

Extent of Factors that Influence the Commission of Crimes in Cabanatuan City, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

Crime remained a major problem given some change in law and order. Police have attributed the country's chronic crime problems to a variety of social and cultural factors. In this context, the researchers were urged to carry out a report on how the crimes were committed and what are the factors that prompted many people in committing crimes or the commission of crimes. The study is Descriptive in nature. Survey questionnaires and unstructured interviews were utilized in data gathering. For the Data treatment and analysis, frequency count, percentages, and weighted mean were utilized. The results of the study from data gathered from both the Police officers and residents of Cabanatuan City revealed that the main factor that influences the commission of crimes is poverty.

KEYWORDS

Commission of Crimes; Influences; Community Development; Crime Prevention; and Human Rights

INTRODUCTION

No one knows for certain what causes crime. However, Thompson (2018) have identified a number of factors that typically occur in jurisdiction with high crime rates. Thompson (2018) added that biological factors are often the starting point for understanding criminal behavior; the idea is that some people are psychologically predisposed to committing crime. Because of differing reporting practices and degrees of coverage, it was difficult to compare Philippine crime rates to those of other countries (Cuaderno, 2010).

Situational crime reduction can be defined as consisting of interventions (1) directed at highly specific forms of crime (2) including controlling, planning or influencing the immediate environment in a manner that is as comprehensive and lasting as possible (3) to eliminate incentives for crime and increase its risks as viewed by a wide range of offenders (Clarke, 1983).

In these terms, crime prevention seeks to slightly alter everyday life so as (1) to keep flows of likely offenders away from flows of suitable targets; and (2) to keep flows of capable guardians close to flows of suitable targets (Felson, 2017). Prevention of crime offers opportunities to address crime issues in a humane and more cost-effective manner. The theory of prevention is based on the notion that many causal or underlying factors influence crime and victimization. Knowledge of the factors placing populations, communities, and individuals at risk helps prevention programs to be aimed at high risk areas and neighborhoods or groups of individuals already involved in offending or at risk. These initiatives and budget targets to meet the greatest needs have been shown to be a successful and cost-effective way to reduce crime and victimization rates (Austria & Diaz, 2019).

Avoidance of crime by principles of environmental design combines efficiency and benefit with avoidance of safety and harm. The benefit to a city is quality of life (Fennelly & Perry, 2018). Police departments across the country are often criticized for being reactive in their approaches to crime. Critic's claim that police don't help prevent crime but rather "react" to crime after it happens; that is, once the perpetrators already broke the

law and innocent parties were already victimized, or worse. To combat this public perception, some police departments take a proactive approach to their policing. Proactive policing focuses on stopping crime before it happens, with the goal of reducing crime and the fear of it, improving the lives of citizens in the community, and improving the relationship between the police department and the community it serves. To that end, police departments may employ a variety of tactics. For example, law enforcement may increase foot patrols in a community, so that police officers readily and frequently interact with residents to form positive relationships, building communication and trust. To reduce organized crime and drug dealing, police officers may rely on informants, undercover investigations, and secret surveillance. To steer juveniles away from a life of crime, police departments may establish athletic leagues and work with schools to combat truancy, drug crimes, and other offenses common among youth. Proactive policing has several positive qualities. Proponents say that it helps establish a closer relationship between the community and the police officers who service it, as well as enabling law enforcement to diagnose and manage problems that lead to serious crimes in a particular community. However, proactive policing is also criticized by some for being too aggressive. Critics charge that it is nothing more than racial profiling masquerading as crime prevention, such as New York City's infamous Stop-and-Frisk program, resulting in arrests without probable cause (Freeman, 2018).

