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CONTEMPORARY CAUSES OF CHANGING PATTERNS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY, KENYA - SOCIAL-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Abstract. *This study aimed to understand the contemporary causes of criminal activities on safety of persons and property in Nairobi City County, Kenya. The researcher used the Routine Activity theory to explain the contemporary cause of criminal activities in Nairobi City County Kenya. The study used a descriptive survey and exploratory research design with a target population of 271,290 households drawn from Nairobi City County, Kenya. The study population included, Kenya Police Officers, Directorate of Criminal investigation, household heads and County Administrators. The research utilized simple random and purposive sampling techniques to select respondents for the study. The sample size for the research was 225 respondents, derived from Naissiuma formulae. The researcher used focused group discussions, interview schedules and questionnaires to collect both primary and secondary data for the study. During the study, the research gave out 215 questionnaires to the respondents, of which respondents returned 200 questionnaires in time. The study used secondary and primary data sourced from National police service reports and records which were recorded and analyzed using SPSS software. Quantitative data were evaluated using standard deviation, percentages, and frequency and presented in tables, graphs, pie charts and, while qualitative data were analyzed through the themes and patterns formed and presented in narrative verbatim quotation forms. Before data collection, the researcher obtained an authorization permits from relevant authorities to carry out the study. The findings of the study showed that the major cause of criminal activity was 86 percent unemployment, 77 percent drugs and substance abuse, 72 percent poverty or low income, 63 percent peer pressure, 63 percent poor upbringing, 46 percent unequal public services, and 48 percent of availability of illegal. According to the study, the researcher noted that increasing day and night patrols, revitalizing the Nyumba Kumi Initiative, installing surveillance cameras in buildings reducing corruption among civil servants, and educating youths on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse will all help to create a long-term solution to reduce and deter criminal activity in Nairobi City County.*

Keywords: *social economics, administration, changing patterns, contemporary, safety of persons and property, Nairobi County, Kenya.*

Introduction. Trends of criminal activities can be well-defined as major changes in the nature of certain criminal activities over time in a specific geographic area. Criminal activities are part and parcel of human nature and affects the society in different ways. That is why most of the societies in the world are not completely free from criminal activities. In most cases , causes of contemporary criminal activities always follow the patterns of social, economic development of a given urban settlement or society (Vossekuil et al., 2002; Moher, 2000: Sila & Masiga 2023). Attacks on businesses and individuals has affected business viability, economic, social prosperity and economic development. Cooperate investors, international agencies and local investors are discouraged from initiating economic activities due to threats and violence in prospective development areas (Schneider, 2002; Schneider, & Schneider, 2008). Because of continuous causes of criminal activities, the governments in developed countries and developing countries e.g. USA, Canada ,Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya, among others are re-evaluating strategies, policies and programs in bid to enhance security and economic development (Fox, 2000; Spellman, 2000; Tita et al, 2009).

According to Gibson and Douglas, (2020), in South Africa, assault, murder, rapes, and other violent acts increased in 2019 as compared to most African countries. The contemporary cause of these criminal activities in South Africa resulted from poverty and poor service delivery by the government, and unemployed among others (Gibson & Douglas 2020; Goldberger & Rosenfeld, 2008). On the other hand, the prevalence of crime types such as rape, carjacking, robbing motorists, taxi violence, cash-in-transit heist, gang violence, xenophobic violence in South Africa has been associated with immigration, migration, and lack of economic opportunity in South Africa (Demombynes & Zler, 2005; Edmark, 2005).

Nigeria too has been on the map of the continent about changing patterns of criminal activities. In the last ten years of transitional democracy, the country had seen high prevalence in violent crimes such as the kidnaping of school girls and journalists in Arabia state in 2010. The rise crimes such as corruption murder, human trafficking ,organized crime, domestic violence, Money laundering, human organ trafficking and child sexual abuse are manifestations of Nigeria being caught up in the crime dilemma (Kyamana, 2015).

