UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ON CRIME IN KASOA

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A thesis in the Department of Social Studies Education,
Faculty of Social Sciences Education, submitted to the school of
Graduate Studies in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the award of the degree of
Master of Philosophy
(Social Studies Education)
in the University of Education, Winneba.

JUNE, 2023

DECLARATION

Student's declaration

I, Leonard Atsu Torsu, do hereby declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

Signature…………..……………….…

Date…………………………..….………

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work were supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Name of Supervisor: Prof. Mrs. Esther Yeboah Danso-Wiredu

Signature…………..……………….…

Date…………………………..….………

DEDICATION

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This work is dedicated to my parents: Worla Modzakah and Kwabla Adogo Torsu.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADI: (World Bank's) African Development Indicators

ASEM: Awutu Senya East Municipal

ASEMA: Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly

CBD: Central Business District

CID: Criminal Investigation Department

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

FGP: Focus Group Participants

GSS: Ghana Statistical Service

MMR: Mixed Method Research

MUSEC: Municipal Security Council

OSAC: Overseas Security Advisory Council

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
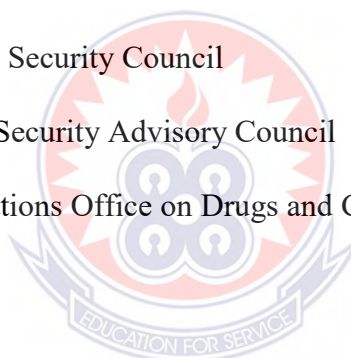
ABSTRACT

The study sought to examine the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa. The exploratory two-stage sequential mixed method research approach based on pragmatic paradigm was used. In the first stage, interviews were conducted with 26 participants comprising two key informants and twenty-four focus group discussion participants at three community levels. A sample involving 246 respondents was sampled using cluster sampling, completed the questionnaire for the second stage. Data was triangulated, using semi-structured interview guide and observation checklist as instruments for data collection. Data collected was analyzed using thematic analysis and descriptive statistics. Findings revealed that, various social and demographic factors such as unemployment, unregulated urbanization, age, low level of education, parental neglect, peer influence and drug abuse influenced crime in Kasoa. Also, crime negatively affected the social well-being of residents, including; fear and panic, lack of belongingness and insecurity, sense of disunity, lack of confidence in the police, lack of trust for one another and partly interfered in their daily activities. Further, a multi-faceted approach such as institutional security strategies, local-level community strategies and personal protection strategies to reducing crime was identified from the results. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations should increase employment opportunities to the citizens, especially the youth to discourage rural-urban migration to reduce the high rate of unemployment. Also, the government should aid the Ghana Police Service to acquire and make use of technology in its crime prevention efforts, such as using more cameras, forensic tools and databases, to effectively track and prevent crime. Moreover, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly should institute social systems or structures for the vulnerable in Kasoa, aimed at improving family support and stability, reducing drug abuse, and promoting positive attitudes towards crime prevention among the residents.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Crime has been suggested to stifle investment, lower competitiveness, create tension and inefficiency (Detotto & Otranto, 2010). In addition, it creates fear and untold suffering among people, as it often stands as a barrier to society‟s social development, and ultimately fuels migration which in turn, induces economic development inequalities around the world (Okpuvwie et al., 2021). Salim (2015) notes that various social variables such as poverty, individual and societal health, family stability and demographic factors such as education level, immigrant concentration, population growth, residential mobility and age are related to, and have influence on criminal behavior among individuals. Some authors maintain that unemployment, high cost of living, resource shortages and intolerance among the less privilege result in the upsurge of crime (Boivin, 2018; Chen, 2009; Mazorodze, 2020). That is, crime has a domino effect, as it poses a serious threat to individuals, increasing the existing burdens of the society at large. These effects may include the disruption of a society's stability and the creation of tension among the populace, and these affect countries‟ political, social and economic growth and development.

Other scholars emphasize that poverty, unchecked urbanization, unemployment, insufficient education, a breakdown in the family structure, restricted opportunities, and exclusion from the formal economy are all factors that potentially contribute to crime (Owusu et al., 2016; World Wide Fund for Nature, 2020). Urban crime researchers have asserted that, urbanization creates slums, unemployment, poverty and new forms of urban lifestyles that motivate the occurrence of crime (Appiahene-

Gyamfi, 2003; Owusu et al., 2016). In addition, crime is assumed to be more common in more crowded locations, a statement that has typically been verified by cross-sectional research (Ousey, 2000).

