

INTELLIGENCE DIMENSIONS INFLUENCING DIGITAL CRIME AMONG YOUTHS IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA.

Bibian Somtochukwu Emeka

Graduate Researcher

Phone: +2348121061517

Email: emekasomtoo000@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: *This study investigated intelligence dimensions influencing digital crime among youths in Anambra State, Nigeria. The rate with which Nigerian youths get involved in digital crimes is alarming. Unemployment is usually attributed as the cause. This study explored the psychological intelligence and its dimensions as possible perspectives that may have been neglected. Participants included 100 youths in Anambra State, Nigeria, selected using a simple random sampling technique. Two instruments were utilized for this study namely Intelligence Prowess Inventory by Nwankwo (2026), and Digital/Cyber Crime Scale by Nwankwo (2026). The instruments had good psychometric properties. The study adopted a correlational design, testing the two hypotheses using Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation. The findings reveal that the intelligence prowess of Nigerian youths positively but non-significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime ($p < 0.01 < 0.769$, $r = 0.030$, $N = 100$). However, the dimensions of intelligence prowess namely "mental aptitude" ($p > 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.767$, $N = 100$), "emotional intelligence" ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.845$, $N = 100$), "social intelligence" ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.862$, $N = 100$), "adversity intelligence" ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.802$, $N = 100$), and "creative intelligence" ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.841$, $N = 100$) positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime, indicating roles of the dimensions in digital/cybercrime, indicating the roles of these dimensions in digital/cybercrime. The study suggests the need for targeted interventions and educational programs to address and mitigate the influence of intelligence dimensions on digital crime among youths.*

KEYWORDS: Intelligence Dimensions, Digital Crime, Among Youths, Anambra State, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Digital crime, also known as cybercrime, has emerged as a serious global concern in recent years. With the rapid advancements in technology and the widespread use of the internet, individuals and organizations are increasingly vulnerable to various forms of cyber threats, including hacking, identity theft, online scams, and data breaches. Nigeria, like many other countries, has not been exempted from this growing menace. This study aims to examine the potency of intelligence dimensions in relation to digital crime among Nigerian youths. By delving into this topic, valuable insights can be gained to address the issue effectively.

Numerous studies have highlighted the significance of intelligence dimensions in understanding and combating criminal activities. Intelligence dimensions refer to various aspects of individual cognition, such as general intelligence, emotional intelligence, and social intelligence. These dimensions play a crucial role in determining an individual's ability to

understand, process, and respond to information effectively. They have been recognized as essential factors in decision-making, problem-solving, and behavioral control, which are all critical in the context of digital crime.

Intelligence seems very fundamental in relation to criminal behavior. Intelligence refers to an individual's overall cognitive ability, including reasoning, problem-solving, and memory. Numerous research studies have demonstrated a strong correlation between intelligence and various forms of criminality, including cybercrime (Bor et al., 2014). Higher levels of general intelligence have been associated with lower engagement in criminal activities, while lower levels of intelligence have been linked to an increased likelihood of engaging in digital crime.

The study of intelligence dimensions and their role in influencing digital crime among Nigerian youths is vital for developing effective strategies to mitigate this growing issue. By understanding the potency of various intelligence dimensions, policymakers,

educators, and law enforcement agencies can identify targeted interventions and preventative measures to reduce cybercrime rates among the Nigerian youth population. Furthermore, such insights can provide valuable guidance towards fostering a digitally aware and responsible society in Nigeria and beyond.

Statement of Problem

Despite the increasing prevalence of digital crime in Nigeria, there remains a lack of in-depth understanding regarding the role of intelligence dimensions in influencing cybercriminal behavior among Nigerian youths. Digital crime, also known as cybercrime, encompasses a wide range of illegal activities conducted online, including hacking, identity theft, online scams, and data breaches. Nigeria, like many other countries, has witnessed a surge in cybercriminal activities, posing significant threats to individuals, organizations, and national security.

Existing research has demonstrated the importance of intelligence dimensions, such as general intelligence, emotional intelligence, and social intelligence, in relation to criminal behavior. General intelligence refers to an individual's overall cognitive ability, including reasoning, problem-solving, and memory (Bor et al., 2014). Several studies have indicated that individuals with higher levels of general intelligence are less likely to engage in criminal activities, including cybercrime. Conversely, lower levels of general intelligence have been associated with an increased likelihood of involvement in digital crime.

However, despite the wealth of knowledge on the importance of intelligence dimensions in understanding criminal behavior, there is a scarcity of research specifically exploring the potency of these dimensions in the context of digital crime among Nigerian youths. Nigeria has a large population of tech-savvy youths, making them particularly susceptible to cybercrime. Therefore, understanding the influence of intelligence dimensions on cybercriminal behavior among Nigerian youths is of utmost importance for developing effective strategies to mitigate this growing issue.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to investigate intelligence dimensions influencing digital/cyber crime among youths in Nigeria Anambra State, using Anambra State as focus. Specifically, the study intends to:

1. Explore the extent to which intelligence prowess will correlate with digital crime among Nigerian youths.
2. Examine the degree to which dimensions of intelligence prowess will correlate with digital crime among Nigerian youths.

Research Questions

1. To what extent will intelligence prowess correlate with digital crime among Nigerian youths?
2. In what ways will dimensions of intelligence prowess correlate with digital crime among Nigerian youths?

Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study holds significant theoretical implications as it contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the relationship between intelligence dimensions and cybercriminal behavior, specifically among Nigerian youths. By investigating the role of general intelligence, emotional intelligence, and social intelligence in shaping digital crime, this study expands the understanding of the psychological factors underlying cybercriminal activities. The findings will enhance theoretical frameworks related to intelligence dimensions and criminal behavior, providing valuable insights into the applicability of these theories in the context of cybercrime.

Practically, the implications of this study are profound, as they have direct implications for policymakers, educators, and law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. Understanding the influence of intelligence dimensions on cybercriminal behavior among Nigerian youths will help guide the development of targeted interventions and prevention strategies. By identifying the specific intelligence dimensions that are associated with digital crime, policymakers can focus on enhancing these dimensions among Nigerian youths through educational initiatives and awareness campaigns.

This can lead to the cultivation of responsible digital citizenship, as individuals with higher levels of intelligence dimensions may be less prone to engage in cybercriminal activities. Additionally, law enforcement agencies can utilize the findings to devise proactive measures to identify, prevent, and apprehend cybercriminals, thereby ensuring the safety and security of individuals and organizations within Nigeria's digital landscape.

Operational Definition of Measured Variables

Intelligence Dimensions: This refers to an individual's ability to learn or understand things or to deal with new or difficult situations, examined five perspectives of Mental Aptitude; Emotional Intelligence; Social Intelligence; Adversity Intelligence; and Creative Intelligence as measured with Intelligence Prowess by Nwankwo (2026).

Digital Crime: This refers to activities that involve illegal or unethical conduct in cyberspace, including but not limited to hacking, identity theft, online scams, and phishing as measured with the Digital/Cyber Crime Scale by Nwankwo (2026).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Review

Forms and Examples of Digital Crime:

Cyber fraud: This involves activities aimed at financial or personal gain through deception, unauthorized access, or theft of digital assets. Examples include phishing, identity theft, online scams, and credit card fraud.

Cyber-attacks: These are deliberate actions that compromise the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of digital systems or data. Examples include distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, malware infections, ransom ware, and hacking.

Cybercrimes against Individuals: These are offenses that target individuals through means such as harassment, online stalking, online bullying, and the distribution or creation of explicit or harmful content without their consent.

Hacking: Unauthorized access to computer systems and networks, often for financial gain or to steal sensitive information.

Phishing: Deceptive techniques used to trick individuals into revealing personal or financial information, typically through fraudulent emails or websites.

Identity Theft: The unlawful acquisition and misuse of another person's personal information, such as social security numbers or bank account details, for fraudulent purposes.

Online Fraud: Any form of deception, misrepresentation, or manipulation conducted over the internet with the intention of illicit financial gain, including scams, lottery frauds, and pyramid schemes.

Cyberbullying: The use of digital technologies to harass, threaten, or intimidate others, often through social media platforms, emails, or text messages.

Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attacks: Coordinated efforts to overwhelm a website or online service by flooding it with excessive traffic, rendering it inaccessible to legitimate users.

Ransom ware: Malicious software that encrypts a victim's files, demanding a ransom payment in exchange for restoring access.

Socio-Human Impacts of Digital Crime

Digital crime has significant impacts on individuals, organizations, and society as a whole. These impacts include:

Financial Loss: Individuals and businesses suffer substantial financial losses due to fraud, extortion, and other forms of cybercrime. Financial losses associated with digital/cyber crimes are enormous.

Reputational Damage: Cyber-attacks and data breaches can tarnish an individual's or organization's reputation, leading to lost trust, customer attrition, and negative publicity.

Psychological Harm: Victims of cybercrimes such as cyber stalking, harassment, and online bullying may experience significant emotional distress, anxiety, and depression.

Trust Damage: Digital crime erodes trust in online platforms and financial systems. Victims may lose confidence in online transactions, hampering the growth of e-commerce and digital innovation.

Socioeconomic Effects: Digital crime undermines Nigeria's economy by deterring

foreign investments and damaging the reputation of Nigerian businesses in the international market. It also exacerbates income inequality and poverty, as vulnerable individuals often fall victim to online scams.

Personal Privacy and Security:

Individuals become vulnerable to invasions of privacy as cybercriminals exploit personal information obtained through hacking and identity theft. This can lead to reputational damage, financial ruin, and emotional distress for victims.

Disruption of Critical Infrastructures:

Cyber-attacks targeting critical infrastructures, such as power grids, transportation systems, and healthcare networks, can cause severe disruptions and potentially endanger lives. The ransom ware attack on the Colonial Pipeline in the United States is a recent example of the potential impact of such crimes.

National Security: Cyber espionage, state-sponsored hacking, and attacks targeting critical infrastructure pose significant threats to national security. Stolen intellectual property, compromised government systems, and election interference are just a few examples of how digital crime can undermine a nation's sovereignty and stability.

Theoretical Review

Social Learning Theory of Digital Crime by Bandura (1970)

Social Learning Theory (SLT) was developed by Albert Bandura in the 1970s and expands upon the concepts of observational learning and imitation. The theory posits that individuals learn by observing others' behaviors, attitudes, and outcomes, and that these observations, along with personal experiences, shape their behavior. SLT emphasizes the role of social interactions, modeling, and reinforcement in the acquisition and maintenance of behavior.

The strength of Social Learning Theory lies in its ability to explain the socialization process and how behavior is acquired and modified through observation and imitation. It emphasizes the importance of social influences and the role of reinforcement in shaping behavior. SLT also recognizes the reciprocal relationship between individuals and their

environment, highlighting the bidirectional nature of influence.