In East Africa, constant changing patterns of criminal activities have provided the security agencies with difficult task of protecting the lives and property of individuals. In Kenya, criminal activities have been in existence since colonial times (Mogeni, 2013),

the scholar stated that causes criminal activities were related to land grievances, particularly in urban areas, continue to defy the state and non-state efforts towards controlling and managing criminal activities, these changing patterns in criminal activities has affected the safety of persons and their property in urban centers. Thus, according to Mogeni, (2013), the major cause of criminal activities was attributed to land grievances, economic competition, political and social instability. Furthermore, the political and economic instability comes with an increased crime and disorder (UN-Habitat, 2002). Due to increased and changing patterns of criminal activities in these cities, USA department of state as rated Kenya as critical in terms of both terrorism and other criminal activities making United States Embassy in Kenya the fourth largest in the world. The porous borders between Kenya, Ethiopia, Somali and Sudan has presented little likelihood in reduction of crime rates in the near future (UNODC,2009;UN-Habitat, 2002). Therefore, allegations of attack against individuals by armed criminals, Snatch and run crimes by Boda Boda operators, maritime piracy, Terrorism, drugs/ human/ arms trafficking, and cybercrime, frauds and muggers have grown widespread on the streets and towns within Kenya (UN-Habitat, 2002; National Police Service Annual Reports from 2011-2018).

This report shows that crime is a threat to national security, and the prevalence of criminal activities may be based on the varying causes of criminal activities. The Nairobi Annual Crime Observatory report 2011/2012 established more criminal activities hotspots in urban slums than in planned residential estates in Nairobi City County, whereby muggings, carjacking, bank robberies, assaults, to mention but a few, has been on the rise. Some of the common places within Nairobi where causes of criminal activities have led high rate of crime include Kasarani, Kibra, Kamukuni, Uhuru Highway, Nyamakima, Gikomba, National Archives, Kayole amongst others.

According to Kenya National Police service reports indicates the main stream of Nairobi City County inhabitants lives in continual fear of insecurity because the crime rate had been on the rise for the last ten years, with a 6.2 percent rise in crime from 2011 to 2020 (National Police Service Report, 2020).This was supported by the International Civil Service (Commission, 2019), which depicted Nairobi as the most crime-infested capitals cities in the world. According to this report, Nairobi was downgraded from a B to a C status in security rating. This means that Nairobi is a risky area for posting than other countries as indicated by UNEP and Habitat. The increasing changing patterns of criminal activities are associated with mushrooming of unplanned settlement such as Kibra, Mathare and Mukuru Kwa Jenga.

This slum has presented inhabitants with limited opportunity for legal employment which create helplessness and hopelessness which drive individuals to theft and robbery in the most affluent neighborhood.

Due to the emerging trends of criminal activities, the government of Kenya and international organizations has introduced different projects, programs, and approaches to help improve the living standards of individuals and make sure that criminal activities are reduced to safeguard safety of persons and their property. However, despite these strategies, criminal activities are still rampant in Nairobi County City County, which prompted the researcher; determine the causes of criminal activities on safety of person and property in Nairobi City County, Kenya to find a long-lasting solution to control criminal activities in the county.

Problem statement. Changing trend in criminal activities are some of the human insecurity problems confronting the prevention and deterrence of criminal activities on safety of individuals and their property across the world and in Nairobi City County. The causes of criminal activities have made it difficult to predict the emergence of new criminal activities such as cyber terrorism, proliferation of illegal guns, trafficking of human body parts, Boda Boda illegal activities, using small children and beautiful girls in criminal activities which has made Nairobi City County a risky area to stay in. In spite of the governments' interventions to prevent and deter crime through the deployment of security agencies and formulation of different policies, criminal activities remain a big problem in Nairobi City County. Therefore, the main purpose of this objective was Examine the contemporary causes of changing patterns of criminal activities in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Specific Objectives. The specific objective was to examine the contemporary causes of changing patterns of criminal activities in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Empirical Literature Review. Recent empirical research explaining variations in causes of criminal activities has shown the relevance of characteristics that linked crime to Poverty, Political motives, economic inequality, urbanization, unemployment, globalization, geopolitics, overpopulation among others (UNODC 2019;).Conferring to Felbab-Brown (2011), urbanization has outpaced policing and socio-economic improvement. In the urban setting, a deep and growing discrepancy between safe economic development and progress is to blame for poverty traps, Drugs Abuse, unemployment and brutality. Criminal activities such as illegal gatherings and insurgencies

