

**THE EFFECTS OF JUNGLE JUSTICE ON SOCIAL REENGINEERING IN
NIGERIA (A CASE STUDY OF LAGOS STATE)**

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ABSTRACT:

Jungle justice has been characterised as one of the social vices that impedes the development of any society. The act of placing law into ones' hands and not going through the appropriate government agencies for the proper dispensation of justice leads to infringement of other people's rights which unveils the postulation of jungle justice. It has been observed that in Nigeria, jungle justice prevails; especially in Lagos state, due to circumstances best known to them, this has resulted to loss of respect for law, social harmony, and fair hearing in Lagos state. The research employed quantitative and qualitative method; primary and secondary data collection were adopted. A purposive sampling technique with the sample size of 200 elements was employed, oral interview guide was used. Retributive theory and structural functionalist theory in its theoretical frame work. Study found that the prevalence of jungle justice is hazardous for a growing state, which has occurred at various instances in Lagos state and of which its continuance can lead to underrating such a promising state. Study therefore, recommends that there should be quick dispensation of justice in Lagos state. Also, that there should be a re-orientation and enlightenment on the part of the citizens by the state government to reduce the menace of Jungle Justice.

Keywords: Justice, Jungle Justice, Re- Engineering:

Introduction:

Violence is a wide spread and growing problem in every society mostly in Africa, it takes different forms and occurs in all setting; at work, in the home, on the street and community at large. Such violence affects both female and male of all ages and grades. It occurred throughout recorded history, most violence is however perpetrated by men against women, whatever the age of victim, and such violence is often cycle of abuse that shows itself in many forms throughout life mostly that of women. Physical violence is not a spectacle unique to our society. In fact, physical violence had occurred throughout recorded history. In ancient Rome, men had the legal right to physically assault their wives for such acts as walking in public without their

faces covered, drinking wine, or attending public events without permission Siegel (1986). The acceptance of a husband's legal and moral obligation to physically control their wife's behaviour continued into the modern era.

Developed or developing countries are assumed to portray modern ways of life to justify improvement and modernization. It is however disheartening seeing such citizens of civilized or modernizing states to be acted primitively, even to the point of living a hopeless and almost not worth living. It is true that Jungle life is a life where tomorrow cannot be decided and safety of life is not guaranteed as various catastrophic behaviors occur in the jungle life. However, as the world evolves, human beings have moved from a lawless state as that of the jungle to a state where laws direct ways of life and behavioral patterns.

The way of life in the jungle is to the animals therein unsure and unsafe because it is lawless, little wonder the popular Yoruba adage says "ilu ti ko si ofin, kosi ese" which means a "lawless land is a sinless land". This therefore reveals that the stronger specie gets the upper hand and wins every battle in the jungle. Jungle Justice has become very common in Africa, Nigeria, and Lagos State in particular. It has been observed that it is the fastest way in which justice can be met out to criminals. This is however very barbaric, dehumanizing and contrary to the unalienable rights of persons. Jungle Justice also known as Mob justice is a justice that respects no law. It perpetually connotes the infringement upon citizens' constitutional rights.

Also, Enadeche (2015) stated that "almost on daily basis, there are cases of killings and abuse of alleged criminals. People who may have been accused wrongly, ends up getting lynched by angry mobs before the police arrival". It is observed that some of the alleged criminals are not even caught in the act of committing a crime before been accused falsely and then instantly killed, tortured to death or even burned alive. There is however no rationale in this to murder these alleged criminals in such a way; this is because crimes cannot be fought against by acting

like a criminal. It is also known as vigilante justice has been opined to be part of the problems militating against the development of countries especially less developed and developing ones like Nigeria. It is a situation where people are treated very unfairly, brutally and deprived of their rights.

