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KWAZULU-NATAL

INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS CRIME:
A CASE STUDY OF TONGAAT COMMUNITY IN THE KWAZULU NATAL
PROVINCE.**

By

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2019.

DECLARATION

This is to confirm that this thesis is my original work, which I have never previously submitted to any other university for any purpose. The references used and cited have been adequately acknowledged.

Signature of candidate.....

On theday of 2018.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to Tongaat residents both directly and indirectly affected by crime and victimization in recent times.

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I thank the good Lord for the gift of life and the protection provided throughout this research. I thank him for giving me the strength to pull through every negativity faced during the course of the research.

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ABSTRACT

On daily basis, crime has reportedly been an ever-rising issue not only in KZN but also all around the world. With the ever-changing laws and societies, crime has also been a changing phenomenon especially during the apartheid era, which had promoted inequality and then brought about poverty and unemployment among the people of South Africa. Studies have persistently established that poverty and unemployment have given rise to the occurrence of crime in the Democratic Republic of South Africa, as the poor are desperately attempting to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. Based on the conceptual analysis of strain and rational choice theories, the study aimed at gaining Tongaat people's perceptions on crimes that are prevalent in the area, their causes as well as the effects of such crimes on individuals that reside in the community. Using one-on-one open-ended semi-structure interviews, data were collected to describe the phenomenon in relation to relevant literatures. The study identified sexual abuse, hijackings, and robberies, house-breaking to mention but a few as the most prevalent crimes in Tongaat community. Based on the findings of the study, possible policy recommendations were offered to reduce the crime rates in the area.

Key words: Crime, Exploratory study, participant, Public perception, Tongaat community

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and background

The problem of crime has reached endemic proportions in South Africa (Joyner, 2016). The dramatic increase in crimes since 1990 has generated a wide range of explanations about the causes of, and protagonists in, the ongoing "crime wave" (Casey, 2011). Little is known about the public perceptions of and reactions to crime. (Cooley-Strickland, M., Quille, T. J., Griffin, R. S., Stuart, E. A., Bradshaw, C. P. & Furr-Holden, D.) The townships and squatter camps in the suburbs of South African societies (Cooley-Strickland *et al.*, 2009). The study attempts to provide how crime has impacted upon the lives of people living in an area of Tongaat. The research attempts to locate the broader questions about the nature, extent, impact and control of crime within the narrow context of a small, community-based study focusing on the respondents' perceptions of, and reactions to crime.

Crime has dominated South Africa's transformation over the past two decades (Roberts and Gordon, 2016). High crime rates cause widespread feelings of insecurity and fear which undermine popular confidence in the democratization process (Louw, 1997& Pérez, 2003). Considering both trends and public perceptions, this thesis explores changing crime levels, causes and effects over the past decade, elaborating on the problems associated with crime statistics in South Africa, and the salience of the transition for current crime levels (Lacey, N., Soskice, D. & Hope, D. 2017). Crime has been increasing gradually in South Africa since 1980. It is, however, since 1990 and not more recently as is popularly believed, that levels have risen sharply (Louw, 1997). An examination of the statistics shows that despite general increases, not all crimes have been committed with equal frequency and not all areas of the country are similarly affected (Padayachee & Desai, 2013). These trends are a product of the political transition and are associated with the effects of apartheid and political violence, the breakdown in the criminal justice system and more recently, the growth in organized crime (Breetzke, 2010, Mandela, 2009). High crime levels are taking their toll on South Africans (Louw, 1997).

Surveys show that crime rather than socio-economic issues now dominates people's concerns, and that fear of crime is increasing. Currently, fewer people feel safe and believe the government has the situation under control than in previous years (Padayachee & Desai, 2013). Faced with widespread unemployment on the one hand, and the prospects of development on the other, levels of property crimes will probably continue to increase (Louw, 1997). While violent crime levels should decline over the medium term, improved relations with the police and a culture of reporting crimes like rape and assault may result in more crime being recorded (Caneppele & Aebi, 2017). Crime has been one of the most significant features of South Africa's transition from a racially divided apartheid government to democracy (Tambe Endoh, 2015). However, for many South Africans, one of the dominant features of the transformation process over the past two decades has been, and continues to be, crime and violence (Roberts & Gordon, 2016). In view of this, South Africa's recent history has been characterized by violent crimes, emanating in varying degrees of intensity from and within the country (Cooley-Strickland *et al.*, 2009).

Acknowledging the ubiquity of crime, both past and present, in this country and its effects on South Africans is important if current crime trends and the public's perceptions thereof, are to be understood (Scharnick-Udemans, 2017). The perception exists that crime increased suddenly during 1994 and that the government and police are not succeeding in their efforts to contain the situation (Lawrence, 2008). Survey data suggest that the fear of crime is increasing and the feelings of safety and security are diminishing; and that crime is now considered the most pressing problem facing the country by people of all racial groups (Louw, 1997). The most probably disconcerting is that for many people, the fear of losing one's life now overshadows all other fears associated with crime in the republic (Roberts and Gordon).

Crime is an increasingly worrying factor in South Africa with its growth rates continuously alarming (Marriah, 2014). The term 'crime' may be defined as "an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law" (SCCJR, 2016). In accordance to the definition above, it is shown that a criminal offence or rather crime is a negative occurrence which results in negativity too. Still on the issue of crime, it is something that is dated way back to the times of Lombroso who took it upon himself to assist in creating superstitions on how possible offenders of crime might look like with regard to physical appearances. Lombroso and other

authors also made references to the causes of crime as well as the impacts or effects crime has on people. In the literature review, the Scottish Centre for Justice Research (2016) explains that Cesare Lombroso and Charles Darwin refer to biological and sociological theories to explain the main causes of crime. Biological explanations of crime assume that some people are “born criminals who are physiologically distinct from non-criminals” (SCCJR, 2016). Sociological theories on the other hand reflect that crime is shaped by external factors to the individual such as their neighbourhood, peers and family. Both theories as well other causes of crime such as poverty and unemployment are further discussed in the literature in relation to the understanding of crimes as perceived by the residents of Tongaat community.

With regard to the impacts of crime in South Africa, Zoutenberg (2013) states that crime impacts negatively on the economy of a country through reduced global investments and on development from small to bigger business enterprises. In the same vein, Zoutenberg (2013) stresses further that crime affects businesses in ways that global investments lack especially when crime is involved ;and instead of businesses growing bigger, they become small as capital to do so all falls with crime trends unfolding . This thesis explores these crime trends and the public perceptions of the situation in more detail in Tongaat community using a qualitative approach to explore this study.

1.2 Rationale and Problem Statement

Rationale and problem statement are interrelated and are important concepts in research. A problem statement is defined as a “definite or clear expression about an area of concern, a condition to be improved upon, a difficulty to be eliminated, or a troubling question that exists in scholarly literature” (Steyn, 2016). This means that a researcher must find a gap in the research, which will be viewed as the problem the researcher is trying to solve. Rationale, on the other hand, allows for the researcher to make a list of the decisions made during the study as well as the rationale behind those decisions.

With regard to the problem statement, crime is a social problem that cannot be avoided nor stopped but can be prevented from taking place or repeating itself. Countries such as the USA and the UK are also associated with high levels of violent crimes with 15% in USA and 6% in the UK. (The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, 2011). With respect to the area

of study, which is located outside Durban, approximately 40km north of its Central Business District (CBD), it is associated with several crimes, with drug-related crimes being the most committed type of crime, having 578 reported cases in 2015. Drug-related crimes in this case involve illegal selling of drugs by individuals in order to make ends meet. The Tongaat area is not only notorious for drug-related offenses but also crimes such as burglary, theft, common assault, robbery, sexual offences and murder (North Coast Courier, 2015). Quite often such crimes leave victims vulnerable and traumatized.

This project aims at gaining Tongaat people's perceptions on such crimes and how they occur and to gain information on the coping mechanisms to mitigate the scourge in the area. Another problem confronting the Tongaat community is obviously linked to police malpractices. Zoutenberg (2013) states "that in 2011, a Makhulu news reporter highlighted a problem of malpractice within the various precincts of the SAPS". According to Faull (2011), a study conducted proved that police officials themselves are involved in both petty and serious crimes. This problem will, however, limit the public trust towards the police. Moreover, there are also no scholarly written publications on crime in this area while the only probable source of information on crime emanates from newspaper articles. Thus, the researcher is conducting this research to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the various crimes that ravage the Tongaat community rather than rely solely on information from newspaper articles.

1.3 Aim and Scope of the Study

This study essentially aimed at exploring public perceptions of crime in Tongaat community. The scope of the study was strictly streamlined to Tongaat community among other crime-zone areas in South Africa. Questionnaires were not administered to the participants. The study adopted a qualitative research design involving one-on-one semi-structured in-depth interview as the research instrument. The choice for the adoption of an in-depth interview method was to gather a large body of credible and dependable primary data, which may have been difficult to obtain through a mere survey method. An audio recorder helped in the procurement of oral and institutional data that were collected directly from the field as sources of information relevant to the understanding of people's perception of crime in the chosen study location. It was argued

that the chosen method would give greater leverage to the study due to its in-depth and qualitative nature. In the secondary data collection phase, relevant published scholarly literature, including journal articles, newspaper reports, the electronic media, and various other print media were scrutinized and explored. The secondary data were juxtaposed with the primary data so as to ensure trustworthiness of the research findings.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study was designed to meet the following specific objectives:

- i. To identify the various forms of crime that are prevalent in Tongaat community;
- ii. To explore the causes of crime in Tongaat community;
- iii. To investigate the effects of crime on the inhabitants of Tongaat community;
- iv. To identify possible coping mechanism that can be adopted to address the problem of crime in Tongaat and;
- v. To determine the effectiveness of the community coping mechanism.

1.5 Research Questions

Based on the objectives of the study, this research work aimed at finding answers to the following research questions:

- i. What are the various forms of crime that are prevalent in Tongaat community?
- ii. What are the public perceptions on the causes of crime in Tongaat community?
- iii. What are the effects of crime on the inhabitants of Tongaat community?
- iv. What are the possible coping mechanisms that can be adopted to address the problem of crime in Tongaat community?
- v. How effective are the coping mechanisms in resolving the problem of crime in Tongaat community?

1.6 Significance of the Study

Considering the incidence of crimes that is prevalent among the people of Tongaat community and the fact that most remedies ever put in place have thus far been ineffectual, it is envisaged that the findings of the study will proffer new insights into the on-going discourse on the crime problemata.

Therefore, this research sought to fill this gap in the literature to add to the extent knowledge on the subject matter. It is also expected that the study will make valuable policy recommendations on how to reposition the fight against crimes at Tongaat.

More importantly, the widespread assumptions about the causes of crime in Tongaat have made it difficult for many researchers, particularly those that have shown a great deal of research interest, to have a lucid understanding of the primary causes of the crime. The study was therefore fundamental in establishing the major causes of crime impasse in the country in order to nip in the bud all the hypothetical statements surrounding the causes of crime in the community of Tongaat. The study will therefore illuminate the direction that should be taken to tackle the menace of crime to restore peace, stability and orderliness among the affected areas in Tongaat.

It has been widely acknowledged that the development and sustainability of Tongaat, as an economically buoyant community, may remain difficult to accomplish if no further efficacious efforts are taken to arrest the on-going situation of crime and insecurity in the community. In this context, this study is necessary to alert the government, non-governmental and other organizations concerned to the needs of citizens who are impacted by the repeated havoc that crime inflicts on the social fabrics of the nation. Chief among these areas for retribution are socio-economic development, political stability, technological advancement, education and general health of the citizens.

The study will also orientate the youth (especially those whose lives have been battered by acute poverty and social instability) on the extent to which they place themselves at risk by engaging in crime which could compromise their future dreams and their position as tomorrow's leaders. It is hoped that, by taking positive steps towards addressing the various problems of the youth as well as making them realize that crime is not the last option to achieve their goals, the tremendous rate

at which the youth degenerate into criminality in the Tongaat community will be reduced. Therefore, by creating various awareness programmes based on the findings of the study, incidences of crime may be radically minimized, if not completely eradicated, in Tongaat and across all South African societies.

The findings of the study will help policy makers and stakeholders who are involved in the provision of basic needs, information and services to the people to understand the adverse consequences of insecurity and crime on the quality of life of the citizenry. This will enable them design and adopt more appropriate policies and intervention strategies that will enhance the general well-being of the populace. More importantly, the study will sensitize the government and NGOs to the causes and impact of crime, which should, in turn, motivate them to improve the socio-economic infrastructure of the Tongaat community. This may safeguard citizens' moral rectitude and ensure effective individual contributions to national development.

1.7 Conceptualization of Key Terms

The basic concepts that are central to this study are clarified and operationalized in this section. This will help the readers have a clearer picture of each of the concepts used in the study, and will also facilitate an understanding of the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of the study.

1.7.1 Crime

Crime is defined as “an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law” (SCCJR, 2016). This concept is viewed as a delinquent behaviour in a society where an individual does not conform to societal norms which lead them to the wrong side of the law. With regard to the study at hand, crime may be defined as a phenomenon whereby an individual in Tongaat community is found violating the societal rules and norms put in place to maintain societal order and rid the community of all unpleasant consequences.

1.7.2 Participant

A researcher participant is defined as “a human subject or an experiment, or trial. A study participant or subject is a person who participates in human subject by being the target of observation” (Jorgensen, 1989). The above concept reveals that a participant is an individual who takes part in a research setting such as being interviewed by the researcher. In this case, the fifteen interviewed persons at the study location are those referred to as participants because they participated in the study.

1.7.3 Coping mechanism(s)

John and Katherine (2010) define coping mechanism as “specific efforts, both behavioural and psychological, that people employ to master, tolerate, reduce, or minimize stressful events. This concept depicts how an individual or rather a victim copes after a criminal offence which has negatively impacted them. Coping mechanism, as in the case of Tongaat, allows for the participants to reduce or alleviate the effects crime has on them. The mechanism also allows for victims of crime to cope with crime situations and for people to think of possible recommendations to reduce the incidence of crime.

1.8 Structure of the Dissertation

The thesis comprises six chapters.

Chapter one offers an introduction of the study. It outlines the aim of the study, objectives of the study and the relevant research questions that the study explored. The study’s important concepts are outlined and the research problems are stated in this chapter. This chapter also presents significance of the study.

Chapter Two focuses on the review of relevant literatures and other scholarly investigations. The chapter critically reviews previous studies and thus identifies the gaps in the literature with specific reference to public perception of crime in Tongaat community

Chapter Three provides a theoretical framework for the study by illuminating relevant theoretical models, which served as a blueprint according to which public perception of crime in Tongaat community could be better understood.

Chapter Four reflects on the research methodology section of the study. In this chapter, the methods employed for the study were explored focusing on research design, study setting, study population and sample size, sampling techniques, data collection, data analysis, ethical considerations and limitations of the study.

Chapter Five focuses on the analysis, interpretation, and presentation of the data that were collected during the fieldwork section of the project. The chapter also addresses and discusses the findings that emerged from the identified themes for comparative and reflective purposes.

Chapter Six offers the concluding part of this thesis. It presents a summary of the main findings, draws relevant conclusions, and offers policy recommendations.

1.9 Summary

This chapter provides a concise overview of this study by revealing the core component of the thesis as articulated through the background, statement of the problem, aim, research questions, research objectives and significance of the study and conceptualization of the relevant concepts. More importantly, the rationale for selecting the topic and the objectives for undertaking this study were outlined.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Several studies have argued that there is no single definition of crime (Williams, 2015, Morrison, 2009). However, causes and effects of crime should be reviewed through this study as a secondary source of data collection to substantiate the findings of the study (Cheng and Phillips, 2014). These efforts are put there to illustrate exactly what the prominent crimes in Tongaat are, the causes of those crimes, the effects of those crimes on the growth of the community, as well as the coping mechanisms to reduce the menace. There have been several assertions on poverty, unemployment, weak social cohesion between parents and children to mention but a few as the causal factors of crimes (Van der Westhuizen and Swart, 2015, Wikström and Treiber, 2016b). Crime also affects an individual with regard to emotional, economic, and psychological effects (Wikström and Treiber, 2016b). This thesis also unfolds the different types of crime that are endemic to Tongaat community and the reasons for their occurrence from time to time.

