



Crime Investigation and Challenges of Private Detectives in Osogbo Local Government of Osun State, Nigeria

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Abstract

In Nigeria, there has been a significant increase in crime and insecurity over the past decade, with the country experiencing rising rates of various crimes. Despite advancements in investigative disciplines and the reliance on crime scene experts, unresolved criminal cases remain a common issue. This study investigates private detectives' roles, challenges, and relationships within Oshogbo Local Government Area, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to examine the role of private detectives in crime investigation, identify the approaches employed by private detectives to solve criminal cases, identify the various challenges faced by private detectives during crime investigations, assess the relationship between private detective agencies and public law enforcement bodies. Utilizing a quantitative research design, data was collected through structured questionnaires administered to a purposively selected sample of 20 private detectives. The study employed descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and independent samples t-tests. The theoretical framework is based on situational hypothetical systems and rational theory, suggesting that crime prevention strategies must address the specific situational factors contributing to crime. Results revealed that private detectives play a significant role in evidence gathering and enhancing investigation efficiency. Limited access to public records, financial constraints, and logistical challenges in accessing crime scenes remain challenges to investigations. Also, cooperative relationships between private detectives and law enforcement agencies, though these are tempered by challenges in information sharing. The study recommended the need to improve local record accessibility, adequate funding, enhanced training, development programs for private detectives and general improvement in technological infrastructure would aid investigation.

Keywords: Detectives, Crime, Investigation, Constraints, Enforcement

Introduction

Investigation is a multidisciplinary term used to uncover the unknown knowledge. The word 'investigation' covers many disciplines, each with its own methods and variety of techniques. The main goal of investigation in science is to gather facts and to make right decisions based on evidence (Cardinetti and Cammarota, 2005). The origins of crime scene investigation can be traced back to as early as 1750 when Henry Fielding established a group of volunteers known as the "Bow Street Runners" in London. These volunteers responded quickly to report crimes and conducted investigations (Swanson et al., 2003). Today, investigations heavily depend on crime

scene experts to collect clues and evidence that are essential for establishing both the occurrence of a crime and the involvement of suspects.

A private detective is an individual who provides investigatory services to individuals, companies, organizations, or government agencies. Unlike government detectives, such as police officers, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officers, Intelligence Bureau (IB) officers, and Military Intelligence officers, private detectives are paid by clients who enlist their services (Mudhol, 2024). Throughout the world, unresolved



criminal cases are a universal issue. Brazil, over 60,000 unsolved murders in single decade United States and European nations range from 70 to 80 % (Garcia-Navarro, 2016). Nigeria has a high rate of unsolved crimes, with many cases remaining uninvestigated and unprosecuted (Toolin et al., 2022). Poor forensic investigation and lack of technology are major challenges in solving crimes in Nigeria (Nte, 2012; Oni, 2022). The country's judicial system has also been criticized for its slow pace, with many cases taking years to be resolved (Amnesty International, 2021).

Despite the Nigerian police force being tasked with maintaining law and order, their efforts in combating crime and protecting lives and property have often been insufficient (Olumbe 2012; Nte, 2012). Consequently, there has been a significant decline in the capabilities of private investigation of the Nigerian police and other security agencies. More specifically, the private investigation industry in Nigeria has faced significant challenges in recent years, leading to a decline in its capabilities (Musa & Antwi-Boateng, 2023; Nwokolo et al., 2023). Corruption is also a significant problem in Nigeria, and private investigators are not immune to it (Musa & Antwi-Boateng, 2023; Chinwokwu & Igbo, 2018). Many private investigators have limited access to technology, funding, and other resources, making it difficult for them to conduct effective investigations. Police records lacking substantial criminal evidence are largely ineffective due to many criminals avoid detection due to the frequent changes in their names and appearances (Otu, 2018).

The Problem

In Nigeria, data suggests a remarkable increase in crime and insecurity over the past decades (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2005). The efficiency of criminal investigations in Nigeria is challenged by various factors. Despite advancements in investigation disciplines and the reliance on crime scene experts, unresolved criminal cases remain a common issue. This challenge is worsened by the inadequacies within the Nigerian police force and the heavy reliance on traditional investigative practices (Khalila, 2014). The absence of a

dedicated coroner, coupled with the reliance on police officers for death-related investigations, leads to delays and inefficiencies in completing inquiries, particularly regarding criminal or suspicious deaths. The searchlight on the challenges of investigation in Osogbo is oblivious in the literature, consequently created a lacuna. Therefore, there is a persuasive need to explore the role and significance of private detectives in crime investigation within the Osogbo Local Government Area, identify the specific challenges they face, and determine their relationship with public law enforcement agencies to address these systemic issues and enhance the effectiveness of criminal investigations in the region.

Objectives of the Study

This study sought to extrapolate the challenges of private investigators in Osogbo local government of Osun State but specifically to unravel the following:

1. To examine the role of private detectives in crime investigation.
2. To Identify approaches employed by private detectives to solve criminal cases.
3. To identify various challenges faced by private detectives during crime investigations.
4. To assess relationship between private detective agencies and public law enforcement bodies.

