

## THE "YAHOO-PLUS SYNDROME" IN EDO STATE AND ITS EFFECT: AN ANTITHESIS TO PLATO'S JUSTICE MODEL

**Dr. Augustine Omosa Obazee**  
Department of Philosophy,  
Faculty of Arts, University of Benin,  
Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.  
Email: austinemission@yahoo.com

### **Abstract**

*Cybercrime commonly known as yahoo in Nigeria, and some parts of Africa, is one of the most formidable financial and security problems confronting Nigeria and the world today. Yahoo plus activities have posed a serious threat to the social economic activities in Nigeria. Interestingly, this study, then seeks to investigate the root causes of yahoo plus syndrome in Nigeria with particular reference to Edo State. It also investigates the extent yahoo plus activities have impacted on the social relations in Edo state and to suggest measures/factors that can reduce the impact of Yahoo Plus in Edo state. The study made use of analytic method establishing that a relationship also exists between socio-economic factors and Yahoo Plus syndrome. It also provides recommendations to help reduce the high rate of poverty and curtail the activities of the yahoo plus boys in the state.*

**Keywords:** *Yahoo Plus, Plato, Justice, Fraudster.*

### **Introduction**

A society that will outlive itself ought to be shaped with the right values and positive experience. A workable society is built on Justice and equity. It must not necessarily be equality, for nature gifts everything according to its operational function. This notion of Justice and fairness has been upheld by many Philosophers like Plato. In the Republic, Plato envisaged a just society where development, political progress and democracy means that everyone plays their role for the overall betterment of society. Justice is when everyone is performing within their jurisdiction and where they ought to act and function. A non-working society cannot thrive on Justice, equity and other positive virtues. The outcome is anarchy, doom and degeneration into crime, insecurity and a society headed for perdition.

From the foregoing, the Nigerian experience clearly captures while in the socio-political space, crimes thrive. The lawlessness is well pronounced and worsening by the day. One of such crimes is the Yahoo-plus syndrome.

Yahoo internet fraud has become a lingering problem not just in the Nigerian society but around the world. However, Edo state seems to be one of the places competing to be its major depot or should we say Capital? Young men and women who should think of bettering their lives now enter into internet fraud either peer influence or personal bad habits of greed, lack of contentment and poor family training and good orientation to life. Yahoo internet fraud is the

use of the internet to swindle unsuspecting victims of their hard-earned money, properties or any other thing of value to them which leads to loss or conversion to the perpetrator.

However, given that people are becoming wiser and detective of the antics and activities of these Yahoo boys, they have resorted to upscaling and changing their modus operandi. They have now gone to involve diabolic means of defrauding their victims. This include charms and other hypnotic spiritual means of getting their victims do their biddings. This is now called Yahoo-plus. However, the causes of Yahoo internet crime are not far-fetched. Plato advocated for a just society in which justice means everyone knowing their role and functioning properly in order to be holistically developed.

In this paper, we shall be looking at how Plato's advocating of a just and good society can help to reduce the desire for crime such as the (Yahoo) internet crime which has eroded the Edo community and most of its young citizens. Using the Plato's advocacy thought for a just society, we shall look at the causes and dangers of the Yahoo plus syndrome in Edo state and the way forward.

### **The Yahoo Plus**

Internet fraud is a type of cybercrime, fraud or deception which makes use of the Internet and could involve hiding of information or providing incorrect information for the purpose of tricking victims out of money, property, and inheritance. Internet fraud is not considered a single, distinctive crime but covers a range of illegal and illicit actions that are committed in cyberspace. It is, however, differentiated from theft since, in this case, the victim voluntarily and knowingly provides the information, money or property to the perpetrator. It is also distinguished by the way it involves temporally and spatially separated offenders Fisher, Bonnie S. & Lab, Steven (2010: 493). This internet crime is known in Nigeria as Yahoo. The perpetrators are called Yahoo boys. According to Wiktionary, a Yahoo boy is a man who carries out internet fraud. Named after the Internet company *Yahoo*, whose free e-mail accounts are sometimes used by scammers, Rex. Equinox (2022).

