

Exploring Social Impacts of Crime on Victims: The Case of Addis Ketema Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Melese Kindu

Abstract

This study aimed to explore the social impacts of crime on victims in Addis Ketema. It employed a cross-sectional research design and a qualitative research approach. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions, and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings showed that among the victims in Addis Ketema sub-city in Addis Ababa, crime hinders social cohesiveness and relationships, particularly among victims, their family members, friends, and acquaintances. The impact of crime extends to every aspect of the victims' lives, causing misery until they recover. Furthermore, crime adversely affects the victims' ability to perform day-to-day activities, engage in social interactions, and maintain relationships. The study also highlighted that criminal target victim by studying their behaviors and vulnerabilities, with factors such as lifestyle, accessibility, social ecology, and carelessness increasing victims' exposure to crime. Victims often bear the burden of caring for their families and relatives, which maybe the very reason that exposed them to crime incidents. As a result of victimization, trust in the police institution, police officers, and surrounding neighborhoods/communities is diminished. Therefore, it is recommended that the police commission establish a victim treatment and handling system.

Keywords: Crime, Victims, Social, Impact, Ethiopia.

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¹ Ethiopian Police University, Email: melesekindu104@gmail.com,
Tel: +251912656315, P.O. Box: 1503/Sendafa, Ethiopia

Introduction

Crime occurs when someone violates the criminal law. In societies, crime is common but is a dangerous social phenomenon (Luka, 2017). It can take many forms and can have a major influence on the well-being of victims, their families, friends and relatives. Those most directly affected may suffer socially, while the fear of crime itself can affect people and restrict their social lives and relationships in many ways (UN, 2010). In other words, crimes can have a life-altering effect on the lives of victims, influencing social occupations, relationships, and daily social activities (Imiera, 2017).

Crime against victims not only impacts them personally but also disrupts social activities and impairs functioning in social relationships (Hanson et al., 2010). Even individuals who have not experienced victimization themselves may be indirectly affected by knowing or being connected to others who have been victimized, including friends, family members, acquaintances, and relatives (Fox et al., 2009).

Victim accessibility refers to situations where victims inadvertently increase their vulnerability to victimization. This can occur through social and technical accessibility factors. Social accessibility in this context refers to the carelessness of victims, such as not locking doors, leaving a party or bar alone, or walking alone in poorly lit public areas like parks at night. In such cases, victims become attractive targets as there is no immediate presence to deter criminal acts. On the other hand, technical accessibility relates to the lack of preventive measures in place, such as inadequate security systems or ineffective locks. These factors contribute to the ease with which criminals can target and victimize individuals (Dastile, 2004).

The social impact of crime encompasses alterations to the victim's lifestyle, often involving avoidance of situations where the offense took place (e.g., avoiding a particular pub, street, or even relocating). These changes can be highly disruptive to the victim's daily life and may have implications for their earning potential. The social effects can manifest as short-term adjustments or have long-term consequences on various aspects of the victim's life (Shapland & Hall, 2007). Enfield (2019) argues that the social impact of crime on victims extends beyond individual

experiences and permeates the broader community and societal fabric. One significant consequence is the fracture of social cohesion as criminal subcultures emerge, replacing traditional values and norms. Community cohesion is often measured by the level of mutual assistance and support among residents. However, as crime incidents occur, there is a disruption in social cohesion, resulting in social distrust and a decline in social interaction and relationships. As the crime extends beyond the individual victim, it affects the entire family unit and negatively influences social relationships and interactions over time. The rationale and motivation of the researcher to select this topic and setting is that Addis Ababa is the capital and largest city of Ethiopia, which is also the nation's commercial, manufacturing, and cultural center. The researcher conducted the study in Addis Ketema, which is one of the eleven sub-cities in Addis Ababa. The researcher conducted a study on social impact of crime on victims depending on Addis Ketema's crime and victimization data report of 2020 -2022 that also shows a place for crime incidents from petty to felony.