Literature Review

Private Detectives and Their Functions

Private detectives are business-oriented organizations that offer investigative services, including uniformed manned-guard protection, to individuals, non-governmental bodies, and government agencies in exchange for payment (Gumedze, 2007). It is essential to distinguish between registered and licensed private detectives. While all private detectives may be registered, not all are licensed to provide uniformed security guards. The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) issues licenses to private detectives that meet specific requirements, allowing them to operate as manned private security companies. Therefore, classifying private detectives solely based on registration can be misleading. A more accurate classification would consider both registration



CSI officers, equipment shortages, and difficulties exacerbated by the Israeli occupation. Issues such as the collection, transportation, and storage of forensic evidence were particularly problematic. Additionally, overlapping responsibilities and coordination difficulties among specialized agencies operating at crime scenes were identified as areas requiring further investigation. The study urges decision-makers within Palestinian police agencies to prioritize efforts aimed at addressing the significant challenges encountered by workers at crime scenes.

Role of Private Detectives in Nigeria

The need to engage the service of private investigators in the wave of increase in criminality in Nigeria is overdue (Abdullahi, 2019). London started in earnest far back 1750 (Swanson et al., 2003), China in the 17th century (Owen, 2000). However, it wasn't until the 1970s that crime scene testing gained popularity. In the 1970s, a number of court decisions made it difficult for investigators to use standard questioning techniques, so scientists and researchers had to look elsewhere for information. During this new development, investigators realized that there was a lot of information at the crime scene.

Accordingly, today's trials rely heavily on crime scene experts to gather testimony and evidence to demonstrate the suspect's guilt and contribution (Lee et al., 2001; Burrows et al., 2005). A private investigator testifies in court using a quantitative approach to assess the strength of evidence whenever possible. Officials or appointed jurors use the statements of potential jurors as a guide for thinking and voting. Therefore, a forensic examination is an observer who presents the data to be tested and expresses his own opinion based on the factual data; people who do not support. To be effective, testimony must be accurately documented and presented in an unbiased and objective manner. Specific recommendations that consider forensic, criminal, legal and judicial perspectives should be used to develop technical concepts. Such special opinions should be expressed in layman's language that can be understood by the agency and the appointed attorney (Taroni et al., 2004). Evidence from the

UK clearly shows that more evidence from crime scenes helps identify more suspects. That quantitative evidence can link multiple crimes through conscious acts certainly has a multiplier effect. However, this can be used where covert policing and testing are used within an organization (Ribaux et al., 2009).

In Nigeria, experts have linked Nigeria's law enforcement base to its failure to issue private forensic tests that clearly show evidence of wrongdoing (Oladele, 2006 Ngboawaji, 2012).

Evidence collection begins at the crime scene because it includes both open and confidential information, and experts must be careful to collect all evidence (Bride, 2004; Gaze et al., 2004). Each piece of evidence must be recognized, collected, and protected as a different element (Van Niekrek, 2000; Fisher, 2004). A crime scene examiner may not be able to identify and accurately identify clues, record public relations, assign appropriate skills, and process evaluation findings to extend the scope of the situation. It can happen where long periods of hard work do not achieve ideal results (Adams et al., 2004). Abrahamsen (2011) has shown that it is not the police, but the association involved in the prevention of illegal acts against the public association or office. Florquin (2011) sees Clandestine security organizations as legitimate businesses that provide security in legally enforced buildings. Especially, as shown by Inyang et al. (2014), Private security in Nigeria consists of night watchman training. A number of commonly cited definitions are reviewed below. Covert security is defined as "a large number of private associations and individuals that provide administration of all matters related to security, including surveillance, surveillance, control, detection, surveillance, and hard-cover transportation" (Kakalik and Wildhorn, 1971b). A general view of many of this management, as the review puts it, "misidentification and resistance" (p. 18). Hallcrest argued that the broad definition of private security, which includes real information and more precisely defines the roles and responsibilities of work-related security, has challenged the label "secret police" used by



and licensing (Kasali, 2011). Green (1981) defines private detectives as individuals and organizations, excluding formal policing agencies, that prevent and control crime, loss, or harm for their clients.

Overview of the Past Related Studies

Hounmenou and Toepp (2023) investigated the potential for collaboration between private investigation agencies (PIAs) and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in addressing human trafficking cases. They recognize the challenges LEAs face in investigating human trafficking and propose exploring non-traditional partnerships to enhance investigative strategies. Through a mixed research method design, the study surveyed 81 PIAs and conducted follow-up interviews with 28 of them who reported collaborating with LEAs on human trafficking investigations. The findings reveal varying levels of success and challenges for PIAs engaged in collaboration with LEAs. Challenges identified include LEAs' misperceptions of private investigators, their tendency to focus more on criminal approaches rather than victim-centered ones, and legal or ethical limitations. Despite these challenges, the study discusses the positive aspects of PIA-LEA partnerships and strategies to address collaboration difficulties.

King (2020) investigated the role of private investigators in financial crimes in Australia. He identified the difficulties of regulating this profession, especially when it comes to financial crimes. It explores how the different backgrounds of investigators can make things complicated and influence how the industry becomes more professional. The article presents findings from in-depth interviews with 33 Australian private investigators from Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. It explores their current role, focusing on their contributions to justice, public policing, and the challenges they face in terms of regulation. Lee et al. (2014) studied the factors influencing whether citizens opt to hire private investigators (PIs) to handle their criminal or civil matters. The study uniquely examines citizens' traits and attitudes toward both police. Their findings reveal that

citizens' desire for personalized justice plays a significant role in their decision to hire PIs for different types of cases. Interestingly, the study also shows that citizens who are more satisfied with the work of public police are less likely to consider hiring PIs for their cases.