may be traced back to the shabby houses, narrow back streets, and dense population in urban setting. In this connection, urban environment provides a ready market for drug dealing and weapons possession and other related criminal activities. Simultaneously, the congested back streets make enhanced police patrols and the probability of making an arrest may be low in urban centers impossible. Criminal gangs succeed in their illegal activities by instilling fear and coercing impetus in other urban residents who fear for their safety and their property if they refuse to consent of criminals demands. Higher affluence, in this view, enhances the availability of property crimes while also breeding social anonymity and poor social guardianship, particularly in large metropolitan environments. Mogeni, (2013), stated that there are more crimes in big urban cities than in rural areas because population density increases, and the probability of having more crime in the urban area is higher.

According to Wolf, (2003), overpopulation also initiates a dynamo effect in society or in community unity, which results in creating more people with some form of frustration or resentment towards society or community. The study states that internationally, the most populated countries always experience a high rate of criminal activities, which are always coupled with political realignments, economic transformation, competitions associated with capitalism, and corruption (Deković, 2011; Canter & Youngs 2019; Deković, 2011).

However, Poverty is also a vital source of crime globally (Ludwig and Duncan, 2001). Individuals are frequently driven to desperation due to Poverty because poor people can only view crime as the only source of opportunity to acquire what they cannot afford (Krugman, 2008; Winkelmann, 2000, Papps & Winkelmann, 2000). Poverty has a link with unemployment and criminal activity, in what he referred to as the “motivational effect”, whereby lack of employment leads to an economic problem, which leads to criminality. Therefore, as the trend of unemployment changes, criminal activities on the physical security of persons and property also changes to adapt the emerging dynamics.

On the other hand, education is one of the secondary need of individuals worldwide; basic education is necessary for the normal functioning of a society. The standard and amount of education that one gets is always viewed as the determinant of a person’s successful way of life (Lochner 2008; Canter & Youngs, 2019, p. 1-6; Sidang, 2020). Education has made contemporary society pay much attention to good schooling more than anything else has. Because school is the palace where we learn social skills, which may deter individuals from engaging in criminal activities, a lack of primary education can make individuals engage in criminal activities. However, the study did not elaborate on why people with a better education are also likely to get involved in criminal activities, which has created a gap in understanding

the causes of changing patterns of criminal activities (Farrington, 2020; Wikström, 2020)

A study conducted by World Bank (2011), established that the wellbeing of state and democratic institutions is a unique element in explaining variation in a country's levels of criminal activity. Political scientists and economists, particularly those affiliated with criminology, have increasingly highlighted the negative connections between poor governance and corruption as major contemporary causes of crime. This is because poor countries are trapped in a trap of weak state institutions, underdevelopment, and high corruption, which always lead to a high level of criminal activities (Kaufmann et al., 2009; Moore, 2001; Rose-Ackerman, 2005; Hjalmarsson & Lochner, 2012). Therefore, it is evident that state and democratic institutions can contribute to changing patterns of criminal activities in governments and urban centers. United Nations Development Programmer (UNDP), 2013, reveals that politics is a cause of criminal activities because many political groups worldwide have their mafias running's which they use to manipulate and terrorize people to gain political power used to take advantage of innocent citizens, and such situations force the victims to resort to crime.

For Example, in Kenya, during 2007, 2013, and part of the 2017 general elections, criminal activities which were politically driven led to the loss of lives and property (National Police Service, 2019). Finally, other causes of crime such as religion and family conditions, to mention a few, have been experienced around the world. Moreover, as the world technology grows, criminal activities increase and become more dynamic since most people try to emulate or be influenced by acts of violence or criminal activities through media. This makes it difficult for people to differentiate between fiction and reality, making criminal activities more dynamic and complex.