In view of the foregoing, the researchers were prompted to conduct a study regarding how the crimes were committed and what are the factors that prompted many people in committing crimes or the commission of crimes. We choose this study to be able to know what are the factors or reasons behind why crime is committed.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

All individuals need to adjust their behavior and values to reconcile the gap between their aspirations and expectations. The adjustment required will vary depending upon precisely what it is that the individual aspires toward. Many are conformists and aspire to a middle-class lifestyle. But others simply want material possessions and recent pressure to change their lifestyle or their social class. The paradigm of the study uses independent variable, moderate variable, and dependent variables of the study that have

some relationship to the problem under study, the independent variables of the study is profile of the respondents be described in terms of their: Age, Gender, Civil Status, Years in Service, Educational attainment extent of factors of commission of crimes and, and the moderate variables are the random people in Cabanatuan City, Philippines.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims at assessing the Extent of Factors that Influence the Commission of Crimes in Cabanatuan City. Specifically, it answers the following questions.

1. How may the profile of the respondents be described in terms of their:
 - 1.1 age;
 - 1.2 gender;
 - 1.3 educational attainment;
 - 1.4 years of service; and
 - 1.5 years of residency
2. What are the factors that influence the commission of crimes in Cabanatuan City in terms of:
 - 2.1 social aspects
 - 2.2 economic aspects
3. What are the preventive measures implemented by the Cabanatuan City Police Station to eliminate the factors that influence the commission of crime.
4. What is the implication of the study in peace and order?

METHODOLOGY

This study uses the Descriptive Method of research because the researchers consider this method as appropriate to use. The descriptive method of research is a fact-finding study with adequate and accurate interpretations of the data. It describes with emphasis what actually exists, such as current conditions, practices, situations or any phenomenon. The focus is on prevailing conditions, or how a person, group or thing behaves or functions in the present. It often involves some type of comparison or contrast.

Descriptive research is fact-finding with adequate interpretation (Best & Khan, 2007). The descriptive method is something more and beyond

data gathering. It is concerned with conditions of relationships that exist, practices that bear being felt, or trends that are developing.

The respondents of the study are 20 PNP personnel and 20 residents of Cabanatuan City because they are the two who are involved in this study. We choose our respondents because it is near to the school and the availability of our time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the gathered by the researchers, the findings of the study are as follows:

1. Profile of the Respondents

Table 1.1. Age

PNP Personnel	Frequency	Percentage	Community Residents	Frequency	Percentage
21-25	0	0	21-25	5	25
26-30	4	20	26-30	3	15
31-35	3	15	31-35	2	10
36-40	3	15	36-40	4	20
41-45	7	35	41-45	0	0
46-50	3	15	46-50	6	30
Total	20	100	Total	20	100

Seven PNP personnel's has 41-45 years old and with 35%, four has 26-30 years old with 20%, three has ages that range from 31-35 years old, three has 31-35 years old, and three has 46-50 years old with all have 15 % of the total population of PNP personnel who serves as the respondents while there are 5 community residents whose ages ranges from 21-25 years old and with 25%.

The majority of the respondents are considered with mature ages. They are considered knowledgeable enough to answer the problem being study. They are the one who sees and observed what is happening to their community and can give all the data regarding factors that influence the commission of crimes in their area.

Table 1.2. Gender

PNP person- nel	Frequency	Percentage	Community Residents	Frequency	Percentage
Male	14	70	Male	11	55
female	6	30	female	9	45
Total	20	100	Total	20	100

There are 14 male PNP personnel with 70% and six are female with 30%, while there are 11 male residents with 55% and nine are female with 45% of the total population of respondents. Results show that the majority of the respondents in both PNP personnel and community residents are male. This is because PNP are dominated by male and male residents who were present during the time when this study was conducted.

Table 1.3. Civil Status

PNP personnel	Frequency	Percentage	Community Residents	Frequency	Percentage
Single	3	15	Single	3	15
Married	17	85	Married	14	70
widower	0	0	widower	3	15
Total	20	100	Total	20	100

85% or 17 in the PNP personnel are already married, and there are only three or 15% are still single while there 14 community residents who are already married with 70%, three are single and three are widower with both have 15% of the total population of respondents.

