Introduction and Purpose of Research

In the Caribbean, crime has, is and will continue to hurt it if something isn't done. This was noted by the Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Sir Dwight Venner who said in an article hosted by the "Jamaica OBSERVER" that "crime is having a negative impact on economic activity and growth in the region. Also, a local news publisher in country housed an article by one David Jessie - director of the Caribbean council stating that the adverse effect crime is have on Society are" eroding confidence asking investors", "causing human suffering" and "capital flight, the loss of those with skills or education who prefer to work a more certain environment."

Taking into consideration the aforementioned statements, the researcher derived the problem statement of "The adverse effect of crime on society". Moving on, he would like to know: what are the prominent sources of various crimes? Why are they committed? And how can they be resolved? This research can and all entail events and trends since the beginning of the new century.

**Educational Value**: A number of individuals will benefit from the gathered results. They can range from students to teachers, community members to community leaders and from the "ordinary man" to Government officials. With respect to these groups social stature each of them can use these findings to enlighten themselves on the sources, causes and effects of crime in their own community, religion, country or continental mass.

Throughout this project the reader will encounter numerous words that they may not be familiar with. Therefore, to remove this barrier and ensure that a clear message is transmitted the researcher decided to define some these terms:

* **Crime** - an illegal act for which someone can be punished by the government since the activity is against the law.
* **Economic** - has to do with which goods and services are produced, sold and bought.
* **Adverse** - means bad or unfavourable, not good.
* **Stature** - refers to the quality or status gained by growth, development or achievement.

Literature Review

“Over the last year, a number of studies have looked at the adverse effect crime is having on society development” – David Jessop. This commentary stated that increasing levels of crime erodes confidence among investors and causes human suffering. His research holds statements from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). They say “crime is having a negative effect on social development by diverting limited resources away from health and education to security.” Other statements within the article provide some repercussions as “changing the quality of life”, “hindering national development” and “crime and corruption remains the main obstacle to Jamaica’s growth and development.” David Jessop’s research has a perspective that the rampant waves of crime will lag individual countries development and the Caribbean in general.

Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Sir Dwight Venner says that crime is hurting Caribbean economies at the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP), he referenced a study which stated that the cost of fighting crime in Jamaica in 2001 was 3.7 per cent of GDP as well as a 2009 study which he said took a comprehensive look at the impact of crime in the Caribbean. “It reveals the evolution of a system of criminality, which has protruded in every facet of society” and continues to say “the maturation of this system is frightening as it poses a significant challenge in the state system, which we saw earlier as the government sought to extradite a gang leader from the island. The researcher ascertains the reality and degree of Crime and its effects on Caribbean countries.

The Stabroek News (Guyana, 2015) mentions that over the last year a number of studies which looked at the adverse effect crimes are having on the society. Even though this is a general statement and not specifically refers to crime on Caribbean countries, it provides a resolution. Jamaica’s National Security Minster, Peter Bunting said that Jamaica will need, over the next five years, to recruit an additional 5,000 soldiers and police officers, improve their mobility, equip them and take other actions that will ensure a greater chance of arrest and conviction. He says policing is just a part of the problem, in some states organised crime developed due to political influence. The researcher concluded from these statements that crime thwarts the development of Caribbean nations.

In conclusion, crime rates rose to noticeable heights in the Caribbean with prominent individuals and organisations upholding this. The effects of crime are: human suffering, the hindering of national development. Countries should therefore follow the ideas of Jamaica’s Nation Security Minister, Peter Bunting to eradicate this phenomenon.

Data Collection Sources

The researcher used both primary and secondary sources. The secondary source was a PDF document from the United Nations (UN) which contained information about the trends in crime on the Caribbean. Reason being, the UN is a prominent international organization that is quite competent and reliable when it comes to providing information about various international and regional issues.

He then used questionnaires as the primary sources which were inexpensive in distribution but easy to analyse.

A total of twenty (20) questionnaires were distributed to members of the South Ruimveldt Park community. Reason being, South Ruimveldt houses individuals who were part of a different community and will have knowledge of the activities there. The researcher used the method of random sampling to distribute the questionnaires.

Below is a copy of the data collection instrument.



Queen’s College,

Camp and Thomas Roads,

Georgetown.

