Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE)

Caribbean Studies School Based Assessment

***CRIME***



***“An investigation into the various factors that have led to the increase in crime rate amongst young adults and how it affects their socio-economy in the community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica.”***

**Name of Candidates:** Syee Dassado

**Centre:** Mona High

**Centre Number:** 100152

**Teacher:** Ms J. DaCosta

**Territory:** Jamaica

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# Introduction

**Topic: Crime**

**Research Problem:**

***“An investigation into the various factors that have led to the increase in crime rate amongst young adults and how it affects their socio-economy well-being in the community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica.”***

**Objectives:**

1. What is the main cause of the increase in crime and violence amongst young adults in the Community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica
2. How can the government help to control crime and violence in the Community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica.
3. How does the increase in crime and violence affect the socio-economic well-being, of young adults in the Community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica?

**Purpose of the Research:**

Cockburn Pen Lane is a Community that is found in St. Andrew, Jamaica. There has been a gradual increase in crime and violence in the community. Gaining knowledge about exactly why this is happening can give many insights into why this is occurring and in terms of how it can also affect the socio-economic well- being of young adults living in the community. It is for this reason why the researcher has decided to focus his Caribbean Studies Internal Assessment (IA) on the topic crime and violence.

# Statement of the Problem:

Crime and violence are the leading cause of death for all ages globally. Jamaica is no exception to this. The community of Cockburn Pen Lane is an area known for poverty, delinquency and ultimately crime. These crime and violence ranges from rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

There are several types of major crimes such as murder, shooting, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, break-ins, and larceny.

The aim of this research project is to find out if there is a direct correlation between the rise in crime and violence in Jamaica and the rise in crime and violence in the Community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica.

**Educational Value:**

It is hoped that research of this nature will generate awareness amongst the necessary stakeholders in paying keen attention to crime management, so as to maintain the population of Jamaica, which will inevitably impact the development of the country. The Community of Cockburn Pen Lane is but a small representation of Jamaica.

# Literature Review

Crime, the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited, and punishable under criminal law (Thomas, Clarke, Edge, Bernard, & Allott, 2023). This source adds to the research by providing a definition of crime and how these acts are harmful to a population and the consequences of doing so. Stakeholders should pay keen attention to this to consider what should be deemed as a crime and what should not be considered crime. Furthermore, in recent years there has been a steady increase in crimes in Jamaica.

Crime rate is a measure of change in recorded crime, over a given period of time, based upon official statistics for offences or offender rates. It enables comparison of variations across offences or areas and can be produced for selected offences (such as car theft), or as a general measure (Oxford Reference, 2023). It includes mostly the major cases of crime which includes murder, shooting, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, break-ins, and larceny. Stakeholders must investigate these statistics to adjust their crime strategies based on the given offences that were done.

The statistics for crime rates in Jamaica were as follows: 2019 had a 34% increase in total crime rate, 2020 had a 13% reduction of total crime rate, 2021 had a 3% increase in total crime rate and 2022 had a 1% increase in total crime (Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2022). This provides the overall data about the percentages of change of murder, shooting, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, break-ins, larceny in Jamaica. This data implies that during the four-year period there has been slight increase in crime during the recent years. This contributes to the research by providing statistics about crime rate in Jamaica which complements (Oxford Reference, 2023) article. Stakeholders should adjust their crime strategies to control the level of crime within the country to not allow it to have a substantial increase like in 2019.

There are various factors that contributes to crime and violence in Jamaica. The article by (Chin, 2022) states, *“Poverty, which equates to a lack of basic resources, will generally lead to poor education, inadequate parenting skills, and lack of family values, which creates other problems. It’s a vicious cycle which feeds into mental disorders and antisocial behaviour.”* This shows that poverty is the main cause of crime and can affect a person’s mental behaviour to commit crimes to acquire the basic resources needed to sustain their life no matter what means they must go through. This complements the statistics from (Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2022) as it provides detail as to why a person would any of the various crimes in Jamaica. Stakeholders must improve their basic needs programs so that some persons won’t turn to crime because of not having access to their basic necessities.