2.1. 1 Types of Crime in Tongaat

Martin Schonteich & Antoinette 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, and 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 that violent crimes increased in 1994 with 618 000 incidents, which increased to 751 000 in 1994. In the USA, 15% of recorded crimes are violent, while 6% in the UK. On the other hand, South Africa's recorded crimes in 1999, and third of all of them were violent crimes. To bring the statistics home, 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.

2.1.2. The Causes of Crime.

There are a number of theoretical approaches to the explanation of the causes of crime. Crime may be explained and defined but there is really no one cause of crime. In accordance to The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (2016), "crime is a highly complex phenomenon that changes across cultures and across time". This is visible in behaviours and actions that were once legal but now made illegal. Biological and sociological theories are illustrations which attempt to explain the causes of crime. Biological theories are associated with the work of Cesare Lombroso and Charles Darwin (Wikström and Treiber, 2016a).

Biological explanations of crime assume that some people are "born criminals who are physiologically distinct from non-criminals". Sociological theories reflect that crime is shaped by external factors to the individual such as their neighbourhood, peers and family (The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, 2016).

A recent article (anonymous n.d) outlines that the question of ‘what causes crime?’ has yet to be fully answered. To answer the question, the author uses six (6) different theories to interpret what causes crime in different given scenarios and this is closely linked to the SCCRJ (2016). The theories in this case are the choices theories, trait theories, sociological theories, social process theories, social conflict theories and life course theories. With regard to the choice theories, “the answer as to why a person commits a crime is rather straightforward, because that person chooses to do so” Anonymous (n.d). In this case, an individual has a choice between committing a criminal offence or not and this is determined by the possible rewards an individual is expected to get out of the criminal offence. An individual in this case weighs options before committing a criminal offence, if the criminal offence bares the individual more benefits (money in most cases) as compared to punishments, the individual is much more likely to be part of it in order to gain such rewards. Previously, the Father of Criminology, Lombroso had stated that one could identify a possible criminal by physical traits. These traits include sharp teeth and large jaws, but this notion was soon changed as the years prevailed. These theories suggest that “these biological or psychological traits in individuals could incline them towards criminal behaviour given a set of certain circumstances” Anonymous (n.d). Not only focusing on just physical traits, these theories suggest that an individual’s sense of psychological thinking could have an impact on the causes of crime. Anti-social behaviour for example affects an individual’s sense of thinking where nobody knows what one is thinking or planning which is why criminal thoughts manifest in the mind of these people (Wikström and Treiber, 2016a). The article also suggests that trait theories also refer to biological traits with regard to male hormones called testosterone which affects the individual with a pitch voice and the growth of facial and pubic hair, and this is highly associated with aggression. The article further indicates that most incarcerated individuals who have committed violent crimes do have a high testosterone (The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, 2016).

According to The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (2016), it is established that crime changes across cultures and time, however it outlines that there is no one cause of crime. In this case, crimes that were not criminalised are now criminalised which makes it a challenge to understand what really crime is as well it causes. The SCCJR (2016) uses biological and sociological theories to explain the causes of crime. Contrariwise, contemporary approaches focus mainly on biochemical conditions, neurophysiological condition, genetic inheritance and intelligence as the reasons that cause crime.

Put differently, reference is made to the learning theory where the author views crime as a learned behaviour. Classic example of teachers of criminal behaviours in this case will be family members (Levitt, 2013). The labelling theory, on the other hand, states that when an individual is labelled a criminal by the authorities, that individual is likely to practice criminal ways in future. The next theory, being the social conflict theory explains that crime occurs due to the imbalance in power between the rich and the poor communities (Vahabi, 2009). In accordance to the author, the imbalance, in this case, is merely caused by capitalism in the area, where the main concern for everyone is to strive to gain some form of capital to survive in the society. “The poor commit property crimes for reasons of need. As members of capitalist society, they desire the same financial rewards as everybody else. They commit violent crimes because of the frustration and rage they feel when these rewards seem unattainable” Anonymous (n.d). These frustrations are normally an indication that the rich and poor do exist in the community and so being continuously poor puts pressure on the individuals to use illegitimate ways (crime) to achieve the goal (capital) required. With regard to the life course theories, “practitioners of life course criminology believe that lying, stealing, bullying and other conduct problems that occur in childhood are the strongest predictors of future criminal behaviour” Anonymous (n.d). Such childhood problems manifest themselves in an individual’s life in the adulthood stage in future where the person engages in aggressive behaviour which leads to criminal offences.

According to Morgan (2011) adds to the body of research by explaining the causes of crime with regard to inequality. The author uses three (3) ecological theories of crime namely: the economic theory of crime by Becker, Shaw and McKay’s social disorganization theory and the strain theory by Merton. “Inequality has no effect on property crime but have a strong and robust impact on violent crime and in contrast, poverty and police activities have significant effects on property crime, but little on violent crime (Morgan, 2011). With regard to the economic theory of crime, “individuals allocate time between market and criminal activity by comparing the expected return from each and taking account of the likelihood and severity of punishment” (Morgan, 2011). In this case, individuals who earn less tend to choose criminal activities to bridge the gap of inequality between the rich and the poor. However, with the social disorganization theory, factors such as poverty, ethnic heterogeneity and residential mobility are viewed as those which cause crimes indirectly (Sampson and Groves, 2009). For

example, poverty is a factor illustrating inequality in the society but does not cause crime on its own, it causes crime when it is exposed to poverty.

A different yet relevant explanation is that poverty is also reported as a cause of domestic violence against children (Hyder and Malik, 2017). “Poor living conditions create pressure on the family and stress on the parenting of that family, and this may lead to domestic violence” (Mwale, Marisen & Philip. G. Kanchiputu (2016). Domestic violence is a criminal offence in South Africa and so the above statement shows a correlation between poverty and crime. The final theory by Merton which is the strain theory links inequality to crime with regard to unsuccessful individuals who try eliminating the strain of poverty by using the tool of crime.

“Unsuccessful individuals become alienated from society and commit crime in response Individual alienation can arise from income inequality” (Morgan, 2011). All the above ecological theories have a link in such a way that they explore the possible effect inequality has on individuals which, in this case, is crime. The difference facet of the theories include the social disorganization theory that focuses more on informal social factors deterrent to crime, the strain theory, on the other hand, focuses on the pressures an individual receives from others to commit a certain violent crime; and the economic theory of crime focusses on the benefits to commit property crime.

2.1.3. Unemployment and Poverty as a Cause of Crime.

Mario (2004) asserts that clear reasons of why crime occurs have not yet been established. Mario (2004) attempts to explain some of the reason's crime occurs, which is income inequality in countries with hot climate where tropical zones are viewed as having very hot temperature. “Determinants of whether Europeans could go and settle in these regions with high mortality and hot temperatures, therefore, have had negative effects on historical developmental paths of countries” (Mario, 2004). These historical paths have contributed these European countries to engage in crime as more criminal acts take place in the countries due to hot temperature which is an indicator that allows for people to engage in crime.

Two decades ago Americans were much more inclined to blame “social conditions-poverty, unemployment, limited education- as the source for the high rates of crime than they are today” (The Public Perspective, 1997). The Quarterly bulletin (2009/10) conducted among various

societies the public opinions and views on the causes of crime. Other reasons for crime concluded by the bulletin is that people imitate bad behaviour, with the highest with 76% and the lowest with 50%. Other causes of crime include income inequality (80%) and urbanisation (50%) were the main points outlined by the bulletin as the contributing factors to crime due to unemployment and poverty. The above rankings are the causes of crime but observing closely proves that majority of the causes are there because of the inequality in income amongst people in the society.

Author Anthony (2012) adds to the above explanations and outlines three major aspects that cause crime, namely: lack of education, living in poverty and being raised in a single parent home. These three aspects do have a certain correlation in accordance to Anthony as living in poverty limits the chances of person gaining basic education, which, in the same vein, turn the individual into crime. Poverty is also a reason for broken homes or single parented homes.

With regard to the factor of education, Anthony (2012) states that “school stresses many behaviours that are not very useful in the criminal world including, treating others with respect and striving to be a good citizen”. The above statement outlines that the lack of education is indeed a cause of crime because individuals are not taught the importance of engaging in crime-free activities to combat them from being offenders. Anthony also outlines that there is a correlation between education and crime with reference to a person’s IQ. Therefore, the lower the IQ, the higher the chances of crime or rather intelligence indicates chances of future criminal behaviour. “The typical offender is undereducated, unemployed and living in poverty before incarceration” (Henry, 2002). The lack of basic education increases the chances of crime. For example, the most efficient way to reduce recidivism is to educate prisoners (Anthony, 2012).

With regard to poverty, it was the first aspect much associated with criminal activity. “One of the reasons that poverty has been associated with crime is because it is an opportunity for the poor to acquire materials that they could otherwise not afford” (Anthony, 2012). Inequality in the society allows for persons much affected with poverty to be vulnerable in committing crime to satisfy their basic needs. Violent crimes in this case are prominent among poverty-stricken persons because the way to attain a great deal of good deals has to do with violence.

Single parented households also pose as a cause of crime. Anthony (2012) expressed that “the main perspective of the family structure argument is that children that reside in single parent households have a much higher chance of becoming involved in crime”. The best example is of a boy growing up without a father; this condition of child development can make him a future committer of violent crime. Single parented homes are much associated with broken homes where there is no sense of attachment between the individuals and their parents, making it easy for the individual to commit crime as no words of wisdom concerning the consequences of crime come from the parent.

Sarah Lageson & Christopher Uggen., (2011) also raised an important and valid yet unique point on the concern of the causes of crime. The authors focus on how a person’s job influences crime focusing on how it affects both young and adult persons. The authors make use of classic criminological theory to provide the reasons for how an individual’s employment could possibly contribute to crime. Rational choice and economic theories suggest that an individual’s employment should reduce one’s motivation to commit crime hence majority of crime in the USA is present due to the lack of employment. Employment is viewed as a “money delivery system” as Lageson *et al.*, (2011) stated. This means that an individual benefit greatly on the job but turns into crime if the benefits or incentives are less. The author’s work is closely linked to the work of Morgan (2011) with regard to the anomie (strain) and differential opportunity theories. In this case, these theories serve to the individual as an escaping plan when everything is blocked. Individuals in this case turn to crime or delinquent behaviour when the job they have cannot make them attain certain goals in life. With regard to the routine activity’s theory, an individual’s employment opportunities to commit crime is guided by the individual’s activities of everyday life. The age-graded theories of informal control support the above theories more especially the routine activities theory, which states that adolescents can commit crime when unsupervised (Vazsonyi, A. T., Javakhishvili, m. & Ksinan, A. J. 2018). For example, when they are with peers. Adults on the other hand are employees in supervised environments, where it is highly unlikely for them to be perpetrators of crime. Employment affects young persons in a way that young individuals are over-involved in working at a young age neglecting school in order to further their studies (Johnson and Mollborn, 2011).

To follow up on the above points, an article (The Root causes of Crime, 1996) stated that the rooted causes of crime in this case are broken down into three major factors namely: economic

factors/ poverty, social environment and family structures. In this case, poverty is said to produce the lack of education, lack of employment, and prejudice against people living in poverty and poor housing is on the rise (Hyder and Malik, 2017). The above-mentioned factors are those responsible for triggering poverty as well as crime because the more the poverty, the more the crime rates increase. “While there is no direct cause and effect relationship between poverty and crime, the conditions arising out of poverty combine to create high risk populations who are over-represented in the criminal justice system”(Anonymous, 1996). Still on the economic/ poverty factor, persistent unemployment is a major point under the factor that contributes highly to crime in a certain area. Many studies find that a high number of the youth and adults admitted to correctional houses are unemployed (Anonymous, 1996). For these people to be incarcerated, unemployment provides anger among people especially the youth, forcing them to steal or abuse substances and then commit a criminal offence. If no decent job found, one is forced to re-offend for them to make ends meet.

With regard to the social environmental factor, “social root causes of crime are: inequality, not sharing power, lack of support to families and neighbourhoods, real or perceived inaccessibility to services, lack of leadership in communities, low value places on children and individual well-being and the overexposure to television as means of recreation” (Hyder and Malik, 2017). The above-mentioned points create crime in a society if ignored. For example, inequality among people in the society forces the underprivileged individuals to commit crime with regard to bridging the gap of inequality. The last condition in this case being the family structures which state that conditions that prove or show that a family is dysfunctional contribute to the future of delinquency. Some factors outlined include parental inadequacy, abuse and neglect of children, family violence and the lack of communication (Anonymous, 1996). With regard to child abuse, there is a direct link between the abuse of women and children and future delinquent behaviour. This means that children abused or who watch their parents being abused are more prone to delinquent behaviour in future (Sousa, C., Herrenkohl, T. I., Moylan, C. A., Tajima, E. A., Klika, B., Herrenkohl, R. C. & M. Jean Russo, P. 2012). Broken attachment between a child and parent is an indication of future delinquent behaviour as these children engage or mingle with the wrong crowd resulting in them being part of the dangerous gangs engaging in delinquent behaviour (Johnson and Mollborn, 2011). However, after producing the possible causes of crime, the article further produces the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of crime prevention (Sousa *et al.*, 2012).

Homelessness is also said give rise to crime among the youth as they hang out on the streets most of the time. “Lack of employment opportunities leads to criminal activities among the unemployed” (Ali, 2008). An unemployed person may need financial support or financial gain to earn a living and so they may resort to criminal activities so that they can achieve some sort of monetary gain when a legal opportunity to earn is not achieved. The last factor being political condition which plants a sense of uncertainty that results in the individual engaging in an unfair means of earning due to the hopeless nature of their future. With regard to social factors, it includes citizen and communities who are part of the social space in which one lives in and where crime normally take places. The author further lists social crimes which include inequality, not sharing power, lack of support to families and neighbourhoods, perceived inaccessibility to services, lack of leadership communities, low value placed on children and individual well-being, and overexposure to television as a means of recreation.

Still on the issue of the different causal factors of crime, Wairimu (2014) explains the causes of crime and its effects, focusing on the coping mechanisms of crime and its preventive measures. The study is conducted in Nairobi, in the area called Mukuru Kwa Reuben. The author also discusses the point of crime against poverty, which in this case, poverty is stated as one of the causes of crime. “Crime against poverty includes theft, burglary, mugging, car hijacking and vandalism, which are experienced in both low and high-income neighbourhoods” (Wairimu, 2014). While burglary and vandalism are prominent among high-income areas, low income areas use burglary as a form of job that yields valuable returns. In this case, the author further discusses two (2) casual factors of crime namely: the structural causes and the trigger risk factors. With regard to structural causes, it deals with the unequal power relations between people. In urban contexts, poverty and inequality are the most prominent and noted causes of crime in Nairobi (Wairimu, 2014) “Interpretations based on statistical modelling have demonstrated that inequality is more influential than poverty, with income inequalities being generally more marked in urban than local areas” (Wairimu, 2014). To add to the effects that crime has on people, Micheal Levi, Martin Innes, Peter Reuter & Rajeev V. Gundur (2013) of the European Union refer to trafficking of human beings (THB) resulting from organised crimes. In this case, people are trafficked for sex and for labour. Both trafficked persons suffer the effects of physical threats, injury and unprotected sex as mentioned by the authors. These victims also suffer exploitation from their respective ‘bosses’, especially those trafficked for labour purposes as they are paid too little or not paid at all (Huang, 2017).