According to Oludayo Tade (2013: 689), Yahoo Plus refers to “the application of spiritual elements with internet surfing to boost the chances of their success in defrauding their unsuspecting victims”. Simply put yahoo plus as an “advanced form of the popular yahoo-yahoo which is a fraud gimmick that was largely perpetrated with the internet”. Yahoo plus involves using fetish means to hypnotize a person in order to get what they want from them. It involves the use of fetish ways to make money. Their victims are hypnotized into giving someone their belongings.

### **The History of Yahoo Plus**

While there is no fixed history of cybercrime, most experts point to certain events as the first-known hacks. Hydra Bluvoyant (2022) gave a brief review of cybercrime events throughout history:

In 1834, two thieves infiltrated the French telegraph system, gained access to financial markets, and stole data. Many experts consider this event the first cybercrime, followed by other cybercrimes, each focusing on newly invented technologies. The 19th and 20th centuries saw attacks focused on the telephone system. In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell patented the phone, which allowed transmitting speech using telegraphy. Two years after the commercialization of this invention, teenage boys broke into Bell's telephone company and misdirected calls. In later years (1960s-1980s), phone hacking (phreaking) became popular.

In 1940, Rene Carmille, a French computer expert, hacked into the Nazi data registry. Carmille, a punch card computer expert, used his expertise to reprogram Nazi punch card machines to prevent them from registering information correctly. His work blocked the Nazis' attempts to register and track Jewish people.

In the 1980s, emails became a popular communication form, and by the 1990s, web browsers and computer viruses rose in popularity. In these years, hackers started using email attachments to deliver malware and phishing scams and web browsers to spread computer viruses.

In the 2000s, social media networks gained worldwide popularity, and hackers started utilizing these platforms for data theft and other cybercrimes. In the following years, cybercriminals improved malware infections and data theft techniques. Today, these attacks are deployed in the thousands, constantly increasing with no signs of slowing down.

The history of fraud in Nigeria has a long history in Nigeria than many people could trace. Nigerian scammers are generally regarded as pioneers in the sending of mass letters, messages and emails seeking to defraud any recipient foolish and greedy enough to fall for their tricks, although all the signs are that the practice has now spread worldwide. Nigerians call scams like these "Four One Nine," so called by reference to Article 419 of the country's criminal code, which concerns fraud, Ellis, Stephen (2016). Yet Nigeria's 419 scammers have a far longer pedigree than most people realize. The first properly documented 419 letter dates from 1920 and was written by P. Crentsil to a contact in the British colony of the Gold Coast, today's Ghana. Crentsil launched into a long description of the magical powers that were in his possession and that could, on payment of a fee, be used to the benefit of his correspondent. Crentsil signed himself "P. Crentsil, Professor of Wonders, Stephen (2016).

According to the evidence at hand, "Professor" Crentsil has to be regarded as the first known exponent of the modern 419 fraud. He seems to have written a number of similar letters, each time offering to provide magical services on payment of a fee. In December 1921, he was charged by the police with three counts under various sections of the criminal code including section 419, the one to which Nigerians make reference when they speak of "Four One Nine." But Crentsil was in luck: the magistrate presiding over his case discharged him with a caution on the first count and acquitted him on the two others for lack of corroborating evidence, as a result of which "he (Crentsil) is now boasting that he got off owing to his 'juju' powers,"

reported the Chief of Police in Onitsha Province. The same officer stated that he had known Crentsil for some years, during which time the "Professor" "had slipped through the hands of the police so often that I shall soon, myself, begin to believe in his magic powers. Stephen (2016).

There is no way of knowing how many similar cases may have occurred, but the colonial authorities became sufficiently concerned by the number of letters addressed to Nigerians from outside the country soliciting money for what the British regarded as fraudulent purposes that they started to intercept items of what was called "charlatanic correspondence." The Director of Posts and Telegraphs made clear that this term embraced adverts concerning "medicines of potency, and unfailling healing power, lucky charms, love-philters, magic pens with which examinations can be passed, powders and portions to inspire personal magnetism, remove kinks from hair or insert them, counteract sterility and ensure football prowess." The Posts and Telegraphs department recorded 9,570 of such items in 1947, by which time the amount of money returned to senders was some £1,205. In the mid-1940s there was a spate of financial scams perpetrated by people known as "Wayo tricksters," some of whom were operating a trick that involved posing as agents of a "New York Currency Note Firm," selling to a gullible victim boxes of blank paper with a promise that this could be turned into banknotes by application of a special chemical Stephen (2016).