Crime and violence can negatively affect the socio-economic of a country and can be categorized as either tangible affects or intangible affects. Some costs of crime are less tangible (not easily or precisely identified). These kinds of costs can include pain and suffering, and a lower quality of life. There are also the traumatic impacts on friends and the disruption of family (Encyclopedia.com, 2023). To add to the source, people who are mentally suffering from the trauma of crime should be able to go to the appropriate institution to facilitate that need. Stakeholders should implement community watch programs for persons living in the community of Cockburn Pen Lane to report any suspicious or crime related activities happening in the area.

Another channel through which crime exacts costs is through its effects on businesses, which can be particularly damaging because they can involve both short-run costs and long-run consequences for development, by diverting resources to crime prevention measures and otherwise discouraging investment (United Nations Office, 2007). To add to the source, crime and violence can bring down the reputation of Jamaica which in turns can affect the tourism sector. When tourists are scared to visit the country, it can affect the money earned from the tourism sector which in turn damages the economy.

Effective policing strategies are also critical to reducing crime in Jamaica. This might include investing in training and equipment for law enforcement agencies, and implementing community policing programmes that engage with local residents and build trust between law enforcement and the community (Mcewan, 2022). Policing strategies and training could be improved upon by advertising it to young adults interested in becoming police so that it will create a good reputation for the police force. To add to this source, there should be background checks on the police to ensure that they were not involved in criminal activities in the past to reduce corruption in the force. Stakeholders must make sure that police are not exempt from the full blunt of the law if they have committed crimes themselves.

# Methodology

The type of research selected was qualitative. Qualitative data is a type of data that is collected through non-numerical methods such as interviews, observations, and open-ended surveys. The reason why the researcher chose qualitative research is because it offers several advantages. They are as follows: it can be used to explore complex or sensitive topics that cannot be easily measured using quantitative methods. It can also provide in-depth insights into social phenomena, attitudes, and experiences. The researcher can also gain the perspective of the target population.

There are disadvantages as well. The disadvantages are as follows: qualitative data is often collected through open-ended questions and observations, which can be influenced by the researcher's biases or interpretations. It can result in it being time-consuming, as it often involves in-depth interviews or observations and requires careful analysis of large amounts of text. Furthermore, because of these analyze of descriptive statistics, it may limit the ability to conduct more sophisticated statistical analyses.

Although qualitative data has some disadvantages, it is more appropriate for this type of investigation because it allows for a more people-oriented approach.

For this research, the researcher has decided to use both primary and secondary sources of data collection.

A questionnaire was used as the primary source to collect data. A questionnaire is a research instrument that consists of a set of questions or other types of prompts that aims to collect information from a respondent. It was used to collect valuable information from my community, based on the factors that cause and contribute to the increase in crime.The sample size of the questionnaire was 20 participants, in order to expedite the questionnaire completion process. It is distributed using online questionnaire software known as, *“Google Forms”* with links to the questionnaire.

Secondary sources gave the researcher the background information on the key term used “Crime”. The sources that were used are Jamaican articles, book, Encyclopedia and Britannica. Britannica was the secondary source used to gain the definition of crime.

# Presentation of Data

**Figure 1:**  Bar graph represents responses to the question,” How does crime and violence affect you in your community?” Based on the options given in the questionnaire, 35% of residents chose “I feel too afraid to go out”, 25% of residents chose “I get emotional pain because of it”, 0% of residents chose “I get physically harmed because of it”, 5% of residents chose “Causes inability to go to school or work”, 55% of respondents chose “It affects how often I hang out with my community friends”, 55% of residents chose “I don't get involved in community activities anymore because of it.”, while 15% of respondents chose “It does not affect me at all.”

**Figure 2:** Bar graph represents responses to the question, “How often does crime and violence happen in your community?” Based on the six options given in the questionnaire, 25% of participants chose “Very Often”, 10% of residents chose “Often”, 30% of respondents chose “Occasionally”, 15% of participants chose “Rarely”, while 10% of respondents chose “Very rarely”, and 10% of residents chose “I don't know”.

**Figure 3:** Bar graph represents responses to the question,” If yes, what type of crimes did you heard being committed in your community recently?” Based on the options given in the questionnaire, 10% of respondents chose “Murder”, 35% of respondents chose “Shooting”, 0% of respondents did not chose “Rape”, another 0% of respondents did not chose “Aggravated Assault”, 25% of residents chose “Robbery”, 15% of respondents chose “Break ins”, 0% of residents chose “Larceny”, and 15% of residents chose “None”

**Figure 4:** Pie chart represents responses to the question, “What do you normally do when these crime and violence happens in your community?” 65% of residents chose the option “Do nothing”, 10% of residents chose “Call and check on neighbours if they are alright”, another 10% of respondents chose “Call the police”, 5% of participants chose “Investigate what is happening”, another 5% of respondents chose “Take photographic evidence”, and an additional 5% of residents chose “No crime in my area”.