THE PROBLEM:

Judicial system in Nigeria is observed to be a major concern to all as it is known to be the last hope of a common man. However, jungle justice remains a challenge to various states in Nigeria, particularly Lagos state due to human abuses in recent times. Arguably, the slow dispensation of justice is opined to be one of the reasons for jungle justice and extra judicial killings in Lagos state. Though, the law of the federation specifies that law enforcement agencies are to maintain laws and orders in Nigeria as it is worldwide, it seems the law enforcement agencies in Nigeria, particularly Lagos state do not seem to be fulfilling this vital responsibility. It has therefore been argued that mob justice prevalence has continually disrupted societal peace and order in Lagos state. For instance, Olugbemi (2013:1) cited The Human Rights Writers' Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) submitted that the crawling and extremely slow justice delivery system is one of the major reasons for this problem and the unprecedented rise in the use of Jungle justice. It is on this note arouse the interest on why despite the law enforcement agencies' roles, people still venture into jungle justice in the face of the rule of law. The researcher believes that if such human right abuse is not attended to, it may have negative effects on Nigeria nascent democracy and abuse to humanity.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS:

JUSTICE

The term 'justice' is as old as man. The minds of the masses, the oppressed, the down-trodden and the slaves are yearning for justice. Justice is a legal, ethical term with common concept. Russell Kirk in Mantu (2006:48) sees Justice as a "principle and the process by which each man is assured the things that belong to him". He include fair treatment in all situations, respect for each individual's 's personal and democratic space as well as each community's territory and space; respect for an individual and community right to keep personal values, the right to refuse intimidation, black mail and discrimination of any form. Justice is pivotal in that it is a prerequisite for peace and harmony in the society, it connotes fairness, a just attitude, correctness and fair dealing. It gives citizens voice, the power and rights to stand for what is right and the rule of law protected. Aristotle mentioned that justice has twofold functions. He tagged the first "distributive" and the other as "corrective" justice. Distributive justice is to give equal rights and goods to the society. When the equal distribution of benefits and burdens takes place, then the task of corrective is to project, assure and preserve these goods from the attack of enemies.

Also, Rawls (2011) identified two principles and two priorities of justice. These principles embrace the attainment of the well-being of the citizens and the protection of their rights and lives. Such principles include that each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive total system of equal basic liberties, compatible with a similar system of liberty for all. And social-economic inequalities which is to be arranged to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged, and attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of fair equality of opportunity. Justice has the role of promotion of the society of which is likened to that of Lagos state which seems to be evident in the opinion of Rawls justice has a pace of efficiency,

societal trust and the maintenances of law and order in the society. Justice is power; justice has a major role to play in order to enhance the continuity of growth and development.

JUNGLE JUSTICE

“Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world” Yeats, (1921). It was from this aforementioned scholar that Chinua Achebe got the words to brand up his book “Things fall apart”, little did it come to the heart of man that he was only talking about the pre-colonial era which was dated back to before 1960s, which marked the arrival of the white Britain missionaries and the almost unbearable consequences - social, economic, political- that was brought up which is consequent to their coming.

Lagos State, created in 1967 by virtue of the State (Creation and Provisions) Decree No. 14 of 1967, which restructured the Nigeria’s Federation into 12 states. Located in the south-western geopolitical zone of Nigeria. On the north and east, it is bounded by Ogun state and in the west; it shares its boundaries with the Republic of Benin. Also, behind its southern boundaries lies the Atlantic Ocean. Lagos State is the smallest area in of the Nigeria 36 states but nevertheless inarguably the most economically important and lucrative state in the country, containing Lagos, the nation’s largest urban area. A state with population of over 21,000,534 inhabitants, ranked as the economic hub of Nigeria, the largest country in Africa. Nigeria Political records shows that,” Lagos is to the people of Nigeria, what the head is to the body of an individual”. Despite the consideration of the development of Lagos in various ramifications, affecting the country positively, it is worried enough that Lagos has various constrains that militates against the achievement of its height due to Jungle Justice practices.

Jungle justice is a form of crime and punishment when considering the mobsters and alleged criminals respectively. It is usually carried out by an angry mob of whose judgments are passed on an offender as regarding codes of conducts, moral standards of behavior and ethical system

of beliefs. Onyebuchi (2014), simply put it as a form of extra-judicial killing where the victim is deprived the rule of law and justice is meted out in a barbaric and appalling fashion usually through stoning or burning the individual in the full glare of the public, making it to synonymous to injustice. ThisDay News (2014: May 16) submits that it is a situation in which ‘an irate mob’, takes into their hands the right to execute punishment on alleged offenders of a heinous crime"

Meanwhile, the constitution of Nigeria confirms that it is only the state that can punish a criminal which is done only if a proper trial is undergone and the alleged criminal is proven guilty. However, situation in Lagos state at various instance seems alarming, as citizens are observed to place laws into their own hands and identifies and persecutes alleged kidnapers, ritualists, robbers, cultists amongst many. Unfortunately, some of the victims are not found guilty of the crimes by a competent court of Law. One of the Nigeria’s leading poll and survey companies, NOIPolls limited, made a Nigeria snap poll on jungle justice in Lagos state (2015), report therefore confirms that 94 %, submitted that there was a very high prevalence of mob attack in Lagos state (south west), which is ‘wicked and barbaric act’ also, 51% of the respondents blamed the prevalence of jungle justice in the state and the country at large to a ‘lack of trust in the law enforcement agencies’, 43 % commented to have had a live witness of mob justice in their various localities.