Miller et al. (2023) conducts a survey aiming to understand the challenges prosecutors and investigators face when dealing with digital evidence in criminal cases. These challenges include keeping up with rapidly evolving technology, effectively communicating these changes to stakeholders, and navigating the complex landscape of electronic data privacy. The survey, which includes responses from 50 United States-based prosecutors and 51 investigators, sheds light on key issues affecting the admissibility of digital evidence in court and its proper handling during trials. It also explores how these challenges impact the charging and resolution of criminal cases. Findings from the survey underscore the importance of training, specialized prosecutors in digital evidence matters, and strong relationships between prosecutors and investigators in successfully handling digital evidence in criminal proceedings. Meerts (2023) explores the rising trend of private efforts by organizations to combat internal economic crime. The study examined the factors such as strains on the criminal justice system and mismatches between criminal justice solutions and commercial interests. At the heart of this evolution are "corporate investigators," who play a pivotal role in providing investigative services and facilitating private resolutions for internal economic crime matters. This reliance on private entities for economic crime control raises concerns about the potential implications, especially as it operates largely outside the traditional oversight of law enforcement agencies. Through a combination of the author's own research and insights from international literature, the study investigates the broader implications of chosen research trend.

Khalilia et al. (2024) noted while investigating Palestinian crime scene investigators that several challenge include training deficiencies among



wrongdoing. (Maguire et al., 1997). Accordingly, two broad approaches to wrongdoing can be recognized; (a) focus on design and (b) awareness or situation. Two hypotheses are adopted as the hypothesis system. These assumptions, despite their shortcomings, make the work of PSCs (Problem Solving Courts) in crime prevention more meaningful than other theories.

Accordingly, the normal behavior hypothesis suggests that three components must be present for maladaptive events to occur. These components are; A wake-up call is the guilty party, natural loss, and the lack of a skilled guard. Felson (1993) found that persistent mobility and financial fluctuations increase the appropriate target for property theft in particular. The use of the hypothesis of continuous action is considered useful in cases where the perpetrator is inspired to be forced to engage targets that are otherwise inaccessible or controlled by skilled security officers or security devices (such as heavy fences) and police etc. Rational choice is the second theory. Hence the assumption that criminals are intelligent; they subject their victims to a logical or rational thought process in order to maximize their profits. The location and important information about the victims are also considered together to show the will of the haters. As valuable as the use of the objective decision hypothesis in this work, the presence of a skilled supervisor can harm the perpetrator more than the perpetrator if it is not part of the calculation of the skilled supervisor, and this context can make it more difficult to cover the military or police sleeping area. (Eck, J., & Weisburd, D. 2007)

Methodology

Research Design

This study employs an explanatory research design based on quantitative data collection, which involves the systematic collection and analysis of numerical data. The quantitative approach was selected for its ability to objectively measure variables and identify patterns and relationships within the data (Polit & Beck, 2010 Florczak, 2021; Ghanad, 2023). Quantitative research is characterized by its use of structured tools, such as surveys and questionnaires, to

gather measurable data that can be analyzed statistically (Mohajan, 2020; Kotronoulas et al., 2023). This design is particularly suitable for the following reasons:

Study Location

This study is concentrated exclusively on Osogbo Local Government Area (LGA), situated within Osun State, Nigeria. Oshogbo city serves as the administrative headquarters for both Oshogbo LGA and Olorunda LGA which is located centrally within the state

Population of the Study

This study targets all private detectives actively engaged in investigative work within the Oshogbo Local Government Area. Private detectives are defined as individuals who conduct investigative activities through private detective agencies including those who are self-employed or employed by such agencies. The study used the following inclusion and exclusion criteria:

This study employs convenience sampling to select participants from the population of private detectives in the Oshogbo Local Government Area. Convenience sampling is chosen for its practicality and accessibility which allows the researcher to select participants based on their availability and willingness to participate (Andrade, 2020). Participants are approached directly within the local community to ensure ease of access and cooperation. Furthermore, the sample size for this study is set at 20 ($n = 20$) private detectives. This size is selected to provide a focused exploration of the roles, challenges, and relationships within this specific group operating in Oshogbo LGA. By focusing on a manageable sample size, the study aims to gather detailed insights into the experiences of private detectives by considering various factors such as their years of experience, types of investigative work, and employment status (e.g., self-employed, agency-employed).

Instrument for Data Collection

This study utilizes a structured questionnaire as the primary instrument for data collection from private detectives operating within the Oshogbo Local Government Area. The questionnaire is



Kakalik and Wildhorn (1971b). Base and Kostanoski (1983) stated that personal security is a guarantee against wrongdoing.

