Full Length Research Article

THE RISKY FACTORS OF CRIME/CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS: ARBA MINCH AND JINKA JAILS

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to identify the risky factors of crime or criminal behavior. To find out the clear factors Cross-sectional descriptive research design used to run the study. Approximately around 203 participants were involved in the study though 20 of questionnaires voided from the study because of its invalid information. And Simple random sampling method has used to select the research participants. In the process of data analysis SPSS 20 version has employed. According to the findings, the experience of crime/criminal behavior and big-five personality dimensions have statistically insignificant association among each other ($\chi2= 33.674$, and $p < 0.005$) even though neuroticisms dimension of personality has a little association with the experience of crime (M=11.99 & SD =5.58). On the other hand, Statistically insignificant relationship found in between experience of crime/criminal behavior and the inmates' knowledge and attitude towards crime/criminal behavior (r=.141, 0.057). Similarly, statistically insignificant difference observed among male and female inmates' knowledge towards crime or criminal behavior (F (1,182) =2.556, p> 0.05). Additionally, Substance abuse and the experience of crime has statically insignificant relationship (r= -0.075 and the Sig. (2-Tailed) =0.310). Personality factors have little contribution in the increment in the rate and prevalence of crime. Nerveless changes observed in the areas of criminal justice system yet still it needs reform and transformation to fulfill the need of the community in Ethiopia. Using holistic approach is a vital mechanism to advance young citizens' knowledge and attitude towards crime/criminal behaviors. That is directly or indirectly increases the productivity of the nation because crime is one of the big obstacles for the development of the nation.

INTRODUCTION

In 2002 study in USA indicates that approximately 40% of respondents had experienced at least one of the crime experiences like vehicle crime, robbery, suicide, murder and rape (Roman.et.al, 2009). A long line of academic commentators have bemoaned the public's lack of knowledge of crime and criminal justice. Research going back to the 1950s and from places as far afield as South Africa, Scotland, Belgium, Germany, Barbados, and the United States have indicated that "the public" knows very little about crime trends, policing practices, or sentencing (as cited in Langseth, 1999**).** Considerable evidence from different jurisdictions and different time periods shows that public knowledge of crime and criminal justice is lacking and that leads persons to involve in criminal conducts. The rate of crime is rising nationally, according to official statistics, had been falling, including the United States, Australia, Canada, and England and Wales (as cited in Langseth, 1999).

A large body of research indicates that crime is highly correlated with youthfulness and male gender, and that early involvement in crime is predictive of subsequent involvement. Similarly, poverty, inequality, disrupted families, inadequate socialization, and the presence of criminal opportunities all seem to be important correlates of crime (as cited in Black, 1893). Apart from environmental and social factors, personality traits are largely linked with criminal and delinquent behavior (Darrow, 1999).The term 'personality' is generally used to refer to relatively stable characteristics of a person that make their behavior consistent across situations (but many other definitions are possible, depending on the approach being taken). Eysenck believed that people with high extraversion and neuroticisms scores had nervous systems that made them difficult to condition. As a result, they would not learn easily to respond to antisocial impulses with anxiety. Consequently, they would be more likely to act antisocially in situations where the opportunity presented itself (Eysenck , 1964). Risk factors are also related to the developmental stages of childhood and adolescence. For example, early in a child's life, risk factors are tied to individual factors (such as hyperactivity) and family factors (such as poor parenting

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practices). However, as the child grows up, new risk factors related to influences from peers, the school, and the community begin to play a larger role in the child's life (Wasserman et al. 2003). Several articles have documented support for the idea that individuals having high scores in extraversion have been determined to be more likely to engage in criminal behavior. Similarly, several studies have indicated a correlation exists between neuroticism and crime. This suggests that individuals who have high scores in the area of neuroticism have a greater likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior (as cited Listwan, 2001). The hypotheses on personality was further divided into five sub hypotheses to explain the dimensions of the personality characteristics, the results were as follows; extroversion, (β=.21, p.05), openness (β=.19, p>.05). The first 3 personality characteristics were significant predictors of attitude towards crime while the other two were not (as (Wasserman et al. 2003).

Risk factors are personal traits, characteristics of the environment, or conditions in the family, school, or community that are linked to youths' likelihood of engaging in delinquency and other problem behaviors. The presence of risk factors and the early exposure to them has been shown to increase the likelihood that youths will engage in early delinquent behavior during adolescence and continue to offend throughout the life course (Wasserman et al. 2003). There is no single risk factor that can predict who is likely (or not likely) to engage in delinquent behavior In addition, Some examples are poor parenting practices, association with delinquent peers, and poor academic achievement (Woodhead, 1990). The literature indicates a relationship between alcohol use and intimate partner violence (IPV). Moreover, the recent research has indicated that alcohol is present in a substantial amount of violence associated with domestic relationships. The most prevalent of these patterns has revealed that drinking is common among both the offender and the victim (as cited in Lewis, 1996).

