

Uncovering Factors Influencing Household Engagement in Crime in Diani Location, Kwale County

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ABSTRACT

Crime is a consequential global plight restraining economic growth and social advancement. In Kenya, particularly in the coastal region, crime and additional cases coupled with general security are barriers to the advancements pushed for society's well-being and development. The connection between crime and household well-being is not just antagonistic, but it is also practical and thus warrants this study. In this realization, this study was embarked on to assess the factors influencing household engagement in crime in Diani Location, Msambweni Sub-County, Kwale County. The study aimed to answer; what enhances household engagement in crime in the family unit in Diani location, Msambweni Sub County. A total of three hundred and fifty-one (351) participants were sampled from the study population. The research utilized both qualitative and quantitative designs. In-depth interviews, Key informant interviews, and focused group discussions were explored during the study. The research concluded that various factors, including family structure, peer influence, unemployment, drugs, and school dropout, influence household/community engagement in crime in Diani. The study recommends that policy should target and sustain family unit welfare by dealing with the causes of crime. Adaption techniques at local and policy levels can significantly reduce and manage crime and promote community well-being. A diligent mix of resources is indispensable, including Education/capacity building, fostering intact families' existence, creating Job/business opportunities, institutional empowerment/engagement, Leadership goodwill, and in-depth stakeholder engagement.

Keywords: Household; Community, crime; Security and Stakeholders

INTRODUCTION

Security and justice are essential prerequisites for community development, peace, and stability. Moreover, consideration for all human privileges and absolute freedoms is pivotal [1]. Crime has been a worldwide puzzle, especially in urban centers, thus compromising community development and social stability [2]. Crime is primarily a prerequisite of poverty, insecurity, unemployment, living circumstances, and community values, among other elements that propel residents to engage in unlawful activities. Elementary aspects of emphasis to achieve community development should be the improvement of the investment climate. The

community investment environment is repeatedly jeopardized by insecurity. Peace and security are essential to achieving stability and community development worldwide [1]. Criminality, especially in metropolitan structures, has arisen as an influential predicament worldwide that impedes economic growth and social advancement [2]. Criminals are driven to commit criminalities because of joblessness, poverty, and instability of peace and security. World Bank's Investment comprehensive growth plan believes in investing in the climate as a vital pillar for poverty mitigation and long-term social and economic growth [3]. Crimes' outcomes and impact are widely assorted, as short-term or last a lifetime, but skim just about everyone [4]. Death is the most significant outlay of crime, but others include vandalism, medical expenses, and poverty. Crime generally goes against the enduring social rules, which deter society from normal functioning. Crime in severe circumstances is extremely devastating as they involve brutality if they happen extensively. Criminal organizations have also been used to shift the social order of a community by applying their illegal actions that cause disarray; on some occasions, this has led to a power shift in the community if well implemented [5].

African growth is greatly impeded by the high crime rate cases [6]. Fast and reckless criminal activities have been reported in regions with many residents, in towns and metropolitan areas [7]. It has also been established that societies and most nations waste a lot of public funds and time on Police departments, chasing criminals, building prisons, tribunals, treatment schedules, salaries of prosecutors, security guards, magistrates, and social workers, and amount of time spent by victims, families, lawbreakers and juries in court hearings [8]. In Kenya, the rising criminal-related cases have become a real challenge to the community and negatively impact to the economy [9]. There is a serious problem of insecurity in Kenya's coastal region, which affects the tourism sector as the region's main socioeconomic activity [10]. Tourism flourishes in secure environments. In Kwale County and the coastal region, the predominant insecurity crisis has hampered tourism and other livelihood exercises and made it challenging to enhance a society's impression and nature. To protect this sector and the community development affected by crime, there is a need to conduct a study to assess factors influencing household engagement in crime in Diani, Msambweni Sub-county, Kwale County..

Problem Statement

Crime has been a major challenge facing governments worldwide [11]. The activities of crime have resulted to deaths and other vices to individuals and the community at large. Crime is thus rated as a major threat to the human race as well as to the global economy. Noted crimes among nations which include armed robbery, drug trafficking, drug abuse, rape, banditry, kidnapping among others. The rising cases of crime have been attributed to moral decay within the community as well as the inability by the security agents to swiftly handle the aforementioned vices which has resulted to retarded development and growth in most regions within the globe. All of these negatively impact on households and community at large [3].

Increased crime is been a primary test in Kenya. Over time, security concerns has been a serious subject families [12]. The administrative security personnel are struggling to achieve their purpose of crime containment. This has left a majority of the majority of residents and neighbouring communities in persistent anxiety of insecurity. For instance, in Msambweni Sub-County, Kwale County, the available data reveal a worsening security situation. The majority of residents and neighbouring communities are in constant fear of insecurity due to the high cases of crime rate. Over the last ten years, Msambweni Sub-County, Kwale County, has experienced

increased crime rates. According to the KNBS (2019) [13], the crime reported in 2015-2019 rose from 61,826 to 73,786, an increase of 19.4%. The figures also demonstrate that at 12 and 15 years of age, 30% of young Kwale residents committed their first offenses. The most committed crimes in the Diani include; drug trafficking, members of outlawed gangs, loitering, and prostitution [14]. Thus, there is need to evaluate factors that promote increased crime for ultimate mitigations and promotion of security in the area.

NCRC (2018) [15] studied organized criminal gangs. The research generally focused on proliferation of organized criminal gangs but never focused on impact particularly on household well-being. The research discovered that organized crime has been progressing at an unprecedented rate. The criminal groups have enlarged from the 33 banned groups in 2010 to 326 groups identified in 2017. This is a substantial growth of 897% in 7 years or an annual growth of 128%. Further, the research finding established Kwale County as number 7 with fifteen groups after Nairobi (52), Mombasa (43), Nakuru (25), Bungoma (23), Kisumu (19), Kakamega (16), and Kwale (15). This thus begs the questions what could be factors influencing household engagement in crime in Diani location, Msambweni Sub County in Kwale County?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework discusses theories that guided this research. Social disorganization theory guided this study. This theory has an association between crime, societal control, and neighbourhood organization [16]. Good societal morals, intact families, and good associations among families and friends are the essential principles of a stable neighbourhood [17]. Norms, morals, and structured families are prerequisites to a peaceful society [18]. The interruption of household control mechanisms and the dysfunction of institutions bring about a disorganized community. The disruption can be enhanced by poverty, urbanization and rapid industrialization. Further studies highlights that the disturbance of the informal and formal community control structures results from rapid population growth that strains social bonds [19].

Low socio-economic status neighbourhoods impede the community from initiating a well-organized and robust system [20]. Besides, in these types of societies, voluntary participation is limited. Therefore, law-breaking increases, thus promoting crime and insecurity. When a community establishes a social connection, the residents' capacity for social regulation and security increases [21]. Such communities can identify outsiders and safeguard their safety in general. Network resilience depends on the extent to which a community directly links to social networks [22]. Communal links deter defiant behaviours and safeguard the community from intruders who visit the area to cause harm. Ultimately community security is enhanced [23].

