




FACTORS INFLUENCING HIGH CRIME RATE IN KUALA LUMPUR URBAN COMMUNITY



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ABSTRACT

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The research primarily aims to examine the unemployment, foreigner as well as urban poor the high crime rate for Kuala Lumpur. The urbanized city it has contributed significantly to Malaysia's development but, simultaneously time, it has the highest crime rate per 100,000 population. Overall, 180 Questionnaire sets including printed and soft copies have been distributed and e-mailed to Kuala Lumpur respondents. A questionnaire survey based on sampling convenience is a non-probable sampling mechanism for selecting the respondents, since this approach provides researchers with the ease, availability or anyone's decision in selecting participants was using to gather data. Analysis of the data was done using Pearson correlations and liner regression techniques to identify the relationship and test hypothesis. Finally, from the perspective of policy maker and the government, both should overcome the issue in this study in a professional manner as high crime rate will increase when the social factors are increase among the urban community. The Royal Malaysian Police should improvise their tactics and strategies in order to reduce the high crime rate in Kuala Lumpur. The government also may change or make amendment certain rules and the guideline base on the situation and priority.

Contribution/ Originality: This study contributes to existing literature by examining the factors of influencing high crime rate in Kuala Lumpur urban community.

1. INTRODUCTION

The need for protection was always several from man's greatest needs as incidence of crime is one of human being's Most critical questions. Complying with this need and addressing this dilemma has become more difficult with communities growing and complicating. There is a greater sense of protection in the rural society because of the superiority of social supervision (Masih & Masih, 1996). In comparison, the feeling of unsafe people in urban societies, especially in metropolitan societies, is one of the major issues because of the increased potential for transgression of population. Feeling protected were one of the most significant in urban areas measures of the quality of space. Many Malaysians are worried at the country's rising violence (Sidhu, 2005). Ability to obtain the new crime data have made it hard to reliably assess country's levels of crime or to grasp a reasons behind such illegal activities. Newspapers and other news media also cover acts of violence and petty crime (Sidhu, 2005). Speak about a problem long enough and hard enough, and the problem can be a long enough and difficult issue and the problem can seem more important than it really is. The possibility for overstatement a problem And selective mass

media reporting and the omnipresent sharing of news via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram etc may cultivate our cognitive biases, thus inflating the true meaning and prevalence of a problem (Asongu, Nwachukwu, Orim, Pyke, & Nwachukwu, 2019). Consequently, the level of social and mass media reports were not credible indicators for assessing the level of crime in this country or for understanding the reasons for its increase. Several research studies have been carried out on crime and its causes, such as unemployment, foreigners and urban poor causes, have led to the high crime rate in Kuala Lumpur in particular. According to the Malaysian Statistical Department, Malaysia's crime index ratio rose to 309.7 per 100,000 population in 2017 compared with 2016 (355.2). Six states reported a crime index above-national level namely W.P in 2017. Kuala Lumpur (716.9), Selangor (408.6), Pulau Pinang (318.3), Negeri Sembilan (356.6), Melaka (339.2), and Kedah (315.3). Meanwhile Sabah reported the lowest crime index of 2017 (157.7). The aforementioned factor can only be calculated if such study is carried out.

Indeed, crime can in many ways degrade the quality of life. It restricts travel, impedes access to potential employment and educational opportunities, and also discourages the accumulation of assets (Baharom & Habibullah, 2009). Crime puts publics at risk; it retards business and other economic activity. High crime rates can push away both foreign and domestic investment and skilled or highly productive labour. In addition, some sectors, such as tourism, are extremely vulnerable to crime rates. Control of crime rates is therefore especially important in developing countries such as Malaysia, where large amounts are spent on the establishment and maintenance of the police and the judiciary. Initial crime theories stressed the impact of poverty on crime rates and social inequality (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960; Merton, 1968). Fleisher (1966) led economists in the study of criminal behaviour. He argued that crime rates are strongly related to joblessness and low wages. Also Ehrlich (1975) found that low levels of income contributed to high crime rates. However, Becker (1968) He concluded that a criminal should be seen not as an impotent victim of social inequality but as a rational economic agent. Moreover, environmental factors can affect the probability of a crime occurring (Tang & Lean, 2007). Evaluation of the circumstances surrounding a possible crime scene, and the availability and presence of one or more natural guardians at or near a scene (Salehi, 2012). The consequences behavior of criminal were among other important issues discussed (Becker, 1968; Ehrlich, 1975). Empirical studies from developed countries found that both factors negatively influence crime rates (Cozens, 2002). In the wake of these hypotheses, a large body of empirical literature emerged in developing countries, seeking to classify crime determinants. Rarely have similar studies been carried out in developed countries such as Malaysia. The present studies is thus an effort to add to the current literature on crime research in developing countries, in Malaysia in particular. The that crime situation is not a new phenomenon either in this country or around the world and it is not yet clear what causes criminal activity among Malaysians.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Factors of Crime