Below pictures shows some abuses (Jungle Justice) in recent years.



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7.

8.

(1.2.3.) www.pulse.ng/gist/jungle-justice-young-man-burnt-to-death. Also Daily Trust Newspaper

4. www.informationng.com/2013/07/the-hoodlums-in-action.-insert-nwainokpo Ifechukwude and his friend Kazeem, students of Delta State University, Nigeria.

5. 7years old boy lynched for stealing Garri – (Cassava farm product).

6. Vanguardng.com. 7. Informationng.com 8. www.bing.com

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JUNGLE JUSTICE IN LAGOS STATE

Ikhariale (2012) opined that “One of the justifications for the evolution of the modern state is the desire to escape from the lawless state of nature, where life was reputed to be solitary, poor, brutish, nasty, and short. But because the Nigerian State has, by design or default, failed to live

up to these expectations. In the same vein, TheWill News, (2015) submitted that crime statisticians and Psychologists have adduced the lack of efficient and effective policing in Nigeria as the clearest reason for the spread in the practice and acceptance of mob justice or what has come to be known as Jungle Justice. Other factors includes the appalling rate of poverty predispositions of negative attitudes due to anger, unemployment which results to idleness, lack of trust in the Law enforcement agencies, illiteracy / lack of awareness of Laws, lack of trust on the Nigeria judicial system, increasing demand for quick criminal justice, heterogeneous religious and cultural beliefs.

However, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) as amended, Section 403(1) and (2) of the criminal Code stipulates that: any person who with intent to steal anything, assaults any person or immediately after the time of assault, uses or threatens to use actual violence to any other person or any property in order to obtain the thing intended to be stolen shall upon conviction be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than fourteen years but not more than twenty years. Also, if any offender mentioned in sub section (1) of this section, is armed with any firearms or any offensive weapon or is in company with any other person so armed; or at or immediately before or immediately after the time of the assault the said offender wounds or uses any other personal violence to any person, the offender shall upon conviction be sentenced to imprisonment for life with or without whipping.

Therefore, in the NOIPolls on the effects of jungle justice, respondents who are Lagosians, views jungle justice to have huge negative effects on Lagos state, as it affects respect for the rule of law which constitute absolute supremacy of the law, equality before the law and the fundamental human rights. It however affect on the following ways: (a) back drop in the level of civilization and advancement of the Lagos state developing pace. (b) low tolerance amongst the citizens of Lagos state a means of falsely accusing innocent persons since no investigation takes place. (c) deprives the state of social harmony and peace in the day to day running of it

affairs. (d) there is loss of confidence in Lagos state security. Citizens can no longer vouch security of their lives anymore since accusing fingers can be pointed to any one at any time. (e) it hinders people's rights to fair hearing and fair treatment in Lagos state.

Though the Lagos state government quoted by (TheNews, June 3, 2014) asserts that "the full weight of the law would be brought to bear on anyone hence forth caught engaging in jungle justice, no matter what the alleged criminal could have done. The mob may be wrong and the helpless victim may be anyone's child or relative. Even if they did commit the alleged offence, there is a process for persecuting and showing the evidence in court so that proven criminals can be properly punished according to the Law.

SOCIAL RE-ENGINEERING

"Peace, safety and security are both necessary and indispensable requirements for development and the attainment of good quality life for any human society. (Groenewald and Peake, 2004) opined that it provides the enabling capacity for citizens to live towards the achievement of social, economic and political development". Though, it is interesting to know that the constitution in section 36 (sub section 5) frowns at the prevalence of jungle justice in Lagos state, 'the administration of justice act' which came into proper effect in 2015 turns it back firmly against it. Section 8(sub section 1) of this act provides that; a suspect shall be accorded human treatment, having regard to his right to dignity of his person; also, a suspect must not be subjected to any form of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

In the same vein, section 8, sub section 3 of the Nigerian Administration of Justice Act provides that; "a suspect shall be brought before the court or otherwise released conditionally or unconditionally". It can be told from this provision that the judiciary will not convict an alleged criminal until he or she is guilty of his offence because the citizens lives are valuable and should not be tampered with on no just case. Lannon (1968:577) opined that "Judicial corruption

disaffects the masses and diminishes the already low level of confidence in the judicial process". The law cannot take its full course except it is carried out by other state agents who are referred to as law enforcement officers.