According to Bawaria and Pasupuleti (2023), demographic factors strongly connect to the spatial distribution of crime type and rate. South and Messner (2000) and Adeyemi et al. (2021) add that both crime and demography share complex and reciprocal relation. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, the world‟s population continues to grow, albeit at a slower pace than at any time since 1950. In mid-2019, the world's population had risen to 7.7 billion, up one billion since 2007 and two billion since 1994. In 2030, the world's population is predicted to exceed 8.5 billion people, rising to 9.7 billion in 2050. Over the next few decades, sub-Saharan Africa will account for the majority of global population expansion, while some other regions will see population decline (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2019).

Since independence, Ghana had had five population censuses. Available data on population trends in Ghana indicates that the population of Ghana has been increasing since 1960 when the population was 6.7 million, with a composition of 23.1 percent urban dwellers. From 1970 to 1984, the population rose from 8.5 to 12.2 million, indicating 43.7 percent increase with composition of 28.9 percent urban dwellers. Thus, the country‟s population has increased at a very fast rate and almost doubled between 1960 and 1984. From 1984 to 2000, the population rose from 12.2 to 18.9 million indicating 53.8 percent increase with a composition of 43.8 percent urban dwellers. Also, from 2000 to 2010, the population expanded from 18.9 to 24.6 million

indicating 30.7 percent increase with a composition of 50.9 percent urban dwellers. From 2010 to 2021, the population increased from 24.6 to 30.8 million indicating 25 percent increase with composition of 56.7 percent urban dwellers (Ghana Statistical Service, 2013; 2014; 2021). The continuous percentage increase in urban dwelling in Ghana depicts a possible social heterogeneity with increases in demand of the urban environment and its attendant consequences of pressure on social amenities, probably engendering criminal activities.

It is a widely held opinion among sociologists and criminologists that demographic factors such as high population size and socio-economic status tend to promote various types of crime. In the United States, significant connection between population density and urban crime has also been established, and human crowding situations have been proven to have consequences on human behavior such as aggression and withdrawal (Regoeczi, 2003). Harries (2006) conducted a study of the impact of population density in the US county of Baltimore, utilizing a database of over 100,000 crimes reported in Baltimore in the year 2000. The research revealed that both property and violent crimes were marginally linked with population density. Chamberlain and Hipp (2015) claim that demographic factor such as poor socio-economic status is a requirement for increased levels of crime in concentrated disadvantage groups using data from the National Neighborhood Crime Study for 7,956 neighborhoods in 79 cities in the United States. As a result, it can be stated that population disparity and a lack of economic resources are key variables that lead to a rise in crime in densely populated areas (Chamberlain & Hipp, 2015; Hipp & Kane, 2017).

A recent study by Cabrera-Barona et al. (2019) in the metropolitan area of Quito, Ecuador, also found a positive relationship between population density and the incidence of crime such as fraud, robbery, rape and murder. Using spatial context and spatial auto-correlation, the researchers found that, crime concentration occurs in specific urban parishes where populations tend to be high. Chamlin and Cochran (2004) also posit that population size is a substantial predictor of violent and property crime counts.

Despite the significant linkage between demography and crime reported above, it is important to note that crime levels across the globe seem to have diverging trends. According to Van-Dijk (2007), organized crime prevalence grows diagonally from the north west to south east in Europe, with low levels in England and Germany, increasing levels in Spain and Italy, and by far the greatest levels in Russia, Albania, and Ukraine. Van-Dijk et al. (2021) examined whether the levels of crime experienced, particularly thefts and violence, have increased, decreased, or remained stable in 166 nations, over a 14-year period from 2006 to 2019. They found that African and Latin American countries have the greatest rates of crime of varied forms. This was followed by the Asian countries. The greater proportion of crimes are moderate or low in most European, North American and Australian countries. Globally, the levels of common crime have decreased or steadied, with the exception of Africa, where they have increased. Corcoran and Stark, who used Gallup Globe Poll data to examine cross-national variation in experiences with crime (assaults and muggings) from 2006 to 2013, identified two regions, namely Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, as having considerably higher violent crime rates than the rest of the world (Corcoran & Stark, 2018; 2020).