It implies that the majority of the respondents in both PNP personnel and Community resident are already married.

Table 1.4. Years of Residence/ Service

PNP personnel	Frequency	Percentage	Community Residents	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	1	5	1-5	5	25
6-10	4	20	6-10	6	30
11-15	5	25	11-15	0	0
16-20	7	35	16-20	3	15

21-25	3	15	21-25	2	10
26-30	0	0	26-30	4	20
Total	20	100	Total	20	100

There are seven PNP personnel whose length of service ranges from 16-20 years with 35%, five have 11-15 years, and with 25% or four has 6-10 years with 20% or three has 21-25 years with 15% and one has 1-5 years with 5%, while there are six residents with 6-10 years in residence with 30 % or five has 1-5 years with 25% or three has 16-20 years with 15 and two has 21-25 years with 10%.

The majority of the respondents had long enough stay in both service and in the community. This implies that the respondents had seen enough of the roots of why there is a crime in their community.

Table 1.5. Educational Attainment

PNP personnel	Frequency	%	Community Residents	Frequency	%
College graduate	20	100	Masteral degree	0	0
Masteral undergraduate	0		College undergraduate	5	25
Masteral graduate	0		College Graduate	6	30
Doctorate undergraduate	0		High Graduate	9	45
Doctoral Graduate	0		others	0	0
Total	20	100	Total	20	100

The majority of the PNP personnel are college graduate with 100%, and there are 9 community resident are high school graduate with 45%, six are college graduate with 30 % and 5 or 25% are college undergraduate.

It implies that all the respondents selected to answer in the study are well educated and knowledgeable enough. They are the ones who can answer regarding the reason why there are crimes in the vicinity.

2. Factors that influence the Commission of Crimes in Cabanatuan City in terms of:

Table 2.1. Social Aspects

Item Statement	Elected Official		Police Officers	
	WM	Description	WM	Description
1. Poverty	4.05	Agree	3.8	Agree
2. Peer Influence	3.65	Agree	3.00	Fairly Agree
3. Environmental factors	3.95	Agree	3.25	Agree
4. Family Background	3.3	Agree	3.3	Agree
5. unavailability of decent jobs offered	3.8	Agree	3.6	Agree

The different aspect that influence in the commission of crimes in terms of social aspects is given in the table, according to the PNP personnel it is Poverty with 4.05 and interpreted as agree, followed by Environmental factors with 3.95 and interpreted as agree, next is the unavailability of decent jobs offered with 3.80, Peer Influence with 3.65 and Family Background with 3.3 in weighted mean, all are agree while the community residents are poverty with 3.80 and interpreted as agree, next is the unavailability of decent jobs offered with 3.60, next is Family Background with 3.3, Environmental factors with 3.25 all are agree and Peer Influence with 3.00 which means fairly agree.

Based on the answer given by the respondents, they all agree that the main factor that influences in the commission of crimes is due to poverty since it is the main factor, a domino effect can be created, people who experienced hunger and they see the hunger that struck to their family, people can create things and do something which in return might create unlawful activities.

Table 2.2. Economic Aspects

Item Statement	Elected Official		Police Officers	
	WM	Description	WM	Description
1. Price increase in basic needs	3.55	Agree	4.5	Strongly Agree
2. Vices	3.55	Agree	3.75	Agree
3. too many members of the family	3.25	Agree	3.75	Agree
4. educational needs of the children tempt them to commit crimes	3.6	Agree	3.15	Agree
5. insufficient salary	3.8	Agree	2.75	Disagree

The economic aspects that influence the commission of crimes according to the PNP personnel are Insufficient salary with 3.8 in weighted mean and interpreted as agree, followed by educational needs of the children tempt them to commit crimes with 3.6 in weighted mean also agree, next is Price increase in basic needs and vices with both have 3.55 and interpreted as agree and the last is too many members of the family with 3.25 and it means agree, based on the answer by the community residents, Price increase in basic needs with 4.50 and interpreted as strongly agree followed by Vices and too many members of the family with both have 3.75 and interpreted as agree, next is educational needs of the children tempt them to commit crimes with 3.15 also agree, and the last is Insufficient salary 2.75 and interpreted as disagree.