Law Enforcement is refers to any system by which some members of society act in an organized manner to enforce the law by discovering, deterring, rehabilitating, or punishing people who violate the rules and norms governing that society" (New Law Journal, 1974: 358). They ensure that law and order is maintained in the society and manage crime rate in the society by making sure that effective sanctions are faced by persons who violate the rule of law that governs the nation. Laws are not new as they can be categorized under traditional and modern law system.

TRADITIONAL ERA

Prior to this modern time, all around the world, narrowed down to Nigeria and even Lagos, there have been ways in which constituted authorities enforce laws on the citizens. During the traditional era, there are traditional institutions which citizens adhere to as constituted laws. (Adesiyani 2014:23) refers to such as indigenous political arrangements whereby leaders with proven track records are appointed and installed in line with the provisions of their native law and customs". Also, (Orji & Olali, 2010:402) further opine that, the essence of various institutions in a state is vehemently to preserve customs and the traditions of the citizens and manage conflict arising among or between the members of the community by the instrumentality of laws and customs of the people" Thus, coming from this assertion, it is notable that from the primitive era, there have been authorities which stand as the binding force to enhance a peaceful society. Joel (2013) detailed that in the pre- colonial system of government at the ancient times, the Hausa- Fulani, Yoruba and Igbo traditional Political system were those in power. The system had the council of elders who helped in implementing

the law; the Oba's court was the highest in the land. The Igbo traditional system was an egalitarian system based on direct democracy. The largest political unit was known as the village group consisting of kindred in the family unit. However, as the nation and states begin to civilize and turn to urban areas, with the agglomeration of people in the country, it was therefore pivotal that the Law enforcement system should also get more better so as to meet the space of times and the people's need for justice, therefore, the Modern law enforcement agencies gradually emerged.

MORDERN ERA:

At the exit of the pre- colonial era comes the modern age, where new events have occurred, people of the Nations been civilized in all ramifications. No wonder, (Ventura 2005:1) asserted that "Social control capabilities have increase significantly over the past decades particularly because of an increase utilization of technological advanced surveillance methods. The increased capabilities to control the social activities, thus this seems not to be taken up at the required level of government in Lagos state.

For instance, the Police Force is a very important arm of the agencies that enforces law. The police have important roles to play in the enforcement of law in the society; therefore, it should be a disciplined force void of corrupt practice to ensure a smooth running of justice. Olugbemi (2013:1) asserts that "The police and other Law enforcement agencies should do a general and effective cleansing of their outfits if those meant to enforce laws are adequately involved in breaking it, sanity cannot be restored to the society, the security agents should be alive to their billing in maintaining order, as it will most times reduce chances of jungle justice. This is important because, police force is observed to be a direct link between the judiciary and the citizens, in the administration of justice. It sees to the maintenance of Law and order especially when it has to do with the proper investigation to prove if an alleged criminal is

found guilty. It is however unfortunate that police corruption has eaten deep into the police force which hinders them from discharging their duties appropriately. Police Corruption has been defined by Sayed and Bruce, (1998) also (Mantu 2006: 124) as “any illegal conduct or misconduct involving the use of occupational power for personal, group or gain”. These include; Police Brutality, False Arrest, Police Intimidation, Police repression, falsified evidences. Meanwhile, the Universal Declaration of Human rights article 10, as well as (Okoi-Uyouyo 2006:123) asserted that “everyone is entitled in full equality to fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him” the inhabitants of Lagos state who fall victims are not therefore left out of this declaration of law.