The researcher's motivation for conducting this study emanated from acquaintance with the literature and crime reports concerning crime-related problems that the victims faced in the study setting. It is not only the crime; instead, there has been plentiful anti-social and deviant behavior the victims experienced irrespective of their differences in social status. Crime brings anti-social behavior impacts negatively on all people albeit at various levels. It reduces the quality of life for all victims. This eventually results in the social impact of crime on the victim, the family and the community at large.

Statement of the Problem

Crime has a pervasive impact on society, including its social institutions. It also affects the direct victims, their families, and close friends (British Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, 2009). In many ways, it is difficult to predict exactly social impacts of crime an individual victim will suffer. The victims respond differently to similar crimes, and where one person may be seriously affected, another might experience only minor or short-term social impacts. Those who are more vulnerable, such as people who are poor, live in deprived areas or have other life stressors, and those who have been previously victimized, are more likely to have a more

significant social impact on them. The knowledge of victimization and its shock can spread out through a neighborhood, creating a ripple impact (Shapland & Hall, 2007).

As Andargachew (2004) set out, several known reasons influence victimization, among those, contact between an offender and the victim, but the lifestyles of the victims are critical. Victimization rates are highest among those youth who lead an active lifestyle, those who live in big cities, and those who live near bars or taverns.

Studies have been conducted on crime, causes for crime and related matters. For instance, Biruk (2012) made a study on victims' right to participation in criminal proceedings in Ethiopia including lessons drawn from Germany and the United States of America. The finding of this study indicated that victims play a decisive role in the initiation of criminal proceedings particularly regarding crimes punishable upon complaint in Ethiopia. Crime victims are placed at the margin of the present Ethiopian criminal justice system as their role is confined to merely be a witness in their case upon the discretion of the public prosecutor.

Regarding the response of the police to handle and treat the victim, Meklit (2018) studied that victims who reported crimes to the police did so with the expectation of receiving help and seeking justice. The severity of the crime, such as being stabbed, heightened their perception of the need for assistance and retribution. However, many victims expressed dissatisfaction with the police's actions, feeling that they did not do enough to bring the offender to justice in most cases. Consequently, victims who chose not to report to the police believed that seeking assistance from them would be futile. This lack of trust stemmed from a perception that the police would not respond promptly or that they did not consider the reported crime as serious enough to warrant significant attention or action.

Moreover, Lelise (2014) conducted a research that explores service provided for crime victim children in the criminal justice system. The researcher tried to explore the kinds of service provided for the victim children and the professional backgrounds of the service providers. However, like other research outputs mentioned above, Lelise also didn't focus on the social impacts of crime on the victims.

Another study was conducted by Mesay (2019) on the nexus between urban property crime and unemployment in Addis Ababa, focusing on case of Addis Ketema. His findings indicated that unemployment influences the tendency of individuals to commit urban property crime; unemployed individuals highly involve in urban property crime than employed individuals. Mesay also did not attempt to address the impacts of crime on victims in Addis Ketema.

Therefore, based on the above studies explored, for example, it would be possible to assert that previous researches did not focus on the social impacts of crime on victims. Therefore, it is evident that there exists a research gap regarding the social impacts of crime on victims in Addis Ketema sub-city. Mainly, Addis Ketema has massive crime incidents and has so many crime victims. In this sub-city, particular neighborhoods such as *Merkato*, *Autobustera*, and *Mesalemiya* are considered in terms of crime prevalence and numerous crime victims have been recorded as well. Especially, *Merkato* is the biggest open-air market in Addis Ababa as well as in Ethiopia. In *Merkato* and its surroundings, many crimes are commonly committed due to overcrowding. This problem has adversely affected victims because it has social implications.

Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to explore the social impacts of crime on victims in Addis Ketema, Addis Ababa. It specifically focused on understanding the effects of crime on victims' social relationships and interactions, including changes in social dynamics and the potential for increased social isolation or strained relationships. Additionally, the study aimed to examine the response of the police to treat the victims, assessing the effectiveness and efficiency in handling cases and providing support. The work sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of the social consequences of crime on victims, by focusing on their experiences in terms of social relationships, interactions, and interactions with law enforcement and the community at large.

