

**PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT - WEST AFRICA  
P.O BOX 133, BUEA, CAMEROON**



**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**YOUTH OFF-FARM SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND PASTIMES,  
DEVIANCE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS VIOLENCE IN MBANGA  
AND DOUALA IV MUNICIPALITIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR  
RADICALIZATION PREVENTION IN CAMEROON**

*A Research Project is submitted to the Department of Development Studies of the Pan African Institute for Development West Africa (PAID-WA) Buea in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of the Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Development with specialization in Gender, Migration and Refugees Studies*

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**Buea, February 2019**

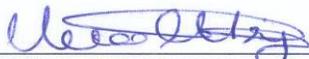
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## DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this project titled “ **Youth Off-Farm Social Activities and Pastimes, Deviance and Attitude towards Voilence in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities: Implications for Radicalization Prevention in Cameroon** ” is the record of our original research efforts. It has not been presented before in any application for a Bachelor’s degree. All borrowed ideas have been duly acknowledged by means of reference and quotation.

  
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## CERTIFICATION

The research project entitled: “Youth Off-Farm Social Activities and Pastimes, Deviance and Attitudes towards Violence in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities: Implications for radicalization in Cameroon” is submitted to the Department of Development Studies of the Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa (PAID-WA) Buea, by Tchakounte Yimga Ines Registration No, (PAID-WA00677/BSc/15), Ndivé Junior Henry Registration No, (PAIDWA00600/BSc/15), Ade Bervile Ade Registration No (PAID-WA00918/BSc/15) Mandengue Anne-Marie Registration No, (PAID-WA00680/15), Mba Endam Registration No PAIDWA00636/BSc/15 and Nna Lydie Leonelle Registration No PAIDWA00673/BSc/15 for the award of a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Sustainable Development with specializations in Gender, Migration and Refugee Studies.



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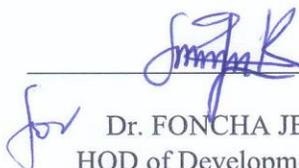
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## **DEDICATION**

We dedicate this work to our families, the Tchakounte Family, Ms. Josephine Evenye Ngomba, and Ms. Onana Manga Eveline, Mrs. Betty Mandengue, Mr. Mba Acha Nelson and Mrs. Mba Acha Alice Ekumbe Ewah, Mr. and Mrs. Ndivi, Mrs. Enow Bridget and family friends who encouraged, supported and prayed for us.

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Above all, honor and glory to God for giving us the wisdom, strength, healthy body, motivation and mind, patience and peace throughout our studies without which we could not have completed this work.

## ABSTRACT

Youths have been at the forefront of violent political and anti-establishment contestations throughout Cameroon's checkered political history. The present study was conducted to assess the interactions between youth off-farm social activities and pastimes, deviant behaviors, attitudes towards violence and the implication for radicalization prevention in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. Specifically, the study (a) assessed the types and prevalence of youth off-farm social activities and pastimes, (b) assessed youth deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence and (c) the correlation between youth off-farm social activities and deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence. The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive survey design. Data was collected primarily through a questionnaire survey of 674 systematically selected respondents from 14 Enumeration Areas (EAs) in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. The data were subjected to exploratory, descriptive, inferential and principal component reduction analyses using SPSS 22. The study found out that sports (42.3%), watching TV (41.1%), hanging out in snacks, bars and pubs (38.4%), gambling (38.4%), internet and social media usage (25.9%), listening to music (18.9%) and watching movies (18.9%) were the most dominant off-farm social activities and pastimes among youths. The study also found out that alcohol consumption (68.7%), premarital sex (64.5%), viewing of pornographic content (61.5%), smoking (46.1%), hard drug use (37.8%), truancy (37.8%) and gambling (36.2%) were the most prevalent deviant behaviors among youths. Generally, youths displayed a negative attitude towards violence, with high pro-violence culture score (Mean score=3.9; SD=0.516), low score for remorse for violent crimes (Mean Score=1.84; SD=0.458) and low scores for value for life (Mean score=2.05; SD=0.124). Finally, the study found out that youths who hang out in bars, pubs or snacks in their pastimes were more prone to engage in deviant acts such as hard drug use ( $r=0.6$ ), arm robbery ( $r=0.6$ ), alcohol consumption ( $r=0.9$ ), smoking ( $r=0.8$ ), prostitution ( $r=0.8$ ), scamming ( $r=0.6$ ), fighting ( $r=0.6$ ) and gambling ( $r=0.8$ ) while those whose pastimes were devoted to watching TV or playing video games were found to be more likely to be involved in fights ( $r=0.6$ ). The study concluded that youth pastimes activities makes them susceptible for indulging in deviant acts and developing violent attitudes which makes them prone for radicalization. On the bases of the foregoing the study proposes a theory of change and recommendation for the prevention of youth radicalization in those areas

Keywords: *Off-farm activities, Pastimes, Deviance, Violent attitudes, Radicalization, Youths.*

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AYR	Auburn Youth Resources
BUCREP	Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Rehabilitation
DLO	Direct Labor Organization
ICG	International Crises Group
ILO	International Labor Organization
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commissions for Africa
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USA	United States of America
YNPD	Youth Network for Peace and Development

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The world's youth population is at an all-time high (The Commonwealth, 2016). Estimated at 1.8 billion in 2017, young people constitute about 35 percent of the world's population (World Bank, 2017; Population Reference Bureau, 2018). Globally and particularly in the developing world, the age distribution of the population of most countries show a huge bulge among people between the ages of 15 and 35 years (Population Reference Bureau, 2018). However, nowhere is this demographic boom or youth bulge more acute than in Africa (Sangafowa, 2018). It is estimated that 70 percent of Africa's population is under 30 years of age and continues to grow very rapidly at around 2.5% per year (Sangafowa, 2018). Projections show that by the turn of the century, Africa will be home to 40 percent of the world's population or 4.4 billion people and 41% of the world's youth will be Africans within three generations (Mo Ibrahim, 2016). By 2030, Africa's labor force constituting mostly of young people will be larger than China's and by 2035 it will be larger than India's (Mo Ibrahim, 2016).

Ordinarily, this demographic bulge should yield a "demographic dividend" given that these young people are full of creativity, enthusiasm, verve and dynamism which if properly harnessed will contribute towards wider economic growth and well-being. This is even more so because, contrary to their fathers, this cohort are more likely to be educated, more ambitious, more exposed to new communication and information technologies and more connected to the world and global opportunities. But unfortunately, this burgeoning youth and adolescent population in most countries in the African continent is increasingly becoming more of a liability than a blessing (Ananpansah, 2017). For the most part, the majority of African youths are unemployed and constitute the majority of the underemployed and those working in the informal sector even though they are relatively more educated than their parents (International Labor Organization [ILO], 2017). It has been estimated that out of about 250,000 young people entering the labor market annually in Africa, only 2% (50,000) get employed in the formal sector (International Labor Organization, 2017). Moreover, young people in Africa constitute more than half of the working poor i.e. those who are employed but live below the poverty line

(Ahaibwe et al, 2013). There are indications that the rate of youth's unemployment, under employment and proportion of this cohort among the working poor will rise significantly in the future (International Labor Organization, 2017). As such, this demographic has become a burden on most family and economy of most African countries given that this strata of the population is feeding on what a very small but aged demographic in the pyramid produces and government social spending to cater for this largely unemployed population is constantly increasing (The Nation, 2014).

In most developed and middle income countries, agriculture has been shown to be a major source of decent youth employment (Afande et al, 2015). Despite the fact that Africa holds half of the world's uncultivated arable land and the economy of most African states is purely agrarian, the sector has woefully failed to absorb the burgeoning unemployed youth population in most of these countries (Ahaibwe et al, 2013). Country-wide evidence reveal that youth engagement in agriculture in Africa is declining (Afande et al., 2015). It has been argued that across the African continent, the rudimentary hoe and machete farming dominantly practiced holds no appeal to young people who for the most part view agriculture as a dirty job reserved essentially for the poor and the aged. Though agriculture constitute the life blood of the rural economy, paradoxically 53% of youth in rural communities are not into agriculture, but rather engaged for the most part in other off-farm socio-economic activities and pastimes (The Nation, 2014). Furthermore, one will expect that the steady growth in the service and industrial sector in most African countries witnessed over the last three decades will help solve the employment conundrum at the urban level. Unfortunately, these sectors have been unable to meet the employment need of the ever burgeoning urban youth population feeding voraciously from huge rural exodus (Ahaibwe et al., 2013). Excluded from secure salaried work, most young people in the global south and Africa in particular are unable to obtain the social goods, such as a secure white-collar job, that connote "development", are incapable of moving into gendered age-based categories, especially male adulthood, and they come to be labeled or to label themselves "drop outs," "failures," or people "on the shelf" and cannot conform to dominant visions of success (Craig, 2010).

Even though all African countries have ratified the African Youth Charter, very few governments have successfully translated this continental-wide framework for youth

development into tangible projects for the greater empowerment of this cohorts at the community level and unfortunately more so in the rural areas (Ananpansah, 2017). As such most youths in the continent are witnessing unequal access to health, education, financial services and lack political influence at the local, regional and national levels (Paugam, 2004 as cited in Craig, 2010; The Commonwealth, 2016).

In this context of social exclusion and isolation, or what some have called “social disqualification”, most young people across most African countries are feeling a sense of helplessness, inertia, limbo, frustration and anger amidst unmet aspirations (The Commonwealth, 2016). In their wait hood and in the absence of government policy for their insertion in mainstream society, a greater number of urban youths located at the periphery of the labor market and full time education and those in the rural areas not appealed by subsistence agriculture and its rudimentary practices, as a symbolic form of protest and with their surplus spare time, have inexorably spiraled into anti-social, unproductive, deviant and unorthodox off-farm and socio-economic activities, pastimes, leisure and inactivity (Damstrup, 1987). Katz (2004) account of unemployed Sudanese youths “marooned by pastimes” and Mains’s (2007) research of unemployed young Ethiopia who report that the only change they experience in their lives is watching the shadows creep from one side of the road to the other with the passing of the sun, typify the experiences of most African youths. Furthermore, in invariably all African countries, there is the emergence of practices, behaviors, perceptions and the reification of a culture among unemployed youths in poor and working class families that is essentially contestational, anti-social and anti-establishment (Craig, 2010). In retaliation, government in most African countries, conscious of the political potency of this struggling mass with ruptured futures, have crafted repressive policies which unfortunately have further exacerbated youths exclusion and isolation and created a vicious cycle that have entrapped most of these young people in abject poverty, helplessness, anger and frustration (The Commonwealth, 2010).

This prevalent youth alienation from mainstream society and a growing sense of helplessness, anger and frustration holds rather negative ramifications for the stability of most states in Africa. Evidence from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries and Kenya have established a highly positive correlation between radicalization and support for violent extremism and unemployment related –alienation among young people (Dunne, 2015; Omulo,

2017). It is no wonder therefore that youth unemployment-related alienation frequently creep into discussions of radicalization, as young people with no prospects are easily lured by promises of work and status by terrorist organizations or non-state armed actors. Compounding the problem is the fact that radicalization and sympathy with jihadi movements is even higher among the most educated with disappointed expectations of economic and social advancement but stuck in a prolonged period of “wait hood” (Dunne, 2015). With increase in communication and information technology and the ubiquity of social media, new digital outlets for radicalization propaganda and channels for recruitment into terrorist networks are emerging and targeting particularly this largely unemployed, disenfranchised and disillusioned youths. It is no gainsaying therefore that without action to promote young people’s empowerment, employment opportunities and opening up spaces for political participation and influence, most African countries will be squandering their most precious resource. Rather than turning the continent’s youth bulge into a demographic dividend, they will inadvertently transform it into a security liability (The Commonwealth, 2016).

In Cameroon, young people between the ages of 15 and 35 years is estimated at 7.63 million persons, representing 42% of the total population (Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population [BUCREP], 2017). In Cameroon, youth unemployment rate is estimated at 8.8%, (ILO, 2017). However, this seemingly encouraging statistics mask the fact that youths in Cameroon are primarily involved in risky and underpaid employment and constitute the bulk of those involved in the informal sector. This growing unemployment, coupled with a quasi-nonexistent youth policy, has contributed in alienated young people from Cameroon’s mainstream and gerontocracy and constituted them into a potential and willing pool for recruits for terrorist networks and militias operating within and around the country. This does not augur well for the political stability of the country, which is already suffering from Boko Haram incursions in the northern regions, armed militia activities in the east region and a fledgling rebellion in the Anglophone regions that has blossomed into a humanitarian crisis (International Crises Group [ICG], 2017). Interested to note is the fact that, this alienated and disenfranchised young people are already constituting the bulk of the operatives of this fratricidal movements (ICG, 2017). If remedial measures are not taken, the country’s young people, in their effort to negotiate a society that systematically constrains them to the periphery of the labor market and mainstream society, will become its greater security liability.

The growing salience of youth's involvement in political protest and non-state armed group in Africa, has forged a renewed interest in contemporary youth leisure and pastime activities and their potential for influencing deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence (Craig, 2010). In Cameroon like other African countries confronted with the upsurge of terrorism and armed contestations, there is an ongoing debate to establish the potency and a causal link between young people's off-farm socio activities and pastimes, deviancy, attitude towards violence and youth radicalization particularly in migrant communities where there is growing level of youth unemployment (ICG, 2017).

The Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities in the littoral region of Cameroon, are primarily cosmopolitan communities dominated by non-indigenes from the various ethnic groups in Cameroon and foreign nationals. In its hay days, Mbanga served as a coffee production and trading hub, attracting large numbers of unemployed youths particularly from the Bamilike regions of the country. Consequently, when the coffee market plummeted in the 1980s and 1990s, there was widespread unemployment among this strata (Mayor of Mbanga, July 2017. Personal interview, 2018). With very few livelihood alternatives in the agriculture sector, youths have indulged in other off-farm socio-economic activities and pastimes. Similarly, as the second largest administrative area of the economic capital, Douala IV municipality is host to a substantial number of industries and service providers. However, these have proven inadequate in meeting the employment need of an ever burgeoning youth population. In their "wait hood" to secure remunerative work, this young people are involved in certain leisure activities and pastimes. This study was carried out as an attempt to contribute to the debate on youth radicalization by empirically profiling youth's off-farm social activities and the consequences or implication that they augur or hold for youth deviancy and attitudes towards violence.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

During the last twenty-five years the literature on youth in Cameroon and Africa as a whole has been on the rise. Early paradigms labeled Africa's youth as a "lost generation", who frequently resorted to violence, looting and rioting to achieve their goals (Amin, 2013). It is an unquestionable fact that youths in the Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities more than most of

their counterparts in other municipalities in the country have been at the forefront of violent political and anti-establishment contestations throughout Cameroon's checkered political history. This can be eloquently attested by evidence from the *maquissard* movement in the 1960s, the political contestations and civil disobedience episodes following the advent of political pluralism in the 1990s and during the hunger strikes in 2008 (Ngnemzue, 2009). All of these events were marked by regrettable loss of lives, property and source of livelihood in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities and polarization among the country's myriad ethnic, religious, political and linguistic groups. (Mbaku, 2012; Tembeng, 2014).

As successive cohorts of youths come of age in these municipalities, will this long-standing tradition of violent political contestation and anti-establishment proclivities be perpetuated and how can youths be prevented from embracing these tendencies? Drawing from Craig (2010) and Funk et al (1999), this study contended that precise answers to this salient interrogation and policy or programmatic propositions can only be advanced on the bases of empirical studies that profiles young people's use of their off-farm and leisure time, their behaviors, attitudes towards violence and the interrelationships and causal links between these factors.

Unfortunately, we have surprisingly little empirically based knowledge to understand the foregoing. This study, whose saliency cannot be overemphasized given the current fragile political situation of the country, was an attempt to fill this knowledge gap.

### **1.3 Main Objective**

The main objective of the study was to assess youth off-farm social activities, deviant behaviors, attitudes towards violence and their implication for radicalization prevention in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities.

#### **1.3.1 Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study included;

- a. To determine the types and prevalence of off-farm social and pastimes activities of youths in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities
- b. To assess youth's deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities

- c. To evaluate the relationship between youth off-farm social activities and their deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities
- d. To propose a theory of change and action-oriented framework for radicalization prevention and peacebuilding in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

- a. What are the types and prevalence of off-farm social activities and of youths in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities?
- b. What are youth's deviant behaviors and their attitudes towards violence in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities?
- c. What is the relationship between youth off-farm social activities and their deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence and their implications for radicalization in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities?
- d. What is the action-oriented framework for radicalization prevention in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study will be significant to the following groups of people;

##### **a. Government and Policy-makers**

The findings of the study will enable government to understand how youth's use of their spare and leisure time affect their perceptions, attitudes and behaviors and how this affects their ability to indulge in extremist activities or espouse extremist sentiments. This understanding will enable them create policies that improve on the socio-economic insertion of young people and prevent radicalization.

##### **b. Academics**

The findings of the study will help extent the frontier of extant knowledge on youth off-farm socio-economic activities and leisure and radicalization in migrant communities. It will equally serve as secondary data for other subsequent researches.

##### **c. Youths**

By profiling and building a correlation between certain activities, attitudes and perceptions and radicalization, the study will inform youths on the most appropriate forms of off-farm activities and leisure time.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

Geographically, the study will be limited to the Mbanga Rural Council area and the Douala IV municipality. It will primarily focus on young people between the ages of 15 and 35 years and in rare cases knowledgeable and influential adults. Thematically, the study will explore concepts and theories related to youths, off-farm socio-economic activities, leisure and pastimes, the neighborhood effects and radicalization. It will cover the period from June 2018 to December 2018.

## **1.7 Organization of the Work**

The study will be made up of five chapters. Chapter one will be the introduction and will consist of the background to the study, statement of the problem, research questions and objectives, significance of study, scope, study area and definition of terms. Chapter two will be the literature review and theoretical framework and will consist of conceptual review, empirical review, conceptual framework and gaps identified in the literature. Chapter three will be the methodology and will consist of the study design, study population, sampling technique and sample size, source of data, instrumentation and data collection, analytical approach and reliability and validity analyses. Chapter four will be the presentation of findings and data analyses while chapter five will consist of the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

## **1.8 Study Area**

The study areas will be Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. Mbanga municipality is located in the Moungo Division of the Littoral region (Figure 1.1)

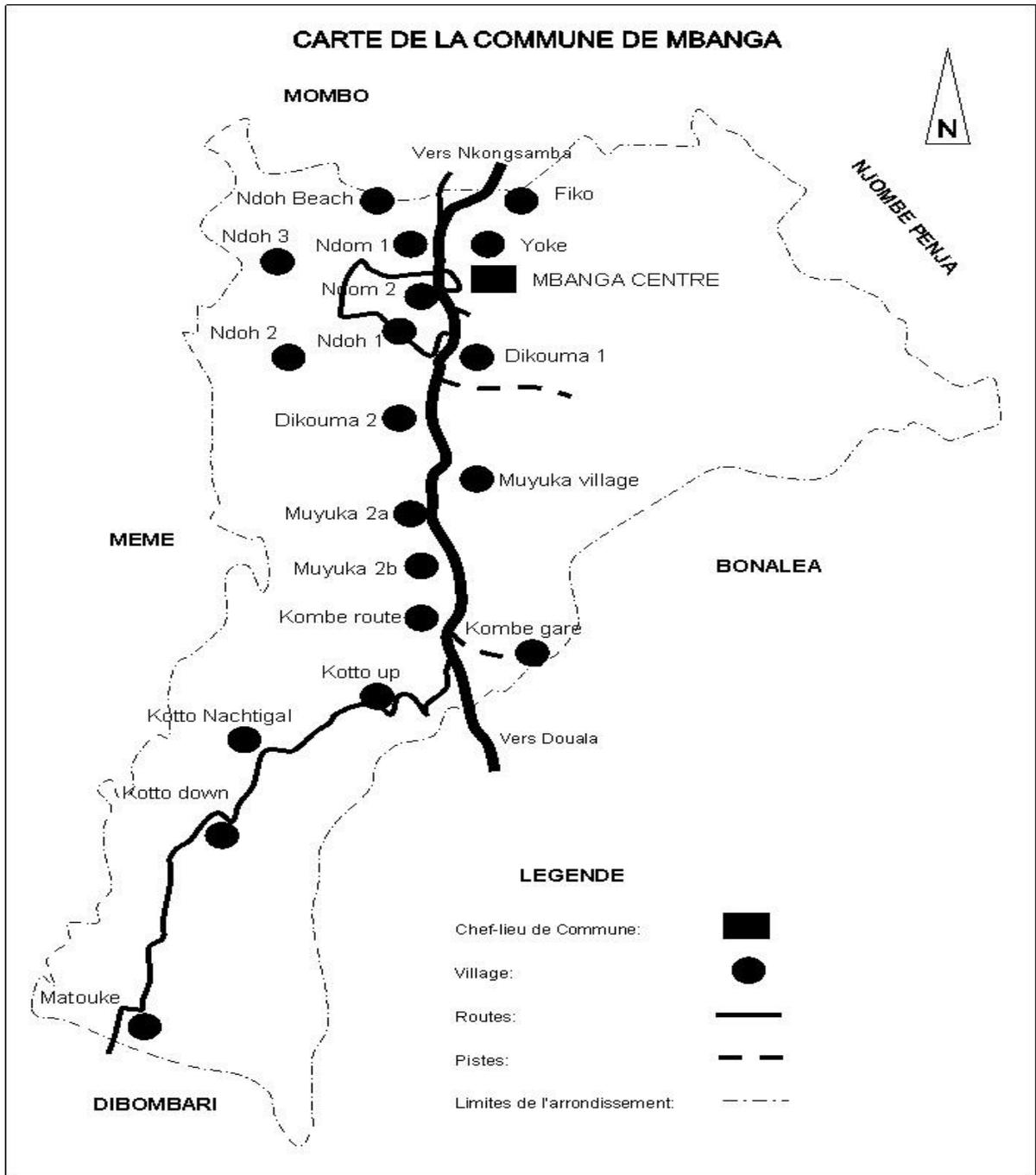


Figure 1.1: Map of Mbanga Municipality (adopted from CVUC, nd)

It has an estimated population of about 60,000 inhabitants consisting mostly of Bamiléké. The primary economic activity is agriculture, primarily consisting of the production and trade of cash crop such as coffee and cocoa mostly grown by male farmers and food crops such as cassava etc. grown by women. Despite this important economic activity in the primary sector,

the unemployment rate is high, about 60%, due to the lack of industries and companies in the secondary and tertiary sectors.

