisoners had scored on the PCL-R greater than 30 which is the conventional cut off score for psychopathy. The work was based on a sample of 1200 Canadian Federal Prisons inmates. Hare (2003) using different sample of 5000 male prisoners had a PCL-R score of 15.7% were male prisoners and scored greater than 30. Consequently, Hare (1991) reported 15.5% of male inmates who scored 30 and above as cut off point out of 40 compared with typical 25-30% reported for male federal prisoners in Canada.

The result was supported by the work of Nicholls, Ogloff, Brink, and Spidel (2005) found that women scored lower than men on the PCL-R in samples of civil and forensic psychiatric patients, inmates, and community members. The result is similar to the work of Levenson, Kiehl, and Fitzpatrick (1995) compared men and women in a community sample on primary and secondary psychopathy and found that men were much 47 higher on primary psychopathy, and also higher although marginally, on secondary psychopathy than their female counterparts. Also, consonance with the study of Neumann et al. (2012) found that the mean scores on the Hare SRP were higher among men than women. Kessler et al. (1994), using data from the National Comorbidity Survey, found that women tend to report engaging in more internalizing behaviour (depression, anxiety), while men tend to report engaging in more externalizing behaviours (substance use, aggression).

In addition, Widom (1984) proposed that criminal behaviour is influenced by many factors, such as genetic and biological characteristics (temperament, physiological responses), past socializing experiences (gender- 48 appropriate behaviours for girls and boys), and other situational factors (victimization, drug use), which are all, in turn, influenced by sex and gender roles. This also indicated that women in the sample scored lower than men on psychopathy and its subscales. It evidence would appear to indicate that the underlying construct of psychopathy is both a valid and reliable disorder among females. However, its prevalence and behavioural manifestations do appear to differ on the basis of gender. In particular, females are found to display significant lower levels of psychopathy than males, and are more liable to manifest the disorder in a manipulative and indirect manner than through overt anti-social behaviour.

Hare (1991) reported that 25% of male prisoners had scored on the PCL-R greater than 30 which is the

conventional cut off score for psychopathy. The work was based on a sample of 1200 Canadian federal prisons inmates. Hare (2003) also reported that in some studies based on different samples of more than 5000 male prisoners had PCL-R scores 15.7% of male prisoners greater than 30. Hare (1991) reported that 15.5% of inmates that the cut-off of 30 out of 40 compared with typical 25-30% reported for male federal prisoners in Canada.

Consequently, Hare (1991) revealed that, PCL: SV total and factor scores were generally lower among persons 55 or older than among younger persons, consistent with cross-sectional analyses of male prison PCL-R data. These data indicate that total PCL-R scores decline little as a Prevalence and Correlates of Psychopathic Traits in the Household Population 18 function of age (at least until about age 55 or 60), but that some decreases occur in the Lifestyle and Antisocial factors (Hare, 2003;). Similar age-related declines have been observed in the prevalence of ASPD and in criminal behaviour in general (Farrington, 1986), suggesting that certain behaviour-related traits related to psychopathy decrease in severity with age. Although there is evidence that the criminal activities of psychopathic offenders may decline in frequency with age, this may be an artefact related to being in prison for longer periods than other offenders as they age (Hare, 1994)).

## 9. Conclusion and Recommendations

The conclusion presented here derives from the findings of this study. This study has provided justification to the aim and objectives for which it was instituted and also provided answers to the stated research questions. The researcher therefore concluded change in psychometric properties/reliability/cronbach alpha of Hare psychopathic checklist in Nigeria sample is very highly than western British sample. Prevalence rate was highly in male than the female in committing crime in Kaduna state. And finally it was concluded that age 18-35 have high Prevalence rate to commit crime than any other age in Kaduna state. Despite challenges, this research is important given the lack of studies investigating psychopathy in British populations, and the need to better understand the construct of psychopathy and its relevance in this cultural group. One of the more important recommendations is that a more representative sample should be used, where people from various geographical locations in Nigeria would be included. The findings indicate that empathy is an important factor to consider when investigating the construct of psychopathy. Finally,

there is need to move away from focusing on behavioral correlates (antisocial and criminal behaviors), and to focus more on affective components and find ways to assess these affective constructs in a more valid and reliable manner.

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