Subsequently, the influence of demographic factors on criminal activities has been seen in some studies in Africa. Asongu and Kodila-Tedika (2013) analyzed a sample of 38 African countries (including Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa, Uganda and Libya) with demographic data from the World Bank's African Development Indicators (ADI), using population density as a control variable. The researchers claimed that urban density makes it more difficult for police to detect criminals, resulting in lower likelihoods of identification and arrest. Adeyemi et al. (2021) used data from 2017 reported crimes to conduct a spatial analysis of geographical patterns and risk variables of crimes in Nigeria. The study used statistics from Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics to model six demographic explanatory factors, including unemployment rate, population density, education index and age 18–35 years. The method discovered locations of high population density that were also high in crime concentration, including all sorts of crime such as kidnapping, robbery and theft, confirming an earlier study by Kunnuji (2016). Population density was discovered to be a predictor of crime volume. It was established that, countries with a high population density had a higher prevalence of armed robbery and other kinds of crime (Kunnuji, 2016).

In terms of social development, Sub-Saharan Africa, including Ghana, Nigeria, Angola and Mozambique were seen to be vigorously impacted by higher crime levels on the overall development of their citizens. Indeed, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report "Crime and Development in Africa," high levels of crime impede Africa's development. UNODC claim that due to limited government competence, official data on crime in Africa is few, and independent research is equally limited. However, all available evidence suggests that Africa has a major crime problem, including both violent and property crime (UNODC, 2018).

According to Van-Dijk et al. (2021), Africa's crime rate has increased. Governance, poverty, inequality and the proportion of youth were highlighted as four common predictors of crime. Nigeria, Angola, and Mozambique have the highest scores in Africa. Nigeria‟s organized criminal activities have been thoroughly documented in both the country and the region (Shaw, 2003; UNODC, 2005).

The situation in Ghana is without exception, with an urban to rural ratio of 56.7 to 43.3, percent respectively. Seven regions are urbanized, that is, more than half of the population in those regions live in urban areas (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021). Grant (2009) argues that the rapid rate of urbanization is probably been engendered by the global neo-liberal economic policies and consequently the swelling middle class urban dwellers even though the income inequality gap is widening. Slums and poverty are visible as land has become an expensive commodity within the Ghanaian urban space, as well as citizens of West African countries escaping civil and political upheaval and economic downturns in their own countries (Owusu, 2008). Owusu (2008) further opine that while the influx of international migrants‟ places strain on housing and other services, it also aggravates the existing inequalities within cities. More importantly, in the view of the police, this influx also brings criminals, further posing threat to residents. Indeed, the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report ranked Ghana 92 out of 141 for organized crime (World Economic Forum, 2019).

According to Appiahene-Gyamfi (2003), urban neighborhoods in Ghana show remarkable indicators of crime. Land use patterns alone are a major determinant on how people go about their daily lives. The city's physical and social settings produce environments that are favorable to both legal and illegal activities. Also, police

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officers find it difficult to patrol by bike, car, or foot due to the city's layout. Wrigley-Asante et al. (2016) add that, in urban low-income communities, poor housing, overpopulation, congestion and poverty, collectively promote crimes. For instance, according to the Ghana 2020 Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Crime and Safety Report, organized crime is a critical concern; property crimes also happen on irregular basis; while sexually-related crimes and domestic violence are substantially overlooked (OSAC Crime, 2020). As a result, the Ghana Police Service has designated specific localities as "flashpoints", on the basis of large amount of crime, the lack of police presence, and other factors labeled as dangerous. Accra city (Madina, Adenta, Dansoman), Aflao and Tamale highway, for instance, were labeled as "flashpoints" because they are prone to criminality and exceedingly dangerous for citizens, including police officers.

Boadu (2002) posits that the caution that unfettered expansion in certain demographic variables such as residential mobility might stifle social development was not given the needed attention. As a result, more stringent measures to prevent criminal activities are required to ensure that individuals benefit from the instrumental dimensions of freedom, such as social opportunities, economic prospects, political freedoms, protective security and transparency guarantees (Sen, 2000). Thus, the consequences of crime on the social well-being of Kasoa inhabitants were crucial to analyze in order to contribute to leveraging Human Development Index in a contemporary globalized world, where sustainable development is imperative. The study was, therefore designed to examine the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) observed in 2017 that crime fuels corruption, infiltrates business and politics, and affects the growth and development of any society (UNODC, 2017). The UNODC maintained that crime compromises governance; as crime renders life miserable, short, and harsh, it instills fear in people, and it induces a general sense of insecurity around people (Okpuvwie & Toko, 2020; UNODC, 2017). Therefore, social well-being is essential to ensure that people are free from fear and panic and such things that inhibit their human survival needs. Even Ghana''s 1994 Population Policy admits that the population of Ghana is the nation''s most valuable resource. It is both the instrument and the objectives of national development. The Government has the responsibility of adopting and implementing programs aimed at improving the quality of life of the population (National Population Council, 1994).