Figure 5: Bar Graph represents responses to the question, “What do you think is the main cause of crime in your community?” 5% of residents chose “No crime in my area”, another 5% of respondents chose “Criminal behaviour learned from others”, a next 5% of residents chose “Lack of education”, 10% of respondents chose “all the above”, an additional 10% of participants chose “Corruption and organized crime”, another 10% of residents chose “Lack of financial stability”, 0% of respondents did not chose “Cultural or Societal factors”, while 0% of participants did not chose “Lack of employment opportunities”, and 30% of residents chose “Poverty”.

**Figure 6**: Pie Chart represents responses to the question, “How does crime affect businesses in your community?” Based on the three options provided in the questionnaire, 5% of respondents chose “Property damage”, 35% of residents chose “Reputation damage”, and 60% of participants chose “Financial losses”.

**Figure 7:** Doughnut Chart represents responses to the question, “Do you think the current measures implemented by the government to combat crime are effective?” Based on the three options provided in the questionnaire, 10% of respondents chose “Yes”, 40% of residents chose “Maybe”, and 50% of participants chose “No”.

**Figure 8:** Pie chart represents responses to the question, “What measure/s or programs can be implemented by the government to control crime and violence?” Based on the six options that were given in the questionnaire, 10% of respondents chose “No programs now can control crime”, 20% of participants chose “Implement more programs to pay for schooling expenses for students”, 30% of residents chose “Increase job training opportunities”, 10% of residents chose “Improved mental health services and access to treatment”,5% of residents chose “Implement community policing programs”, while 25% of residents chose “Implement early intervention and prevention programs for at risk youth”.

# Discussion of Findings

The aim of this study is to find out the cause and effects of an increase in crime and how it affects the socio-economic well-being of young adults living in the Community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica.

Crime and violence can affect an individual’s decision as to when to go out, where to go out and level of safety to visit certain areas in the community of Cockburn Pen Lane. In the report, 35% of residents chose “I feel too afraid to go out”, 25% of residents chose “I get emotional pain because of it”, 0% of residents chose “I get physically harmed because of it”, 5% of residents chose “Causes inability to go to school or work”, 55% of respondents chose “It affects how often I hang out with my community friends”, 55% of residents chose “I don't get involved in community activities anymore because of it.”, while 15% of respondents chose “It does not affect me at all” to the question “How does crime and violence affect you in your community? (You can tick more than one option)” This shows an indication that crime and violence mainly causes less social interaction among community members as well as prevents them from meeting up for community activities because of certain level of fear. This adds to the point from (Encyclopedia.com, 2023) by showing some tangible affects of crime that the community have. This also shows how it affects the socioeconomic well-being of community members. Stakeholders could implement neighborhood watch programs to make the community feel safer when going out in the area.

The frequency of crime occurring within communities can affect how much a person can hang out with community members or do community activities. In the report 25% of participants chose “Very Often”, 10% of residents chose “Often”, 30% of respondents chose “Occasionally”, 15% of participants chose “Rarely”, while 10% of respondents chose “Very rarely”, and 10% of residents chose “I don't know” to the question, “How often does crime and violence happen in your community?” This indicates that majority of residents are witnessing or hearing about crime and violence within their community time to time. By understanding the specific types of crime that are most common, law enforcement agencies can tailor their efforts to focus on the areas of greatest need (Mcewan, 2022). Stakeholders should capitalize on the patterns, frequency, and timing of crime reduce the occurrence of it by using crime prevention strategies.

Crime and violence can be done in many ways. In the report, 10% of respondents chose “Murder”, 35% of respondents chose “Shooting”, 0% of respondents did not chose “Rape”, another 0% of respondents did not chose “Aggravated Assault”, 25% of residents chose “Robbery”, 15% of respondents chose “Break ins”, 0% of residents chose “Larceny”, and 15% of residents chose “None” to the question, “If yes, what type of crimes did you heard being committed in your community recently?” This indicates that the main type of crime done within Cockburn Pen Lane are shootings. Furthermore, other crimes committed may also involve shooting in them as well. Finally, it is important to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the crime-fighting plan and make adjustments as needed (Mcewan, 2022). Stakeholders should implement strategies to help residents have security cameras to help police in case crime is happening within their area. This could serve as evidence to deter criminals from committing crimes.