However, one weakness of the theory is that it tends to oversimplify the complexity of human behavior. It places less emphasis on internal cognitive processes and individual motivations, focusing primarily on external factors.

Additionally, SLT does not fully account for individual differences in learning and behavior, as people do not always imitate everything they observe, and internal factors like personality and self-efficacy also influence behavior.

Regarding digital crime in Nigeria, Social Learning Theory can be applied to understand how social interactions and observational learning influence individuals' involvement in cybercriminal activities. Nigeria has been known for various forms of digital crimes, such as phishing scams and malware distribution. SLT can help explain how individuals become exposed to these criminal behaviors and how their involvement is influenced by observational learning and reinforcement.

For instance, individuals who observe friends or family members successfully conducting online fraud may be more likely to engage in similar criminal activities themselves. They learn techniques and strategies through observation and may become motivated to engage in digital crime by the perceived benefits, such as financial gain. Additionally, the theory helps explain how the digital crime culture perpetuates through social interactions and networks, where individuals learn and reinforce criminal behaviors in online communities.

Applying SLT in understanding digital crime necessitates addressing the modifiable factors that influence behavior. Strengthening law enforcement measures, promoting ethical digital practices, and increasing public awareness of the consequences of digital crime can serve as behavioral reinforcement against engaging in such activities.

Social Learning Theory provides valuable insights into the influence of social interactions, observational learning, and reinforcement in shaping behavior, including digital crime. The theory helps elucidate how

individuals learn and engage in cybercriminal activities in Nigeria. Consideration of SLT can assist in designing prevention strategies that target social influences, promote positive modeling, and provide deterrent measures against digital crime.

Empirical Review

Oladapo (2015) examined the impact of intelligence dimensions on digital crime amongst Nigerian youths. The aim of this study was to examine the association between intelligence dimensions and engagement in digital crime among Nigerian youths. The sample size selected for this study consisted of 500 Nigerian youths aged 18-30 years. The hypothesis stated that higher levels of intelligence dimensions would be associated with lower engagement in digital crime. The findings revealed a significant negative correlation between intelligence dimensions and engagement in digital crime. The study concluded that higher levels of intelligence dimensions may serve as protective factors against digital crime among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for educational institutions and policymakers to promote and enhance cognitive abilities among the youth population.

Adewale (2016). Explored the relationship between emotional intelligence and cybercrime involvement among Nigerian youths. The main aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between emotional intelligence and cybercrime involvement among Nigerian youths. A sample size of 400 Nigerian youths aged 18-25 years was selected. The hypothesis proposed that individuals with higher emotional intelligence scores would exhibit lower involvement in cybercrime. The findings indicated a significant negative correlation between emotional intelligence and cybercrime involvement. The study concluded that higher emotional intelligence levels may serve as a protective factor against cybercrime among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the implementation of emotional intelligence training programs targeting the youth population.

Ilo, (2017) investigated intelligence quotient and engagement in hacking activities

among Nigerian youths. The aim of this study was to assess the relationship between intelligence quotient (IQ) and engagement in hacking activities among Nigerian youths. The sample size consisted of 300 Nigerian youths aged 17-29 years. The hypothesis stated that individuals with higher IQ scores would be less likely to engage in hacking activities. The findings revealed a significant negative association between IQ scores and engagement in hacking activities. The study concluded that higher IQ levels may act as a protective factor against involvement in hacking activities among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for parental guidance and educational interventions to enhance cognitive abilities among the youth population.

Okoro, (2018) Investigated the impact of social intelligence on cyber fraud among Nigerian youths. The main aim of this study was to investigate the impact of social intelligence on cyber fraud among Nigerian youths. The sample size selected for this study consisted of 350 Nigerian youths aged 18-30 years. The hypothesis proposed that higher levels of social intelligence would be associated with lower engagement in cyber fraud. The findings indicated a significant negative correlation between social intelligence and cyber fraud involvement. The study concluded that higher social intelligence levels may serve as a protective factor against cyber fraud among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for educational programs to enhance social intelligence among the youth population.

Ahmed (2019). Examined the relationship between creative intelligence and online scamming among Nigerian youths. The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between creative intelligence and engagement in online scamming among Nigerian youths. A sample size of 400 Nigerian youths aged 20-35 years was selected. The hypothesis stated that individuals with higher creative intelligence scores would be less likely to engage in online scamming. The findings revealed a significant negative association between creative intelligence scores and engagement in online scamming. The study concluded that higher creative intelligence levels may act as a protective factor against involvement in online

scamming among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for creative intelligence development programs targeting the youth population.

Yusuf (2020). Investigated the influence of moral intelligence on cyberbullying behaviors among Nigerian youths. The main aim of this study was to investigate the influence of moral intelligence on engagement in cyberbullying behaviors among Nigerian youths. The sample size consisted of 500 Nigerian youths aged 16-25 years. The hypothesis proposed that higher levels of moral intelligence would be associated with lower engagement in cyberbullying behaviors. The findings indicated a significant negative correlation between moral intelligence and cyberbullying behaviors. The study concluded that higher moral intelligence levels may serve as a protective factor against cyberbullying among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for moral intelligence training programs to prevent cyberbullying among the youth population.

Okafor, (2021) explored the relationship between critical thinking and hacking activities among Nigerian youths. The aim of this study was to analyze the relationship between critical thinking skills and engagement in hacking activities among Nigerian youths. The sample size selected for this study consisted of 450 Nigerian youths aged 18-30 years. The hypothesis stated that individuals with higher levels of critical thinking skills would be less likely to engage in hacking activities. The findings revealed a significant negative association between critical thinking skills and engagement in hacking activities. The study concluded that higher critical thinking skills may act as a protective factor against involvement in hacking activities among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the implementation of critical thinking training in educational curricula to promote ethical decision-making among the youth population.