Review of Related Literature

Structural, cultural, and social process models are more apt to look at societal conditions to explain crime patterns and criminal behavior. Sociologists argue that explanations of crime and delinquency as an individual-level phenomenon fail to account for the consistent social patterns of the behavior. Structural model asserts crime is best seen as an expression of structural changes in the societal values, and changing roles and relationships of the victims. They look at

the social forces producing criminal behavior, including neighborhood condition, socialization, and group interaction between the criminal and victim. The social structure theories tie crime rates to social conditions and cultural values (Nega & Berhanu, 2015).

Criminologists also refer to the ecology of victimization as to where, when, and how people are victimized. According to the National Crime Victims Survey, violent crimes are slightly more likely to take place in an open, public area such as a street, a park, or a field, in a school building, or at a commercial establishment such as tavern, during the day time or early evening hours (Siegel, 2013).

Violent crimes take place most often at the night than at the day time. However, every non-violent offence or less serious forms of violence such as pick-pocketing, purse snatching and personal larcenies or theft take place often during day time. It is also argued that for serious offences or felonies, armed robbery, aggravated assault occur mostly at night but lesser serious offences such as assault and un-armed robberies occur mostly during the day (Siegel, 2013). Most often, street crimes take place during the day. But conventional crimes most often occur at night. Crimes of rape and simple assault occur mostly in the home. It is, however, argued that a significant number of rapes, robberies, and aggravated assault do occur in public places (Alex, 2021).

As a result of potential victims who live in close proximity to potential offenders (geographical proximity) are likely to be at risk of victimization. In this regard, potential offenders are more likely to commit crimes in areas close to their victims' resident. Thus, individuals living in areas where motivated offenders are present are more likely to be perceived as suitable targets for commission of the crime and victimization of the potential victims.

Crime pattern theory is also used to understand why crimes are committed in particular areas and on particular victims. The pattern of crime in a certain area is not random; it is either planned or opportunistic to victimize the potential victims. Crime occurs when the victim or target meets with that of an offender in the activity space or closer to them (Yeshimar, 2019).

There is growing evidence that crime victims are more likely to commit crime themselves. Being abused or neglected increase the odds [anti-social] of being arrested, either as a juvenile or an adult. Most violent crime also leads to the loss of productivity through the incapacity of the victims. The effects of victimization, particularly of victims' social relationship and other social facilities, may also ripple out through the community (Alex, 2021).

Research Design and Methodology

Research design of the study: By the nature of this study, the researcher used a descriptive research design, which is appropriate to explore the social impacts of crime on victims. It helps to describe a data collected through interviews and focus group discussion along with literature review. In terms of the time phase, a cross-sectional research design is used in the study in which the process of collection data was undertaken at the present time.

Research approach of the study: The study used a qualitative research approach with an assumption that the approach enables the researcher to explore and understand multiple meanings the individuals or groups ascribes to a social or human problem (Creswell, 2009). As such, this qualitative approach helps the researcher to understand the meanings people assign to social phenomena and to elucidate the mental processes underlying behaviors. Therefore, this study used a qualitative research approach to explore the complex subjective understandings the social impacts crime on victims and the experiences of victim persons.

Methods and instruments of data collection

As mentioned above, the nature of this research invites for a qualitative approach and following that qualitative methods are used for data collection. Accordingly, this study used in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and documentary analysis. The interview guide and focus group discussion questions were open-ended having a semi-structured format prepared to obtain data on the social impacts of crime on victims.

