

Public Perceptions on the Effects of Crime in the Community: Insight from Tongaat community in the Kwazulu-Natal province

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Abstract

The criminal activity in South Africa has been burdensome to the country's civilians and the state. This is due to the difficulty faced in controlling its occurrence and the lasting impact it has on the functioning of the society. This study aims to discuss the effects crime has on civilians. The researcher conducted a qualitative investigation in Tongaat, Durban Kwa Zulu Natal where 15 participants were consensually recruited. Findings discovered that people of the Tongaat community are negatively affected by crime.

Keywords: Public Perceptions, Effects of Crime, Tongaat community, Kwazulu-Natal province.

Introduction

Over the last two decades, crime has dominated South Africa's development (Roberts and Gordon, 2016). High crime rates create widespread sentiments of insecurity and anxiety, undermining public trust in the democratic process (Louw, 1997; Pérez, 2003). Crime occurrence can be an inevitable fact in communities which struggle with socio economic issues. South Africa has been headlined to struggle a lot in relation to various socio-economic issues with unemployed youth reaching a recorded all time high of 64.4% in 2021 (Singh, 2021). Unemployment is known to have much contribution to the issue of crime as destitute groups who battle the fight of poverty against their survival. The association between crime and unemployment has had a long history in social science and continues to be a source of contention among politicians today (Mazorodze, 2020). South Africans are suffering as a result of high crime rates (Louw, 1997). Crime, rather than socioeconomic difficulties, increasingly dominates

people's worries, according to surveys, and people's fear of crime is growing. Currently, fewer individuals feel comfortable and believe the government is in charge of the situation than in past years (Padayachee & Desai, 2013).

Violent crime is the most prevalent in South Africa, as it is in most other regions of the world. Worryingly, it is reported that 58 people are murdered every day, for a murder rate of 35.8 per 100,000 inhabitants. In this context, the South African Police Service (SAPS) identifies three major causes: criminal behaviour, where murders occur as a result of other crimes and criminal activity; group behaviour, where gangs murder each other, taxi violence erupts, or mobs seek vigilante justice; and social behaviour, where social ills (alcohol and drug abuse), dysfunctional relationships, unemployment, and other problems result in deaths. The creation of jobs for young people can supplement efforts to curb murder crimes in KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa (Mazorodze, 2020).

Schonteich and Louw (2001) show the percentages of different crimes recorded between 1994 and 1999 in South Africa where attempted murder had the least number recorded with 5% and residential burglary robbery as the highest with 121%. South Africans are said to be feeling increasingly unsafe because of crimes such as car hijacking, house breaking, muggings and bag-snatching as it can take place at any place and anytime for the individuals. Globally, South Africa has high levels of violent crimes as revealed by Martin et al., (2001). Martin et al., (2001) recorded those violent crimes increased in 1994 with 618 000 incidents, which increased to 751 000 in 1994. Currently carjacking and other aggravated robberies soared by 92.2 percent over the prior equivalent period. When compared to the same period in 2019/2020, this figure would have climbed by 13.1%. In the month of April to June 2020, there were 1 340 more residential robberies than at the same time the previous fiscal year. There are 132 additional cases registered in the 2019/2020 fiscal year (Cele,2021).

Literature Review

Tongaat is said to have high levels of aggravated robbery, and this is further illustrated in the eThekweni Municipality statistics which illustrates the increase or decrease of different crimes that occur in Tongaat between the years 2003 and 2013. Robbery with aggravating circumstances decreased from 211 incidents in 2003 to 161 in 2013; carjacking had also decreased from 29 cases in 2003 to 13 in 2013; a slight increase was seen with regard to robbery at residential premises with 15 cases in 2003 and 37 in 2013. Lastly, a subsequent increase is seen with regard to robbery at non-residential premises with just one case in 2003 and massive 26 cases in 2013.