Physical Violence against women in Nigeria:

Amnesty international (2005) report on a daily basis how women are beaten and ill-treated for supposed transgressions, raped and even murdered by members of their family. In some cases, vicious acid attacks leave them with horrific marks. Such violence is too frequently excused and tolerated in communities, and not denounced. Spouses, accomplices, and fathers are in charge of the vast majority of the viciousness against ladies. In Nigeria, for instance, ladies and young girls are subjected to various types of savagery in the homes. Nonetheless, the most widely recognized type of savagery is spouse battery running from slapping, kicking, and verbal manhandle, disavowal of money related assets, assault, and passing. Annual reports of assault against ladies. However, it is believed that gender based violence is of “epidemic proportions, Article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 2nd and 3rd Periodic of state parties (1997) and is “seldom reported because of fear of reprisal and lack of response from law enforcement officials statistics relating to this problem would not be available until women are motivated to report physical and other forms of violence.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND JUNGLE JUSTICE:

By democracy, we meant a system where citizen can exhibit their rights and freedom. This does not really apply during military dictatorship, as citizens are being ruled or governed by decree, while jungle justice is highly practiced due to maltreatment meted by the citizens in the hands of the military and security agents. (Nwankwo 1987:170) stated that “Democracy is not essentially rule by elected representatives; It is rather essentially rule by the representatives of the people. Central to the concept and practice of democracy therefore, are the wishes and the will of the people. Democracy is the availability of revolutionary leadership and followership in a system. Thus, democracy on the aspect of the people’s welfare may imply improvement, positive change and upgrade in their circumstances.

Also, (Awotokun 2004:131) succinctly argued that “democracy, does not mean something as vague as the rule of the people or the rule of the majority; but a set of institutions which permits public control of rulers and their dismissal by the ruled, by which it make possible for the ruled to obtained reforms without using violence, even against the will of the rulers. In his further research, (Mantu, 2006:85) informs that council of Presidents and Prime ministers of America came about these five important defining ingredients of democracy, they include; (a) there must be an effective representation through election and party system; (b) there must be present a capacity to provide basic services, beginning with the protection of physical safety. (c) The armed forces must be subordinated to the civilian authority. (d) There must be meaningful citizen participation and political pluralism. (e) Institutional checks and balances must be installed to protect judiciaries and there must be applied equally and consistently to all citizens.

Though scholars like (Nwankwo, 1987:190) observed that no democracy is totally perfect as even the most evolved democracies even face their own challenges and have their own loop holes, but these democracies strife hard to fulfill all that needs to be done to promote the

standard of their society and the height of civilization. Osaghae (1992) and (Ojo 2008:90) noted that in all the versions of democracy, whether liberal or capitalist, socialist and African brand, it shares the fundamental objective of “how to govern the society in such a way that power belongs to all the people”. It can be deduced from above that in a democratic society, citizens have the constitutional rights that are inalienable and nonnegotiable. The prevalence of jungle justice in the country, especially that of Lagos state will seemingly do nothing but mar the efforts of the government to put the state into a better shape. This is because it is observed that mob justice does not connote an instrument of civilization as it is rarely practiced in advanced democracies.

THEORETICAL DISCOURSE

Retributive and Structural Functional theories will be briefly discussed as it applies to the prevalence of jungle justice in order to put a permanent stop to the inhumane treatment and utmost point of brutality. Retributive justice has its origins in the time of the Norman Conquest when feudalism was developed and the servants swore allegiance to their king. This made a criminal offence a crime against the state, not a crime against another person. The theory works on the principle of fair and proportional punishment to crime in order to restore a proper balance. This theory is of the notion that when an offender breaks the law, such type of retribution is only directed at wrong.

"Retributivism can be defined as the ‘application of the pains of punishment to an offender who is morally guilty’ Hart et al, (1968). In getting the most classic form of retributivism, it can be derived in Code of Hammurabi’s *lex talionis*, which stands for ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’. "Retributivists believe that a person that is guilty should suffer pain at a proportional expense" Mohanty, (2015). The punishment is therefore seen as a form of pay back for the crime committed, and of compensatory for the crime committed. Retributivists argue

that criminals are deserves punishment on account of their wrong doing. If they deserve punishment, then justice demands for punishment. (Hegel 1952:100) submits that punishment is supposed to cancel, negate or annul the offender's crime, in this type of view, the criminal rejects the victim's rights while committing a crime. Thus, the victims' rights need to be protected but the criminal not punished beyond the value of the crime.