In a test model of social disorganization, it established that a high rate of household members' movement impedes the growth of solid friendships among area residents by boosting anonymity with neighbours [24]. Therefore, the household heads cannot monitor their children and local youths as a community jointly. Furthermore, community residents' movement negatively affects the building of social ties. Solid and social relations are built over time, contributing to community social organization. Thus, the theory guides the study to assess and establish the factors influencing household engagement in crime.

Theoretical Framework.

Household engagement in the family structure set-up emphasis serves as a fruitful basis for improving family structure theory and research and engagement in crime [25]. Existing empirical research is equivocal on the relative significance of household engagement and criminal susceptibility. Other studies suggest that household members engaging modulates the impact of engagement in crime among the household members [3]. However, in a different study, family members' engagement had a robust effect on criminality [5]. A comprehensive National Youth Survey resulted in ambiguous connections between household structure and criminal risk [7]. However, one element of the research is clear: single parenthood in itself is not linked to criminal risk. In line with studies, the role of parental ties in households for single and two parents was examined [26]. They established that if a child is linked strongly to a parent, a second parent's attachment has little effect on future crime reduction. In addition, single-parent families will not lead to crime until the kid is closely linked to the parent in custody. These divergent findings show concerns lessened by the possible confusing effects of household engagement studies on criminal susceptibility and vice versa. A different study discovered that children living with their biological mothers and another man were much more likely to engage in crime than people living with a single parent. Moreover, while the aforementioned has not identified the influence of the household structure on susceptibility to crime in a multivariate setting, the degrees of sensitivity to crime are evident in different families. This shows that household structure is crucial in understanding the link between household engagement and crime risk.

A study on parenting style has shown that parenting, discipline, and monitoring contribute substantially to crime susceptibility [28]. The study's results reveal a link between parental surveillance, parental rejection, inadequate punishment techniques, and crime and involvement in various groups. When parents socialize their children, they essentially encourage some criminal conduct among them by employing too strict discipline and promoting violence. Familiar elements, such as neglect of the parents, conflict, and disturbance with the families, child sexual abuse, and parental crime, can lead to crime and aggressive conduct. Despite challenging settings, parental warmth, monitoring, support, and participation allow children to deal with contesting decisions. The presence or lack of role models improves crime engagement and can be linked to inappropriate behaviour, psychological well-being, and academic involvement concerns [29].

Neglectful parenting has substantial causes that build teenagers' engagement in crime [30]. An early investigator conducted a transversal crime-non-delinquent investigation, finding that the likelihood of conviction among the boys who convicted dads was very high [31]. This family habit is not restricted to parents, especially fathers, but is likely to promote crime to other family members. Anti-social conduct is closely associated with engagement of criminal counterparts [32]. Longitudinal research has shown that anti-social participation was the only characteristic that had a direct influence on later crimes other than before. Adolescent anti-social behaviour has been related to factors including the conduct of peer criminality, the peer's approval of crimes, connection or loyalty to group and peer pressure for crime. The number of teenagers spending with their friends has increased dramatically, and during this era, peers have become essential [33]. Furthermore, in late adolescence, peers seem to be most significant, their significance peaking at around 17 years and then diminishing. Therefore, the decrease in crime beyond 18 years simultaneously reduces the relevance of peers, even those influenced

by crime. Parental monitoring inadequacy and anti-social behaviour in 4th grade are associated with 6th-grade crime peers [31]. In adolescence, peer influence susceptibility is negatively linked to parental interactions. In other studies, peers' effect varies according to parents' influence [29]. Generally speaking, the impact of peers is more substantial among kids and young people with less parental involvement.

The widespread incidences of crime due to the neighbourhood factor often result from the wide socio-economic gap between the rich and the poor, the high unemployment rate, and inverted societal values among dwellers [2]. Besides, the lived reality of informal housing and unplanned neighbourhoods contributes significantly to insecurity. Contextual neighbourhood variables provide the methods for neighbourhood disorder and crime to occur [1]. Neighbourhoods with limited access to resources and restricted methods of social control providing opportunities for change are less likely to resist the incidence and reduce the prevalence of anti-social behaviour and crime. In addition, these neighbourhoods are also less likely to have the community resources to be able to support the people at risk of developing adverse physical and mental health outcomes through acute and chronic exposure to anti-social and criminal behaviour [11]

Neighborhoods, in terms of geographical distinctions in physical and social settings, affect the scope to which crime and tension differ across the region [34]. The location may entail supermarkets, fast food eateries, alcohol outlets, malls, bakeries, and clothing stores. In these areas, the people with impact may include school leaders, religious leaders, community opinion leaders, community-based group leaders, and sports leaders. The stability of leadership within the society to manage crime is based on community characteristics [9]. Geographical elements of the physical and social backgrounds can influence the spatial variation of crime and the spatial variation in the region's community development with engagement in crime [4].

RESEARCH DESIGN

A descriptive design was employed during the research. Descriptive research is interested in where, what, when, or how much of the phenomena. In this study, the researcher is relatively familiar with the critical aspects of the phenomenon but needs to gain more knowledge regarding the characteristics and nature of the details. The design was used to understand better factors influencing household engagement in crime in Diani, Msambweni sub-county, Kwale County, through the presentation of both qualitative and quantitative data [35]. The purpose of the research was to collect information about existing circumstances, prevailing behaviours, beliefs and attitudes, ongoing processes and trends by utilizing a descriptive, cross-sectional survey.

Study Population

The research targeted the household head from every household in Diani Location. The target population was 28,369 households in Diani Location. The location is characterized by Bongwe sub-location (2,540 households); Gombato sublocation (9,881 households) and Ukunda sub-location (15,948 households) as the study target population. Additional data was obtained from relevant Key informants.

Sample size

Diani location was selected purposively motivated by the fact that the area is marked as a crime hot spot in criminal activities compared to other parts of Kwale County [10].

This study used a systematic sampling method to select 10% of the target population. According to [35] a sample size of 10% to 20% is a good indication of the target population.

The sample size was calculated using Yamane's sample size calculation process (Yamane, 1967).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

This approach is appropriate if the percentage of the population with an interest attribute is known. Also, the algorithm may be used to pick the final responders for random sampling.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where

N = the desired sample size

N = the population under study which in this case is 28,369 households.

e = the desired margin of error is set at 95% (0.05)

10% of 28,369 = 2837

Thus, desired sample size:

$$\frac{2837}{1 + 2837(0.05)^2} = 351$$

Sampling Procedure

Stratified proportional sample was used to calculate the number of responders from Bongwe, Gombato and Ukunda Sub-location in Diani Location. Stratified proportional sampling is a probability sampling approach where interviewees are taken from population units (Stratus) [36]. In order to choose research participants, household heads were selected using the random approach for systemic sampling. That means that any household in the target population within every stratum was equally likely to be picked. The units (strata) were the 3 sub-locations located in Diani Location, where random sampling was used.

