



Criminality among youths and its effects to development in developing countries

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Abstract

Much seems to be said about crime and criminality this century than before and especially in developing countries. This study attempted to examine criminality among youths and its effects to development in developing countries. This led to trying to establish any parallels and differences and probably why between developed and developing countries using available scholarly works in secondary and primary materials. This prompted a deliberate effort to find out the causes of Criminality among Youths in general and in particular to the developing countries, establishing the trends in criminality among youths in developing countries, and finding the effects of criminality to development in developing countries. The study concluded by avidly pointing that crime is an interruption to development, yet it is caused due to many factors psycho-social, economic, and politically based factors that need urgency in solution finding to alleviate their detriment.

Keywords: criminality/ crime/ crime among youths / effects of crime/ crime and development/ crime in developing countries

Introduction

Records capture the state of criminality as being detrimental to many countries in diverse forms. Seckan (Undated) opines, violent crime can impact economies in a variety of ways, from encouraging emigration and brain drain to discouraging foreign direct investment. In many parts of the developing world, violent crime related to gang activity has risen to crisis levels, negatively impacting people, property and business activity. These issues periodically gain media visibility, but the true scope of the problem worldwide is seldom captured. In a globalized world, of course, analysis of criminal activity often cannot be limited to domestic contexts. In October 2012, the issue was spotlighted when the United States Treasury Department formally designated the Mara Salvatrucha gang (known as MS-13) as a “transnational criminal organization.” Though the total costs of violent crime in the developing world are difficult to calculate, country-specific estimates highlight the depth and seriousness of the problem. According to the United Nations and World Bank, in 2007 violent crime cost Guatemala an estimated \$2.4 billion or 7.3% of GDP; the Mexican government estimated the costs of violence in 2007 at \$9.6 billion, primarily from lost investment, local business and jobs. The U.N. and World Bank also estimated that, in 2007, Jamaica and Haiti could have increased their GDP by 5.4% merely by bringing down their crime levels to that of Costa Rica. In many instances crime exists side by side with violence. Crime and violence (Serrano-Berthat, and Lopez, 2011)^[37]. Are a key development issue for Central American countries. In three nations El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras crime rates are among the top five in Latin America. In the region’s other three countries; Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama crime and violence levels are significantly lower, but a steady rise in crime rates in recent years has raised serious concern. There is reason to worry. The key drivers of crime and violence in the region are drug trafficking, youth violence and gangs, an abundance and high

availability of firearms, and a lack of developed criminal justice institutions.

Existing statistics tend to strongly point that crime in general is escalating in developing countries. This does not negate the fact that both developed and developing worlds have unique crimes to their environs. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2011) reports in 2010 the total number of homicides globally was estimated to be 468,000. More than a third (36%) were estimated to have occurred in Africa, 31% in the Americas, 27% in Asia, 5% in Europe and 1% in the tropical Pacific region. Since 1995, the homicide rate has been falling in Europe, North America, and Asia, but has risen to a near “crisis point” in Central America and the Caribbean. Factors contributing to the rising levels of homicide include: the economic crisis; food insecurity due to environmental changes; inflation; and weak or limited rule of law. Indeed, these patterns are reflected in the fact that the “largest shares of homicides occur in countries with low levels of human development, and countries with high levels of income inequality are afflicted by homicide rates almost four times higher than more equal societies.” In the Americas, more than 25% of homicides are related to “organized crime and the activities of criminal gangs”; the same is only true of approximately 5% of homicides in the Asian and European countries for which data are available. Though the crime here is specific, according to this study, over 60% are from Africa and Asia (developing countries). The study is assumed to have observed all due diligence such as absence of Euro-centric bias which sometimes pervade such studies.