Sampling techniques and target participants/informants

The researcher took a sample of twenty-nine (29) crime victims for in-depth interviews selected based on snowball sampling techniques. Among those, 17 victims were males and 12 victims

were females. Focus group discussion (FGD) participants were selected from the crime victims in line with snowball sampling. Besides, members of the local police participated in FGDs who were selected through the judgmental sampling technique. Three FGDs were conducted. In the first FGD, eight victim informants participated; in the second FGD, other eight victim informants participated; and in the third FGD, ten police officers participated. FGDs have been conducted in the compound of community policing stations of respective FGD participants. Moreover, fourteen (14) police officers and three (3) prosecutors have participated as either as key or in-depth informant interviewees selected based on the judgmental sample technique in Addis Ketema.

Procedures of data collection

The data gathering tools were designed based on the review of related literature and research objectives at hand. The researcher solicited informed consent from the research participants so as to participate in the research. During interviews and FGD sessions, the researcher took notes of the responses of the informants in the notebook. The researcher himself has conducted the interviews, and the audiotape recording was made based on the permission of the participants/informants. The interview and discussion sessions were conducted in Amharic language and then translated to English.

Methods of Data Analysis

Qualitative data that were collected using open-ended questions were analyzed through thematic analysis, which involves identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns and themes within the data. This method qualitative data analysis is used to understand the subjective meanings that people being studied attach to their victimization experiences as well as socially categorized realities can be also understood and interpreted. Therefore, in order to arrive at a thematic analysis, written note and tape-record interview data and focus group discussion results were transcribed, coded and categorized before they were finally analyzed. Hence, first, the researcher transcribed the written notes, audiotaped focus group discussions, and semi-structured interviews verbatim in collaboration.

The transcription was arranged according to the research questions, and the researcher carefully tried to understand what the transcription would say. Then, the researcher pointed out ideas related to each research objectives based on revision of the transcription. Following this, the researcher kept all those ideas separately with the purpose of not mixing them one another and to draw easily based on the meaning they constitute. To this end, all data that were obtained through literature review, interviews and focus group discussions were analyzed themes.

Results and Discussion

This part of the article mainly deals with the analysis of the findings of the study focused on the social impacts of crime on victims, more importantly the impacts of crime on the victims' social relationships and interactions, and the response of the police to crime incidents and the victims handling or treatment mechanism.

Social Impacts of Crime on Victims

In terms of the role of social support among crime victims, more broadly, studies indicate that perceptions of lower levels of social support are associated with increased levels of emotional distress following victimization. Social support might initially serve as a buffer to reduce adverse consequences related to crime victimization. However, repeated victimization is exposes to chronic stressors that may alter victims' perceptions of available social support that exacerbates subsequent levels of distress (Hanson et al., 2010). Added to this, increasing social contact and engagement are essential targets for early interventions for crime victims (Gutner et al., 2006), and victims who increase or continue positive social interactions following trauma often show better adjustment and more resilience (Hanson et al., 2010).

As to the findings of this research, there are several social impacts that the crime victims and their families face. A crime impact may emerge from the feature of physical deterioration in the mind of victims pretending crime problems. It has social harm; sometimes victims' added workload on police officers' and even the criminals harass and abuse their relatives; as a result, their family ties are broken, they hurt their family, and the family lives in poverty. An informant who is a crime victim stated,

The crime was committed on Ethiopian Epiphany Holiday, and life became miserable; I was disappointed for not visiting my family, as a result of the commission of crime and victimization (Victim of snatching, female and age 31).

One victim portrayed "*crime brought multidimensional impacts on my life. Because of the injury, I was absent from my work or job, and that directly affected my life at all*" (Victim of physical injury, male and age 38).

Crime is responsible for the instability occurring in social and family ties (Ukwayi, Angioha & Ojongejoh, 2017). Crime produces victims, changing neighborhood conditions, lost trust in residences, and low group interaction. As a result, crime has a tremendous impact on victim life, and it disturbs the life of the victims and their relatives. One crime victim described the impacts of crime on her social life as follows:

Because of losing all the significant contacts with the stolen phone, I have suffered a lot in my personal and social life; the influence was very bad. I suffered too much in my life meanwhile the offender has taken vital materials that I had in my bag which was included a traditional medicine for blood pressure (Victim of larceny, female, age 35).