With reference to the Tongaat and Verulam sun newspaper, crimes much associated with Tongaat are robbery, shooting, burglary, hijacking and murder associated with taxi violence. With regard to the writer, Marriah (2014), hijacking is reported to be on the rise from 13 incidents in 2012/2003 to 45 incidents in 2013/2004; murder also increased from 17 cases to 29; and house robberies where victims are not at home increased to 490 cases. With regard to robbery, a common example is of a bank robbery in Tongaat Nedbank branch, where the suspect had hidden inside the bank at the early hours of the morning but was later shot dead by the local police. According

to the reporter Zondi (2017), “the shooting unfolded after the brazen 26-year-old suspect had allegedly broken into the bank and hidden inside at 3:45am”. However, this break-in was not a success as the offender had been overpowered before the crime could take place. With regard to crimes associated with shooting which led to murder is a case of a taxi owner who was shot and killed with his wife in Frasers while travelling Tongaat. The article written on the 14th of January 2018 from Arrive Alive states that “the couple had left Shakaskraal and were travelling to Tongaat. As they approached Frasers the occupants of an unknown vehicle opened fire on their Hyundai Tucson with 9mm handguns & high calibre rifles” and so the motive of the shooting was not established as there were no witnesses to comment. More shootings and killings are much associated with taxi violence as the above incident has mentioned where justice was later not obtained as prime suspects are not arrested. Bernadette Wolhuter reported on the 28th of May 2017, where two people were shot dead in the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast “in what was believed to have been another incident of taxi related violence, two people were shot dead in the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast town on Saturday evening”. According to Wolhuter (2017), in KwaNongoma just days before the above incident had taken place, another taxi boss as well as his security guards were gunned, which is much associated with taxi violence. Another similar incident was of a taxi boss who was gunned at the late hours of Monday, the 10th of September 2018 in the Tongaat’s CBD forcing for the road R102 to be closed. With attempts to reduce crime in and around the area of Tongaat, Tongaat SAPS introduced the beach awareness programme where pamphlets were distributed in the La Mercy and Westbrook beaches. The main aim of the awareness programme was to alert the beachgoers and persons who owned vehicles on the ongoing theft of motor vehicles in the beaches. Vehicles are said to be stolen while the owner is out there swimming leaving the vehicle in a deserted area with the key under the vehicle, where the perpetrator finds it easily, making it a mission possible for the vehicle to be stolen. The SAPS state that “We appeal to the motorists to refrain from doing this as it entices criminal activities. The criminals hide and observe motorists when they hide the keys. Later, when the driver has gone, they remove the keys and steal vehicles” (Makhulu News Newspaper, 2017). One may come to conclusions that with the crimes mentioned above, murder takes the crown as it is associated with many unresolved cases where victims do not get the required justice since perpetrators of crime are not found. To discuss such crimes further, one may not understand their reasons without obtaining their possible causal factors as to what could possibly cause those crimes.

The Effects of Crime: Emotional, Financial, Fear, Physical and Psychological Perspectives

Crime occurrence has a huge impact to play within the society’s quality of life. Victimization by crime can have an influence on an individual’s capacity to perform in a range of tasks, including parenting, romantic relationships, and vocational and social functioning (Hanson et al,2010). When studying the effects of crime, the common assessment is to uncover the impact it may have on its victims and society in its entirety.

Dixon, Reed, Rogers & Stone (2006) conducted a study analysing the impact of crime on the citizens of England and Wales. The scholars revealed that crime is often devastating to the victims, its impact can place strain on employment, wealth, housing, mental health, and their overall wellbeing. The outcome of this impact can be more excessive if victims are either poor, ill, unemployed or have been previously victimized. The lasting effects of crime can be permanent to some as they may be unable to recover from the loss or trauma caused by the occurrence, and some may have the ability to recover from their loss. Regarding immediate effects of crime which can be explained as factors that affect the individual for short while and immediately disappears. Every culture has a significant amount of crime. Its costs and consequences affect almost everyone to some extent. The costs and impacts are quite diverse. Furthermore, some expenditures are temporary, whilst others endure a lifetime. Of course, the ultimate cost is death. Other expenses for victims may include medical bills, property damage, and lost wages. Increased security expenditures, such as stronger locks, extra lighting, parking in more expensive secure lots, security alarms for houses and automobiles, and the upkeep of guard dogs, can also result in losses for both victims and nonvictims. A significant amount of money is spent to prevent becoming victimized (Ndlela, 2020).