Structural Functionalist theory is adopted to explain criminal justice and the discontinuity of jungle justice in Lagos state. The theory has attributed problems of awaiting trials; delay in application of proper criminal justice procedure and escalation of jungle justice to lack of system units to keep pace with value expectation of the society (Timashef, 1957:34). Structural – Functionalism is a 19th century sociological thought, where the dominant idea and explanation of social reality was to present a systematic analysis of the cause and the effect relationships of social phenomena. The profounder of this theory include: Comte (1798- 1857), Spenser (1820-1903), and developed by Durkheim (1858- 1917) which was refined by Talcott (1902-1979). The assertion of this theory is that the society holds different units/ structures that perform different functions and work in one accord to form a whole and produce a result. This implies that these parts are interrelated, interdependent and intertwined. Considering the various factors and parts that make the society ranging from the judicial, down to the socio-cultural, these parts perform various functions in affecting the societal growth and development. As in the case of biological context, as these parts grow and perform better, the body will also work properly. This can be likened to the state of the society. Since the society is composed of interrelated parts, these parts will strive to be at a state of equilibrium as one part will affect the other either positively or negatively when there is a change.

The society as an organized stable “well –integrated system held together by the consensus (shared values and norms), functionalists believe that a certain degree of order and stability are essential for the society to survive. These are derived from commonly shared values. Iyang

(2014) argue that value consensus thus provides the basis for social order, stability, social unity and social solidarity since the individuals tend to identify with those who share the same value with themselves. It can therefore be deduced that when various parts come together to achieve certain common goals through the performance of their different functions, there will be peaceful coexistence in the society with freedom from extra judicial killing and other form of vices that will mare the growth and development of the society.

Table below show the outcome of citizen’s responses as it reflects from the main questions:

Do you think mob justice Exist in Lagos State?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	46	23.6	23.6	23.6
	No	149	76.4	76.4	100.0
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

Fundamental human rights are infringed in the act of jungle justice

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	150	76.9	76.9	76.9
	Agree	37	19.0	19.0	95.9
	Uncertain	6	3.1	3.1	99.0
	Disagree	2	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	195	100.0		

Continuous mob attack will have positive effect on the Nigerian democracy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	108	55.4	55.4	55.4
	Agree	67	34.4	34.4	89.7
	Uncertain	13	6.7	6.7	96.4
	Strongly Disagree	7	3.6	3.6	100
	Total	195	100	100	

Many innocent persons have been tortured and killed because of the prevalence of jungle justice

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	159	81.5	81.5	81.5
	Agree	20	10.3	10.3	91.8
	Uncertain	16	8.2	8.2	100.00
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

There should be a law against jungle justice in Lagos State

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	86	44.1	44.1	44.1
	Agree	97	49.7	49.7	93.8
	Disagree	12	6.2	6.2	100.0
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

Slow dispensation of justice have contributed to jungle justice in Lagos state

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
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There should be a law against jungle justice in Lagos State

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	86	44.1	44.1	44.1
	Agree	97	49.7	49.7	93.8
	Disagree	12	6.2	6.2	100.0
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	
	Strongly Agree	8	4.1	4.1	4.1
	Agree	111	56.9	56.9	61.0
	Uncertain	10	5.1	5.1	66.2
	Disagree	13	6.7	6.7	72.8
	Strongly Disagree	53	27.2	27.2	100.0
	Total	195	100	100	

State of lawlessness is prevalent in Lagos state and has negative impact development

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	4	2.1	2.1	2.1
	Agree	7	3.6	3.6	5.6
	Uncertain	68	34.9	34.9	40.5
	Disagree	100	51.3	51.3	91.8
	Strong Disagree	16	8.2	8.2	91.8
	Total	195	100	100	

Jungle Justice gives no respect for the rule of law and the supremacy of the constitution

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	36	18.5	18.5	18.5
	Agree	78	40.0	40.0	58.5
	Uncertain	46	23.6	23.6	82.1
	Disagree	19	9.7	9.7	91.8
	Strongly Disagree	16	8.2	8.2	100.0
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

The law enforcement agencies in Lagos state seem to be ineffective due to the slow dispensation of justice

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	97	49.7	49.7	49.7
	Agree	63	32.3	32.3	84.0
	Uncertain	11	5.6	5.6	89.6
	Disagree	13	6.7	6.7	95.4
	Strongly Disagree	11	5.6	5.6	100.0
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

Nigerian judicial system allows for extra- judicial killings

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	11	5.6	5.6	5.6
	Agree	12	6.2	6.2	11.8
	Uncertain	23	11.8	11.8	24.6
	Disagree	37	19.0	19.0	38.6
	Strongly Disagree	112	57.4	57.4	100
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