Behavior of a sort that British officials probably would have classified as charlatanic was sometimes recorded on the part of the relatively few Nigerians who travelled overseas at that time. One of these was one Prince Modupe, who spent years in the United States under a variety of fantastical guises. In 1935 he was in Los Angeles presenting himself as a graduate of Jesus College, Oxford, although Oxford University had no record of him. In March 1947 he appeared on the bill at the San Francisco Opera House under the name His Royal Highness Prince Modupe of Dubrica. Seven months later he was still in San Francisco, now claiming to be the "Crown Prince of Nigeria" and representing himself as a successful businessman who had obtained a variety of commercial contracts. Modupe seems to have been in effect a professional confidence trickster. Nor was he the only Nigerian operating in this field in the United States. Another was Prince Peter Eket Inyang Udo, a businessman who lived in America and Britain for some seventeen years. Eket Inyang Udo attracted the attention of the colonial authorities not only on account of his dubious commercial practices but also because of his political ideas and connections Stephen (2016).

Another controversial case, in which fraud and nationalist politics seem to have been mixed, concerned an Igbo man who became a minor celebrity in America under the name Prince Orizu. He was so well known that an Australian official working in New York for the U.N. wondered in his memoirs: "What happened to the Ibo adventurer who called himself Prince Orizu?" Noting that "there are no hereditary chiefs let alone princes in Ibo-land," the Australian wrote that Orizu "seemed to have no difficulty in getting a write-up in the New Yorker or the New York Times every now and then." The person he was describing also went

under the name Dr. Abyssinia Akweke Nwafor Orizu, and it was under this name that he was convicted by a magistrate in Nigeria in September 1953 on seven counts of fraud and theft of funds ostensibly intended to fund scholarships in the United States. Himself U.S.-educated, Orizu had collected over £32,000 in the three years prior to his conviction. What makes the case all the more interesting is that Orizu was a stalwart of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC), the leading political party founded in 1944, and was also a member of the Regional Government established under Nigeria's 1951 constitution. He went on to have a distinguished political career, becoming president of the Senate after Nigeria's Independence. Although it has been alleged that Orizu's conviction for fraud was a miscarriage of justice, it seems fair to observe that modern politics, which emerged in Nigeria only in the 1940s, offered opportunities for a type of self-fashioning comparable in many respects to that practised by fabulists and fraudsters like Crensil, Modupe and others Stephen (2016).

The summary of these is that fraud has been perpetuated in colonial Nigeria and only reached zenith point with the Advent of the internet. According to the FBI's 2017 Internet Crime Report, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) received about 300,000 complaints. Victims lost over \$1.4 billion in online fraud in 2017. According to a study conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and McAfee, cybercrime costs the global economy as much as \$600 billion, which translates into 0.8% of total global GDP. Online fraud appears in many forms. It ranges from email spam to online scams. Internet fraud can occur even if partly based on the use of Internet services and is mostly or completely based on the use of the Internet Stephen (2016).

The internet came with increased crime at a digital scale. It became easier to swindle unsuspecting individuals even without meeting them physically. However, since it seems people are becoming wiser, perpetrators resort to diabolism in order to get their victims do their biddings.

This was how Yahoo-plus came to be. Yahoo-plus is the extended form of yahoo internet fraud using charms and other diabolic manipulations to trap and get a victim to act, especially by parting huge sums of money. Definitely, a victim cannot be swindled for paltry sum or if the person has nothing to offer. In the course of their relationship with the victim, the perpetrators access the capabilities, wealth and fortunes of their victims to know the extent of defrauding them. However, crime does not thrive in a vacuum. Crimes are mostly a reflection of a failed society where Justice and equity are not entrenched.

### **The Nature of Yahoo Plus Activities**

Yahoo plus activities is a recent type of cybercrime peculiar among youths in Nigeria. It is related to the common yahoo yahoo activities but more sophisticated, evil and dangerous than the normal yahoo yahoo activities. Scholars have researched on the ICT as fulfilment of cybercrime emergence of yahoo plus sub culture as the organization of online theft in Nigeria and the price and fascination of cybercrimes (Oludayo Tade & Aliyu. I, 2011).