Challenges in Discrimination of Private Security Guards in Nigeria

According to Kasali (2010), the problem with private security guards in Nigeria is lack of education. Most secret security organizations tend to appoint people with little or no training as gatekeepers. Most private security personnel are trained without a good understanding of various areas of security training, including intelligence and intelligence, hand-to-hand combat, mass surveillance, insurgency control, data mining, and robotics. Invalid mean test, pair reference. This problem is not unique to unregistered security firms, and many large and registered security firms have a strong interest in regular security guard training; all they care about is making a profit. This problem has led to the incompetence and failure of many covert gatekeeper exercises in Nigeria. There is also the issue of poor wages and working conditions being one of the main factors hindering the effectiveness of covert security training in the country (Madensen, 2009).

Despite the high cost of living, many secret security personnel receive a monthly compensation of N6,000,000 equitant to US\$40 (Abrahamsen and Williams, 2005). Unfortunately, the government never considered the importance of focusing on government assistance to the monitors sent by some of the state's secret security agencies on the principle of private security. However, one cannot agree with random government agencies that all clandestine security firms can not affect the work of government-aided gatekeepers, because not all of them, but the fact that both registered and unregistered companies are guilty of pauperizing gatekeepers. Many confidential unregistered firms "choose to pay by the hour based on individual contract rates, with almost the same hours paid at different rates depending on where the organization is assigned" (Williams & Abrahamsen, 2005). Results in poor performance and lack of commitment to the firm among others

(Casali, 2010).

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts Situational Hypothetical System and Rational Theory by Pease (1994). Pease argued that a basic proposition of natural criminology is that the amount, type, and location of crime affect the nature of the opportunity for crime. Importantly, as Pease (1994) points out, "all theories of crime are theories of crime Prevention. Because hypotheses identify sources of error, they tell us what conditions need to be corrected to make them straightforward. In this way, ecological researchers argue that they focus on discourse rather than 'chance theory.' From this concept, which he defined as "prevention of the situation" in many ideas about the criminal origin, it is worth noting some facts about how to successfully defend the behavior of the guilty parties in addition to that, this attitude is caused by financial inequality, confusion or inability in the local area to address cultural factors such as difficult education (Wilson, 1975). For this purpose, the perspective of "avoiding wrongdoing" is also given to the case that the wrongdoing occurs in a random place, or that the wrongdoing occurs higher in some neighborhoods than others. Environmental criminology, on the other hand, is concerned with more ambiguous areas. So, even in the worst area, some points are misbehaving. Behavior becomes a minor offence when the state punishes it. Crime prevention is part of prevention. Components that lead to crime. Maguire, Morgan, and Reiner (1997) argued that the analysis of crime stands in three standards, considering several approaches to prevent mistakes among the public. Since malpractice consists of a variety of behaviors, we should not search extensively for prevention strategies. It is a crime because the act of one does not mean that the most effective form of control is the police and the courts. Real behavior needs to be understood to determine which changes can best be achieved. The level of criminal justice is morally dangerous. A society that prevents more wrongdoing is not necessarily a happy society. The weight and constraints that force people to avoid crime must be offset by crime to the forest. Presumption of wrongdoing is a presumption to prevent



The study found that private detectives play a key role in crime investigation, primarily through evidence gathering and enhancing the overall efficiency of investigations. Their contributions are integral to addressing the complexities of criminal cases by providing specialized services that complement those of law enforcement agencies. This aligns with Mudhol (2024), who underscores the complementary role of private detectives in the criminal justice system, and Button et al. (2022), who highlight their importance in investigating complex cases where law enforcement resources may be limited. The theoretical framework of the Situational Hypothetical System (SHS) supports these findings by suggesting that private detectives address the situational aspects of crime, which enhances their effectiveness in gathering evidence and solving cases (Pease, 1994). Additionally, the Rational Choice Theory explains how private detectives' strategic investigations interrupt the rational decision-making process of criminals, thereby influencing their behavior and contributing to more effective crime resolution (Felson, 1993). This theoretical perspective reinforces the significance of private detectives in enhancing investigative processes and supports their continued integration into broader crime-fighting efforts.

Table 2 : Perception regarding Role of Private Detectives in Crime Investigation in LGA

Statement		N	n%
Private detective plays a crucial role in gathering evidence	Strongly Disagree	1	5.0%
	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	3	15.0%
	Agree	6	30.0%
	Strongly Agree	8	40.0%
The expertise of private detectives enhances the efficiency of investigations	strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
	Disagree	1	5.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	11	55.0%
	Strongly Agree	6	30.0%
Private detectives provide specialized services tailored to individual case	Strongly Disagree	1	5.0%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	13	65.0%
	Strongly Agree	4	20.0%
Private detectives often discover critical information inaccessible to law enforcement	Strongly Disagree	3	15.0%
	Disagree	1	5.0%
	Neutral	4	20.0%

critical information inaccessible to law enforcement	Disagree	1	5.0%
	Neutral	4	20.0%
	Agree	9	45.0%
	Strongly Agree	3	15.0%
Private detectives contribute significantly to maintaining public safety	Strongly Disagree	2	10.0%
	Disagree	1	5.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	14	70.0%
Private detectives play a vital role in upholding justice	Strongly Agree	1	5.0%
	Strongly Disagree	1	5.3%
	Disagree	3	15.8%
	Neutral	4	21.1%
	Agree	10	52.6%
	Strongly Agree	1	5.3%

Note: n = 20

Figure 1: Role of Private Detectives in discovering critical information inaccessible to law enforcement

Figure 2: Role of Private Detectives in maintaining public safety

The Table 3 presents perception scores of the role of private detectives among male and female participants. Male participants have a mean perception score of 21.64 (SD = 5.35), while female participants have a slightly higher mean score of 22.75 (SD = 2.55). An independent samples t-test is conducted to compare these scores and found that there is no significant differences in perception scores regarding role of provide detectives between male and female, $t(17) = -.54, p = .595, 95\% \text{ CI} [-5.45, 3.22]$.