Crime is prevalent and is associated with all types of people. This has led many social researchers to investigate the different factors that influence crime levels and how these factors are regulated in an effort to reduce crime (Clarke, 2012). Crime is often viewed as an issue in areas of high unemployment, poverty, immigrants, the climate, and the number of homeless people, minorities and the distribution of age or desertion of education. As government officials know how much these factors impact crime, they will concentrate their attention and investment on coping with such phenomena and therefore seek to reduce their effects on crime. Taking all these variables into account, and the study of previous research into crime reliance on social elements. Since crime is the result of a combination of factors, it makes no sense to follow a single strategy to control the crime (Clarke, 2012). A mixed set of strategies is always more suitable, and emphasis on specific strategies can vary depending on the nature of the crime issue at hand, the options available to impact the problem and the urgency with which change is needed (Bothos & Thomopoulos, 2016). Any government that wants to control crime rates should seek to influence as many factors as possible, instead of focusing all its attention on only one or two factors.

2.2. Social Factors Influencing Crime

Mostly to truth, crime is a violation which could seed or generate an economic tempest within the nation. Crime is well established would affect in conveying economic development by hampering related foreign investments, controls in human capital investment, decrease productivity and stepping up the non-profitable field spending, such as combating crime. From his article on distance in society, [Akerlof \(1997\)](#) He suggested that social choices should not be focused on solely upon individual values. Although the social participation between individuals throughout the decision-making processes still needs to be taken into account. Furthermore, criminology and socio-demographic problems overlap and connect directly or indirectly with each other, thus describing their respective esplanade, epistemological and empirical features ([South & Messner, 2000](#)). Malaysia is struggling as a developing economy nation, stepping growth of the economy towards economic development, consequently, socio-factors like unemployment, urban poverty, immigrants, the climate and homeless people, or migration and population size can have a huge impact on their economic development due to high crime rates ([Cozens, 2002](#)). Theoretically, social factors can trigger an unexpected increase in the size of the society, in long term could trigger numbers of problems for social problems of crime such as immigrants, unemployment and urban poor people, particularly higher residential areas. To the degree that increased legal job prospects discourage prospective criminals from committing crimes, a decrease in the unemployment rate as seen during the 1990s can be said to cause the decreases in crime rates ([Raphael & Winter-Ebrner, 1998](#)).

Literature analysis highlights the importance of legal labour market prospects as an alternative to criminal activity. Since labour market returns are a combination of expected salaries and job prospects, we expect those with a strong labour market affiliation and a high earnings potential to be less likely to commit property crime. As immigrants or foreigners and indigenous people frequently vary in their labour market opportunities, this provides a natural mechanism by which we can detect a correlation between crime and foreigners ([Tabangin, Flores, & Emperador, 2008](#)). In addition, this is confirmed by the minimal evidence base as foreigner groups with low work market prospects tend to be more associated with property crime than immigrant groups with better labour market exposure. The causes of violent crime are much less evident, however, and in any case there is virtually no evidence in any country to indicate connections between international and violent crime ([Tabangin et al., 2008](#)). Spatial and temporal distribution of events involving crime varies according to nature. The most noticeable distinction is between urban and rural areas ([Esteves, 1995](#)) with a much broader spectrum of urban crimes. In addition, these crimes and labour market patterns indicates that one of the factors affecting crime rate is unemployment, too. To the degree that increased legal job prospects discourage prospective criminals from committing crimes, a decrease in the unemployment rate as seen during the 1990s can be said to cause the decreases in crime rates ([Raphael & Winter-Ebrner, 1998](#)). Aggregate crime rate reports typically have limited and statistically poor effects on unemployment, with greater effects on property crime than on violent crime ([Raphael & Winter-Ebrner, 1998](#)). Crime is, in any conditions, a combination of criminals, an ingredient for the act of crime, and a place to commit illegal activity. This is the opinion of [Tabangin et al. \(2008\)](#) where crime is not only about criminals, and attractors can also be about 'location'. Urban areas as places provide opportunities for different socio-economic behaviours, as well as opportunities for illegal activity and several crime spots (points) for those with criminal tendencies to meet a goal. Frequent occurrences of crimes in urban areas can instill fear in the public that they will be victims of crime, rather than viewing urban areas as a place of economic opportunity, healthy living and offering residents quality of life ([Soh, 2012](#)). Crime is believed to be one of the ongoing issues that plague urban people's socio-economic lives. Therefore, urban crime prevention has become a source of concern for all nations where different protection and preventive mechanisms have been used to mitigate or fight the threat of crime ([Clarke, 2012](#)). Reducing crime and crime concerns will boost the quality of life, which is an important issue in creating more sustainable developments

3. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

This research complements the few current studies on criminality determinants in Kuala Lumpur by concentrating on the different types of crime that will provide a clearer picture of the crime situation in that region. Therefore, this study hypothesises the following:

H1: Foreigner positively influence the high crime rate.

H2: Unemployment positively influence the high crime rate.

H3: Urban poor positively influence high crime rate.

4. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework for evaluating the factor influencing high crime rate in Kuala Lumpur urban community were built on the basis of the reviewed literature in Figure 1.

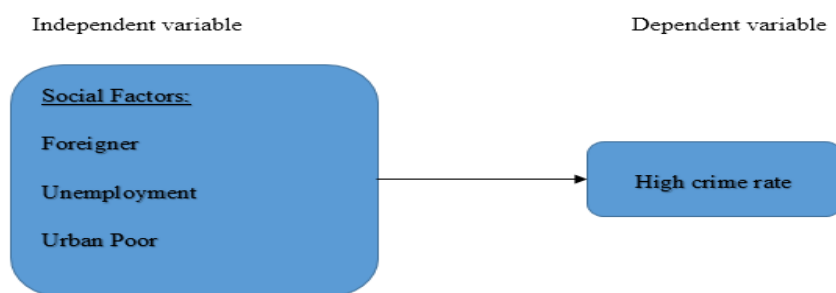


Figure-1. Conceptual framework factors influencing high crime rate in Kuala Lumpur urban community.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The essence of the research study is descriptive. Descriptive research was also the analysis which it explains the trends and patterns rather than describing or evaluating them (Creswell, 1994). The key aims of descriptive studies are to validate the theory established that represents the present situation. Such method of study offers insights on the present scenario and focuses towards previous or current standards for lives within certain community or consumer behavior about every promotional activities (Dole & Schroeder, 2001).

5.1. Sample/Data

Test method on the original research model framework was used to collect the data required. In a quantitative survey design, assessing sample size is important since one of the advantages of qualitative approaches is the opportunity to use smaller groups of people to draw inferences about larger groups that are costly to research. The justification for using the sampling is due to its lower price, greater results precision, immediate collection of statistics and convenience of the selected population, and when selecting any of the factors in a population, it can be decided as the entire population (Cooper & Schindler, 2014). This study aims to analyzing and understanding the response of the respondents to independent variables that is foreigner, unemployment and urban poor influences high crime rate among Kuala Lumpur urban community in Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur is also a highly urbanized city. A sample of 180 respondents with convenience sampling were participate in a self-managed questionnaire. This method was based on the assumption that the analysis included multiple independent variables associated with the dependent variable. This was performed using a measurement scale of five points (Strongly disagree with strong agreement) to measure its score value for each of the indicators developed that affect its total job performance.

5.2. Instrument and Measures

The current study's survey instrument serves two main objectives. Firstly, test its relationship between various variables in the effect of social factors on high crime rate. Secondly, to gather knowledge about the respondents'

various characteristics, which can be used to explain the heterogeneity between various categories. There are two parts of the survey instruments. Section 1 comprises multiple variables, demographic portfolio. This segment will get gender identity, age, race, position and income. Section 2 contains variables latent, which are essential for the current study.