While inequality is viewed as the most prominent causal of crime, poverty is said to contribute to violence as offenders commit violent crimes to gain materialistic returns. “The spatial cause of violence is particularly important in cities and their peripheries, which often contain unsafe places (dark lanes, isolated bus stops, public latrines), where rape, robbery and violent crime take place” (Wairimu, 2014). The above is an indication that an individual’s environment is also a contribution to crime and violence. With regard to reducing crime in the area, the most effective methods to be used include neighbourhood watch and community policing. Neighbourhood watch requires the concept of public partnership where an individual works hand in hand with another to achieve crime reduction through neighbourhood watch (Wairimu, 2014). Public policing, on the other hand, might trigger to occur in the area. The coping mechanisms in this area however differ a lot as compared to preventive measures. Preventive measures are those factors that take place to reduce crime rates while coping mechanisms are those strategies that people use to deal with a specific situation that occur to them (Wairimu, 2014).

Martin *et al.*, (2001) also take the platform to explain some reasons why crime occurs in South Africa. To outline a few, proliferation of firearms allows for illegal firearms to be smuggled into the country, allowing for crimes such as robbery to be on the peak. There is a strong relationship between age and crime, probably the most important single fact about crime is that it is committed mainly by teenagers and young adults (Martin *et al.*, 2001). However, South Africa is viewed as a youthful population; and this answers the question of why crime is prominent in the country. Majority of the youth are in the crime-prone ages which are 12 to 19 years. Rapid urbanisation is another factor that counts for the increase in crimes in South Africa as a wide range of people move into urban areas, thereby causing overcrowding and an increase in unemployment. Increased consumer demands, and the availability of firearms allow for crimes to be easily committed in urban areas.

Taking a different yet relevant turn, jobs themselves allow for the individual to engage in activities such as alcohol and drug abuse as in accordance to Lageson *et al.*, (2011). Drug and alcohol abuse also causes violence on children. “Drug and alcohol abuse may drive the drunkard on the poor creation of poor relationship between parents and children, and in the long run, may lead to domestic violence against children (Konchiputu *et al.*, 2016). The job further allows for the individual to learn new things like being involved more in criminal

activities. The lack of unemployment among youth in this case is viewed as a stumbling stone that has major increase on the crime rate (Wairimu, 2014). With regard to adults, Lageson et al., (2011) find that “inadequate employment and unemployment increase arrest rates among young adults”.

2.1.4. More Causes of Crime.

Adding to the body of research on the causes of crime, authors in this case have discussed mental disorder (The cornerstone of forensic psychiatry) as the most crucial and unique aspect that is also viewed as a cause of crime; and which is mostly ignored in literature. In this case, the authors attempt to explain mental disorders as the cause of crimes such as aggressive and sexual-related crimes. In the DSM-IV, Children with aggressive behaviours are viewed to have a possible mental disorder in their adulthood life and engage in future criminal behaviour such as murder. Still on the issue of mental disorders as the cause of criminal behaviour, Walsh and Yun (2013), based their emphasis on a specific mental disorder namely schizophrenia and the effect it has on criminal behaviour of an individual. Schizophrenia is a mental disorder which affects an individual in a positive and negative manner such as being paranoid, disorganized, using nonsense words and sentences, low level of energy, being socially withdrawn and have poor hygiene. The authors discuss three types of offenders and how schizophrenia is the cause of such types of offender. Type I offenders start their offensive behaviour at a childhood stage where they offend almost their entire life time. Type II offenders are the offenders mostly affected with schizophrenia where they show antisocial behaviours at adolescent stage, which is why they offend in their entire life span. The last group of offenders is type III offenders:

Those offenders show no signs of violent behaviours for several years and they suddenly show extreme violent behaviours, and in the long run, kill close people to them such as their care givers. However, with the implications for criminal justice, such individuals are not criminalised but rather sent to mental illness institutions.

Apart from mental disorders as mentioned above, there are three social environments which contribute to the causes of crime namely: the school environment which includes the disruptive behaviour of a child and the lack of commitment in school, the community environment’s major causes of crime include the lack of solidarity in the society and the neglecting of the

youth, availability of drugs, high number of children, corruption among respective law enforcers, and lastly weak law enforcing agencies (Hyder and Malik, 2017). The final social environment which contributes greatly to the causes of crime is family structure which includes factors such as parental involvement in crime, poor parental supervision, parental negligence, low family income, family fights, lack of communication between parents and kids, lack of respect among family members, family violence and break up, and lastly child abuse. The author states that the “youth whose family has one or more characteristics listed above, are more likely to be involved in crime” (Ali, 2008). The above-mentioned social environments are an indication of how issues negatively affect you people in a community, resulting in them engaging people differently, which in some cases generate fear or anxiety (Levitt, 2013). As people grow older, they begin to be concerned about their levels of safety and security. These people are unable to enjoy their adulthood with jokes or taking a walk since crime can occur at any place. The author further addresses preventive measures to be applied among young people with aim to prevent and reduce crime rate in society.

The 2009/2010 SAPS crime Statistics supports the above statement on the causes of crime in the community by stating that crime is on the rise both in the South African and Kwa-Zulu Natal context. Crime is said not to be prominent in people’s homes or businesses only but according to the report in the Weekly newspaper by Zondi (2017), majority of the crime take place in open spaces such as parks. “There are strong levels of discomfort with using open spaces associated with feeling of insecurity and lack of safety”. The reasons behind this discomfort came with the highest percentage of 42.3% respondents stating that such areas are unsafe, 29% stated that they have unruly behaviour and 28.7% mentioned that such areas are frequently populated by criminals and drug addicts. Such open space areas are used for various reasons in the Clermont, Westville and Reservoir Hills areas such as for escaping reality, sports, recreation, dumping. The high levels of being unsafe in these open spaces however forbid locals from accessing or performing such activities from open spaces.

To further explain the above, “this picture of causation is unhelpful when dealing with crime. The conditions which criminologists regard as causing criminal behaviour do not invariably result in it. Instead, to a greater or lesser extent, they increase the risk of criminal behaviour” (Weatherburn, 2001). The above statement illustrates that there are no causes of crime but factors that increase the risk of criminal behaviour for an individual are always constant.

Weatherburn (2001) outlines the distal causes of crime which in this case is the weak attachments of children with parents. “Some criminologists, for example, argue that parents often fail to develop strong emotional bonds to their children when they are exposed to economic stress” (Weatherburn, 2001). The weak attachments with parents allow for the individual to have associations with delinquent peers, which is an example of a proximate cause. Engaging with delinquent peers allows for the individual to be part of dangerous gangs in order to have some sense of belonging hence ties with parents. This in turn results in the individual engaging in delinquent behaviour which is the overall effect weak attachments between parents and individuals.

2.1.5 The Effects of Crime: Emotional, Physical and Psychological Perspectives.

Mike Dixon, Howard Reed, Ben Rogers & Lucy Stone (2006) explains the impact of crime on the citizens of England and Wales. The authors reveal the “effects of crime and its often devastating impact on people’s employment, wealth, housing, mental health and wellbeing”. However, the above factors or rather impacts of crime are much intense if victims are either poor, ill, unemployed or have been previously victimized. With regard to immediate effects of crime which can be explained as factors that affect the individual for short while and immediately disappears. This includes physical and financial effects of crime (Dixon *et al.*, 2006) with the highest percentage of 51% in the years 2003/2004. These effects are much visible in poor households 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. With regard to the emotional effects of crime, crimes such as theft of a vehicle, burglary and wounding, inclusive of sexual wounding, are reported to be crimes that contribute to the emotional impact of victims.

Dixon *et al.*, (2006) also states that burglary emotionally impacts on victims with the 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 are not that much affected as compared to burglary and wounding. In accordance to the authors, wounding, domestic violence does not only affect the victim with physical and emotional harm. Pregnant victims of domestic violence

run huge risks of miscarrying, premature birth, experience stillbirth and foetal injury (Dixon *et al.*, 2006). The above sets as a continuous reminder to the victim causing them emotional distress and ending them in suicide as stated by the authors. 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).

In accordance to Gillian Eagle (2015) who supports the statement made by Dixon *et al.*, (2006) of the mere fact that crime affects an individual mentally. Eagle (2015) states that the fear of crime causes traumatic stress in South Africa and in turn disrupts social cohesion, creates mistrust against people and also alienation. “It is evident that exposure to high levels of criminality and widespread fear of crime contributes not only to individual and group anxieties and attitudes but also to public discourses and justify intergroup prejudice” Eagle (2015). However, the high exposure to criminality does not only contribute to the fear of crime in South Africa but also requires people to “minimize or accommodate to the reality of threat in order to survive in inescapably crime ridden environments” Eagle (2015). The fear of crime as well as the exposure to crime does not only contribute to psychological unwell being of an individual but also has communal effects. With regards to fear of crime and social cohesion, the author states that “surveys assessing the fear of crime are based on responses to questions with evident face validity that ask respondents to rate, for example, how safe they feel in their neighbourhood or home, and whether they are likely to move around freely in their environment during day or night” Eagle (2015). In this case the author tries to establish the relationship between the fear of crime and social cohesion in that the fear of crime amongst people allows for them to have disrupted social ties with each other as they fear being out and about during the day as well as in the night and this in turn disrupts their normal or regular interactions with each other.

Wasserman and Ellis (2010) also explain the impacts crime has on victims of crime. 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. “Even individuals who are not direct victims of crime can be negatively affected in a variety of ways, such as developing an increased fear of crime or experiencing the financial impact of crime, such as higher insurance rates, lost work days etc.” (Wasserman and Ellis, 2010). Other than the individuals mentioned above, another groups of people who are 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 of time with regard to trauma, which also affects potential victims in terms of immediate and short-term trauma reactions as well as long-term trauma reactions. Immediate trauma reactions of crime are effects of crime that last for a short period of time, about 3 months to be specific. Short-term trauma reactions include victims being shocked or surprised after the criminal offence has occurred, feelings of unreality, emotional problems, physiological anxiety and cognitive symptoms of anxiety where victims feel out of control, helpless and even guilty. Long-term trauma reactions on the other hand are those persistent reactions just after short term reactions experienced by individuals. These reactions include major depression, suicide thoughts and attempts, abuse of alcohol and drugs, problems with relationships, anxiety and increased risk of victimization as the authors explain. The authors mentioned above also make reference to posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as 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.

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, more symptoms of PTSD as revealed by the authors affect the victim after the offence. These symptoms include experiencing the event of crime which includes dreams and flashbacks, resulting in emotional and physiological 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). Crime also has an effect on an individual or rather a victim in terms of physical, emotional and financial impact. Physical impact involves effects such as physiological anxiety which includes rapid heart rate, physical injuries such injuries and wounds, permanent and chronic disability, sleep disorders and STI’s and unwanted pregnancies for sexual assaulted victims (Hyder and Malik, 2017).

Emotional or psychological impacts affect a victim's sense of despondence or feelings towards everything after a criminal offence has occurred (Leach, 2016). While Hyder and Malik (2017) unfold that the major feelings suffered by victims include shock, guilt, fear, anger, shame, social withdrawal, isolation and suicide thoughts to mention but a few. Such feelings last for a couple of months, years even which in turn results in PTSD for the individual if the emotions manifest themselves for a long period of time. Financial impact, on the other hand, 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 because some individual 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. Another factor, 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. Crime also has long term effects or impacts on victims which consist of social and psychological effects (Dixon *et al.*, 2006). The main reason for these effects is due to the impact of victimisation and how long the fear lasts. In accordance to Dixon *et al.*, (2006), the criminal justice system allows for victims to suffer 'secondary

Victimisation' by reminding them of what they have been through. This happens by inconsiderate officials who are harsh on victimized persons. 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). Once crime has impacted on victims both in short and long-term effects, it also 'spills over' into various areas of life. Dixon *et al.*, (2006) 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.

"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. Victims of crime also tend to start drinking, smoking or use drugs more often to 'escape' from the problem of crime which later disrupts an individual's sense of wellbeing. One may conclude that 'spill over' effects of crime have severe effects as much as short and long term effects of crime because the consequences for both cases are much intense.

David Finkelhor, Heather Turner, Richard Ormrod, Sherry Hamblly & Kristen Kracke (2009) supports the statement made by Dixon *et al.*, (2016) that even with the decrease in crime, "the exposure to violence that a city's poor residents currently face still substantially outweighs the exposure to violence that non-poor residents experienced when crime was at its peak". Crime may be the same for the rich and poor victims but is much more intense on poor victims hence they do not have means (financial support) to get back on their feet. Finkelhor *et al.*, (2009) also outline that children are more likely to be victims of crimes as compared to adults. The reason for this is that adults have the ability to exclude themselves from dangerous situations that could lead them to being victims. The authors further go on and support Dixon *et al.*, (2006) in terms of the impacts violent crimes have on children. Finkelhor *et al.*, (2009) outline impacts such as attachment problems, regressive behaviour, anxiety, depression and substance abuse. On the other hand, Gabriel Demombynes & Berk Ozler, (2002) discussed the link between crime and inequality in South Africa.

Studies have also shown that richer neighbourhoods have lower crime rates partly because they may employ effective defensive strategies against crime (Demombynes *et al.*, 2002). These strategies include guard dogs, alarm systems, electric fences, etc. Which assist them reduce crime rates in the area. Poorer communities lack such strategies but rely on neighbourhood watch programs which also lack in these areas. Crime in this case may also affect locals who are affected by inequality in terms of their wage distribution. "Criminals are more likely to come from the bottom end of the wage distribution" (Demombynes *et al.*, 2002). Underpaid individuals or rather those who earn less are more likely to be perpetrators of crimes such as theft and burglary in order to balance the inequality financially. The above authors have outlined the impacts of crime on the individual and people around them. The National Centre

for Victims of Crime (n.d) however outlines the impact crime has on communities. Social fabric of the community is undermined in a way that locals fear strangers in the community, making it a challenge for the individual to participate in every day's community life. With regard to economic costs, the National Centre for Victims of Crime (n.d) suggests that "businesses tends to leave high crime areas, which force residents to do their shopping elsewhere". This in turn reduces the community's sense of development. Both younger and older individuals are affected by the fear of crime. "Almost half of the elderly people over the age of 75 were too afraid to leave their homes after dark" (the National Centre for Victims of Crime (n.d). The reason was that these people feared being mugged or verbally abused.

In South Africa, domestic violence is a criminal offence with regard to the constitution of South Africa as it has aggravated effects on victims. These victims suffer emotional, physical, sexual and economic violence in accordance to Konchiputu *et al.*, (2016). Domestic violence is a criminal offense that normally happens behind closed doors, mostly in the victim or abuser's household and with the notion that it only affects adults. The author in this case focuses on the effects of the crime of domestic violence on schooling children, which is the effect domestic violence has on children's education. "Domestic violence such as beats, insults, shouts, ignoring, denying food, sexual harassment, destruction of child personal property, threats and humiliation, among others may result in psychological harm, emotional harm, physical pain or injury, lack of self-confidence and lack of self-esteem on the victim (a child)" (Konchiputu *et al.*, 2016). These negativities also affect negatively on the child's academic learning, for example, physical pain and injury result in the child's absenteeism at school, resulting in poor performance at school (Hyder and Malik, 2017). Abused children are said to lose interest in education and in turn end up being school drops-out which increase the crime rates as young people spend much more time doing nothing which is the opportunity for crime to be committed (Leach, 2016). "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 with regard to the time lost.

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". From the standpoint of Konchiputu *et al.*, (2016), children tend to opt for an early marriage with regard to escaping the abuse suffered in household which in turn leads the individual to quit school and focus on the marriage at hand. Being in a marriage also has an impact on the individual with regard to schooling, where the individual is forced to drop out of school and focus mainly on the marriage.