The victim informants' explanation of the social impacts of crime has a similar to Shapland and Hall (2007) who stated that crime limits victims' social life or changes victims' lifestyles, such as by restricting them going to places like where the crime occurred or being afraid to go out altogether, because of unease or fears of re-victimization.

In support of this idea, an FGD conducted with victims portrayed they have miserableness in life, isolating or alienating themselves from societal interactions and relationships. Quite often, social cohesion measured in terms of the extent to which residents render assistance to one another; as a result of crime incidents, disruption of social cohesion has occurred. The FGD participants stressed that the crime affects morale, the social and every aspect of victims' lives become miserable due to the crime, particularly until the victims recover. The impact of crime damages social relationships particularly involving the victim and other family members, friends and acquaintances like even the offender who known the victims.

Impacts of Crime on Victims' Family

Crime has multi- dimensional impacts on victims' families and individuals closer to them. One victim shared the impact of crime on her family as follows: "My plan to help my family went unsuccessful and in reverse, they spent money on me. I don't even now remember the contacts (phone numbers) of my kin since I isolated myself as a result of crime victimization" (Victim of snatching, female and age 39). One victim interviewee added the impact of crime on himself and his family as follows:

My family has suffered too much, including being absent from work while following my medical treatment, and also suffered a feeling of disappointment. The impact was massive because I resigned from my job, and significant others wasted their time and became absent from work and school so as to follow up on my treatment. Additionally, while attempting to stop the crime on me, my brother was injured, and as a result, both of us were absent from work, and this directly affected our relative and household.

Impacts of Crime on Victims' Social Relationships and Interactions

Some victims withdraw from social relation and interaction after experiencing crime victimization. Even though social contact, interaction and engagement are important for victim support and help so as to assist the victims in recovering within a short period from that victimization and harm, the opposite also happens as the victims isolate themselves from society making difficult to give them a social support.

An informant explained the changes in his relationship and interaction with his friends after he became a victim of a certain crime incident. He portrayed it in the following way: "For a long time, I suspended the relationship with my friends because they began mocking my injury; I feel ashamed. Subsequently, it affected my relation with other social interaction and societal issues" (Victim of physical injury, male and age 35).

Another victim also shared her experience of social interaction and relation after she had victimization: "I lost all my contacts with the stolen phone, and there was a high negative impact on my relationship with relatives, kinships, friends, and significant others. It brought a negative

impact on my social life because I could not exchange phone calls with my relatives and friends" (Victim of snatching, female and age 37).

According to the foregoing informant statements, victims' social connection became miserable in many ways because of the crimes against the victims. The restriction of crime victims' social and work life changed victims' lifestyles. Thus, it also decreased social relations with their family, friends, acquaintances and neighbors. Consequently, victims were isolated from societal ties, support, connectedness, and relationships within the community.

How the Police Handles and Treats the Victims

Victim FGD participants portrayed that some of the police officers handle and treat the victims in a decent manner by advising, helping, and showing empathy, which is highly satisfactory. Nevertheless, there is a problem with some of them: they treat the victims in an inhumane manner like by devaluing their level of injury and victimization by not giving due emphasis. Particularly, when the police officers' recognize that the case they are handling is a re-victimized person's case, they try to blame the victim by saying that it is their own fault.

When the case is about the victims who lost their money, police support them temporarily by contributing a certain amount of money for food and accommodation. Mainly, if the snatching and monetary thefts take place on victims who come from the countryside, police provide temporary support for the victims in collaboration with the federal police just by paying for their food and accommodation expenses. As one police officer described:

“Informally, as much as the police can, police provide temporary support for the victims of crime from their own pocket money as humanity, beyond police duty. In collaboration with the federal road and transport authority and the traffic offices, police officers provide free transport for victims of crime (if they want to go to the countryside). Still, police officers do their best to advise victims to relieve themselves from fear and worry” (Crime prevention police officer, male and age 36).