Douala IV municipality or Bonabéri is located in the Wouri Division of the Littoral region of Cameroon. It is located on the western side of the harbor of the Wouri River from the larger port of Douala as presented in figure 1.2.

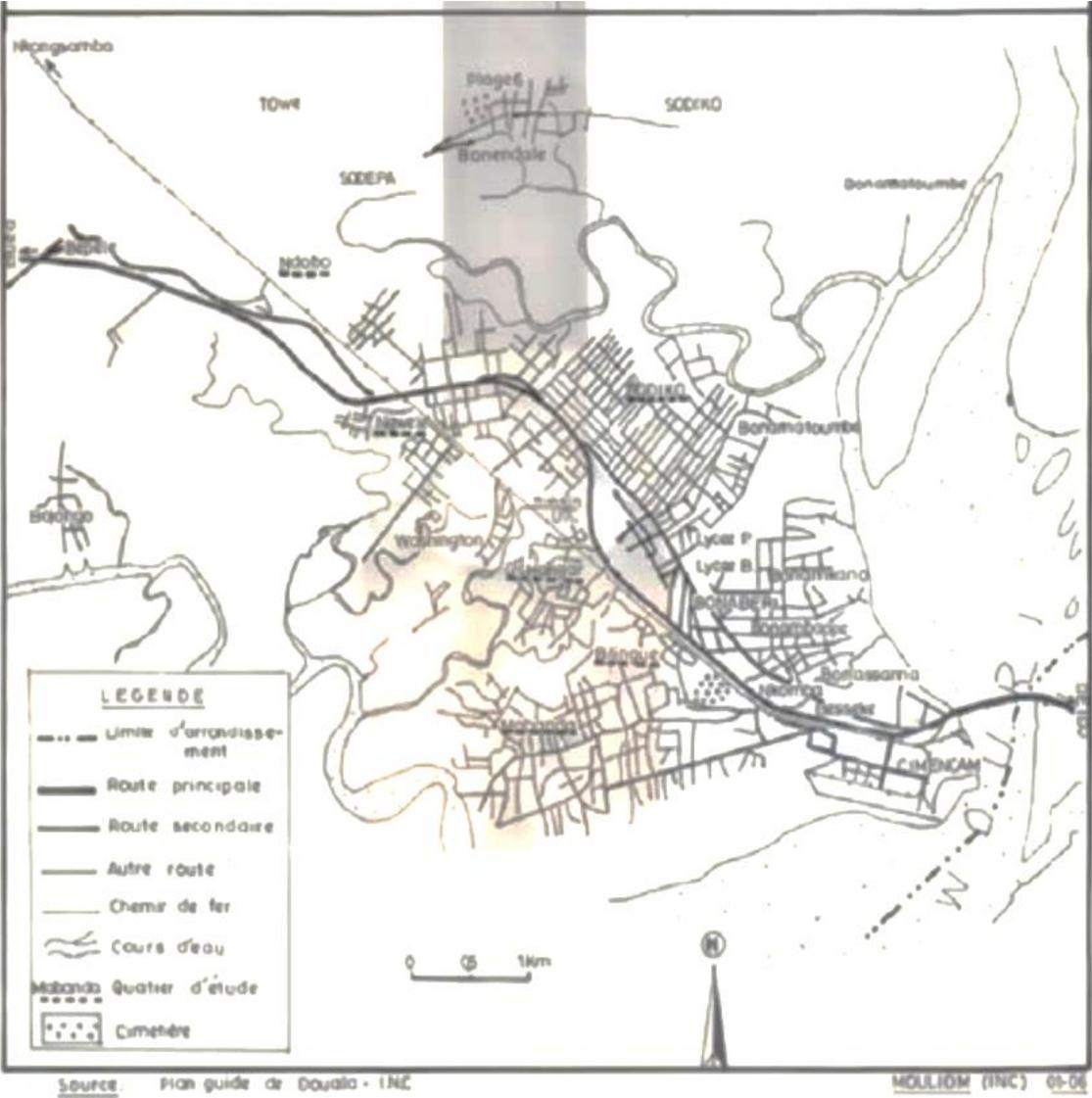


Figure 1.2: Map of Douala IV municipalities

Spread out over a surface of 5350 km<sup>2</sup>, Douala IV municipality has a total population of about 400,000 inhabitants consisting mostly of the native Doualas, Bamilékés, Bassas, Bakweris,

Bayangis, Bamendas, to Bamouns. The economic activities in this municipality consist of a fledgling industry, trade and commerce etc.

## **1.9 Definition of Terms**

### **Off-farm Social Activities**

According to Ovwigho (2014), off-farm social activities refers to all those social activities performed by individuals when not actively involved in farming. These activities include, dancing, sports, watching films, prostitution, drug abuse, alcohol and tobacco smuggling,

### **Pastimes**

Oxford Dictionary (nd) defines a pastime as an activity that someone does regularly for enjoyment rather than work. According to Webster's New World College Dictionary (nd), a pastime is a way of spending spare time pleasantly; anything done for recreation or diversion as a hobby. The various types of pastimes include dancing, swimming, music, soccer, gambling, puzzle, smoking and drug use.

### **Radicalization**

Radicalization is a process through which people become increasingly motivated to use violent means against members of an out-group or symbolic targets to achieve behavioral change and political goals (Doosje et al, 2016).

### **Deviance**

Deviance describes an action or behavior that violates social norms, including a formally enacted rule (e.g., crime) as well as informal violations of social norms (e.g., rejecting folkways and mores) (Macionis and Gerberm 2010).

### **Youths**

The African Youth Report (2009) defined youth as people between 15 and 39 years of age. Notwithstanding, many African countries define their youth population differently

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Literature Review**

##### **2.1.1 Conceptual Review**

###### **2.1.1.1 Off-farm Social Activities**

Several authors have described Off-farm social activities. According to Ovwigho (2014), off-farm refers to all income-generating activities except crop and livestock production. He further looks at it as complementary activities that farmers engage in either offseason to support themselves such as casual labor, business, transportation etc. Furthermore, Davis (2005), conceptualizes of-farm as comprising all activities that are geared to self-employment and income generating which are not agricultural but provide income (remittances).

Ellis and Freeman (2004), have divided off-farm activities into two broad categories of occupations: high-labor productivity that leads to high-income activity and low- labor-productivity activities that serve only as a residual source of income.

According to Kyastha, Rauniyar and Parker, (1999), off-farm activities include but not limited to short-term employment (wage labor, exchange labor), seasonal skilled and semi-skilled jobs (carpentry, bricklaying, blacksmith, work in public and private sectors). It also includes self-employment (retailers, wholesalers, rice mill owners, bus operators, and individual entrepreneurs).

There are various forms of off-farm activities both legal and illegal. The legal types of off-farm activities include tailoring, house help activities, traditional dancing, petty trading, wine taping, carpentry work and hairdressing. The illegal off-farm activities include prostitution, drug abuse, alcohol and tobacco smuggling.

Smith (2000), has shown the high importance of non-farm occupations for the landless and those with land-size up to 0.5 acres. He argues that those who participate in non-farm activities have a low incidence of poverty than their counterparts in farm occupations.

### **2.1.1.2 Pastimes**

The Merriam Webster Dictionary (2018), defines a pastime as something that amuses and serves to make time pass agreeably. According to COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary (ND), a pastime is something that you do in your spare time because you enjoy it or are interested in it. Oxford Dictionary (2018) defines a pastime as an activity that someone regularly does for enjoyment rather than work. A pastime can also be seen as an enjoyable activity into which one engages to relax or get relieved from stress. The various types of pastimes include dancing, swimming, music, soccer, gambling, puzzle, smoking and drug use.

### **2.1.1.3 Violence**

Violence is defined as the deliberate use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group or community, which either results in or has a high chance of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation (World Health Organization, 1996). Violence could be in various forms; gender, age, individual and family, community, cultural, religious or ethnic group, country or region (Morris, 2007). Also, violence may be classified in various ways;

- Types of violent acts; assault, sexual abuse, verbal abuse
- Precipitating factors; robbery, war, mental illness
- Contributing factors; drugs, alcohol, poverty, emotions, culture

Violence stems from various factors like biological and demographic factors (history of violence and abuse), the community (the neighborhood, social isolation, loss of cultural support), and societal (cultural acceptance of violence). (Morris, 2007).

### **2.1.1.4 Youth**

There is no global definition of the youth population. “Youth” is traditionally defined as a period of transition from childhood to adulthood.<sup>1</sup> In the African Youth Report 2009 (hereafter, the AYR) (UNECA 2009), “youth” are defined as people between 15 and 39 years of age. Notwithstanding, many African countries define their youth population differently. For example, Tanzania, Ghana, and South Africa define the youth population as those between 15 and 35 years of age; Swaziland and Nigeria define it as those between 12 and 30 years. These different definitions of the youth population make it difficult to effectively discuss issues

affecting youth in Africa generally and to measure information across countries. The age band used in the AYR is too wide because it is generally agreed that people in their 30s are adults, and hence not part of those youth who are in transition to adulthood. For statistical purposes, the United Nations (2011d) defines youth as those aged 15 to 24 years. Although arbitrary, this is the age group that has been recognized internationally as “youth.” Cameroon’s national youth policy (2006) defines youth as persons between the age of 15 and 35.

#### **2.1.1.5 Deviant Attitudes and Behaviors.**

##### **Attitude**

Allport (1935), defines attitude as a psychological construct, a mental and emotional entity that characterizes a person. Also, it has been considered as a state of mind, and it is triggered towards a person or event which turn to influence the person’s thought or actions. Derived from the Latin 'aptus,' it has, on the one hand, the significance of 'fitness' or 'adaptedness' and like it's my form 'aptitude', it connotes a subjective or mental stage of preparation for action (Fishbein, 1967). Attitudes denote basis perceptions, convictions feelings and emotions hopes and fear (Harriman, 1947). A view can be considered as the promptness of the psyche to act or react in a certain way. Deviant attitudes are those attitudes that individuals portray which are contrary to social norms.

##### **Behavior**

Le Blanc (2009) defines deviant behavior as the course of conformity to conventional standards of behavior during the life of an individual. According to Nalah and Ishaya (2013), abnormal behaviors are those behaviors or characteristics that defile significant social norms and expectations and are negatively valued by a great number of people. We can also look at deviance simply as those behaviors that breach commonly held standards, values and expectations of society. The legal dictionary defines deviant behavior as conduct that deviates from the societal norms. This best describe an action or behavior that tends to violate social norms like crimes.

In most cases deviant behavior tends to have positive aspects, it varies from culture to culture. For instance, a crime can be accepted in society but is unacceptable in another community. Also, we can say, deviance brings about the place where it was committed or even the time the

act took place. An example killing another human being can be considered wrong but when the government permits it during self-defense or warfare.

#### **2.1.1.6 Deviance**

Deviance can be defined from two perspectives; the normative and situational perspective. The normative perspective views deviance as a human behavior that violates present and generally accepted social norms. The situational perspective shifts the focus from an individual to social condition surrounding the behavior.

Sociologists use the word deviance to refer to any violation of rules and norms. From a sociological perspective, deviance is relative. Definitions of “what is deviant” differ within societies and from one group to another within the same society. Howard S. Becker (1963) described the interpretation of deviance as “not the act itself, but the reactions to the act, that makes something deviant.

#### **2.1.1.7 Institutional Mechanism**

This refers to the technical aspect of doing something incorporated into a structured and well-established system. In every aspect of life, there are institutional mechanisms. For example in gender, institutional mechanisms are bodies mandated to promote gender equality and support mainstreaming of gender equality into general policies in all areas, usually consisting of the central government body complemented with an inter-ministerial coordinating gender mainstreaming structure. Institutional mechanisms can be divided into micro and macro levels. Institutional mechanisms constitute actions by individuals who control significant institutional resources. (Galster, 2010). Some institutional mechanisms include we community leadership, administrative leadership and community structure.

#### **2.1.1.8 Social Mechanism**

Mayntz (2004) defines social mechanisms as a sequence of causally linked events that repeatedly occur in reality if certain conditions are given and relate specified initial conditions to a specific outcome. Social tools are complexes of interacting individuals, usually classified into specific social categories, which generate causal relationships between aggregate-level variables (Steel, 2004). Examples of social mechanisms are peer influence, school and the church.

#### **2.1.1.9 Geo-spatial Mechanism**

Geospatial mechanisms refer to those aspects of spaces that may affect the life courses of individuals residing in a particular neighborhood but yet, do not occur within the neighborhood but because of the neighborhood's location relative to larger scale economic and political powers like public services (Galster, 2010). According to Galster (2010), some neighborhoods may be located within local political jurisdictions that offer inferior public services and facilities because of their limited tax base resources, incompetence, corruption, or other operational challenges. These, in turn, may adversely affect the personal development and educational opportunities of residents.

#### **2.1.1.10 Radicalization**

There is no single definition to radicalization as various authors have various definitions of the concept of radicalization. For years now, radicalization has been a vital word in public discourse about terrorism (Crone, 2016). The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (2009) defines radicalization as "the process by which individuals usually young people are introduced to an overtly ideological message and belief system that encourages movement from moderate, mainstream beliefs towards extreme views.

Doosje, Moghaddam, Kruglanski, Wolf, Mann & Feddes (2016), define radicalization as a process through which people become progressively driven to use violent means against members of an out-group or symbolic targets to achieve behavioral change and political goals. Canterbury Christ Church University (2016), defines radicalization as the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Radicalization is the process of instigating someone to adopt extreme positions on political, social or religious issues that go against the status quo or expressions of the nation. The results of radicalization are made by the ideas of the society at large; for example, radicalism can originate from a broad social consensus against progressive changes in society or from an immense desire for change in the community. Radicalization can be both violent and nonviolent, although most academic literature focuses on radicalization into violent extremism.

Arlington (2015), outlines some factors that put individuals at risk of radicalizing into violent extremism; wanting status, wanting to belong, having experienced trauma, having engaged in

previous criminal activities, having grievances, exposure to violent extremist belief and having a family member involved into violent extremism, to name a few.

## **2.1.2 Empirical Review**

### **2.1.2.1 Types and Prevalence of Off-Farm Social Activities and Pastimes of Youths**

In a study carried out by Dary & Kuunibe (2012), to examine the types and determinants of participation in rural non-farm economic activities in Upper West Region of Ghana, using cross-sectional data from 172 households, it was observed that the main non-farm economic activities common to both men and women are drinking bar operations, teaching, stone mining, trading, hairdressing/barbing. The study equally found that women are far more engaged in non-farm economic activities than men.

Jimenez (2017) researched to find out the most preferred pastime of third-year College students in the Philippines using questionnaire and checklist. The study found out that most preferred leisure activity and hobby of the third year education college students with using social media network as the most preferred activity.

Anthony (1952), carried out a study to determine the type of hobbies of high school students and found out that playing football, watching movies, listening to music and reading were amongst the most common hobbies among youths.

Vanwey & Vithayathil (2013), in a study conducted in Brazil using interviews, found out that having a close relative working in the farm increases an individual likelihood for participation in off-farm work because of increased opportunities for higher pay work outside the agricultural sector.

A survey conducted by Zahonogo (2011), in Burkina Faso to determine the level of participation in non-farm activities in rural households found out that 65% of households are engaged in non-farm activities and that those involved in nonfarm activities had higher incomes than those not involved in nonfarm activities.

Nasrin and Wahid (2015), in their study to assess among other things the influencing factors that affect both farm and non-farm participants in household income in Khulna region of Bangladesh found out that most non-farm participants are ranged between the ages of 21-30

and most of them are not highly educated and that only female participated in non-farm while the men engaged in farm activities

A study carried out in Pakistan to determine the factors influencing the farming household for participating in off-farm employment activities, Iqbal et al. (2015), using multistage cluster sampling technique found out that an increase in household's workers and dependency ratio leads to engagement in off-farm activities.

Katera (2016), carried out a study in Tanzania to assess the driving forces of off-farm income generating activities in rural Tanzania using agriculture sample survey. He found out that more youth and female-headed households move towards off-farm activities as a result of land shortage and participation in off-farm activities increases with family size.

Yesuf (2013), carried out a study in Ethiopia to analyze the main factors that affect the participation of household on off-farm activities in Tigray regional state using cross-sectional survey. He found out that homes with large family size, having children of productive age, could participate in the off-farm activities. Also, households which have the opportunity to receive credit would build their capacity to engage on off-farm more and an essential factor to smooth condition on a better status and also a means to escape vulnerability to food insecurity. The study also found out that more educated people will turn to engage in off-farm activities.

#### **2.1.2.2 The Effect of Off-Farm Social Activities and Pastimes on Behaviors and Attitudes of Youths**

In a study carried out in South Florida by Bond (2011) to review scientific studies of the effect of violent video games aggressiveness and to examine the evidence that playing violent games plays a role in the behavior of school shooters found out that violent video games teach adolescents to be violent by learning violent thoughts through repetition. The study equally found out that persons who are prone to violence because of other bio-psychosocial variables will be stimulated to enjoy the violence in video games.

Derevensky, Sklar, Gupta & Messerlian (2009), carried out a study in Canada to examine adolescents' awareness of gambling advertisements and their impact on their behavior through questionnaires. The study found out that more males were involved in gambling than females and were more likely than females to agree with statements suggesting that gambling is a fun,

enjoyable and exciting activity, an escape from daily problems and stressors, as well as an excellent opportunity to socialize. Their high level of agreement suggests that gambling has become an integral part the social lives among many male adolescents.

A study was carried out to examine gambling behaviors, consequences and its associated factors among youths in Thailand using a cross-sectional survey by Apinuntavech et al. (2012). The study found out that a higher proportion of male students was found in the gamblers group. Most common negative consequences were psychological effects, including feeling guilty when gambling, attempting to conceal gambling behavior from family members, having a perception of poorer health. Other serious consequences included financial problems (borrowing money to pay debt, selling personal possession to pay debt, or being in debt), anxiety, substance usage for stress relief and school absence were moderately reported, while 1.5% of the respondents who had gambled had considered suicide as a possible mean to escape gambling debt.

Ibrahim *et al.* (2016) carried out a study in Nigeria to determine to assess the effects of drug abuse among youths and its impact on learning through a survey. The study found out that the following as impacts of drug abuse on youths; signs of physical deterioration e.g. memory losses, short attention, and difficulty in concentration, poor physical coordination, slurred or incoherent speeches unhealthy appearances, bloody or dilated eye, change in behavior pattern like downward performance at schools, changes of friends, increase absence during schools, increase hostility, irritability and secretiveness.

A study was carried out in Florida to evaluate and compare the difference in levels of reckless behavior participated in by listeners of rap music versus three other genres through surveys by Stubbs (2004). The study found out that of the ten types of reckless behavior surveyed, rap music listeners reported significantly higher occurrences for driving over 80 miles per hour, driving more significant than 20 miles per hour over the speed limit, and sex without contraception when compared to those who prefer rock music. Those who preferred rock music reported significantly higher occurrences for sex with someone known only casually and cocaine use.

Njoroge (2013), carried a study to find out the impacts social media has on behavior changes among the youths in Kenya using questionnaires and interviews. The study found out that social media leads to wastage of time and makes people lazy.

### **2.1.2.3 The Effect of Off-Farm Social Activities and Pastimes on the Attitudes and Behaviors of Youths**

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#### **2.1.2.4 The Impact of Off-Farm Social Activities and Pastimes on Deviance and Attitude towards Violence**

A study was carried out to investigate the factors influencing deviant behaviors among youths in Kenya (Wairimu, 2013) using survey. The study found out that the youth who were in employment perceived positively existence of deviant behavior while the unemployed negatively. Also, socio-economic factors were found to be of statistical significance to deviant behavior of the youths in the study area.

In a study carried out to examine the relation of criminal attitude towards violence and personality traits in mails, (Simane-Vigante *et al*, 2017) using survey design, it was found out that construct of criminal attitude towards violence overlaps with both - general criminal attitudes and attitudes towards violence.

A study was carried out in Finland to explore the relationship between gambling and violent behavior and attitudes towards violence among 14- and 16-year-old adolescents using a national survey (Räsänen *et al*, 2015). The study found out that both gambling frequency and the number of gambling-related harms were linked to violent behavior as well as to positive attitudes

towards violence. Adolescents who engaged in gambling on a daily basis and/ or experienced gambling harms had the highest risk.

A study was carried out to examine the relationship between drinking and violence in an adolescent population in the United States using a survey (Bachman et al, 2002). The study found out that heavy alcohol and polydrug use increased the likelihood of violent offending even after controlling for other variables like home environment, grades in school, and race.

#### **2.1.2.5 Institutional, Social and Geo-Spatial Mechanism that Shape Youth's Attitudes and Behaviors (Enablers and Disenablers)**

##### **Institutional and Social Mechanisms**

Langton *et al.* (2011), carried out a study in the USA to examine family structures association with adolescent physical health, behavior, and emotional well-being using a longitudinal survey. The study found out that adolescents in most other family types tend to have poorer outcomes than those in two-biological-parent families.

A study was carried out by Comanor *et al.* (2002), in California to assess the impact of income and family structure on delinquency using longitudinal survey. The study found out that the most critical factor affecting the prospect that a male youth will run into the criminal justice system is the presence of his father in the home having a stepfather present appears to increase the chances for delinquency, despite higher average income. For boys, a stepmother's presence may reduce the prospects of misconduct, although the presence of a stepfather may have the opposite effect.

Abdullah *et al.* (2015), carried out a study to assess the role of the family in abnormal behavior development of adolescents in Malaysia using in-depth interviews. The study found out that low-income family management and bad relationships with family members contribute to juvenile delinquency. Criminal parent/guardian or other criminal family member give inspiration to juvenile offenders for the offence. Family behavior/reaction to respondent's previous deviant behavior decides an adolescent's future tendencies to crime.

A study was carried out in the USA by Pope et al. (ND) to assess the impact of religion on youth outcomes using longitudinal survey. It was found out that youth experience better results if they

attend church more often. Youth with higher church attendance are less likely to commit property or violent crimes, smoke, drink, use drugs, or receive a traffic ticket.

In Portugal, Tome *et al.* (2012), carried out a study using a survey to assess the impact of the peer group and family influence on adolescent behavior. The study found out that lower the number of friends with risk behavior that adolescents have, the more comfortable communicating with parents will be and, in its turn, the higher levels of well-being they will have a harder communication with parents, leads to lower levels of involvement in violent behavior. Having a higher number of friends with more risk behaviors also emerges as a factor with a high impact on involvement in risk behaviors.