Goldberg & Kim (2010) approached an important but unique route in terms of explaining the effects that crime has on firms. The authors went to the extent of identifying five (5) effects of crime on firms and further explaining several coping mechanisms in which firms would be able to follow in order to reduce the risk of being affected by the consequences of crime. Firms are affected in five (5) ways namely: exclusion from economic activities, productivity losses, climate of uncertainty and negative image, supply chain interruptions and brain drain. With respect to the exclusion from economic activities, gangs in this case use threats in order for firms to stop the merchandise, giving the gangs full access to sell products to consumers at a smaller price. "Productivity losses" is the next point which states that a loss in production in firms forces the place to shutdown causing a loss in the business. Productivity is lost due to the amount of crimes that occur on firms where criminals attack and take materials to be used to boost the level of productivity in the firm. The third effect crime has on firms is climate of uncertainty and negative image. The authors expressed that "widespread perceptions of uncertainty and risk created by crime and violence result in an expansion of constraints (less long-term investment), lost revenues to firms (as buyers move away or reduce orders), and less direct investment for the region" (Goldberg *et al.*, 2010). This point affects negatively on the business in terms of having loyal customers, and so once the store is painted negatively by crime, these customers move away because of their own safety leaving the business to suffer. Supply chains interruptions, according to the authors, affect firms in terms of delivering or supplying markets and other stores with their goods. Such goods are not delivered because of violence and strikes on the roads which block the functioning of the firm. The final point in this case is the brain drain where persons with the ability to work in firms resort to crime, leaving the country with less or no people to operate it.

Shapland and Hall (2007) further added to the body of research with regard to the effect of crime on victims. The authors conducted their search in the UK where 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). The shock in this case is a feeling a victim is likely to feel after being victimized and according to the authors, it has a short-term effect, relatedly lasting for a few days or a few weeks while losing trust may persist for over many years before one can regain trust. Guilt in this case affects the victim in terms of fear or anger, where the victim feels anger towards themselves, feeling they could have somehow prevented that crime from happening to them (Sousa *et al.*, 2012). The next effect is physical injury 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. Financial loss is explained in different aspects in this case which includes direct loss where the victim's property is lost or rather damaged, indirect loss in term of spending time clearing up after crime has occurred which will also require for the individual to take time off from work, resulting in the individual losing their earning and lastly losing directly towards the criminal justice system, which is inclusive of time last travelled and travel costs while attending courts (Vazsonyi, A. T., Javakhishvili, m. & Ksinan, A. J. 2018). However, some of these loses, for example, direct loses are compensated by respective insurances which also allow for the victim's time and cost to be in use (Schoen, 2017).

With regard to psychological effects, it may come in different feelings such as fear, anger and depression. According to the authors, "those are common as short-term responses but may, for some, turn into longer-term depressive effects including sleeplessness, anxiety and constant reliving of the event, and occasionally PTSD, which involves flash-back as well, and can last months or years" (Shapland and Hall, 2007). Social effects may have short and long terms due to the fact that it changes the victim's lifestyle and these changes normally occur in order for the offence not to happen again. Such changes are said to also have a disruption in their earning potential as the changes may disrupt their work routines. The final point in this case, being consequential effects, where there is perceived risk of future victimisation. This includes the risk of re-victimisation, multiple victimisation and offender-related effects which include the same offender coming back. The authors also illustrate that these effects do not only affect the

victim but also have indirect victims such as families, friends and colleagues. Victims also suffer from emotional impact and the most prominent one being shock and anger. Shock is much associated with burglary victims while anger is associated with vehicle-related theft.

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 increase in Columbia resulted in the low or loss of productivity due to the increasing level of crime especially homicide rates. Drug trafficking, according to Ali (2008), also adds to the causes of crime, explaining that there is no single cause of crime but rather multiple causes such as social, economic, cultural and family conditions are prominent. The author also adds to the prevention of crime among the youth, stating that “to prevent crime, it is important to understand its roots” (Ali, 2008). As mentioned above, the causes of crime are categorized into economic situation, social environment and family structures. With regard to economic situation, factors associated with this point and which contribute to a crime are poverty, unemployment and political situation. With regard to the first 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.

The above-mentioned effects of crime on firms are of severe consequences, giving firms a hard time to operate smoothly without any problems. With the consequence’s crime has on firms, the authors also provide these firms with coping mechanisms for businesses to be able to cope with different crimes perpetrated unto them. The first and foremost mechanism is self-defence which includes “hiring private security firms and installing security systems” (Goldberg and Kim, 2010). The increase in security systems is advantageous as it alerts individuals when something fishy is happening with the availability of alarms and electric gates. Regarding security persons, they allow for the protection and self-defence of firm workers and owners. Relocation is another effective coping mechanism in a way that firm owners relocate from high crime areas to areas with low levels of crimes to combat crime being perpetrated unto them. Firms also make use of the coping mechanism of negotiating with locals to plead for their protection from crimes because, basically crimes in an area are caused by locals and can also be prevented by them with the implementations of laws and regulations.

Dinisman and Moroz (2017), in the attempt to understand victims of crime, mention 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. These consequences include “injuries, fear and stress associated with intimate partner violence, which can result in substance abuse, cardiovascular problems, asthma, sexually transmitted diseases, gynaecological problems, chronic health problems such as chronic pain (headaches and back pain), recurring central nervous system symptoms (fainting and seizures) and gastrointestinal problems (loss of appetite and eating disorders). Victims are also affected emotionally and psychologically and these decline the individual’s physical health and other health-related conditions.

2.1.6. Preventive and Coping Mechanisms.

It is essential for preventive measures and/or coping mechanisms to be put into consideration when discussing the causes and the effects of crime with regard to an individual victim in a geographical area. Coping refers to those conscious and unconscious thoughts and actions that provide the means of dealing with a stressful event” Diane L. Green, J. J. (2010). Victims are faced with emotional, physical and social dilemmas after crime has been perpetrated unto them and so coping mechanisms assist the individual in better subjective-wellbeing. The authors in this case, discussed three (3) coping strategies namely: the emotion-based strategy, the problem-focused coping strategy and the avoidance-orientated strategy. The emotion-based strategy basically targets emotions that take place in the victim’s life after crime has occurred unto them and emotions in this case include anger, fear and sadness. The strategy is aimed at

the reduction of such emotions after a criminal offence has occurred unto the victim, limiting the negative outcomes that should take place in future for the victim. The problem-focused coping strategy on the other hand “refers to those cognitive efforts utilized to regulate the stress and is done by defining the problem, generating, evaluating, and implementing solutions.” (Diane *et al.*, 2010). The strategy has positive emotional outcome since they can gain necessary control over the problem. The final strategy, being the avoidance-orientated strategy, which is unlike the two models discussed above, this model allows for the victim to avoid certain conditions which could be stressful in the victim’s life. This strategy is effective in a way that an individual or a victim does not necessarily have to deal with anything as mentioned in the two strategies above, but only to ignore everything.

Remedies for youth crime in this case are explained as possible solutions with regard to fighting crime rates where the author focuses mainly on the leading crimes. The first factor of crime prevention is to eliminate corruption. “Corruption in the crime control officials (police) is the main factor in increasing the rate of crime in Pakistan. People, especially youth, have no fear what so ever in breaking the laws because they know that if they get caught, they will be released on spot and return to the communities” (Ali, 2008). Fighting this form of disadvantage will decrease crimes and also limit the number of persons who have certain connections with police officials. The second factor includes to strengthen the law enforcement agencies which involves teaching police officers to always find it difficult to commit a certain crime. This is supported by a statement that states that “if police arrest 20 or 30 criminals and give them proper punishment, the other criminals will think twice before doing illegal acts”. (Ali, 2008). This is seen as an effective procedure as it also decreases the chances of corrupt police officers. Targeting markets of stolen goods is the third factor which is seen as effective as well as the author in this case supports such markets which tend to sell stolen electronic goods, if a second-hand item is to be purchased, proof is also required (slip) in order to see that it is not stolen goods. The fourth and yet effective factor thus far is of providing educational awareness for young people where they will be taught the importance of education and also of higher education. The awareness also includes how the poor can also attain education. The author further explains that “higher education will increase the probability of the person to get employed which can reduce the chances of him to involve in crime” (Ali, 2008).

An introduction to technologically advanced security tools in a certain area is also an effective manner to reduce crime, tools such as tracking and radio tracking in order for police officials to be able to retrieve stolen goods or vehicles at a short period of time and, in turn, help reduce crime. The availability of drugs in a given society is another factor that gives rise to crimes in an area. On this factor, the author addresses this by stressing on reducing the drug availability. The high need for reducing is for the mere fact that once an individual is a drug addict yet is not working, it brings about problems as the person cannot provide drugs for themselves and in turn resort to crimes. These individuals engage mainly in crimes such as stealing other people's assets and selling them. The next factor is the provision of employment opportunities to locals in order to reduce the high rates of crime among them. According to the author, an individual is encouraged to engage in small scale industries where job opportunities are normally produced with incentives. The final factor in this case is the reduction of poverty and inequality where a fair taxation tool is to be implemented which allows for the reduction or decrease of inequality. Providing poor people with food and increasing their minimum wage will also reduce crime rates as these people will not engage in crimes due to poverty. These factors are very effective in the ways they target mainly young persons of the society who are the ones mainly engaging in crimes. One may criticise it though because not only young people engage in criminal offence, the preventive measures should also include or accommodate older people of the society as they can also be victims of crime.

The crime prevention levels serve as a coping mechanism for both the individual and for the community (Wikström and Treiber, 2016a). A coping mechanism is a factor which allows for the individual or community affected by crime to prevent and cope with crime that is currently affecting them. Regarding the primary level of prevention, it is seen as the most effective level as it stops or prevents the problem before the damage is done. This is done by an adoption of selective programmes like a family support programme (Leach, 2016). Such a programme is effective in reducing the level of crime in a way that strong family attachments make it difficult for an individual to be close or to associate themselves with wrong peers that could result in young people engaging in delinquent behaviours. One can use this form of prevention as a coping mechanism by building strong ties with family members, parents in particular for them not to be easy targets when it comes to committing crimes (Sampson and Groves, 2009). The secondary level of crime prevention deals with the prevention of crime from taking place after there had been some sort of warnings against it. This level of prevention aims at stopping or

preventing minor crimes from becoming major crimes in future. An individual can use this method as a coping mechanism by inducing warnings for the community and for themselves to expel themselves and others from being crime offenders (Sampson and Groves, 2009). The last level of crime prevention being the tertiary level of prevention deals with law enforcement where incarceration takes place for the person to serve the due time in prison and not commit another crime on top of the one they have committed (Wikström and Treiber, 2016a). An individual can use the above as a coping mechanism by reporting crimes happening in an area, allowing for the offender to be incarcerated so that an individual can be safe on the community grounds.

Victims of crime suffer from several consequences of crime which affect the individual negatively. In this case, Marie-Eve Leclerc, Catherine Delisle, Jo-Anne Wemmers & Alain Brunet (2017) assess and discuss the most prominent effect of crime in an individual. When faced with stress, victims evaluate two (2) points, the first being a threat and the second being the probability of coping with it. In terms of threat, stress is a threat in almost the entire aspect of life for the individual such as personal, emotional, cognitive and behavioural. With coping mechanisms, it comes in two different forms which are internal and external coping mechanisms. Internal coping mechanisms include “certain personality disputations, as well as emotional, cognitive and behavioural abilities”. External coping mechanisms refer to the level of support an individual obtains from the environment. Apart from internal and external coping mechanisms, the author also refers to adaptive (positive) and maladaptive (negative) coping mechanisms used by victims affected by stress. Adaptive coping strategies which are referred to as positive coping mechanisms focus on the victim’s self-growth and possible solution to overcome the stress currently being experienced. Maladaptive coping mechanisms are negative coping mechanisms as they “diverge attention away from self-growth and from problem solving effort” (Leclerc *et al.*, 2017). Adaptive coping strategies involve five components or positive factors to assist individuals in proceeding in the positive path of coping. The first factor is the use of the social support system which is seeking direct help from locals, leaders from church, as well as seeking professional support, for example, from respective psychologists and counsellors.

The next factor is self-help which involves information for the individual like getting to know about the justice system or rather engaging with other victims with some experience. In the

next factor, individuals take activities geared towards empowerment and these may include self-defence classes which may play a huge role in the individual life because it will reduce chance of re-victimization of the victim. Emotion-focused coping which according to the author includes “positive thinking, relaxation, expression of emotion, and distraction, all aimed at ameliorating the victim’s emotional experience” (Leclerc *et al.*, 2017). The last factor in this case being cognitive reframing of victimization, or accommodation which attempts to alter or distract a victim’s view of the trauma they are facing using two strategies namely self-comparison and social comparison. Self-comparison involves the individual viewing themselves now and at later stage where they have survived that which is advantageous in a way that it emphasizes survival for the victim. Social comparison, on the other hand, allows for victims to compare themselves with other victims. Under maladaptive, there are six negative strategies the mechanisms underline that prevent individuals or victims from self-growth and from gaining problem-solving efforts. The first factor in this case is avoidance of trauma-related cues which involve the victim avoiding the things that remind the victim of the traumatic experience such as people, place and even activities much associated to the traumatic experience of the individual. The misuse of drugs and alcohol is the second factor in this case, “self-medicating through the use of drugs, medication, and alcohol, which allow the individual to avoid dealing with distressing feeling and thoughts” (Leclerc *et al.*, 2017). Victims of crime abuse alcohol and drugs in order to escape and be numb on what they are going through (Hyder and Malik, 2017). The next factor is denial and self-deception where in terms of denial, the individual blocks thoughts on what they went through acting as if it had never occurred. With regard to self-deception, the individual does not show how they feel which cause problems for them in the long run. Opposition is the next factor in this case which involves the projection of negative feelings such as anger or aggression to the wrong persons who were not even part of the traumatic experience (Levitt, 2013). The fourth factor is self-destructive behaviour which involves the individual inflicting self-harm on themselves such as cutting themselves or attempting suicide. Other behaviours involve eating disorders, reckless driving or even sexual promiscuity (Vazsonyi *et al.*, 2018). The final factor in this case is behavioural disengagement, which involves the victim abandoning the efforts to cope with the experience and in turn resolve to isolation, emotional and social withdrawal. This withdrawal involves the victim not having any emotionally and socially rejecting family, close friends and society (Vahabi, 2009).

The two strategies of coping mechanism are not something new as it is something that many individuals are faced with or respond with when faced with a traumatic experience (Wikström and Treiber, 2016a). Hill (2003) supports the above-mentioned by also mentioning positive and negative coping strategies. The only different in this case is that the author has added a few coping strategies for both the strategies. With regard to positive coping strategies, the author added activities to regain control, activism, time to heal and getting support (Wikström and Treiber, 2016a). The negative coping strategies, on the other hand, have added two more factors which are dissociating and obsessing about the crime. Still on the issue of coping mechanisms with regard to victims of crime, Green and Daiz (2008) discussed an important issue on the different coping mechanisms for victims of crime victimization. The authors argued that the difference between males and females is not that much. The authors further stressed that “the most puzzling gender difference was the finding that men used more problem-focused coping strategies than woman in situations that have to be accepted” (Green and Diaz, 2008). As compared to females, males persevere on the problem more and think more of the problem as compared to woman with regard to finding possible solutions (Hyder and Malik, 2017).

2.1.7. Summary

The reviewed literature hereby unfolds that crimes are unpredictable and are described by various scholars as an inseparable component of human society. The reduction of the causes of crime with the assistance of different people with different approaches would mean less extreme effects of crime that will affect an individual in society. However, if such crimes cannot be reduced due to various reasons, people are to adopt the suggested coping mechanisms outlined in literature to help rescue themselves from the problems of crime.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1. Introduction

A theory is defined as an ordered set of assertions about a generic behaviour or structure assumed to hold throughout a significantly broad range of specific instances. However, researchers may define theory as a statement of relationships between units observed or approximated in the empirical world (Wacker, 1998). This chapter presents the theoretical framework adopted for this research. The research will be guided by an analytical integration of two relevant theories. These include: (i) The Strain Theory (ii) The Rational Choice Theory.