However, the operation of yahoo-boys has now fused spiritual elements by the adoption of human vital organs in Nigeria. It suggests that yahoo activities involve the application of the internet as valid way of communication to deceive unsuspecting people and collect huge sums of money from them. Nevertheless, yahoo plus activities refers to a new form of yahoo-yahoo practice assuming prominence in Nigeria which involves the use of charms and other magical elements to ensure a greater success in yahoo-yahoo activities.

Oludayo Tade (2013) noted that the blend of online theft with spiritual elements as a cybercrime strategy which promote victimization online is what is described as Yahoo plus. He also describes yahoo plus activities as ‘cyber spiritualism’. This according to him, is the use of mystical, spiritual and supernatural powers by yahoo boys to mesmerize their victims is also known as cyber spiritualism. Via this means, victims without delay, give away their treasures in the form of products and money to the scammers under hypnosis (Oludayo Tade, 2013). The “plus” in yahoo plus implies addition of spiritual ingredients to yahoo-yahoo. By this there seems to be a difference between yahoo-yahoo and yahoo plus. While the former, surf the net and defraud plainly, the latter surfs the net and employ spiritual assistance for increased defrauding.

Further to the above, Oludayo Tade (2013) makes a clear distinction about the nature of yahoo plus activities; clearly demarcating it from the usually suspect yahoo-yahoo activities. Both involves deceiving victims through the internet to corner their wealth, but yahoo plus takes the added dimension of the spiritual employing magic and charms to gain greater success. Also, Lawani & Osagie (2019) insist that yahoo plus is a recent social phenomenon peculiar to the Nigerian socio-cultural climate. In fact, they argue that the practice began in 2013 while yahoo-yahoo activities have been in existence since 2000. The findings from the data gathered therefore indicates that Yahoo plus is a progressive form of yahoo activities. It also indicates that any manner of yahoo-yahoo activities that is done using magic/juju/charms falls within the boundaries of yahoo plus.

## **Causes of Yahoo Plus Activities**

### **i. Poverty and Unemployment**

It is pertinent to note that poverty is not a phenomenon that affects only Nigeria. Although, the country has a high percentage ratio, such that it has been christened the poverty capital of the world. In line with this, Hassan (2010) opined that, poverty is a startling reality that has both political and social outcomes. It exists throughout epochs and societies irrespective of cultural affinity and geographical locations. Also, Suleiman (2016) corroborated the above view when he argued that poverty can be labelled as a situation in which a person or community is lacking the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living because the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs cannot be met. Although, the nature of poverty may vary from community to community, culture to culture and time to time but poverty persists in both rural and urban areas alike. Today the poor standard of living in Nigeria has created rooms for poverty and unemployment to thrive. This has driven the youths in Edo

State into different types of crimes such as kidnapping, banditry, murder, yahoo plus activities etc. More worrisome is the fact that graduates do not have job upon completion of their youth services and there is no guarantee of jobs for those who are in school. This indicates clearly and distinctly that the financial pressure is on the parents, and all these invariably, drive these youths in embracing this obnoxious act in order to survive. For them it is like a means of surviving the hard-economic situation in the country indicated by no job, bad economy, no infrastructure, mono economy etc instead of just sitting at home and becoming a burden to their parents. They then decide to look for a way out to make the easiest and quickest money, that is, yahoo plus activities. They engage in it without any iota of guilt.

Corroborating the above view, Suleiman, (2016) noted that our young adults have become scandalous individuals due to the increase of unemployment in Nigeria. Though, the popular sayings that an idle mind is the devil workshop, but the truth is that Nigerian government underestimate the negative mindset of unemployed people. If not, what workable palliatives are on ground to create unemployment and alleviate poverty. There are many graduates that excel in their various studies and still roaming round the streets for many years without any reliable jobs. You see them joining the dropped-out students and Yahoo-boys with luxurious and valuable property which are acquired through sign-in and logout indoor game of Yahoo-Yahoo. They have no choice than to collaborate with fraudster in order to survive.

