

CRIME'S EFFECTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

All societies, no matter how advanced, have experienced violence at some point. That exists before humans. It is alarming that most communities, particularly those in developing nations, allow criminals to escape punishment for their crimes. Victims of crime endure a tremendous deal of pain and fear. In addition to lowering transaction costs, discouraging investment, and eventually serving as a catalyst for migration, crime frequently impedes society's ability to advance socioeconomically and adds to global economic inequality. With the goal of supplying governments with information to enable them to strictly regulate all criminal activity within their borders and foster better societies, this research attempts to examine the global expressions of crime. Reviewing scholarly articles from reports and journals served as the foundation for the approach methodology. The methodology of qualitative analysis was employed to gather secondary data from published and unpublished works. The major findings showed evidence of a wide range of criminal activity, including banditry, kidnapping, rape, theft, and murder. Crime thus encourages corruption and obstructs the advancement of any society. Ultimately, crime affects people at all levels and is not influenced by personal boundaries or traits. Inaction on the part of governments to support the global fight against terrorists, criminals, and bandits will mean that this depressing activity will persist as a major contributing factor to the lack of socio-economic development.

Keywords: Criminology, Crime, Management, Security Agencies, Victims, Socio-Economic Development.

1. INTRODUCTION

Because criminal activity has led to innumerable innocent deaths and injuries, governments everywhere have had to confront the issue of crime. As far as human security is concerned, Ukoji and Okolie-Osemene (2016) state that crime is a global concern. Crime is not a universal phenomenon; rather, it is a social one. Due to an increase in crimes, such as cybercrime, robberies, and killings, several countries are facing challenges, including the United States of America, Mexico, Mali, South Africa, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Nigeria. There are many distinct types of criminal activity worldwide. Armed robberies, for instance, Kidnappings, robberies, drug-related offenses, traffic violations, rapes, drug-related deaths, assaults, corruption, and stalking (Ayodele & Adeyinka, 2014; Tribunal, 2013). The majority of

nations worldwide have experienced severe growth and development delays as a result of security agencies' incapacity to successfully combat the aforementioned crimes, claims Osawe (2015). According to Ratcliffe (2014) and the National Institute of Justice Website (2010), crime rates differ across societies despite crime being a global problem with no consistent distribution pattern. This is because no society is immune to crime. Air, land, and sea are all potential locations for crime. The World Bank Group (2020) reports that maritime piracy and robbery are two common criminal activities that cause anxiety in people. As stated by Mehran et al. (2019), a crime is defined as an act that appears to violate and breach an existing law of a state. Ejemeyovwi (2015) concurs, stating that for a crime to occur, there

must be victims, offenders, and properties located at a points in time. Three conditions must be met for a crime to occur: the criminal must be motivated, the victim must be a good fit, and there must be no guardian angel or security system such as closed-circuit television. Victims' lives and their ability to engage in socioeconomic activities are increasingly at risk due to crimes against people and property on a worldwide basis. As per Balogun et al. (2014), prompt provision of security agencies with current information about high-crime zones will enable efficient law enforcement and a decline in the total crime rate.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) noted in 2017 that crime fosters corruption, penetrates the political and business spheres, and impedes the advancement of society. As a result of making people's lives unpleasant, brief, and harsh, the UNODC argues that crime undermines governance. According to Okpuvwie and Toko (2020), it also stokes public anxiety and a general sense of unease. Salim (2015) argued that a wide range of variables, including personal and societal health, family stability, political and demographic factors, and poverty levels, are connected to and influence criminality. Economic, psychological, spiritual, and physical well-being are all negatively impacted by crime (Eidell and Ellis, 2010). Since people constantly fear being killed or injured by thugs and criminals, the damage that crime does to society's socioeconomic stability cannot be overstated. Our goal is to add to the body of current literature in two ways: theoretically and descriptively. The investigation explores the origins, manifestations, and overall impacts of criminal activity on the socioeconomic advancement of a community.

2. Study Space

Because it covered the topic in general rather than in detail, this paper does not address any specific area, region, or location.

3. Materials and Procedures

For the most part, this study only used secondary data from publicly available and unpublished sources. Using resources from the internet and official police documents served to further improve the caliber of the work.

3.1 Technique-Based Approach

The descriptive approach is primarily used in this study. In order to improve comprehension of the topic, the research methodology employed in this study comprises the examination, synthesis, and analysis of numerous scientific manuscripts. Boundaries are established by this methodological approach around the features of the phenomenon (crime) under study.

3.1.1 Literature Analysis

AFRIGIST and Obafemi Awolowo University campuses' libraries were used for the literature review. Additionally, an online search for literature was done using Google.com.