Study by the World Bank (2007), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), examines the impact of violent crime on economic development in the Caribbean. The study finds that the drug trade is the primary source of crime and violence in the Caribbean, and that the

Geography of the region allows it to be a primary transit point for narcotics, while also making it very difficult to control movement of these narcotics. The study also finds that this violence has a strong negative impact on GDP, and that the failure to control this violence is a result of overdependence on the criminal justice system. Overall, the study suggests that policymakers should find alternative methods of combating violence including: crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), integrated citizen security approaches, and public health approaches, among other potential policy interventions.

In their research, Wood, Gibson, Ribeiro, and Hamsho-Diaz (2010)^[53], among the challenges faced by Latin America at the onset of the 21st century is the increase in crime and violence that began in the mid-1980s, and which, to one degree or another, has afflicted most countries in the region. In this study we explore the potential implications of the upsurge in crime on migration by testing the hypothesis that crime victimization in Latin America increases the probability that people have given serious thought to the prospect of migrating with their families to the United States. Using Latinobarometro public opinion surveys of approximately 49,000 respondents residing in 17 countries in 2002, 2003, and 2004, the results of a Hierarchical Generalized Linear Model found that, net of individual and country-level control variables, the probability of seriously considering family migration to the United States was around 30% higher among respondents who reported that they or a member of their family was a victim of a crime sometime during the year prior to the survey. Evidence that victimization promotes the propensity to emigrate is a finding that contributes to an understanding of the transnational consequences of the increase in crime in Latin America, and adds a new variable to the inventory of factors that encourage people to migrate to the United States.

Developing countries (Cohen and Mauricio, 2014)^[11] are experiencing a rising tide of violence linked to criminality, gang wars and organized crime. Violent crime is particularly acute in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. According to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) estimates, the share of the LAC region in the total number of world deaths from firearms was 49.6% in 2010, and these deaths cut lives prematurely by an average of 61.5 years. The region is home to 41 of the top 50 most dangerous cities in the world. Between 73,000 and 90,000 of all homicides in the region committed yearly are caused by firearms. This is three times higher than the world average. From casual affiliation to gangs in schools and neighborhoods, to full-time armed participation in international drug cartels, youth are the biggest target – and victims – of this conflict.

In South Africa, however, (Stone, 2006)^[40] points, crime in South Africa is high and widely believed to restrain investment. Nevertheless, both the mechanisms through which crime constrains growth and the actions that might be taken to loosen its grip are poorly understood. In light of the limited knowledge in the field and the limited capacity of criminal justice institutions, this paper proposes focusing on two issues: (1) the costs of crime to business, especially household-based enterprises in low-income settlements, and (2) the perception of violent crime. In both cases, the paper proposes a cyclical process of iterative innovation in which government seeks to solve narrowly circumscribed crime problems, and then leverages each success to generate wider hope and confidence in the criminal justice system.

Mogambi (2018)^[28] observes in Kenya thus due to high unmet expectations, disappointing employment and marginalisation continue to fuel frustration and desperation among the youth. Some have turned to criminal behaviour, violence, substance abuse, and commercial sex work. These activities have repercussions on young people and contribute to growing insecurity in society. In Kenya, as in many other countries, young people are viewed as the main perpetrators of crime. Sadly, although youth crime and violence are a problem in Kenya, not much has been done in terms of interventions to combat them. Why Kenyan youths are getting increasingly radicalised and lured into joining terror groups such as Somalia's Al Shabaab goes to show how wrong our priorities are, to the point of visiting misery and desperation among the youth. Indeed, unemployed youths continue to pose serious danger to national security.

Justification of the Study

The study herein is undertaken with underlying context that criminality in general is committed by a big majority of youths. According to Hirschi and Gottfredson, it is now a truism that age is one of the strongest factors associated with criminal behavior. Some have claimed that age-crime relationship is invariant or universal across groups, societies, and times (Hirschi and Gottfredson, 1983). This invariance signals that age-crime relationship is strongly biologically determined (Kanazawa and Still, 2000). Most often the effects retard existing development and any potential development. Development partners to many states from various corners of the global find it necessary to invest in environments with relative peace. This study opens up the idea and concept of criminality among youths and its effects to development in developing countries thereby; an academic awareness, a policy enhancement area, and information to the populace in developing countries on trends of criminality.