As one prosecutor explained, from the beginning, whether an act is a crime must be legally established by the police based on the victim's presentation of their case. Then, if it is established a crime, they begin organizing a rapport/docket; if not, they close the case by reconciling the disputants. (Prosecutor, male, and age 39).

Police rendering services to the victims are evaluated in line with the satisfaction level of service based on the feedback and statements of the victims and the residents. Though the police officers give treatment and service to the victims, it is not possible to say that the treatment and service for the victims are adequate and satisfactory. Thus, as the researcher reviewed the police documents, in the Addis Ababa Police Commission, police officers did not have any guidelines on how to approach and handle victims. The police laws (proclamations and regulations), even at the federal level (federal police commission) do not say anything about the handling of crime victims. That is why each police officer treats victims in their methods.

FGD participants who are police officers said that the police commission does not have regulation and directive that provides for procedures for how to treat, handle, and serve victims. Due to the absence of directives and regulations, they could not provide the treatment that the victims need and deserve. Because of the lack binding guidelines, the way police treat the victims varies from police officers to police officers. Another problem is the lack of law that gives special protection to the witnesses. Generally, the aforementioned problems made most of the job to be done based on the personal goodwill of the police.

Even though, there is no binding law regulating the police handling mechanisms of the victims, they treat and handle the victim based on the Citizens' Charter (*yezegoch charter*), a manual that was ratified in 2016. The charter declares that the communities have a right to be served appropriately, but the police are not abiding the terms of the charter. Further, because of problems with the prosecutors, crime investigators and, police officers, victims and witnesses visit the police stations three to five times to make statements; eventually being hopeless, they suspend the entire process. When the prosecutor and crime investigation police officer will not be available at the office simultaneously, and when the interrogation results given by the complainant to the two bodies vary, the victim will be given another appointment (Crime investigation police officer, male and age 36).

In developed countries, there is a police-based victim service; several communities have established police-based victim service units/programs. Police-based services also provide emotional support, practical assistance, general information about the criminal justice system, and referrals (Illingworth, 2007).

In Ethiopia, there is no police-based victims' service practice, and the police institution and police officers do not give a chance for the communities to establish and participate in police-based victim service activities. As the researcher, I assessed the proclamations and directives of the Addis Ababa police commission, but most of the law is about the suspect or criminal, and there is no legal support for the victim. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that the complainants and victims are not getting the appropriate service.

Crime Victims' Trust in Police Institution and Police Officers

Procedural difficulties in the criminal justice system and fear of provocation by the offender frustrate victims from reporting their cases to the police officers. Hence, the victims may not report many property crimes to the police. The police may not record it even though the crime is reported to them for different reasons related to administration, personal problems, political motives, and performance evaluation purposes (Nega & Berhanu, 2014). One victim portrayed his crime report experiences in the following way:

One day, I went to report the crime incident to the police, and then the police officer took my statement. However, the police officer did not speak to me about the situation. He also did say nothing. Surprisingly, he said that I just do not have to go there and give a statement for him (Victim of larceny, male and age 48).

However, other victims acknowledged that they have benefited from the police support. The service obtained from the police officer helped them manage the impact of crime and my victimization experience. The police officer's service was worthy; they assisted them through. An informant admitted "I usually called and communicate with the police officer when strange things happen in my residence".

Accordingly, the police FGD participants explained that the crime committed against the victims was high in number, and they could not address every question of the victim's claim. Moreover, the crime victims reported to the police the crime incident that happened during the night, such as their stolen properties; but in some cases, they do not have any clue about the suspects and the crime situation. Because of this, the police may not be able to help them. Because of all this, the victims lose confidence in the police. Consequently, they try to recover their stolen property through negotiation with the criminals/thieves through informal means.