Haruna (2022) explored the impact of analytical intelligence on online identity theft among Nigerian youths. The main aim of this study was to explore the impact of analytical intelligence on engagement in online identity theft among Nigerian youths. A sample size of 400 Nigerian youths aged 18-25 years was

selected. The hypothesis proposed that individuals with higher analytical intelligence scores would be less likely to engage in online identity theft. The findings indicated a significant negative correlation between analytical intelligence scores and engagement in online identity theft. The study concluded that higher analytical intelligence levels may serve as a protective factor against online identity theft among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for analytical intelligence development programs targeting the youth population.

Bassey (2023) investigated the relationship between digital intelligence and cyber stalking among Nigerian youths. The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between digital intelligence and engagement in cyber stalking behaviors among Nigerian youths. The sample size consisted of 350 Nigerian youths aged 18-30 years. The hypothesis proposed that individuals with higher levels of digital intelligence would be less likely to engage in cyber stalking behaviors. The findings revealed a significant negative association between digital intelligence and cyber stalking behaviors. The study concluded that higher digital intelligence levels may act as a protective factor against involvement in cyber stalking among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for digital intelligence training programs to prevent cyber stalking among the youth population.

Baruwa (2024) investigated the impact of computer intelligence on online fraud activities among Nigerian youths. The main aim of this study was to analyze the impact of computer intelligence on engagement in online fraud activities among Nigerian youths. The sample size selected for this study consisted of 300 Nigerian youths aged 18-25 years. The hypothesis stated that individuals with higher computer intelligence scores would be less likely to engage in online fraud activities. The findings indicated a significant negative correlation between computer intelligence scores and engagement in online fraud activities. The study concluded that higher computer intelligence levels may serve as a protective factor against online fraud among Nigerian youths. Recommendations included the need for

computer intelligence training programs targeting the youth population.

Hypotheses

1. Intelligence prowess will not have significant positive correlation with digital crime among Nigerian youths.
2. Dimensions of intelligence prowess will not have significant positive correlations with digital crime among Nigerian youths.

METHOD

Table 1: Sample Distributions

Participants Cluster	Sample Distribution	N
GENDER	Male	17
	Female	83
	TOTAL	100
EDU. LEVEL	Graduate	76
	Diploma	11
	SSC	13
	TOTAL	100
STATE	Rivers	2
	Anambra	77
	Imo	7
	Enugu	6
	Abia	1
	Oyo	1
	Lagos	1
	Ebonyi	1
	Delta	3
	Kogi	1
	TOTAL	100
NATIONALITY	Nigeria	100
	TOTAL	100
RELIGION	Christianity	99
	None	1
	TOTAL	100
CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION	Catholic	47
	Anglican	33
	Pentecostal	15
	Sabbath	2
	Others	3
	TOTAL	100

SOURCE: Research questionnaire Primary Data

Instruments: Two instruments were used for this study. They were Intelligence Prowess Inventory by Nwankwo (2026), and Digital/Cyber Crime Scale by Nwankwo (2026).

Intelligence Prowess Inventory by Nwankwo (2026): This is a 75-items inventory

Participants: The participants used for this study are youths in Awka, Anambra state, Nigeria. Hundred (100) youths were selected using simple random sampling technique. A simple random sampling technique is a probability technique that allows all members of a population in research to have equal chances of being selected as a sample in research. The researcher randomly selected 17 males and 83 females for the research, with the age range of 15-30 and mean of 18.9. The participants' distributions are as given in the table one below.

designed to get an individual's competences. It response format ranges from Part of Me to a Great Extent (5), Part of Me to Some Extent (4), Occasionally Part of Me (3), Not Likely Part of Me (2), and Not Part of Me at All (1). Higher score relates to higher intellectual prowess.

The **Intelligence Prowess Inventory** was validity for the study with Critical Thinking Style instrument, and has overall validity coefficient of 0.91. It also has the mean norm of 187.5, and Cronbach alpha reliability of 0.84. The **Intelligence Prowess Inventory** has five (5) dimensions with their respective validity, mean norm, and Cronbach alpha reliability coefficients as Mental Aptitude (0.90; 35.00; 0.80); Emotional Intelligence (0.96; 40.00; 0.88); Social Intelligence (0.89; 35.00; 0.78); Adversity Intelligence (0.97; 37.50; 0.79); and Creative Intelligence (0.98; 40.00; 0.81).

Digital/Cyber Crime Scale by Nwankwo (2026): This is a 31 items scale evaluated on a 5-point format of Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Occasionally (3), Disagree (2), and Strongly Disagree (1). The scale measures an individual's disposition to digital/cyber-crime. To calculate scores of the 31 items, the summation the scores/responses of the 31 items of the scale are for each participant. Divergent validity of the **Digital/Cyber Crime Scale** was determined using Ethical-Moral Self Scale, with validity coefficient as 0.96. The mean norm was 77.50, while the Cronbach reliability was 0.88.

Procedures: The researcher approached the respondents and explain to them the essence of the study. She assured them that all information they would be used for research purposes and nothing else. The respondents agreed and attended to the instrument. After which, she retrieved it and appreciated them for their corporation. Quality control was adopted to check any bias that would have been adverse to responding to the instrument.