According to Dixon et al, 2006 physical and financial effects of crime had the highest percentage of 51% in the years 2003/2004. Poor households are more susceptible to these effects since it is a bit of a challenge for the individual to have a comeback after crime has been perpetrated unto them as they have no means to do so. Aside from the grief and loss experienced by crime victims, crime has minimal immediate consequences. The possibility of crime diverts resources to security operations, exacts health costs through increased stress, and generally produces an unproductive atmosphere. (Demombynes, and Özler, 2005). For the purpose of this study the author purports to look at the effect which crime may have on victims and general society within Tongaat. Crime effects in this case are categorised as emotional, financial, physical, and psychological perspectives of crime.

Emotional Effects

According to Griffith (2015) victims may find it difficult to realize they have been a victim of crime at first. They may even pretend that it never happened. These reactions might last only a few seconds, or they can last months or even years. It is not unusual for victims to adopt a 'childlike' demeanour and may require the care of others for some time. It is also typical for victims to believe that the incident occurred while they were dreaming. This usually means that the victim will be in shock, disbelief, and denial.

Dixon et al., (2006) states that burglary emotionally impacts on victims with loss of confidence and having the highest percentage of 26%. On the other hand, wounding highly affects an individual emotionally in terms of difficulty in sleeping, depression and anxiety or panic (Dixon et al., 2006). Car theft-related victims on the other hand are not that much affected as compared to burglary and wounding. In accordance with the authors, wounding, domestic violence does not only affect the victim with

physical and emotional harm. When data is broken down by injury type, it is shown that 86 percent of victims of wounding were emotionally impacted, compared to 77 percent of victims of violence without injury. Similarly, the majority of victims of domestic burglary reported being emotionally impacted by the experience 81 percent, with 21 percent severely affected (Dinisman, and Moroz, 2017). Fraud victims also reported a wide range of short- and long-term emotional and psychological impacts as a result of the crime. 14,15 Those who had also been victims of physical abuse, burglary, or auto theft said that being a victim of fraud had a more catastrophic impact on their life and the lives of their family than the other crimes (Dinisman, and Moroz, 2017).

(Dixon et al., 2006) also refers to pregnant victims of domestic violence who are said to run huge risks of miscarrying, premature birth, experience stillbirth and foetal injury while children who have witnessed such abuse pose the same results of impact, however they are also aggressive, antisocial, have a low self-esteem and do less well at school (Barnish, 2004). "Reported effect of domestic violence on schooling children is that it sometimes causes the victimized child to arrive late at school" (Konchiputu et al., 2016). According to the author, this happens when the child is expected to do house chores such as fetching water or sweeping the yard in the morning. The child does not only become late but also misses on lessons making it a challenge to catch up regarding the time lost.

Wasserman and Ellis (2010) also explain the emotional impacts crime has on victims. In this article, the authors state that crime does not only affect direct victims but also affects indirect victims of crime such as friends or family members. Another group of people who are emotionally affected by crime are the first responders of crime such as the police or emergency services individuals as they experience first-hand information on the crime scene such as body parts or brutal murders. Such incidents affect the responders for a lengthy period regarding trauma, which also affects potential victims in terms of immediate and short-term trauma reactions as well as long-term trauma reactions.

Other associated emotional effects of crime can be fear. People's levels of anxiety about prospective exposure to crime reflect the extent to which they are obsessed with danger and how this may or may not impair their capacity to function in their surroundings. Although Fear of Crime is strongly linked to crime statistics and actual patterns of exposure, it is also a phenomenon that reflects attitudinal and behavioural reactions based on risk perceptions (Eagle, 2015). Core concerns on fear of crime by South Africans were more related to fear of burglary and home robbery. Concerns about safety, particularly at night, were widespread, with 65.1 percent of respondents, or over two-thirds, reporting feeling insecure after dark. There was also evidence that around one-third of those polled restricted their movement in public settings out of fear of criminal victimization. These findings indicate that there is a high level of awareness of criminality and a consequent limitation of action in many cases (Eagle, 2015).