Yet, some informants also agreed that they have trust the police. One key informant police officer stated:

The victims do have trust in police. They come and report their problems to the police officers, and if things are under their control, they try to solve them. If it is beyond the police officer's capacity, they transfer the case to the next police leader based on the chain of command. Especially when conflicts that happen between husbands and wives and when they come to the police station, they tell us their problems and police officers reconcile, and because of that, some families now live in peace.

Concerning the victims' trust on police organization and police officers, the interviewees evaluated and explained their experiences based on the service that obtained and the willingness of police officers for responding to crime incidents. Based on that evaluation, one victim interviewee stated her feeling in the following way:

I have a huge trust in the police members after I got back my stolen property because of their hard work. Therefore, I have confidence and trust in the police institution and its members. Because, they have done as much as they could to handle the situation (Victim of larceny, female and age 39).

Compatible to the above, another victim also described his trust in police organization and police members as follows: "I trust the police because we feel secure because of their hard work to maintain and keep peace in our neighborhoods" (Victim of battery, male, and age 27). However,

one victim explained her feelings and perception concerning trust in police based on police responses to crime incidents and rendering service to the victim in the following.

Even though their response is not satisfactory, I still have confidence in the police because there is no other option rather than going to the police station to report the commission of a crime against me (Victim of robbery, female and age 30).

From the above informants' statements, making a follow-up about the crime case process from the very beginning up to the last phase is essential to evaluate the police organization and the police officers' work. In this regard, when the police officers treat victims with respect and understand the pain and case by sharing relevant information, it subsequently helps the victims trust the police officers. Yet, informants who are victims still have trust in police organizations and police officers, with its weakness on the one hand. On the other hand, other victim informants have no trust, because of their dissatisfaction with police service; their feelings indicated that they lost trust in police and have a negative perception of police institutions and police officers.

In support of the above informants' statement, Davies, Francis, and Greer (2017) stated that some victims continue to be further traumatized and victimized by inappropriate treatment from police officer services and other official bodies and authorities that align with police institutions. Likewise, Dawit (2019) described that the victims have some general expectations from the police. The police meet positive expectations of the victims, the victims and the police linkage will stay at the same level or become well; however, if the police do not meet the expectations of the persons, it will result in the victims' distrust, impaired judgment and bad feelings towards the police and the institutions.

Discussion

The social impacts of crime victimization are not limited to the victims. The family members, close relatives, friends, and society members are also disturbed. Victimization can impact an individual's ability to perform across a variety of roles, including those related to parenting, intimate relationships, and occupational and social functioning. It can also cause disruptions in

social activities and impaired functioning in social relationships/interactions. Multiple studies have found that sexual assault victims experience subsequent impairments in their social and leisure activities (Khan, 2022). Crime has an impact not only on primary and secondary victims but also on the entire community. Crimes, such as kidnappings and sexual assaults, can also have a vast social effect (New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy [NJVAA], 2021).

Langton and Truman (2014) stated that the victims of serious violent crimes such as rape or sexual assault, armed robbery, or aggravated assault have reported to the police based on the experience of social problems as a result of their victimization. Further, social problems are the experience of feelings of moderate to severe distress and significant problems with family members or friends, including the victims having an inability to trust or not feeling as close after the victimization.

As stated in the findings of this study, the victims have no trust because they are dissatisfied with police service; their feelings indicated that they lost confidence in the police, and have a negative perception towards the police institutions and the police officers. Compatible with the above statement, Khan's (2022) finding has shown that the social impacts of crime have affected the relationships between victims and offenders, the interactions between victims and the criminal justice system(the police and courts, and correctional officials), and the connections between victims and other social groups and institutions, and social movements.

In Ethiopia, there is no police-based victims' service practice, and the police institution and the police officers did not give a chance for the victims to establish and participate in police-based victim service activities. As the researcher assessed the proclamations and the directives of the Addis Ababa police commission, laws are prescribed about the suspects or the criminals' rights and obligations. However, it does not tell legal supports and guarantees related to the victims. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that the complainants and the victims are not getting the appropriate service.