Table 3 : Gender Differences in Perception Scores of the Role of Private Detectives

Outcome	Male		Female		df	95% CI	t
	M	SD	M	SD			
Role Score	21.64	5.35	22.75	2.55	17	[-5.45, 3.22]	-.54

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$, df = Degrees of Freedom.

Objective-II: Approaches employed by Private Detectives in Crime Investigation

The Table 4 summarizes participants' perceptions of various approaches and strategies employed by private detectives in crime investigation within the Local Government Area (LGA). The results revealed that more than half of



designed to gather information regarding various aspects of private detective's roles, challenges, and relationships within the context of crime investigation. The questionnaire was meticulously crafted to align with the study's focus on private detectives in Oshogbo LGA

Method of Data Collection

Data collection for this study involves visiting private detectives within the Oshogbo Local Government Area (LGA) and administering the structured questionnaire to willing participants. Private detectives' workplaces or selected locations are visited based on convenience sampling. Each participant is briefed on the study's purpose and invited to voluntarily participate. They receive the questionnaire and are provided with time to complete it independently. Support is offered to address any queries they may have.

Additionally, the confidentiality of participant responses is strictly maintained to uphold anonymity. Personal identifiers are omitted from the questionnaire to protect privacy and encourage honest responses. Data integrity is ensured through particular recording of responses and verification of questionnaire completeness before concluding each session. Stored securely, the data is accessible only to authorized personnel involved in subsequent analysis.

Methods of Data Analysis

Data analysis for this study primarily involves employing descriptive statistics, graphical representation, and correlational analysis to explore the findings derived from the structured questionnaire administered to private detectives in Oshogbo Local Government Area. Descriptive statistics are utilized extensively to summarize the responses gathered through the Likert scale questions in the questionnaire. This includes calculating frequencies and percentages for each section that provided a clear overview of private detectives' perceptions regarding their roles in crime investigation, the challenges they encounter, the approaches they employ, and as well as their relationships with law enforcement agencies.

Participants Demographic Information

The results of demographic characteristics of the study participants provided some important information regarding respondents participated in the study. The study shows the majority of the participants in the study are male (60%, n = 12). Regarding educational background of the respondents, more than half of the participants hold a Bachelor's Degree (60%, n = 12) with a quarter having a Master's Degree (25%, n = 5). In terms of experience in investigation, a majority proportion of participants have 11-15 years of experience (40%, n = 8), followed by those with 1-5 years of experience (25%, n = 5), less than 1 year or more than 15 years of experience (each 15%, n = 3), and 6-10 years of experience (5%, n = 1). All participants are employed in detective agencies (100%, n = 19). Regarding the frequency of detective work, the majority of participants engage in detective work as their main activity (60%, n = 12), while others do so regularly besides other activities (15%, n = 3) or occasionally besides other activities (25%, n = 5) (see Table 1).

Objective-I: Role of Private Detectives in Crime Investigation

Participants' responses to statements about the role of private detectives reveal different trends and levels of agreement. The results revealed that majority of the participants shows agreement with the view that private detectives play a crucial role in gathering evidence (70.0%, n = 14). More than third-fourths of the participants believe that the expertise of private detectives enhances the efficiency of investigations (85.0%, n = 17). Furthermore, a significant portion of participants acknowledge that private detectives provide specialized services tailored to individual cases (85.0%, n = 17). Many respondents also recognize the ability of private detectives to discover critical information inaccessible to law enforcement (60.0%, n = 12). Moreover, a majority of the respondents agree that private detectives contribute significantly to maintaining public safety (75.0%, n = 15). However, opinions are more divided regarding the role of private detectives in upholding justice, with just over half of respondents (57.9%, n = 11) affirming this contribution (see Table 2)



the participants generally disagree that private detectives employ a variety of investigation techniques (55.0%, n = 11). A majority of the respondents agree that collaboration with informants and witnesses is a key strategy (70.0%, n = 14). Maximum participants believe that private detectives leverage technology such as GPS tracking and forensics (55.0%, n = 11). Furthermore, third-fifths of the participants agrees that building a bond with clients and understanding their needs is essential (60.0%, n = 12). Maximum participants overwhelmingly agree that private detectives often work collaboratively with law enforcement (70.0%, n = 14). More than third-fifths of the participants agree that adapting investigative methods to different cases is crucial for success (65.0%, n = 13). Additionally, majority respondents agree that utilizing open-source intelligence is an effective investigative approach (70.0%, n = 14).