3.2. The Strain Theory

The general strain theory, also popularly known as Anomie Theory, was developed by Robert Agnew in the year 1992. He argues that for an individual to commit a criminal offence, there must be a certain strain that forces them to do so. Agnew (2001) states that “strains or stressors increase the likelihood of negative emotions like anger and frustration. These emotions create pressure for corrective action, and crime is one possible response”. The above is a true depiction that strain has indeed a direct link to criminal offences. With attempts to identify the different strains and their effects, the author firstly explains what strain is. Strain is referred to as “relationships in which others are not treating the individual as he or she would like to be treated” (Agnew, 2001). The above definition may also be explained further with the use of three different types of strain namely: the objective strains, the subjective strains and the emotional response to an event or condition.

With the objective strain, an individual in this case is experiencing strain or an event disliked by majority of people. For example, the lack of food and shelter. With regard to the subjective strain, it refers to conditions disliked by an individual who is currently experiencing or has previously experienced some situations. This type of strain propels an irritability factor to the individual for them to be frustrated and change how they are treated by engaging in criminal acts. The final type of strain which is the emotional response to an event or condition is said to

be closely linked or related to subjective strain. This is because an individual's subjective feelings resemble their emotions which are a response to that event. People in this case react differently to a similar strain. For example, some become angry and some depressed. The next author attempts to explain the effectiveness of the theory with regard to different gender groups and their reactions when faced with the dilemma of strain.

Jang (2015) of the Baylor University also discusses the strain theory in the article entitled, "*Strain Theories and Crime*". In this case, the author states that the strain lower-class individuals experience allows them to use legitimate or illegitimate means of achieving the certain goals they desire. The author states that "individuals may attempt to achieve monetary success through illegitimate channels, such as theft, drug selling, and prostitution" Jang (2015). Illegitimate act or crime is a consequence of negative relationships with others. To further explain the above statement, the author in this case identifies and explains three types of strain, the first being 'an actual or anticipated failure to achieve positively valued goals' which in most cases, causes the failure to achieve monetary goals. This places strain on the individual which causes them to actually engage in criminal acts. The second type of strain, in this case, is the 'actual or anticipated removal of positively valued stimuli which may be caused by the absence of something valuable from the individual, which causes an emotion of anger to the individual'. The final type of strain, in this case, is 'the actual or anticipated presentation of negative stimuli' which is highly associated with the theory of social learning, where the individual at strain presents or shows high levels of learning of negative behaviour; and when faced with strain, they practice it'.

However, such strain is said to affect different genders differently. To support this statement, the author states that "females tend to report higher levels of negative emotions and lower levels of crime than males" (Jang, 2015). With regard to gender and the strain theory, the author makes three propositions. First is that both males and females are strained the same way, but females tend to react less with regard to crime-related behaviours. The second proposition is that females report high levels of anger as compared to males, but their anger is not associated to crime, but anger comes in a form of guilt or anxiety which are non-angry emotions with less chances of leading to crime as compared to males. The final proposition also states that females tend not to turn to crime when faced with strain since they have factors such as exceptional support system and coping skills, which allow for females to seek help or obtain support in

times of difficulties. The above propositions simply portray that with regard to the strain theory, males are said to be the ones more prone to engage in crime when faced with strain as compared to females.

In the same vein, Yilmaz and Koca (2015) introduced three coping mechanisms for an individual with strain, and these include no delinquent behaviour. The first factor being cognitive mechanism which also comes in three forms. Firstly, an individual may choose to escape the strain, secondly, to expand positive outcomes and reduce the negative ones obtained from the strain and the final form is to accept and take responsibility. With regard to behavioural coping mechanism, an individual in this case looks for positivity and avoids any negativity which brings them strain. The final factor being emotional coping mechanism, where an individual seeks to remove all the negative feelings through mediating. The above is seen as effective in a way that they do not portray any form of criminal behaviour for an individual faced with strain.

The strain theory is said to be more developed by Durkheim as well as Merton. “Merton argued that anomie does not result simply from unregulated goals, rather from a faulty relationship between cultural goals and the legitimate means to access them” (Agnew, 2001). Anomie is said to occur when the society’s expectations are not regulated nor met to combat the issue of anomie which occurs when an individual in a society feels strained in achieving certain goals or norms. Issues such as the lack of education and job opportunities are a stumbling block to individuals to achieve their goals. In combating or addressing the issue of anomie, Robert K. Merton employs adaptations to anomie/ strain.

Merton states five adaptations to anomie, where each state that there is an acceptance or rejection of the cultural goal of success. The first adaptation being conformity, which is the most common form of adaptation. In this case conformists use legal or rather legitimate means to achieve cultural goals just after accepting them. Individuals in this case are to be associated with law abiding- citizens of a country who live a “clean” lifestyle. Innovation is the second adaptation, which is the total opposite of the conformist adaptation. In this case individuals accept cultural goals but adopt illegal and illegitimate means to attain these goals. A common example would be of a criminal who attempts to accept goals by committing a criminal offence to gain rewards, money in most cases. The third adaptation being ritualism, which is a form of

adaptation where an individual does not believe or has abandoned cultural goals of success but continue to use legitimate and legal ways to make a living. An example is of an individual who earns very less but continues to work hard and not engage in any illegal activities to earn more.

The fourth adaptation is retreatism where an individual in this case has rejected the society's cultural goal of success and rejected the means of achieving those goals. A perfect example would be of drug abusers who are homeless who have given up on life and any goals that life brings to them. The final form of adaptation is rebellion, which is inclusive of individuals who are part of the society but do not follow its rules, their goal is to change those rules just to suit their own likings. Examples of this adaptive response include terrorists and political rebels.

Authors have also put in the work to explain the strengths and weaknesses of the strain theory.

The first advantage made by Megan (2014) is that "it was an early attempt to explain crime in terms of the culture and structure of society" which simply means that the theory was able to discuss crime-related issues referring to the society's culture and its structure. Another advantage is that Merton's explanation is a true depiction of official crime stats which shows high levels of crimes committed by lower classes. Disadvantages, on the other hand, are downfalls of something, in this case, the downfalls of the strain theory. The first point made in this case is that too much interest is consumed by crime statistics which shows high levels of crimes committed by lower classes. This is defined by Megan as the 'overrepresentation of the lower classes' (Megan, 2014). A second point made is that "Merton's theory focuses on the individual, but some crime is a collective action" (Megan, 2014). The final disadvantage is that not all crime-related issues or deviances are driven by the desire of money as the strain theory states.

3.3 The Rational Choice Theory

Rational choice is defined as the process of determining what options are available and then choosing the most preferred one according to some consistent criteria (Levin and Megan, 2004). This proves that in this theory, an individual has available choices to choose from; and by weighing the costs and benefits, the individual chooses the one that weighs more and with deviant consequences. With regard to Giil (2009), "Rational choice theory is an approach used by social scientists to understand human behaviour". The theory is said to be based on

incentives and constraints and how these shape an individual's behaviour into choosing or selecting a certain choice. The theory has three assumptions that guide it namely:

“Individualism; it focuses on individual behaviour. The second assumption is that individuals must maximize their goals, and the third is the assumption that the individuals are self-interested (Giil, 2009). With regard to the theory, the individual is seen as the rational actor where rationality allows for the individual to calculate or to weigh between the costs and the benefits, pleasure or pain of a certain choice. Although choices are always directed to an individual's pleasure. The only thing outlined to guide human behaviour is the perception of pain or punishment that will be in a form of a consequence; and to maintain good human behaviour, the severity of the law can assure that with regard to punishment. In accordance to the rational choice theory, Giil (2009) further concludes that “rational choice theory asserts that if the benefits of crime are high and the costs are low, crime will occur. However, if the benefits of crime are lower than the costs, crime will not occur”.

Ogu (2013) further defines rational choice theory as rational action theory. It is a theory for understanding and often modelling social and economic as well as individual behaviour. By the same token, the author further explains five assumptions of the theory namely: individualism, optimality, structures, self-regarding interest and rationality. Individualism is seen as the rational actor an individual faced with the issue of rightful choices. Optimality, on the other hand, states that “individuals do the best they can, given their circumstances as they see them” Ogu (2013). This means that an individual chooses an action because there is no better action to be chosen than the one the individual has selected. The third assumption is “structures”, in this case, “structures and norms that dictate a single course of action are merely special cases of rational choice theory” (Ogu, 2013). The next assumption is self-regarding interest, which states that “the actions of the individual are concerned entirely with his or her own welfare” (Ogu, 2013). This means that an individual may do something to assist another person but only to gain personal gain such as being recognised or complimented. The final assumption is rationality, which is seen as the most predominant assumption as it states that every individual acts in a way that could benefit them more and so individuals follow actions that could be of their personal gain.

Still on the issue of the rational choice theory's central point which is the benefits of one's choices, the author in this case explains the theory's costs and benefits and the correlation of the theory to crime. With regard to criminal behaviours, individuals are said to use the notion of cost-benefit to select their behaviours. People offend when they are subjectively expected return to crime (i.e., the benefits-costs ratio) exceeds what they believe they will obtain by spending the same time and other resources to pursue legal activities" (Chaudhary and McCarthy, 2014). This boils down to the mere fact that individuals offend or use illegitimate means to gain rewards because legitimate means do not accumulate them adequate rewards as compared to illegitimate or illegal means. With regards to the costs, the author discusses punishment costs, economic costs and other relevant costs. With regard to punishment costs, the hypothesis in this case is individual faced with punishments for committing a criminal offence should show a decrease in offending, but studies beg to differ as this does not decrease crime, but incarceration costs do. The increase in incarcerated persons means a subsequent decrease in arrests as jail does not punish an individual but rather rehabilitate them to become better individuals once released to the community after incarceration. With economic costs, the author states that "the RCA approach suggests that economic costs, such as a loss of legitimate income, also influence offending" Chaudhary and McCarthy (2014). Individuals in this case may engage in illegal means of obtaining income. Lengthy periods of unemployment of previously incarcerated persons lead to finding illegitimate means of achieving any sort of income to make a living.

Other costs are inclusive of "stigma and rejection by significant factors that can accompany state sanctions; commitment to normative values; beliefs that the legal system is just and moral; guilt and shame" (Chaudhary and McCarthy, 2014). Persons in this state have much more reasons for re-offending and run a huge risk of not being caught. The reasons for re-offending is the guilt as well as rejection. Therefore, the offender may also commit crimes such as shoplifting, and thus blame it on karma. This case is also inclusive of physical costs where the victim, community or other offenders may respond to that offender violently. Given the above assertion, there are also benefits of crime which are positive returns from a criminal offence. Crime may provide a few benefits that range from monetary returns, excitement or thrill of the crime to respect or status (Chaudhary and McCarthy, 2014). This statement of the benefits has been criticised as these returns cannot be viewed as incentives. However, crime does benefit offenders with regard to financial rewards as they earn more on their illegal doings as compared

to how much they earn in their designated jobs. The theory also has criticisms which show the downfall of the theory, but these differences have not been well articulated in the theory.

The theory has its strengths and weaknesses. Its strengths, according to Ogu (2013), states that the first strength of the theory is generality which states that the individual's circumstance is highly determined by the environment a person is currently in. The theory also has its own critics or downfalls discussed by various authors with attempts to show the gaps not covered by the respective theory.

3.4 Summary

The respective theories discussed in this section are relatively interwoven as they both point out that an individual is likely to react in either a negative or positive manner when faced with a challenge. The strain theory submits that crime occurs when an individual is faced with strain such as poverty and loss of a valuable job while the rational choice theory asserts that an individual may be faced with strain but the decision to commit crime may be subject to choice-making, considering the costs and benefits of the action. Both theories are relevant to the study under investigation as they are of the notion that the causes and reasons for individual's involvement in crimes in Tongaat community can be better understood using the strain and the rational choice theories.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

For a research to be a success, a researcher has to follow a certain number of steps and procedures which, in turn, will give the researcher a list of problems encountered when doing the research study. The chapter explains the research model, research site/location, sampling strategy and the data collection and analysis tools. Furthermore, the chapter will explain the inductive analysis of data and the patterns of themes that emerged from the individual interviews. More importantly, the chapter explains, in detail, the ethical considerations, trustworthiness of the research findings and limitations of the study.

4.2 Location of the Study

The study location for the research is Tongaat, an urban area with high and middle socioeconomic status, which is situated in the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal, 40 km from Durban's CBD. According to Zoutenberg (2013), the area consists of high and middle socioeconomic status individuals residing in the community; and is regarded as the oldest Indian area in the country. Tongaat was used as an immigration area during the apartheid era. History unfolds that the Indians migrated there, where they used to work on the sugarcane plantations, making the area the largest area that produces sugar today. Economic growth has been observed in the area since 2010 when the King Shaka International Airport was established, which is located between Tongaat and La Mercy. "It is one and only main road that allows for easy access to the Tongaat CBD while simultaneously stimulating economic growth and job creation for its residents" (Zoutenberg, 2013). However, with such economic advantages, Tongaat still faces the challenges of crime, such as burglary, shoplifting, robbery and bag snatching, which tend to increase on daily basis as recorded by the South African Police Services crime statistics.

4.3 Research Design

A researcher design is a blueprint or plan to guide your data collection and data analysis, in other words to answer your research question” (Steyn, 2016). A research design used in this study is a case study design. The function of a research design is to ensure that the evidence obtained enables us to answer the initial question as unambiguously as possible”. (Steyn, 2016). In other words, a research design is a form of ‘recipe’ one must follow for the research study to produce positive results which are not biased in any manner. This method is widely used and entails that the researcher conducts the research on research grounds and on the people themselves. In this case, the researcher is fully involved in the research setting viewing everything that takes place in the research setting. The main reason for the selected design is that a case study design is much appropriate in this case in a way that the study questions are unpacked or responded to by participants in a form of a case study, where questions are to be used to respond to the crime problem at Tongaat. After the research design had been selected, the researcher then interviewed the selected participants using key informants (e.g. Persons who have lived in an area for many years and know the history of the area) to provide the researcher with the most accurate information. This is indeed an advantage because the researcher can gain first-hand information from the key informants.

4.4 Research Approach

A research approach is a plan or procedure that consists of a step of broad assumptions that details the method of data collection, analysis and interpretation” (Chetty, 2016). This study adopted or employed a qualitative research approach. According to Du-Plooy-Cilliers, F., Davis, C. & Be Zuidenhoht, (2014) ‘qualitative research deals with the underlying qualities of subjective experiences and meanings associated with the phenomena’. Such an approach is put into use since such question requires an individual to open up relevant information that could assist the researcher find possible solutions to the problem at hand. A qualitative research approach was used in this case because it allowed the researcher to gain insight from Tongaat participants on the issue of crime in the area. This is because they were interviewed with open-ended questions which allow them to give in-depth information. Thus, participants were able to share their perceptions regarding crime in the area.

4.5 Sampling Techniques

Sampling is said to be a “process of selecting samples from a group or population in order to become the foundation for estimating and predicting the outcome of the population as well as to detect the unknown piece of information” (Easton and McColl, 2007). A sampling process allows for a population to be established. On the other hand, “population refers to all the members who meet the particular criterion specified for a research investigation” (Steyn, 2016). This simply means that a population is a set of people chosen or appropriate to be part of a study. The targeted population in this case consisted of Tongaat citizens both young and old, males and females of different races. This was to allow for every individual to have a fair chance in participating in the research setting. The other reason for actually choosing people from Tongaat to be part of the study is for the mere fact that the people residing in the area have a much better understanding of what takes place in and around the area as compared to other people not residing in the area. Out of the population group, a sample size of 15 participants was selected to participate in the study. The motivation behind the sample size is that a small sample size allows for more information from participants; and so in this case of participant’s perceptions and opinions, a small sample size will allow for more and different perceptions from participants. According to Hackshaw (2008), another advantage of using a small sample size is that “studies with a small number of subjects can be quick to conduct with regard to enrolling patients, reviewing patient, performing biochemical analyses or asking subjects to complete study questionnaire”. A small sample size in other words is much effective when conducting research as it saves time to conduct such interviews as well saves time when analysing. The sample size was established from the population of Tongaat citizens. This is where a purposive sampling strategy (judgemental/theoretical sampling) was employed to select the required sample group needed for the research procedure. A purposive sampling involves choosing subjects on the basis of your intuition that they will be useful for your purposes” (Steyn, 2016). Considering the above, a sample size of an average number of 15 subjects was selected to conduct an interview with where a purposive sample technique was advantageous because this method recruited people who were of importance to the study, for example the forum in this case. The participants were inclusive of locals which reside in and around the Tongaat area and also people belonging to the forum as stated above. These interviews had a session lasting for an hour each, with one-on one interviews conducted with each of the chosen participants. Semi-structured interviews were used because they allowed

for formality in questions and opportunity for the individual to express themselves unlike structured and unstructured interviews which are characterized with biased and double-barrelled questions.