11th December, 2014.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a student of Queen’s College, I hereby request your cooperation with this here questionnaire that is necessary for the completion of an Internal Assessment. Take note that your provided information will be kept private. The questionnaire refers to the wide phenomena of **Crime**: an illegal act for which someone can be punished by the government since the activity is against the law. It has a total of twelve (12) questions with eleven (10) open-ended questions and two (2) close-ended questions.

Please respond with a mark (✓) in the box (🞎) beside your responses and write on the dotted lines when it is necessary. Multiple responses are permitted when it is necessary. Thank you.

yours sincerely,

…………………………

Keoma D Grant

1. **Gender**

Male Female

1. **To what ethnic group do you belong?**

Indigenous European African East Indian

Chinese Portuguese

1. **To what age group do you belong?**

Under 18 19 – 25 26 – 35 36 – 45

46 – 55 Over 56

1. **Have you been living in South Ruimveldt your whole life?**

Yes No

1. **If so, how long have you been living here?**

Under 5 years 6 – 10 years Over 10 years

1. **Using a 5 point scale, please rate the level of crime is in your community.**

5 4 3 2 1

1. **In your time living here, were you ever a victim a crime or knew someone who was?**

Yes No

1. **Who do you think commit the crimes in the community:**

Juveniles Adults Both

1. **What form of crime(s) was this?**

Break & entry Murder Drug trafficking

Robbery

If Robbery, was it **armed** or **unarmed**,

1. **How did you or the victim react to the event?**

1. **Please say how the local authorities responded to the situation.**

1. **After you or someone was a victim of a criminal act, what effect(s) did it have?**

Were traumatized were fearful of living Lost valuable property

Began to question if you are truly **protected**

1. Now let us move up a notch. **What effects do you think that these continuous criminal acts will have on your Country and Caribbean region?**

Loss of valuable human resources to delinquent activities

Hinder National development hinder tourist attraction

Increase more criminal activities

1. **Finally, what do you think could and should be done to resolve these issues?**

Develop neighbourhood community watch centres

Place police outposts in key areas of communities

Educate our youths to stop these activities at the source

Ensure that the task force assigned to combat illegal activities are “clean”

**Presentation and analysis of data**

The first graph that the researcher chose to analyse was a bar graph which displayed the age group of individuals living in the South Ruimveldt Park Community. From the responses obtained he discovered that four (4) of them were **UNDER 18**, six (6) were **19 – 25**, four (4) were **26 – 35**, two (2) were **36 – 45**, 1 was **46 – 55** and three (3) were **OVER 56**.

***GRAPH 1.1***

The first chart – a PIE CHART – the researcher chose to examine showed the percentage of respondents that were living in the community their entire life. Sixty five percent **(65 %)** were here their entire life and thirty five percent **(35 %)** said no.

***CHART 1.1***

***CHART 1.2***

Upon further investigation, the researcher noticed that **seventy percent** (70 %) of the respondents said that they were a victim of a crime or knew someone who was, while the other thirty percent (30 %) said they were not a victim of a crime or knew someone who was.

Moving on, since there was not a high crime rate in the community but a lot of persons were victims of a crime and knew someone who was: the researcher found out that thirty five percent (35 %) of the reported crime were committed by juveniles, twenty percent (20 %) by adults and forty five percent (45 %) by both.

***CHART 1.3***

Furthermore, the researcher discovered that 4 persons said they had experienced the act of robbery all of which were **ROBBERY UNDER ARMS**.

***GRAPH 1.2***

Now, on the question of how the victims reacted: All of the respondents said they would **first contact the police**. Secondly, sixty five percent (65 %) or thirteen (13) of the total said they would **make efforts with other community members to apprehend the perpetrator** and the final forty five percent (45 %) or (7) of the respondents said they would **do nothing after calling the police.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Loss of valuable human resources to delinquent activities** | **Hinder National development** | **Increase more criminal activities** | **Hinder tourist attraction** |
| ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ II | ~~IIII~~ | ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ | ~~IIII~~ III |

Lastly, the research sought to find out what could be done to resolve the issues, he found:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Develop neighbourhood community watch centres** | **Place police outposts in key areas of communities** | **Educate our youths to stop these activities at the source** | **Ensure that the task force assigned to combat illegal activities are “clean”** |
| ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ II | ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ III | ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ | ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ |

Analysis of Data

*Graph 1.1* shows that the community has a fairly diverse age group which will aid the researcher in his information gathering since views were pulled from persons with different age ranges who will have different experiences in life. He then found out that sixty five percent (65 %) of the those persons lived here their entire life and therefore will provide even more valid information because of their long term residency and the other thirty five percent who didn’t live there all the time will also be able to share their new experiences.