A study was carried out in Valencia, Spain by Lopez et al. (2008) to assess the influence of family and classroom environments on the development of particular individual characteristics, including the level of empathy, attitude to institutional authority and perceived social reputation, and the role these characteristics may, in turn, play in school aggression. The study found out that a positive family environment is a stronger protective factor for girls in the development of problems of behavior at school, whereas for boys this is the case for a positive classroom environment. Also, the social construction of interactions between parents and children based on affective cohesion and expressiveness of feelings and opinions sharing an open communication.

Imtiaz et al. (2010) carried out a study in Pakistan to explore all possible social factors affecting the aggressive behavior among youth using survey. The study found out that the major causes of the aggressive behavior stem from the unfavorable family environment, unhealthy peer group, poor attitude regarding educational institution and rigid behavior regarding religious sect. Unsatisfactory relationships with peer group have been found a more significant factor in causing aggression among youth. Also, favorable environment at home, high parental support, high parental commitment to children's education, satisfactory performance in studies, satisfaction with job, healthy peer group, high level of self-confidence, low level of expectations from others, more access to religious education, sensible attitude, high level of tolerance among youth are such factors that can help our youth to lower down their aggression.

### **2.1.2.6 How Youth's Knowledge, Behavior and Attitudes stir their Radicalization to Terrorism**

Onuoha (2013), in his research, to find out why youths join Boko Haram in Nigeria through surveys found out that poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and weak family structures are factors that contribute to making young men vulnerable to radicalization.

A study was carried out to assess the implications of radicalization on the future of terrorism in Nigeria. The study found out that socially isolated young men turn to extremism in their search for identity, acceptance and purpose. (Stephen, 2016).

Smith, 2018 in her research on the risk factors associated with radicalization to terrorism in the United States found out the following as risk factors;

- having a history of criminal violence
- having being involved with a gang or delinquent peers
- having a terrorist friend
- having a deep commitment to an extremist ideology
- Being unemployed
- having less education
- having a low social, economic status
- being distant from one's family

### **2.1.2.7 Radicalization Prevention in Communities**

Silva (ND), in her book "The Role of Education in the Prevention of Violent Extremism", spells out the intervention of education in the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism. By providing access and quality education to all, the issues of marginalization, inequality, unemployment and other root causes of violent extremism will be addressed. This is usually done at the primary and secondary levels, since this is the stage at which most youths get radicalized and also vocational and technical education are not left out. High dropout rates among primary and secondary school leavers was the main pool of recruitment to extremist

groups in some contexts (Silva, ND). Addressing the issues of dropouts maybe the first step in reducing the recruitment of young people into violent extremism.

In Northern Nigeria, the Peace Club was created (a project of the Peace Initiative Network) to promote tolerance, understanding and dialogue through peace education and team sports among young people from diverse communities and backgrounds in Northern Nigeria (Sodipo, 2013).

Counter radicalization programs are very complex and sensitive since they touch a wide range of sectors including religion, ethnicity, identity and integration. Countries such as Britain, Netherlands and Denmark have been at the forefront of developing counter radicalization programs, holding some experience from the United States of America (Vidino, 2010).

In Saudi Arabia, authorities have based their richly funded program on the assumption that jihadists are naïve men who have been misled by crafty recruiters into believing a false understanding of Islam, and see an education in “true Islam” as the solution (Vidino, 2010).

#### **2.1.2.8 Best Practices for Peacebuilding among Youths in Potentially Violent or Violent Communities**

##### **Nigeria’s Amnesty Program as a Peacebuilding Infrastructure**

There has been conflicting in the Niger Delta for the past 40 years. This conflict was as a result of the multinational oil companies which also led to the destruction of local households and severe environmental hazard (Newsom, 2011). In the 1990s, military rulers used violence to suppress militants in the oil-producing communities. The president of Nigeria Umar Yar’adua in June 2009 offered a 60 days amnesty to militants in the Niger Delta. This amnesty was for the militants to surrender their weapons and ammunition, i.e. Disarmament, Demo, skills mobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and in return, each militant was to receive US\$420 per month and another US\$20 daily for reintegration (Newsom, 2011). This program yield rich fruits as up to 26.358 militants accepted the amnesty offer and there has been the participation of these program since 2009. There was the creation of the ministry of Niger Delta affairs in 2008 which was to coordinate past dysfunctional developments and also there was the creation of a special adviser to the presidency who was mandated to implement the amnesty program (Newsom, 2011). Also, about 26,358 militants accepted the amnesty proposal, and there has been gross participation in the amnesty program since 2009 (Ubhenin, 2013). The process of peacebuilding saw as former militants were integrated into formal and vocational education,

skills, acquisition and entrepreneurial development. This schedule was greatly respected due to the need for the economic and strategic importance of peace and the stabilization in the Niger Delta. In all, the amnesty program was a bold step in peacebuilding in that; there were transparency and accountability of those in charge in carrying out and implementing amnesty program.

### **Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding NEPAL**

The long-armed clash in Nepal significantly affected the youth education, livelihoods, family-based care and protection wellbeing. With more than 3000 underage children were forcibly recruited while some volunteers to join the armed group (Bista and O'kane, 2015). Both men and women were victims of war as some women were sexually abused. In April 2006 there was a cease-fire announcement made by the government for a formal peace process and the envisioning of a peaceful country. Peacebuilding were seen as there was an introduction of child and youth clubs which enabled the youths and children to work in wide ranges of social, educational, recreational and environmental concerns which included peace building initiatives. The Nepal partnership for children and youth was formed in September 2014 which included national and international organization such as alliance of peace, save the children and youth network for peace and development (YNPD) Mahottari (Bista et al. 2015). This initiative was as a bid to prevent youths from joining armed conflict and violence. Other peacebuilding programs which were supported by Nepal included peace education which was on training students on human rights, establishing youth peace dialogue centers, supporting former combatants into reintegration, and consulting children and youth in the constitutional development process.

### **Children and Youth in Sierra Leone's Peacebuilding Process**

The country Serria Leone youth comprises about 50% of the total population (McIntyre and Thusi, 2003). The youths in this country were perpetrators and victims of 11years of violence in the country. Serria Leone as well had embarked on the process of peacebuilding in May 2002 (McIntyre et al., 2003). The country is most affected by political and economic problems, corruption, neglect, bad governance and also groups and regions that felt marginalized. Peacebuilding negotiations in Serria Leone have bought a lasting solution with the influence of international peace development. For example in 1999, the Lome's agreement which made

provision for resolving issues related to children and youth and also the establishment of the office for children protection (McIntyre et al., 2003). Also, the government was to pay special to cases of child soldiers with the help of UNICEF to also address particular problems of children in existing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

And moreover, during and after the process of DDR, children and youth were to be treated differently. The peace practice has also given the various opportunity for political dispensation which will help favor and protect minority groups

Meanwhile, the 1996 Machel report entitled “integrating the protection of children into United Nations peacekeeping operations” stated that there should ensure the Implementation of child protection through the mandate of the peacekeeping operations (McIntyre et al., 2003). The peacebuilding process took on the rise as international and national humanitarians, and development assistance organization were deeply concerned with the process of rehabilitation of child soldiers.

### **Education for Demilitarizing Youth in Post-Conflict Afghanistan**

In years back, education in Afghanistan has been seen as one of the ways which it instigates violence, or neither has it been an important factor in preventing violence. But with the coming of demobilization, demilitarization and reintegration programs (DDR), it has been a turning point in the reconstruction process of education, i.e. giving a positive impact on promoting peacebuilding and integration.

The reborn of a new Afghanistan all began when the BONN agreement was met in December 2001 (Suhrke, Harpviken and Strand 2004). This agreement notably was reached because it was the re-founding of permanent government institutions. The Bonn agreement was generally constituted; establishment of the new constitution and the holding of elections, the development of social services and developmental programs. Also, the educational aspects were not left out as new books were introduced to various schools (mujahidin textbooks). Furthermore, the UNICEF launched the “back to school” programme which was mainly for the overcrowded numbers of refugees returning back and as well as the girl's children education which was before denied (Matsumoto, 2008). This programme was most supported by non- governmental organization on the bid to get back younger children to school in conjunction with international call towards education for all.

Moreover, with the introduction of the DDR program in the Geneva security donor forum in 2002, it was seen as a growing realization that could reintegrate ex-combatants for useful evolution from war to peace due to the fact most youths were among the fighting force (Matsumoto, 2008). The DDR at the start was to disarm about 100,000 combatants throughout three years. However, as a sign of peaceful transition, approximately 2.5 million Afghans ex-combatants were included into structured military groups.

### **Challenges to Policy and Practice in the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Youth Combatants in Liberia**

Dating years back, Liberia has been in plague of civil war for fourteen years which has led to mass displacement of people in and out of the country, at of 2003, there was an estimation of about 500 IDP, 320 thousand refugees and about 103 thousand combatants who were demobilized after having fought civil war (Bragg, 2006). The end of the civil war was addressed as the laying of the foundation of the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation (DDRR) program of ex-combatants which was to lead to sustainable development. It was noted that the majority of the ex-combatants involved in the civil war were mostly youths with an estimation of about 21 thousand children and some as young as nine years old. During the period of demobilization process, ex-combatants were mobilized to surrender their weapons and given reorientation programs, counselling and training programs which enabled them to take over civilian life. During the transitional period, each ex-combatant were given US\$150 as demobilization process and reintegration (Bragg, 2006).

However, child ex-combatants were given priority as most of them were been separated from an adult, and also intensive care was being given to them while their families have been traced. Meanwhile, there were being given vocational training which will enable them to acquire income like carpentry, farming, roofing and care for their environment.

### **Reintegration in Eastern Equatorial State**

Eastern Equatorial State is one of the ten states which form the Republic of South Sudan. This state has a population of about 1 million inhabitants, and the majority depends on animal farming and agriculture. Eastern Equatorial State is one of the countries which have experienced civil wars which began in Torit in 1983-2005 (UNDP, 2010). The leading cause of the conflict was inter-community cattle raiding.

The DDR program began in Eastern Equatorial State in 2010 which saw the first batch of ex-combatants, with the help of the German international cooperation service and UNDP implemented the reintegration process, and upon completion of training courses, participants were being awarded graduation certificates in 2011 (Munive, 2013). In November 2011, there was the second batch of about 507 ex-combatants who were being trained on small business, vocational training, agriculture and courses were also offered like basic knowledge, and numeracy, basic economic reintegration courses and life skills education like the driver (Munive, 2013). Also, there were being paid about US\$30 on their registration process which was to cover their transportation and other expenses. In all, there were about 237 male and 270 females ex-combatants been registered so far (Munive, 2013).

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.2.1. Neighborhood Effect Theory**

This is an economic and social science theory that posits that neighborhoods have either a direct or indirect effect on individual knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, practices or perceptions (Wilson, 1987). The term was coined in the seminal works of Kevin Cox in 'The Voting Decision in a Spatial Context' (Cox, 1969) and later popularized by Ron J. Johnston in 'Political Geography' (1979) and Peter J. Taylor and G. Gudgin in 'Geography of Elections' (Johnston, 1979; Taylor and Gudgin, 1979). The neighborhood effect was primarily relied on to explain spatial dimensions in political participation.

However, it became a popular approach in the social sciences after the publication of the book *The Truly Disadvantaged* by William Julius Wilson in 1987. Wilson argued that living in a particular neighborhood mediates individual outcomes, such as economic self-sufficiency, violence, drug use and cognitive ability.

To fully understand the relationship between various aspects of the residential environment and the multiple outcomes on the individual adults and children living in these different environments, 15 potential causal pathways between neighborhood context and personal behavioral and health issues, organized under four broad rubrics--social interactive; environmental; geographical; and institutional-- which synthesizes various authors have identified both sociological and epidemiological perspectives in concert (Jencks and Mayer, 1990; Duncan, Brooks-Gunn and Aber, 1997; Gephart, 1997; Ellen and Turner, 1997;

Wandersman and Nation,1998; Friedrichs, 1998; Green and Ottoson, 1999; Atkinson et al.,2001; Booth and Crouter, 2001; Sampson, 2001; Ellen, Mijanovich and Dillman, 2001; Haurin, Dietz and Weinberg, 2002; Sampson, Morenoff, and Gannon-Rowley, 2002; Ellen and Turner, 2003; Ioannides and Loury, 2004; Pinkster, 2008; and Phibbs (2009).

The 15 mechanism or pathways through which the neighborhood effect can be transmitted include:

**a. Social-Interactive Mechanisms**

This set of mechanisms denotes to social processes endogenous to neighborhoods. These processes include:

- **Social Contagion:** Behaviors, aspirations, and attitudes may be altered by contact with peers who are neighbors. Under certain conditions, these changes can take on contagion changes that are akin to “epidemics.”
- **Collective Socialization:** Persons may be motivated to conform to local social norms taken by neighborhood role models and other social pressures. This socialization outcome is characterized by a minimum threshold or critical mass being attained before a norm can produce obvious consequences for others in the area.
- **Social Networks:** Persons may be influenced by the interpersonal communication of information and resources of different kinds transmitted through neighbors. These networks can comprise either “strong ties” or “weak ties.”
- **Social Cohesion and Control:** The extent of neighborhood social disorder and its converse, “collective efficacy” (Sampson, Morenoff, and Earls, 1999), may influence different types of behaviors and psychological reactions of residents.
- **Competition:** Under the ground that certain local resources are restricted and not pure public goods, this mechanism posits that groups within the locality will compete for these resources amongst themselves. Because the result is a zero-sum game, residents’ access to these resources (and their resulting opportunities) may be influenced by the eventual success of their group in “winning” this competition.
- **Relative Deprivation:** This mechanism proposes that residents who have achieved some socioeconomic success will be a source of disamenities for their less-well-off neighbors. The

latter, it is argued, will see the successful with envy and will make them perceive their relative inferiority as a source of dissatisfaction.

- **Parental Mediation:** The neighborhood may affect (through any of the mechanisms listed under all categories here) parents' physical and mental health, stress, coping skills, and sense of efficacy, behaviors, and material resources. All of these, in turn, may have an effect on the home environment in which children are raised.

#### **b. Environmental Mechanisms**

**Physical Surroundings:** Deteriorating physical conditions of the constructed environment (e.g., dilapidated structures and public infrastructure, litter, graffiti) may impart psychological effects on occupants such as a sense of powerlessness. Noise may create tension and inhibit decision-making through a process of "environmental overload" (Bell et al., 1996).

- **Toxic Exposure:** People may be open to unhealthy levels of air-, soil-, and water-borne pollutants because of the existing and historical land uses and other ecological conditions in the neighborhood.

#### **c. Geographical Mechanisms**

Geographic mechanisms refer to aspects of spaces that may affect residents' life courses yet do not arise within the neighborhood but rather purely because of the neighborhood's location relative to larger-scale political and economic forces such as:

- **Spatial Mismatch:** Certain neighborhoods may have little accessibility (in either spatial proximity or as mediated by transportation networks) to job opportunities appropriate to the skills of their residents, thereby restricting their employment opportunities.
- **Public Services:** Some neighborhoods may be located within local political jurisdictions that offer inferior public services and facilities because of their limited tax base resources, incompetence, corruption, or other operational challenges. These, in turn, may adversely affect the personal development and educational opportunities of residents.

#### **d. Institutional Mechanisms**

The last category of mechanisms involves actions by those typically not residing in the given neighborhood who control important institutional resources located there and/or points of interface between neighborhood residents and vital markets:

- **Stigmatization:** Neighborhoods may be stigmatized on the basis of public stereotypes held by powerful institutional or private actors about its current residents. In other cases this may occur regardless of the neighborhood's current population because of its history, environmental or topographical disamenities, style, scale and type of dwellings, or condition of their commercial districts and public spaces. Such stigma may reduce the opportunities and perceptions of residents of stigmatized areas in a variety of ways, such as job opportunities and self-esteem.
- **Local Institutional Resources:** Some neighborhoods may have access to few and/or high-quality private, non-profit, or public institutions and organizations, such as benevolent charities, day care facilities, schools, and medical clinics. The lack of same may adversely affect the personal development opportunities of residents.
- **Local Market Actors:** There may be substantial spatial variations in the prevalence of certain private market actors that may encourage or discourage certain behaviors by neighborhood residents, such as liquor stores, fresh food markets, fast food restaurants, and illegal drug markets.

The neighborhood effect theory therefore helps us understand the relationship between youths' behavior and their environment.

### **2.2.2 Contagion Theory**

The contagion theory looks at the social conditions and situations that stir crowd behaviors. It is a theory of collective behavior which elaborates on how a crowd can cause hypnotic behaviors on individuals. Gustave Le Bon, in his book called "the crowd: a study of popular mind in France" in 1885 was the first to study this theory. He was a historian and philosopher and as such, his work reflected more political and social opinions. His theories were improved by sociologist Robert Park and later by Herbert Blumer. They explained how the crowd dynamically influenced an individual within a group in a socio-psychological condition.

### **2.2.3 Radicalization Theory**

According to Maskaliūnaitė (2015), theories of radicalization are grouped into four broad categories based on their level of personal choice. These categories are rational choice, grievance, psychological traits and motivation.

#### **1. Psychological Traits**

The notion that those who engage in violent political activity in general and terrorism in particular are psychologically abnormal has long been castoff by researchers. Research on violent Leftists of the 1970s has shown that people who engage in violent activities are not different from other politically active people. For example, as Franco Ferracuti writes, “Psychiatric studies have not identified any psychopathological characteristics common to the Italian left-wing terrorists” (Ferracuti, 1998) that were under examination in his study were also confirmed in the case of (West) German leftists. The broad message is that those who engage in violent activities are more likely like us.

## **2. Motivation**

This theory looks at the external actors: charismatic leaders, firebrand preachers and intellectual gurus and assess their roles in enrolling new members in terrorist groups. These theoretical approaches can be seen as one that looks at the process of attraction to an organization. The researchers working in this area propose looking at the dynamics of psychological manipulation in order to assess the process of radicalization. Trujillo *et al* (2009), suggest two types of recruitment process to terrorism. The first is self-recruitment where a group of friends gets radicalized mainly using internet to interchange knowledge and practices and reinforce ideological positions. The second type of recruitment is an outcome of the process of systematic directed and conscious psychological manipulation, similar to those produced by sectarian groups. This sees the similarity between those who engage in terrorist activities and those in religious sects led by a charismatic leader (Maskaliunate, 2010).

## **3. Grievance**

This is the most used when it concerns the assessment of political violence in general and terrorism in particular. As collective action is associated with the desire to enact social change or right some social wrong, and political violence is considered as an extreme form of such action, grievance best explains this. A number of structural conditions have been said to contribute to the sense of grievance. Tore Bjørgo, (2013) suggests examples such as civil wars or deep-rooted conflicts, invasion by foreign military forces, economic underdevelopment, bad governance, and corruption. Lack of political opportunities is often added to the list alongside social exclusion, discrimination. An important aspect to note with this theory is the distinction

between the group and personal grievances. Both encourage engagement in political violence but the grievance of the group with which the individual associates himself is more rampant.

#### **4. Rational Choice**

This analysis sees engagement in violent activities as a part of cost-benefit analysis that and individual conducts with regards to any serious activity. The rational choice theorists are interested in behavior rather than psychological traits. They assume that individuals are rational and make choices based on calculations of costs and benefits. Pisiou (2012), argues that individuals choose to follow a career in terrorism as they choose to follow any other career, evaluating its disadvantages as well as rewards and benefits. (Pisiou, 2012). Standing, which is similar to social prestige is one of the most important reasons for joining. A sense of heroism is also linked to this factor.

#### **2.3 Gaps Identified in Literature**

From the literature reviewed above, a lot of research has been done in regards to participation of youths in off-farm social activities as well as impact of these social activities on their attitudes and behavior. At the level of Africa, numerous studies have been carried out to examine the impact of off-farm activities on sustainable development. Madaki and Adefinla (2014) carried out a study in Nigeria to assess the contribution of non-farm activities to the total income of rural households through questionnaires and found out that non-farm employment accounts for a large percentage of the total employment in the rural economy. Also, Bila *et al* (2015), carried out a study to assess off- farm activities and its contribution to households income in Hawul, Borno, Nigeria using multi-stage and stratified simple random sampling with structured questionnaires and verbal interviews. They found out that off-farm activities contribute more to household income. Also, off-farm activities had contributed in self-employment, and provision of labor to argument households' income. Little work has been done in this regard in the cases of Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. Our study seeks to assess how off-farm social activities contribute to radicalization Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities.

Still in Africa, research has been carried out to find out how youth's behaviors and attitudes radicalize them into violent activities. In Nigeria, Onuoha (2013), in his research to find out why youths join Boko Haram in Nigeria through surveys found out that poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and weak family structures are factors that contribute to making

young men vulnerable to radicalization. We find out that this is still a virgin area in the cases of Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities which our study will address.

Some research have been done to examine the role of institutional and social mechanism in shaping the knowledge, behaviors and attitudes of youths. In the United States, a lot has been done to understand this. Langton *et al* (2011) examine family structures association with adolescent physical health, behavior, and emotional well-being using longitudinal survey. Their study found out that adolescents in most other family types tend to have poorer outcomes than those in two-biological-parent families. Also, Pope *et al* (ND) assess the impact of religion on youth outcomes using longitudinal survey. They found out that youth experience better outcomes if they attend church more often. In Asia as well, Abdullah *et al* (2015) carried out a study to assess the role of family in deviant behavior development of adolescents in Malaysia using in-depth interviews. The study found out that poor family management and bad relationships with family members contribute to juvenile delinquency. Little has been done in the case of Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities on the role of institutions in shaping youth's behavior and attitudes and this study addresses the issue.

The effect of violent video games on the behavior of youths has been studied in South Florida by Bond (2011), and it was found out that violent video games teach adolescents to be violent. This is still a concept in the context of Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. Also, a study carried out in Ghana to determine the types and participation in rural non-farm activities shows that women were more engaged in non-farm activities than the men (Dary *et al*, 2012). The non-farm activities common to both men and women there were drinking bar operations, teaching, stone mining, and hairdressing. In the cases of Mbanga and Doauala IV municipalities, little has been done to determine the types of non-farm activities into which individuals engage. Our study will examine how these activities shape the knowledge, behavior, attitudes and perceptions of youths. In Burkina Faso, a study was carried out to determine the level of participation of youths in non-farm activities in rural households (Zahonogo, 2011). This study was also carried out in Tanzania by Katera (2016). Our study seeks to bridge the gap in the cases of Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. Njoroge (2013) carried a study to find out the impacts social media has on behavior changes among the youths in Kenya using questionnaires and interviews. This is still a virgin field in the cases on Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities.

We notice that, most research have focused on the activities into which youths engage.

This study therefore opens new grounds in the context of the contribution of these off-farm social activities to radicalization by filling the gap, using the cases of Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities.

