## Poverty and Illiteracy as a Key Factor for Crime and Unrest in Nigeria

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**Abstract :** Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation is undoubtedly, currently going through one of the most difficult phases in her 55 years of existence as an independent nation. At no other time in her history is she under so much pressure of social unrest and unacceptable rate of crime and criminality than it is today. From the North where there is an insurgency to contend with, then to the South where kidnapping and armed robbery hold sway. These issues did not just sprout from nowhere; they have a root somewhere. This is why this paper seeks to bring to the fore poverty and illiteracy as leading causes of these twin social ills- crime and social restiveness as well as suggest practical solutions to the problems.

Keywords : crime, illiteracy, poverty, unrest

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