In large-scale review of 26 studies, involving 11 countries, it was determined that 62% of offenders convicted of a violent crime had been consuming alcohol shortly before committing the crime in question((Hoaken, 2003). Alcohol was more than twice as likely to be a contributing factor to violent crimes than nonviolent crimes, and in those studies that measured level of alcohol, violence was associated with heavy drinking(as cited in (Hoaken, 2003).

Statement of the problem: The study by Australia government justice office shows that the overall number of recorded violent crimes decreased in 2010, except for the offence kidnapping and abduction (Austria, 1998). Additionally, the result revealed that relatively males were most commonly the victims and the perpetrators of crime. Moreover, Persons aged 15–19 years had the highest rate of offending of any age group in 2010 (Soares & Naritom, 2006) To control the prevalence of the problems of crime the involvement of the researchers in various disciplines in the area is essential. The research studies by Roman et al. (2009) indicates that studying poverty and social exclusion has an increasing role to know the associated factors and the related consequences of crime. And studies indicate that poor members of community and community organizations have experience to hide the criminals within in their villages in order to avoid themselves from the social rejection (Soares & Naritom, 2006)

In an interesting finding, the authors reported that of the nine studies that used the most comprehensive measures of religiosity, all found that religiousness decreased the number of delinquency (as cited in McGarrell ,1999). Similarly, the thirteen most rigorous studies in terms of assessing the reliability of the measure of religiosity all found that religion related factors lower levels of delinquency and crime (as cited in McGarrell, 1999). In contrary to the above statement, however, the majority of Ethiopian societies are religious, it doesn't significantly studied its eminent role to combat or reduce the expansion of crime and criminal act. Political leaders and criminal justice officials have increasingly recognized that government alone is limited in its ability to be effectively address serious social and cultural problems such as crime (Johnson, 2008)). Similarly, David Osborne and Ted Gaebler (1992) are well known for their urging that government act as a "catalyst" in energizing local resources and as a partner in finding "community owned" solutions to local problems (as cited in Johnson, 2008).

The work of Wilson (1987, 1996) and other urban scholars studying poverty argues that disadvantaged neighborhoods were more exposed for different antisocial behaviors such as: drug addiction, gambling, robbery that exposed them to involve in crime (cited in Roman et.al. 2009). Obviously, in the contemporary world the expansion rate and dynamics of crime is increasing from time to time. Thus, worst living conditions, lack of knowledge and personal factors contributed its lions share. It is clear that working to combat the risky factor is the means to prevent crime/criminal behaviors. We are highly interested in this particular area of research for the following valuable reasons;

- Lack of in-depth knowledge and awareness on crime and criminal code of law expose different persons to engage in the crime and criminal activities
- Obviously, fast and rapid growth of cities contributes a limitless spread of substance abuse by children, adolescence and young adults in Ethiopia. Moreover, increased numbers of migrants' from rural and local urban areas contribute its part in the expansion of crime in the cities. We can easily imagine that the expansion of substance abuse directly or indirectly has contribution for the expansion of crime and criminal act.
- Inconsistent research findings disseminated on the risky factors of crime/criminal behaviors. This study helped to postulate the root factors of crime/criminal behavior in our state.

For these and other important reasons, the investigators interested to answer the following research questions.

- What are the risky factors to involve in crime/criminal behaviors?
- What are the current attitudes of inmates towards criminal justice system?
- Is there any relationship in between the crime experience and the knowledge and attitude towards crime?
- Is there any association among big five dimensions of personality and crime experiences?
- Are there any gender-based differences in their attitude and knowledge towards crime/criminal behavior?
- Does drug/substance abuse have relationship with the crime/criminal behavior?

Purpose of the study

- To identify the risky factors of crime/ criminal behaviors
- To investigate the current attitudes of inmates towards criminal justice system
- To describe the relationship in between the crime experience and the knowledge and attitude towards crime
- To describe the association among big five dimensions of personality and crime experience
- To identify the gender-based differences in their attitude and knowledge towards crime/criminal behavior
- drug/substance abuse have relationship with the crime/criminal behavior

Operational definitions of the terms

- **Crime**: hostile action that violates the legal and social principles and norms of the nation and society.
- **Criminal behavior**: an act that violates the legal and societal rules and regulations.
- **Offenders**: the persons who are suspected to commit crime.
- **Perceived**: personal belief, expectation and evaluation of causes, effects and mechanisms to control and prevent crime.
- **Substance abuse**: using the over dosage of various psychoactive drugs (chat chewing, alcoholic drinks, smoke, heroin, '' ganja'', 'shisha', …
- The **criminal justice system** consists of three main parts: (1) Legislative (create laws); (2) adjudication (courts); and (3) corrections (jails, prisons, probation and parole).