Urban crime has multiplicity of public and policy concerns within the Ghanaian setting such as urban planning, crime prevention, citizens'' safety and community development. Crime occurrence questions the social well-being or conditions of the citizens and the nation''s effort to contribute its quota to global sustainable development. Ralph (2006) stated that whenever there is a rise in crime, there is a propensity for a decline in community's development. He identified the social and behavioral effects of crime. According to him, the social consequences of crime include people being unwilling to intervene in case of incidents in communities, greater distrust between neighbors, and less collaboration among people, while the behavioral consequences of crime include people limiting their round of activities, participating less in community affairs, and migrating out of their neighborhood. According to Office (2014), people without a home or shelter, along with high crime

rates, can pose a host of problems in society. Other negative effects of crime in society include the cost of repairing various types of damage or destruction caused by crime, the loss of revenue used in the maintenance and rehabilitation of prisons, the associated trauma, hurts, and pains inflicted on the direct victim of crime, and resources allocated for the arrest, investigation, and prosecution of criminal perpetrators (Jeke et al., 2021).

Appiahene-Gyamfi (2002) examined Ghana's police data from 1980 to 1996 in three main categories of crime: crime against person, crime against property, and crime against the public. Crime was higher in the more advanced and heavily inhabited parts of southern Ghana, including Agona Swedru and Winneba. Another study by Appiahene-Gyamfi (2003) on trends, patterns and the distribution of crime showed that higher crime rates occurred with an important demographic factor such as an increasing population. The structure of Ghana's economy, prospects offered by social change, routine tasks, living conditions, and central government bureaucracy were identified as mediating factors. Bagson (2018) indicates that increasing population and, consequently, congestion challenge the provision of security at both personal and community levels. Li et al. (2015) add that, demographic factors such as unemployment rate, urban population, population growth rate, population undernourished and migration play an important role in understanding variation in crime rates.

The population of Kasoa keeps increasing, and according to the Ghana Statistical Service (2013), from 1970 to 1984, the population grew from 863 to 2,597, from 2000 to 2010, it grew from 34,719 to 69,384. On the other hand, over 2,703 incidences of violence and crime were recorded by the police from 2014 to 2018 in Kasoa

(Akwetey-Wayo, 2019). Police data on crimes such as robbery, rape/defilement, assault and murder committed in Kasoa from year 2016-2018 indicated that 722 cases were recorded for robbery; 693 cases were recorded for assault; a total of 74 cases were recorded for murder; and the total cases recorded for rape/defilement was 131 in the same time period. Thus, 1620 cases were recorded for these crimes within the time period of 2016-2018 (Awetey-Wayo, 2019).

Moreover, several crimes have been reported across TV channels and newspapers, such as the killing of 11-year-old Ishmael for rituals on April 2, 2021 (MyJoyOnline.com, April 3, 2021). These suggest that violence in Kasoa is on the rise, making it impossible for residents to commute without feeling insecure or subjected to any acts of criminality, including but not limited to robbery and molestation. In addition, the traditional policing strategy, which mostly entails expanding police numbers, conducting frequent raids in suspected and actual crime hotspots, and other reactive policing methods (Tankebe, 2008) seems to have yielded minimal success of crime prevention in crime prone areas.

It appears over the years that the effort to fight crime in Kasoa using methods such as police patrol, police visibility and police collaboration with other agencies (Acheampong, 2015) has not seen much progress. It remains an unanswered question if crime rates would continue to soar or abate in an era where freedom, social well-being, and in totality, development has seen much necessity. In recent years, a significant number of research on crime in Ghana have been done. Some of these include the works of Bagson et al. (2021), Opoku-Ware et al. (2021), Wrigley-Asante et al. (2021), Bagson (2018), Owusu et al. (2016) and Wrigley-Asante et al. (2016). These studies were carried out on issues such as crime and poverty, neighborhood

perception of crime, livelihood and crime victimization. Although a vast body of literature exist on urbanization (Owusu et al. 2016), limited studies have been undertaken on the dynamics of crime and its attendant social and demographic factors in rapidly developing Ghanaian urban spaces such as Kasoa. Consequently, this study sought to fill the gap on the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to explore the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa.