Theoretical Framework. Routine Activities Theory. Cohen and Felson (1979) established the routine Activity theory, the scholar they stated that crime must have three fundamentals in order to occur. Motivated offender with criminal intention, availability of a proper victim or target, and absence of preventive measures on the target. According to Cohen and Felson, there must be an interaction between the three factors in space and time for criminal activity to occur. Hence, the routine activity theory links offensive patterns and common patterns of social interaction which help to understand the causes of changing patterns of crime. The causes are grounded on the availability of an opportunity to commit a crime. This means that the number of motivated offenders will rise or fall depending on the availability of unprotected targets and appropriate rewards. The criminal impression of

the victims or target vulnerability influences the choice of appropriate victim or target. The availability of suitable targets, the more possibility of a crime occurring, which will influence the extent of motivated criminals in the inhabitants, which determines crime trends (Akers & Sellers, 2009; Araka, 2010).

People are also believed to be hindered from committing criminal activities when skilled guardians are present. Guardians can be any person who is physically present and can protect the property or take the form of a mechanical technology such as CCTV or Security Systems. These physical safety systems help in restricting criminals' access to suitable targets. Motivation and target are important in routine theory because the guardians will always prevent the majority of offenders from attacking the most appealing targets or victims. However, the lack of guardianship enhances criminal motives and the possibility of criminal behavior. According to Brown (2003), states the situational character of criminal activity and how certain "dangerous behaviors" increase the possibility of meeting violent crime. For example, Youths who place themselves in dangerous settings or disorganized neighborhoods increase their chances of being involved in criminal activity. Actions such as drug consumption, being out late at night, gang involvement, and dating may increase the exposure to violent and property crimes. This may lead to increase or decrease of criminal activities which has much influence on the trends in criminal activity.

Research Methodology. Research Design. The study used a descriptive survey design and exploratory research design. The design strategies helped the researcher develop the research questions, procedure implementation, and data analysis without being biased and without affecting the order of the work. The nature of this research was to seek all kinds of information to conduct a complete analysis of data, ensure that the deviation in data collection is minimal, and reduce errors in the interpretation of the data collected.

Study Area. The study was done at Nairobi City County, which has a population of 4,337,080, and has eleven sub countries covering an area of 684 sq. km, consisting of 1,506,888 households (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019).

Target Population. The target population was drawn from Nairobi City County. The target population for the study was drawn from these sub counties Westlands, Dagoretti North, Kibra, Roysambu, Kasarani, Ruaraka, Embakasi South, Embakasi Central, Embakasi West, Makadara, Kamukunji, Starehe and Matharhas which has over 772,598 people, and over

271,290 households (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019). The researcher focused on Household heads, County Administrators, Boda operators, and police officers within this target population.

Sample Size Determination. The sample size of the target population was calculated using Nassiuma Formulae. Nassiuma, (2000) claims that a coefficient of variation in the range of 21percent $\leq C \leq 30$ percent and a standard error in the range of 2 percent $\leq e \leq 5$ percent are acceptable in most surveys. As a result, the study utilized a 30 percent coefficient variation and a 5 percent standard error. To guarantee minimal variability in the same and reduce error, the greater limit for the coefficient of variation and standard error was chosen. The Nassiuma's (2000) formula: $n = Nc^2 / (c^2 + (N - 1) e^2)$ Where n is the sample size N is the number of people who can be reached Target population c=coefficient of variance e=standard error Nairobi City County has household above 271,290, (Kenya population and Housing Census,2019) which consist of household heads, County Administrators, Kenya Police Offices, Directorate of criminal investigations and County Officials amongst others.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, sample size (n)} &= 271290 \times 0.3^2 \\ &= (0.3^2 + (271,290-1) 0.02^2) \\ &= 224.8 \end{aligned}$$

Which is equal to **225** respondents.