The analysis revealed that private detectives employ a range of strategies and tools in their investigative work, including collaboration with informants, leveraging technological advancements such as GPS tracking, and adapting their methods to various cases. These approaches are consistent with the findings of Nilendu (2024), who emphasizes the importance of adaptive investigative techniques in the evolving landscape of crime. The use of technology and informants as key strategies is supported by Hounmenou & Toepp (2023), who note that integrating technological tools and human intelligence significantly enhances investigative capabilities. From the perspective of the Situational Hypothetical System (SHS), these strategies reflect an understanding of situational crime prevention, where private detectives address the specific conditions and opportunities for crime (Pease, 1994). Rational Choice Theory also provides insight into these strategies, as it suggests that criminals assess the risks and benefits of their actions; thus, the adoption of advanced tools and collaborative methods by private detectives serves to increase the perceived risks for criminals and improves the likelihood of successful investigations (Felson, 1993).

Table 3 : Perception regarding Approaches/Strategies employed by Private Detectives in Crime Investigation in LGA

<i>Statement</i>		<i>N</i>	<i>n%</i>
Limited access to public records hinders progress in investigations	Strongly Disagree	1	5.0%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Neutral	4	20.0%
	Agree	11	55.0%
Financial constraints limit resources for comprehensive investigation	Strongly Disagree	4	20.0%
	Disagree	1	5.0%
	Neutral	0	0.0%
	Agree	4	20.0%
Challenges in accessing crime scenes and conducting interviews exist	Strongly Disagree	10	50.0%
	Disagree	5	25.0%
	Neutral	4	20.0%
	Agree	1	5.0%
Staying updated with evolving technology presents challenges	Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	3	15.0%
	Agree	12	60.0%
Maintaining confidentiality and discretion poses significant challenges	Strongly Disagree	1	5.0%
	Disagree	3	15.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	10	50.0%
Navigating legal and regulatory restrictions can be complex	Strongly Disagree	2	10.0%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	10	50.0%
Balancing multiple cases simultaneously adds to the workload	Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
	Disagree	1	5.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	14	70.0%
	Strongly Disagree	3	15.0%
	Disagree		
	Neutral		
	Agree		

Figure 3: Perception regarding private detective's leverages technology such as GPS tracking and forensics

Figure 4: Perception regarding Utilizing open-source intelligence is an effective investigative approach



The Table 5 presents perceptions score of the various approaches and strategies employed by private detectives in crime investigation among male and female participants. Male participants have a mean perception score of 26.50 (SD = 6.07), while female participants have a slightly higher mean score of 27.88 (SD = 3.60). An independent samples t-test is conducted to compare these scores and found that there is no significant differences in perception scores regarding various approaches and strategies employed by private detectives in crime investigation between male and female, $t(18) = -.57, p = .573, 95\% \text{ CI} [-6.41, 3.66]$.

Table 5 : Gender Differences in Perception Scores regarding various approaches and strategies employed by private detectives in crime investigation

Outcome	Male		Female		df	95% CI	t
	M	SD	M	SD			
Challenges Score	25.42	5.81	27.63	2.82	18	[-6.88, 2.46]	-.99

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$, df = Degrees of Freedom.

Objective-III: Challenges Faced by Private Detectives in in Crime Investigation

Participants' perceptions regarding the challenges faced by private detectives in crime investigation highlight several significant areas of concern. The analysis showed that more than half of the participants agree that limited access to public records hinders progress in investigations (55.0%, $n = 11$). Half of the participants showed agreement with statement that financial constraints limit resources for comprehensive investigations (50.0%, $n = 10$). Additionally, most participants agree that challenges exist in accessing crime scenes and conducting interviews (70.0%, $n = 14$). Furthermore, more than half of the participants agree that staying updated with evolving technology presents challenges (60.0%, $n = 12$). Whereas, half of the participants agree that maintaining confidentiality and discretion

poses significant challenges (50.0%, $n = 10$). Maximum number of participants agree that navigating legal and regulatory restrictions can be complex (50.0%, $n = 10$). Also, most of the participants generally agree that balancing multiple cases simultaneously adds to the workload (70.0%, $n = 14$) (see Table 6).

The study identified several significant challenges faced by private detectives, including limited access to public records, financial constraints, and logistical issues in accessing crime scenes. These challenges are consistent with previous research by Button et al. (2022) and King (2022), which highlights the persistent barriers faced by private detectives in their operations. Limited access to public records impedes the ability of private detectives to gather comprehensive evidence, while financial constraints restrict the resources available for thorough investigations. Logistical challenges, such as difficulties in accessing crime scenes, further complicate the investigative process. These findings align with the Situational Hypothetical System (SHS), which suggests that effective crime prevention requires addressing these situational obstacles (Pease, 1994).

Additionally, the Rational Choice Theory underscores the impact of resource limitations on the effectiveness of private detectives, as insufficient resources can lower the perceived risks for criminals and hinder successful outcomes (Felson, 1993). Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts between private detective agencies, regulatory bodies, and law enforcement to improve access to resources and streamline investigative processes, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of crime investigations.