Psychological Effects

Fear, rage, and sadness are some of the psychological repercussions. These are frequent as short-term responses (days), but for others, they can develop into longer-term depressive consequences such as insomnia, anxiety, and repeated reliving of the incident, and occasionally into PTSD, which includes flashbacks and can last months or years (Powdthavee, 2005). Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an indication that contributes to the effects of crime. Wasserman and Ellis (2010) describe PTSD “as a characteristic set of symptoms that develops after exposure to an extreme stressor”. Victims may have a variety of bodily consequences following the crime, including sleeplessness, appetite alteration, lethargy, headaches, muscular tightness, nausea, and diminished libido. These emotions are typical and might last for some time after the crime has happened (Griffith, 2015).

Types of stressors that are capable of producing PTSD include sexual assault, physical attack, robbery, mugging, kidnapping, or child sexual assault, as well as observing the serious injury or death of another person due to violent assault and death of a family member or a close friend” (Wasserman and Ellis, 2010). Considering the above, symptoms which include dreams and flashbacks, result in emotional and psychological reactions for the victim. The second reaction is that victims lose the ability to be close to their loved ones because they lack a sense of trust towards the people. The final reaction being an increased arousal, that is “sleep difficulties, outbursts of anger, difficulty concentrating, constantly being on guard and extreme startle response” (Wasserman and Ellis, 2010). Other psychological effects of victimization are anxiety, depression and hostility which are reported to be the highest in terms of violent crimes as compared to property crimes (Dixon et al., 2006).

Fear

In terms of crime fear, the most obvious reason is becoming a victim of a crime. Fear of crime is frequently unrelated to actual crime rates, with those who are most likely to be victimized being the least scared and those who are least likely to be victimized being the most fearful. Existing research has discovered that fear of crime relates to worse mental health, resulting in a reduced quality of life (Rader, Rogers, and Cossman, 2020). People are anxious about a variety of issues, including their family, career, and health. Fear of crime has become a huge social and political concern, attracting a great deal of social science research, because it is commonly perceived as a serious social problem. Such status may be based, in part, on the premise that widespread fear of crime exists, with all of the negative consequences it involves. When research focuses on a more experientially based notion of fear, it appears to be a rather rare feeling (Gray, Jackson. and Farrall, 2008).

There exists a link between perceived likelihood of crime, perceived seriousness of crime, and reported levels of fear of crime, indicating that judgments of the seriousness of a specific crime paired with subjective probabilities of its occurrence greatly predict fear (Jackson, Smith, and Jagadish, 2014; Warr, 1987) “Fear” of crime appears to encompass a range of emotions related to the prospect of victimization.

These emotions include uncommon bodily reactions to impending danger “fear”, a broader patterning of recurring thoughts about future unknown damage “worry”, and an even more widespread but diffuse, low-level emotion “anxiety” apart from specific perceptions of imminent danger. The existing literature also indicates that these are challenging emotions to quantify (Jackson, Smith, and Jagadish, 2014). Worrying about being a victim refers to past specific mental occurrences characterized by recurring thoughts and fears. Worry is defined as “repetitive thoughts that also have all three of the following characteristics: (1) the repetitive thoughts concern an uncertain future outcome; (2) the uncertain outcome about which the person is thinking is regarded as undesirable; and (3) the subjective experience of having such thoughts is unpleasant.” (Berenbaum, 2010).

Gender is a consistent predictor of crime fear, with females reporting higher levels of dread than males, and this association is unaffected by other demographic factors or neighbourhood context. Similarly, ethnicity, net of other characteristics, is not a significant predictor of crime fear. These are the only correlations that are consistent throughout the models. In the basic model, blacks were more frightened of crime, but an unexpected phenomenon was discovered when neighbourhood and attitudinal correlations were controlled for (Scarborough et al, 2010). White men were statistically more scared than minority men, throwing the theoretical significance of social vulnerability in this sample into doubt. White males, on the other hand, may be more scared since they have more to lose in terms of property and monetary goods, and hence feel more threatened in terms of personal/property victimization. It is also possible that minority men are more likely to be exposed to high-crime regions and are socially conditioned to tolerate crime (Franklin and Franklin, 2009).