Sampling procedure. The study used purposive random sampling and simple random sampling. The researcher randomly chose 115 police officers and 100 household heads drawn from the police stations and residential houses to participate in the study. Therefore, using purposive sampling, three Officers Commanding Stations (OCS), three heads of the DCIs stationed at the three police stations, three Assistant County Commissioner, and one County Commissioner were used as respondents in the study.

Table 1 Sample Size Distribution

Respondents	Selected respondents
Police Officers	115
Household heads	100
County administrators	10
Total	225

Research Instruments. The study used three research tools which include questionnaires, in-depth interviews guides and focused group discussion guides. Questionnaires were used because they are effective in gathering of first-hand qualitative data for the study and were organized according to the research objectives making the process of analysis easier. The study used 215 questionnaires whereby 115 questionnaires were hand delivered to junior police officers and 100 questionnaires were randomly distributed to different household heads and were collected later.

Semi-structured interviews were utilized in this survey to gather data. The researcher visited the sub-county offices to conduct interviews where by the main respondents interviewed included three officers commanding stations (OCS), two Heads of DCIs at the three police stations, two Assistant County Commissioners (ACC), one County Commissioner and two county officials. Focused group discussion was used to gain an in-depth understanding of trends of criminal activities in the area. The researcher purposely selected 30 junior police officer from the each of the three police stations to participate in the discussion. During the discussion the officers felt free and were able to discuss freely hence gave substantial information concerning the objectives of the study.

Data Analysis. The researcher used secondary data that were collected through a review of police reports records, National Crime Research Center (NCR) studies and Police Annual Reports on crime. The researcher visited the police stations to check on documents such as Occurrence books and Cell registers to gain insight into the types of criminal activities common in the Nairobi City County. However, questionnaires were directed to the respondents to fill and later collected by the researcher to gather quantitative data. However, for qualitative data interviews guides and focused group discussions guides were done face-to-face. The researcher also guaranteed the respondents of their privacy of

the information they provided, and at the same time, no identification or names were to be written on the questionnaires. The primary data gathered from respondents' questionnaires were thoroughly checked and verified to ensure completeness and comprehensibility. This review allowed the researcher to understand the knowledge gaps left by other scholars to gain new insights to solve the problems of criminal activities by understanding these gaps. The Quantitative study data were analyzed by using SPSS software whereby descriptive statistics such as Tables, pie charts, percentages, standard deviation, and graphs were used. At the same time, qualitative data were analyzed according to the theme and patterns formed and were presented in narrative and verbatim quotations form.

Data Management and Ethical Consideration. The researcher obtained the research authorization letter from relevant authorities such as National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) to carry out the study. Prior appointments were made with the respondents before the actual date of administering questionnaires and interviews to avoid any inconveniences. The secondary data were sourced from National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) studies and Police Annual Reports on crime. During the study, the researcher also assured the respondents of their secrecy of the information they provided, and at the same time, no identification or names were to be written on the questionnaires.

Results And Discussions. The contemporary causes of criminal activities have been a gap that has never been addressed by different scholars. Therefore, one of the study's specific objectives was to determine the contemporary causes behind changing pattern of criminal activities in Nairobi City County. During the investigation, it was established that unemployment, drugs and substance abuse, poverty level, availability of illegal guns, peer pressure, poor upbringing of children, inequality of income, and unequal distribution of resources were found as the major causes of crime in Nairobi City County. The study explored the extent to which unemployment among people influences the trends of criminal activities. The findings indicated that unemployment is highly frequent the cause of criminal activities at 86.1 percent, 12 percent less frequently, and 1.85 noted moderate frequently. The respondent noted that many people are involved in crimes due to underemployment, lack of job opportunities and low education levels. Therefore, when the unemployment rate rises, the possibility of making money or earning an income will prompt people to commit crimes for quick cash. The findings of the study were supported by Karabi et al., (2013), Jawadi et al. (2021), showed that lack of job opportunities could lead to crimes by unemployed individuals