It implies that when the economic factor is set aside, the major contributing factor is price increase and the needs of their family tempt them to do something wrong, and some are based on the vices of the individual, they tend to consume more in which is unnecessary to their needs and when they had nothing to send, then they tempt to commit crimes.

Table 3. Preventive Measures Implemented

Item Statement	Elected Official		Police Officers	
	WM	Description	WM	Description
1. Patrolling	5	Strongly Agree	4.4	Agree
2. Police visibility in the populated areas	5	Strongly Agree	4.1	Agree
3. encouragement of the local officials in the police community relations program	5	Strongly Agree	4.1	Agree
4. Educational campaign like series of seminars and symposium to the students and communities for peace and order	5	Strongly Agree	3.5	Agree
5. establishment of Compaq in different community to attend the needs of the people	5	Strongly Agree	3.5	Agree

All the PNP strongly agree that the preventive measures to be conducted in order to prevent the commission of crimes are Patrolling, Police visibility in the populated areas, encouragement of the local officials in the police

community relations program, Educational campaign like series of seminars and symposium to the students and communities for peace and order and establishment of Compaq in different community to attend the needs of the people while the community residents agree that thru patrolling with 4.4 and interpreted as agree, next is Police visibility in the populated areas and encouragement of the local officials in the police community relations program with a weighted mean of 4.1 and interpreted as agree, next is Educational campaign like series of seminars and symposium to the students and communities for peace and order and establishment of Compaq in different community to attend the needs of the people with both have 3.5 in weighted mean and interpreted as agree.

Both of the PNP personnel and Community residents agreed that the best way to prevent crimes is through the effective police community relation of the PNP, patrolling and rampant information dissemination to the community shall be given in order to facilitate good communication between the residents and having the deterrent of crimes shall be achieved.

Implication of the Study to Peace and Order

The study helps significantly to the determination of various factors on why crime is committed. It also discusses the different ways and means why there is a commission of crimes in a certain area or the reason or the factors why the behavior of an individual affects the crime to be committed.

Upon knowing and determining the different factors why crime is committed, people especially can specify the roots of crimes and applied the possible means in preventing them.

CONCLUSIONS

In the light of the findings of the study, researchers concluded the following:

The majority of the respondents are considered mature ages, male, married, and with 6-10 years in services or residency. Based on the answer given by the respondents, they all agree that the main factor that influences in the commission of crimes is due to poverty since it is the main factor, a domino effect can be created, people who experienced hunger and they see the hunger that struck to their family, people can create things and do something which in return might create unlawful activities.

It implies that when the economic factor is set aside, the major contributing factor is price increase and the needs of their family tempt them

to do something wrong, and some are based on the vices of the individual, they tend to consume more in which is unnecessary to their needs, and when they had nothing to send, then they tempt to commit crimes

Both of the PNP personnel and Community residents agreed that the best way to prevent crimes is through the effective police community relation of the PNP, patrolling and rampant information dissemination to the community shall be given in order to facilitate good communication between the residents and having the deterrent of crimes shall be achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommended:

The PNP personnel should not be the only ones who are responsible for the suppression of crimes in the area. The local officials should help also in the deterrent of crimes, proper information dissemination should be conducted in order to suppress, if not eradicate, the common factors that influence the crime in the area.

That Community residents should be aware of the problems in their family. Proper guidance should be given to their children and members of the family, allowing them to be more knowledgeable in the possible solutions of their problem so that it will not be a factor in the commission of crimes in the area.

Another study should be conducted in order to further determine the extent of the factors in the commission of crimes and this time to another area or location.

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Gunning Fog Index: 12.77
Flesch Reading Ease: 48.43
Grammar Checking: 91/100
Plagiarism: 2%