Crime Know-How In Urban And Rural Area In Malaysian Housing

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Abstract

Criminal acts have reportedly increased in recent years with residential areas often being the target of housing crimes. The increase in criminal cases concerns the neighborhood as a whole. Home is a place where people find peace, relax and eliminate fatigue after a long day at work. This has however been interfered with the continuous occurrence of crimes causing residence to feel troubled and worried at all times. This therefore highlights the need for a scientific study related to crimes in residential areas towards observing the trends at crime-prone zones thus enabling effective preventive measures to be regulated by the relevant authorities. Hence, this article discusses a comparative study made on crimes in urban and rural housing areas with the aim of indentifying the different categories of crimes occurring in those vicinities. The most common crime occurring in residential areas are property crime which could be broken down into six categories namely burglary, snatch theft, robbery, heavy vehicle theft, motorcycle theft and car theft. The results indicated that motorcycle theft was the most common crime for both rural and urban areas while snatch theft and heavy vehicle theft was the least common crime, ranked fifth and sixth respectively for both vicinities. On the other hand, the ranks for the other three crimes were different between the two areas. In rural areas, burglary, car theft and robbery were ranked second, third and fourth respectively while in urban areas, those three crimes were ranked third, fourth and second respectively. Similarities and disparities between both areas were influenced by different factors.

Key words: Urban and Rural Area, Property Crime, Malaysian Housing

Introduction

Criminal behaviour increases with increasing urban population. The crime rate will increase by 2.6 percent per year. The problems of crime are often linked to urban areas since its environment encourages and urges people to commit criminal activities due to high desires and the need to make ends meet. Such conditions create the life that is good and breaches the norms of life. As a result, almost every day people are served with displays of crime such as robbery, theft and murder. This situation causes worry and insecurity to the people of Malaysia.

Population growth in urban areas occurs rapidly, due to the attractiveness of the city's employment opportunities in sectors such as industrial, construction and manufacturing. These sectors has grown rapidly, especially during the late 1980’s and early 1990’s and thus has been a factor of attraction for rural people to migrate to cities, especially the young folks.

Residential areas have been subjected to criminal activities such as theft, robbery and burglary during the day and night. This has resulted in the onset of concern and uneasy among the population, especially in urban areas. Crime is social problems which not only affects people’s lives, but also suppress the physical or emotional aspects of the residence. Measures to combat crime must be done before it affects the daily lives of the local community [2].

The objective of this study is to identify the category of crime in Malaysian housing area. Therefore, this study discusses the comparison of crime in urban and rural areas by category of crime that often occurs in residential areas in Malaysia. The location study involves residential areas in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur which represents the urban region and residential areas in the district of Kangar, Perlis to represent the rural area.
The Category Of Crime:

Crime is seen as an act of real behavior in the larger context [3]. Although sometimes one kind of crime is viewed closely to resemble other crimes but it may be different from the angle of incentives or in the process of etiological. A crime scene involves three factors that will occur simultaneously. Firstly, opportunity for criminal to attacked the victim. Secondly, someone motivated to make mistakes and the third is there the opportunity to commit a criminal offense.

Crime has an impact on individuals, communities and city neighborhoods. The impact of crime on victims is different based on the type of crime that happens on them. This action involves criminal acts committed against a victim which will affect them either mentally, physically or both. Studies show victims of crime will take a long time to recover and this can go on up to few months and even years. Trauma of crime victims will always haunt their mind creating a sense of fear whenever they are alone at home at night as well as difficulty sleeping.

Generally the trend of crime in Malaysia were found to have similarities to what happened in developed countries, with the difference only being on the number of cases and their levels. The offenses include robbery, including armed robbery, motor vehicle theft, burglary and theft in day and evening as well as thefts of other [4].

There are also other categories of crimes other than the crime index. These crimes include drug abuse incident, white-collar crime (commercial crime), and illegal gambling syndicates. Various socio-economic factors have been identified to influence trends and crime trends in Malaysia. However, no one factor can accurately be regarded as the main cause. Numerous studies and observations have found that crime does not necessarily increase with economic development alone.

Since 1970, cases of violence and property crime have adorned the newspapers, electronic media and became the topic of the community. The robbery either using firearms or not is the most feared by the people because not only that it can cause property damage but it can also result in serious injury or loss of life [5].

The pattern of crime can be detected differently based on specific types of environments. It is believed that crime was higher in the more developed and densely populated area such as in large cities, town or urban areas compared to undeveloped areas such as in rural areas [6].

Methodology:

This research investigates to identify the category of crime in Malaysian housing area. The study was conducted using qualitative method which involves the measurement variables through interviews. This method is highly effective because it enables exploration and to gain in-depth information. Often, not much information could be obtained through observation, documentation or recording a person diaries. Researchers have make contact relation “face-to-face”. In addition, this method enables a more sincere response to be obtained due to eye-contact with the respondent while the fact that discussions can also take place, this study can be better assured that respondents answered based on the right understanding of the question asked.

After all the primary data are collected and processed, those data are analyzed using NVIVO software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. shows the level of criminal position as identified in the housing either in the Urban and Rural.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CRIME</th>
<th>RANK URBAN</th>
<th>RURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch Theft</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle Theft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Theft</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1 Burglary:

The results showed that there were differences in rank for burglary crime in both urban and rural area. In the urban areas, the burglary was ranked third while it was ranked second in rural areas. Ones of opportunity to attract the criminal are local economy, whereas in a rural area the local economy like farmer income based on seasons. For rural areas burglary is a higher rank because they are lack security as compared to urban areas. Residents in urban areas were more knowledge to prevent the crime by using the technology [7].
4.2 Snatch Theft:
Snatch theft was ranked fifth in both rural and urban areas. Usually, the victims are women who get snatched while walking, cycling and riding on a motorcycle. In urban areas the residents more exposed to criminal because they walk along the road every day to the office. On the other hand, in rural areas, this type of crime is prevalent in areas that are not crowded.

4.3 Robbery:
Robberies were found to be a more serious problem in urban areas as compared to rural area based on their rankings – ranked second and fourth respectively. Robbery commonly happens due to two factors, namely the opportunities that exist because the negligence of the person and the second factor is the lack of awareness in term of safety measures by the residents of the house. In rural areas, robberies can also occur seasonally such as higher rates during locals harvesting season where people get a lot of money.

4.4 Heavy Vehicle Theft:
In the results, heavy vehicle theft was the least common crime ranked last for both rural and urban area.

4.5 Motorcycle Theft:
The results show that motorcycle theft is the most popular crime ranked first in both rural and urban area. Motorcycle thefts usually occur due to the insensitivity of the owner on safety measures to be taken.

4.6 Car Theft:
The findings showed that car theft is also a not very popular crime ranked at third in rural area and fourth in urban area. Among the factors that have been identified was the attitude of the vehicle owners such as being negligent in ensuring the safety of their vehicles.

Conclusion:
From the research finding, it can be concluded that housing crime prevention has been acknowledged as one of today’s most discussed issue with many implications in a variety of contexts in developed and developing countries. Moreover, a growing developer awareness and understanding of crime prevention and their impacts on human security and the quality of life are generating higher expectations for housing crime prevention and for more systematic solutions from the developers.

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