Table 6: Perception regarding Challenges Faced by Private Detectives in in Crime Investigation

Statement		N	n%
Limited access to public records hinders progress in investigations	Strongly Disagree	1	5.0%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Neutral	4	20.0%
	Agree	11	55.0%
Financial constraints limit resources for comprehensive investigation	Strongly Agree	4	20.0%
	Strongly Disagree	1	5.0%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Neutral	4	20.0%
Challenges in accessing crime scenes and conducting interviews exist	Agree	10	50.0%
	Strongly Agree	5	25.0%
	Strongly Disagree	1	5.0%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
Staying updated with evolving technology presents challenges	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	14	70.0%
	Strongly Agree	3	15.0%
	Strongly Disagree	2	10.0%
Maintaining confidentiality and discretion poses significant challenges	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	3	15.0%
	Agree	10	50.0%
	Strongly Agree	2	10.0%
Navigating legal and regulatory restrictions can be complex	Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	10	50.0%
Balancing multiple cases simultaneously adds to the workload	Strongly Agree	6	30.0%
	Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
	Disagree	1	5.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	14	70.0%
	Strongly Agree	3	15.0%

Note: n = 20

Figure 5: Responses regarding financial constraints limit resources for comprehensive investigation

Figure 6: Responses regarding limited access to public records hinders progress in investigations

The Table 7 presents perceptions score of challenges faced by private detectives in in crime investigation among male and female participants. Male participants have a mean perception score of 25.42 (SD = 5.81), while female participants have a slightly higher mean score of 27.63 (SD = 2.83). An independent samples t-test is conducted to compare these scores and found that there is no significant differences in perception scores regarding challenges faced by private detectives in in crime investigation between male and female, $t(18) = -.99, p = .334, 95\% \text{ CI} [-6.88, 2.46]$.

Table 6: Gender Differences in Perception Scores regarding Challenges faced by Private Detectives in Crime Investigation

Outcome	Male		Female		df	95% CI	t
	M	SD	M	SD			
Challenges Score	25.42	5.81	27.63	2.82	18	[-6.88, 2.46]	-.99

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$, df = Degrees of Freedom.

Objective-IV: Relationship between Private Detectives and Public Law Enforcement Agencies

Perceptions regarding the relationship between private detectives and public law enforcement agencies are summarized in Table 8. The results showed that most of the participants agree that private detectives have a cooperative relationship with law enforcement (45.0%, n = 9), followed by disagree (20%, n = 4) and neutral (15%, n = 3). Additionally, more than half of the participants agree that law enforcement recognizes the value of private detectives' contributions (60.0%, n = 12). Whereas, most participants agree that mutual respect and collaboration exist between private detectives and law enforcement (55.0%, n = 11). Furthermore, half of the participants agree that challenges exist in accessing information and resources from law enforcement (50.0%, n = 10). Equal proportions of participants agree (40.0%, n = 8) and remain neutral (40.0%, n = 8) regarding law enforcement agencies being receptive to private detectives' assistance. Furthermore, majority of the participants agree that building



and maintaining relationships with law enforcement is crucial for success (60.0%, n = 12). Also, half of the participants agree that effective communication between private detectives and law enforcement is essential (50.0%, n = 10).

The study explored the relationship between private detectives and public law enforcement agencies, revealing a generally cooperative but complex dynamic. Findings indicated that while there is a recognized cooperation and mutual respect between private detectives and law enforcement, challenges persist, particularly in information sharing and regulatory compliance. This aligns with Mudhol (2024) and Hounmenou & Toepp (2023), who note that effective collaboration between these entities is essential for enhancing investigative outcomes, yet often hindered by bureaucratic and communication barriers. The cooperative relationship observed supports the theory of Rational Choice, which suggests that collaborative efforts can improve overall crime prevention by combining resources and expertise (Eck & Weisburd, 2007). However, the study highlights ongoing issues in coordination, echoing the findings of Button et al. (2022), which emphasize the need for clearer communication protocols and formalized collaborative frameworks. To strengthen this relationship, it is crucial to address these barriers and develop more efficient interagency cooperation strategies, which will ultimately enhance the effectiveness of crime investigations and contribute to better crime resolution outcomes.

Table 8: Perception regarding Relationship between Private Detectives and Public Law Enforcement Agencies

Statement		N	n%
Private detectives have a cooperative relationship with law enforcement	Strongly Disagree	2	10.0%
	Disagree	4	20.0%
	Neutral	3	15.0%
	Agree	9	45.0%
	Strongly Agree	2	10.0%
Law enforcement recognizes the value of private detectives' contributions	Strongly Disagree	2	10.0%
	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	3	15.0%
	Agree	12	60.0%
	Strongly Agree	1	5.0%
Mutual respect and collaboration	Strongly Disagree	2	10.0%

exists between private detectives and law enforcement	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	3	15.0%
	Agree	11	55.0%
	Strongly Agree	2	10.0%
Challenges exist in accessing information and resources from law enforcement	Strongly Disagree	3	15.0%
	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	2	10.0%
	Agree	10	50.0%
Law enforcement agencies are receptive to private detectives' assistance	Strongly Agree	3	15.0%
	Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
	Disagree	2	10.0%
	Neutral	8	40.0%
Building and maintaining relationships with law enforcement is crucial for success	Agree	8	40.0%
	Strongly Agree	2	10.0%
	Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Neutral	1	5.0%
	Agree	12	60.0%
	Strongly Agree	7	35.0%

Note: n = 20

Figure 7: Responses regarding Private detectives have a cooperative relationship with law enforcement

Figure 8: Responses regarding Challenges exist in accessing information and resources from law enforcement

The Table 9 presents perceptions score of relationship between private detectives and public law enforcement agencies among male and female participants. Male participants have a mean perception score of 26.25 (SD = 5.82), while female participants have a slightly lower mean score of 24.00 (SD = 4.11). An independent samples t-test is conducted to compare these scores and found that there is no significant differences in perception scores regarding relationship between private detectives and public law enforcement agencies between male and female, $t(18) = .95, p = .357, 95\% \text{ CI} [-2.75, 7.25]$.