who need cash to make professional acquisitions and sustain their living standards. However, whenever they did not look for any legal possibility to achieve it, they would commit crimes to pay for their living expenses. Referring to G.P Pokhariyal, (2003) and Jawadi et al., (2021), stated that trends in crime and unemployment always intermarry. The study revealed that unemployment is the major cause of criminal activity on persons and property. This is because individual and social expenses of unemployment incorporate extreme financial difficulty, obligation, vagrancy, house pressure, family strain, stigma, among others which may drive people to commit crime. However, the majority of the people might be engaged in criminal activities such as theft, pickpocketing, and others, to satisfy their needs like financial needs and personal pleasure. Edmark, (2002), also supported other scholars by stating, that men are prospective to engage in crime to risk being seen worthwhile when out of jobs. The scholar, noted that unemployment leads to more property crimes but has less effect on the general crime. According to Oster & Agell, (2007), in their study in Swedish Municipalities, unemployment has an appositive effect on criminal activities against property such as burglary, theft, and drug possession.

Drug and Substance Abuse was found to be another cause of criminal activities. The study indicated that 76.85 percent of the participants rated drug and substance abuse as fundamental causes of criminal activities. It highly frequently causes of criminal activities on persons and property, 12.04 percent moderate, and 11.11 percent less frequently. This finding indicates that drugs and substance abuse still remain as a major cause of criminal activities and nothing much has change except the mode and methods of transportation and concealment of drugs. Many youths have invented new methods of currying drugs without being detected by security agencies. These methods include, hiding drugs under inner clothes or in private parts, on clothes, jewelry, hair and many other places to avoid being detected by the security agencies. These results agree with Becroft, (2009) results, which indicates that several youths are involved in criminal activities due to the influence of drug misuse and alcoholism behavior. Drug and substance abuse causes people to support a cash interest to keep up with their tendency to afford drugs. Drug and substance use also remove the limitations of adolescents' rational intuition and deprive them of their ability to make correct decisions and perceive correct legal and criminal behaviors. Therefore, an individual who is abusing drugs and alcohol is likely to be involved in a wrongdoing compared to those who do not. This is because drugs can affect the psychopharmacological functions of the body. These effects may undermine judgment, self-control cause's paranoia, though, at some point, drug users commit a crime to get money to buy drugs. It has become noticeable in different

studies that alcohol consumption is a prime candidate for all criminal activities (Chaiken & Chaiken, 1990; World Drug Report, 2012).

According to the world drug report, (2012), it was noted that alcohol has main connection with aggressive crime, whereby drug addicts are forced to commit a crime since they do not have an income to support their needs. These individuals turn to criminal activities such as smuggling, prostitution, and drug dealings, which leads to addiction and poverty.

Another cause of criminal activity is Poverty Level. The findings of the study indicate that 71.56 percent of the respondents rated the poverty level as a highly frequent cause of criminal activities, 14.68 percent moderate, and 13.76 percent less frequently. From this finding it is evident that poverty is major cause of criminal activity as compared to income inequality which is the main driver of violent crimes such as homicides. Though, earlier studies neglected the role poverty as compared to income levels. These findings corroborate with Kristtjason et al., (2010), who established that regions with higher crime levels have higher poverty levels. The discoveries further revealed that poverty openly affects crime since it causes pressure, which causes people to participate in crimes. It is also a course of crime since it is believed that most poor people are most likely to live in slums in major towns and cities. These people are likely to be robbed, mugged rapped, and sometimes become the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Poverty also brings social barriers, which brings disparity between the poor and the rich, whereby the rich fear their property being stolen by the poor. According to Aristotle, poverty is the parent of crime, whereby it is believed that the poor are always likely to be criminals due to economic pressure and the attainability of primary basic needs (Radeny & Johnson, 2010). Poverty is also manifested by the lack of food, clothing, housing, family isolation, powerlessness, lack of self-sufficient land, insecurity, difficulty accessing medical care, and lack of work.