In the same vein, Adeniyi (1999) emphasized that youths are seen as an establishment for substantial advancement and subsequent growth of a country; and are also the active force of technological innovations, social change and boost in economic growth. But social incongruence is the order of the day seeing how proper governance has deteriorated at all levels. Proactive, idealistic, resourceful, adventurous, and inquisitive are some of the qualities these young adults are known to possess.

Similarly, Adebayo (1999) noted that poverty, depression, psychological problems of frustration, hostility, food insecurity, suspicion of various forms, all kinds of cruel behaviour and general insecurity of life and property are some of side effects of unemployment. He further noted that the youthful stage is the pivotal period at which human psychology and behavioural development set in. This is the state that human being develops their character through the reflection of peer group or cultural inclination. Many of these unemployed youths were readily prepared in school to engage in good job to draw out resourceful productivity of their professional franchise but the policy of getting job in Nigeria is too strict to the extent that only those who get connected with influential people and politicians are able to secure job. More so, Suleiman (2016) noted, the current economic deflation has fueled an increase in more aggressive misleading online activities, resulting in more occurrence and malicious forms of this type of crime.

The axiomatic fact shows that federal government has been trying with different programs to cater for the widespread of unemployment in Nigeria but some, if not all of these programs did not have positive effect to reduce outrageous number of the unemployed graduates. This research is exceptionally calling the attention of federal government to present

unwinding solution to the problem of unemployment in order to reduce youth involvement in cybercrime and all forms of fraudulence.

Furthermore, Federal Government is sourcing for ways as well as issuing policies that will help to reduce the extensiveness of poverty in Nigeria yet fruitlessness has been the outcome not for the economic breakdown only but because their laws favour only politicians who extort money from the populace, influential people and minority among many others (Suleiman, 2016).

## **ii. Competition Among Young Persons**

The competition among the youth of Edo State to get richer than other is another key factor. The unhealthy rivalry among youth tends to show up in all these. Every youth wants to outshine the other. And this gives room for doing whatever that will make them to achieve it. The easiest and quickest among all the ways is the yahoo plus business.

Oluwaleye, (2017) corroborated the above view when he noted that the practice of yahoo or yahoo plus which involves duping innocent people of their hard-earned money, is currently rampant among students of tertiary institutions in Nigeria as this has led some of them to the unholy practice of reaping where they did not sow in order to compete with their mates. He also noted that this wealth competition has led many youths to be involved in deceiving people through announcement of fake intended business deals etc. With the primary aim of deceiving their victims to pay certain amounts of money when there is no plan for such a deal.

Similarly, the quest for wealth competition among the youths was captured by Oludayo Tade and Aliyu I (2011:865-867) who they identified different strategies being employed by the yahoo plus boys to deceive their intended victims which include placing false job advertisement in the newspapers to defraud job seekers, sending fraudulent messages to deceive subscribers of certain communication networks, false messages about winning cash prizes, online dating, money transfer, international transfer, etc., in order to make wealth and compete with their mates in the society.

In the same vein, Oluwaleye (2017) noted that yahoo or yahoo plus boys in order to compete and show that they have arrived, showcases flamboyant lives, such as driving flashy cars, though many of them are from average and poor family backgrounds. They live expensive lifestyles, carry ladies about, attend drinking joints and hotels and hardly have time for their academics which is the primary purpose of coming to school. He further noted that such students waste more time on the internet than their lectures; some of them hardly attend lectures. They also believe that they can buy their way through to pass their exams

Furthermore, Oludayo Tade and Aliyu (2011: 870) opined that “Yahoo-boys or yahoo boys plus enjoys the recognition that comes with the act and are well known among friends, and lecturers. Their flashy lifestyles entice others to wish to belonging to the clique and compete with one another.

## **iii. Get Rich Quick Syndrome**



Today there is that drive for who makes it first. Most of the Edo State youths no longer believe in the philosophy of time. They rather stick to the popular axiom 'time waits for nobody' and this drives them to engage in these obnoxious activities. The youth no longer want to wait, some are even in the universities having mansions and fleet of cars through the yahoo plus business.