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive survey design. This study design was chosen to enable the collection and analyses of data for large number of youths aged 15 to 35 years at a particular point in time and space.

#### 3.2 Study Population

The study population comprised of youths between the ages of 15 and 35 years resident in the Mbanga municipality and Douala IV municipality. According to BUCREP (2017), the youth population of these areas are estimated at 13077 for Mbanga and 108,898 for Douala IV municipality. However, the study was focused in 6 quarters or Enumeration Areas (EAs) in Mbanga with a population of 6357 inhabitants and 8 quarters or Enumeration Areas (EAs) in Douala IV with a population of 74990 inhabitants. The population was distributed as shown in Table 3.1.

*Table 3.1 Distribution of population in study sites*

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Population</b>
Douala IV	Bonassama	8351
	Mabanda	27463
	Quartier Lycée Bilingue	7725
	Besseke	2798
	Ngwele	12868
	Grand Hangar	6550
	Ndobo	7168
	Bojongo	2067
Mbanga	Quartier 1	1469
	Kotto	1361
	Quartier 4 BIS	720
	Quartier 15	819
	Quartier 3	1260
	Quartier 13	728
<b>Total</b>		<b>81 347</b>

### 3.2.1 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

The study made use of a multiple stage sampling technique to select the respondents for the study. In the initial stage, the Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities was divided into strata consisting of quarters. Douala IV was divided up into 19 quarters while Mbanga was divided into 23 quarters. In the second stage, simple random sampling technique with the help of balloting was used to select 6 quarters or Enumeration Areas (EAs) from Mbanga and 9 quarters or Enumeration Areas (EAs) from Douala IV. From these selected EAs convenient sampling techniques was used to select the study participants based on their ability and willingness to participate in the study.

The Taro Yamane's formula for known population was used to determine the sample size of the study. The formula was explicitly stated as

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

where n = sample size

N= total population

e = error margin

With a total population of 8134 inhabitants and an error margin of 0.05, the theoretical sample size was calculated as 688.

### 3.2.2 Data Collection and Instrumentations

This study made use of both primary and secondary data used. The primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into 4 parts. The first part elicited information on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The second part collected data on the types and prevalence of youth off-farm and pastime activities. The third part contained questions related to the types and prevalence of youth's deviant behaviors. The fourth part contained Likert scale questions from Strongly Agree (5) to Strongly Disagree (1) related to youth's attitudes towards violence adopted from the Attitude towards Violence (ATV) Scale developed by Funk et al (1999). A total of 212 and 476 questionnaires were interviewer administered in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities respectively. A total of 674

questionnaires were retained after checking for incompletely and wrongly filled answers and for missing data.

The secondary data was collected using desktop reviews of published and unpublished books, peer review journal articles, published government reports and published and unpublished theses among others.

### **3.2.3 Validity and Reliability of Instruments**

To ensure the face validity, content validity, construct validity and criterion-related validity of the questionnaire, three measures were taken.

First, measures were taken to ensure that the items used in the questionnaires were constructed to represent the various components of the study and based on extensive review of relevant and extant literature.

Secondly, the questionnaire was subjected to expert review during the tools defense process of the Pan African Institute for Development-West Africa. Pertinent corrections and suggestions from this panels were incorporated into the research instruments.

Finally, a pilot study was conducted to test the applicability of the instrument prior to data collection. Data were collected at randomly selected localities in the city of Buea from a sample comprising 70 youths. After the pilot, certain items in the questionnaires were deleted, rephrased and added to improve respondent's comprehension of the questionnaires.

To ensure the reliability of the questionnaire, a test-retest procedures was carried. The pilot questionnaires were divided into two groups and tested for correlation in the responses. The correlation coefficients were 0.78 for types and prevalence of off-farm and pastimes activities of youths, 0.82 for youth awareness of deviance and involvement in deviant behaviors (practices), 0.78 for Youths' attitudes and perception of deviant behaviors, and 0.76 for media content. The test-retest correlation coefficients for the three areas of the questionnaires were found to be higher than the threshold value of 0.75 needed for reliability.

### **3.3 Analytical Approach**

#### **Pre-analysis**

The quantitative data from the questionnaire was entered into Microsoft Excel 2016. Double data entry verification was used to ensure data entry consistency. Typing errors were tracked using the VALIDADE tool and corrected. The data was transferred into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22.0.

The data were subjected to missing value analyses. Generally, missing values was found to be 8.3% and considered as every low. Exploratory data analyses using the Kolmogorov-Smirnoff test ( $p>0.05$ ) found abnormalities in the distribution of the data for most of the variables.

The Principal Component Analyses techniques using Varimax rotations were used to reduce the items in the youth attitude towards violence and deviant behaviors into their most significant items and corresponding components.

#### **Analyses**

For data analyses, the study made use of descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics included frequency, percentages, means and standard deviation. The frequencies and percentages were used to describe the types and prevalence of youth off farm activities and deviant behaviors, while mean scores and standard deviations were used to assess youth attitudes towards violence and deviant behaviors. Mean scores between 1 to 2.5 for culture of violence were considered as low as while mean scores between 2.6 to 5 were considered as high. Mean scores between 1 to 2.5 for remorse for violent crimes were considered as low as while mean scores between 2.6 to 5 were considered as high. Mean scores between 1 to 2.5 for value of life were considered as low as while mean scores between 2.6 to 5 were considered as high.

The inferential statistics used included the Spearman rank correlation. Spearman rank correlations was used to assess relationships between youth off-farm activities and deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence. Correlation coefficients between 0 and 0.5 were considered as low correlation while coefficients between 0.5 and 1 were considered as high correlations. Results with p values  $< 0.05$  were considered as statistically significant.

The statistical analyses were performed with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22.0 software.

### **Post analyses**

The findings from the quantitative data analyses were presented in the form of charts and tables and further enhanced with narratives. The charts and tables were developed with the aid of Power BI Desktop software.

### **3.4 Ethical Consideration**

The researcher took the following methods to obtain consent and confidentiality of the data provided. Prior to enrolling participants for the study, the researcher and field aids explained the essence of the study and only recruited participants who were willing to participate without any remuneration or coercion in the research. For study participants under the ages of 18, consent was sought from the parents. To ensure confidentiality, participants were not required to divulge their identity and the information collected were only used for the purpose for which was intended. All data was reported in aggregate or with identifiable information removed.

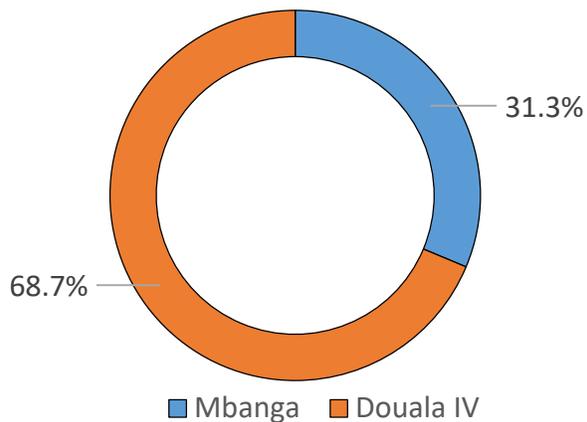
## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSES

#### 4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

##### Location

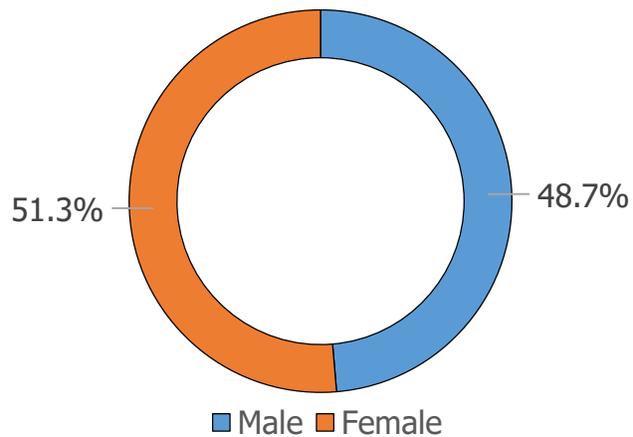
Out of the 674 respondents that constituted the study, 211 (31.3%) were from Mbanga Municipality and 463 (68.7%) were from the Douala IV Municipality (Figure 4.1).



**Figure 4.1: Location of resident of the respondents**

##### Gender

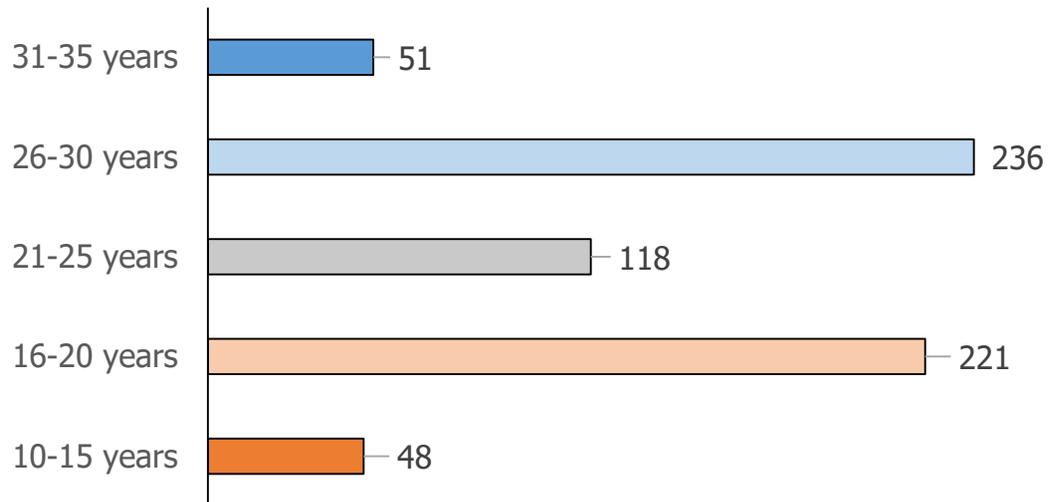
Among the 674 respondents that constituted the study, 328 (48.7%) were males and 346 (51.3%) were females (Figure 4.2).



**Figure 4.2: Gender of the respondents**

### Age group

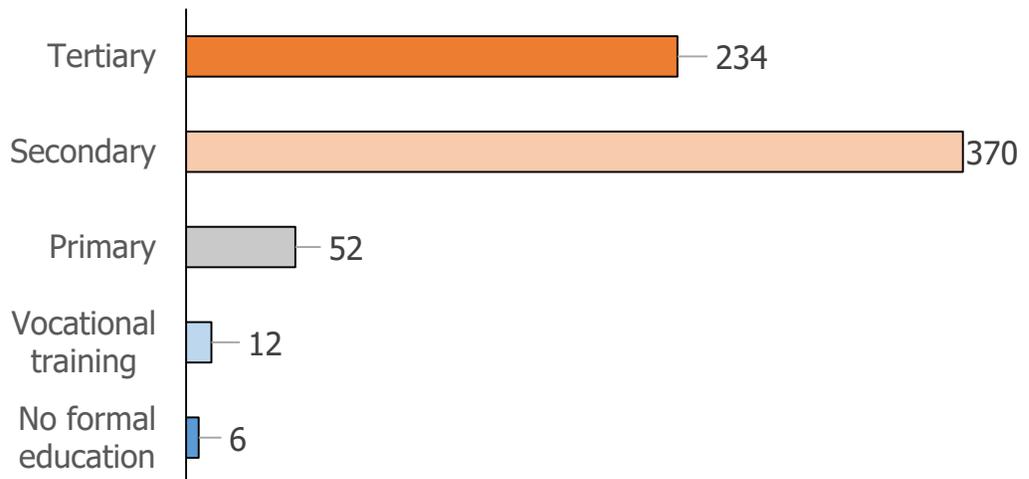
As shown in Figure 4.3, 48 (7.1%) of the respondents were between the ages of 10 and 15 years, 221 (32.8%) were between the ages of 16 and 20 years, 118 (17.5%) were between the ages of 21 and 25 years, 236 (35%) were between the ages of 26 and 30 years and the rest (51 or 7.6%) were between the ages of 31 and 35 years.



**Figure 4.3: Age group of respondents**

### Educational attainment

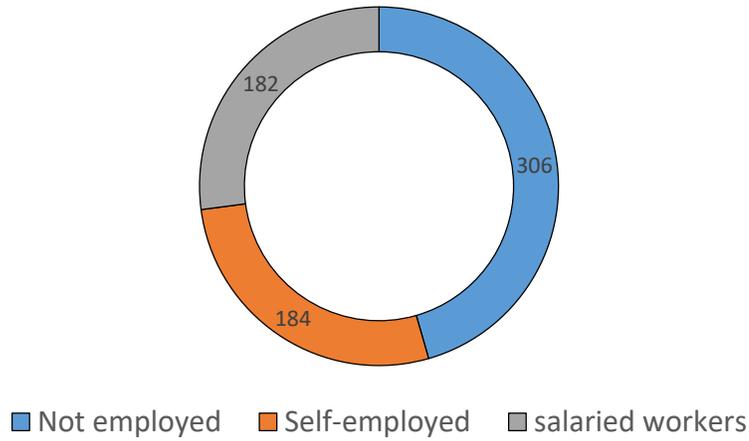
As shown in Figure 4.4, 6 (0.9%) of the respondents had no formal education, 12 (1.8%) had acquired vocational training, 52 (7.7%) had primary level education, 370 (54.9%) had secondary school education and 234 (34.7%) had university level education.



**Figure 4.4: Educational attainment of respondents**

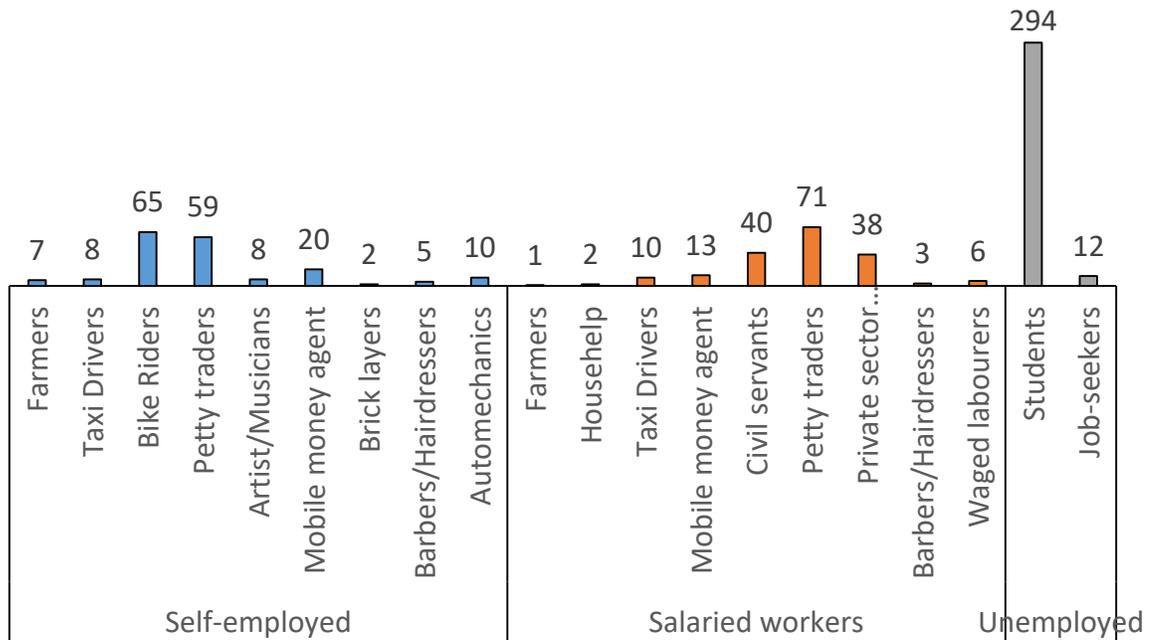
### Employment status and occupations

Among the 674 respondents, 306 (45.4%) were not employed, 186 (27.4%) were self-employed and 182 (27.2%) were salaried workers (Figure 4.5)



**Figure 4.5: Employment status and occupation of respondents**

Figure 4.6 presents the various occupations of the self-employed and salaried workers that constituted the study.

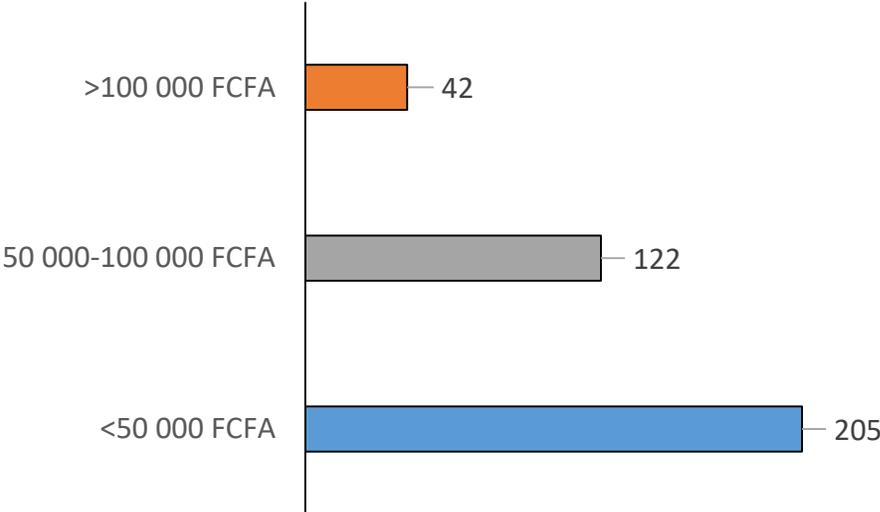


**Figure 4.6: Occupation of respondents**

As shown in Figure 4.6, among the 306 unemployed, 294 (96.1%) were students and the rest (12 or 3.9%) were job-seekers. Furthermore, among the 184 self-employed, 7 (3.8%) were farmers, 8 (4.3%) were taxi drivers, 65 (35.3%) were bike riders, 59 (32.1%) were petty traders, 8 (4.3%) were artist and or musicians, 5 (2.7%) were barbers and or hair dressers, 2 (1.1%) were bricklayers, 10 (5.4%) were auto-mechanics and 20 (10.8%) were mobile money agents. Finally, among the 184 salaried workers, 1 (0.5%) was a farmer, 10 (5.4%) were taxi drivers, 71 (38.6%) were petty traders, 40 (21.7%) were civil servants, 38 (20.6%) were private sector employees, 6 (3.2%) were wage laborers, 3 (1.6%) were barbers or hairdressers, 2 (1.1%) were house helps, and 13 (7.1%) were mobile money agents (Figure 4.8).

**Monthly income levels**

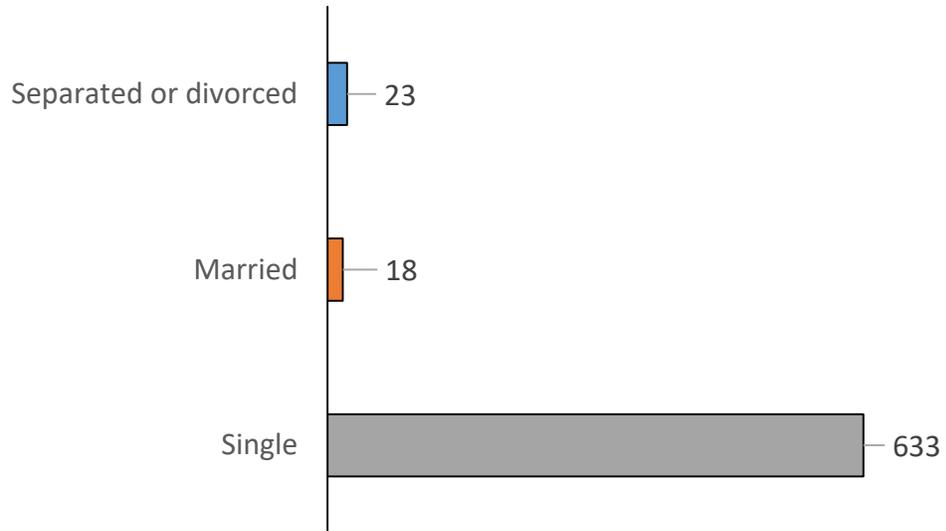
Among the 369 self-employed and or salaried workers, 205 (55.6%) earned a monthly income of less than 50,000FCFA, 122 (33.1%) earned between 50,000FCFA and 100,000FCFA and 42 (11.4%) earned above 100,000 FCFA (Figure 4.7).



**Figure 4.7: Monthly income of respondents**

**Marital status**

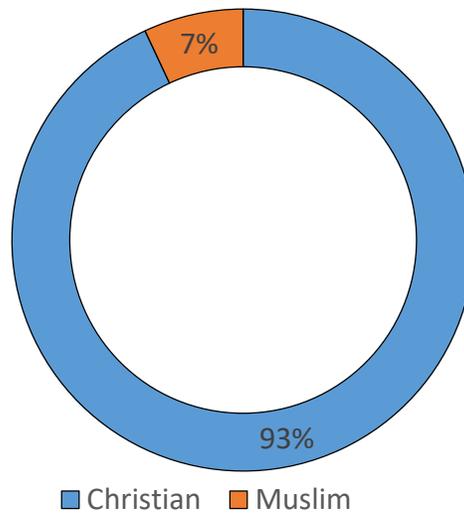
Among the 674 respondents that constituted the study, 633 (93.9%) were singles, 18 (2.7%) were married and 23 (3.4%) were separated or divorced (Figure 4.8).



**Figure 4.8: Marital status of respondents**

**Religion**

Among the 674 respondents that constituted the study, 627 (93%) were Christians and 47 (7%) were Muslims (Figure 4.9).