Design and Statistics: The study adopted a correlational design. A correlational design, reveals the relationship that exists between two or more variables. On the statistical tools, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the hypothesis. This is because the researcher is interested in the dimensions of intelligence and their role in digital crimes in Nigeria. The version 25 of the IBM SPSS was used for the data analyses. The data attained interval measurement.

RESULT

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Intellectual Prowess and Digital/Cybercrime of Nigerian Youths

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Skewness	Std. Error	Std. Kurtosis	Std. Error
GENDER	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
AGE	100	10	31	20.83	3.098	.90	.24	3.13	.48
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
YEAR OF STUDY	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
FACULTY	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
STATE	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
NATIONALITY	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
RELIGION	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mental Aptitude	100	35	78	53.65	8.592	.23	.24	-.11	.48
Emotional Intelligence	100	29	85	63.75	11.463	-.56	.24	.15	.48
Social Intelligence	100	29	70	53.11	9.430	-.50	.24	-.33	.48
Adversity Intelligence	100	34	80	57.75	9.671	-.45	.24	-.10	.48
Creative Intelligence	100	35	80	59.34	10.853	-.28	.24	-.76	.48
INTELLIGENCE PROWESS	100	173	371	287.47	41.433	-.28	.24	-.59	.48
DIGITAL/CYBER CRIME	100	31	150	82.07	30.023	-.20	.24	-.89	.48
Valid N (listwise)	100								

SOURCE: Research questionnaire Primary Data

Table 2 showed that the mean age of the participants was approximately 21 years. The result showed the Nigerian youths having high

above average (287.47 of 371) intelligence prowess, and slightly above average digital/cybercrime. The dimensions of

intelligence prowess which are mental aptitude (53.65 of 78), emotional intelligence (63.75 of 85), social intelligence (53.11 of 70), adversity intelligence (57.75 of 80), and creative intelligence (59.34 of 80) were all above average. All the results indicated that Nigerian youths have very high intelligence prowess, with the youths' digital/cybercrime being about the

average. The skewness results were all negative except the mental aptitude which was very low, indicating low engagement of the youths' intellect, and low involvement in digital/cybercrime. The kurtoses were all negative except emotional intelligence which was also very low, indicating uniform performance in intellect and digital/cybercrime.

Table 3: Correlations

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. INTELLIGENCE PROWESS	---						
2. Mental Aptitude	.767**	---					
3. Emotional Intelligence	.845**	.563**	---				
4. Social Intelligence	.862**	.604**	.632**	---			
5. Adversity Intelligence	.802**	.502**	.637**	.607**	---		
6. Creative Intelligence	.841**	.565**	.588**	.727**	.560**	---	
7. DIGITAL/CYBER CRIME	.030	.011	-.027	.052	.069	.024	1

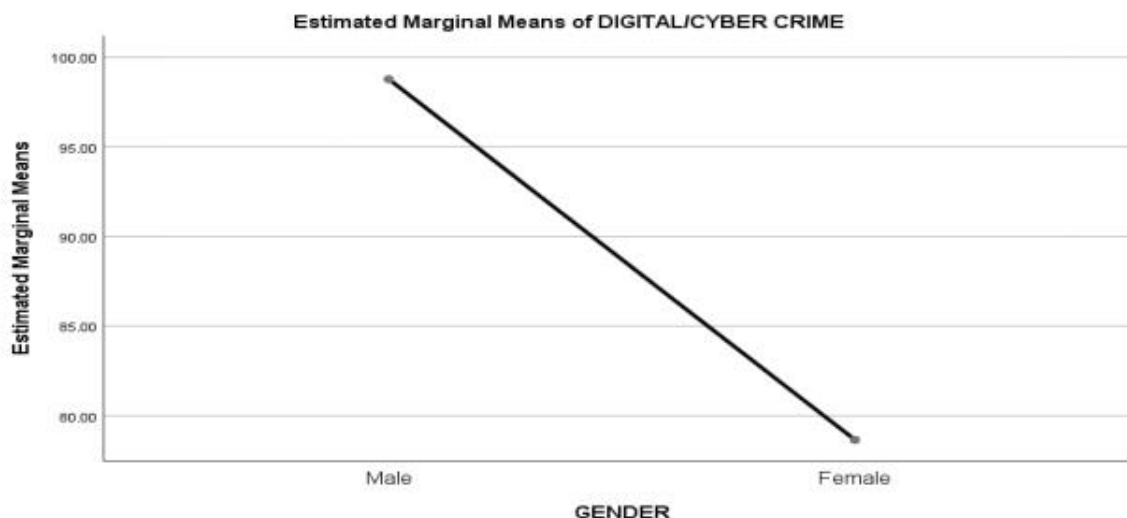
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). SOURCE: Research questionnaire Primary Data

HYPOTHESIS ONE: It states that “intelligence prowess will not have significant positive correlation with digital crime among Nigerian youths”. Table 3 showed that intelligence prowess of Nigerian youths positively but non-significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime ($P > 0.01 < 0.769$, $r = 0.030$, $N = 100$). This rejects the null hypothesis.

HYPOTHESIS TWO: It states that “dimensions of intelligence prowess will not have significant positive correlations with digital crime among Nigerian youths”. The dimensions

of intelligence prowess namely “mental aptitude” ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.767$, $N = 100$), “emotional intelligence” ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.845$, $N = 100$), “social intelligence” ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.862$, $N = 100$), “adversity intelligence” ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.802$, $N = 100$), and “creative intelligence” ($P < 0.01 > 0.000$, $r = 0.841$, $N = 100$) positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime, indicating roles of the dimensions in digital/cybercrime.