The above view was attested to by Bradley (2000) when she noted that the desire for result is crawling into every area of our live. The major reason young adults give into alternate route in order to gain success. This mentality is so prominent among the youths in Edo State as they want to ride flashy cars without working for it. Therefore, they engage in nefarious acts such as banditry, kidnapping, internet fraud, murder, and ritual killings etc. as an avenue to getting quick riches. The quest of fast wealth mentality has particularly taken a disturbing stance and indeed an unexpected discomfort, as some of the activities include the disregard of human rights (Bradley, 2000). This is absurd because this is not the foundation laid down by our fore fathers who believe in the idea of time and hard work. Similarly, Onyejiakwu (1991) noted that perseverance, commitment, and hard work leads to wealth and riches but the perception of many youths in recent times has changed. The psyche of young adults has been greatly affected by the result of their actions and irresponsibility. Sadly, families, churches, schools, banks, government agencies, market places, universities, town unions and social clubs etc. are examples of places where they carry out quick money practices.

Observing the inordinate desire to acquire money overnight, Elliott (1994) in his article noted that the increase in illegal actions associated with get-rich-quick mentality, such as dealing on narcotics, engaging in banditry, prostitution, murder, human trafficking, electoral thuggery, assassination, kidnapping, and ritual killings, have reached a crescendo. Put differently, many of our youths of school going age, be it secondary or tertiary, vacate their learning locations, in pursuit of fast wealth, through armed banditry, cultism, drug-peddling, and kidnapping. In reality, many of our political leaders seek public offices for purposes of looting public funds. Because of it, many Nigerian principals and university lecturers embezzle school and university funds entrusted to their care, and they are almost always organizing one unnecessary and ill-timed strike after another, to get higher salary raise.

Get-rich-quick orientation is a serious issue in the society these days. It has reduced, to the background, the values of hard work, modesty, prudence, honesty and dignity of labour, which poses a serious barricade to the moral, spiritual, social and economic development of the Nigerian citizens especially the youths. As a matter of fact, there are many objections against immorality in Nigerian today. More so, the height of indiscipline and crime rates among the youths have highly increased in geometric progression due to wrong value orientation Bello-Iman (2004). That explains why Nwadike (2009:2) noted that even churches in Nigeria have been turned into centres for quick proprietary aggrandizement, and young university graduates who should settle down and look for work or resort to self-sacrifice, as many of their predecessors did in the past, do not have the patience to do so any more.

#### **iv. Lack of Faith Among Young and Older Persons**

The youth of today have no faith in themselves anymore that they can make it in life through hard work. They don't even believe that making little efforts can make a lot of progress and change. There is a popular adage that says little drop makes an ocean. When youth no longer believe in themselves, in the government, in the society and even in the divine, they go to any extent to get what they want disregarding any moral or just means of getting it. For them the slogan becomes any way is a way. But the fact here is that not all ways are good, moral and just.

#### **v. Lack of Questioning the Source of Wealth by the Society**

The society today encourages evils means of getting money because it does not question the source of wealth of these young people. So, when these young people come around flouting their wealth, the kings of their various villages or towns are ready to give them titles, given them lands to buy so they can erect magnificent mansions, invite them to ceremonies where they can begin to spray money and display their wealth. In fact, important seats are reserved for them during occasions and parties. They make them feel that no matter how evil their source of their wealth is, they are welcome and acceptable whenever they come home. This makes it difficult for these youth to relent in doing this obnoxious business because they have the backing of the society.

#### **Plato's Notion of a Just Society**

The word 'justice' is probably one of the words that has thousands of meanings and interpretations due to its subjective nature. Since ancient times, mankind has repeatedly debated and discussed what 'justice' truly means Rosli, Zikri (2017).

In the ancient Greek civilization where the field of philosophy bloomed impressively, there was a philosopher named Plato who was then a student of Socrates, a great philosopher. His famous work 'The Republic' is still being used in colleges and universities nowadays. In 'The Republic', Plato tried to define the word 'justice' by laying out his thoughts through the concept of Just or Ideal Society. Rosli, Zikri (2017).

In 'The Republic', Plato firstly discussed the concept of an 'ideal' or a 'just society' and followed by the concept of a 'just individual'. Both of these concepts are vital components in his work and are closely related. Plato's conception of ideal society was laid out by having a structured society. There are three main classes of people in an ideal society – producers (craftsmen, farmers, and artisans), auxiliaries (warriors), and guardians (rulers). Rosli, Zikri (2017).