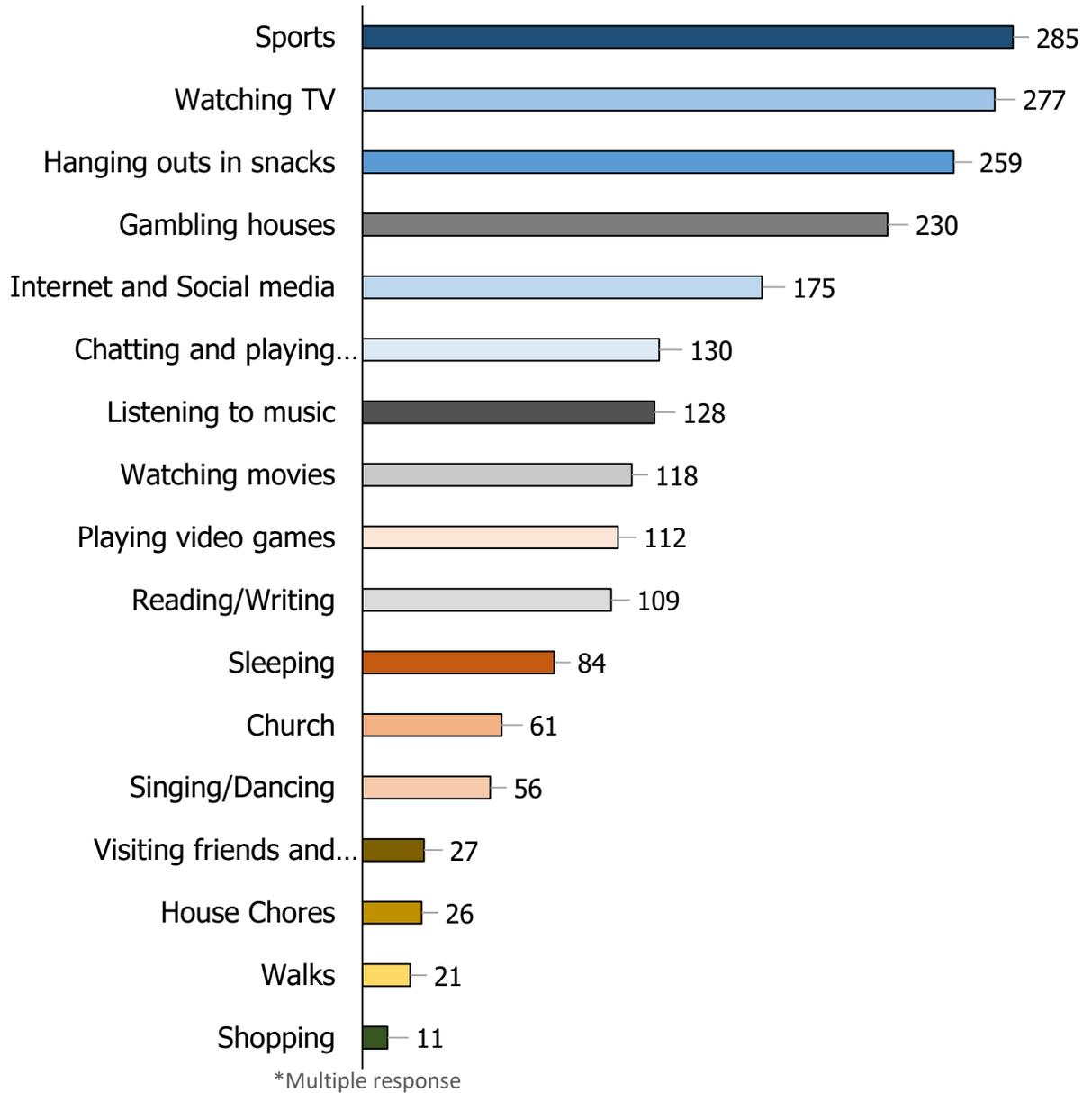


**Figure 4.9: Religion of respondents**

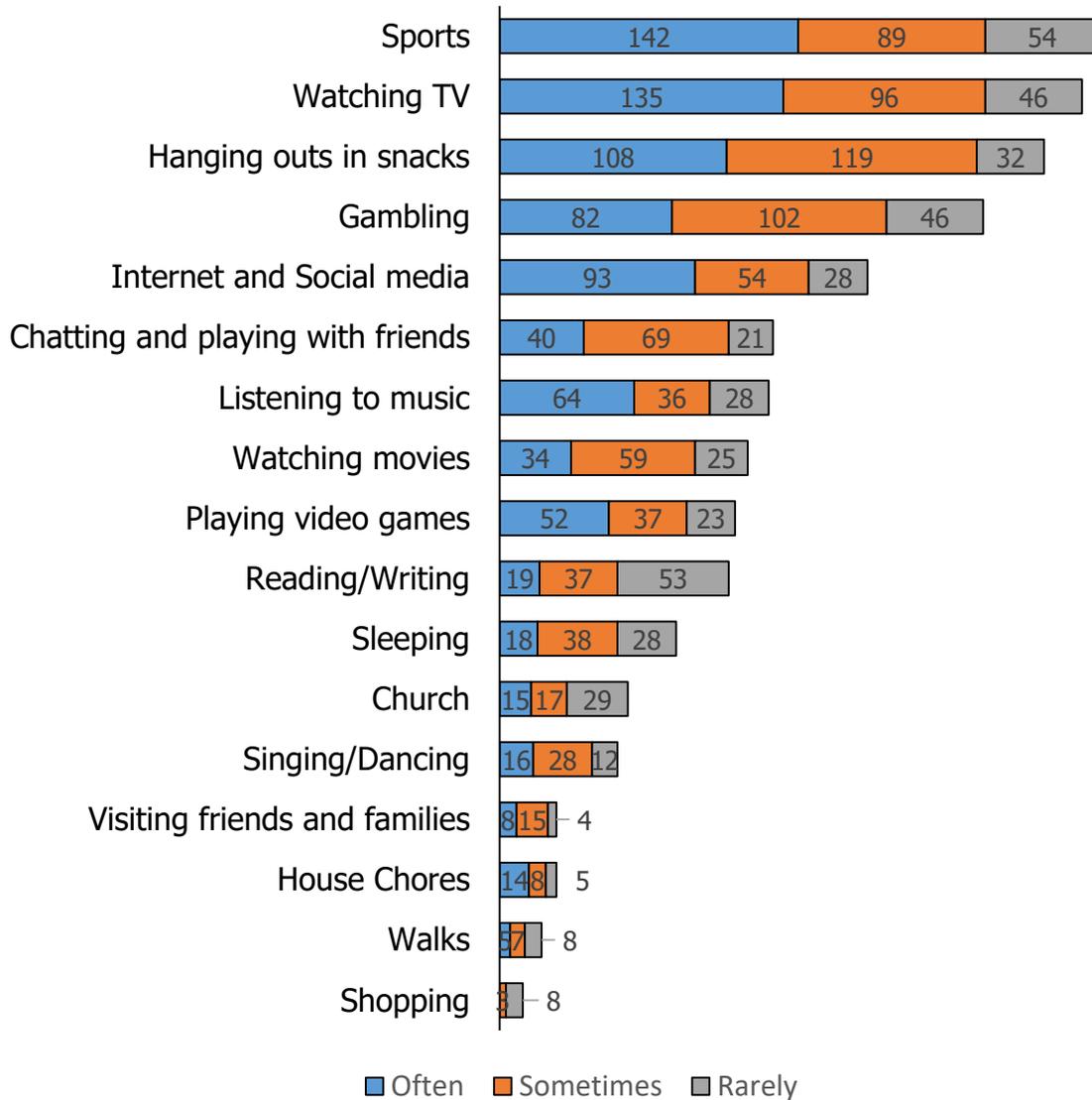
## 4.2 Findings for Objective One

### 4.2.1 Typology and Prevalence of Off-Farm Social and Pastimes Activities of Youths.

Figure 4.10 and 4.11 presents the typologies and prevalence of off-farm social activities and pastimes of youths in Douala IV and Mbanga municipalities.



**Figure 4.10: Typologies of off-farm activities and pastimes of youths in Mbanga and Douala IV**



**Figure 4.11: Prevalence of off-farm social activities and pastimes of youths**

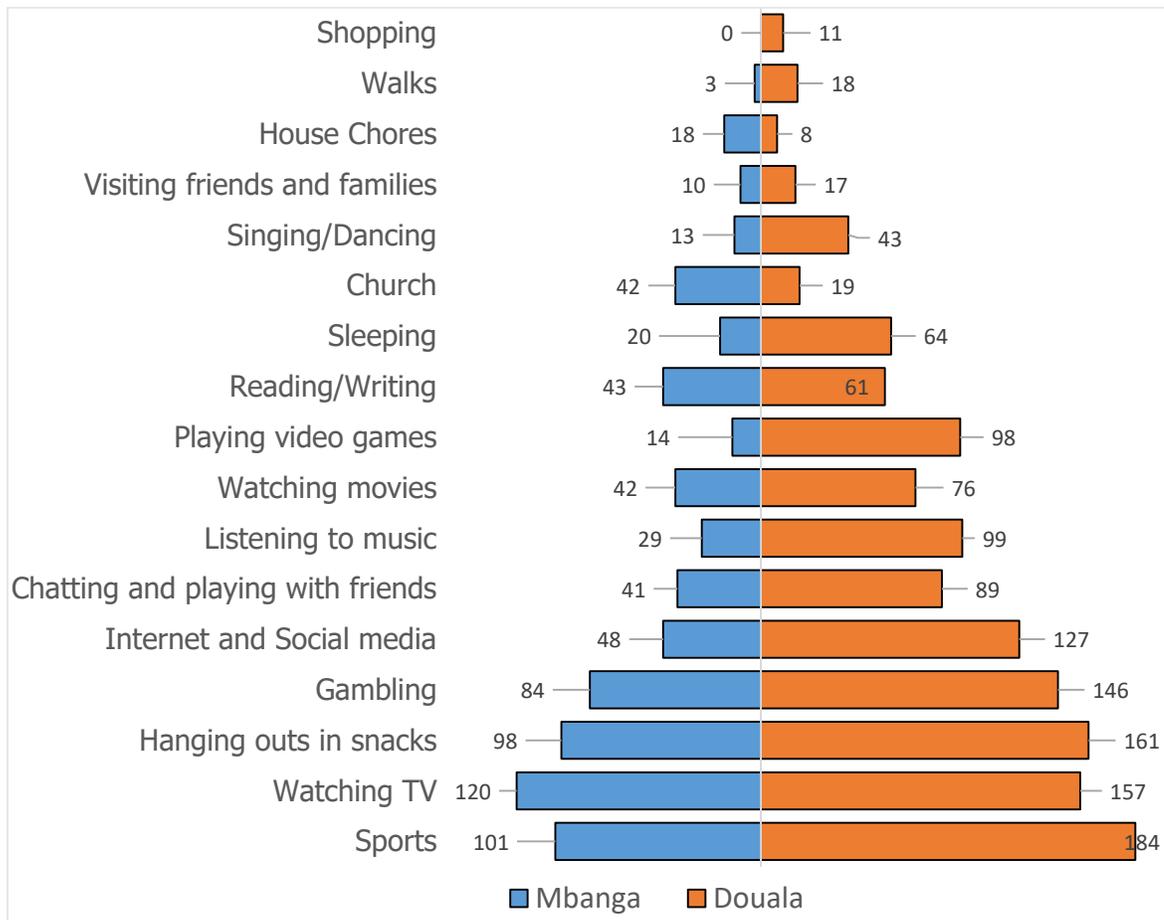
When not involved in full-time remunerative activities, 285 (42.3%) of the youths were often (142 or 49.8%), sometimes (89 or 31.2%) and rarely (54 or 18.9%) involved in sports. Two hundred and seventy-seven (41.1%) of the youths often (105 or 48.7%), sometimes (96 or 34.7%) sometimes and rarely (46 or 16.6%) watch TV involved. Two hundred and fifty-nine (38.4%) of the youths often (108 or 41.7%), sometimes (199 or 45.9%) and rarely (32 or 12.3%) hang out in snacks. Two hundred and thirty (34.1%) of the youths were often (82 or 35.7%), sometimes (102 or 44.3%) and rarely (46 or 20%) involved in gambling. One hundred and

seventy-five (25.9%) of the youths were often (93 or 53.1%), sometimes (54 or 30.9%) and rarely (28 or 16%) on the internet or social media. One hundred and thirty (19.28%) of the youths were often (40 or 30.7%), sometimes (69 or 50.1%) and rarely (21 or 29.2%) chatting and playing with friends and family. One hundred and twenty-eight (18.9%) of the youths were often (64 or 50%), sometimes (36 or 28.1%) and rarely (25 or 12.2%) listening to music. One hundred and eighteen (17.5%) were often (34 or 28.8%), sometimes (59 or 50%) and rarely (25 or 12.2%) watching home movies. One hundred and twelve (16.6%) of the youths were often (52 or 46.5%), sometimes (37 or 33%) and rarely (23 or 20.5%) playing video games. One hundred and nine (16.1%) were often (19 or 17.4%), sometimes (37 or 33.9%) and rarely (53 or 48.6%) involved in study. Eighty-four (12.6%) of the youths were often (18 or 21.4%), sometimes (38 or 45.2%) and rarely (28 or 33.3%) sleeping in their spare time. Sixty-one (9.1%) of the youths were often (15 or 24.6%), sometimes (38 or 45.2%) and rarely (28 or 33.3%) involved in church activities. Fifty-six (8.3%) of the youths were often (16 or 28.6%), sometimes (28 or 50%) and rarely (12 or 21.4%) involved in singing and dancing. Twenty-seven (4%) of the youths were often (8 or 29.6%), sometimes (15 or 55.6%) and rarely (12 or 21.4%) visiting friends and family. Twenty-six (3.8%) of the youths were often (14 or 53.8%), sometimes (8 or 29.2%) and rarely (4 or 14.8%) carrying out household chores. Twenty-one (3.1%) of the youths were often (5 or 28.6%), sometimes (7 or 33.3%) and rarely (8 or 38.1%) taking walks. Eleven (1.6%) of the youths were sometimes (3 or 27.3%) and rarely (8 or 72.7%) shopping.

Figure 4.12 shows differences in the types of off-farms and pastimes activities of youths in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities.

A Fisher's exact test was showed statistically significant variations in youth involvement in off-farm social and pastimes activities across locations for sporting activities ( $\chi^2=102.1;df=1;p=0.02$ ), watching TV ( $\chi^2=78.3;df=1;p=0.002$ ), hanging out or drinking in snacks ( $\chi^2=93.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), gambling ( $\chi^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), surfing the internet or on social media ( $\chi^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), chatting and playing with friends ( $\chi^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), listening to music ( $\chi^2=103.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), watching movies ( $\chi^2=73.2;df=1;p=0.001$ ), playing video games ( $\chi^2=83.4;df=1;p=0.001$ ), studying ( $\chi^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), involved in church activities ( $\chi^2=96.4;df=1;p=0.00$ ), dancing and singing ( $\chi^2=83.2;df=4;p=0.001$ ), visiting

friends and family ( $x^2=74.5;df=1;p=0.007$ ), household chores ( $x^2=96.4;df=1;p=0.002$ ), walks ( $x^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.001$ ) and shopping ( $x^2=73.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ).

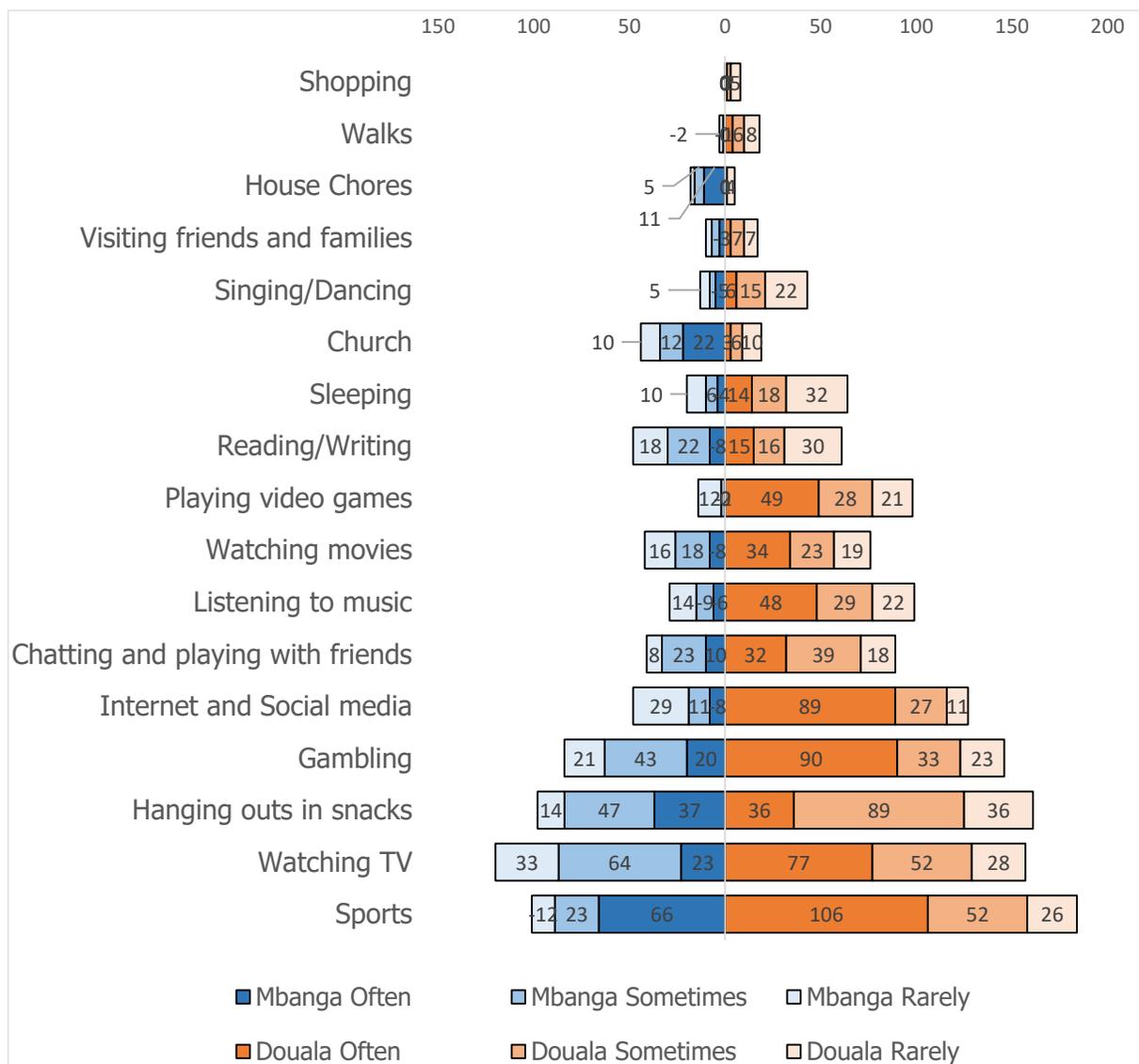


**Figure 4.12: Differences in youth off-farm social activities and pastimes in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities**

Figure 4.13 shows differences in the prevalence of youth off-farm social activities and pastimes in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities.

A Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to show variations in the prevalence of youth off-farm social activities and pastimes across locations. Statistically significant variations were observed for sporting activities ( $x^2=83.1;df=1;p=0.00$ ), watching TV ( $x^2=75.6;df=1;p=0.000$ ), hanging out or drinking in snacks ( $x^2=88.7;df=1;p=0.002$ ), gambling ( $x^2=92.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), internet or on social media usage ( $x^2=86.1;df=1;p=0.00$ ), chatting and playing with friends

( $x^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), listening to music ( $x^2=69.5.2;df=1;p=0.00$ ), watching movies ( $x^2=93.2;df=1;p=0.001$ ), playing video games ( $x^2=83.4;df=1;p=0.001$ ), studying in their spare ( $x^2=93.2;df=1;p=0.001$ ), involvement in church activities ( $x^2=206.5;df=1;p=0.00$ ) and gender ( $x^2=93.6;df=1;p=0.007$ ), dancing and singing ( $x^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.001$ ), youths visiting friends and family ( $x^2=86.2;df=1;p=0.007$ ), involvement in household chores ( $x^2=46.4;df=1;p=0.002$ ), walks ( $x^2=83.2;df=1;p=0.001$ ) and shopping ( $x^2=78.5;df=1;p=0.00$ ).