Using systematic random sampling, sampling frame was numbered from 1 then sampling interval was calculated. Random start was selected between 1 and the sampling interval be calculated by dividing the target population with the sample size. The interval was then assigned the N^{th} number in the sampling frame. The first participant for the study was found by adding $1 + N^{\text{th}}$

For example in Ukunda $1 + 81 = 82$. The 82th Household was the first respondent to be selected as a respondent in Ukunda. The subsequent household was selected by repeatedly adding the sample interval until the desired sample size of 351 households. The strata distribution according to the locations and intervals is shown in table 1 below;

The researcher utilized locational/sub location map to establish midpoints for the 3 sub-locations where the household sampling process commenced.

Table 1: Sample distribution

Clusters/sub locations	Target Households	Sample size	percentage	Proportion	Interval (Nth)
Bongwe	2,540	32	9	0.09	70
Gombato	9,881	122	35	0.35	81
Ukunda	15,948	197	56	0.56	81
Total	28,369	351	100		

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Household Survey

The researcher sought approval and an introductory letter from the university. Subsequently, the researcher visited the sub-county administrative leaders in Diani location to seek consent and the locational map for sampling purposes. The researcher further requested the chiefs to inform the village elders of the study if the residents sought clarification. The maps the chief/assistant chiefs provided initiated the basis for selecting the Sub-location midpoints to guide the sampling process. The household questionnaires were self-administered to the household head from the sampled households. Where the household head was not present, then the custodian of the household at that particular time was allowed to participate.

Focused Group Discussion

The researcher approached a group of Men, women, and youths from the three sub-locations for a detailed discussion on the study subject. The FGD aimed to gather in-depth qualitative social data for the study. Persons living with disability also formed part of the three groups for discussion. This method is vital since it guides the researcher to the survey and the situation [37]. Three FDGs from each Sub-locations were organized for the study. Six men, six women and six youths were selected from the three sub-locations for FGDs. The selection process was through identifying key opinion leaders, including the women, PLWDs, and youth leaders. The FGDs members were permitted to express themselves freely during the discussion. The FGDs were conducted for corroboration, triangulation, and validation of data collected via household interviews. The research utilized FGD guides to ensure the researcher stayed focused on the research objectives. The FDGs guides also guaranteed that the group thought through the question before having a discussion.

Key Informant interviews

The research purposively selected key persons in the respective departments for the study. The Key informants Interview (KII) was critical to supplement data from the household heads in the selected areas of the research and were part of the sample. The informants were interviewed considering they were knowledgeable about crime, thus the need to engage them in the study. A total of 14 key informants were interviewed from different departments and organizations. These include the Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government, two Faith Based Organizations, two Non-Governmental Organization , Department of Social Services and Youths, Children department, GBV desk, Diani Police station, and Civil society. The researcher utilized a key informant interview schedule to guide the interview process.

Data collection instruments

Data was collected using questionnaires for household heads, interview schedules for Key informants and FDG for Men, Women and Youths representatives.

Questionnaires

The researcher utilized questionnaires to collect data from households. The questionnaires contained a 5-point Likert-Scale, close-ended as well as open-ended questions. The questionnaires were structured to address the research question. The questionnaires were pilot tested and standardized. During the whole study procedure, Covid-19 guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health were adhered to.

Interview Schedule

The researcher conducted a 30-minute one on one interview with the purposively selected Key Informants using the interview schedule. The key informant was from the Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government, Department of Social Services and Youths, Children department, GBV desk, Police department Diani and Civil society. An interview guide enabled the research to acquire data to address study-specific objectives . [35].

Focus Group Discussion Guide

The researcher conducted a structured discussion with Men, Women and Youths representative from the 3 sub-locations.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data collected from the responder was checked for completeness and comprehensiveness. The filled questionnaires and interview guides were coded and tallied for data entry. The open-ended questions contained qualitative data examined through conceptual content analysis and presented through recitation. The closed-ended questions consisted of quantitative data. Both inferential and descriptive statistics was utilized to analyze data in the questionnaire. In the descriptive analysis, data collected was coded and edited as required and thereafter processed by the Statistical Packages for Social Scientists (SPSS Version 21.0). Exploratory data approaches were used at the initial examination stage to reveal the data structure and determine outliers or distinctive entered values. Descriptive statistics, including percentages, were used for univariate examination to outline categorical variables.

Ethical considerations

The participants were requested for their oral or written consent before data collection. The participants were expected to retain the privilege to retreat from the study without any threat, cohesion or hindrance. Additionally, the participants were assured of safe data storage with limited access to the researcher. Subsequently, the data collected will be destroyed upon study completion. The research picked no names or addresses of the respondents on the data collection instruments. A letter of approval was obtained from The University of Nairobi department to undertake the study. Further, an approval letter was also sourced from National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). In the study, the researcher-maintained truthfulness in reporting data results by ensuring no data fabrication, falsehood, or misrepresentation. The researcher visited the administrative leaders, including the Location chief, and Sub-location assistant chiefs, to seek clearance. Covid -19 guidelines given by the

Ministry of Health, including sanitizing, wearing nose mask and keeping social distance was, adhered to during the entire research process.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution of age, Gender and Marital status

The majority of the households, 121 (34.5%), were aged 40-50 years, comprising Ukunda, 32% (63), whereas Gombato, 39.3% (48) and Bongwe, 31.3% (10), as exhibited in Table 2. Most of the households were male, with a frequency of 52.4% (184), encompassing Ukunda 53.3% (105), Gombato, 50.8% (62), and Bongwe 53.1% (17). The majority, 221 (63%) of the households, were married. Those married in Ukunda were, 118 (59.9%), Gombato 77 (63.1%) and Bongwe 26 (81.3%). The coastal region's cultural practices are that every woman above 25 years should be married [28]. In this case, the man accepts the Household head role. In responding to a research study, they are considered the first priority to be involved. Thus, a high number of male participants in this study.

Table 2: Distribution of Age, Gender and Marital status

Variables	Overall		Ukunda		Gombato		Bongwe	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age								
18-28 years	73	20.8	57	28.9	16	13.1	0	0
29-39 years	48	13.7	31	15.7	15	12.3	2	6.3
40-50 years	121	34.5	63	32.0	48	39.3	10	31.3
51-61 years	67	19.1	29	14.7	24	19.7	14	43.8
62 years and above	42	12.0	17	8.6	19	15.6	6	18.8
Gender								
Male	184	52.4	105	53.3	62	50.8	17	53.1
Female	167	47.6	92	46.7	60	49.2	15	46.9
Marital status								
Single	59	16.8	44	22.3	14	11.5	1	3.1
Married	221	63.0	118	59.9	77	63.1	26	81.3
Divorced/ separated	19	5.4	11	5.6	8	6.6	0	0
Widow/ widower	52	14.8	24	12.2	23	18.9	5	15.6

Distribution of crime in Diani Location

The highest reported crime in Diani Location was possession of drugs and illicit brew at 84.6%, followed by armed robbery at 74.6%, with the least being human (especially child) trafficking at 5.9%, as evidenced in Figure 1. According to the Msambweni sub-county leadership.

"Crime rates are high in the Location, with the most prominent crime including drug use/trafficking, armed robbery, and prostitution. However, in Gombato, the most typical crime is the outlawed sect. In Bongwe, theft of animals and farm produce is common, while in Ukunda, drug use/trafficking is rampant. Drug use and trafficking was reported across all the sub-locations."