Effective justice system can curb jungle justice in Lagos state

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	101	51.8	51.8	51.8
	Agree	77	39.5	39.5	91.3
	Uncertain	17	8.7	8.7	100.0
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

Table 1: shows the existence of Jungle Justice in Lagos State, 76.4% and the respondents unaware constitute 23.6 %. This is in line with TheWill News, (October 4, 2015), which reported that “in Lagos alone, in the last half a year, over two (2) dozen suspected criminals have been lynched to their deaths. Table 2: Fundamental human rights are infringed in the act of jungle justice, respondents attest that rights of individuals. 76.9 % strongly agree, 19.0 % agree, 3.1 % uncertain while 1.0 % disagree that persons human rights are breached in the act of Jungle justice. The administration of justice act’ which came into proper effect in 2015 turns it back firmly against it. Section 8(sub section 1) of this act provides that, a suspect shall be accorded human treatment, and that a suspect must not be subjected to any form of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Contrary thus has negative implication it has on the democratic governance in Nigeria as found in Table 3.

Table 4: Shows that many innocent persons have been tortured and killed because of the prevalence of jungle justice. From the respondents’ opinions, 81.5 % strongly agrees, 10.3 % disagrees, 8.2 % uncertain that many innocent persons have been tortured and killed because of the prevalence of jungle justice in Lagos state. Large number of the respondents strongly agree that many innocent live through this act have been endangered even with the presence of the law enforcement agencies in the state. Olugbenro (2013:1) asserted in support that “The police and other Law enforcement agencies should do a general and effective cleansing of their outfits. If those meant to enforce a law are adequately involved in breaking it, sanity cannot be restored to the society, the security agents should be alive to their billing in maintaining order, as it will most times reduce chances of jungle justice”

Table 6; shows the position of the law in the face of Jungle justice Nigerian judicial system allows for extra- judicial killings. 5.6 % strongly agree, 6.2 % agree, 11.8 % are uncertain, 19.0 % disagree and 57.4 % strongly disagree that Nigerian judicial system allows for extra- judicial killings. The respondents that are strongly disagreeing are on the high side. Section 36 (5) in the Federal Republic of Nigeria’s constitution, 1999 as amended frowns at the prevalence of jungle justice in Lagos state. Section 8(3) of the Administration of Justice Act provides that; “A suspect shall be brought before the court or otherwise released conditionally or unconditionally”. it can be told from this provision that the judiciary will not convict an alleged criminal until he or she is guilty of his offence because the citizens lives are valuable and should not be tampered with on no just case.

Table 7; what measures should be taken to curtail mob justice in Lagos state. Table 4.2.20: question 24 -There are other ways to pass justice to offenders or criminals apart from jungle justice. Majority of the respondents agreed to this position. Also, table 8, effective justice system can curb jungle justice in Lagos state in the findings as supported as a way to curb jungle justice in Lagos state. 51.8 % strongly agree, 39.5 % agreed quick and effective justice system can curb it. In line with this, Sabharwal (2007:3-4) opined that “the court of law is the last resort of the people and to this point asserted that effective justice dispensation through the court of law at any instance will require major elements that will stir up and fast track its implementation”.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

Research has shown the prevalence of jungle justice in Lagos state and has effect on its development of the state. Respondents proposed quick dispensation of justice in other to reduce such kinds of justice that is barbaric and dehumanizing in nature as many innocent people have being humiliated and some lost their lives to this act. To this end, there is a need for a social reengineering, restructuring and change of attitude for peaceful coexistence and a better society. The positive change must be driven by both citizens and the government which cut across political violence, social insecurity to the cultural, economic and religious aspect of the society.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings as shown high rate of jungle justice in Lagos state, and thereby submit the following recommendations.

1. There is a need to fast track judicial proceedings, this will avert citizens taken laws into their hands.
2. There is need for re-orientation and enlightenment for the citizens as regard respect for the rule of law, equality before the law and human rights protection.
3. The government should make continuous efforts in uplifting the standard of living of the people and as well providing for their welfare.

4. Good human care, reasonable remuneration for the officials and maintaining the social wellbeing of the citizens will promote peace and good governance in the society.
5. Finally, mobsters who indulge in the act of jungle justice should be made to face the law and punishments attached to it.

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