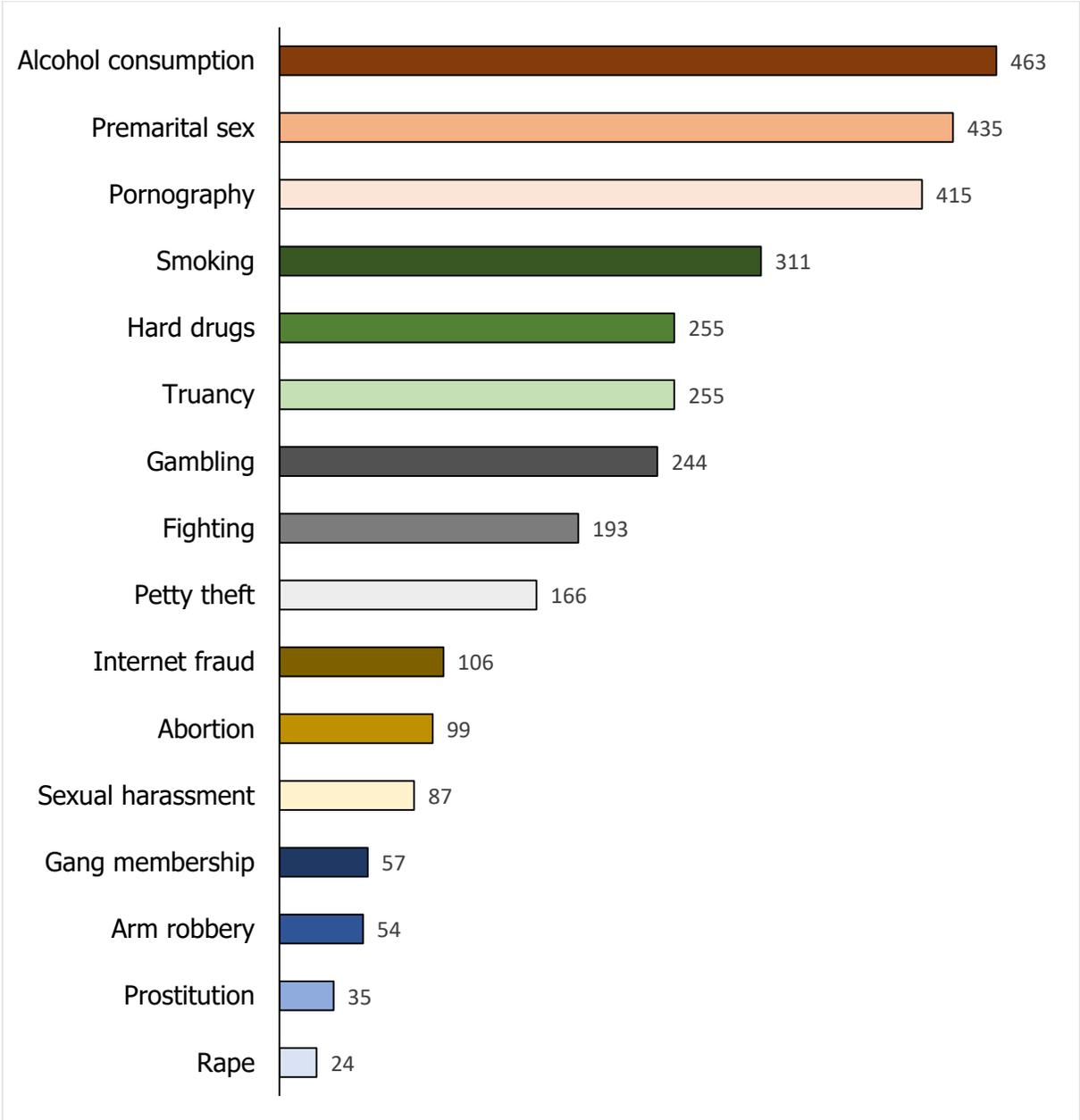
**Figure 4.13: Differences in the prevalence of off-farm social activities and pastimes of youths in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities.**

**4.3 Findings for Objective Two**

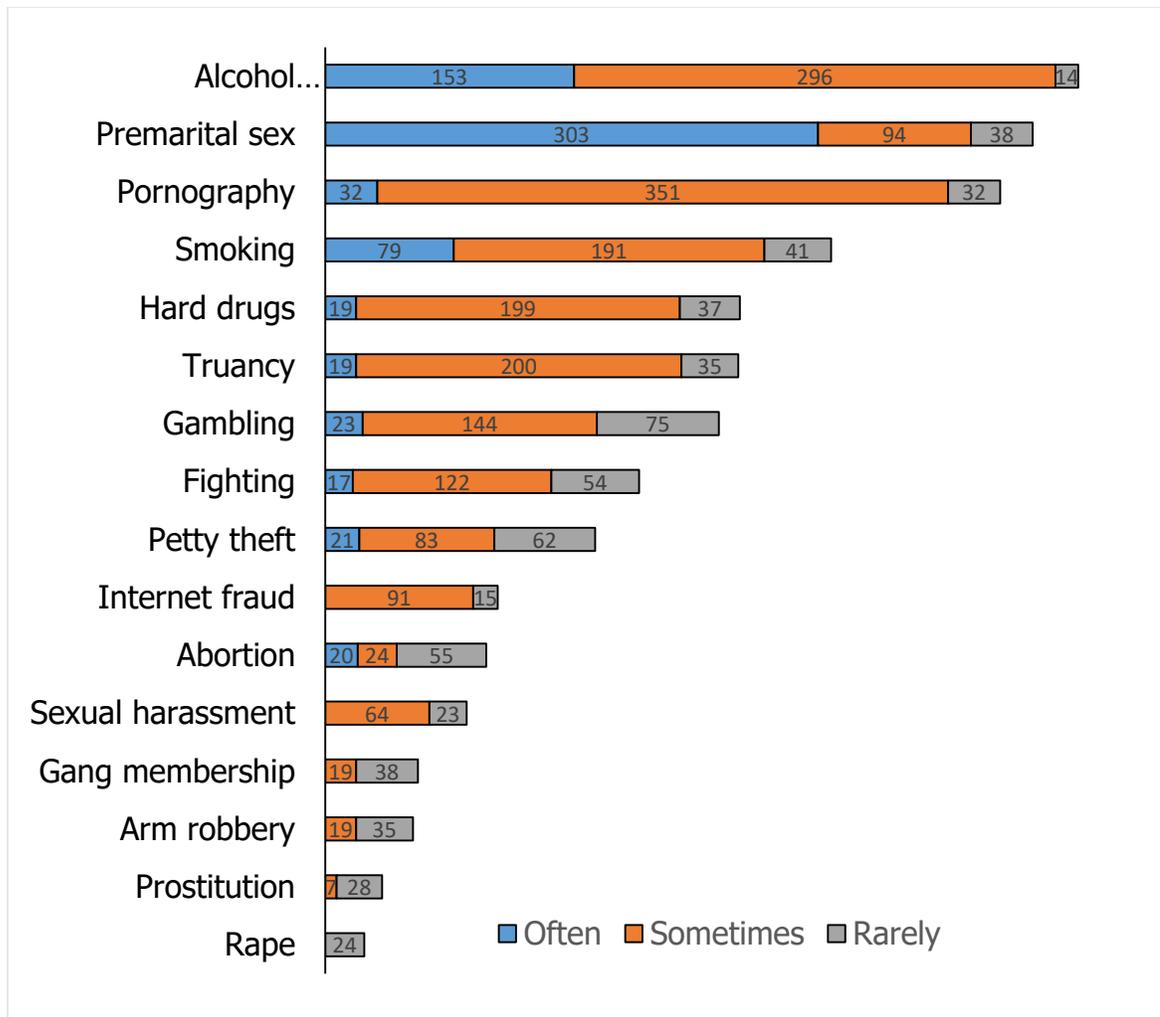
**4.3.1 Deviant Behaviors and Attitudes towards Violence of Young People**

**4.3.1.1 Types and Prevalence of Deviant Behaviors among Young People**

Figure 4.14 and Figure 4.15 show the types and frequency of youth deviant behaviors over the last 12 months in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities.



**Figure 4.14: Deviant behaviors among youths in Douala IV and Mbanga municipalities**

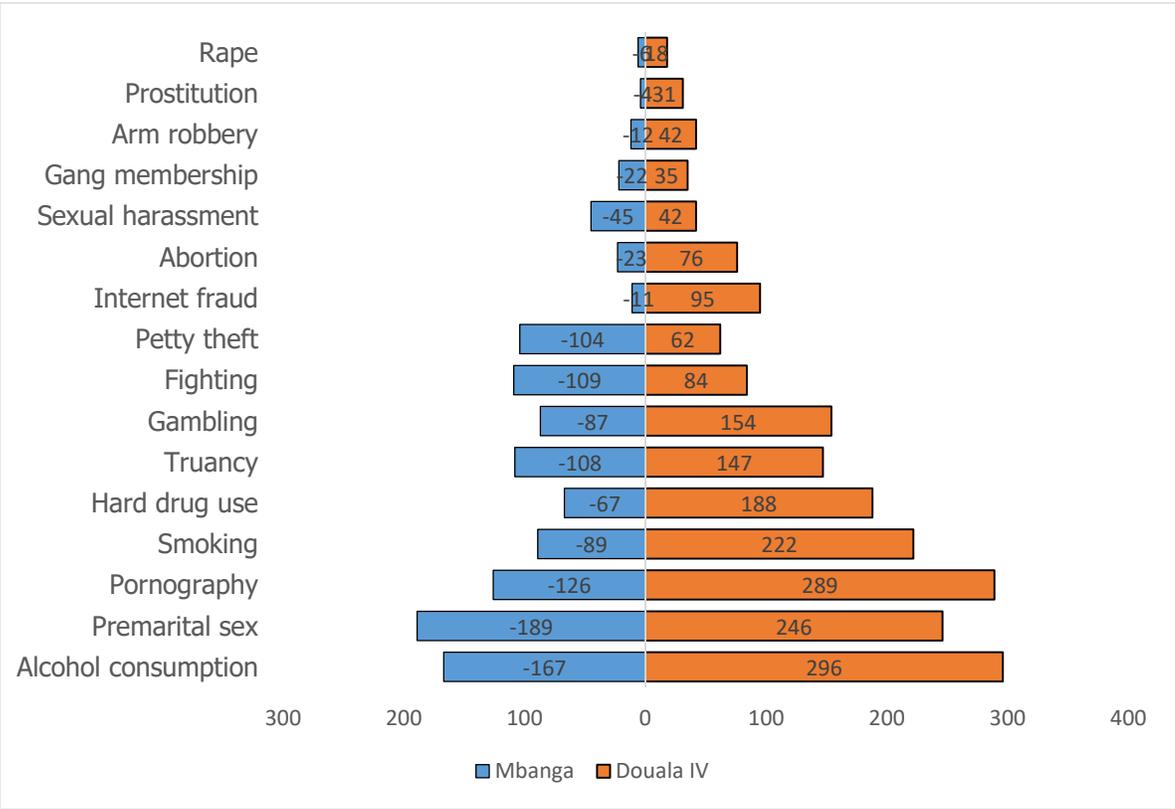


**Figure 4.15: Frequency of youth's deviant behaviors in Douala IV and Mbanga**

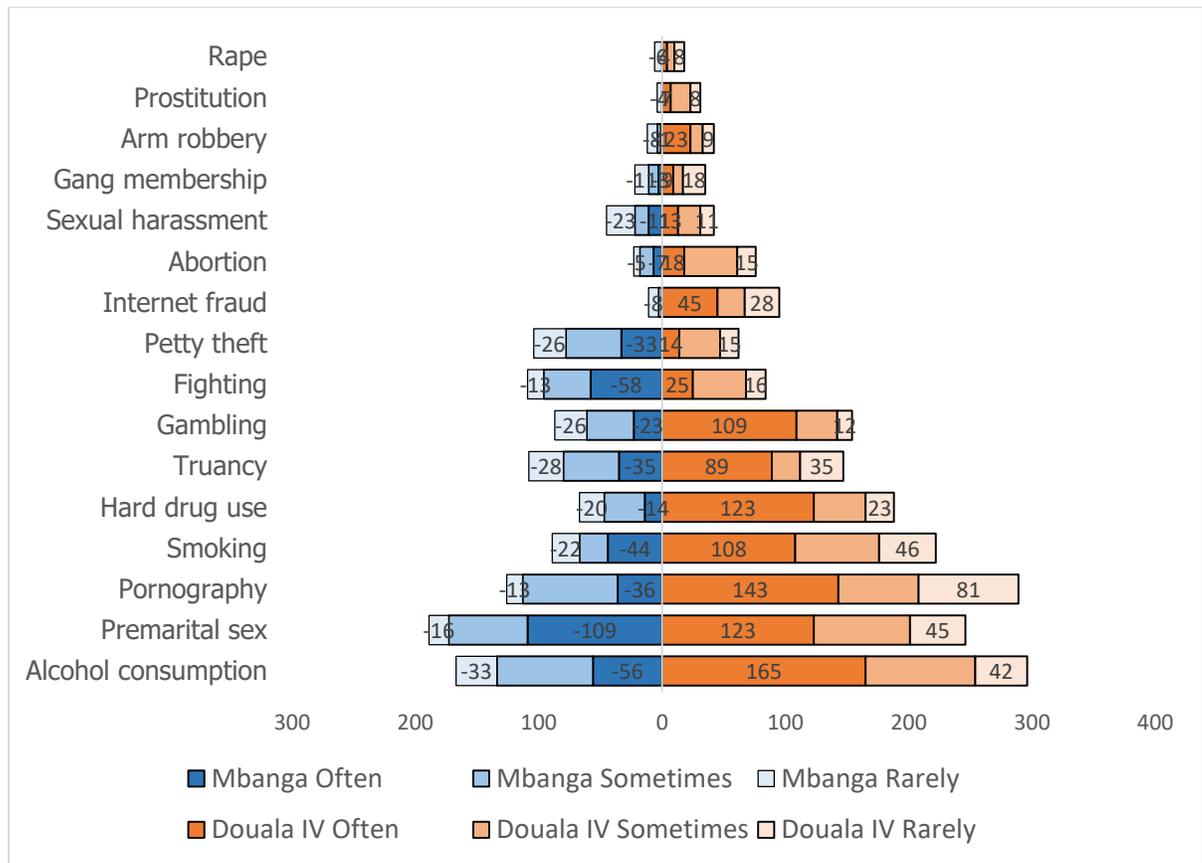
Four hundred and sixty-three (68.7%) of the youths often (153 or 33.1%), sometimes (296 or 63.9%) and rarely (14 or 3%) involve in alcohol consumption. Four hundred and thirty-five (64.5%) of the youths often (303 or 69.6%), sometimes (94 or 21.6%) and rarely (38 or 8.7%) involved in premarital sex. Four hundred and fifteen (61.5%) of the youths often (32 or 7.7%), sometimes (351 or 84.6%) and rarely (32 or 7.7%) viewed pornographic content. Three hundred and eleven (46.1%) of the youths often (79 or 25.4%) m sometimes (191 or 61.4%) and rarely (41 or 13.2%) smoke. Two hundred and fifty-five (37.8%) of the youths have often (19 or 7.5%), sometimes (199 or 78%) and rarely (37 or 14.5%) consumed hard drugs. Two hundred and fifty-four (37.6%) of the youths have often (19 or 7.5%), sometimes (78.7%) and rarely (35 or 13.9%) been involved in truancy. Two hundred and forty-four (36.2%) of the youths have often (23 or 9.4%), sometimes (144 or 59%) and rarely (75 or 30.7%) been involved in gambling. One

hundred and ninety-three (28.6%) of the youths were often (17 or 8.8%), sometimes (122 or 63.2%) and rarely (54 or 28%). One hundred and sixty-six (24.6%) of the youths were often (21 or 12.6%), sometimes (83 or 50%) and rarely (62 or 37.3%) involved in petty theft. One hundred and six (15.7%) of the youths were sometimes (91 or 85.8%) and rarely (15 or 14.2%) involved in internet fraud. Ninety-nine (14.7%) of the youths had often (20 or 20.2%), sometimes (24 or 24.2%) and rarely (55 or 55.6%) committed abortion. Eighty-seven (12.9%) of the youths had sometimes (64 or 73.6%) and rarely (23 or 26.4%) committed sexual harassment. Fifty-seven (8.5%) of the youths were sometimes (19 or 33.3%) and rarely (38 or 66.7%) members of a gang. Fifty-four (8%) of the youths had sometimes (19 or 35.2%) and rarely (35 or 64.8%) committed arm robbery. Thirty-five (5.2%) of the youths has sometimes (7 or 20%) and rarely (28 or 80%) been involved in prostitution. Twenty-four (3.5%) of the youths had rarely been involved in rape.

Figure 4.16 and 4.17 presents the differences in the types and prevalence of youth deviant behaviors across the locations of the study.



**Figure 4.16 Differences in youth deviant behaviors in Mbanga and**

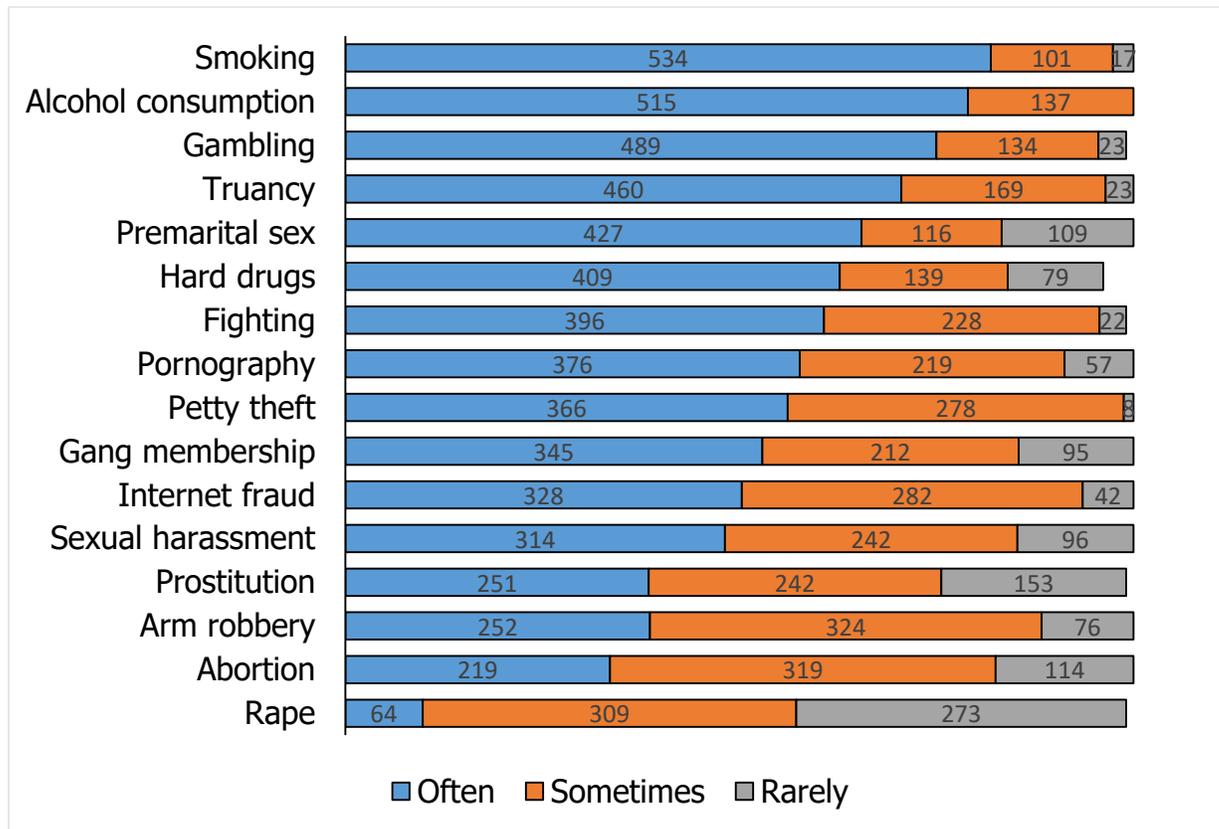


**Figure 4.17: Differences in the prevalence of youth deviant behaviors**

One hundred and sixty-seven youths in Mbanga often (56 or 33.6%), sometimes (78 or 46.7%) and rarely (33 or 19.7%) consume while 296 youths in Douala IV often (165 or 55.7%), sometimes (89 or 30.1%) and rarely (42 or 14.2%) consume alcohol. One hundred and eighty nine youths in Mbanga often (109 or 57.6%), sometimes (64 or 33.9%) and rarely (16 or 8.5%) have premarital sex while 246 youths in Douala IV often (123 or 50%), sometimes (78 or 31.7%) and rarely (45 or 18.3%) have premarital sex. In Mbanga, the 126 youths often (36 or 28.6%), sometimes (77 or 61.1%) and rarely (13 or 10.3%) watch pornographic content while in Douala IV, 289 youths often (143 or 49.5%), sometimes (65 or 22.5%) and rarely (81 or 28%) watch pornographic content. In Mbanga, 89 of the youths often (44 or 49.4%), sometimes (23 or 25.8%) and rarely (22 or 24.7%) smoke while in Douala IV, 222 of the youths often (108 or 48.6%), sometimes (68 or 30.6%) and rarely (46 or 20.7%) smoke. Sixty-seven youths in Mbanga often (14 or 20.9%), sometimes (33 or 49.3%) and rarely (20 or 29.9%) consumed hard drugs while in Douala IV, 118 youths often (123 or 65.4%), sometimes (42 or 22.3%) and rarely

(23 or 12.2%) consume hard drugs. One hundred and eight youths in Mbanga were often (35 or 32.4%), sometimes (45 or 41.7%) and rarely (28 or 25.9%) involved in truancy while in Douala 147 youths were often (89 or 60.5%), sometimes (23 or 15.6%) and rarely (35 or 23.8%) involved in truancy. In Mbanga, 87 of the youths often (23 or 26.4%), sometimes (38 or 43.7%) and rarely (26 or 29.9%) gambled while in Douala IV, 157 youths often (109 or 69.4%), sometimes (33 or 21%) and rarely (12 or 7.6%) gambled. One hundred and nine youths in Mbanga were often (58 or 53.2%), sometimes (38 or 34.9%) and rarely involved in fights while in Douala IV, 84 of the youths were often (25 or 29.8%), sometimes (43 or 51.4%) and rarely (16 or 19%) involved in fights. In Mbanga, 104 youths were often (33 or 31.7%), sometimes (45 or 43.3%) and rarely (26 or 25%) involved in petty theft while in Douala IV, 62 of the youths were often (14 or 22.6%), sometimes (33 or 53.2%) and rarely (15 or 24.2%) involved in petty theft. In Mbanga, 11 of the youths were sometimes (3 or 27.3%) and rarely (8 or 72.7%) involved in internet fraud while in Douala IV, 95 of the youths were often (45 or 47.4%), sometimes (22 or 23.2%) and rarely (28 or 29.5%) involved in internet fraud. In Mbanga, 23 of the youths often (7 or 30.4%), sometimes (11 or 47.8%) and rarely (5 or 21.7%) committed abortion while in Douala IV, 76 of the youths often (18 or 23.7%), sometimes (43 or 56.6%) and rarely (15 or 19.7%) committed abortions. Forty-five of the youths in Mbanga were often (11 or 24.4%), sometimes (11 or 24.4%) and rarely (23 or 51.1%) involved in sexual harassment while in Douala IV, 42 of the youths were often (13 or 31%), sometimes (18 or 42.9%) and rarely (11 or 26.2%) involved in sexual harassment. Twenty two youths in Mbanga were often (3 or 13.6%), sometimes (8 or 36.4%) and rarely (11 or 50%) members of a gang while in Douala IV, 35 of the youths were often (9 or 25.7%), sometimes (8 or 22.9%) and rarely (18 or 51.4%) involved in gangs. In Mbanga, 12 of the youths were often (1 or 8.3%), sometimes (3 or 25%) and rarely (8 or 66.7%) involved in armed robbery while in Douala IV, 42 of the youths were often (23 or 54.8%), sometimes (10 or 23.8%) and rarely (9 or 21.4%) involved in armed robbery. In Mbanga, 4 of the youths were sometimes involved in prostitution while in Douala IV, 31 of the youths were often (7 or 22.6%), sometimes (16 or 51.6%) and rarely (8 or 25.8%). In Mbanga, 6 of the youths were rarely involved in rape while in Douala IV, 18 of the youths were often (4 or 22.2%), sometimes (6 or 33.3%) and rarely (8 or 44.4%) involved in rape.

Figure 4.18 presents youths perception of the frequency or prevalence of youth deviant behaviors in the community.