Table 9 : Gender Differences in Perception Scores regarding relationship between private detectives and public law enforcement agencies

Outcome	Male		Female		df	95% CI	t
	M	SD	M	SD			
Relationship Score	26.25	5.82	24.00	4.11	18	[-2.75, 7.25]	.95

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$, df = Degrees of Freedom.



Relationships among Total Scores and Data Reliability

The analysis (see Table 10) reveals several significant correlations between participants' perceptions of various aspects of the role of private detectives, the approaches they use, the challenges they face, and their relationship with public law enforcement agencies. Firstly, there is a strong positive correlation ($r = 0.77, p < 0.01$) between the perception of the role of private detectives and the approaches they employ. This indicates that participants who view the role of private detectives more favorably also tend to have a higher opinion of the investigative techniques and strategies used by private detectives. Additionally, a strong positive correlation ($r = 0.77, p < 0.01$) exists between the perception of the role of private detectives and the challenges they face. This suggests that those who perceive the role of private detectives positively are also likely to recognize and acknowledge the various challenges encountered by private detectives in their work.

Furthermore, the correlation between the perception of the role of private detectives and their relationship with public law enforcement agencies is moderate ($r = 0.55, p < 0.05$). This implies that participants who view the role of private detectives more favorably are likely to have a positive view of the cooperation and relationship between private detectives and law enforcement agencies. The analysis also shows a strong positive correlation ($r = 0.81, p < 0.01$) between the perception of the approaches used by private detectives and the challenges they face. This finding indicates that participants who regard the investigative approaches of private detectives positively also tend to recognize the significant challenges these professionals encounter.

Moreover, there is a moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.52, p < 0.05$) between the perception of the approaches used by private detectives and their relationship with law enforcement. This suggests that participants who have a favorable view of the investigative approaches are also likely to perceive the relationship with law enforcement

agencies positively. Lastly, a moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.57, p < 0.01$) is observed between the perception of the challenges faced by private detectives and their relationship with law enforcement agencies. This indicates that participants who recognize the challenges faced by private detectives also tend to view the cooperation between private detectives and law enforcement agencies positively. This relationship highlights the interconnectedness of recognizing challenges and valuing collaborative efforts to overcome them.

Table 10 : Correlation Matrix

Total Scores	1	2	3	4
1.Role Score	-			
2.Approaches Score	.77**	-		
3.Challenges Score	.77**	.81**	-	
4.Relationship Score	.55*	.52*	.57**	-

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

The reliability analysis of the 27-item scale reveals a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.941. This high value indicates excellent internal consistency among the items. It suggesting that the scale is highly reliable for measuring the constructs of interest. In general, a Cronbach's Alpha value above 0.70 is considered acceptable, above 0.80 is good, and above 0.90 is excellent (Saidi & Siew, 2019). Therefore, the obtained value of 0.941 demonstrates that the items in the scale are highly consistent in measuring the intended constructs, providing confidence in the reliability of the data collected for this study (see Table 11).

Table 11: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.941	27

Summary

The role of private detectives in crime investigation, highlighted by their significant contributions in gathering evidence, enhancing



investigation efficiency, and providing specialized services are aligned with existing literature highlighting their complementary role to law enforcement agencies (Mudhol, 2024; Button et al. 2022; Westera et al., 2014). This underlines their relevance in broader criminal justice frameworks and suggests opportunities for integrating their expertise more systematically into investigative processes (Nilendu, 2024; Hounmenou & Toepp, 2023; Tymoshenko et al., 2022; Neirotti et al., 2014). These findings not only validate existing knowledge but also emphasize the need for ongoing innovation and adaptation in response to developing crime patterns and investigative challenges.

Conclusion

This study explored the roles, challenges, approaches, and relationships of private detectives operating within Oshogbo Local Government Area. The aim was to understand their contributions to crime investigation and their interactions with public law enforcement agencies. Throughout this research, it became clear that private detectives play a crucial role in Oshogbo LGA's criminal justice landscape.

Recommendations

Based on the findings on the roles, approaches, challenges, and relationships of private detectives in Oshogbo LGA, several key recommendations emerge to address critical areas for improvement in crime investigation process.

1. Enhance Access to Local Records: Advocate for legislative changes to improve access to public records for private detectives
2. Increase Funding and Resources: Complain/efforts in increasing funding for private detective agencies to address financial constraints.
3. Promote Collaboration with Law Enforcement: Strengthen partnerships between private detectives and law enforcement agencies through joint training programs, information sharing, and collaborative investigations.
4. Invest in Technology and Training: Encourage private detectives to adopt modern investigative tools and technologies, such as GPS tracking

and forensic analysis.

5. Support Confidentiality and Discretion Measures: Develop guidelines and best practices to help private detectives maintain confidentiality and discretion in their investigations, thereby protecting client privacy and enhancing the integrity of their work.

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