3.1.2 Document Description

The study primarily uses the descriptive method to analyze the various documents gathered in order to extract pertinent data on crime, thereby raising the standard of the investigation.

4. Literature Review

4.1 Crimes' Causes

Not only does crime occur in society, but it is a multifaceted phenomenon that varies over time among cultures. There isn't just one cause for crime; rather, there are numerous reasons why criminal activity occurs. Some people commit crimes because they are attracted to and benefit from their victims, according to Ayuba et al. (2016), or because they are in advantageous circumstances. Drugs, greed, unemployment, pressure to close the wealth gap, and an insufficient national security crime control model are just a few of the many variables that Ukoji and Okolie (2016) contend contribute to most criminal activity. Salim (2015) highlighted the link between crime and a number of variables, including family stability, poverty, community and personal health, and political and demographic factors. Beyond cultural boundaries and across time, crime is a dynamic and complex phenomenon. Certain behaviors that were formerly regarded as legal may become illegal and then back legal as cultures shift over time. Thus, for improved security, a thorough analysis of crime is necessary.

Individuals are not born criminals, claims Sowmyya (2015). In his opinion, an individual's circumstances and situations ultimately lead to criminal behavior. According to Marilyn (2014),

criminal motivation is not distributed uniformly geographically, with a tendency for offenders to be concentrated in areas with high unemployment, low economic standing, and physical deterioration. A number of academics held the following theories about what contributed to crime in society: relative deprivation, frustration, and greed/grievance. Crime is a concern because, as Ukoji and Okolie (2016) point out, it is frequently associated with violence and greed, both of which encourage the violation of people's inalienable rights. The country's issues with poverty, high unemployment, and inequality among its expanding population are the root causes of South Africa's high crime rate, according to Bhorat et al. (2017). Conversely, Justia (2018), referenced by Jeke et al. (2021), asserts that the violent subculture present in South African societies, youth susceptibility, and the ease of access to firearms and ammunition of various calibers are the main causes of the country's high crime rate. Indeed, a complex interplay of psychological, social, economic, and inherited factors that run in families contributes to crime. In the following paragraphs, we discuss some of the socioeconomic factors that contributed to crime in our community.

4.1.1 Joblessness

Criminal activity in our society is mostly caused by unemployment. Those without jobs have been known to turn to risky and creative means of obtaining daily necessities and wants. According to Soh (2012), crime can be committed by members of all socioeconomic classes, including the wealthy and the intelligent. Because government officials, the wealthy, and politicians are often entangled in the web of crime, crime affects all social classes. This is true in the majority of countries across the world. There exists a positive correlation between unemployment and crime, primarily because individuals with lower socioeconomic status are easier targets and more easily inclined to commit crimes. Poverty and unemployment are complementary twins, according to Adegoke (2014). Social discontent and a rise in crime rates can be caused by homelessness and joblessness. Salim (2015) makes the hypothesis that people who can't afford to take care of their basic needs might resort to crime in order to survive. Unemployment has a direct effect on people who engage in criminal activity, according to Rajnish

(2018). In a similar vein, while creating a crime mapping GIS system for law enforcement, Chinedu and Bartholomew 2015 claimed that drug abuse, unemployment, and poverty are some of the main causes of crime in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria. Generally speaking, rape, kidnapping, and armed robbery are all directly caused by poverty and unemployment (Adegoke, 2014; Adeyemi et al., 2021).

4.1.2 Insufficient Schooling

There appears to be a direct link between education and criminal activity, so lacking education is another factor that pushes some people toward criminal activity (Seda and Guler, 2013; Lochner, 2020). Numerous studies suggest that completing high school significantly lowers the likelihood of criminal activity because educational gaps and low literacy rates provide opportunities for criminal gang recruitment. According to an assessment conducted among inmates, a significant proportion of them lacked reading and writing skills beyond elementary school curricula. Retail theft, drug trafficking, vehicle theft, robberies, and burglaries were the most frequent offenses these prisoners committed, per the survey. Hjalmarsson et al. (2015) assert that fewer academic credentials are perceived to be held by criminals than by the general public, and that higher education may contribute to a decrease in crime rates.

In light of the fact that both educated and uneducated people commit crimes, the researchers conclude that the problem of crime cannot be solely attributable to the less educated members of society. High-ranking officials of the government, business, banking, and academic institutions have occasionally become entangled in the web of criminal activity. Remember that people with higher education can also be victims of crime; people with higher education have been arrested, accused of crimes, and put on trial in competent courts on charges of conspiracy, fraud, and money laundering.