**Figure 4.18: Prevalence of youth deviant behaviors in the community**

Sixty hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (534 or 81.9%), sometimes (101 or 15.5%) and rarely (17 or 2.6%) smoke cigarettes. Sixty hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (515 or 79%) and sometimes (137 or 21%) consume alcohol. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (489 or 75.7%), sometimes (134 or 20.7%) and rarely (23 or 3.6%) involved in gambling. Sixty hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (460 or 70.6%), sometimes (169 or 25.9%) and rarely (23 or 3.5%) involved in truancy. Sixty hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (427 or 65.5%), sometimes (116 or 17.8%) and rarely (109 or 16.7%) involved in premarital sex. Six hundred and twenty seven (93.5%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (409 or 65.2%), sometimes (139 or 22.2%) and often (79 or 12.6) consumed hard drugs. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (396 or 59.4%), sometimes (228 or 34.2%) and rarely (22 or 3.3%) involved in fighting. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (376 or 56.4%), sometimes (219 or 32.7%) and rarely (57 or 8.5%) involved in pornography. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (366 or 54.9%), sometimes (278 or 41.4%) and rarely (8 or 1.2%) involved in petty theft. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (345 or 51.5%), sometimes (212 or 31.5%) and rarely (95 or 14.1%) involved in gang membership. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (328 or 49.2%), sometimes (282 or 42.3%) and rarely (42 or 6.2%) involved in internet fraud. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (314 or 47.1%), sometimes (242 or 35.8%) and rarely (96 or 14.2%) involved in sexual harassment. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (251 or 37.5%), sometimes (242 or 35.8%) and rarely (153 or 22.6%) involved in prostitution. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (252 or 37.6%), sometimes (324 or 48.6%) and rarely (76 or 11.2%) involved in arm robbery. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (219 or 32.7%), sometimes (319 or 47.6%) and rarely (114 or 17.1%) involved in abortion. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (64 or 9.5%), sometimes (309 or 45.8%) and rarely (273 or 40.5%) involved in rape.

of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (396 or 61.3%), sometimes (228 or 35.3%) and rarely (22 or 3.4%) involved in fights. Sixty hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (376 or 57.7%), sometimes (219 or 33.6%) and rarely (57 or 8.7%) view pornographic content. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (366 or 56.1%), sometimes (278 or 42.6%) and rarely (8 or 1.2%) involved in petty theft. Sixty hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (345 or 52.9%), sometimes (212 or 32.5%) and rarely (95 or 14.6%) members of a gang. Sixty hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths reported that youths in their communities are often (328 or 50.3%), sometimes (282 or 43.3%) and rarely (42 or 6.4%) involved in internet fraud. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community often (314 or 48.2%), sometimes (242 or 37.1%) and rarely (96 or 14.7%) involved in acts of sexual harassment. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (251 or 38.9%), sometimes (37.5%) and rarely (153 or 23.7%) involved in prostitution. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (252 or 38.7%), sometimes (324 or 49.7%) and rarely (11.7%) involved in armed robbery. Six hundred and fifty two (96.7%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (219 or 33.6%), sometimes (319 or 48.9%) and rarely (114 or 17.5%) commit abortion. Six hundred and forty six (95.8%) of the youths affirmed that youths in their community are often (64 or 9.9%), sometimes (309 or 47.8%) and rarely (273 or 42.3%) involved in acts of rape.

#### **4.3.1.2 Youth Attitudes towards Violence and Deviant Practices**

As shown in Table 4.2, the data was subjected to Principal Component Analysis (PCA) which produced a Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy coefficient of .87, exceeding the minimum criterion of .60 for conducting a PCA. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was 3015.86,  $p < .0001$ ; indicating that the correlation matrix was not random or identical.

***Table 4.2 KMO and Bartlett's Tests***

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of sampling adequacy		0.87
	Approx. Chi Square	3015.86
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	df	120
	Sig.	0.0001

Based on a Varimax rotation, 3 factors with eigenvalues greater than 1 were extracted using the factor loading of 0.50 as the cut-of points. Component 1 had an eigenvalue of 7.8 and explained 41.24% of the variations. Component 2 had an eigenvalue of 2.4 and explained 12.87% of the variations. Component 3 had an eigenvalue of 1.946 and explained 8.7% of the variations. Collectively, the 3 components explained 62.8% of the variations (Table 4.2).

As shown in Table 4.3, component 1 was termed culture of violence (CV) and consisted of hard drug use (factor loading=0.871), gang membership (factor leading=0.762), smoking (factor loading=0.732), alcohol consumption (factor loading=0.641), and gambling (factor loading=0.542). Component 2 was termed Remorse for Voilent Crimes (RVC) and consisted of prison term for rape (factor loading=0.665), imprisonment for petty theft (factor loading=0.578), life imprisonment for armed robbery (factor loading=0.567), treatment of truants by teachers and parents (factor loading=0.512) and fighting among children (factor loading=0.501). Component 3 was termed Value of Life and consisted of summary execution of homicide offenders (factor loadings=0.570) and legalization of abortion (factor loading =0.561).

**Table 4.3 Total Variance Explained**

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	7.838	41.253	41.253	7.838	41.253	41.253
2	2.445	12.867	54.120	2.445	12.867	54.120
3	1.946	8.684	62.805	1.650	8.684	62.805
4	.926	7.803	70.608			
5	.834	6.806	77.414			
6	.754	5.572	82.986			
7	.700	4.453	87.439			
8	.597	3.142	90.580			
9	.467	2.460	93.040			
10	.451	2.376	95.416			
11	.251	1.322	96.738			
12	.220	1.156	97.893			
13	.001	.006	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

**Table 4.4 Total variance explained**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Component 3</b>
Hard drug use	0.871		
Gang membership	0.762		
Smoking	0.732		
Alcohol consumption	0.641		
Gambling	0.542		
Prison term for rape		0.665	
Imprisonment of petty theft offenders		0.578	
Life imprisonment for arm robbery		0.567	
Treatment of truants by parents and teachers		0.512	
Fighting among children		0.501	
Summary execution of homicide offenders			0.570
Legalization of abortion			0.561

Table 4.5 presents the descriptive statistics (mean scores) for each factors and their constituent elements.

**Table 4.5 Descriptive statistics of the factors and their constituent elements**

<b>Factors and constituent items</b>	<b>Mean scores</b>	<b>SD</b>
<b>Culture of violence (CV)</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.516</b>
Hard drug use	3.5	0.134
Gang membership	3.9	0.675
Smoking	4.1	0.12
Alcohol consumption	4.9	0.762
Gambling	3.5	0.891
<b>Remorse for violent crimes</b>	<b>1.84</b>	<b>0.458</b>
Prison term for rape	2.1	0.123
Imprisonment of petty theft offenders	2.2	0.605
Life imprisonment for arm robbery	2.0	0.12
Punishment for truancy	1.2	0.563
Punishment for fighting among children	1.7	0.881
<b>Value for life</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>0.124</b>
Summary execution of homicide offenders	2.4	0.234
Legalization of abortion	1.7	0.014

The attitude score towards hard drug use was 3.5 ( $\pm 0.134$ ), 3.9 ( $\pm 0.675$ ) for gang membership, 4.1 ( $\pm 0.12$ ) for smoking, 4.9 ( $\pm 0.762$ ) for alcohol consumption and 3.5 ( $\pm 0.891$ ) for gambling. These collectively gave a culture of violence (CV) score of 3.9 ( $\pm 0.516$ ).

With regards to component 2, the attitude score towards prison term for rape was 2.1 ( $\pm 0.123$ ), 2.2 ( $\pm 0.605$ ) for imprisonment of petty theft offenders, 2.0 ( $\pm 0.12$ ) for life imprisonment for armed robbery, 1.2 ( $\pm 0.563$ ) for punishment of truancy and 1.7 ( $\pm 0.881$ ) for fighting among children. These in combination gave a remorse for violent crime (RVC) score of 1.84 ( $\pm 0.458$ ).

The attitude score for summary execution of homicide offenders was 2.4 ( $\pm 0.234$ ) and legalization of abortion was 1.6 ( $\pm 0.014$ ). Collectively, these gave a Value for Life (VL) score of 2.05 ( $\pm 0.124$ ).

#### **4.4 Findings for Objective Three**

##### **4.4.1 Relationship between Youth Off-Farm Social Activities, Deviant Behaviors and Attitudes towards Violence**

###### **4.4.1.1 Relationship between Youth Off-Farm Social Activities and Deviant Behaviors**

Table 4.6 presents a correlation matrix of off-farm social activities and deviant behaviors of youths.

Youth involvement in sporting activities was found to correlate positively but weakly with truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.231$ ). Watching TV was found to correlate positively but weakly with petty theft ( $r_{sp}=0.221$ ), arm robbery ( $r_{sp}=0.123$ ), premarital sex ( $r_{sp}=0.240$ ), pornography ( $r_{sp}=0.234$ ), abortion ( $r_{sp}=0.231$ ), smoking ( $r_{sp}=0.371$ ) and fighting ( $r_{sp}=0.234$ ). Hanging out in snacks were found to correlate positively and strongly with hard drug use ( $r_{sp}=0.678$ ), petty theft ( $r_{sp}=0.551$ ), alcohol consumption ( $r=0.97$ ), truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.603$ ), pornography ( $r_{sp}=0.540$ ), smoking ( $r_{sp}=0.891$ ), scamming or internet fraud ( $r_{sp}=0.671$ ), prostitution ( $r_{sp}=0.879$ ), and gambling ( $r_{sp}=0.883$ ) but positively and weakly correlated with rape ( $r_{sp}=0.327$ ), premarital sex ( $r_{sp}=0.470$ ), sexual harassment ( $r_{sp}=0.471$ ), and fighting ( $r_{sp}=0.430$ ). Youth involvement in gambling was highly and positively correlated with hard drug use ( $r_{sp}=0.789$ ), petty theft ( $r_{sp}=0.561$ ), arm robbery ( $r_{sp}=0.786$ ), alcohol consumption ( $r_{sp}=0.76$ ), smoking ( $r_{sp}=0.791$ ), scamming ( $r_{sp}=0.671$ ), prostitution ( $r_{sp}=0.568$ ), fighting ( $r_{sp}=0.681$ ) and gambling ( $r_{sp}=1$ ) while

**Table 4.6 Correlation matrix of youth off-farm social activities and deviant behaviors in Mbanga and Douala IV**

	Hard drug use	Rape	Petty theft	Arm robbery	Alcohol consumption	Gang membership	Premarital sex	Sexual harassment	Truancy	Pornography	Abortion	Smoking	Scamming	Prostitution	Fighting	Gambling
Sports	-0.23	0.012	0.210	0.001	0.012	0.231	0.231	0.021	<b>0.231*</b>	0.012	0.012	0.001	0.111	0.011	0.021	0.012
Watching TV	0.122	0.012	<b>0.221*</b>	<b>0.123*</b>	0.120	0.012	<b>0.240*</b>	<b>0.223*</b>	-.020	<b>0.234*</b>	<b>0.231</b>	<b>0.271*</b>	-.013	0.023	<b>0.234*</b>	-.013
Hanging out in snacks	<b>0.678*</b>	<b>.327*</b>	<b>0.551*</b>	<b>0.671*</b>	<b>0.97*</b>	0.345*	<b>.470**</b>	<b>0.471*</b>	<b>.603**</b>	<b>0.540*</b>	0.345	<b>0.891*</b>	<b>.683**</b>	<b>0.879*</b>	<b>0.430*</b>	<b>.883**</b>
Gambling	<b>0.789*</b>	0.023	<b>0.561*</b>	<b>0.786*</b>	<b>0.76*</b>	0.87*	<b>0.432*</b>	0.186	<b>0.234*</b>	0.056	0.011	<b>0.791*</b>	<b>0.671*</b>	<b>0.568*</b>	<b>0.681*</b>	<b>1.00*</b>
Internet and social media	0.123	-.020	-.087	0.231	<b>0.234*</b>	0.023	<b>.365**</b>	0.131	.137**	0.671*	0.234	0.111	0.920*	0.001	0.012	-.042
Chatting/playing	0.01	-0.21	-0.012	0.215	0.021	0.321*	<b>0.103*</b>	0.115	<b>0.356*</b>	0.280	0.235	0.110	0.01	0.231	0.012	0.012
Listening to music	<b>0.345*</b>	-.024	<b>.170*</b>	0.200	<b>.365**</b>	0.002	0.012	0.200	.080	0.012	0.01	0.112*	-.051	0.234	<b>0.034</b>	-.051
Watching movies	0.346	-0.05	0.122	0.107*	<b>0.345*</b>	0.132	<b>0.176*</b>	0.007	<b>0.231*</b>	<b>0.201*</b>	0.023	0.121	0.110	0.123	<b>0.451*</b>	0.133
Playing video games	0.234	-.020	.603*	0.001	<b>.137*</b>	0.234	-.080*	0.101	1.000	0.231*	0.111	0.210*	.435**	0.101	<b>0.540*</b>	.135**
Studying	0.051	0.02	-.020	-0.023	<b>-0.045*</b>	0.142	0.002	-0.073	-0.765*	0.01	0.211	0.001	0.111	0.001	0.112	0.001
Sleeping	0.065	0.03	-0.021	-0.211	0.001	0.001	0.01	-0.311	0.012	0.110	0.112	0.110	0.001	0.101	0.011	0.001
Church	<b>-0.02*</b>	<b>-0.14*</b>	-.031	-0.213	-0.002	<b>-0.23*</b>	<b>-0.235*</b>	-0.213	0.045	<b>-0.35*</b>	<b>-.234*</b>	<b>-.235*</b>	-0.111	<b>-.234*</b>	0.01	0.012
Singing and dancing	0.023	-.013	0.083	0.213	-.042	<b>0.190*</b>	-.051	0.213	.035	0.023	0.011	0.231	0.003	0.001	0.012	0.002
Visiting friends/family	0.001	0.051	0.211	0.008	<b>0.123*</b>	-.051	0.021	0.017	<b>0.211*</b>	0.076	0.123	0.174	0.003	0.101	0.111	0.017
Household chores	-0.03	0.065	0.021	0.071	0.002	-.052	-0.231	0.078	<b>-0.237*</b>	0.215	0.098	0.111	0.111	0.234	0.021	0.010
Walks	0.001	-.013	.083	0.021	-.042	-.061	-.051	0.041	<b>.135**</b>	0.001	0.023	0.021	0.02	0.110	0.001	0.009
Shopping	0.075	-.013	.003	0.231	-.042	-.057	-.051	0.231	<b>.035**</b>	0.002	-0.01	0.102	0.110*	0.101	0.011	0.011

\*statistically significant at 95% confidence interval

it was positively but weakly correlated with premarital sex ( $r_{sp}=0.432$ ) and truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.234$ ). Internet and social media usage was positively but weakly correlated with alcohol consumption ( $r_{sp}=0.234$ ) and internet fraud ( $r_{sp}=0.365$ ). Chatting and playing with friend were positively but weakly correlated with premarital sex ( $r_{sp}=0.103$ ) and truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.356$ ). Listening to music was positively but weakly associated with hard drug use ( $r_{sp}=0.345$ ), petty theft ( $r_{sp}=0.170$ ) and alcohol consumption ( $r_{sp}=0.365$ ). Watching movies was positively but weakly associated with alcohol consumption ( $r_{sp}=0.345$ ), premarital sex ( $r_{sp}=0.176$ ), truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.231$ ) and fighting ( $r_{sp}=0.451$ ). Playing video games was strongly and positively associated with fighting ( $r_{sp}=0.540$ ) while it is positively but weakly associated alcohol consumption. Studying was negatively and weakly associated with alcohol consumption ( $r_{sp}=-0.45$ ). Involvement in church activities were weakly and inversely associated with hard drug use ( $r_{sp}=-0.02$ ), rape ( $r_{sp}=-0.14$ ), gang membership ( $r_{sp}=-0.23$ ), premarital sex ( $r_{sp}=-0.235$ ), pornography ( $r_{sp}=-0.350$ ), abortion ( $r_{sp}=-0.234$ ), smoking ( $r_{sp}=-0.235$ ), and prostitution ( $r_{sp}=-0.234$ ). Singing and dancing were positively but weakly correlated with gang membership. Visiting friends and family were positively but weakly correlated with alcohol consumption ( $r_{sp}=0.123$ ) and truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.211$ ). Involvement in household chores were weakly and negatively correlated with truancy ( $r_{sp}=-0.237$ ). Walks was weakly but positively correlated with truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.135$ ) and shopping was also positively but weakly associated with truancy ( $r_{sp}=0.035$ ).

#### **4.4.1.2 Relationship between Youth Off-Farm Social Activities and Attitudes towards Violence**

Table 4.7 present a correlation matrix between off-farm social activities and attitudes towards violent behaviors and deviant attitudes.

Watching TV was weakly but positively associated with culture of violence ( $r_{sp}=0.235$ ). Hanging in snacks were strongly and positively associated with culture of violence ( $r_{sp}=0.671$ ) but weakly associated with sentence for violent crimes ( $r_{sp}=0.450$ ) and value for life ( $r_{sp}=0.457$ ). Gambling was positively and strongly associated with culture of violence ( $r_{sp}=0.576$ ), sentence for violent crime ( $r_{sp}=0.545$ ) and value for life ( $r_{sp}=0.546$ ). Listening to music was positively but weakly associated with culture of violence ( $r_{sp}=0.135$ ). Watching movies was positively but strongly associated with culture of violence ( $r_{sp}=0.531$ ) and weakly correlated with value for life ( $r_{sp}=0.245$ ). Playing video games was positively and

strongly associated with culture of violence ( $r_{sp}=0.675$ ) but weakly associated with sentence for violent crimes ( $r_{sp}=0.123$ ) and value of life ( $r_{sp}=0.165$ ). Involvement in church activities were weakly and inversely associated with culture of violence ( $r_{sp}=-0.234$ ) and value for life ( $r_{sp}=-0.345$ ).

**Table 4.7 Correlation matrix between off-farm activities and attitudes towards violence**

<b>Off-farm activities</b>	<b>Culture of violence</b>	<b>Remorse for violent crimes</b>	<b>Value for life</b>
Sports	0.001	0.021	0.012
Watching TV	0.235*	0.112	-0.211
Hanging out in snacks	0.671*	0.450*	0.457*
Gambling	0.576*	0.545*	0.546*
Internet and social media	0.111	-0.011	0.016
Chatting and playing with friends	0.001	0.008	0.098
Listening to music	0.135*	0.078	0.023
Watching movies	0.531*	0.035	0.245*
Playing video games	0.675*	0.123*	0.165*
Studying	0.001	-0.023	0.017
Sleeping	0.011	0.234	0.001
Church	-0.234*	0.003	-0.345*
Singing and dancing	0.034	0.076	0.001
Visiting friends/family	-0.071	0.007	0.01
Household chores	0.076	0.043	-0.071
Walks	0.021	0.011	0.023
Shopping	0.018	0.101	0.088

\*statistically significant at 95% confidence interval

## **4.5 Implications and Discussions of Findings**

### **4.5.1 Socio-Demographic Description of the Respondents**

The majority of the respondents were from the Douala IV municipality as compared to the Mbanga Municipality. This distribution of the respondents is reflective of the population structure of the two municipalities wherein Douala IV municipality has a population far larger

than that of Mbanga municipality (Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population, 2018).

From a gender perspective, slightly half of the respondents were females. This is consonant with the gender distribution of the population of Mbanga municipality (BUCREP, 2005) and Douala IV municipalities (Communes et Villes Unies du Cameroun [CVUC], nd).

The overwhelming majority (85.3%) of the respondents were between the ages of 16 and 30 years (slightly after adolescents and way before young adulthood). While this age distribution of the respondents is similar to the age distribution at the national level (BUCREP, 2018), it is slightly different at the level of the municipalities whereby the youth bulge is between the ages of 10 to 25 years for Mbanga municipality and between 16 and 35 years for Douala IV municipality (CEPED, 2010). The majority of the study population are found in that period of personal development where young people are more drawn to adventure, rebellious and averse to authority figure, gullible and easily enticed by propositions of fame and money (Gupta, 2015). Furthermore, it has been shown that most of the bulk of young people who make up the operatives of terrorist and anti-establishment groups fall between the ages of 16 and 30 years (Gupta, 2015).

Even though variations were observed across the municipalities, the overwhelming majority (89.6%) of the respondents had at least secondary school level education. This attest to a relatively more literate population which is in line with the national educational attainment levels and attributable to rising levels of government spending in the educational sector in Cameroon (Education Policy and Data Center, 2014). While conventional wisdom will argue that a high educational attainment is a shield against radicalization and that extremist movements in various parts of the world recruit their followers from only amongst the poor and uneducated, anecdotal and emerging evidence offers a contrary view. Increasingly, radicalization is not the monopoly of the unschooled and economically deprived. The number of young professionals joining or pledging allegiance to extremist and jihadist movements and organizations is on the rise (Gupta, 2015).

Most (45.4%) of the respondents were unemployed while self-employment was the dominant form of employment. This is reflective of youth employment statistics in Cameroon, whereby a majority are unemployed and the majority of the youths who are employed are in the informal

sector with substandard jobs (NIS, 2012; Mbohjim et Mukete, 2016). The huge rate of unemployment among youths increases their probability to nurse anti-government sentiments and makes them susceptible for recruitment into radical networks. The link between radicalization and youth unemployment has been established in several Arab countries (Dunne, 2015) and recently in the Northern regions of Cameroon (International Crises Group, 2018). Among those who are employed, the majority earned less than 50.000 frs a month attesting to a relatively poorer population. This low levels of income among youths have been shown by Mbohjim and Mukete (2016) and can be attributed to limited employment opportunities in most urban and rural areas in Cameroon and to the low-pay jobs in the informal sector of the country. A strong nexus between poverty and youth radicalization has been established in other countries (Dunne, 2015) and the poverty level of the youths in the study can make them vulnerable to radicalization.

The overwhelming majority (93.9%) of the youths were singles. Calves (2000) have also shown that the majority of youths in urban and peri-urban communities in Cameroon are single and attributed this to the fact that most youths in urban and rural areas are unemployed and can't afford the financial cost and obligations of marital life. Calves (2000) have also shown that these group of the society are most likely to indulge in deviant activities like pre-marital sex, drug use, alcohol consumption and other related deviant behaviors.

Finally, the majority (93%) of the respondents were Christian. This is consonant with the religious affiliations of the majority of the people of this part of the country which is dominantly Christian even though you have a substantial Muslim community. Survey evidence in Kenya have shown that Christian youths are less likely as compared to their Muslim counterpart to be radicalized along religious lines (Rink and Kunaal, 2016).

**i. Typology and Prevalence of Off-Farm Social and Pastimes Activities of Youths.**

The study found out that sports (42.3%) was the most dominant and often practiced off-farm social activities and pastimes of youths in the two municipalities. The dominance of sports among youths have also been shown at the national level in Cameroon (Clarke and Ojo, 2016) and Estonia (Praxis Public, 2016). This dominance of sports does not necessarily reflect what young people are actually interested in, but rather the options available to them in their waithood for remunerative employment. Notwithstanding, sports can create safe spaces for interaction in

the community, serve as an important pedagogical forum for educating young people against deviancy and violence and a tool for drawing youths out of the routines of violence towards more rule governed and socially acceptable patterns of behavior. The very process of participation in sport may also have a personally therapeutic function with regards to assisting the emotional and social rehabilitation of potentially antisocial and violent individuals (Giulianotti 2005).