Significance of the study: This study will provides some critical and recent information and scientific evidences for the legal bodies, police officers, administrative bodies and other stack holders. It also will laid a concrete base in which how to control the action of crime at the minimum cost and efforts. It is clear that currently the goverment design a huge Five years Trasformational and Developmental plan to escale up the current development of the country.To realize the plan, securing the wellbeing of citizen at individual, collective and societal level is priortized by the government. Thus, this study will be a feed back for the policy makers and strategy designers who are working on the overall aspects of citizen's well being. And it puts an insight for the future research in this area

Delimtation of the study: this study the incorporated the risky factors of crime/criminal behavior. Inmates who are following their formal education are the target population of this study. And criticall emphasis has given on Arba Minich and Jinka Correction centers/prisons.

Method of the study

Study design: It is planed to use cross sectional survey. It is because crime is a kind of complex and dynamic social problem; hence, it needs in-depth description and explanation for the possible intervention and for further quantitative study in the area.

Source population: all inmates, offenders or suspects in the prisons/correction centers.

Target population: inmates, offenders or suspects in Arba Minch correction centers and Jinka correction centers (Jail).

Sample size: In this study, two correction/prison centers in Southern Nations Nationality and Peoples State randomly selected only for the study purpose. We found large numbers of criminals/inmates and suspects crowdedly living in these two correction/prison institutions. From both correction centers 203 participants from 430 total populations were involved in the study by using sample size determination formula (430/203).

$$SS = (Z^{2*(p)*(1-p))/C2}$$

Where:

Z = Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 95% confidence level)
p = percentage picking a choice, expressed as decimal
(.5 used for sample size needed)
c = confidence interval, expressed as decimal (e.g., .04 = ±4)

Sampling techniques: probability sampling method has employed to select the research participants from grade five-to-twelve. In the grade level arrangement, stratified random sampling method has employed. Stratifications are relied on grade level selection and meanwhile, simple random sampling (lottery) has used to select a firm research participant from each classroom.

Instrument development: In this study, some necessary data gathering tools were developed by the investigators and the remaining materials were adopted from Eysenck (1964) Big Five Personality Test, and Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST), (1982). Data collection instruments have cross-checked before engaging in the fieldwork. In line with instrument development, the reliability and face validity of the instruments have been measured by using Cronbach Alpha and has been involving experts to see instruments' validity according to the culture, gender, & ethnicity sensitivity.

Data collection procedures: Firstly, English version data gathering tools were translated in to Amharic version and local languages for only unique situational problems. The translation process has held by using language experts and experts who have a good knowledge on the socio-cultural conditions of the participants' background. Next, individual participant were clearly oriented how to fill questionnaires and the importance of addressing all questions. Data collection process has supported through self- administrative action, assistant interview, and direct or face-to-face interview.

Data analysis: Firstly, in the data analysis process descriptive statistics (i.e using mean, standard devotion,) incorporated to make the possible description of the problems. Secondly, inferential statistics (1) ANOVA has used to differentiate whether there is difference in between male and female inmates' in their attitude and knowledge towards crime.

(2) Using correlation analysis employed to determine the relationship between crime experience and Knowledge and attitude.

(3) Co- relational analysis used to determine whether there is relationship between crime experience and substance abuse.

(4) Using X^2-square employed to distinguish the association in between big five personality dimensions and the experience of crime.

Pilot study: Before engaging in the actual field work, the pilot study has conducted in the Wolyeta Sodo correction center/Prison that was different from the study institutions. The study has taken for two month and 20 participants were involved in the study. Among the 20 questionnaires 3 questionnaires were invalid because it contains incomplete information. This helped to take a long time to check and correct the items' level of Cronbach alpha and evaluate the reliability and validity of questinnaires or items. And important to measure its strentgh and weakness.

Reliability and Validity: Before adminisraing data, the Cronbach alpha measured to check the inter-item reliability and the strengthness of the data collection tools that are used in the study. The result raveled that the value of Cronbach alpha for knowledge and attitude (r = 0.69), Criminal Justice system (r = .89), Personality (r = .86), and Substance abuse (r =.79). On the other hand, the comments and suggestions that are obtained from the two experts from the department of psychology helped to modify 16 questions and void 10 questions from the study instruments.