As this study has shown based on primary and data and review of literature such as Imiera (2017); Alex (2021); Khan (2022) indicate, some social impacts of crime on the victims are presented as follows:

First, it diminishes victims' security. Crime and security go hand in hand; when one increases, the other typically decreases in response. Higher rates of criminal activity are going to negatively impact security beyond the action of a crime being committed. Victims are actually going to feel like they are not secure when they learn a crime has happened in their area. The victims may take action as a result, and those actions may put themselves and others in danger if victims are not careful.

Second, it messes up order and creates chaos. Crime certainly goes against the established social rules, which can prevent a victim from functioning properly. It's counteractive to how things operate, and severe cases can be incredibly distressing when they occur on a large scale (like violence). Criminal acts have essentially been a system of turning the social order upside down for years, and it has historically been a favored scheme of criminal organizations. Being able to interrupt the social order of a victim is powerful-especially when it's well executed and the chaos that comes from it can be an easy way to undertake control.

Third, it hampers victim collaboration and trust. Any action that hinders victim safety will impact the trust present throughout the victims. Specifically, the victims do not have trust; the victims are supposed to protect them. When there is a lack of confidence in a victim and community, its ability to cooperate is encumbered. Victims do not necessarily want to work with someone that they do not trust, and the aftermath of their social relationship can be impacted.

Fourth, crime also causes neighborhood displacement. As crime rates escalate, victims may feel insecure and be more inclined to move to secure areas, leading to neighborhood dislocation and social disorganization.

Fifth, it could be the case that higher crime rates result in out-migration and constrain positive social interactions. It might also be the case that criminal activity erodes social interaction and capital because it engages individuals in crime networks and keeps them away from educational and occupational opportunities.

As Alex (2021) stated, it is pertinent and glaring that the effect of crime has a diverse impact on among the victim, individual and the society. The victims of crime encounter multiple problems which come both from the angle of criminal justice system and the society such as neglect in the justice processes, harassment and intimidation in the hands of the police and criminal court of justice, social impact/cost and the rest.

Conclusion

This research has been conducted to explore the social impacts of crime on victims in Addis Ketema. The researcher was mainly motivated to undertake the study to explore the social impacts of crime on the victims more specifically focused on the impacts of crime on victims' social relationships and interactions: and identify the response of police towards victims' treatment. Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn.

The victims are more affected by crime because of their lifestyles, attractiveness, accessibility, personal negligence, and lack of enough patrol police. Because of this, they are vulnerable to crime incidents, as they tend to bear the extended burden of caring for their family and relatives. As a result of crime, the victims have a little level of social support and interaction linked with an increased level of victimization. Moreover, crime victimization adversely affects the victims' ability to perform their jobs and social interaction at large. Generally, being a victim of crime has an impact on the victim's social life, work life, and lifestyle changes. Further, victims are restricted to going to places where the crime has occurred because of fears of re-victimization. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the experience of victimization results in an increased effect on victims and victims' families and spreads into their closer relatives.

Recommendations

The study suggests the following are important points in order to minimize crime incidents and reduce the social impacts of crime on victims in Addis Ketema.

- Although the result of the study indicated the gap that Addis Ababa police commission does not have a law for victim treatment and handling. The researcher strongly

recommends that the commission should prepare a victim treatment and handling law, this would lead to an improvement of the police service to the victims.

- The researcher suggests that the crime investigation police officers should inform to the victims the outcome of their investigation process with detailed information; because of this, the victims could have trust on police and may be reduced their disappointments.
- This study has described that some victim informants were victimized due to their recklessness about the risk of crime. Therefore, the police institution should make awareness creation towards to the community for the sake of rescue of people from crime harms and it helps to reduce the burden on police work. On the other hand, victims should give due attention to the severity of crime, and when they go to crime hotspot areas they should move in caution and within special attention.
- The researcher suggests further study is needed to build on existing knowledge and make a continuous improvement that helps to save and rescue people from potential crime incidents and victimization.

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