Causes of criminality among youths

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (Undated) assert that there is no one 'cause' of crime. Crime is a highly complex phenomenon that changes across cultures and across time. Activities that are legal in one country (e.g. alcohol consumption in the UK) are sometimes illegal in others (e.g. strict Muslim countries). As cultures change over time, behaviours that once were not criminalised may become criminalised (and then decriminalised again – e.g. alcohol prohibition in the USA). As a result, there is no simple answer to the question 'what is crime?' and therefore no single answer to 'what causes crime?' Different types of crime often have their own distinct causes.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2012) avers that with core demand generated by a consumer base of addicts, drugs also represent a long-term source of income for organized crime groups. But drug flows also illustrate that it does not take a lot of money to cause a lot of damage. Drugs appear to generate the most dangerous flow of profits, followed by environmental resources. Individual traffickers may make tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars in a relative small number of transactions. Production areas are often affected by insurgency, and transit countries often suffer both from either high rates of murder, high levels of corruption, or both.

Poverty and crime are intricately linked. Most often than not the former leads to the latter and not the other way round. Maria (2005)^[25] confirms this; Crime was both the cause and

consequence of poverty, insecurity and underdevelopment, Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today as it began its debate on crime prevention and criminal justice and international drug control. When armed militia controlled drug cultivation and production, crime syndicates traded guns for natural resources, and corrupt officials facilitated human trafficking, he said. The final result could only be more poverty, greater instability and enormous suffering — as had been the case in Central and South America, Western Asia, the Golden Triangle, and much of Africa. Even certain regions in Europe were vulnerable to the crime and poverty trap, he said. Highlighting the UNODC projects on drugs and crime in countries in Africa, the Americas and Asia, he said the quality of his Office's research efforts would benefit even more from a sharper focus on specific regions. He said, however, that the Office could not succeed unless its efforts were better aligned with the needs of assisted countries, as well as the visions of international lenders and donors. The UNODC wanted to sit down with recipient countries, as well as with other potential donors, to work together to bring real benefits to communities where the criminal behaviour of a few was causing millions to suffer. Resolutions were only helpful if they resulted in concrete action.

The interlink between age, crime, and development (UN-ECA, 1992) in African countries has not been adequately analyzed empirically to allow firm conclusions to be made. However, in developing countries in general, such factors as population growth, urbanization, industrialization, modernization and poverty are deemed to be among the major factors influencing crime rates. This position has been consequently expressed by several United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. As early as 1955, the second UN congress, observed that in developing regions of the world, including Africa, "from observations of experts and from limited statistical data in such areas, it can be said that juvenile delinquency became a problem of concern in these countries, when industrialization has increased and where urban centers have been established.

Latin America foreshadows a challenging conundrum for global development. As the world urbanizes, a greater proportion of the poor are living in cities. Without improved governance, violent crime will impact the poor disproportionately, preventing them from escaping poverty. More scientific knowledge is needed to understand the causes and consequences of the violence epidemic, and what interventions are feasible to reduce crime and improve security (Cohen and Mauricio, 2014)^[11].

Causes of criminality among youths are narrowing down to almost become similar due to globalization. Ali (2008), with the passage of time crime rates are increasing all over the world. Several factors are responsible for this increase which relates Economic, Social and Family situations and problems. Pakistan is also facing the increasing trend in crimes over the years. There is no single root cause (www.preventingcrime.net) of crime. Crime is primarily the outcome of multiple adverse social, economic, cultural and family conditions. To prevent crime it is important to have an understanding of its roots. Causes of crime differ from country to country because of different cultural, economic and social characteristics. The causes of crime are