Ethical consederation : After getting the willngness and cooperation/goodwill of the offices, the process of data collection was started. Before starting the data collection, the researcher has strictly orriented and gave five days conteneous training for the field supervisors and data collectors. The field supervisors and data collectors also well orriented that the participants should be aware about the purpose of the study. During the interview all flows of ideas was encouraged, appericated and respected. Participants also well informed that all participants have right to talk whatever they feel and have full right to terminate their partcipation at the begging and midlle of the discussion if they do not want. After the end of all orrintation, participants signed their informed consent to involve in the study.

variables, differences among genders and the current status of inmates towards criminal justice system in their in resident villages. In the above table, Person Correlation(r) value is 0.141 and the Sig. (2-Tailed) p = 0.057. Because of this, we can conclude that there is a statistically insignificant correlation between experience of crime/criminal conduct and inmates' knowledge and attitude towards crime/criminal behavior. From the top row of the last table, Pearson Chi-Square statistic, $\chi2$= 33.674, and p ‹ 0.005; this test shows that there is no significant association between the big five personality dimensions and the experience of crime/ criminal behaviors or conducts (chi square = 33.674, p=. 670). The same result can also be interpreted to mean that there was no significant difference between type of human personality and experience of crime.

However, in the table below the descriptive analysis indicates that neuroticism personality nature relatively has larger average value (M=11.99 & SD =5.58) that makes it as slightly different from the others. Relatively neuroticism personality has association with the experience of crime or criminal behaviors. Descriptive Analysis used to describe the current status of inmates' attitude towards criminal justice system in their environment'. As indicated in the above histogram figure, inmates have negative evaluation about criminal justice conditions (justice, crime investigation process, court, correction conditions, fairness of decision,) in various legal institutions in their surroundings (M =14.12, SD =6.372). It shows that the respondent's response falls under bellow the normal average value and small disparity among the individual means.

Descriptive Analysis to determine the Inmates' attitude towards the decision made by Court. As indicated in the above table 109(59.6%) of the participants are satisfied on the court decision while the remaining 74(40.4%) are not satisfied on the court decision. Although the majority of the participants stratified court decision, large numbers of participants have doubt on the court decision. In the table above, it is described that F (1,182) =2.556, p> 0.05 which indicates that there is

Bivariate Correlation Analysis to determine the relationship in between the Experiences of criminal behavior & inmates' knowledge and attitude towards criminal conducts

		Experiences to involve in Crime	Knowledge and Attitude
Experiences to involve in Crime	Pearson Correlation	1	.141
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.057
	N	183	183
KAC	Pearson Correlation	.141	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.057	
	N	183	183

Chi –Square Analysis to differentiate whether there is association among the inmates' experiences of crime and big five personality dimensions/types.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	33.674[a]	38	.670
Likelihood Ratio	29.445	38	.839
Linear-by-Linear Association	.050	1	.823
N of Valid Cases	183		

a. 50 cells (83.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .01.

RESULTS

In this section the major emphasis has given on data analysis, interpretation & discussion. Critically Chi-square method, Pearson product Correlation, ANOVA; and Mean & Standard deviation analysis used to observe the risky factors of criminal behavior, association, relationship between continuous

statistically insignificant difference observed on the attitude and knowledge towards crime and criminal behavior among males and females because p value is larger than 0.05. Thus, there is no statistically significant difference observed on attitude and knowledge among males and females towards crime or criminal behaviors.

Descriptive Statistics to indicates mean & std. Deviation

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Experiences Crime	183	.8852	.36757	.00	3.00
Extrovert	183	6.8743	4.18665	.00	20.00
Agreeableness	183	8.9454	4.83659	.00	51.00
Conscientiousness	183	8.5191	4.39385	.00	39.00
Openness	183	9.0328	4.31825	1.00	47.00
Neuroticism	183	11.9945	5.57768	.00	52.00

Histogram
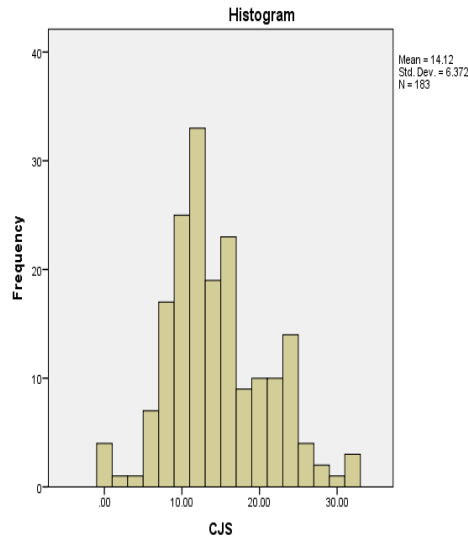
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	109	59.6	59.6	59.6
No	74	40.4	40.4	40.4
				100.0
Total	183	100.0	100.0	