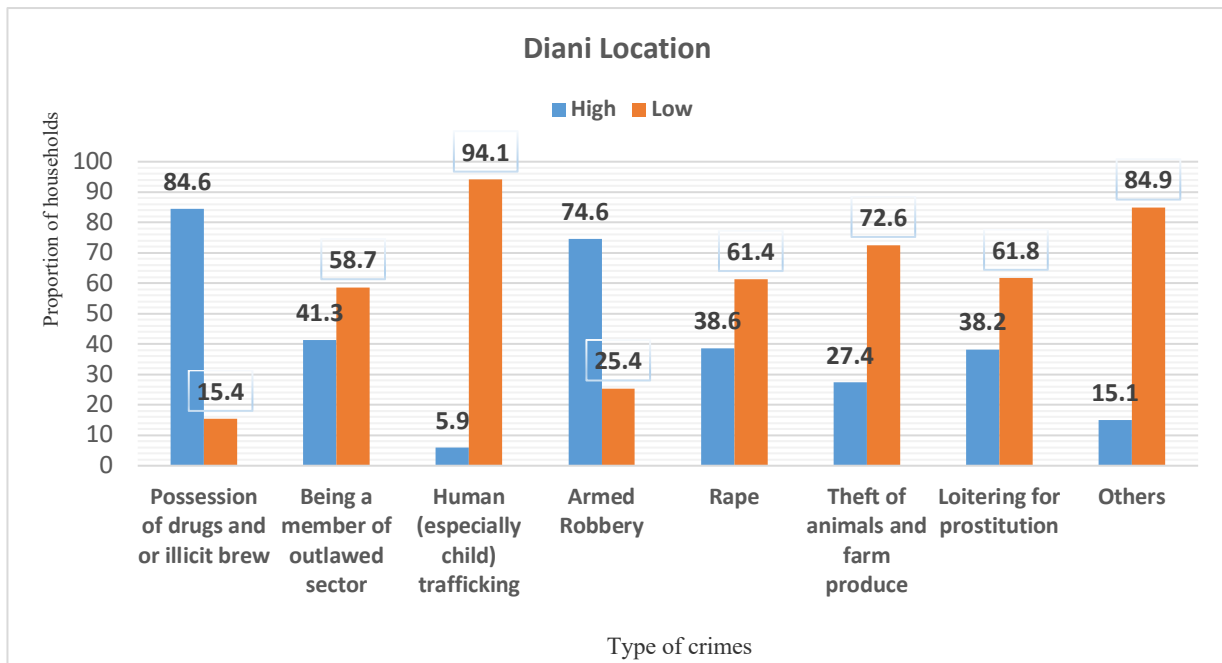


Figure 1: Distribution of crime in Diani Location

The secondary data obtained from police office and local administrative leadership offices revealed that possession/use of drugs and illicit brew was at 27.65%, Burglary and breaking at 13.1%, Loitering for prostitution at 9.7%, Rape and defilement at 6.4%, Members of outlawed sect at 6.1%, Murder at 5%, Family and gender-based violence at 4.5% while animal theft being the lowest at 0.04%.

The study is supported by the findings that Kenya's coastal region is a gateway to narcotics and illicit brew [13]. The youths have resorted to robbery for livelihood, rendering the area a security risk. The Crime rate in Ukunda is higher as the area is a tourist attraction site [10]. The area is adjacent to Diani Beach, which attracts a high population making it a prime area for crime and drug trafficking..

A member of household engaged in crime

More than half of the households, 51.3% (180), confirmed that at least one household member had engaged in crime before. Sons constituted the highest proportions, 51.4% (92), of those who had engaged in crime, as revealed in table 3. The majority conceded that they got to know a member of the household engaged in crime by monitoring them (18.3%) and frequent police arrests (12.7%), whereas few cases were reported to them by neighbours (6.9%) and peers (4.2%). However, 8.8% (31) of the household heads were none comital to having a member of their household engage in crime, whereas 39.9% (140) of the households confirmed that none of the households had engaged in crime. During the FGD with the youths, women and men, it was reported that;

“Household members with suspected criminal members are stigmatized in the community, viewed with suspicion, and shunned by neighbours and friends. Often, persons from these families are rejected from participating in community-related social activities and groups such as “disco harusi”, BMU group membership, “Mama Karanga” merry-go-round groups, etc. This robbed the rest of the family members

of social capital. Additionally, children from these families are greatly affected by stigmatization. Some drop out of school due to stigmatization."

Fischer (2018) [28] establishes that in an area marked as having high engagement in criminal activities, there are high chances of householders being privy to crime. Sons are considered heirs in the African setup and are groomed to inherit the family properties. In the absence or limitations of the same, the sons have a high chance of engaging in crime, unlike daughters who expect to be married to well-up families.

Table 3: Member of household engaging in crime

Variables	Overall		1		2		3	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Has any member of your household engaged in crime before								
Yes	180	51.3	96	48.7	55	45.1	29	90.6
No	140	39.9	80	57.1	57	40.7	3	2.2
Non-Committal	31	8.8	17	54.8	10	32.3	4	12.9
If yes, how are you related with the person								
Son	92	51.4	38	39.6	35	64.8	19	65.5
Daughter	17	9.5	9	9.4	3	5.6	5	17.2
Step daughter	5	2.8	1	1.0	3	5.6	1	3.4
Step son	10	5.6	7	7.3	2	3.7	1	3.4
Spouse	17	9.5	9	9.4	6	11.1	2	6.9
Self/ household head	22	12.3	18	18.8	4	7.4	0	0
Grandparent	2	1.1	1	1.0	1	1.9	0	0
Others specify	14	7.8	13	13.5	0	0	1	3.4

Influence of Family structure on engagement in crime

The majority of the households, 328 (93.4%), reported that family structure influenced family members to engage in crime. This is primarily attributed to inconsistent parenting 33.2% (111) and because Family structure influences the choice of behaviour 105 (31.4%), as elucidated in figure 2. The research uncovered that Child parenting and Single Parenting intensified household members' susceptibility to crime. In contrast, nuclear families with both parents ingrained family values, fostering acceptable societal norms for the family members. A key informant from the department of social services & youths and Education department, knowledgeable with the topic, reported that;

"Family structure influences to a great extent, the possibility of a family member engaging in crime. Intact families promote societal morals; hence the children tend to grow into accountable adults compared to other family structures. Single-parent families, in particular, single-mother families, greatly contribute to antisocial and youths with criminal elements. Family structure is fundamental in parenting practices and accounts for the child's growth. Additionally, family structure contributes to the family's socio-economic status and social isolation, which are key components to support a child's up-bringing into exposed and responsible individuals."

The relativity of family conflict on engagement in crime is significantly more robust than the impact of the family structure on engagement in crime [30].