primarily related to: Economic Situation, Social Environment, and Family Structures. In detailed, these can be expounded to cover; major economic factors that contribute to crime initiations are Poverty, Unemployment and Political Situation, financial crisis due to poverty causes the person to involve in criminal activities. A poor father may not be able to educate his children in school and lack of education may lead to criminal thinking of a child. Homelessness causes the children to spend most of the time on streets, and lack of employment opportunities leads to criminal activities amongst the unemployed. An unemployed person needs to run his household by any means and when he doesn't find any legal opportunity to earn; he may get involved in criminal activities to finance his living. Thirdly, due to political uncertainty, sense of insecurity develops in the members of the society. The sense in which they become hopeless of their future due to which they get involved in unfair means of earning. Social Factors include; Inequality, Not sharing power, Lack of support to families and neighborhoods, Real or perceived inaccessibility to services, Lack of leadership in communities, Low value placed on children and Individual well-being, the overexposure to television as a means of recreation. Youth whose family have one or more characteristics listed below, are more likely to be involved in crime; • Parents are involved in crime, Poor parental supervision, Their parents neglect them, here is erratic discipline or they are treated harshly, Family income is low or they are isolated, Family conflict, Lack of communication between children and parents, Lack of respect and responsibility amongst family members, Abuse and neglect of children, Family violence, and Family Breakup.

Social and cultural factors (UN Habitat, 2007)^[48] also exacerbate or mediate crime. For instance, in cities such as Kabul, Karachi and Managua, violence is so interwoven into the fabric of daily life that it has become the norm for many slum dwellers. On the other hand, in Hong Kong and other parts of East and Southeast Asia, Confucianism based family values and a generally compliant 'pro-social' population are major factors in keeping crime and violence low. Other factors associated with urban crime and violence include poverty, unemployment, inequality, intergenerational transmission of violence as reflected in the continuous witnessing of parental abuse during childhood, the rapid pace of urbanization, poor urban planning, design and management, growth in youthful population, and the concentration of political power, which facilitates corruption and city size and density.

Circumstantial issues unique to causes of crime in Caribbean are recorded as; the report clearly shows that crime and violence are development issues. Donors and OECD countries need to work together with Caribbean countries to reduce the current levels in the region," said Caroline Anstey, World Bank Director for the Caribbean. "Some of the factors that make the Caribbean most vulnerable to crime and violence, mainly the drug trade and trafficking of weapons, require a response that transcends national and even regional boundaries. Caribbean countries are transit points and not producers of cocaine. Interdiction needs to be complemented by other strategies outside the region: principally demand reduction in consumer countries and eradication and/or alternative development in producer countries. Gun ownership is an outgrowth of the drug trade and, in some countries, of politics and associated garrison communities. Although reducing gun ownership is difficult, better gun

registries, marking and tracking can help, as can improved gun interdiction in ports. Policies should also focus on limiting the availability of firearms and on providing meaningful alternatives to youth.

The notion of unemployment, specifically youth unemployment, as a factor promoting violence is relatively common in the literature. Paul Collier identified the economic growth rate as 'the single most (statistically) influential variable in determining whether a country returns to war within a few years of a peace settlement' and saw unemployment as the likely route through which growth could affect violence (Collier, 2000, cited in Cramer, 2015: 1). He argued that unemployment was a source of grievance Idris (2016)^[20] and Urdal (2004) (cited in Cramer, 2010)^[13] echo the view that youth unemployment is a key cause of insurgency or civil war. 'It is believed that unemployment triggers participation in insurgencies, prompts people to join violent gangs, drives people to extremism, and that it is the primary reason behind domestic violence' (Cramer, 2015: 1). Similarly, in relation to crime: 'Disaffected young people who lack the economic opportunities to raise themselves out of poverty are more vulnerable than adults to participation in armed violence, crime, gangs, drug trafficking and other illicit activities' (Ali, 2014). In assessing how youth unemployment leads to violence, a dominant theme in the literature is that it stalls the transition to adulthood: 'the structural exclusion and lack of opportunities faced by young people effectively block or prolong their transition to adulthood and can lead to frustration, disillusionment and, in some cases, their engagement in violence' (McLean Hilker & Fraser, 2009). The link between youth unemployment and violence is seen in the literature as exacerbated by 'youth bulges' in developing countries. The proportion of young people (aged 15–24 years) in the global population is higher than at any time in history (McLean Hilker, 2009)^[27].

