

Article Review #2: Cyber criminals and their victims in the Nigerian slums

Student Name: Alissia Metcalfe

School of Cybersecurity, Old Dominion University

CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences

Instructor Name: Professor Yalpi

Date: April 5th 2026

Introduction/BLUF

Cybercriminals target economically vulnerable users in the Nigerian slums, carrying out vishing (voice phishing) and smishing (SMS phishing) attacks exploiting the trust in everyday communication channels.

Relation/Connection to Social Science Principles

The growing population and popularity in mobile money services in Nigeria has made them a prime target for cybercriminals. Apart of this is also due to the rapid developing digital environment which connects with the social science principle of geography. The day in and day out interactions between the people in Nigeria. How they are communicating via SMS text messages and phone calls and the way they are using mobile money to carry out their transactions. There is also a deep connection with sociology. In these low-income areas, the poverty and peers the society more so normalizes these crimes. They see these successful perpetrators as “resourceful” and with that it has cultivated a mentorship program to onboard new scammers. These behaviors for which have developed in the slums due to the necessity to meet the basic needs (physiological needs) like food, water and shelter.

Research Question /Hypothesis/ Independent Variable/Dependent Variable

- Research Question: How do victims in the Nigerian slums contribute to their victimization and perpetrators take advantage of these individuals in low income/ poverty areas?
- Hypothesis: The vishing and smishing attacks in the Nigerian slums are driven by social/ economic deprivation, perpetrators take advantage of the lack thereof reporting and

cybersecurity literacy and awareness. Leading to the reasons victims contribute to their victimization in the Nigerian slums.

- Independent Variable: Vishing and smishing perpetrators
- Dependent Variable: Victims in the Nigerian slums

Types of Research Methods used

The researchers used a “qualitative cross-sectional design” method to study the Nigerian Lagos slums (Ajengunle, Amukoko and Ijora-Badia). Using the setting at which the victims are in and their sociological experiences to better understand how they contribute to their victimization. Another research method used in this article is multimethod research. They took 20 victims and 10 perpetrators and conducted in-depth interviews to better understand how these perpetrators are using low-tech tools to exploit the trust of these victims. It also gave my information on how these perpetrators are recruiting and training new scammers.

Types of Data Analysis used

Thematic analysis was used to identify patterns within the data they collected from the perpetrators and victims via interview. As well as the data collected of the number of reports within the area and connecting that to the sociological situation in the Nigerian slums.

Connections to other Course Concepts

Not only did this strongly connect to the concept in class, how do victims contribute to their victimization. I was also able to draw connections to Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs because in this situation the necessity for basic needs lead to why the perpetrators ended up committing these crimes. Then further into that connecting to the psychological theories to understand the

psychological process of the cyber offenders as well as the victims. The big 5 traits such as openness that connected to the victims in the slums trusting these phishing and smishing scams.

Connections to the Concerns or contributions of Marginalized Groups

The study focuses on victims in the slums as well as the government's response to these crimes.

It does not focus on how this information will be brought to the people. Will lessons be incorporated or given to people in poverty so they will no longer contribute to their victimization by having a lack of knowledge in technology and cybersecurity.

Overall societal contributions of the study/Conclusion

This article highlights the need for information in digital technology and cybersecurity in targeted low-income poverty areas. How perpetrators take advantage of the areas because there is a bridge-gap in knowledge making these people easy targets.

Reference

Article Link: Vishing and Smishing Perpetrators and Their Victims in Nigerian Slums

<https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1208&context=ijcic>