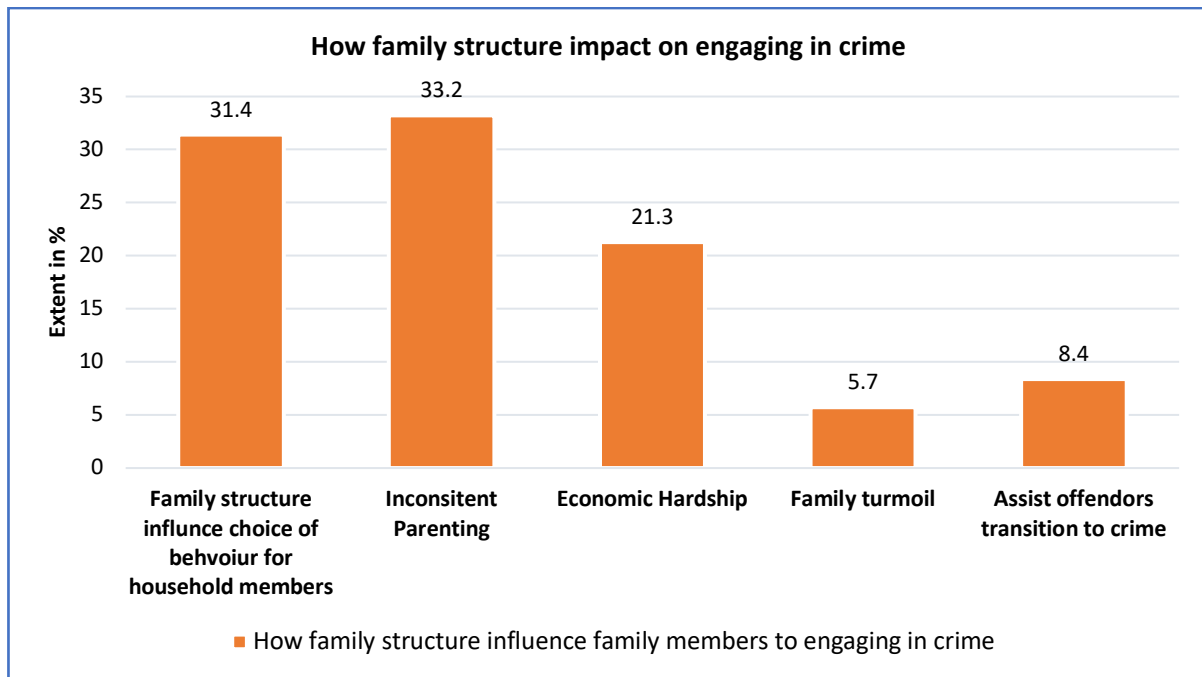


Figure 2: Influence of Family structure on engagement in crime

Most households established that the absence of a mother and father led to engagement in crime to a very great extent in Diani Location, with proportions of 37.9% (133) and (141; 40.2%), respectively, as displayed in table 4. Msambweni sub-county leadership clarified that;

"The absence of a father or mother is directly related to moral decadence, especially among youths. Subsequently, this makes families and the community prone to criminal elements. Intact families with both parents promote approved virtues to the youths and, ultimately, family and community coexistence. The children raised with no parents in the location develop emotions of loneliness. The youths growing up with no adult figures to look at, particularly the father and mother, develop emotional loneliness characterized by dread and insecurity. Fathers generally provide protection and guarantee to the children, while the mothers raise the children according to societal norms. The absence of either mother or father compromises the community development in the location."

This is in line with a study that assessed parental ties in single and two-parent households [26]. The study established that if a child is attached firmly to a parent, a second parent's affection has little effect on future crime reduction. A single-parent household structure will not lead to crime until the child is closely connected to the parent in custody.

The study's results demonstrate a link between parental watch, parental rejection, involvement with peers, insufficient techniques of punishment, and crime.

Table 4: Influence of absence of parents on engagement into crime

Variables	Overall		Ukunda		Gombato		Bongwe	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Household head level of education								
No extent	61	17.4	10	5.1	32	26.2	19	59.4
Low extent	68	19.4	35	17.8	28	23.0	5	15.6
Moderate	93	26.5	74	37.6	15	12.3	4	12.5
Great extent	62	17.7	47	23.9	13	10.7	3	9.4
Very great extent	67	19.1	31	15.7	34	27.9	1	3.1
The absence of mother								
No extent	9	2.6	0	0	7	5.7	2	6.3
Low extent	32	9.1	16	8.1	12	9.8	4	12.5
Moderate	63	17.9	46	23.4	16	13.1	1	3.1
Great extent	114	32.5	71	36.0	33	27.0	10	31.3
Very great extent	133	37.9	64	32.5	54	44.3	15	46.9
The absence of father								
No extent	12	3.4	6	3.0	5	4.1	1	3.1
Low extent	31	8.8	15	7.6	12	9.8	4	12.5
Moderate	53	15.1	41	20.8	11	9.0	1	3.1
Great extent	114	32.5	75	38.1	32	26.2	7	21.9
Very great extent	141	40.2	60	30.5	62	50.8	19	59.4

Peer influence on engagement in crime

A significant proportion of the households, 94.3% (331), reported that peer influence influenced family members to engage in crime. This is attributed to the reinforcement of negative habits at 30.9% (103) and peers encouraging criminal activities at 27% (90), as displayed in figure 3. In an FGD session with the men and youths, it was reported that;

“Peer influence has played a significant role in boosting crime in Diani location. Peers tend to enforce criminal elements and support each other in crime. The youths in Diani location are, to a great extent, influenced into crime by their peers. In Ukunda, the youths influence each other into drug use/trafficking, theft, and prostitution, while in Gombato, youths are influenced into criminal gangs/drugs, and in Bongwe, into theft of animals and farm produce. Households end up suffering the outcomes of irresponsible youths/adults. Members influenced by these criminal activities cannot actively work to support their families. Police arrests are widespread in the neighborhoods, and even killing of household members who resist during crimes.”