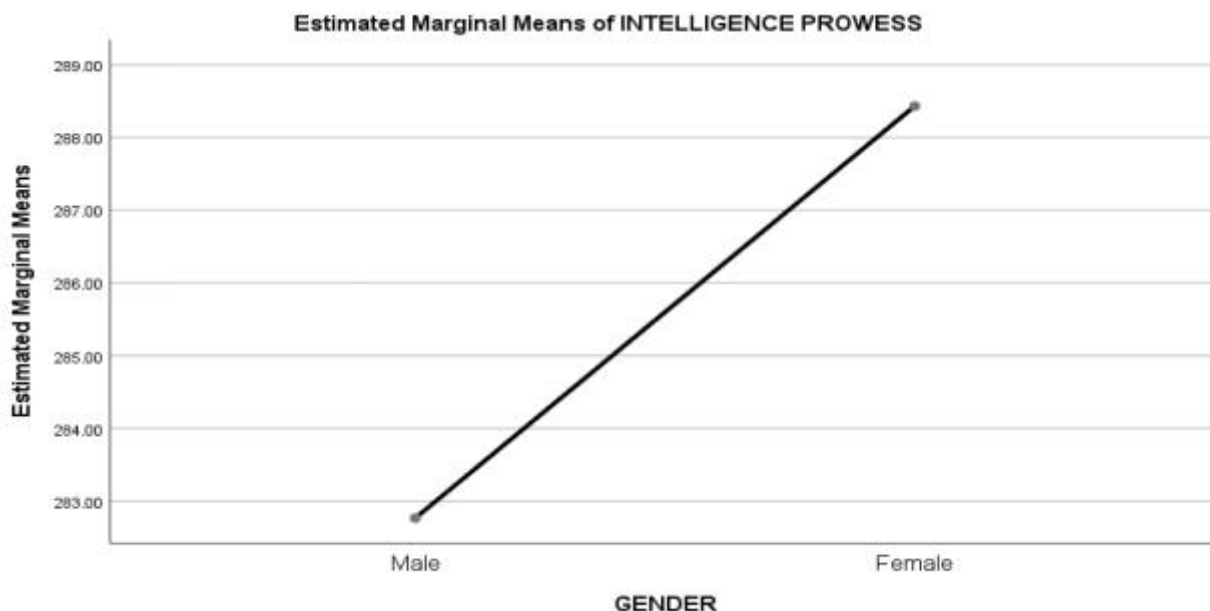
Figure 1: Gender and Digital/Cyber Crime



SOURCE: Research questionnaire Primary Data

Figure 1 showed the male gender (about 98.5 of 150) has more tendency to get involved in digital/cybercrime than the female gender (75 of 150). Table 2 referred.

Figure 2: Gender and Intelligence Prowess



SOURCE: Research questionnaire Primary Data

Figure 2 showed the female gender (285 of 371) exhibited more intelligence than the male gender (280 of 371). Table 2 referred.

Summary of Findings

The following findings were made in the study.

Inferential/Correlation (Hypotheses) Findings

1. Intellectual prowess of Nigerian youths positively but non-significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime.
2. "Mental aptitude" positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime.
3. "Emotional intelligence" positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime.
4. "Social intelligence" positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime.
5. "Adversity intelligence" positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime.
6. "Creative intelligence" positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime.

Descriptive (Fallout) Findings

7. Nigerian youths had very high intellectual prowess.

8. The Nigerian youths' digital/cybercrime was about the average.
9. Male gender had more tendency to get involved in digital/cybercrime than the female gender.
10. Female gender exhibited more intelligence prowess than the male gender.

DISCUSSION

The study investigated intelligence dimensions influencing digital crime among youths in Anambra State, Nigeria. Two hypotheses tested were: Intelligence prowess would not have significant correlation with digital crime among Nigerian youths; and Dimensions of intelligence would not have significant correlations with digital crime among Nigerian youths.

Findings showed that generally, the first hypothesis that intelligence prowess would not have significant correlation with digital crime among Nigerian youths was rejected. This indicates that intelligence prowess of Nigerian youths positively but does not have significant relationship with digital/cybercrime. However, the second hypothesis that dimensions of intelligence would not have significant correlations with digital crime among Nigerian youths was accepted. Consequently, "Mental

Aptitude” as a dimensions of intelligence positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime. “Emotional Intelligence” as a dimensions of intelligence positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime. “Social Intelligence” as a dimensions of intelligence positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime. “Adversity Intelligence” as a dimensions of intelligence positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime. “Creative Intelligence” as a dimensions of intelligence positively and significantly correlated with digital/cybercrime.

Descriptive (Fallout) findings showed that Nigerian youths had very high intellectual prowess. The Nigerian youths’ digital/cybercrime was about the average. Male gender had more tendency to get involved in digital/cybercrime than the female gender. Female gender exhibited more intelligence prowess than the male gender.

This suggests that youths with higher intelligence prowess are more likely to engage in digital crime. Several studies within Nigeria support this finding. Adebayo and Oluwaseun (2022) conducted a study on cognitive abilities and cybercrime among university students in Lagos State. Their findings indicated that students with higher cognitive abilities were more proficient in using digital platforms for illicit activities. Similarly, Ogunleye and Onifade (2021) found a significant correlation between high IQ scores and involvement in online fraud among youths in Ibadan. These youths often viewed digital crime as a challenging and rewarding endeavor, which aligns with their cognitive strengths. Eze and Nwankwo (2020) investigated digital literacy and cybercrime among secondary school students in Anambra State. They discovered that students with higher digital literacy, a component of intelligence prowess, were more inclined to participate in cybercrime.