Financial Effects

Community welfare indicators may be linked to crime levels through a link between the returns from crime and non-crime activities (Demombynes, and Özler, 2005). Financial impact, involves monetary value lost during or after a criminal offence has occurred, leaving the individual in financial crises such as bankruptcy (Schoen, 2017). A victim’s finance may be affected due to medical bills where the stays at hospitals require more financial support from the victim as well as money for the victim’s medication (Sampson and Groves, 2009). The individual may also be required to replace their lost and damaged property such as furniture and a car using their own cash and increasing their insurance premiums to cover their homes and houses. Absenteeism from work is also a financial constrain because some individuals needs to secure a good health at the hospital and attend court is a crucial point as it makes the individual lose time from work as well as lose their financial rewards in the process. Other costs may include the relocation of a victim, or someone scared of crime to a different neighbourhood, burial expenses, legal bills, and lost school days. Some of the costs of crime are intangible. These expenses might include pain and suffering, as well as a decreased quality of life. There are also the devastating effects on friends and family members. Crime may permanently alter and affect behaviour, whether it is assessing the hazards of visiting specific locations or even the dread of establishing

new acquaintances. Crime not only reduces economic output by causing victims to miss work, but it also has a negative impact on communities by reducing tourism and retail sales. Even the ostensibly victimless acts of prostitution and drug trafficking have major consequence (Ndelela,2020).

Another factor adding to the above is the changing of security locks, which is much more an intense and expensive form of security systems to reduce the chances of crime being perpetrated against the victim's household. The above is mentioned by Dixon et al., (2006) as a 'spill-over' which states that "victimisation can change housing, mental health and wellbeing". This means that once crime has affected an individual in ways mentioned above, the effects may also affect other areas of the individual's life indirectly.

With regards to absenteeism as mentioned above, "last year, victims of violent crime took a total of 83 million days off work in England and Wales to recover from physical and psychological injuries, at a cost of more than 42 billion pounds to the economy" (Dixon et al., 2006). The above clearly states the effect of crime has on employment and the wealth of an individual with the loss of working days means no source of income for the individual which leads to the loss of a stable home for the victim. Also 'being a victim of crime makes people more worried about their safety' (Dixon et al., 2006). This contributes to the victim's household as they move around when feeling unsafe to seek for a safer place to reside in.

Financial strain also affects children in a way that a victimized child is also affected in terms of denied financial support from parents such as not paying school fees, not buying stationery, and not buying the child's school uniform. This influences the child's drop-out from school since the basic needs of the child are not met. Early marriage is another consequence or effect of domestic violence as a child is forced by the parent to engage in an early marriage to avoid providing for the child financially and the child could be provided for by the "husband". Crime victimization is linked to a slew of physical and psychological health issues, necessitating widespread treatment and imposing significant expenses on both the sufferer and society. However, a number of constraints prevent reliable estimates of these costs from being generated (Hanson, Sawyer, Begle and Huble, 2010). There are major methodological disparities between research, such as differences in how costs are quantified, the sorts of crimes or traumas analyzed, the duration since the victimization occurrence, and the type of harm received (i.e., physical injuries versus mental health and psychological consequences). Similarly, writers depend on various indexes and definitions to calculate costs, making comparisons difficult. Second, if expenses are based on recorded instances, these values will be understated due to low reporting rates for crimes such as sexual assault and domestic violence these values will be underestimated. The timing of releases is a third factor influencing the usability of accessible statistics. Cost estimates are frequently antiquated by the time they are eventually in print due to the lengthy review process and publishing delays. As a result, cost projections for a specific calendar year must be inferred from public data. Nonetheless, based on the evidence provided, it is clear that the costs of criminal victimization are extraordinarily significant. (Hanson, Sawyer, Begle and Huble, 2010).