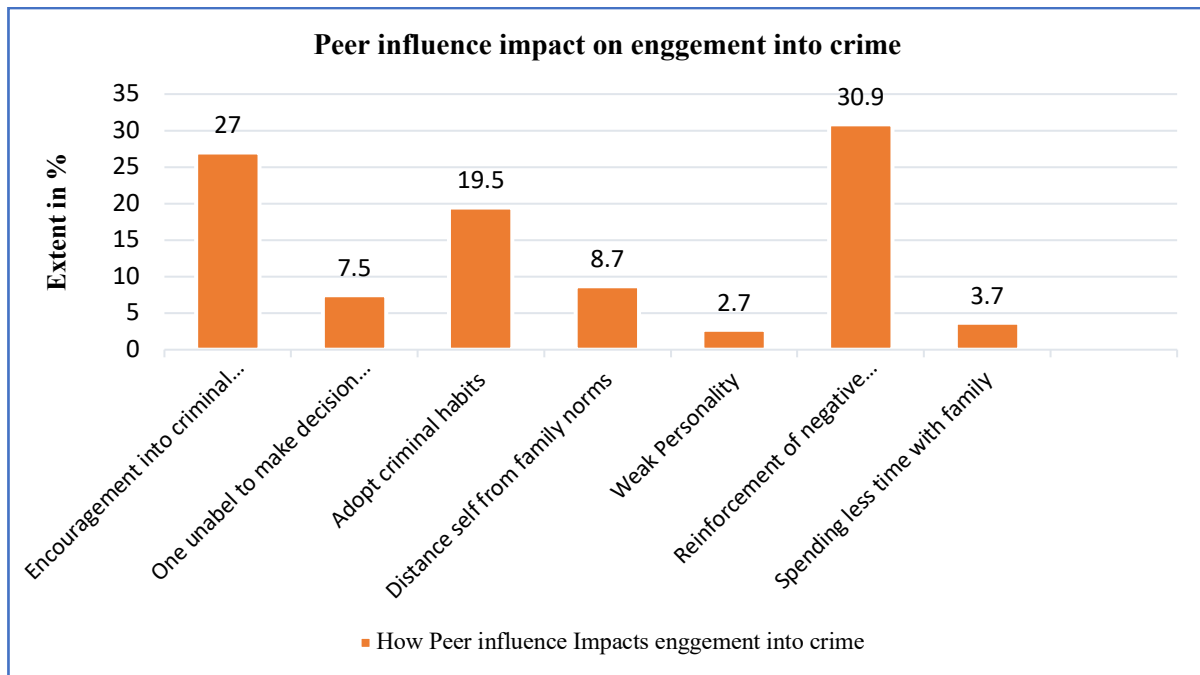


Figure 3: Peer influence on enggement in crime

Influence of Neighbourhood on enggement in crime

More than three-quarters, 331 (94.3%) of the households reported that neighborhood influences family members engaging in crime. This is associated with Informal housing and unplanned neighborhoods/crowded housing 163 (49.2%) and high poverty levels 26.6% (88), thus promoting crime as displayed in figure 4. In discussion with the Men, women, and youths they confirmed neighbourhood influenced engagement in crime by revealing that;

“Crime in the entire Diani location is reinforced by poor neighborhood; hence residents opt to engage in crime to make a living. The neighborhood in the Diani location, especially in Ukunda and Gombato sub-location, is characterized by slums. These slums have become hiding dens for criminals. Organized gangs and criminals within slums have made the residents live in fear. Visitors, including those offering government services such as immunization, cannot access some of these areas for fear of being mugged in broad daylight. The crisis of overcrowding in the neighborhood is exacerbated further by crime and high disease and morbidity burden.”

The links between family structure, peer influence and neighborhood as susceptibility are culturally dependent [6].

The research through observation revealed that some parts of the Diani location were relatively poor, represented by dilapidated housing structures, lack of street lighting, and the presence of more motorcycles with a minimum order. The neighborhood with concentrated housing in specific centers created relatively dark sports corridors. The setting could also be disorderly, for instance, garbage disposed of in streets and houses with broken windows. During the discussion with the Women in the FGDs, they categorically stated that the poor neighborhoods have rendered the area lose social meaning and increased crime, ultimately promoting

inequality. Thus, this has deprived and exposed the residents to stigmatization. Residents are also relocating as a result of this.

Broken windows promote indifference and lack of pursuance, thus fostering anxiety and compromising social efforts through a broken windows effect (BWE) theory [38]. Ultimately, this leads to much more jeopardy and infringement of social norms. BWE is further stressed in study where the social disorder is evident through increased residents' apprehension of crime characterized by neighborhood disorder [39]. Therefore, this particularly interferes with the community's stability. The need to have the team.

Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory explains the development of criminal behaviors over time in the neighborhood [40]. The analysis starts from childhood to explain the influence of neighbourhood on crime and henceforth affects family unit welfare. It is assessed from a psychological perspective based on Sigmund Freud's psychodynamic theory. The theory founded by Freud in the early 19th century recollects a treatment method pursuing insight into a person's repressed memories through their character evolved over time in the neighbourhood. [41].

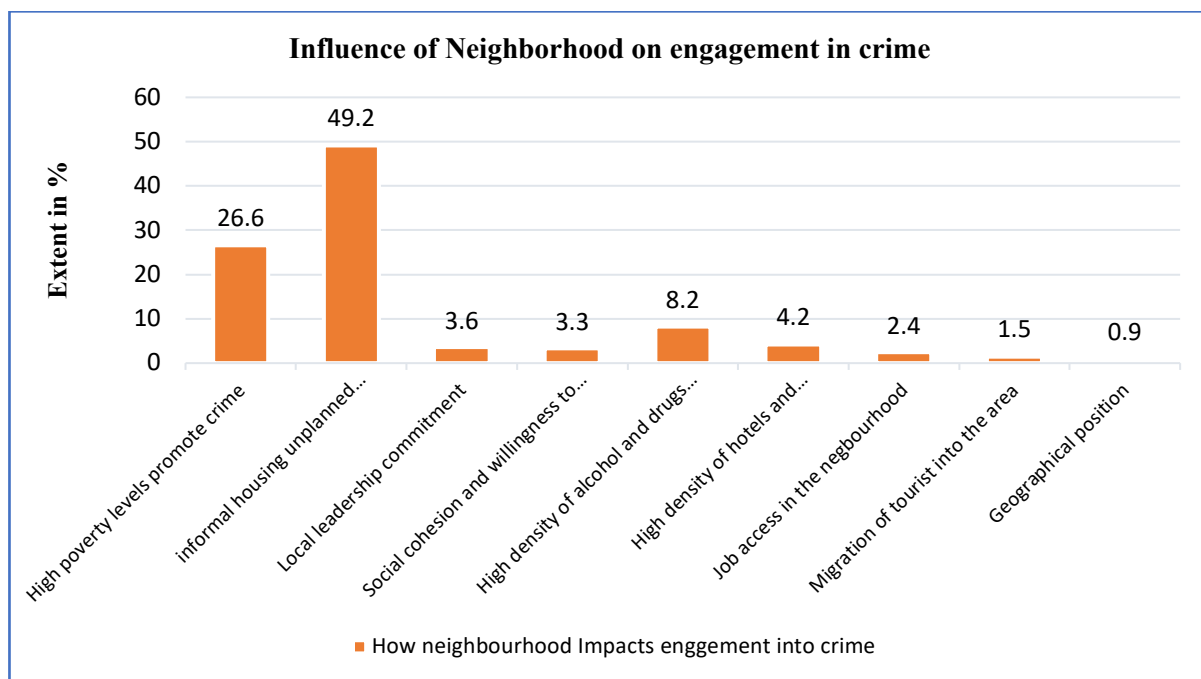


Figure 4: Influence of Neighborhood on engagement in crime

Influence of Unemployment on engagement in crime

The research revealed that the high unemployment rate impacts crime susceptibility to a great extent by 84.3% (296). The findings are illustrated in table 5. In an FGD with the women and men, it was reported that;

"In the last 1-5 years, many household heads have lost their employment, rendering them unemployed. The high crime rates in the location have intensified unemployment. The crime has made the businesses close, and thus the employees are pushed out of work. Additionally, some households have had to relocate to poor

neighborhoods/slums with limited resources due to unemployment. These families struggle to feed and pay school fees and medical bills.”