4.5 Recruitment Strategy

The recruitment strategy used in this case was that the researcher found a population in Tongaat and the population was approached firstly by approaching the ward councillor of the area in a form of a permission letter. After those participants were approached during community meetings in order to brief them on the research study and what it entails. Then the researcher drew out the appropriate individuals to participate in the study. The participants in this case were recruited using a sampling technique which may be explained as a form of tool or phenomenon used by researchers to select the required participants to participate in the study. Participants who did not reside on the proximity of the area, the researcher approached them in their areas by telling the people in that area what the researcher is actually looking for and so people came to the meetings as asked to attend by the researcher and then are purposively recruited from there. The sampling technique used in this case was the purposive sampling technique which required for the researcher to choose participants that are will be useful for the purpose of the study. This form of sampling technique was used in this case in a way that it allowed for every participant to obtain an equal and fair chance of being selected. The purposive sampling technique allowed for the researcher to select 15 participants in Tongaat which was enough to obtain information needed. The reason for the researcher to have used a small sample size was because such a sample size saved time with regard to interviewing participants as well as analysing data.

4.6 Data Collection

Data collection is defined as “gathering information to address those critical evaluation questions that the author has identified earlier in the evaluation process and is an important aspect of any type of research study” (Langkos, 2015). Data collection is also explained as the way in which a researcher elicits or collects data or information in a research study for analysis. Data were collected by primary data collection method which through semi-structured interviews. Secondary data collection involving a review of relevant resources such as books,

journals and articles was also explored to aid the analysis of the current study. The researcher used individual interviews because it allowed for an individual to be interviewed or questioned on a one-on-one basis allowing for privacy between the participant and the researcher. A data collection tool used in this case was a tape recorder. The tool allowed for valid information from the participants to be stored safely. The researcher in this case used a tape recorder instead of using a paper and pen. The reason why the researcher used such a tool as a method of data collection was because of the advantages associated with “the invention of digital recorders, which made the transcript method even better for several reasons. First, digital files do not get damaged with time and back-ups are easily stored to ensure the integrity of the files. Thus, digital recorders provide unlimited “replay ability.” Second, software developed for digital sound files makes it easier to jump through interviews when searching for a specific excerpt” (Tessier, 2012). According to Tessier (2012), other advantages include that tape recorders are fast, they are able to keep information throughout the analysis process and lastly, it uses the participant’s voice. The tape recorder was used in this case to conduct interviews which were conducted on a one-on-one session with each participant in order to allow for confidentiality between the researcher and participant. The Interviews lasted for an hour per participant. These interviews were conducted at various participants’ homes and other areas such as libraries, where the participant felt safe when being questioned.

4.7 Problems / Challenges Encountered

4.8 Data Analysis

Vosloo (2014) defines data analysis as the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. Thematic analysis was employed to analyse the collected data since it is a qualitative study. Thematic analysis is “used to analyse classifications and present themes (patterns) that relate to the data. It illustrates the data in detail and deals with diverse subjects via interpretations” (Mohammed, 2012). This form of analysis is fruitful in the research conducted since it allowed for the researcher to interpret the data collected from the participants and establish a possible link between its concepts and opinions. This form of analysis also allowed the researcher to identify the similarities and differences between participants’ views and opinions, especially those arose during the process of the research.

4.9 Ensuring Trustworthiness of the Research

4.9.1 Credibility: Steyn (2016) states that “the credibility of qualitative research findings could be established by testing out emerging theory by means of conducting a deductive qualitative study”. This simply means that this test was allowed to test the credibility of a qualitative research which is testing whether the data collected are of trustworthiness. In this actual research, credibility was established by means of giving reports to the participants so as for them to see or view that the data collected are indeed true of the research.

4.9.1 Transferability: Lynne M. Conelly (2016) defines transferability as “the extent to which findings are useful to persons in other settings, is different from other aspects of research in that readers actually determine how applicable the findings are to their situations”. Unlike generalizability, transferability invites people in research to make claims or differentiations between elements of a study and one’s experience. Transferability allows for an individual to transfer information from a research to what they are currently experiencing. The research in this case mirrored what was taking place in the participant’s life, be it written information which could fit quite well into the participant’s experience.

4.9.2 Dependability: “Dependability refers to the stability of findings over time” Vincent N. Anny (2014). A study is of great dependability if the study may be repeated or replicated in a smaller or larger setting, yet the results stay the same or rather it yields the same outcomes. This proves a great sense of reliability and validity in a study. As this study has an average of 15 participants, the results obtained in this case should be the same or nearly the same when applied into a larger sample size with participants knowledgeable of crime. The study yielded the same results when applied in a much larger sample, and this proved its dependability to be true and valid.

4.9.3 Conformability: According to Vincent N. Anny (2014), conformability refers to the degree to which the results of an inquiry could be confirmed or corroborated by other

researchers”. This last aspect deals with how much support do the results of the study give to its members or participants of the study. This conformability by members proves that the study is indeed reliable and valid. In this case, conformability was assessed by producing the actual report so that they can relate the findings of the studies to other empirical findings.

4.10 Ethical Considerations

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with the conduct of people and guides the norms or standards of behaviour of people and relationships with each other (Akaranga and Makau, 2016). Ethical considerations are factors that guide researchers in their attempts to conduct a research study which will infringe on the rights of people or participants. These ethical considerations are crucially important in a way that provides guidelines to researchers, which enable them to conduct ethical and bias-free studies and in the process to respect and consider the norms of respective participants. The researcher uses confidentiality, considers participant’s feelings, gains a gatekeeper’s permission letter, gains informed consent, guides a participant’s privacy, allows for voluntary participation and also allows for anonymity for the participant in order for the researcher to protect participants from harm from that may arise during the process of the study.

4.10.1 Confidentiality- Confidentiality is ensured in this case by the fact that results of the sessions are confidential and are between the researcher and the subject, and to ensure that nobody else has access to them. The researcher ensured such confidentiality by keeping the sessions at a one-on-one level and keeping all notes locked in a safe place, inaccessible by another person.

4.10.2 Participants’ feelings-The study was considerate of participants’ feelings during the process of conducting the study. Participants were informed that they could pull out at any time of the research if they want to or feel rather uncomfortable to continue with the research.

4.10.3 Gatekeeper's permission- This form of permission is rather important to obtain for the researcher to gain access in conducting research in a certain area. In this case, the permission letter was sent to the ward councillor of the area to be able to gain access. The researcher also applied for ethical clearance to the UKZN ethics committee for the researcher to obtain permission from the school to be able to interview people and to make sure that the study is ethical. The procedure for this is that the researcher submitted a research proposal to UKZN for them to approve.

4.10.4 Inform Consent- This involved a participant giving the researcher permission to be able to conduct the research. This was obtained once the researcher had explained in detail what the study entails and what is expected of the participant; and then it was up to the participant to agree or not to participate. This is exactly what the researcher did in this case, trying to explain everything to the participant after which the participants agreed to be part of the study.

4.10.5 Privacy- The researcher ensured privacy in this case by conducting interviews on a one-on-one basis. Privacy of the research was also ensured using a tape recorder that was laced in a safe place to ensure that nobody had access to it.

4.10.6 Voluntary Participation- The study was permitted to allow for voluntary participation of individuals in the study at hand. After approaching participants, the researcher explained briefly that the participant could choose to participate or not. The researcher asking the participants to be part of the study does not mean they should participate.

4.10.7 Anonymity- The researcher in this case ensured anonymity by using a tape recorder instead of a video to conduct interviews. The researcher also ensured anonymity in a way that the participant did not ask for the participants' personal details like their names or addresses.

4.11 Summary

This chapter has discussed the research methods and approaches that were employed when embarking on the study to examine people's perceptions of crime in Tongaat community. The basis behind the selection of these methods and approaches was specified. The strategies that were employed for data collection, as well as the reasons for using such strategies were explained. The research methodology and design that were selected for this study were significant for the purpose of the research in the sense that data that were collected were able to address the research questions of the study. The researcher was able to acquire an in-depth understanding of the participants' experiences and perceptions of crime in the study location. This chapter also emphasized the ethical considerations of the study in ensuring that the principles of confidentiality, anonymity and informed consent were observed throughout the study. Furthermore, this chapter considered the limitations of the study and the issue of reflexivity for enhancing credibility and trustworthiness of the findings.

CHAPTER FIVE

DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

The data emerging from this study were presented and discussed in this chapter. The data were collected through an individual semi-structured methodological approach. The researcher used this method as a more efficient use of resources and a means of adding valuable insight to the interpretation of social or behavioural phenomenon. The data were analysed using thematic content analysis process. It involved identifying, analysing and reporting the themes that emerged from the collected data. The analyses presented clear interpretation and understanding of the important themes that are of paramount relevance to the study.

5.2. Types of Crimes that Occur in Tongaat Community

This study gauged many responses which raised a great concern with regard to crime in Tongaat. The people of Tongaat voiced different opinions and perceptions on the different crimes that are prevalent in Tongaat. Some voiced what they had experienced or what they heard from other people. When questions were asked on the causes of crime in the area, two male individuals, Shaun and Sipho, in the interview were of this opinion:

“Crimes that occur in this area range from little crimes to armed robberies, hijackings, etc.

Tongaat is affected by petty to serious crimes such as housebreaking, murder and rape”.

The above responses from Shaun and Sipho prove that Tongaat is much associated with different crimes that emerge at different levels, such include some petty and others serious crimes. Petty or little crimes as stated above may be associated with life-threatening crimes such as pickpocketing or shoplifting while serious crimes are inclusive of crimes such as robberies, murder and rape, which are much more intense and might result in the bodily harm

of another person. The above crimes mentioned are in supportive of the literature by Martin et. al. (2001) who referred to South African crimes such as attempted murder, hijackings, house breaking, muggings as well as bag snatching to be on the rise. The authors also came to narrowing the information to the particular area being studied which is Tongaat where the authors make reference to aggravated robbery, car jackings, robbery, murder, burglary and shootings to be the most prominent crimes in Tongaat which is also supported by the respondents in this case.

For a better understanding of the types of crime in Tongaat community. A short description by Ntombi revealed the following statement:

“Crimes in Tongaat have become rife, it’s one of the prominent features that dominate the discussions and conversations around all security structures”.

Looking critically into the above expression, one could conclude the patterns and trends of crime in Tongaat have been on the rise and have become the talk of the town. The study revealed that there is need for precautionary measures among the community members on how one can mitigate their chances of being possible victims.

Zethu also commented and said:

“Other crimes include items stolen from yard especially when the owner of the house is not at home, house breakings, and drug dealing, hijackings, murders and retail robberies in the area”.

Taking a different look at the participants’ narratives, it is established that theft occurs at various victims’ homes when there is no one present to guard or look after the victim’s property. Another different crime mentioned by the above participant is of retail robbery which involves robbery which is targeted among businesses and business owners around Tongaat. This may be easily associated to the Strain theory hence unemployed people are the ones associated to committing criminal activities where according to the theory above are forced by the unemployment strain to commit such crimes.

5.2.1. House Breaking.

House breaking, or rather house robbery is a common form of crime that predominately took place in Tongaat community, given the fact that 10 out of 15 participants declared house breaking as the most problematic crime. Although burglary is often associated with theft, it is an enhanced form of trespassing. In accordance to the criminal law textbook of 2012, house breaking or rather burglary is explained as “an early common law, burglary was the invasion of a man’s castle at night time, with a sinister purpose. Modern jurisdictions have done away with the common-law attendant circumstances and criminalize the unlawful entry into almost any structure or vehicle, at any time of day”. Marriah (2014) stated that house robberies increased to about 490 cases where residents or owners of the apartment are not home. In the absence of participants at home, study revealed that valuable things are stolen in the victim’s yard to the extent that the strategic neighbourhood watch would do no justice to such a problem.

In an interview with some of the participants namely Micayla and Lwazi, the following statements were captured:

“Crimes that occur in this area are mainly house robberies”House robberies in this area occur mainly when nobody is present in the household”.

“Offenders of house robbery target gadgets such as laptops, phones, iPad, jewellery as well as money at a victim’s home”. Every day, every hour, minute and second somebody’s household is robbed”.

The study revealed that house robberies occur mainly in the absence of the residents. This is because such offenders fear being jailed. Consequently, they knowingly target homes in which the owners are present at that moment. The offenders in this case find freedom in taking just about anything they feel like taking with no disturbance of the victim being present during the time of the robbery. These offenders are said to target materials like laptops, phones, money, guns as well as jewellery, which they can sell to other people at very low prices and be able to obtain their desired monetary goals. Also, the Rational choice theory may be associated to this statement above hence people or perpetrators make a choice of choosing to commit a crime for their own personal gain.

5.2.2. Robbery and Theft.

Outcome of the study showed that robbery and theft in Tongaat are reported to be on the rise on daily basis and this incident occurs almost every hour of the day. These forms of crime are broken down into two categories as mentioned by Luyolo, who is also an active member of the CPF in the area:

“In Tongaat, there are different levels of crimes, first is ordinary thieving, robberies, assault and break-ins and secondly there are petty crimes which include petty theft such as shoplifting, stealing tyres from cars and pick-pocketing”.

Based on the narratives of the majority of the participants, such crimes are well committed by young persons in the area’s CBD in the hope of getting enough money for survival or to satisfy one’s inordinate drug-addict desires. It has been observed that ordinary thieving is committed by matured offenders who are matured in the field of crime and petty theft by young and

‘Unexperienced’ offenders. However, it is quite notable that both sorts of crime are committed either for an individual’s survival or rather to fulfil one’s drug-habit desires.

To support the above statement, the following assertions were presented by Shakira during the course of the interview:

“In this area, young people especially commit crimes such as theft to satisfy their drug addiction or obtain money”.

“People get addicted to drugs while unemployed, they then turn to crime such as robbery or theft to get money to buy drugs”.

An empirical finding in support of the above expressions is illustrated in the statements of two of the participants namely Minenhle and Mpilo:

“Robberies and break-ins are crimes much associated to this area of Tongaat as many people’s homes are broken to almost every day as well as more people are robbed each day”.

“---The area has crimes such as drug use, drug dealing, theft of motor vehicle, hijackings, house robberies and murder which take place in almost every part of Tongaat”.

Based on the narratives of the following participants, robberies as well as thefts are the most common crimes among the people of Tongaat community. Other crimes such as the illegal consumption of drugs are a leading problem in the area as stated by the interviewed participants.

5.2.3. Murder.

According to Marriah (2014), murder cases in Tongaat had shown a slight increase in the years 2013/2014 from 17 to 29 cases. However, with regard to the responses obtained from the participants who participated in the research study, three out fifteen of them suggested that the murder crime was mostly associated with the Tongaat area. The most prominent reason why crime is on the rise as explained by Ashvir is that:

“Perpetrators kill a victim so that they will not be able to be identified by that particular victim”.

The information is evident that not only perpetrators kill to get what they want, but they also murder to erase evidence because without the victim to testify against the perpetrator, there is no tangible evidence as well as there is no case. Another reason outlined by Bheki is that:

“Victims are often murdered when the offender is trying to overpower them and also killed when the offender is known by the victim”.