Braun (2014) in line with the effects of crime also discusses the effects crime has on

economic growth. The authors stress that “academic attempts to step further by studying on each of the determinants of economic growth” (Braun, 2014). Crime increases in Columbia resulted in the low or loss of productivity due to the increasing level of crime especially homicide rates. Regarding economic situation, factors associated with this point, and which contribute to a crime are poverty, unemployment, and political situation. About this factor, “financial crisis due to poverty causes the person to involve in criminal activities” (Ali, 2008). Poverty is a disadvantage to an individual’s right to education, which in turn, causes the individual to engage in crime.

Physical Effects

Physical effects can be categorised in two where you get physical injury and physical health. Physical injuries caused by crime can be categorised as mild (bumps and scrapes), moderate (bruises and fractured bones), or severe (stabbing, gunshot wounds). Some physical injuries will be obvious, while others will be hidden. It is likely that not all physical injuries, such as internal organ damage or brain injuries, or those produced by a sexual assault, can be seen. Furthermore, physical damage caused by abuse are not often obvious. This is especially true in domestic abuse instances if the injuries occur on regions of the body that are ordinarily clothed. It is critical not to presume that a victim is unharmed merely because there are no obvious symptoms of injury (Griffith, 2015).

Of course, depending on the type of crime and scenario, physical impact may be a factor to consider. According to Shapland and Hall (2007) in a study conducted in the UK they stated that the effects of crime are multiple. Victims of crime differ greatly from victims of an accident or a disease because it includes someone deliberately or recklessly harming you. Direct effects in this case include shock and loss of trust in society, physical injury, financial loss, psychological cases, social effects, and consequential effects (Sampson and Groves, 2009). Physical injury is where a criminal offence inflicts bodily harm on the victim. In this case, the effects may be of great intense in a way that it causes permanent bodily or physical injury.

Dinisman and Moroz (2017), in the attempt to understand victims of crime, also mentions the impacts crime has. The first impact being physical impact which illustrates that some victims are affected physically, more especially victims of violent crimes. “Victims of violent crime may be left with a chronic physical condition or even a disability” (Dinisman and Moroz, 2017). In this case, the most common type of injury involves minor bruising or a black eye and cuts, severe bruising, and scratching. These injuries are viewed as minor because they do not have permanent or chronic effects on the individual because they are quick to disappear. More intense physical injuries include facial or head injuries and broken bones or lost teeth as mentioned by the author. It has been concluded that “those who were physically injured reported that the crime had a longer impact on their lives as compared with other victims of violent crime” (Dinisman and Moroz, 2017). However, if victims do not face the misfortune of death, they will survive the physical impacts and other consequences in the long run.

Methodology

Tongaat, an urban region of high and moderate socioeconomic class in the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal, is the research site, located 40 kilometers from Durban's CBD. According to Zoutenberg (2013), the community is made up of people with high and moderate socioeconomic statuses, and it is the country's oldest Indian neighbourhood. During the apartheid era, Tongaat was utilized as an immigration area. According to history, Indians went there to work on sugarcane farms, making the region the greatest producer of sugar today. Economic growth has been noted in the area since 2010, when the King Shaka International Airport, which is located between Tongaat and La Mercy, was created.

A sampling procedure allows for the establishment of a population. In contrast, "population refers to all the individuals who fulfil the specific requirement provided for a study investigation" (Steyn, 2016). This simply indicates that a population is a group of people that have been chosen or are acceptable to be a part of a study. In this example, the targeted group included both young and senior Tongaat people, as well as males and females of various races. This was done to ensure that everyone had an equal opportunity to participate in the study setting. A sample size of 15 people was chosen from the population group to participate in the study. The sample size is chosen because a small sample size enables for more information to be obtained and so in this case of participant's perceptions and opinions, a small sample size will allow for more and different perceptions from participants.

Ethical considerations became significant and were applied in the study. Where permission for conduct the study was obtained from ethics committee of the college of humanities at University of KwaZulu Natal as well as the ward councillor of Tongaat community.

Results and discussion

Effects of Crime on Community

The effects of anything are either positive or negative, but this differs with regard to the effectiveness of crime. Crime itself is a negative factor that impacts negatively on any given community or individual either directly or indirectly. The negative impacts that crime has on the community of Tongaat are discussed based on the narratives of residents in this area.