A reliable key informant from 2 hotels selected for interview reported that;

“Diani relies heavily on the hotel industry, and tourists have significantly declined over time due to high crime rates. Thus, employees are declared redundant hence losing their employment. The household heads cannot provide basic needs, including food, housing, clothing, and education. Ultimately some households end up in crime, children drop out of school, and families move to shanties or dilapidated houses. The covid-19 pandemic has escalated the situation.”

Table 5: Influence of Unemployment on engagement in crime

Variables	Overall		Ukunda		Gombato		Bongwe	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low household income								
No extent	14	4	4	2	4	3.3	6	18.8
Low extent	9	2.6	2	1	3	2.5	4	12.5
Moderate	17	4.8	9	4.6	5	4.1	3	9.4
Great extent	44	12.5	28	14.2	13	10.7	3	9.4
Very great extent	267	76.1	154	78.2	97	79.5	16	50
High unemployment rate								
No extent	2	0.6	1	0.5	0	0	1	3.1
Low extent	8	2.3	1	0.5	4	3.3	3	9.4
Moderate	8	2.3	6	3	1	0.8	1	3.1
Great extent	37	10.5	23	11.7	8	6.6	6	18.8
Very great extent	296	84.3	166	84.3	109	89.3	21	65.6

Influence Drugs on engagement into crime

Three-quarter of the households, 293 (83.5%), confirmed that drug and alcohol abuse, to a very great extent, led to engagement in crime among all the three sub-locations, as displayed in figure 4.9. The household head confirmed that they were aware of their household members at 21.7%, 47.2% of the neighbors, and 24.5% of relatives are on or trafficking drugs. During the FGDs with the youths and men, it was reported that;

“There is high drug ‘Maunga’ use in the location. Drug use has rendered the community socio-economically disadvantaged. The youths are introduced to drugs at an early age since the drugs are readily available. Accordingly, this has worsened household well-being significantly due to increased insecurity cases, deaths, living in fear, low development of the location as a whole, etc. There is also stigmatization of Diani Location due to high crime.”

There is a close connection between crime and drug abuse [42]. Most drug abusers commit crimes to spend on their drugs. Additionally, many delinquents are under the influence of drugs while perpetrating crimes. The crime promotes insecurity and compromises community development at large.

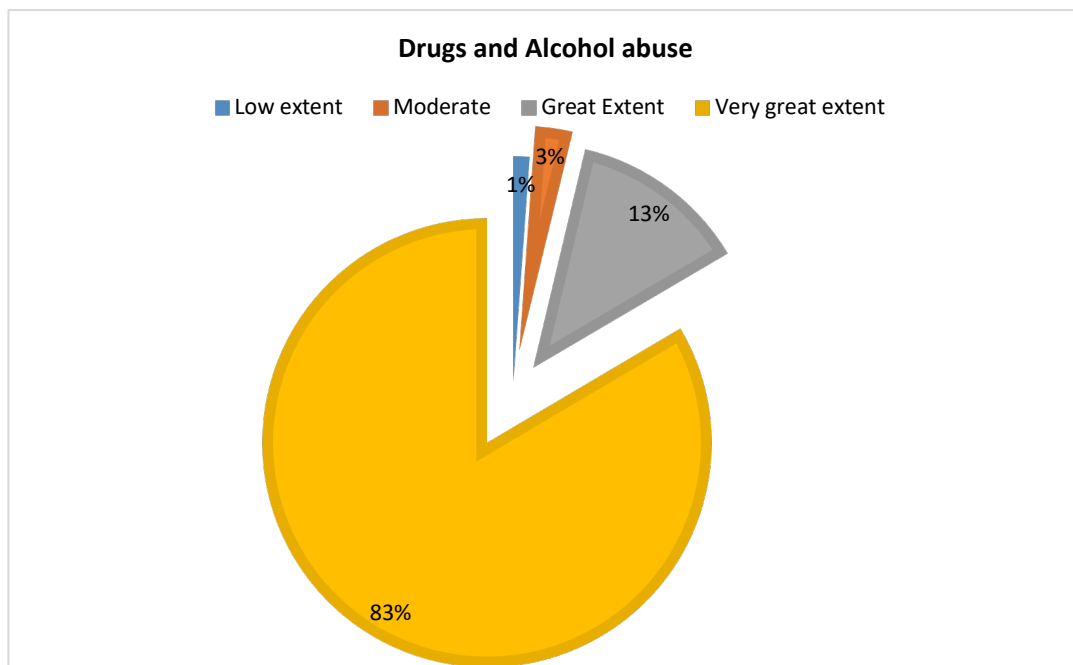


Figure 5: Influence of Drugs on engagement in crime

Influence a family member with criminal elements on engagement into crime

The presence of parents with criminal elements promoted crime to a very great extent by 48.4% (170) in all three sub-locations. A detailed illustration is in figure 6. The FGD for Men and Women revealed the following;

“Youths and individuals from households with parents with criminal elements have a likelihood of committing crimes than law-abiding parents. Parents who have criminal elements hardly supervise and monitor their children. Good parenting, including supervision, discipline, and leading by example, eventually affects if the child ends up in crime. Children need to know what the parents do for a living, parents not staying sober without indulging into chronic drug use, among other factors.’ In the long run, the children understand the criminal element from the parents and eventually end up engaging in crime. This kind of family lives with resentment, especially within the neighborhood. Their neighbors tend not to associate with families with criminal elements; hence they live in isolation or relocate to other areas. In this whole debacle, the children suffer the most physiological torture from neighborhood rejections.”

The study is in line with findings that reveal that social stability often corresponds to overall high poverty levels but can differ across underprivileged societies [3]. It helps explain why neighborhoods with comparable average incomes might have varying crime levels. These crimes can be stimulated by parents with ongoing or past criminal records, resulting in promoted crime.

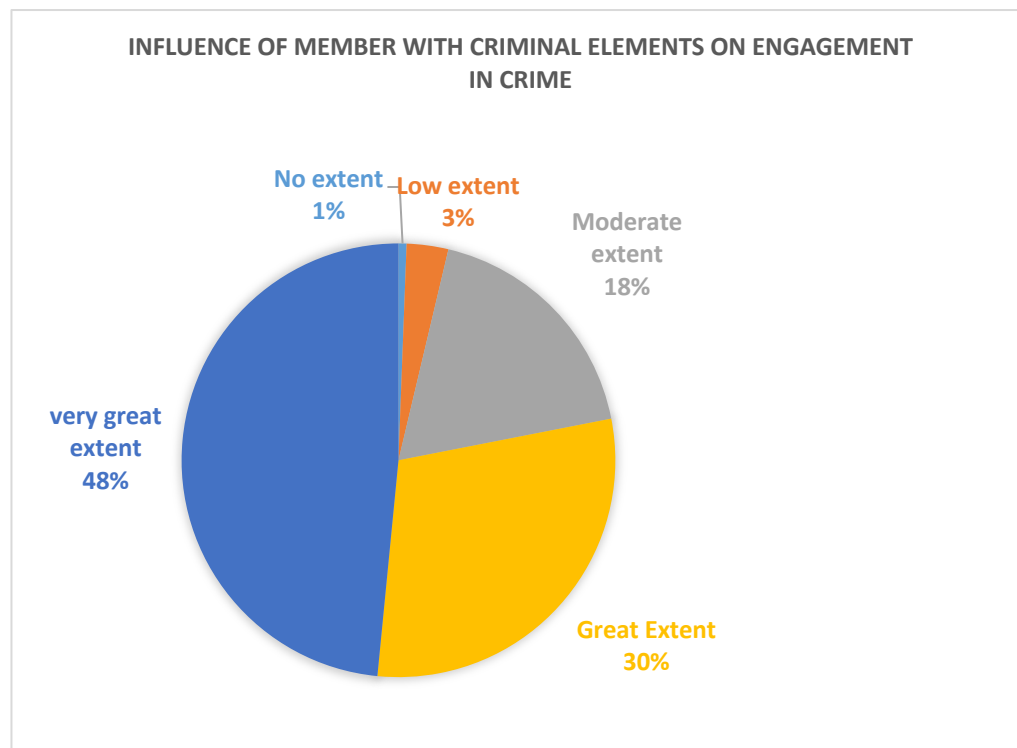


Figure 6: Influence of family member with criminal elements on engagement in crime