A person can react to crime and violence in various ways when it is happening near or within their vicinity. In the report, 65% of residents chose the option “Do nothing”, 10% of residents chose “Call and check on neighbours if they are alright”, another 10% of respondents chose “Call the police”, 5% of participants chose “Investigate what is happening”, another 5% of respondents chose “Take photographic evidence”, and an additional 5% of residents chose “No crime in my area” to the question, “What do you normally do when these crime and violence happens in your community?” This indicates that majority of residents cannot do anything or do nothing when crime is happening near them. This is concerning and shows that the police do not have a strong enough positive presence to the community members when they need help when crime is happening near them or within their vicinity. Stakeholders must ensure that the current image of the police are improved upon so that residents can put their trust in them when crimes are happening.

A criminal may have multiple reasons as to why they would commit crimes. In the report, 5% of residents chose “No crime in my area”, another 5% of respondents chose “Criminal behaviour learned from others”, a next 5% of residents chose “Lack of education”, 10% of respondents chose “all the above”, an additional 10% of participants chose “Corruption and organized crime”, another 10% of residents chose “Lack of financial stability”, 0% of respondents did not chose “Cultural or Societal factors”, while 0% of participants did not chose “Lack of employment opportunities”, and 30% of residents chose “Poverty” to the question, “What do you think is the main cause of crime in your community?” This indicates that majority of crimes are committed because of poverty. This complements the source from (Chin, 2022) as poverty is the root of crime and generally lead to other causes of crime within the Community. Stakeholders should make sure that every member of the Community have basic resources and educate them how to not fall below basic resources to reduce and discourage people from becoming criminals.

Crime and violence can also affect business operations as well in the community. In the report, 5% of respondents chose “Property damage”, 35% of residents chose “Reputation damage”, and 60% of participants chose “Financial losses” to the question, “How does crime affect businesses in your community?” This indicates that crime and violence is mainly done for financial gain. Crime and violence can cripple the growth and development of an economy. The negative impact on the investment environment, the erosion of human and social capital and the diversion of public funds from productive uses are some of the ways crime can impact development (Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2022). Stakeholders must make sure to businesses to recover from any financial losses that has taken place. This will make businesses not to be discouraged from closing or moving out when crimes are done to them.

The government would already have strategies and measures in place to combat crime. In the report, 10% of respondents chose “Yes”, 50% of residents chose “No”, and 40% of participants chose “Maybe” to the question “Do you think the current measures implemented by the government to combat crime are effective?” This indicates that the government need to improve and adjust their strategies regularly to fight crime. This is concerning because this shows that majority of people do not think current measures are effective. The government would need to review and adjust their strategies that they have.

The government would need to consider and use suggestions from people from communities to reduce crime. In the report, 10% of respondents chose “No programs now can control crime”, 20% of participants chose “Implement more programs to pay for schooling expenses for students”, 30% of residents chose “Increase job training opportunities”, 10% of residents chose “Improved mental health services and access to treatment”,5% of residents chose “Implement community policing programs”, while 25% of residents chose “Implement early intervention and prevention programs for at risk youth” to the question, “What measure/s or programs can be implemented by the government to control crime and violence?” This indicates that majority of residents think that increase job training opportunities. Stakeholders must ensure that job training opportunities are more accessible, with less requirements where necessary so that people can have a fair chance at jobs so that they will not turn to crime. This will lessen and deter crime in the long run.

Based on findings, it can be said that Cockburn Pen Lane is susceptible to frequent incidents of crime and violence in Jamaica. The study yielded numerous conclusions and factual data, and all the project objectives were achieved successfully without any difficulties or uncertainties.

# Conclusion

This research project was a qualitative study about the increase in crime rate amongst young adults and how it affects their socio-economic well-being, in the Community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica. One of the main causes of crime in the community is poverty which is the root of crime and generally leads to other causes of crime within the Community. It affects people to not socialize with other community members because they fear crime and to do nothing against crime because the police do not have a strong enough positive presence to motivate them to help themselves. It affects the socio-economy negatively because businesses are affected by financial losses due to it. As a result, the government needs to help residents obtain surveillance cameras to assist police to deter crime as well as improve the reputation of the police.