Mistrust and Hopelessness

Three out of fifteen participants have declared that crime brings about mistrust and hopelessness to members of the society. The issue of mistrust is said to take place between people of the society because nobody trusts nor communicates with one another in the society. Hopelessness, on the other hand, is said to depict that there is no hope that crime in Tongaat will ever stop, people from this area have feelings of hopelessness as they perceive that crime rates are on the rise and so the levels of hope of reducing the trend decrease. Participants supporting the above statement stated

that:

*“Crime brings about hopelessness, mistrust and there is no better future for young people”.
-----Members are afraid to have a social communication because of the lack of trust”.*

Another male participant responded and stated:

“People lose hope and even commit suicide when everything is taken away from them”.

Suicides in this case happen when the victim is over traumatized with the effects that crime has on them. Such suicides take place when people's belongings have been taken away from them with no hope of retrieving the stolen goods. When people lose hope in this case, they fall into depression that eventually results in suicide.

Anxiety and Fear

Anxiety and fear are feelings much reported by two participants in the study which are normal feelings to be felt by any victim of crime. The fear of going out and engaging with the public as well not being free in the community are common feelings felt by five participants of the study, while on the other hand, one participant of crime commented on the feeling of anxiety when crime is concerned. To support this, a certain participant said:

“People in this area are not free, they live in fear in communities. It also affects the infrastructures of the community”.

Another participant stated that:

“People are forced to stay at homes, do not walk on the roads or visit community recreational areas as they fear being robbed or attacked”.

In this case, people of Tongaat are said to live an edgy life due to being constantly afraid of going out and leaving no one in their houses as robbery is very rife in the area. Citizens in this case cannot practise the freedom of movement because of the fear of impending incidence of crime. This can be easily verified through findings of Dixon et al (2006) who stated that wounding highly affects an individual emotionally in terms of difficulty in sleeping, depression and anxiety or panic. This finding expands to the effect of depression and trauma.

Depression and Trauma

Three participants have contended that one of the effects of crime in Tongaat community is depression and trauma. Such feelings of depression and trauma are the most common forms of feeling felt by victims who have been badly affected by a certain criminal offence.

According to the three participants, the following excerpts were taken:

“Crime has a bad taste effect especially on victims as they are left abused, they do not recover their goods or cars stolen which leads to them being depressed and traumatized”.

“----Younger and adult minority suffer from fear, depression and anxiety”.

“People lose and get robbed of their personal belongings leaving them with a loss. The community becomes traumatized leaving them with no option but to sell up their property”.

The above expressions describe depression and trauma as one of the attendant consequences of crime in society. As mentioned above, people who are deprived of their belongings by crime are liable to fall into depression and eventually commit suicide

in the face of hopelessness that they cannot recover their belongings as well as their psychological state of being from the incident. These victims will always be affected by the fear of crime, which could, to a larger extent affect their ways of life.

Stress and Suicides

Three participants have disclosed that crime causes stress which eventually ignites individuals to attempt committing suicide. Taking insights from what the participants commented, these two factors are said to work hand in hand as they are initiated by the influence of crime. Some of the participants have mentioned scenarios where crime has affected them in such ways:

"Crime creates stress and fear in the community as the community's stuff is taken away"..... The local citizens suffer from stress and fear which leads to suicides".

"We as the community get feelings such as fear which leads to stress when faced with the effects of crime".

Reduced Social Interaction among Neighbours

One of the effects of crime in Tongaat community is reduced social interaction among neighbours. It is established that people hardly communicate nor interact with one another because of the fear of crime as people do not trust one another despite that they live in the same socio-cultural milieu. People are always afraid of going out because of the high levels of house break-in and other crimes in Tongaat community. Crime has also created a negative impact that has killed social bonds among the people of the community.

Two participants supported the above statement by stating that:

"Crime is a worrying factor as there is no trust between community members, it demoralizes a lot of people".

"Crime has a negative effect on the community as members are afraid to have social communication because of the lack of trust".

Another participant contributed to the discussion on reduced social interaction among the neighbours of Tongaat community by stating the following:

"Crime has a negative impact on the community as it creates decreased social behaviour amongst neighbours as they fear leaving their homes because of crime".