Influence of School dropout on Engagement into crime

The majority, 181 (51.6%) of the households, indicated that school dropout led to engagement in crime to a very great extent in all the three sub-locations, as presented in figure 7. The research established that 23% of neighbours' children, 16% of relatives, and 11% of respondents' children had dropped out of school. Subsequently, the children are exposed to vices, primarily crime. An interview with the Education official at the Education office it was reported that;

“Education is contributing factor to social development and human capital. The students who drop out of school often end up engaging in vices such as dealing drugs, robbery, prostitution, and early marriages. These further increase household burden, including unplanned pregnancies and contracting diseases such as STIs, including HIV/Aids, Phyllis, and gonorrhea. Moreover, those who drop out of school tend to negatively influence their peers into engaging in crime with minimal educational aspirations. It is also evident that youths who drop out of school suffer tremendous income loss. Youths who drop out of school end up engaging in menial activities and businesses, especially motorcycle “bodaboda” driving in the streets..”

School dropout is associated with lower economic growth, adolescent unemployment drops in gross income, and higher crime rates [43].

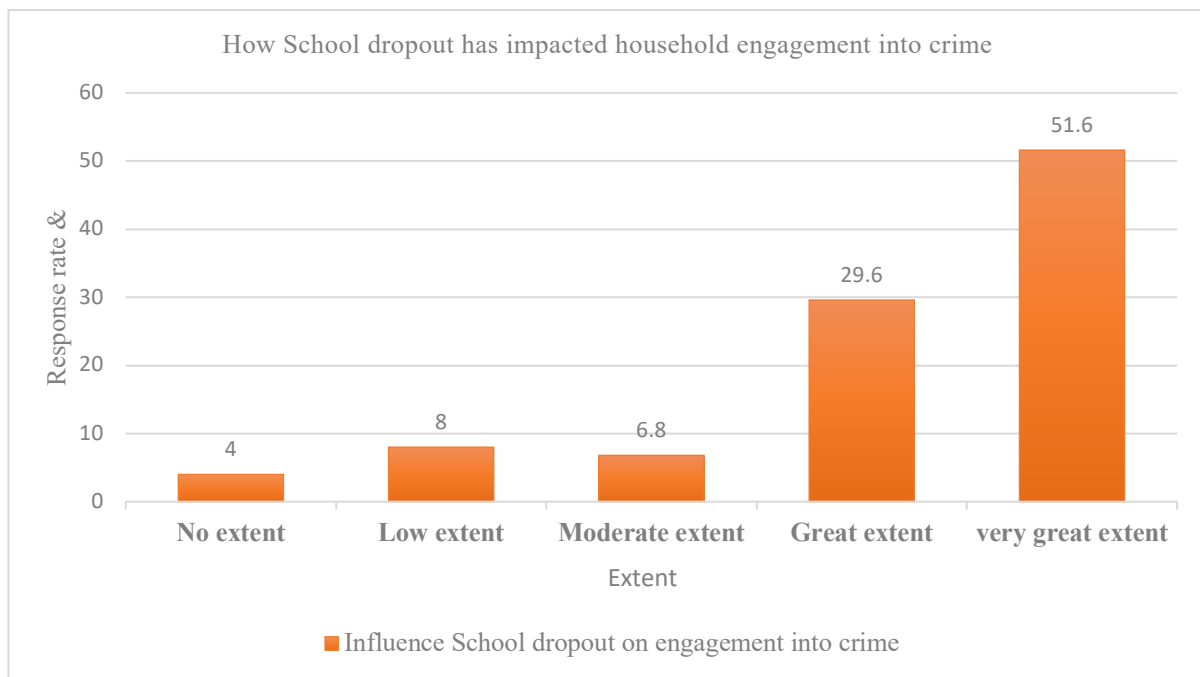


Figure 7: Influence School dropout on engagement into crime

CONCLUSION

It was evident that family structure influenced families engaging in crime, represented by a proportion of 93.4%. Family structure contributed to inconsistent parenting at 33.2%. Furthermore, family structure influenced the choice of behaviour at 31.4%.

Additionally, peer influence impacts family members engaging in crime at a proportion of 94.3%. Peer influence reinforces negative habits (30.9%) and encouragement into criminal activities by 27%. Moreover, the research established that neighbourhood influences family members engaging in crime at 94.3%. Informal housing coupled with unplanned neighbourhoods/crowded housing contributes to crime by 49.2% and high poverty levels at 26.6% as neighbourhood components. The relativity of family conflict on engagement in crime is significantly more substantial than the impact of the family structure on engagement in crime [30]. Furthermore, the association between family structure, peer influence, and neighbourhood as susceptibility factors are evident but are culturally dependent [6].

The high unemployment rate and drug abuse and alcohol promote crime engagement to a great extent by 84.3% and 83.5%, respectively, thus inhibiting community stability. Further findings reveal that social well-being often matches overall income and poverty levels but can vary across impoverished and unprivileged communities [3]. It helps explain why neighbourhoods with comparable average income might have varying crime levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Household and community development is affected by widespread crime in Diani area. To mitigate crime, the government should offer a holistic approach from the family/household to the institutional level. A dynamic mix of resources is required for strategic and long-term benefits, including Education/capacity building, encouraging intact families, creating Job/business opportunities, institutional empowerment/engagement, Leadership goodwill,

and in-depth stakeholder engagement. For immediate gains, the prerequisites include drug addiction treatment/rehabilitation, food/shelter assistance, sensitization/capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and whistle-blower protection. These resources will address a diverse range of factors to promote crime.

The government should consider the following strategies as the most practical to manage crime and advance community development;

- i. Sustained and meaningful policy commitment should be devised to address factors influencing household members' engagement in crime, including Family structure, Peer influence, Unplanned neighbourhood, Unemployment, Drug and alcohol use and School dropout.
- ii. Sustained and meaningful policy commitment should be designed with enhanced neighbourhood solidarity, community engagements, working closely with the school leadership, encouragement of meaningful public engagement and participation through administrative offices, particularly the chiefs' office, in all aspects of family unit welfare and community development programs.

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