The trends in criminality among youths in developing countries

Chiedu, Solaja, and Olawunmi (2015)^[10] from their diverse studies conclude that as criminologists do that crime is a global phenomenon, an inevitable event and multidimensional in nature. Crime exists everywhere in the world. However, the prevalence of youth's criminality in Nigeria posed serious concern for all and sundry. Some authors (Abosede, 2015) defined crime as an act committed or omitted in violation of law or value system of a society, to which legitimate punishment or sanctions are attached, and require the intervention of a public authority. Crime (Jiburum, Mba and Ezeamama, 2014)^[22] can be seen as functional parts of social relations and theoretical basis for many sociological enquiries since no society is free from criminality. In most cases, however, crime affects quality of life, socio-economic growth and development.

Taking Nigerian perspective, crime situation is more intense in urban centers than rural areas due to high level of urban poverty, congestion, unemployment, cost of living, disorganization and moral decadence confronting urban system (Adebayo 2013)^[2]. Subsequently, Chiedu, Solaja, and Olawunmi (2015)^[10] noted that the growing gap between the rich and poor affects the society through increased violence in Nigeria. According to Chiedu, Solaja, and Olawunmi (2015)^[10] youths are energetic, creative, vibrant and articulate individuals between ages of 12-35 years in

whose hands lay the expectation of the future of every society. Crime, broadly encompasses actions or behavior that offend(s) certain collective feeling which are especially strong and clear cut (Durkheim, 1982).

UNODC-World Bank Report (2007) highlights the high incidence of crime and violence in the Region and identifies illicit drugs and narcotics trafficking as the main underlying cause, forecasting the implications for development. Further, the Report draws attention to the tendency of States to rely overly on the criminal justice approach to crime reduction, while neglecting other complementary and more effective preventative approaches in reducing certain types of crime and violence. It examines and provides insights on the central role the Governments of Member States of the Caribbean Community must play in the prevention and reduction of crime and violence.

Using Trinidad scenario (UNDP-HDR), 'Human Development and the Shift to better Citizen Security', which was launched in Trinidad and Tobago on 8 February 2012, is the first ever UNDP HDR on the Caribbean and presents data which highlight the changing crime and security situation in the Caribbean. The report voices particular concern about the increasing incidence of youth violence in a region where over six per cent (60%) of the population is under the age of 30, and in national contexts where at least 1/5 of the citizenry is between the ages of 15-24; and points out the negative impact this violence has in terms of direct and indirect economic, social and political costs to society and to the Governments of CARICOM. An additional point to borrow from the Trinidad cases, the 2010 Citizen Security survey revealed six (6) patterns in the incidence of youth violence in the Caribbean as follows: gender dimension violence by young males against young males; females remain most vulnerable in domestic abuse or sexual assault, marked increase in violence among pre-adolescents, increase in school violence, violence are mainly used out of fear or in response to a perceived threat, closely associated with violence in the community, and due to victimization of youth by peers and/or by adults often leads to more violence.

Crime (The Report of the Caribbean Commission on Youth and Development, 2010) was seen as associated with poverty, unemployment, politics and social inequities. Constant exposure to crime and violence leads to emotional blunting, high stress, grief and a sense of loss. Young people across the Region spoke of fear, perceptions of lack of safety and concern for their general well-being as a result of the increased crime and violence; of self-imposed curfews, diminished participation in community activities, restriction of night-time activities and changes in social practices as a consequence. Altogether, they wondered about the quality of life facing them.