The research also indicated that availability of illegal guns always influences criminal activities. The findings in of the study reveal that 47.71 percent of the respondents rated the availability of illegal guns as a highly frequent cause of criminal activities, 22.02 percent moderate, and 30.28 percent less frequently. From this finding it indicates that illegal guns are typically acquired through criminal organizations who regularly taking advantage of social, ethnic, and family connections to source areas. At some point some of the rogue security agencies get involve in these criminal activities. The findings concur with the report findings by the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS, 2015), which established a solid positive connection between unlawful firearm accessibility and violent crime, weapon

crime, and adolescent weapon crime. The impact of illicit weapon accessibility on cruel crime percentage remains a subject of difficult discussion among social researchers. The availability of illegal guns is labeled the objective dangerousness hypothesis, which increases the level of criminal activities in urban areas and always affect the safety of persons and property.

Influence of peer pressure, the research determined the rate at which peer pressure influences criminal activities. The findings of the study indicates that the respondents rated peer pressure as a highly frequent cause of criminal activities, 22.02 percent moderate, and 14.68 percent less frequently. From this finding it indicates Peer pressure is regarded as one of the most influential aspects of an individual refers to behavioral aspects of socializing with unlawful juveniles before engrossed in felonious offending and other conducts. The influence of peers is significant because many people describe their lives around people who experience similar conditions to their own. In the contemporary world, influence of peer pressure is another major cause of criminal activities due to political influence and indulgence into corrupt practices and involvement into illegal drug. These findings confirm the findings of Esiri, (2016), who determined that peer pressure is considered a universal atmosphere, the subculture of criminal friends, and peer support for criminal behavior such as ridicule, mockery, ostracism, and even assault, among others. In addition, the research results show that young people exhibit brutal behavior under the verbal pressure of their peers due to the individual's desire to gain recognition among peer groups and political affiliations. This cause of criminal activity may change due to group dynamics and emerging subculture.

The study also established that, the poor upbringing of children can cause changing pattern in criminal activities. The findings of the study indicates that 63.3 percent of the respondents rated poor parental upbringing of children as a highly frequent cause of criminal activities, 22.02 percent moderate, and 14.68 percent less frequently. From this finding, it is evident that poor parental upbringing of children is another cause of criminal activities. Factors such as child abuse, drop out of school, lack of proper discipline and motoring may make children to live in a certain type of life; for example, due to the lack of guardians to protect the upbringing of young criminals, some guardians pay the police to release arrested children (SRIC, 2014). All these factors are evident due to the existence of street families in the city who are homeless and must find an opportunity to support their families. In terms of custody, Schreck and Fisher, (2004), discovered that cohesive families are better positioned to provide direct security for children and limit their exposure to motivated offenders. Children who hung out with criminal classmates were more likely to be exposed to motivated offenders, poorly monitored, and alleged as more likely targets for

violence. On the other hand, peer environment did not appear to diminish the impact of family characteristics; each appears to predict violent victimization independently. The study also demonstrated that despite controlling for routine activities and, peer characteristics and demographic variables remain applicable predictors of changing crime patterns (Caffrey, 1995; Öster & Agell, 2007).

Another cause of criminal activity is Inequality of income and unequal distribution of public resources. The study indicated that 45.87 percent of the respondents rated the unequal distribution of public resources as a highly frequent of changing pattern in criminal activities, 15.6 percent moderate, and 38.53 percent less frequently. This finding indicated that unequal distribution of public resources acts as cause for engagement in criminal activities. Humans sometimes co-operate to mutual advantage in the expense to exploit another person in form of crime. The type of crime activities caused maybe related to the distribution of economic resources, political affiliations, race and tribe. Nairobi being metropolitan city, the population with unequal distribution of resources may develop low trust and cooperation hence increased criminal activity. The findings are reinforced by the findings of Sparrow, (2014), who revealed that inequality supply of public services puts lives at risk. Increasing financial disparity additionally worsens social imbalances among women and men. According to the Marxist perspective, criminal activities exist due to class division and differences in income status in society. The inequality between the rich and the poor makes individuals with low income engage in criminal activities compared to affluent members of society. At some point, individual expectation creates boundless aspirations, which cannot be fulfilled easily, hence searching for the attainable (Hazel, 1999, p. 47).