# Limitations

1. Owing to limited time available, the sample size was inadequate, leading to less diversity in the results.
2. Certain parts of the community were inaccessible due to the potential risk involved in visiting them.
3. Some inhabitants refrained from completing the survey due to apprehension that their personal details might be exposed.
4. The data-gathering tool utilized in this study did not facilitate respondents to elaborate on their answers.
5. Finally, considering the nature of the investigation, various alternative approaches could have been taken that might have yielded more positive outcomes.

# Recommendations

1. The government should prioritize on strengthening the police force and their reputation so that residents can have trust in them so that they can call on them for crime arises.

2. The government should incentivize and allow easier access to surveillance cameras so that they can help police to combat crime

3. The government should make job training opportunities accessible so that people can have a fair chance at jobs so that they will not turn to crime.

4. The government should implement early intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth to discourage them from becoming criminals.

5. To create a safe and welcoming community for families and children to thrive, it is essential that all members of the community collaborate and utilize all available resources to achieve this goal.

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# Appendices

**Questionnaire**

**Letter to Respondents:**

**Dear Residents,**

My name is Syee Dassado, and I am in Upper Six Form Student, at the Mona High School in St. Andrew, Jamaica. I am doing, **“An investigation into the various factors that have led to the increase in crime rate amongst young adults and how it affects their socio-economy in the community of Cockburn Pen Lane, St. Andrew, Jamaica.”** It is being conducted in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the writing of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE ) in Caribbean Studies, in June/July 2023. You are required to answer the questions honestly. You will be remain anonymous and the information you give will be kept confidential.

Thank you.

Syee Dassado

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS: Please place a tick in the boxes provided and or write on the lines where applicable**.

1. What is your gender?

Male

Female

2. What is your age?

Under 20 years old

20-24 years old

25-29 years old

30-34 years old

35 to 39 years old

3. How does crime and violence affect you in your community? (You can tick more than one option)

I feel too afraid to go out.

I get emotional pain because of it.

I get physically harmed because of it.

Causes inability to go to school or work.

It affects how often I hang out with my community friends.

I don't get involved in community activities anymore because of it.

It does not affect me at all.

4. How often does crime and violence happen in your community?

Very Often

Often

Occasionally

Rarely

Very rarely

I don't know.

5. Have you ever experienced, witnessed or heard of any crime and violence acts being committed within your community recently?

Yes

No

6. If yes, what type of crimes did you heard being committed in your community recently?\*

Murder

Shooting

Rape

Aggravated Assault (physical attack with or without dangerous weapon)

Robbery

Break-ins

Larceny (Burning down of buildings)

None

7. What do you normally do when these crime and violence happens in your community?

Do nothing.

Call and check on neighbours if they are alright.

Investigate what is happening.

Take photographic evidence.

Call the police.

No crime in my area

8. How do you feel about the police performance to combat crime?

Very effective

Somewhat effective

Ineffective

Don't know/No opinion.

9. What do you think is the main cause of crime in your community?

Lack of education

Poverty

Lack of financial stability

Lack of employment opportunities

Poor social and family support systems

Cultural or societal factors (dancehall music)

Criminal behavior learned from others.

Corruption and organized crime (corrupt police, politicians etc)

All the above

No crime in my area

10. Do you think the current measures implemented by the government to combat crime are effective?

Yes

No

Maybe

11.  What measure/s or programs can be implemented by the government to control crime and violence?

No programs implemented now can control crime

Implement more programs to pay for schooling expenses for students.

Increase job training opportunities.

Improved mental health services and access to treatment.

Implement early intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth.

Implement community policing programs.

12. Please rank what you feel are the most important causes of crime with 1 being Least likely to cause crime and 5 being Most likely to cause crime.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Unemployment  Poverty |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of financial stability |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of Education |  |  |  |  |  |
| Corruption and organized crime (corrupt police, politicians etc) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Criminal behavior learned from others |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poor social and family support systems |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cultural or societal factors (dancehall music) |  |  |  |  |  |

13. How does crime affect businesses in your community?

Financial Losses

Property damage

Reputation damage