Watching of TV, movies and listening to music were other prevalent off-farm social activities and pastimes of youths in the two localities. A study carried out by the Cameroon Radio Television [CRTV] (2016) observed that 76% of the youth population watch TV, movies and listen to music in their spare time. The dominance of these form of entertainment among youths can be attributed to the increasing availability of TV sets, television channels provided by satellite and cable network providers and wide availability of hand-held electronic devices for storing and listening to music in Cameroon. While TV, movies and music can be used as platform for the education of young people on violence and anti-social behaviors, the increasing glamorization of violence and anti-social behaviors in Hip Hop, Pop, gangster Rap, R&B, Afro Pop and some soap opera on TV has made this medium a potential platform for the promotion and institutionalization of youth violence and deviancy.

Hanging out in bars, pubs and nightclubs was another significant off-farm social and pastime activities of youths. Studies by Finney (2004) have shown this to be a dominant form of pastimes among youths in major cities in the world. Studies have also shown that bars, pubs and nightclubs are the venues per excellence for the development and enculturation of permissive, promiscuous and antisocial behaviors and practices (Hutchison et al., 1998, Homel et al., 2001 Allen et al., 2003).

Internet and social media usage was found to be prevalent among youths particularly in the Douala IV municipalities. Internet and social media usage has also been shown to be a major pastime among youths in Kyrgyzstan (Sikorskaya, 2017). The increasing use of the internet and social media to view, create, exchange voice, video and text contents has been made possible by increasing access of youths to mobile phones and reduction in the cost of internet services in Cameroon. However, social media has been shown to be a means of disseminating and consuming radical ideologies and narratives (Sikorskava, 2017).

Another dominant form of pastimes among youths was the playing of violent video games on computers, consoles (e.g., Xbox 360, PlayStation, Wii), handhelds (e.g., Nintendo DS), iPods, personal digital assistants, and mobile telephones. Video gaming has also been shown to be a major pastime among youths in some African countries (Polman et al., 2008). Several meta-analytical reviews have established a link between violent video gaming and anti-social, aggressive behaviors and desensitization among youths (Anderson et al., 2008).

With the exception of involvement in church activities, the above pastimes and were highly prevalent in Douala municipality as compared to the Mbanga. The relatively high levels of unemployment among youths and availability of opportunities to indulge in pastimes in Douala as compared to Mbanga can account for these differences.

## **ii. Deviance and Attitudes towards Violence**

The major deviant behaviors among youths were observed to be alcohol consumption (68.7%), premarital sex (64.5%), pornography viewing (61.5%), smoking (46.1%), hard drug use (37.8%), truancy (37.6%), betting (36.2%), fighting (28.6%), petty theft (24.6%) and internet fraud (15.7%).

Alcohol use have been shown be a major deviant behavior among youths (WHO, 2016). Alcohol consumption has been associated with disproportionate increases in levels of violent behaviour and aggression-facilitating personality characteristics (e.g. hostility and anger) among youths (WHO, 2016). Equally, premarital sexual behaviors have been shown to be prevalent among youths in Bamenda (Rwenge, 2004). Studies have shown that 30-40% of premarital sex among youths were not voluntary underscoring the prevalence of sexual violence and aggressions which are harbingers of anti-social behaviors and defiance of established norms. The viewing of pornographic content has been shown to be dominant practice among youths in Cameroon (Rwenge, 2004) and in Britain (Sellgren, 2016). This emergent behavior among young people have been made possible by increasing access to mobile devices and the ubiquity of the internet. However, pornography viewing augurs negative implications for Cameroonian youths as it has been shown to be associated with desensitize, aggression and alienation among young people. Equally, more and more, pornography content is brazen with violent scenes making more youths violent prone and devoid of empathy. Another study by Todd (2006) found that adolescents exposed to high levels of pornography had lower levels of

sexual self-esteem and low-esteem have been found to be a dominant psychological trait among violent youths.

Hard drug use is increasing becoming rampant among youths in Cameroon. It is estimated that more than one fifth of young people in Cameroon have experienced hard drugs and 10% are regular users. Among these regular users, 60% are between the ages of 20 and 25 years (Ministry of Communication, 2018). While cannabis or marijuana consumption still the traditional drugs among youths, other imported drugs such cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, solvents and more recently amphetamine-type tablets and a broad range of pharmaceuticals such as tramol, tramadol etc are gaining traction among youths in the country. This high incidence of hard drug use in Cameroon is made possible by the fact that Cameroon is increasingly becoming a transit points for international drug trafficking and the plummeting prices of the drugs (Cameroon Association on Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, 2018). Drug use has been shown to leads to serious disorders including depression and other mental ailments and drug use has been shown to be associated with petty and grievous crimes. The Cameroon Government has blame the insecurity in the Anglophone regions to drug use (Xueqan, 2018). The use of hard drug has been shown to be rampant among radicalize youths in several countries in Africa.

Truancy has also been shown to be prevalent among young people in Cameroon. Unjustified absence from school has been shown to be about 35% among secondary school children between the ages of 15 and 20 years. High levels of punishable offences have been shown to be rampant among chronically truant student.

Internet fraud or scam or cyber criminality is another deviant behavior among Cameroonian youths. While national statistics are lacking, there are across-the-board evidence that the practice is on the rise among youths in the country (Abia et al., 2010). Abia et al (2010) have associated scamming or internet fraud in Cameroon with high crime rates, school dropout and mysterious deaths.

Youths attitudes towards violence and deviant behaviors were reduced into three components including culture of violence, remorse for violent crimes and value for life. It was observed that youths had higher level of pro-violence cultures (Mean score=3.9; SD=0.516). Pro-violence culture in increasingly being observed among young people in the world (Schechter, 2005).

Equally, it was observed that the youths had a low score for remorse for violent crimes (Mean Score=1.84; SD=0.458). This low levels of remorse for violent crimes are increasingly been observed through increase levels of desensitization among youths in the World (Schechter, 2005). Finally, low value for life scores were observed (Mean score=2.05; SD=0.124). This low value for life among the study population is consonant with decreasing levels of the perception of life as sacrosanct most people in the world (Schechter, 2005).

#### **4.5.2 Correlation between Pastimes and Deviance and Attitude towards Violence**

The findings imply that youths who hang out in bars, pubs or snacks in their pastimes were more prone to engage in deviant acts such as hard drug use ( $r=0.6$ ), arm robbery ( $r=0.6$ ), alcohol consumption ( $r=0.9$ ), smoking ( $r=0.8$ ), prostitution ( $r=0.8$ ), scamming ( $r=0.6$ ), fighting ( $r=0.6$ ) and gambling ( $r=0.8$ ). Furthermore, youths whose pastimes were devoted to watching TV or playing video games were found to be more likely to be involved in fights ( $r=0.6$ ). Similarly, youths who spent their leisure time in gambling houses were more prone to be involved in hard drug use ( $r=0.7$ ), armed robbery ( $r=0.5$ ), alcohol consumption ( $r=0.7$ ), gang membership ( $r=0.8$ ), smoking ( $r=0.8$ ), scamming ( $r=0.6$ ), fighting ( $r=0.6$ ) and gambling ( $r=1$ ). Also, those youths who spent their time on social media and internet were more likely to have viewed explicit or pornographic content ( $r=0.06$ ) and involved in scamming ( $r=0.9$ ).

Involvement in snacks, pubs and bars, gambling houses, internet, violent video games and listening to some urban music genres have been associated with deviant behaviors (Hill, 1965; Pierce, Choi, Gilpin, Farkas, and Berry, 1998; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005; Dalton et al., 2003; Wakefield, Flay, Nichter, and Giovino, 2003; Sargent et al., 2005; DiFranza et al., 2006; (DiFranza et al., 2006)

Hanging out in snacks, bars and pubs were highly correlated with youth attitudes towards violence. Youths who spent their time in bars, pubs and snacks were found to have high pro-violence culture ( $r=0.6$ ). Those who spent their time in gambling houses had high pro-violence culture ( $r=0.57$ ), low remorse for violent crime ( $r=0.5$ ) and low value for life ( $r=0.5$ ). Those who spent more time watching movies and playing video games had a high pro-violence culture ( $r=0.5-0.6$ ). Funk et al (2005) have shown that certain pastimes and leisure activities such as hanging out in pubs and bars, video games playing, watching violent movies or listening to violent music presages negative attitudes.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary of Findings**

The study sought to assess youth off-farm social activities, deviancy and attitudes towards violence and its implications for radicalization in migrant communities in Cameroon with focus on Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. The study found out the following;

##### **5.1.1 Summary of Findings for Specific Objective One:**

**To determine the types and prevalence of youth off-farm social and pastimes activities in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities.**

The study found out that sports, watching TV, hanging out in bars, pubs and nightclubs, gambling, internet and social media usage, chatting and playing with friends, listening to music, watching movies and playing video games were the most dominant off-farm social activities among youths in the Mbanga and Douala Municipalities. Even though there were not predominant among youths, other minor youth off-farm activities included studying, involvement in church activities, singing and dancing, visits to friends and families and household chores etc. It was observed that the majority of the youths were often involved in sporting activities, watch TV, use internet or are on social media, play video games while they were sometimes involved in gambling and watching home movies. Significant differences were observed across locations with youths in Douala IV engaging frequently in the major off farm off-activities as compared to those in Mbanga engaging frequently. The differences in the types of off-farm activities was explained by the variations in opportunities and facilities for indulging in these activities in the two municipalities.

##### **5.1.2 Summary of Findings for Specific Objective Two:**

**To assess youth's deviant behaviors and attitudes towards violence in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities.**

The major deviant behaviors among youths were observed to be alcohol consumption, premarital sex, pornography viewing, smoking, hard drug use, truancy, and betting, fighting,

petty theft and internet fraud. Other less predominant deviant behaviors among youths included abortion, sexual harassment, gang membership, arm robbery, prostitution and rape. Significant variations in the types of deviant behaviors were observed across the two regions. With the exception of petty theft and truancy that was highest in Mbanga, higher levels of deviant behaviors were observed in Douala IV municipalities. In terms of the prevalence of these behaviors, it was observed that youths were involved in these activities sometimes with the exception of premarital sex which was carried out often by the youths. However, youth perception of the prevalence of these behaviors among youths in the community reported higher prevalence as compared to youth assessment of their deviant behaviors.

Youths attitudes towards violence and deviant behaviors were reduced into three components including culture of violence, remorse for violent crimes and value for life. It was observed that youths had higher level of pro-violence cultures, demonstrated lower level of remorse for violent crimes and ascribed lower levels to life.

### **5.1.3 Summary of Findings for Specific Objective Three:**

**To evaluate the relationship between youth off-farm social and pastimes activities and their deviant behaviors and attitude towards violence in Mbanga and Douala IV Municipalities.**

Significant correlations were observed between some of the major youth off-farm activities and certain deviant behaviors. In that light, high levels of positive correlation were observed between youths hanging in snacks, gambling, playing video games and hard drug use, petty theft, armed robbery, alcohol consumption, truancy, pornography, smoking, prostitution and gambling.

Also, high levels of positive correlation were observed between hanging in snacks, gambling, watching movies and playing video games with high culture of violence, low levels of remorse for violent crimes and low value for life.

## **5.2 Conclusion of Study**

The present study was conducted to assess youth off-farm socio activities, deviant behaviors, attitudes towards violence and their implication for radicalization and peacebuilding in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities. On the basis of the findings and with corroborative evidences from other studies the study concluded that in their spare time, most youths in engage

themselves in different sedentary and non-sedentary off-farm activities. The study also concluded that these off-farm activities were highly correlated with certain deviant behaviors such as hard drug use, petty theft, armed robbery, alcohol consumption, truancy, cigarette smoking and gambling. These off-farm activities were also highly correlated with attitudes towards violence which is characterized with high level of violent cultures, low levels of remorse for violent crimes and low values for life. The study concluded that the foregoing predisposes or makes the majority of these youths susceptible for the formation of anti-establishment sentiments and ideologies and violent radicalization. There is therefore the need for a policy and programmatic framework for preventing young people from indulging in activities that makes them susceptible or vulnerable to violent extremism.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

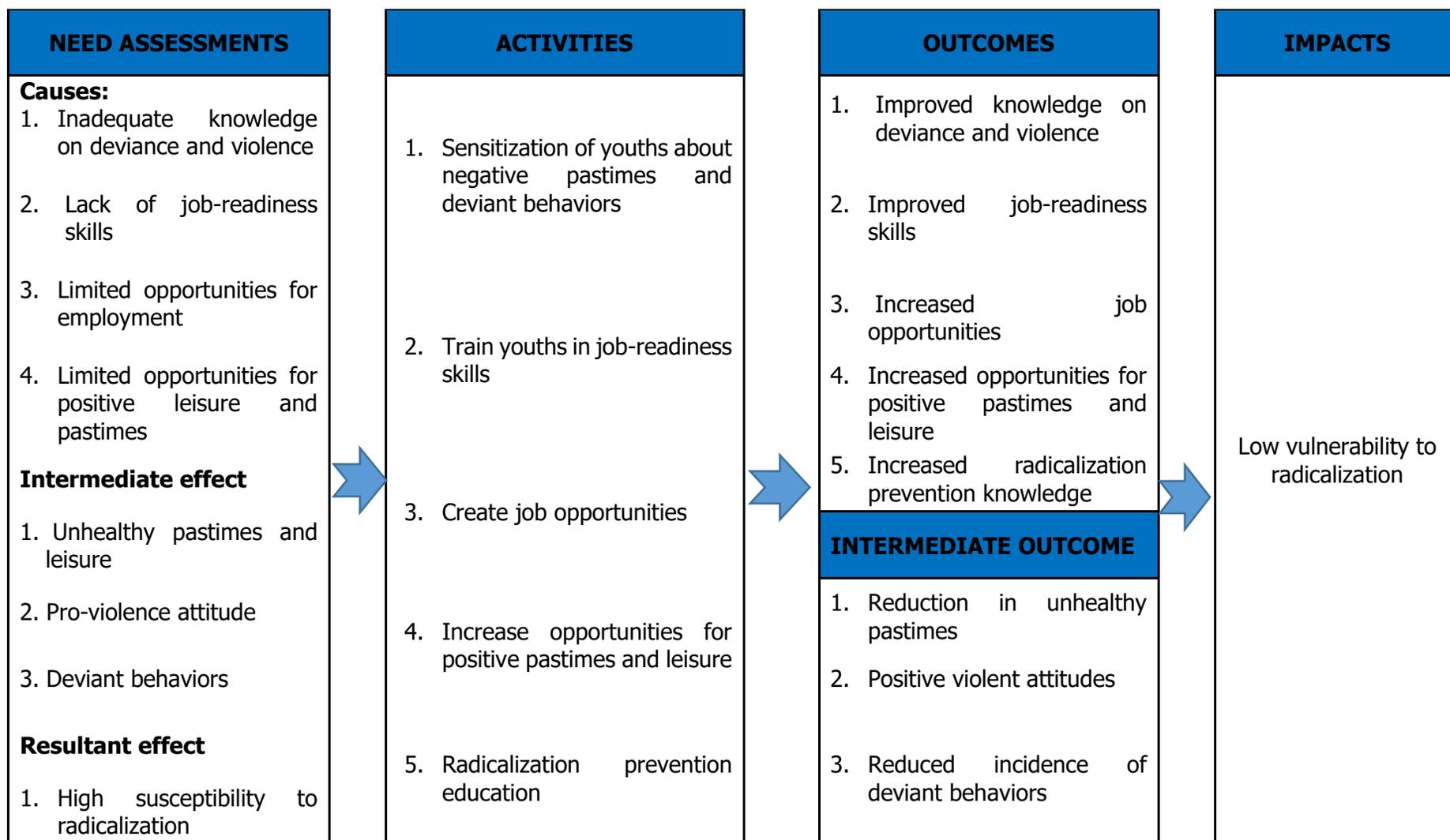
On the bases of the study's findings and guided by literature review on best practices for peacebuilding, the study proposed the following theory of change and framework of action for preventing youth off-farm social activities and pastimes to be a harbinger of violent extremism.

Our theory of change is centered on preventing youth radicalization or reducing young people's vulnerability to violent extremism by increasing youth sensitization and education, employability skills training, job creation and enhancing opportunities for more positive pastimes and leisure activities. Figure 5.1 presents a schematic overview of these.

The study observed a lot of endogenous and exogenous constraints confronting youths and making them susceptible to violent extremism, including low levels of knowledge of the negative impact on their health and socio-economic wellbeing of certain pastime activities, lack of job-readiness skills, limited number of remunerative work and limited opportunities for more positive recreation. These factors together with challenges that youth face are making them more susceptible to radicalization. If these activities are carried out, youth's vulnerability to radical and violent extremism will be significantly reduced. The assumptions are that youth sensitization and education will lead to behavioral and attitudinal change, employability skills training and job creation will involve youth in a more constructive use of their time and increasing other leisure opportunities will involve youths in less antisocial activities during their pastimes. A central assumption is that youths, school, churches, government, NGOs are

willing and able to participate in the sensitization, skills training, employment and alternative leisure activities. However, the study posited that the expected results could be threatened by the current political climate in the country whereby youths are increasingly being enticed by political leaders and other social actors into anti-establishment activities.

**Table 5.1: Theory of Change**



On the bases of the theory of change and action framework, the study made the following recommendations

**To the Government and Policy-Makers**

Government at the national, regional and local levels should craft policies and mechanisms that increase the employment prospects of young people. This will help prevent young people from involving frequently in activities that are highly correlated with pro-violent attitudes and anti-social behaviors.

**To Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Non-governmental organizations should develop and implement activities that are specifically targeted at minimizing youth involvement in certain social activities and pastimes, attitudes towards violence and deviant behaviors that increased their risk of being radicalized.

**To Traditional Authorities**

There should be double efforts in promoting youths training programs, which will tend to enhance wide employment opportunities alongside trainings and sustainable community projects. This will reduce their risks of been radicalized in the society.

**To Municipal Authorities**

Municipal authorities should provide the youths with developmental facilities which will shape and divert their minds against deviant behavior. Developmental projects here include building of public and affordable school and involving in income generating activities.

**To School Authorities**

Schools should develop training programs that help enhance the employability of young people. This will permit them to engage in remunerative activities that will limit the available time for engagement in pastimes that are breeding grounds for antisocial behaviors and attitudes

**To parents**

Parental control should be heightened among parents. This will ensure that youths are perpetually under the watchful eyes of an adult thereby curbing the incidence of deviant pastimes, behaviors and attitudes.

### **To Young People**

Young people should make reasonable efforts not to engage in pastimes and leisure activities that have been shown to correlate with deviancy and pro-violent attitudes.

### **To Academics**

Drawing from the neighborhood effects theories and causal mechanisms, further study should be conducted on the socio-economic and spatial enablers and dis-enablers of youth's off-farm socio-economic and pastime activities and the propensity for radicalization and anti-establishment behaviors and sentiments.

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## APPENDIX 1: Questionnaire

**PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT -WEST AFRICA  
P.O BOX 133, BUEA, CAMEROON**



### DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

#### Preamble

I am a student of the Pan African Institute for Development West Africa (PAID -WA) Buea. I am carrying out a research on **“Youth off-farm social activities and pastimes, deviancy and attitude towards violence in Mbanga and Douala IV municipalities: Implications for radicalization prevention in Cameroon”** in partial fulfilment for the Award of a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Gender, Migration and Refugees Studies.

Your response to the question will be highly appreciated. The work is strictly for academics and whatever information you give will be confidential and will not be used for other purpose than that stated

#### SECTION 1 : SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

1. Location: Mbanga [ ] Bonaberi [ ]
2. Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ]

3. Age Group: 10-15 [ ] 15-20 [ ] 20-25 [ ] 25-30 [ ] 30-35 [ ]
4. Level of Education: No formal [ ] Vocational[ ] Primary[ ] Secondary[ ] Tertiary[ ]
5. Income Level: < 50.000FCA [ ] <50.000FCFA [ ] 150.000FCA-above [ ]
6. Marital Status: Single [ ] Married [ ] Divorced [ ]
7. Religion: Christian [ ] Muslim [ ] Other [ ]
8. Employment Level: Not employed [ ] Self-employed [ ] Salaried employment [ ]
9. If employed or self-employed: Farmer [ ] Student [ ] Taxi driver [ ] Bike rider [ ] Petty trader [ ] Civil Servant [ ] private sector employee [ ] Waged labourer [ ] Other [ ] (Specify please).....

**SECTION 2: TYPES AND PREVALENCE OF OFF-FARM AND PASTIMES ACTIVITIES OF YOUTHS**

1. What do you do when you are not working in your farm or involved in some wage activity? How many hours do you spend on average on those activities and how often do you engage in them on a weekly base? How often do youths in your community engage in those activities?

No	Type of activity	Frequency (Often, Sometimes, Rarely)	Frequency among youths (Often, Sometimes, Rarely)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

**SECTION 3: DEVIANCY AND ATTITUDES**

**3.1: Youth involvement in deviant practices and perceptions of prevalence in communities**

Have you been engage in any deviant activity in the last 12 months? If yes, how often do you engage in this (these) activities in the last 12 months? How often do you youths in neighborhood engage in this (these) activity (ies)?

<b>Deviant behaviors</b>	<b>Personal deviant behaviors (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Frequency of acts (Often, Sometimes, Rarely)</b>	<b>Prevalence in community (Often, Sometimes, Rarely)</b>
Hard drug Use			
Rape			
Petty theft			
Arm robbery			
Alcohol Consumption			
Gang membership			
Premarital sex			
Sexual Harassment			
Truancy			
Pornography			
Abortion			
Smoking			
Scamming			
Prostitution			
Fighting			
Gambling			
Homicide			
Battery			
Cheating in exams			
Cyber bullying			

**3.2: Youths’ attitudes and perception of deviant behaviors**

Indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement by ticking (✓) the appropriate response

<b>Attitudes towards deviancy</b>					
<b>Items</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>

Hard drug use among youths should not be ban					
Prison term for rape should not be increase					
Petty theft offenders should be not imprisoned					
Arm robbers should be not imprisoned for life					
Age limit for alcohol consumption should be reduced					
Youths can belong to gangs					
Premarital sex among youths should not be punishable					
Sexual harassment is normal					
Truants should not be punished by parents and teachers					
There should be no restrictive access to pornography					
Abortion should be legalize					
Smoking should be advertise					
Scamming is not morally and ethically wrong					
Prostitution is not morally decadent activity					
Fighting among children should not be punishable					
Gambling restriction should not be strictly enforced					
Homicide offenders should not be summarily executed					
Battery in whatever form should not be discourage					
Exam cheating should not be severely reprimanded					