The difference in income makes individuals commit criminal activities because some individuals are super rich while others are poor. This inequality makes the poor engage in criminal activities to bridge the gap between the social classes. Free public services are a powerful weapon against the economic gap. Free public services are an interest in a more attractive future for everyone, and paying attention to this management is important to avoid a world where society inevitably tends to meet the needs of only a few privileged individuals. One respondent interviewed noted that;

“Unemployment and crime go hand in hand. Poverty encouraged by unemployment triggered unemployed people to commit crime as an additional way of acquiring an income. Unemployment is an encouraging factor for engaging in crime. In some instances, an employed individual also engages in crime. For example, senior manager of different institutions has been arraigned in courts to answer to crimes they are alleged to have committed”.

This shows that both employed and unemployed person engages in crime due to different reasons. The survey results are consistent with the Census Bureau Report, (2019). The report shows that the proportion of poor youth from slums who have received secondary education is lower than those who have completed primary education. Because of extreme poverty in the ghettos, people are forced to give up their long-term prosperity to meet their short-term endurance needs. Conferring to Tita (2009), crime is a major driving force for changes in online financial arrangements. The estimated impact of crime on neighborhood property is one of these driving forces. Most empirical studies confirm that crime has an adverse effect on housing costs.

Table 4.5 Causes of Criminal Activities

Causes of Crime	Less frequent		Moderately frequent		Highly frequent
	quency	rcent	quency	rcent	quency
High Rate of Unemployment	24	12	4	1.25	170
Abuse of Drugs and Substance	22	11.11	24	12.04	70
High Poverty Level	27	13.76	29	14.68	143
Availability of IllegalGuns	60	30.28	44	22.02	95
Influence of Peer Pressure	29	14.68	44	22.02	127
Poor Upbringing of Children	49	14.68	68	22.02	84
Unequal Public Services	77	38	31	15.6	92

The results in Table 4.3 show that 86.11 percent of the respondents distinguished unemployment as the main factor contributing cause of changing pattern to crime, followed by drug abuse with 76.85 percent, the influence of peer pressure 63 percent, poor upbringing of children, availability of illegal guns, and finally unequal distribution of public resources. The findings show that many people engage in criminal activities because young people do not have a job and have a low level of education.

These findings on the table above supported by Safety Information and Research Center (SIRC, 2014). In this study, youth involvement in crime is due to unemployment, drug and substance abuse, inactivity, and youth peer pressure to carry on with a specific sort of way of life; for example, due to lack of parental protection of unpredictable youth upbringing, some guardians pay the police to release arrested children (SIRC, 2014). Similarly, Kioko, (2017) determined that the high unemployment rate among young people is at the top of the causes of crime. This is because most teenagers finish or leave school and do not have a useful job, relying on crime to succeed.

Conclusion The study findings revealed that the causes of criminal activities keep on changing over the years in Nairobi City County. And the major causes of criminal activities include unemployment at 86.11, abuse of drugs and substances at 76.85, high poverty level at 71.56 and influence of peer pressure among the youths at 63.3. The study also identified availability of illegal guns at 47.61 and equal public service at 45.87. Therefore, the changes of causes of criminal activities are always dynamic but the traditional methods of criminal activities still takes center stage on the general criminal activities in Nairobi city county. Thus, the security agencies must also change their methods of preventing crime within different areas within Nairobi City county.

Recommendations The government should put in place emergency measures to prevent violent revolution that can capitalize on elements such as corruption, unemployment, infrastructure development in relation to economic empowerment and modernizations of security agencies. This will ensure all Kenyan citizens are busy building the nation hence no time to think on criminal matters.

Community education through community leaders on the dangers of drug and substance abuse may lead young Kenyans to criminal activities. Government leaders should educate the community on the danger of engaging in criminal activities such as corrupt practices. Youths should be empowerment through awareness and campaigns to reduce their chances of engaging in criminal activities. Also, enhance youth engagement productive activities.

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