In general, a juvenile delinquent in Africa is one who commits an act defined by law as illegal and/or who is adjudicated "delinquent" by an appropriate court. The legal definition in most African countries is usually restricted to persons under the age of 21 years (Igbinovia, 2012)^[21]. The exact lower and upper age limits differ from country to country. For example, in most of the East African countries, the age is eight years (Mushanga, 1976, p. 24)^[36]. In Tanzania, he continues to suggest, all crimes committed by persons below the age of criminal responsibility can be legally defined as juvenile delinquency. Section 15 of the Penal Code of Tanzania states: A person under the age of 7 years is not criminally responsible for any act or omission. A person

under the age of 12 is not criminally responsible for an act or omission unless it is proved that at the time of doing the act or making the omission he had capacity to know that he ought not to do the act or make the omission (p. 25). Similarly, in Kenya a juvenile delinquent is a child between the statutory juvenile court age of 7 and 16 years who commits an act which, when committed by persons beyond this statutory juvenile court age, would be punishable as a crime or as an act injurious to other individuals or the public. In this country, a person is considered an adult when he is 19 years old or above. At this age, if he commits a crime, he is tried in court as an adult and not as a juvenile (Muga, 1975).

Some studies show that victims of youth offending whether property or violence, are likely to be from young people living in the same Neighbourhoods, or attending the same schools. In South Africa, one study found that young people under 18 were responsible for 30% of the violence against the youths. In Dar es-Salaam, 27% of young people of 15-25 surveyed in 2000 had been victims of assault, compared with 9% of those over 40 years of age, and 33% of those who were unemployed. 44% of the same age group had been victims of simple theft, compared with 25% of those over 40 years (Edwin 2006) [16].

In Nairobi, Kenya, recent survey on effects of violence on the youth by UNCEF (2005) [46], found that young people are left to take care of themselves in violence-torn communities that do not provide any support services. In an attempt to cope with these devastating circumstances, the youth in informal settlements often exhibit risky behaviours including substance abuse, gang membership, aggressive and violent actions against others, stealing and other criminal activities, or early pregnancy.

According to Awoundo (1993), there are two categories of crime: first, there is crime which is of deviant behaviour that is considered not to be a serious threat to group life and therefore tolerated. Alternately, Ndikuru (2011) [32] distinguishes between crimes as belonging to two broad categories, misdemeanors and felonies. In South Africa however, crime types that are particularly affected by low levels of reporting are the less serious property crimes such as petty theft, as well as other crimes like fraud, corruption, sexual assault and crimes against children (Schönteich & Louw, 2001) [35]. Kyamana (2015) [24] quoting Masese (2007) cites armed robbery, murder, mugging, carjacking, housebreaking, physical and sexual assault and other forms of serious crime are common.

Trends vary per categorization. Moser (2004) [29] categorized the predominant type of crimes committed in urban areas in developing countries. These were either violent crimes based on political, institutional, economic and social violence. Economic violence, motivated by material gain, is associated with street crime, including mugging, robbery and violence linked to drugs and kidnapping (Rodgers, 2000) [34]. According to a United Nations-Habitat study, in Kenya between May 2000 and April 2001, 37% of the population had been victims of robbery (Stravou, 2002). Shaw *et al.* (2003) [38] argue that the case of robbery in developing countries is significant as it not only causes injury and loss of property to the victims but also because it raises the general level of fear of crime.

Effects of criminality to development in developing countries

Studies showing a negative relationship between violent crime and aggregate economic activity (Gaibulloev and Sandler, 2008)

[18]. The effects of crime are heterogeneous across industries, sectors and even gender. Recent evidence shows, for example, that violence seems to affect the most the informal sector (Bozzoli *et al.*, 2012) [8], women (Dell, 2015) [14], younger and smaller arms (Camacho and Rodriguez, 2013), smaller urban areas (Enamorado *et al.*, 2014) [17], arms whose inputs are predominantly imported (Amodio and Di Maio, 2014) [15] and non-extractive industries (Ashby and Ramos, 2013) [6]. Existing literature has been able to accumulate growing evidence of the heterogeneous effects of violent crime on the economy, much little is known with respect to the channels through which these effects take place, and to understand within-country variation (Drifford *et al.*, 2013) [13].