According to Plato, a society is just when relations between these three classes are right. Each class has its own function that needs to be done, for example, guardians must rule, warriors must obey the rulers, and producers must strive to produce things in the field that they are expert in. These functions can be done by the right groups and only the right groups. This is known as the principle of specialization which is a principle that requires each person to fulfil

societal role in which nature fitted him or her and not interfering in any other business. Rosli, Zikri (2017).

Based on the above concept of a just society, it can be considered that Plato views society through one of the main sociological theories which is structural functionalism theory. The central idea of this theory is that society is a whole unit made up of interrelated parts that work together and each part in the society needs to play its function. This theory is clearly aligned with Plato's concept of ideal state which is a society is just when relations between the three classes are right and each class perform its own function. Rosli, Zikri (2017).

From foregoing, we can see that the Edo community is a far from what Plato advocated. A just society in Plato's view, must come with a role. A role that leads to a holistic meaning. Government has played a bad role in the provision of social amenities and handling of the economy which should lead to a good and decent life for all. The average Nigerian wallows seemingly in abject poverty. The margin between the rich and poor is so wide that it is difficult to bring about equity and justice. The youths are the major victims of failed statehood. In order to survive, many of them have indulged in all manner of negatives, such as internet fraud, kidnapping, armed banditry, human trafficking, prostitution, among other irresponsible acts.

Regarding Plato's notion of Justice: Imagine if Edo state was to be blessed with good leadership and decided to utilize the vast human and natural resources to develop the state and her citizens. Imagine if corruption was to give way on the part of the citizens in entrenching a workable State. Corruption, it seems, affects all and sundry and not helped by bad governance which enables it to thrive. This was not so much the case at least, on a wider scale before the Civil War. The citizens profit from a failed State by spreading corruption with vigour and in turn cries foul, for the mishap the society has become. Yahoo plus is an indictment of a country that has failed to chart a good course for its youthful population. Therefore, the roles expected of a society to grow have not been played well and hence, the crime and crises.

### **Recommendations**

According to Eze-Michael Ezedikachi, (2021:25) "The remarkable development in human history through computer technology has no doubt brought transformation in all aspects of life, especially in communication and information technology. However, the embracement of the internet by Nigerians has come with a lot of fraudulent acts. Individuals, groups, companies and government establishments have been found to be defrauded through the internet. Nigerian people are valued in terms of what they possess and command economically. Conversely, those without economic success are undervalued and the pressure to achieve success is intensified. This necessitated some Nigerian individuals to devise survival strategies to attain economic success, thereby causing them to indulge in cybercrime. However, this has put Nigeria under negative scrutiny and that is not good for our image in international relations."<sup>19</sup>

Based on the reality of this Yahoo-plus syndrome, the following recommendations are made:

- i. There is need for improved life and economy in today's Nigeria and government's role in the poverty alleviation fight, to ensure that the citizens of Edo State maintain decent life, to find crime and illegality unattractive.
- ii. Unemployment is a major and teething problem in Nigeria. Government can reduce it by being responsible and less corrupt in ensuring instead of the continuous embezzlement of the state's resources and treasury, such can be deployed for massive industrialization on a large scale, which in turn creates jobs. Entrepreneurship should be continuously encouraged and government must also support and empower young hard-working youth entrepreneurs, in order to boost the economy. Government policies must also be friendly, to enable medium scale businesses flourish.
- iii. The Ministry of Information and Culture must include a National Youth Orientation Program that engages the youths on the dangers of crime and vice, while creating competitive edge that helps them to become their best. More so, government and Stakeholders must reward hard work and excellence, this will make crime, less attractive.
- iii. Government must enact stiffer punishment and sanction for internet fraud and for all crimes. In this way, defaulter will face the full weight of the law and such would serve as a deterrent to others.

## Conclusion

The failure of Individuals and government in the society to recognize their roles in order to build a just and prosperous society is against Plato's notion of what he advocated as a just society in *The Republic*. Government failed in their role towards the youths over the years and hence, the rise in crime statistics, with the internet fraud under focus inclusive.

Thus, we can say that Yahoo-plus syndrome is a product of a society suffering from values crises and can only be reduced when everyone play their role to make the Nigerian society work. This is the real meaning of Justice in Plato's view.

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