4.1.3 Poverty and Income Inequality

Poverty, inequality, and criminality are all closely related. The reason behind this is that impoverished individuals may experience pressure to turn to criminal activities in order to survive. According to Matthews (2014), there is a misconception that only those who are impoverished commit crimes.

Since poverty and criminal activity are often associated with one another, understanding the relationship between the two is challenging (Sharkey et al., 2017). It is important to remember that even though wealthy and well-off people can commit crimes like tax evasion and denial, so can those with ties to poverty and unemployment.

According to Owusu(2016), not all places have the same rates of crime and the fear of crime; some have higher rates than others. Higher poverty rates are probably linked to higher crime rates because there is a clear correlation between socioeconomic status and criminal activity. Savolainen et al. (2013), who proposed that poverty has a major impact on crime in society, provided support for this point of view. There will be a corresponding rise in crime as long as there is a significant income gap in the community. According to Rufrancos et al. (2013), who studied the relationship between crime and inequality, violent crimes like homicide and property crime rise in tandem with increases in income inequality. In addition, the notion that reduced inequality equates to decreased crime is supported by a September 5, 2014, World Bank study on crime and inequality in a few Latin American nations. Based on this research, it is likely that when community leaders take proactive measures to reduce wealth and poverty, crime will decline to the lowest level in the area. For this reason, political leaders must make a concerted effort on a global scale to reduce the wealth and poverty disparities. As a result, there would be an increase in global peace and stability and a decrease in the crime rate.

4.1.4 Oppression, Marginalization, and Injustice

Researchers have found that marginalization, injustice, and oppression directly lead to terrorism, banditry, and agitation for one's own breakup or separation in certain countries across the world. The poor are pushed to commit crimes because of injustice and a lack of genuine opportunities that would otherwise allow them to have poor access to societal resources. Based on their perception of certain political figures' lack of true leadership qualities, the researchers concluded that some people are motivated to commit crimes. In a society, certain people and groups are more directly and severely impacted by injustice, oppression, and marginalization than others are. According to

Findlay (2019), the sociology of nonconformity and aberration is always concerned with issues related to crime, injustice, marginalization, and social disorders.

Growing animosity and hatred that can eventually result in a variety of violent crimes and criminal activity can be caused by the concentration of development projects in one area of a country, leaving the other regions underdeveloped, and the appointment of biased officials who show preference for some parts of the nation while neglecting other tribes or sections. Criminality is also often linked to marginalization and a lack of opportunities in societies with societal dysfunction. Individuals adopt the manners and behaviors of others in addition to mimicking them.

Promoting compassion for a certain demographic while dehumanizing others who share the same crimes in the same neighborhood is a polarizing and contentious practice. It also conveys the incorrect message that it is okay for some groups of people to mistreat and degrade other groups of people due to the brutality of the security forces, which is excused. According to Jenny (2017), political leaders have the ability to incite violence and chaos by propagandizing economic hardship and divisive politics. In addition to introducing policies and programs that will bring their growing population together and foster harmony, political leaders must reform the notion and framework of good governance. It would be advantageous for stability, sustainable growth, and the advancement of society.

4.1.5 Self-esteem issues and illicit drug use

According to research, there are two factors that raise the risk of crime in society: the use of illegal drugs and low self-esteem. Crimes are often exacerbated by drugs because of the low self-esteem of those who commit them. There's an innate connection between drug barons and criminals because the former typically use illicit substances such as heroin, meth, cannabis, cocaine, and amphetamines to achieve their missions. The use of stimulants similar to amphetamines and violent crime were found to be significantly correlated in Penang, Malaysia, according to a study conducted in 2020 by Singh et al. A number of the criminals the police detained and apprehended were allegedly involved in drug-related or criminal offenses between July and

December 2017, according to the findings of their investigation.

On rare occasions, detained offenders have admitted to buying drugs from traffickers who illegally imported them into the nation. In addition to other reasons, using illegal drugs by criminals to overcome boredom and enhance their sexual performance and confidence during operations is bound to result in violence and sexual assaults (Singh et al, 2020). Thus, political leaderships everywhere need to take decisive action in order to effectively combat the use and sale of illicit drugs. The use of drugs by criminals to fund their illicit activities would be discouraged as a result.

4.2 Categories of Offenses

There exist numerous types of crime because criminologists typically classify crimes into a limited number of primary categories. In society, the main categories of crimes are property crimes, personal crimes, statutory crimes, inchoate crimes, and cybercrimes (Vijayarani et al., 2020). Crimes against people, property, lawful authority, and local acts comprised the four categories of crime statistics for the year 2018 that were provided by Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics.