Adeyemi and Ojo (2023) studied the impact of problem-solving skills on cybercrime activities among youths in Abuja, finding a significant positive correlation between advanced problem-solving skills and the propensity to engage in cybercriminal activities. Ike and Udeh (2021) explored the relationship between logical reasoning abilities and digital

crime among undergraduates in Enugu State. Their study revealed that students with strong logical reasoning skills were more likely to exploit technological vulnerabilities for criminal purposes.

Finally, Nwosu and Okoye (2023) analyzed the connection between high academic performance and cybercrime among youths in Anambra State. They found that high academic achievers were often involved in sophisticated digital crimes, suggesting a link between academic intelligence and cybercrime involvement. These studies collectively are not in consonance with the first hypothesis of the current study, but they correspond with the second hypothesis of the current study.

Implications of the Study

1. Firstly, the study indicates that more intelligent youths are at a higher risk of engaging in cybercriminal activities. This has critical implications for policy-makers and law enforcement agencies. Secondly, the education sector must recognize the importance of integrating cyber security and digital ethics into the curriculum. Schools and universities should provide comprehensive training on the responsible use of technology, emphasizing the ethical implications of digital actions.
2. Furthermore, educators should focus on developing students' problem-solving skills in a way that encourages them to use their abilities for positive and innovative purposes rather than criminal endeavors. Schools and universities should integrate comprehensive cyber security and digital ethics education into their curricula. These programs should focus on the responsible use of technology, emphasizing the legal and ethical implications of digital actions.
3. The study also highlights the necessity for parents and guardians to be more involved in their children's digital lives. Understanding the potential risks associated with high intelligence and access to technology can help parents guide their children towards safe and responsible use of digital tools. Parental awareness and monitoring can play a significant role in

preventing youths from falling into cybercriminal activities.

4. The study's implications extend to the development of more effective prevention and intervention strategies. By understanding the specific dimensions of intelligence that correlate with different types of digital crime, tailored programs can be designed to address these issues more effectively. For instance, youths with high analytical intelligence might benefit from advanced problem-solving workshops, while those with high creative intelligence could be engaged in innovation and entrepreneurship programs that leverage their skills for legitimate purposes.

Limitations of the Study

1. The female participants overwhelmingly outnumbered the male participants, possibly because the researcher is a woman, and had more inclination to approach the feminine gender as respondents.
2. Participants from Anambra State overwhelmingly outnumbered other participants from other States in Nigeria, as the study was conducted in Anambra State, Nigeria.
3. The study focused primarily on intelligence prowess and its dimensions, potentially overlooking other factors that could influence digital crime, such as personality traits, peer influence, or socio-economic status.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and implications of this study, several recommendations are proposed:

1. There is a need to develop targeted intervention programs that focus on youths with high intelligence competence. Such programs could include cyber security education, ethical hacking courses, and workshops on the legal and social consequences of digital crime. By channeling their intelligence towards positive and constructive activities, these youths can be deterred from engaging in illicit online activities.
2. Parents and guardians should be more involved in their children's digital lives.

They should be educated on the risks associated with high intelligence and access to technology and encouraged to monitor and guide their children towards responsible digital behaviour.

3. Law enforcement agencies and policy-makers should develop strategies to identify and prevent cybercrime among intelligent youths. This could involve collaborations with educational institutions to create awareness and prevention programs.

Suggestions for Further Study

1. Future research should explore the underlying motivations and cognitive processes that drive intelligent individuals towards cybercrime. This could involve examining the role of personality traits, peer influence, and socio-economic factors in shaping digital criminal behavior. Additionally, longitudinal studies could provide deeper insights into how intelligence dimensions interact with other variables over time to influence the propensity for digital crime.
2. There is need to expand the sample size and include participants from different regions and socio-economic backgrounds to enhance the generalizability of the findings.

Conclusions

This study has explored intelligence dimensions influencing digital crime among youths in Anambra State, Nigeria. The findings revealed positive but non-significant correlation between intelligence prowess and digital crime. However, micro analyses showed that various dimensions of intelligence significantly correlated with digital crime. The study's implications highlight the need for targeted policy/programme interventions, parental involvement, and the development of comprehensive prevention strategies to curb digital crimes among youths. Future research should continue to explore the psychological, social, and technological factors that influence digital crime, with the goal of developing more effective strategies to address this growing issue. It is possible to harness the potential of intelligent youths for positive contributions to

society while reducing their involvement in digital crime.