These factors include foreigner, unemployment and urban poor. The analysis was built centered on the research that was adapted from empirical questionnaires. Study measurement was also adapted from earlier literature and published studies. In this study all the independent variables had 5 items each respectively.

5.3. Procedure

The questionnaire had been distributed among 180 urban community in Klang Valley. The selection of these respondents is based on parameters discussed above. Study aim and questions have been clarified to the respondents so that they can conveniently fill out the questionnaire with the correct answers.

174 questionnaires were chosen and, due to incomplete or incorrect answers, the remainder of the questionnaire was not used in future study. These questionnaires were coded and inserted into the SPSS sheet for further study after collection of the completed questionnaire.

5.4. Reliability Analysis

More than acceptable and suggested value 0.60 by Sekaran and Bougie (2016) is acceptable on all cronbach's alpha of all variable. This means that 26 items were accurate and relevant for evaluating employee opinions.

Table-1. Reliability of measure instrument.

Variables	No. of Items	Craonbach Alpha
High Crime Rate	5	.565
Foreigner	5	.722
Unemployment	5	.851
Urban Poor	5	.736

5.5. Profile of the Respondents

The following Table 2 is demographic portfolio:

Table-2. Profile of the Respondents.

Variables	Category	Percentage
Gender	Male	17.2%
	Female	8.28%
Age	Below 25	2.3%
	26-30	4.0%
	31-45	82.2%
	Above 45	11.5%
Race	Malay	63.8%
	Chinese	5.2%
	Indian	2.3%
	Others	28.7%
Income	Below 3,000	38.5%
	3,001-4,000	21.8%
	4,001-5,000	20.7%
	Above 5,001	19.0%
Position	Constable	66.1%
	Lans Coperal	14.9%
	Coperal	3.4%
	Sarjan	3.4%
	Sub-Inspector	1.7%
	Inspector	9.8%
	Deputy Superintendent	6.0%

5.6. Hypothesis Testing Results

Table-3. Hypothesis testing results.

Independent Variables	Decision
H1: Foreigner positively influence the high crime rate	Accepted
H2: Unemployment positively influence the high crime rate	Accepted
H3: Urban poor positively influence the high crime rate	Accepted

Note: * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$.

6. DISCUSSION

This section summarizes the results of this analysis that have been driven by the following goals to assess the effect of social factors on high crime rates. This study also discusses the key factors affecting the high crime rate between the independent variable, namely unemployment, international and local poor, and the high crime rate dependent variable in the Kuala Lumpur urban population. Subsequently, the study carried out by SPSS as the quantitative research to assess the demographic, descriptive, reliability and correlation between the independent variables and the dependent variable, proposing a feasible approach with regard to the high crime rate to fix the popular grounds. Moreover, this report also provides suggestions for future research on further development and refinement of the findings obtained in this study.

6.1. Limitation and Future Research

In this study the researcher investigated the impact of high crime rate affecting social factors on Kuala Lumpur urban society. Since the study focused primarily on high crime rates in urban communities in Kuala Lumpur, however, it has some limitations. The restriction is restricted to evaluating the responses received from a survey questionnaire posed in Kuala Lumpur only. The survey questionnaire responses were tabulated with their corresponding percentages, depending on the frequency distributed. The way in which these responses were subsequently evaluated is simplistic in that it is limited to the answers obtained from the survey questionnaire received and complied. Some analyses were unable to be conducted and covered in this study due to lack of time and appropriate resources at the disposal.

Therefore, the researcher's suggestion will be that the data in this study be subjected to further analysis using factor analysis and normality analysis, according to the analyses already performed. Furthermore, more extensive and systematic analysis may also include analysis of SEM-PLS.

Finally, from the point of view of policymakers and the government, both should approach the problem in this study in a professional manner as high crime rates increase as social factors increase in the urban population. The Royal Malaysian Police should improvise its policies and techniques to reduce the Kuala Lumpur high crime rate. The government can also modify or make changes depending on the situation and priority to some rules and guidelines. In summary, socioeconomic factors play a significant role in deciding the high incidence of crime in urban communities. Reducing the high crime rate in social factors could reduce it and thereby make the urban population safer in future.

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