“Some people are killed unintentionally by offenders when robberies have gone wrong at stores or banks”.

It also came to limelight that offenders sometimes murder their victims in the hope of overpowering them when committing a certain criminal offence. More murder crimes occur when the offender is known by the victim. The aim is to eliminate the victim so that the offender will not be identified by the police officials and later be jailed. In this case, the offender tries to protect themselves from possible identification that could land them in jail. A participant also went to the extent of explaining why some victims are killed during a criminal activity. This participant had stated that some of the victims were killed with no purpose of

being killed but only because of being careless and reckless with the offender, especially during a store robbery in which the victim could be trying to prevent the store from being robbed.

5.2.4. Physical and Sexual Assault.

Interviews with the participants revealed that physical assault as well as sexual assault are the most prominent crimes in Tongaat community. Physical assault is said to be a form of harm inflicted on a victim and sexual assault is explained as forced penetration into an individual without the victim's consent. Both assaults are said to affect an individual negatively. A male participant named Zamani supported the above statement by expressing that:

“As a member of the CPF, we notice that sexual assault occurs mainly during the night where the victim is walking alone”.

He stressed further that *“rape cases are increasingly occurring in our area”.*

Findings showed that the CPF takes it upon herself to assist in lowering sexual assaults that happen during the night. To achieve this, the CPF is saddled with the duty of accompanying women who were either stranded or walking alone to prevent further sexual victimization.

Another CPF member named Nolwazi had this to say:

“The CPF had managed to reduce the amount of crime committed, people walking in the streets at night have gone down and the level of rape in the past five years has gone down”.

The above statement supports the fact that the CPF had fought against sexual assault being committed against women in Tongaat community. A participant who is also a member of the CPF stated that this form of criminal offence had decreased in the past five years. Having the researcher's conclusions in mind, it is still low as not many participants reported it to be rife.

5.2.5. Vehicle Hijackings.

“Hijacking is reported to be on the rise from 13 incidents in 2012/2003 to 45 incidents in 2013/2014 in Tongaat” (Marriah, 2014). The escalating crime rates did not stop with regard to the participant's responses as car hijackings are reported to be on the rise in Tongaat. In support

this statement, two participants, Aphiwe and Trenisha, out of fifteen stated the problem of hijackings in the area as one of the most common crimes:

“The mechanisms have dropped the rates of crime such as theft from yards and house breakings but not murder, drug use and hijackings”.

“Hijackings are constantly on the rise in our area as news headlines show in the local newspapers of people who are victims of such a crime”.

This statement above shows that as much as some crimes have been decreased, hijackings have not yet been reduced as they continue to take place at almost every area of Tongaat, as expressed in the newspaper articles. Murder as well as drug dealing is also said to be on the high side in Tongaat community. The study in this case concluded that people who might be possible offenders of hijackings are drug dealers. These drug dealers were observed to also murder victims. This contributes to the reasons for high incidence of murder crime in the community.

5.3. Prominent Causes of Crime

This section of the interviewing process played a very significant role as it unfolds what really the problem behind the high rates of crime in Tongaat is. Causes in this area may go to the extent as to explain the reasons for human delinquent behaviour and provide possible solutions to such a problem.

5.3.1. Unemployment and Poverty

100 percent of the participants who participated in the interviews made it quite clear that the first and most prominent cause of crime is the issue of unemployment. With regard to the information obtained from participants, people commit serious crimes to earn much more money and get rid of the poor situation they are currently faced with. The participant Nomzansi corroborated this statement by saying the following:

“Tongaat has many people making unemployment high too”There are no jobs and people need money to sustain their families”.

Nomzansi stated further that:

“---There are also habitat offenders who steal just to live and sustain their families”.

The above assertions prove that as much as Tongaat is a small area, people in this area also suffer the disadvantage of not earning enough, thereby leaving a good number of the community dwellers to commit crimes so as to satisfy their basic needs for survival. The issue of unemployment goes hand in hand with that of poverty as it is also outlined as a serious cause of crime. The trend of poverty in the area propagates unusual criminals such as habitual criminals who only steal to live. Also the above supports the statement made by Anthony (2012) in the literature who emphasized the fact that crime is rife due to unemployment and poverty where people commit crimes just because of that. This boils down to the social conflict theory mentioned in the literature which indicates that people commit crimes due to the imbalance in power between the rich and poor communities. A response to support the above statement is made by Nthabiseng who said:

“People in this area commit crime to support their drug addict habits”.

Drug abuse remains a worrying and trigger factor of crime in the community of Tongaat. These drug addicts are said to be committing crimes to obtain money for their next ‘fix’. Participants have made it quite clear that young persons are much responsible for the escalating crime rates in Tongaat community.

The above statement may be easily linked to the sociological approaches mentioned in the literature review section of this study, explaining how crime is caused among individuals. In this approach, crime is said to be influenced mainly by an individual’s external factors such as neighbours, peer group as well as the family. Drug abuse in Tongaat is said to be sourced from an individual’s peer team, once they fail to support their drug addiction, these individuals turn to criminal acts such as pick-pocketing and shoplifting so as to sustain their drug addiction and be able to purchase their next fix.

“Young people are not educated in their homes of the importance of education which is why it’s easy for them to drop out and engage in crime”.

Education is perceived as the key to a bright future in South Africa and is the most basic right every individual should get as a privilege to achieve a goal in life. In the case of Tongaat, education as well as educational opportunities are lack in the area, making it also impossible for people, particularly young people to continue with their educational pursuits that will fetch a better future with a decent pay cheque. However, an individual who has no interest in educational goals is said to be much more prone to delinquent behaviour.

Further interviews with Londiwe unfolded another cause of crime in Tongaat community:

She expressed that:

“Economic opportunities are not there in Tongaat, there is a lack of sporting and recreational activities, and the lack of training for the youth who have passed matric thus, this makes it easy for the youth to engage in criminal activities”.

The above statement makes it obvious that Tongaat is a less developed area, judging from the fact that it lacks basic infrastructure such as tertiary education and other facilities needed to maintain a good life. This statement also makes it quite open that people are much more prone to engaging themselves in criminal activities because they have nothing to do during the day , which is why they engage in crime as a form of ‘keeping themselves occupied’.

It is not something new that the causal factors of crime in this area are poverty and unemployment. However, the above expressions from the various participants suggest that young people of the area are much responsible for the erupting crime rates. These crimes include petty crimes such as pick pocketing, break-in, as well as shoplifting which allows for these young people to gain access to ‘fast cash’ which they use for their desired needs. An empirical finding in support of these assertions is expressed in the statements of the following participants namely Luvuyo and Nandipha:

“The causes of crime in Tongaat is because of the lack of unemployment in a way that people need money to sustain their families”.

“The youth is fully involved in crime especially those who are unemployed”.

The above responses may be an indication of supporting the choices theory where people are given the choice whether to commit and not to commit crime and by looking at the rewards they might obtain, they choose to commit that criminal offence.

5.4. 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 and indirectly. The negative impacts that crime has on the community of Tongaat are discussed based on the narratives of residents in this area.

5.4.1. 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. Lucky and Virginia 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”.*

Luvella, a 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.

5.4.2. 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, Abdul said:

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

Fanele also 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. Eagle (2015) makes reference to the fear of crime which in turn causes chaos or messes with the people’s social cohesion ties which are broken hence people cannot restore them due to the fear of being victimised.

5.4.3. 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 namely Dorothy, Camilla and Zama, 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. Dixon et. al. (2006) makes reference to the above in the literature by stating that an individual suffers physical, financial and emotional effects of crime due to the results of crime.

5.4.4. 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. Njabulo and Nokuphiwa 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”.

5.4.5. 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.

Jack and Anne 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, Amahle, 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”.

The above may be associated to Eagle’s (2015) argument on the relationship between the fear of crime and social cohesion where the author took surveys to actually find out whether people are comfortable and feel safe walking around their neighbourhood during the day or at night. This came to the argument that if people do not feel safe by doing so, this meant a disruption in their social cohesion ties.

5.4.6. 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, Sbusiso and Sphwsihle, 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”.

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, Iviwe expressed that:

“Home owners 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.

5.4.7. Overcrowding in Prisons.

One out of fifteen participants disclosed that the effect associated with crime in Tongaat is the overcrowding in prisons. Overcrowding in prisons may be explained as prisons being full to the extent that it cannot admit new prisoners in jail. Nomkhitha had the following to say with regard to the above statement:

“Prisons in Tongaat are overcrowded by young people much involved in petty crimes”.

In support of the above expression, one participant declared that prisons are overcrowded by young people. There is no future for any community when young people belonging to that community are much engaged in criminal activities. This is why the participants also concluded that Tongaat’s young people commit petty crimes such as shoplifting, bag snatching. These are the push factors that end the youth of Tongaat community in prisons.

5.5. Community Crime Reduction Strategies

The problem of crime and crime control has reached agitating proportions in Tongaat community. The dramatic increase in all kinds of crime since the advent of democracy has generated a wide range of explanations about the causes and effects of crime, as well as possible solutions to reduce the menace in the community. Right from the stand point of the participants, the study identified neighbourhood watch, extra lighting, installation of alarms and CCTV cameras, police patrols and involvement, encouraging members of the community to work with SAPS, community policing forums, job creation and educational opportunities, as the most prominent community crime reduction strategies.

5.5.1. Neighbourhood Watch.

Two out of fifteen participants described neighbourhood watch as the most effective form of crime coping mechanism, and this is shown by much responses who have identified neighbourhood watch as a preferable method or strategy for crime reduction. This form of mechanism involves neighbours watching over each other's belongings and property when one is away and reporting immediately when they see anything suspicious. Responses by Yolanda and Lindo go as follows:

"We as the community need to start a neighbourhood watch".

"People should practice neighbourhood watch where they watch over neighbour's properties when they are not home".

These respondents agree to these assertions and they feel as if this method were the safest and fastest way to identify a culprit as neighbours are always in the household; and are able to watch over a stranger before reporting such an incident to the local police or forum group. This will also allow for the individual next door to watch over property of another neighbour especially when they are not home at that particular time.

5.5.2. Extra lighting.

Angeline and Alisha said:

"A household needs to be extra lit during the night to identify possible offenders entering the household".

"People in the community should consider security lights to deter potential burglars".

Extra lighting was mentioned by five out of fifteen participants as a necessity for an individual's apartment to be well lighted so as to easily identify perpetrators entering the household. Sensory light is a form of extra lighting much recommended by participants as a form of strategy as it can sense when a person enters any premises, it either turns on or off until somebody in the household is awake. Extra lighting, according to the participants, may also

allow cameras to show clear pictures at night as it may be too dark for a camera to work and take good quality pictures in the absence of light.

Supporting the above statement, Lumka and Tiasha were of this opinion:

“Household owners should ensure that all security gates are locked, and the home is lit up at night”.

---“People in the community should consider security lights to deter potential burglars”.

Another female participant named Fiona was of a different opinion:

“The street lights also need to be well lighted especially in the late hours of the day to allow for the safety of road users especially pedestrians”.

Considering the conceptual explanation of the participants, it can be concluded that extra lighting should play a significant role in reducing crime on the streets of Tongaat community as it would help in illuminating every nook and cranny of the community. This will also reduce the fears in the minds of the people to walk freely in the night against any crime. This idea, if implemented would reduce the chances of fear of crime an individual has as regards walking late in the night.

5.5.3. Installation of Alarms and CCTV Cameras.

The installation of alarms and cameras in one’s household was viewed as a major concern for all the participants in the study. This is essential to them because alarm systems help notify people around the neighbourhood as well as law enforcers that there is something wrong going on and should be attended to. CCTV cameras are also a huge advantage to help law enforcers investigate the truth of crime through video recording of all on-going activities. An empirical evidence in support of this argument is captured in the excerpts of Niya and Zikhona as follows:

“I recommend the installation of extra security such as CCTV outside to allow for perpetrators to be identified easily after they have offended”.

Corroborating the above expression, a participant had this to contribute:

“Plan systems such as CCTV cameras are recommended to be installed outside homes”.

Ali (2008) also made reference to the above-mentioned that people should install security tools such as tracking radios in their belongings in order for the belongings to be retrieved easily once lost.

5.5.4. Police Patrols Involvement.

With regards to patrolling by the SAPS, Mbali, Nosipho and Snakho stated:

“Foot patrols on the streets during the day and at night by the SAPS are essential as roads patrolled by the police crime is not easy to occur”.

“Security companies to add more experienced people on the team and patrol all over and everyday”.

“More patrols by police are needed in the area to show more visibility especially at night”.

Police patrol functions cannot be wished away among strategies needed to reduce crime in any community. Locals have well supported night foot or vehicle patrols by the respective SAPS daily. They have mentioned that this is effective in a way that the road being occupied by police officer's day and night would be impossible for criminal activities to occur. This is because the police are always on the watch which leaves possible offenders little or no time at all to participate in delinquent acts as they often feel the police may arrive at any time and catch them. Respondents further requested that these patrols be done both during the day as well at night as criminals do not choose a time to commit a criminal offence. The police patrol is expected to have experienced personnel on their teams, who are as much more experienced in patrolling and crime prevention.

5.5.5. Encouraging Members of the Community to Work with SAPS.

The study has demonstrated that members of the society should be encouraged to work in partnership with the SAPS in order to combat and reduce crime among the inhabitants of Tongaat community. By so doing this, it will strengthen the police rapid response time to crime and community's outcry, as well as arrest probable culprits before they make away with their crime. The following excerpts by Sne were captured to substantiate these findings:

"The people of the community need to be the eyes and ears of the SAPS such as reporting crimes".....Report suspicious activity and provide detailed descriptions of suspects and vehicles".

"Every member belonging to the community should have emergency numbers such as those of the SAPS to help report crimes as they take place".

Marry responded and said:

"People of Tongaat should ensure that all homes are numbered which makes it easy for law enforcement officers to find their homes".

5.5.6. Community Policing Forums

This study has described community policing as a strategy aimed at achieving more effective crime control, improving quality of life, and improving police service and legitimacy. Having community policing forums where an individual belongs to a certain structure in the forum is another strategic plan suggested by participants. Policing forums are said to actively deal with crime openly, allowing them to investigate and catch a perpetrator of crime after which the police intervention is needed to arrest the culprit. Two participants advanced that a strategic coping mechanism in Tongaat community is for everyone to be part of a community police forum structure. Tswarelo and King were of the following opinions:

"It is important for every individual to belong to a certain community policing structure to be able to know who to report to when faced with the challenge of crime".

"Every individual of the community should belong to a structure and be an active CPF member".

5.5.7. Creating Job and Educational Opportunities

Implementation of programmes that will create job opportunities for individuals of the community, particularly those who have nothing to engage themselves will help reduce crime in Tongaat community. This study has shown that leaving them with no job will create an ideology of committing crime. By creating possible jobs for persons who have finished schools and sending those without a qualification to a TVET college strengthens the chances of crime rates being reduced in Tongaat community. The introduction of recreational activities such as different sporting activities is an advantageous venture to do in the community of Tongaat. This will provide the community with enterprises to engage in and worry less with engagement in criminal activities.

Comments from the following participants help substantiate the above assertions of Natalie, Frank and Muzi:

“A creation of an environment where every young person is at a university or college or even training centres”.

“The municipality needs to find ways to create job opportunities for the community”.

“It is essential to expose the youth into educational extravagant to reduce the chances of them hanging around the streets and later committing crimes”.

Ali (2008) also made reference to the above by stating that the provision of job opportunities to the youth more especially can gradually reduce crime rates in a given place hence everybody will be engaged or busy to even think of committing crime.

5.6. Coping Mechanism(s)

Coping mechanisms are strategies used by individuals to protect themselves from excessive effect(s) of an unfortunate situation such as crime. People in this regard use different coping mechanisms to cope and eliminate the effect of crime on them. Such coping mechanisms include professional assistance, possession of legal firearms, survival of the fittest, investing in security systems as well as staying indoors when it is late. However, some of these mentioned coping mechanisms are said to be less effective on the individual while some have much more effect than others.