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APPENDIX

INTELLIGENCE PROWESS INVENTORY

S/N	TO WHAT EXTENT IS EACH OF THE BELOW STATEMENTS PART OF YOU?	Part of Me to a Great Extent (5)	Part of Me to Some Extent (4)	Occasionally Part of Me (3)	Not Likely Part of Me (2)	Not Part of Me at All (1)
MENTAL APTITUDE						
1.	Memorize things easily.					
2.	Solving Mathematics.					
3.	Recalling things with ease.					
4.	Understanding relationship between concepts with ease.					
5.	Problem-solving ability.					
6.	Being very intuitive.					
7.	Paying attention to an issue.					
8.	Critical thinking for best option.					
9.	Finding solutions to challenges.					
10.	Ability to analyze evidence.					
11.	Solving problems in novel situations.					
12.	Listening actively without interrupting.					
13.	Being very imaginative.					
14.	Ability to absorb new information.					
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE						
15.	Maintaining peace with others.					
16.	Keeping to time.					
17.	Using emotions in positive ways.					
18.	Trying as much as possible to be responsible.					
19.	Striving to be honest always.					
20.	Respecting boundaries of interpersonal relations.					
21.	Communicate effectively with others.					
22.	Ability to defuse (resolve) conflict.					
23.	Capable of overcoming challenges.					
24.	Understanding the feelings of others.					
25.	Trying to be humble.					
26.	Empathize with others.					
27.	Ability to relieve stress.					
28.	Living genuine life.					
29.	Trying to be considerate in in dealing with others.					
30.	Managing emotions in positive ways.					
SOCIAL INTELLIGENC						
31.	Keeping a network of friends.					
32.	Ability to understand one's own actions.					
33.	Capable of creating rapport.					
34.	Possessed skills for successful social interaction.					
35.	Thinking before acting or speaking.					
36.	Ability to understand the actions of others.					
37.	Possessed good interpersonal abilities.					
38.	Voicing your opinion in public.					

39.	Capable of relating freely with the opposite gender.					
40.	Expressing honest opinions in a non-judgmental (non-critical) way.					
41.	Ability to understanding of people easily.					
42.	Maintaining a network of friends over a long period of time.					
43.	Capable of expressing yourself clearly.					
44.	Participating actively in community activities.					
ADVERSITY INTELLIGENCE						
45.	Capable of going through a rough patch in life with ease.					
46.	Viewing difficulties in tasks as challenges that must be accomplished.					
47.	Capable of coming out of difficult situations without losing my mind.					
48.	Being very persistent despite all odds.					
49.	Not perceiving difficulties as obstacles.					
50.	Sustaining performance to actualize a goal.					
51.	Not being overwhelmed by feeling of helplessness.					
52.	Managing misfortunes without losing focus.					
53.	Maintaining positive view of every situation.					
54.	Not surrendering yourself to despair.					
55.	Ability to effectively evaluate and handle situations.					
56.	Making the best use of your potential.					
57.	Having high level of motivation to accomplish task.					
58.	Ability to overcome fear.					
59.	Ability to withstand adverse challenges.					
CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE						
60.	Ability to generate and pursue novel ideas with vigor.					
61.	Good at creating tasks.					
62.	Ability to formulate new ways of doing something.					
63.	Create my own way of achieving a goal successfully.					
64.	Very innovative in nature.					
65.	Don't mind breaking rules to achieve what is noble.					
66.	Love experimenting ideas.					
67.	Taking risks to actualize a goal.					
68.	Not worried about mistakes trying to achieve what is novel (new).					
69.	Very spontaneous with ideas.					
70.	Never a believer in luck.					
71.	Being driven by high sense of inspiration.					
72.	Seeing creativity as part of fun.					
73.	Being very inventive.					
74.	Very purposeful in endeavours.					
75.	Nurturing ideas to fruition.					

SOURCE: Nwankwo, O. D., (2026). Department of Psychology. Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, Anambra State, Nigeria.

DIGITAL/CYBER CRIME SCALE

	RESPOND TO THE BELOW STATEMENTS AS THEY APPLY TO YOU.	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Occasionally (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1.	I don't care if someone becomes a victim of my cyber behaviour.					
2.	Digital crimes are really paying well.					
3.	I engage in phishing.					
4.	I am very conversant with how to do hacking.					
5.	I engage in identity theft.					
6.	It is easy for me to access someone's email password.					
7.	The Police or EFCC can't stop me from engaging in yahoo business (cybercrime).					
8.	I don't mind engaging in digital crimes to cope with high unemployment in Nigeria.					
9.	People who can't protect themselves from digital crimes are usually my victims.					
10.	I can never report anybody who engages in cybercrime to the Police or EFCC.					
11.	I admire those who make money from yahoo business (digital crime).					
12.	Being conversant with weaknesses of social media helps me to get others' secret.					
13.	In Nigeria, cyber criminals are ready to risk any strict cybercrime laws.					
14.	Weak cyber security measures offer me opportunity to exploit people online.					
15.	Lack of awareness and education make a person vulnerable to digital crimes.					
16.	I maximize advancement in technology to get whatever I want using computer.					
17.	Online banking offers opportunity for me to target careless individuals.					
18.	Social media usage makes it easy for me to access secret information of others.					
19.	Online shopping makes it possible for me to buying things without paying for them.					
20.	I can download files or software without the owner being aware.					
21.	Email communication is used to get the trust of unsuspecting individuals.					
22.	Online gaming has become very lucrative for me.					
23.	So far I make my money, I am not bothered by any penalties for cybercrime.					
24.	I don't even want to know of any cybercrime laws implemented in my country.					
25.	No amount of public awareness can stop people from being victims of cybercrime.					
26.	Yahoo business (cybercrime) is a way of creating wealth for Nigerian youths.					
27.	I am confident in my ability to enter into any cyber site I want.					
28.	Political looting influence Nigerian youths to engage in digital crimes.					
29.	Digital crimes can't stop so far majority of Nigerian youths remain unemployed.					
30.	I can freely insult people online.					
31.	Accessing other people's secret information online is like a hobby to me.					

SOURCE: Nwankwo, O. D., (2026). Department of Psychology. Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, Anambra State, Nigeria.