The wholesome view of crime effects is the normal trend in many studies. This research comes with a departure by encouraging that the effects be first and foremost visualized as individual before it is given the societal or corporate nature. Why is this important? Because the solution to individualization leads to the societal solutions. In support to this, Office for National Statistics (2015) affirms it is almost impossible to predict exactly what effects an individual victim will suffer. People react very differently to similar offences and where one person may be seriously affected, another might experience only minor or short-term effects. Those who are more vulnerable (such as people who are poor, live in deprived areas or have other life stressors) and those who have been previously victimised are more likely to find a greater impact on them. The effects of a crime can be felt not only by the individual who the criminal justice system treats as the direct victim, but also by their family and those close to them. Crime against businesses is also not an effect-free area as both managers and staff are likely to be affected. The knowledge of victimisation and its shock can spread out through a neighbourhood creating a 'ripple effect'. Some effects may only be short-term. Victims tend to cope with financial loss (though not time off work) quite quickly, by using their own resources, or with the help of friends and family. However, psychological and social effects can be very long-lasting, over months or even years. A small proportion of the most seriously affected (who tend to be victims of serious physical assaults, robberies and particularly rape, as well as the relatives of victims of homicide) may develop PTSD, which will need professional psychiatric or psychological help.

To understand the reactions (The University of Sheffield) of victims to criminal justice, and to be able best to support victims, we need to know the effects of crime on victims. A victim of a crime may possibly experience many different kinds of effects; Direct costs and inconvenience due to theft of or damage to property, the physical effects of injury through violent crime, guilt at having become the victim of crime and feelings one could have prevented it, psychological effects (anger, depression or fear), feelings of anxiety through shock that such a thing has happened and worries about revictimization, limiting one's social life or work life (avoiding places where the crime occurred), taking extra crime preventive measures, and dealing with the criminal justice system.

The second part of UNODC Report (2005) looks at how crime might be interfering with Africa's development. Three broad impacts of crime are

1. Crime erodes Africa's social and human capital: Crime degrades quality of life and can force skilled workers overseas, while the direct impacts of victimisation, as well

- as fear of crime, may impede the development of those that remain. By limiting movement, crime impedes access to possible employment and educational opportunities, and it discourages the accumulation of assets. Crime is also more “expensive” for poor people in poor countries, and disadvantaged households may struggle to cope with the shock of victimisation.
2. Crime drives business away from Africa: Both foreign and domestic investors see crime in Africa as sign of social instability, and crime drives up the cost of doing business. Corruption is perhaps even more damaging – the World Bank says corruption is the single greatest obstacle to development globally. Further, tourism is a sector especially sensitive to crime issues, and it is one of large and growing importance for Africa.
 3. Crime undermines the ability of the state to promote development: Most profoundly, crime and corruption destroy the trust relationship between the people and the state, undermining democracy. Aside from direct losses to national funds due to corruption, crime can erode the tax base as the rich bribe tax officials and the poor recede into the shadow economy. Unfair tax regimes and bribe-seeking officials fuel inequality and increase informality, both of which are associated with crime. The revenue that does manage to find its way into the national coffers may be diverted into graft-rich public works projects, at a cost to education and health services. When people lose confidence in the criminal justice system, they may engage in vigilantism, which further undermines the state.

Conclusions

Statistics tend to strongly point that crime in general is escalating in developing countries. The causes range from disappointing unemployment and marginalisation which continue to fuel frustration and desperation among the youth. Some have turned to criminal behaviour, violence, substance abuse. Causes of criminality among youths are narrowing down to almost become similar due to globalization. Crime is a highly complex phenomenon that changes across cultures and across time. Crime situation is more intense in urban centers than rural areas due to high level of urban poverty, congestion, unemployment, cost of living, disorganization and moral decadence confronting urban system. Nevertheless, poverty and crime are intricately linked and most often than not the former leads to the latter. The effects of crime are heterogeneous across industries, sectors and even gender.

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