ANOVA used to distinguish variation in between Males' and females' attitude and knowledge towards crime/criminal behaviors

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	189.873	1	189.873	2.556	.112
Within Groups	13447.800	183	74.297		
Total	13637.672	183			

Bivariate Correlation Analysis to Determine the Relationship between Substance Abuse and the Experience of Crime

		Experiences Crime	Substance abuse
Experiences of Crime	Pearson Correlation	1	-.075
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.310
	N	183	183
Substance abuse	Pearson Correlation	-.075	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.310	
	N	183	183

In the above table, Person Correlation(r) value is -0.075 and the Sig. (2-Tailed) p = is 0.310. This value is larger than .05. Because of this, we can conclude that there is a statistically insignificant correlation between experiences of crime/criminal conduct and Substance Abuse.

DISCUSSION

Unlike the current findings, the research study by Eysenck (1964) indicates that person with extrovert and neuroticisms personality nature has high tendency to involve in antisocial behaviors. However, it is different from the current finding although the study reveals that in somewhat persons with neuroticisms personality nature has some association with crime involvement/experiences.

Moreover, emotionality and tip temperedness leads persons to have got antisocial behaviors. Research findings by (Petrosino, Derzon & Lavenberg, 2009) Eysenck (1964) .(Hoaken, 2003). (as cited in Petrosino et al, 2009) indicates that parental monthly income level, personality natures, history of substance utilization and knowledge level respectively critically determine persons' history to engage in antisocial or criminal conducts yet the current research finding is inconsistent with the previous studies or research reports. It is speculated in the current finding that the substance abuse and inmates' knowledge have no significant relationship with the crime experiences. And Substance abuse not always a means that persons to involve in different criminal conducts and behaviors.

As cited in Feilzer, (2015) little knowledge or lack of enough knowledge to crime, criminal process and sentencing has contributing its big part/its lions share that individuals to involve in crime or criminal behaviors. On the other hand, study by *Adrangna*, (2012) indicates that criminal experiences & human intelligence test (IQ) has direct correlation. As indicated in his research, person with low intelligence test has high probability to involve in criminal conducts while person with high intelligence test has less probability to involve in criminal behaviors. However, the current finding is completely inconsistent with the previous findings by different scholars**.** Knowledge about crime is not a guaranty to preserve persons not to involve in crime. As it is well indicated in the research results, persons have equal chances involve in crime whether they are poor or wealth. The current finding indicates that males and females have similar knowledge and attitude towards crime/criminal behaviors. It is directly contrasting the previous findings done by Reid (2011). The study by *Adrangna* (2012) witnessed that males have good knowledge and attitude towards crime and criminal behaviors than females. As it is forwarded in the *Adrangna* (2012) study, only good knowledge/education is means to escape crime/criminal behaviors. Nevertheless, the research result states that males have high records to experience crime/criminal behavior than females.

As indicated in the current finding persons have big questions on the justice system legal institutions in Ethiopia. Starting from crime investigation to the last court decision, the process is full of injustice and unfairness. The study by *Mulve et al (2010) confirmed the current findings. As indicated in the findings that persons with wealth are in lined in front of the law while poor are always marginalized and segregated. And poor's has low tendency to equally with the wealth class though all things are equal in front of the law in the document.*

Conclusion

Although males and females have similar status of knowledge towards to crime and criminal behaviors, large numbers of young inmates are males than females n Jails. Crime and criminal behaviors have multidimensional grounds rather relying on specific grounds such as substance abuse, lack of knowledge and personality factors. However, neuroticisms personality nature has a little contribution to involve in crime. Lack of justice and unfairness in legal institution is still upsetting majority of the community and perceived to increase the feeling of forceful revenge.

Recommendations

Preventing adolescents and young adults from the risky factors is the most civilized and modernized tactic to overcome crime/criminal behaviors because young citizen are the option less source for development and productivity of the nation. Putting strong foundation stone for children's Personality development is means to reduce citizens' involvement in crime/criminal behavior. And it is mandatory to ensure justice for all citizens in legal institutions through reform and transformation is basic means to overcome the rate and prevalence of crime.

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