



James Otieno

The prevalence of crimes against property and their causes

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causes in the different trimester periods of the
year 2002-2003 in Nairobi

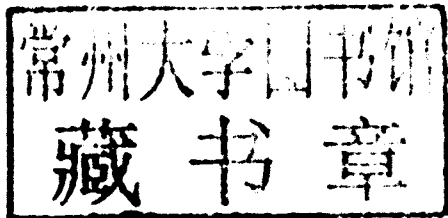


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**The prevalence of crimes against property and their causes in the different
trimester periods of the year 2002-2003 in Nairobi.**

By

Otieno James Francis.

DEDICATION

In the honour of my late mum Gaudentia
T. Adhiambo and to all those innocent
people who have to pay heavy prices
to protect their property and selves from
becoming prey to the marauding criminals.

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This research would not be what it is now without the help from several and organizations. But first I say thanks be to God.

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May I also thank Doreen who happily helped me type this work and Nobert Ashiona who helped me print this work happily too. I say thank you for the commitment and time you spared to making sure that this work is completed.

Last but by no means least; I thank all those ladies and gentlemen, friends and relatives who in one way or another helped and encouraged me in this tiresome **process** of preparing this research work. May you all be blessed.

Summary

The main purpose of this study was to examine the prevalence of crimes against property and their causes in the trimester periods of the year 2002-2003 in Nairobi. This is because property crimes have become common *problem in* Kenya and are as such destruction to the social fabric. To achieve the above objective, Nairobi city was chosen because crime was increasingly becoming a menace and hence a chronic social and more so economic problem.

A sample size of two hundred was chosen in order to reduce logistical and analytical problems. This sample was derived from two police divisions, namely; Langata and Industrial Area. A sample frame was drawn and proportionate stratified random sampling was employed.

Data collection was done in two successive stages, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was collected by the use of questionnaire and interview schedule whereas secondary data was collected from the Kenya police department by the researcher.

The collected data was analyzed using the statistical package for social (**SPSS**). The package enabled the researcher to tabulate, cross tabulate and calculate the percentages, the medians, the standard deviation and modes.

Respondents were asked questions on the prevalence and causes of property crimes. Information gathered from the victims reinforced the fact that they do not report crimes committed against them citing the distance of the police station from the crime scenes and the level of police response. Police statistics too do not reflect the true figures of crimes committed in their stations.

The employed were found to be the main victims of crimes against property. The causes of these crimes were stated as unemployment, population migration, poverty and poor policing.

It was also found that it was mostly electronic equipments that were stolen from respondents' homes because the criminals had ready market for them. It was also established that these items were cheaper from the criminals.

The relationship between police presence and crime commission was equally
Noted in this study. It was found that as one moved a distance away from a
police station one experienced more crimes and vice versa. There is need to
curtail the crime problem by improving accessibility to police stations and by
solving the problems that affect the economically active segment of the
population such as providing job opportunities, reducing rural to urban
migration by decentralizing industrial and urban growth,
Reduction of drug abuse and most importantly by ensuring proper policing in
Crime prone urban areas.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF STUDY

1. INTRODUCTION:

Muga (1975:36) states that crime is the violation or the breaking of law as state or the government. The definition underscores the fact that crime is a contravention of law and therefore punishable by law. Therefore extrapolation on these definitions of crimes and looking at society there are several behaviors and aberrant activities that can be labeled or described as crimes.

Two categories of offences can be recognized: the first being all those acts committed by an individual or a group of individuals or an individuals against another person or group of persons. Included under this category are; assault, rape, robbery with menace, defamation and the like.

Mushanga (1976:10) states that the second category includes offences committed against the state. This comprises tax evasion, possession of illegal firearms conspiracy to charge the government illegally, destruction of public utilities and all harmful acts committed against private citizens and residents who are under the direct protection of the state. There is, in addition to the two broad categories, yet another type that is known as crimes without victims.

These crimes cause harm neither to the individual nor to the state. They include all violations of legal prohibitions that are intended to uphold the moral values of the society, such as those prohibiting the cohabitation between a man and his daughter or mother or sister or with these acts are considered bad in themselves even if when done, no individual is made to suffer.

Offences against property are by far the most numerous of all violation of law in nearly all of Africa. Cases of theft, of armed robbery, of pickpockets, cattle theft, theft of motor vehicles and motor vehicle spares, of foodstuffs from the gardens or from food stores, the malicious destruction of properties like fencing wire and so on are just too numerous to enumerate.

Crime and deviance has been part and parcel of human society since the ig of recorded history, due to the fact, no community in the world boast of a crime-free population. Crime has been studied extensively and mere are numerous attempts to explain why people commit crimes. The rate and degree of crime varies significantly from place to place and from time to time. Long ago in the African community. it was uncommon to experience many cases of crime.

This was because the social control mechanisms operating at that time was effective in maintaining and sustaining normal non-defiant behavior. The

pristine society's social control was governed by norms, value and customs, which acted

as sanctions, and taboos as the ordinary penal structure with extra-ordinary results. This differs from the modern crime

due to the proliferation of integrated western culture, which is rather based on convenience than on a stable culture with continuity. Also, animate properties were most often owned communally hence individual members of the community saw no need, for example, for stealing. However those who deviated from the norms controlling behavior, and experienced severe and punitive measures.

African social fabric experienced drastic change in the twentieth century with the introduction of western culture, growth and proliferation of urban Mushanga (1976:5). The western culture impacted on the Africans behavioral and cognitive system especially in terms of their socio-economic structures. For instance, it was at this time that Africans' appetite for beautiful but expensive western materials, money and culture was stimulated.

Advanced medical techniques and attention brought by the West made the African population to experience an upsurge. The impact of the increase in