According to how the media influences people, Sowmya (2015) classified different types of crime. The types of crimes he lists are numerous and include property, cyber, organized crime, victimless, juvenile delinquency, and public safety violations. The way that these crimes are classified and how the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) of the United States classifies crimes are closely related. The National Institute of Business and Regulation (NIBRS) subdivided various forms of criminal activity into three categories: crimes against individuals, which includes rape, murder, and sexual assault; crimes against property, which includes robbery, arson, and property damage; and crimes against society, which includes drug and illegal substance offenses. Basically, there are several categories into which crimes can fall, including crimes against individuals, crimes against property, and more. The ability of a society to function as a cohesive unit is impacted by each of these crime categories, according to Woźniakowska (2013).

4.3 How Crime Affects Socioeconomic Activities and the Development of Nations

Crime and development are clearly related. Crime cannot become the norm in a culture. Development is a multiform process that entails the thorough restructuring, realignment, and refocusing of the socio-economic systems in order to enhance the overall welfare of the populace. As stated by Tomaro (1981, cited in Popoola 2020), these include the abolition of poverty, the decrease of inequality and disparities, the quickening of economic growth, adjustments to institutions and structures, and adjustments to attitudes. A high rate of criminal activity prevents any society from developing, so nations all over the world are striving assiduously to ensure that their nations have the lowest possible rate of crime.

All people are impacted by crime, which is a problem that transcends all personalities. Crime, according to Balogun et al. (2014), disregards all social classes in Nigerian society since it impacts both the rich (haves) and the poor (have nots). Enough security is required for any significant development, and minimal crime is necessary to keep security in place. Since security benefits people on a personal, social, and even national level everywhere in the world, Sad and Abdullahi (2015) assert that this is unquestionably the case.

The detrimental impacts of crime on economic development and growth have been shown in numerous studies. The crime rate, according to Folorunsho and Rufus (2017), had an effect on the opening of new businesses. It follows that a country's economic activities will eventually suffer as a result of a decline in business activity brought on by rising crime rates. Generally speaking, crime has a negative impact on safety, threatens law and order, causes chaos, increases stress, and has serious financial consequences.

A shrewd investor would never choose to place money in an area with a high crime rate, so crime discourages development and investment. Jackson and Gouseti (2015) claim that there are a range of immediate and long-term emotional effects that can be felt on the mind. Certainly, everyone is impacted by crime, regardless of whether they are a victim themselves or a friend or family member of a victim (Eidell and Ellis, 2010). Crime affects the stomach and heart rates adversely in addition to causing physical harm, shock, disorientation, fear, and rage, among other negative effects. Many

academics have tried to calculate the direct and indirect costs of crime on society since it was found that there is a correlation between crime and economic growth (McCollister et al (2010)).

It has been suggested by many studies on crime that it hinders socioeconomic development (Gaibulloev and Sandler, 2008), though Goulas and Zervoyianni (2012) and other researchers have reported contradictory results. Crime plays a major role in the socioeconomic development of society. There is a logic to this, which is that a rise in crime will eventually cause investor activity to decline, which will negatively impact a country's economic activity. Based on studies on crime rates and new businesses entering Nigeria, Folorunsho and Rufus (2017) found that crime can have a taxing effect on the economy overall by lowering investor confidence and creating inefficiencies within a sector. High levels of criminal activity make a city less desirable to both foreign and domestic investors, according to Ojiako et al. (2016), who verified the previously mentioned claims.

Folorunsho and Rufus(2017) cited Rosenthal and Ross's (2010) analysis of the impact of crime on business location in five US cities. Their research showed that, even in cases where companies haphazardly choose to locate in high-crime regions, a rise in violent crimes will have a negative impact on the business environment in any area where crime is a major concern. Academics are fully aware that crime typically lowers safety, messes with social order, causes confusion and mayhem, undermines community trust and cooperation, and has a negative financial impact on both the individual and the country. A community's development tends to suffer along with rising crime rates, claims Ralph (2006). Crime has an impact on society in a number of ways, including social, psychological, behavioral, and economic. He asserts that crime has an impact on people's behavior in a variety of ways, including activities they choose to engage in, places they choose to live, and activities they participate in locally. Crime has several sociopsychological repercussions on people, including decreased cooperation, mistrust of neighbors, and reluctance to participate in street activities.

According to Mahofa et al. (2016), crime reduces the viability of national economies, drives away both small and large businesses, and raises the expense of law enforcement. Crime victims may

experience various detrimental impacts on their physical, mental, and financial health, according to Tamar and Ania (2017). Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and experiencing the aftermath of violent crime are associated with an increased risk of suicide, according to Jackson and Gouseti (2015).