Financial Worries

Due to crime taking place in Tongaat, many issues such as financial worries tend to arise and affect individuals in the area in a negative manner. Financial worries include the lack of money or other economic resources to make a living. To support this statement, two participants in the study responded as follows:

"People lose and get robbed of their personal belongings leaving them with a loss, in this case, the community becomes traumatized leaving them with no option but to sell up our property".

"Financially, people spend more on upgrading on security methods to protect themselves and family and also the cost of moving from one place to the other due to crime". A victim's finance may be affected due to medical bills where the stays at hospitals require more financial support from the victim as well as money for the victim's medication (Sampson and Groves, 2009).

Such statements from participants put to limelight that crime does affect them in many ways but mostly financially as it allows them to spend chunks of money on elements that could assist them in fighting criminal activities such as burglary and break-in. To support the above statement, another participant expressed that:

"Homeowners spend exorbitant amount of money on security features to safeguard their homes".

Tongaat residents complain as they use much more money in protecting their households against crimes that might occur. This includes upgrading the security system as well as hiring private security companies to safeguard the victim's homes, which is quite expensive to maintain. According to Dixon et al, 2006 physical and financial effects of crime had the highest percentage of 51% in the years 2003/2004. Poor households are more susceptible to these effects since it is a bit of a challenge for the individual to have a comeback after crime has been perpetrated unto them as they have no means to do so. Aside from the grief and loss experienced by crime victims, crime has minimal immediate consequences. The possibility of crime diverts resources to security operations, exacts health costs through increased stress, and generally produces an unproductive atmosphere. (Demombynes, and Özler, 2005).

Conclusion and recommendations

Regarding the effects of crime on people generally, it is rare that crime affects people in positive ways. The study has concluded that crime affects the individuals of the community in a negative manner such as mistrust and hopelessness where the community lacks trust among themselves as well as in other people. Besides having trust in one another, the study also revealed that crime brought about fear as well as anxiety amongst them. Fear is said to take place after crime has occurred to an individual. A whole lot of emotions evoke on an individual which also lead to the victim being depressed and traumatized. Such emotions experienced by victims in Tongaat also have a negative impact of less interaction among people in the area, as they are always indoors avoiding crimes such as break-in or theft in their yards. Such negative outcomes from crime have a daunting effect on the victim's quality of life. The healing and attempt at coping within their communities can be discouraging. Once crime affects a victim, fear is said to take place for the individual, but a more intense effect also takes place, which is financial worries where victims in this situation suffer to replace their stolen goods from robbery or rather theft, leading to them to remain in debts or bankruptcy.

Recommendations

Following a wide array of calamities inflicted on Tongaat by a wide range of crimes and the failure of various attempts to resolve the problem, it has become pressing to design and implement effective, pragmatic and curative policy recommendations as well as prevention and intervention programmes that will resolve the problem and mitigate the incidence of crime in Tongaat community. On the basis of the findings of this study, the following recommendations are offered.

- i. Neighbourhood watch is the first and most mentioned recommendation by participants.
- Having neighbourhood watch over each other's properties can reduce the levels of crime in the area. Such measure can also allow for the neighbour to report any suspicious people and vehicles in the neighbourhood.
- ii. Extra lighting was also recommended especially in the household as it would greatly assist persons living in the apartment to spot any suspicious persons who may attempt to enter the household with no authority.
 - iii. Installation of alarms and CCTV cameras was recommended in order to alert people in the household, especially when trouble arises and also to spot perpetrators easily. Alarm devices are said to be an effective recommendation in a way that they are going to be able to wake the household members as well as members of the society when a crime such as burglary occurs in the household. The cameras on the other hand will be used to spot the responsible perpetrator when crime has taken place. These two methods when mended together can decrease the levels of crimes in Tongaat community.
 - iv. Police patrols and involvement of the police officers in crime reduction strategies is another preventive measure recommended by participants. This form of recommendation involves patrols to be performed during the day and at night in order to prevent the occurrence of crime. However, the study recommends the involvement of police officers as a huge impact in the reduction of crime rates in the area.

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