5.6.1. Survival of the Fittest.

Two out of fifteen participants used the coping mechanism of survival of the fittest in a community much affected by crime as Tongaat. Participants said that they train themselves to always be ready for such phenomena should they arise at any time.

The two participants Ali and Viggie stated:

“It has become the survival of the fittest as you don’t know what will happen tomorrow, you have to make sure that as an individual you are well trained with any situation that may arise”.

“I have no particular way of coping, I live in hope of not being a victim of crime one day, I could say it is the survival of the toughest”.

The finding expresses that participants, in this regard, are always ready to protect themselves against any form of criminal act that can occur at any time. On this note, they always get prepared and ready to attack criminals with their own protective devices. The second participant in this case survives on living with hope, believing that they will not be possible victims of crime in the future.

5.6.2. Professional Assistance.

A clear majority of four participants has produced professional help such as therapy as the most influential and best method for a victim of crime to cope with the different levels of crime. Mpendulo went to the extent of stating that:

“People should go for therapy of which the local municipality should start group therapies as these are expensive and some people cannot afford them”.

Based on the conceptual argument of the participants, the local municipality should make it essential for individuals to attend expensive therapies free of charge. As the municipality provides the area with respective forums to deal with offenders, it is also essential that they also provide the victims with ways to deal with the results of crime.

Ashmira who was once a victim had this to say regarding professional assistance:

“Seeking counselling helped me maintain a positive attitude and stabilize my emotions”.

This response clearly depicts that professional assistance is indeed effective as it helped her stabilize her emotions. There is an enough proof that professional assistance assists the victim of crime to move on with their life after the incidence of crime had occurred unto them. This may be also be linked to Leclerc et. al. (2017) who also made reference to seeking professional help where victims of crime can attend therapy as well as counselling in order to deal with the results crime has on them.

Other participants, Milano and Ngcebo responded with regard to the above point and stated:

“Victims should try and stay positive and get professional counselling”.

“Counselling helps a victim get back on their feet also assists with having a positive mind frame”.

Empirical evidence from above shows that professional help assists victims in developing a positive mind against crime. This positive mind comes in a form of restoration as well as having a changed mind set for the victim of crime.

5.6.3. Investing in Security Systems.

Four participants namely Adhir, Zipho, Hlengiwe and Thembi responded in this manner:

“I recommend the installation of extra security such as CCTV outside”.

“Install extra security such as CCTV cameras outside”.

“Community should contribute towards a security company which provides road side guards and armed response to decrease crimes”.

“Security companies to add more experienced people on the team and patrol all over and everyday”.

The study describes that one good way of coping with the effects of crime is investing in security systems which are installed to provide residents with security and protection. Such security systems include but not limited to detective alarms as well as CCTV cameras at various homes. This also prevents them from falling victims of crime. This form of coping mechanism is said to be very effective as opined by six participants, who see security devices as the best

method to discourage the occurrence of crime in society. On this account, the study sees the need for experienced security personnel like the SAPS to always be on patrol and monitor the security devices wherever they are installed. Empirical evidence in support of this argument is presented in Thola, Samke and Thobi's statements below:

"I recommend the installation of extra security such as CCTV outside"Install extra security such as CCTV cameras outside".

"Community should contribute towards a security company which provides road side guards and armed response to decrease crimes".

"Security companies to add more experienced people on the team and patrol all over and everyday".

5.6.4. Staying Indoors Late.

Another coping mechanism against crime as described by a participant is staying indoors when it is late to avoid being at the right place at a wrong time. This could leave them at a huge risk of being victimised. Such coping mechanism may be concluded as a personal one because an individual may use it as something to prevent themselves from being future victims of crime.

Philile stated in support of this context:

"People should stay indoors at the late hours of the day to avoid being victims".

From the standpoint of the above participant, this coping mechanism may be referred to as a personal safety method, where one can practice at their various homes without involving any persons. This may also warrant a decreased trend in house robbery and assault rates.

5.6.5. Possession of Legal firearms.

The study also argues that being in possession of a legal firearm is indeed a strategic coping mechanism for the individuals, friends and family against crimes. This, however, does not mean the individual must shoot to kill but shoot to injure the perpetrator so that he or she does not have the power to overcome the victim and his family.

This expression is supported by Richard's response as follows:

“Arm myself with a legal firearm with hopes to protect myself and family”.

5.7. Effectiveness of Such Mechanisms

The effectiveness of a certain coping mechanism depends on its level of being able to assist an individual when he or she is victimized. This means that coping mechanisms much favoured by individuals are safe to be labelled as effective. As mentioned above, some of the mentioned mechanisms are labelled as either effective or ineffective by relevant participants, who engaged in the study and mentioned the different coping mechanisms, as well as its different levels of effectiveness.

With regard to the discourse of the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of such coping mechanisms, fourteen participants were able to depict exactly the level of effectiveness while one participant refused to give a clear response of effectiveness. Out of the fourteen responses, ten participants mentioned that the coping mechanisms are indeed effective. The following statements were offered by Lunga, Sakhile, Brian and Sihle in support of this finding:

“With SAPS patrols and security companies daily, there is a reduction in crime”.

“It is effective as I'm always at home after work so no one can interfere with my family and if anything, suspicious happens, I alert my security company”.

“They are effective as the CPFs work at night where crime has decreased especially in the CBD of Tongaat”.

“They are effective, serious and have a passion (coping mechanisms), but the unfortunate part is that it does not have the logistics, or they do not get support from the SAPS”.

The above responses from the various participants prove that some of the coping mechanisms are indeed very effective as they decrease the level of criminal activities taking place in Tongaat community. However, according to the participants, the effectiveness of such coping mechanisms depends greatly on certain individuals such as the local people of the Tongaat

community, as well the local SAPS, especially in assisting the forum being put in place in reducing crime.

Moreover, it is also established that the members of the CPF do state that their programme is effective in reducing crime, but the most crucial part of this context is the unsupportive attitude of the police officers in their programmes. These police officers show little or no interest in their programmes by not working hand in hand with the CPF. The study emphasizes on CPF cooperation with the respective SAPS for their programme to be effective against crime in Tongaat community.

On the other hand, there were three out of fourteen participants who concluded that the coping mechanisms are not very effective in reducing crime due to the various reasons highlighted by Samkelo, Khuselo, Senzi and Sane:

“It is not very effective because crime happens in various places and areas, so people engaged in fighting crime cannot be in all places”.

“Not effective because there are too many places to patrol and they cannot be in two or three places at once”.

“Not very effective as from time to time I panic and worry when I’m at work about my laundry, I have to call a neighbour to take it down from the washing line before perpetrators of crime take or steal my clothes”.

“The mechanisms are effective in most cases but not all as perpetrators of crime often work in groups and sometimes falling prey to crime is inevitable”.

The above comments from the participants prove that there is also a glitch between the coping mechanisms as well their effectiveness. Participants concluded that the above-mentioned coping mechanisms were not so effective for them in reducing crime rates. The fourteenth participant being Rebecca did not specify if the coping mechanisms were absolutely effective or not, giving the statement below to justify his argument.

“Coping mechanisms have reduced in theft and house break-in, but not much can be said in murders and vehicle hijackings”.

The above statement depicts that the coping mechanisms at times do work in an effective manner; but sometimes, they do have their own shortcomings in terms of ineffectiveness of the approach. However, based on the conceptual argument of the participants, the effectiveness of coping mechanisms in Tongaat means the reduction of crime in the area while the ineffectiveness of coping mechanisms suggests a rise or continuation of criminal activities in Tongaat community.

5.8. Summary

It is crystal clear that crime is an on-going and problematic phenomenon in Tongaat community. Crime in this area is viewed as problematic, not only because of its causes but also the effects it has on respective members of the society, who are either directly or indirectly affected by criminal activities. However, with a strict implementation of the aforementioned coping mechanisms, there would be a drastic reduction in the incidence of crime and criminal behaviours among the law-biding citizens of Tongaat community. The findings see that it is of paramount importance for crime to be mitigated in Tongaat so as to allow for the growth of infrastructures such as malls, civic, recreational, educational and tourist centres ; such that will attract as many people as possible to visit the area. With all these programmes being put in place, crime rates will decrease while there would be a rapid surge in the economic growth of the community.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

This study was conducted in Tongaat community with the aim of exploring individual perceptions on the issue of crimes. Based on the secondary research in chapter two and the findings outlined in Chapter Five of the thesis, this chapter will present the summary, the conclusions and relevant recommendations of the study. Attempts were made in organizing responses to individual questions so as to arrive at specific conclusions and recommendations that may expectantly help resolve the problems identified in the study. In summarizing the findings of this study, the following general conclusions were presented based on the following objectives of the study.

- i. To identify the various forms of crime that are prevalent in Tongaat community.
- ii. To explore the causes of crime in Tongaat Community.
- iii. To investigate the effects of crime on the inhabitants of Tongaat community.
- iv. To identify possible coping mechanisms that can be adopted to address the problem of crime in Tongaat.
- v. To determine the effectiveness of the community's coping mechanisms

6.2.1. Identifying the Various Forms of Crime that are Prevalent in Tongaat Community

The study revealed that crimes reported to be rife in Tongaat are both petty and serious crimes. Petty crimes include those crimes that are not so serious and do not result in any injury or death while the serious ones are those that result in injury or even worse death. The foremost crime identified by participants who are also residents of Tongaat is robbery and theft, which was reported to have affected majority of the participants. Such crimes

occur in a manner of pick-pocketing and shoplifting. Perpetrators of such crimes commit crimes on people or shops (victims in this case) by robbing them in a way of taking their valuables.

Murder is the second form of crime committed in the area which is associated with a serious crime as it results in the death of either a victim or perpetrator in the process. Majority of the respondents mentioned that murder does actually take place in the area of Tongaat in which most victims are murdered during a criminal offence and some killed to erase any evidence that might point back to them.

Sexual assault has always been reported to be on the rise in and around South Africa. This is also the case much associated with Tongaat as participants have responded to such a statement of the area being much affected by rapists. One participant in this study mentioned that sexual assault occurs to an individual during the late hours of the day, which also leads to physical assault too. The study concludes that such a crime usually takes place at late hours of the day in secluded areas of the community, where nobody could see anything during that time. Sexual assault is said to have been a frequent form of crime in Tongaat and members of the CP forum in the area have worked together in foot patrols and marches together with the assistance of the SAPS to reduce the rape cases that occur in the area.

Vehicle hijackings were reported to be so prominent in Tongaat area based on the conceptual clarification of the participants selected for the study. As much as it does, it is very intense in a way that it affects individuals in many ways such as emotionally, physically as well as financially. With regard to emotional effects, individuals may feel a sense of prolonged anxiety and fear when in a car, while physically, they may suffer serious injuries and some of which may result in death during or after the incident. With respect to financial effects, victims become stressed as to how to replace their stolen goods, such as in the case of a stolen vehicle, and this may cause them to end up being depressed and financially stressed.

6.2.2. Exploring the Causes of Crime in Tongaat Community

One of the main causes of crime globally is poverty, just as much as it is associated with Tongaat too. The study has addressed poverty as well as unemployment as the major factors escalating the crime rates in Tongaat. The issue of unemployment in this area seems to be a prominent factor, which slowly develops into poverty and so people commit crimes such as robbery or stealing to feed themselves and their families. In other words, these people steal or commit crime to survive their conditions of penury. Such people are also described by the study as easy targets for drug addiction, which is also prominently endemic to Tongaat community.

6.2.3. Investigating the Effects of Crime on the Inhabitants of Tongaat Community.

With regard to 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. 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. The final concluded effect of crime on the individuals in Tongaat is overcrowding in prisons. This happens as a result of a large population of inmates in the prison yard. One may conclude the issue of overcrowded prisons as an advantage in a way that offenders who have committed petty crimes such as shoplifting will be easily given bail and released to create space for offenders with more serious criminal charges. Thus, this makes it possible for petty criminal offenders to commit much more intense crimes once released.

6.2.4. Identifying Possible Coping Mechanisms that can be adopted to address the Problem of Crime in Tongaat.

This study has identified coping mechanisms that could assist in reducing the effect of crime on the individual. Majority of the participants pinpointed professional assistance as the most effective and helpful method one can recommend to a victim of crime. This form of method includes therapy sessions as well as counselling to assist the individual in coping with what they are going through. The second most recognised coping mechanism by participants is the act of investing in security systems. Apart from installing cameras and alarms, participants also felt that it is also quite important to invest in security services as they are quick to respond when one is in danger as compared to our local police officers. The only reason participants feel as if one should take the measure of investing in security services is because it enables the security personnel to respond quite well on time to crime, catching offenders while at it. For security services to be able to work, individuals are needed to be indoors at the late hours of the night for them to be able to identify any suspicious activity happening and be able to alert security services as at when due.

The final coping mechanism posed by the participants is of having a legal firearm in the household. This form of mechanism is said to be very effective especially for an individual with no security services. This study is of the opinion that the firearm is used to protect people and their family members during the course of the day especially at night where trouble is likely to arise. A gun in this case is said to be used as a form of primary protection tool should the police do not respond on time in a matter of urgency.

6.2.5. Determining the Effectiveness of the Community Coping Mechanisms

The level of effectiveness of coping mechanisms based on the findings of this study was determined by individuals who have either experienced crime and used such mechanisms or who have seen how these mechanisms are put into use and thus produced the desired results. Outcome of the research findings also unfolds that coping mechanisms produce effective results against crime, both serious and petty. The study revealed that coping mechanisms are very effective towards a decreased crime rates as well as repeated victimization. It helps restore victims who have been affected by crime and prepare them for the future. The study views that more mechanisms are needed to reduce serious crimes so that Tongaat community can be an area with very low crime rates.

6.3. 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 also 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.

v. Community policing forums are community crime fighting groups situated in every community. The study suggests that every individual in the community should engage in such forums so that it could be easy for them to report crimes taking place in the area as well as fighting it together as a forum as well as a community.

- vi. The study recommends job creation and educational opportunities as a remedy for crime reduction and prevention in the community. The research unfolds that Tongaat is an area which lacks possible job opportunities as well as educational facilities such as TVET Colleges, which, in turn, result in young people having nothing to do at their spare time other than to commit crime. Should job opportunities be created, members of the society would feel relieved in terms of crime reduction as every individual will become gainfully employed or engaged, thus leaving people little or no time to engage in delinquent behaviour.

6.4. Conclusion

Crime levels in Tongaat community are high and have been increasing since the advent of democracy, particularly in the early 1990s. This is supported by the SA crime stats (2015) which depicts a steep increase in crimes such as sexual offences, robbery, murder, assault, theft and drug related crimes from 2014 to 2018. Also the SAPS crime statistics in EThekweni supported the above statement where crime rates increased from 3 063 in 2014 to 4 293 per 100 000 in 2015. But there have been important variations both in terms of the incidence of different crime types and in terms of the impact of crime on the different areas of the community. Any attempt at explaining these trends without considering the effects of apartheid and the political transition on crime levels would be difficult. In future, as government becomes more regulated and problems in the criminal justice process and policing in particular are ironed out, the links between development, poverty, unemployment and crime will probably become the focus in the crime debate, especially in the search for long term solutions to the problems of crime across a diverse range of human societies. While it seems logical in Tongaat community that poverty and unemployment cause crime, the connections between unemployment and rising crime are complicated, and the assumption that the unemployed are more likely to commit crimes is consistently verified by this research. There is need to know that the relationship between development and crime is also complex. Crime is thought to be one of the social consequences of development, with international surveys indicating that as development increases, so too do crimes against people and society increase. The study concludes on the implementation of effective and preventive measures, such as job creation and educational opportunities, CPF intervention, crime recording devices, neighbourhood watch, etc., to combat the menace of crime, mitigate its continued trend, as well as develop coping strategies

needed by individuals in Tongaat community to live in peace rather than fear and anxiety of impending incidence of crimes.

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