Moving on, since results were obtained from multiple diverse individuals with differing history in the community it will provide an excellent source of critical information as follows: *CHART 1.2* says that the crime rate is moderate since sixty five percent (65 %) of the respondents rated the crime there as **3 POINTS** out of **FIVE**. Contrary to this seventy percent (70 %) said that they were victim of a crime or knew someone who was. Also, the researcher found out in *CHART 1.3* that thirty five percent (35 %) of the possible committers of crime where juveniles which were more that the adults who gained twenty percent (20 %). Lastly on this section: twelve (12) individuals said the most prevalent crime in the area was **BREAK AND ENTRY,** two (2) said **MURDER** and two (2) also said **DRUG TRAFFICKING** and the final four (4) said **ROBBERY** all of which were under arms.

Now to the final section: the researcher sought to discover what persons do when a crime is commented: surprisingly, all of the respondents said they would first make contact with the police before doing anything else such as: **MAKING EFFORTS TO CONTACT THE POLICE** (sixty five percent (65 %)) said they would do so and the other forty five percent (45 %) said they would not do anything after contacting the police. After these criminal activities were committed the researcher wanted to know what effects they had on the victims. Twelve (12) of the respondents said that the **VALUABLE HUMAN RESOURCE** was lost to these delinquent activities, five (5) said that it **HINDERS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**, all said there would be an **INCREASE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES** and lastly eight (8) said that these activities will **HINDER TOURIST ATTRACTION**. Now, to conclude this analysis the researcher discovered that seventeen (17) suggested that **COMMUNITY WATCHES** should be built, thirteen (13) said that **POLICE OUTPOSTS SHOULD BE PLACED IN KEY AREAS**, all said that **THE YOUTHS SHOULD BE EDUCATED** to stop these activities and lastly all also said that a good **TASK FORCE** should be assigned to **COMBAT THESE ACTIVITIES**.

Discussion of Findings

The respondents of the researcher’s community – South Ruimveldt Park – are very knowledgeable about crime at its adverse effects on society since seventy percent (70 %) of them said they were a victim of a crime or knew someone who was. This therefore means that all the community members will be quite knowledgeable to provide credible information on the topic. As stated above, the seventy percent (70 %) of the respondents where persons who knew someone who was a victim of crime or was themselves. This shows that crime is quite evident in South Ruimveldt Park moreover throughout Guyana. The extent to which the crime affects the community isn’t that threatening since the ratings of crime in the community were low: **SIXTY FIVE PERCENT** (65 %) gave the criminal activities **3 POINTS** out of **5**, **TEN PERCENT** (10 %) said **2 POINTS** out of **5**, another **TEN PERCENT** (10 %) gave **2 POINTS** out **5** and another **TEN PERCENT** gave **1 point** out of 5, **ZERO** (0) gavea full **5 points** and fifteen percent gave the rating of crime. But the researcher also found out that effects are quite terrible since almost all the responses said the valuable human resources are lost to these delinquent activities and all said that if these activities aren’t stopped the following will happen

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Loss of valuable human resources to delinquent activities** | **Hinder National development** | **Increase more criminal activities** | **Hinder tourist attraction** |
| ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ II | ~~IIII~~ | ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ ~~IIII~~ | ~~IIII~~ III |

**TWELVE** of the **TWENTY** respondents said that there is a **LOSS OF VALUABLE HUMAN RESOURCES TO DELINQUENT ACTIVITES; FIVE** of the **TWENTY** said that it **HINDERS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**. ALL said the there would be an **INCREASE IN MORE CRIMINAL ACTIVITE**S and **LASTLY EIGHT** of the **TWENTY** said that it will hinder tourist attraction. All these responses adhere to the ones made by the Governor of the **Eastern Caribbean Central Bank** (ECCB) Sir Dwight Venner who said in an article hosted by the "**Jamaica OBSERVER**" that "**crime is having a negative impact on economic activity and growth in the region.**