Eidell and Ellis (2010) enumerate the burial costs, medical bills (for emergency care, hospital stays, etc.), lost wages as a result of permanent injuries, and income loss as the financial repercussions of crime. A high percentage of homelessness and criminal activity can contribute to a number of social issues, according to Office's (2014) research. An economy's economic activity is impacted by crime primarily in two areas: investment decisions and economic indices. Other detrimental effects of crime on society include the expense of repairing various types of damages or destructions caused by crime, the loss of income necessary to maintain and rehabilitate prisons, the trauma, hurts, and pains inflicted on the person who is directly victimized by crime, and the considerable resources needed for the arrest, investigation, and prosecution of criminals at various times (Jeke et al [2021]).

5. Findings and Conversation

5.1 Crimes Causes Ranked

The investigation looked at the relationship between a number of socioeconomic variables and crime as well as how these factors have impacted societal socioeconomic growth. When it comes to fighting crime, it is critical and should not be disregarded to identify the underlying causes of the abnormal activities that criminals and bandits participate in all over the world. Many types of criminal activity causes are examined in this article. Some of the main causes of crime in society are poverty, deprivation, peer pressure, drugs, politics, religion, family dynamics, and an unjust legal system, according to NetNewsLedger (2019). Rather than for basic needs, people commit crimes to satisfy their desires for luxury and to feel significant, valued, and respected (Shargorodskii, 2014).

According to the study, unemployment, a lack of education, poverty, inequality, injustice/oppression and marginalization, drug use, and low self-esteem are the main factors contributing to crime in society in the order listed. A lot of things are common, like peer pressure and the "get rich quick" mentality.

Insufficient attention from governments to these acknowledged sources of criminal activity could compromise social stability and safety. Governments at all levels must formulate a comprehensive plan to address the aforementioned causes of crime and offer long-term solutions in order to ensure development, improve general peace, and provide citizens with security.

5.2 The Significance of Poverty and Income Inequality in Crime Rates

One cannot stress the link between poverty, income inequality, and crime because societies with uneven income distribution among expanding populations are unlikely to experience development, stability, or peace. According to Enamorado et al. (2014), social unrest, stress, and anxiety brought on by poverty and inequality can trigger violent outbursts from some individuals. Important to remember is that powerful and wealthy people in society can commit crimes such as tax evasion and denial, just as those with connections to poverty and unemployment have a higher likelihood of doing so. Those who are impoverished are more likely to commit crimes because they are more likely to turn to criminal activity regardless of the consequences and to constantly look for ways to make ends meet. When poverty and income inequality leave a society unbalanced, tensions between the populace can impede progress and development. To prevent tensions, animosity, violence, and criminal activity of all kinds, political leaders in every nation must make sure that the resources and wealth that their expanding populations deserve are distributed fairly. The provision of other benefits that require cooperation from governments at all levels include higher wages, job security, family support services, and improved access to self-development programs. The implementation of these initiatives is likely to alleviate the fear that drives a significant number of low-income individuals towards criminal activity. Resolving poverty and income inequality will enable the legal system and law enforcement to support their various initiatives aimed at lowering the crime rate. All across the world, this will help build more secure, stable, orderly, and safe communities.

6. Conclusion & Suggestions

This paper examined the causes, manifestations, and effects of crime on the socioeconomic development of society. Genetics, peer pressure, unemployment, income inequality, and poverty are among the variables that influence crime in society, according to the study. Crimes against persons, property, and society encompassed a broad spectrum of illegal activities, such as kidnapping, home invasions, murder, sexual assaults, and arson. Crime contributes to tension and fear, which hinders economic growth. Additional negative consequences of crime include the expenses associated with repairing the various types of harm it causes, the money lost from operating and rehabilitating prisons, and the enormous resources required for catching, investigating, and prosecuting offenders (Jeke et al., 2021).

Utilizing the findings of the study, the paper suggests that in order to successfully lower crime to a minimum level for enhanced security, the government should provide security agencies with cutting-edge tools for combating crime and ongoing training for security personnel. Encouraging peace and development also requires political leaders everywhere to make sure that their expanding populations get a fair share of resources and wealth. All forms of criminal activity will decrease, as well as animosity, resentment, and violence. As these can both raise people's standard of living globally, governments at all levels should work together to provide family support services and higher wages. Enacting strategies, policies, and measures aimed at reducing crime is essential if policymakers are to foster an environment that is conducive to development. Ultimately, an environment of ambiguity and disorder cannot support the growth of any society.

Conflict of Interests

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