1.4 Research Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

1. determine the common crimes committed in Kasoa.

2. examine the social and demographic factors that influence crime in Kasoa.

3. analyze the effects of criminal activities on the social well-being of the Kasoa residents.

4. assess the crime prevention strategies to reduce crime in Kasoa.

1.5 Research Questions

The research sought to answer the following specific research questions:

1. What are the common crimes committed in Kasoa?

2. What are the social and demographic factors that influence crime in Kasoa?

3. How do criminal activities affect the social well-being of the Kasoa residents?

4. What crime prevention strategies are available to prevent and reduce crime in Kasoa?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The goal of this research was to gain a better knowledge of the common crimes committed in Kasoa, the social and demographic factors that contribute to crime, the effects of criminal activities on people's social well-being, and crime-prevention strategies in Kasoa. The outcomes of this study contribute to the fields of Social Studies, Sociology, Criminology, and Demography on both a theoretical and practical levels. The finding is useful to the Awutu Senya East Municipality in understanding the social and demographic factors that lead to crime, and the appropriate measures the Municipality can adopt for deterring and reforming criminals. The findings of this research assist the Ghana Statistical Service and the Ghana Police Service in fostering a society that is less predisposed to or vulnerable to crime.

Academically, students studying Social Studies, Sociology, and Demography will benefit from the results of this study because they will gain a better understanding of the intricacies of population issues, criminal, delinquent, and deviant conduct, and society's response to crime. It also alerts parents in Kasoa to the importance of being more watchful with their children, as well as officers of the Ghana Police Service to the importance of being more proactive in policing. This research also serves to raise awareness about the importance of residents being cautious and vigilant in public places. The study is also useful in determining which population-related societal problems may be addressed. Finally, this research acts as a guide for researchers and has given information on which future research can be based.

1.7 Delimitation

Geographically, the study was limited to Kasoa in the Awutu Senya East Municipality (ASEM). The study was also limited to common crimes committed in Kasoa, social

and demographic factors influencing crime, effect of crime on social well-being as well as crime prevention strategies available to reduce criminal activities. By population, the study was limited to 272 respondents.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

The study faced several limitations during its course. One of the main challenges was gaining access to key informants for the qualitative data collection. This was overcome by multiple visits. Additionally, the collection of secondary data on crime from the Police Division was also delayed, and this impeded the progress of the study. Moreover, accessing secondary data from GSS on Kasoa, specifically, could not materialize due to the ongoing 2020 Population and Housing Census and other surveys. Therefore, it was necessary to rely on the region and district reports on Awutu Senya East Municipality from the various available published 2021 Population and Housing Census data. However, this may not pose much limitation on the findings because Awutu Senya East Municipality is mainly urban with few rural settlements (ASEMA, 2017; GSS, 2014), indicating that majority of its population are concentrated in Kasoa.

The large sample size used for the quantitative data collection also posed a challenge, but was addressed by utilizing the services of two Research Assistants. In addition, gathering the FGD participants posed problems. I overcame this challenge by devising a motivation scheme in order to facilitate the data collection process. Finally, at a time of fuel price hike and an increase in transportation cost, I encountered financial constraint because the study was self-financed.

1.9 Operational Definition of Terms

Words have different meanings in different contexts. The following words are, therefore, operationalized to drive the study:

Crime: Any socially unsafe act; punishable under the Criminal Law, and which threatens the survival of humans in their environment e.g., murder. Deliberate or non-deliberate, socially-harmful or dangerous act that is explicitly labeled, outlawed, and punishable under criminal law.

Demographic factor: Socio-economic characteristics that define a particular population e.g., age and employment.

Offender or criminal: Used in the context of Criminal Law to refer to a person guilty of committing a crime or an offense.

Population growth: refers to the increase in individuals (both natural and urbanization) in a population within a specific defined time scale.

Social factor: Circumstances or situations that affect people's lifestyle and well-being e.g., educational level.

Social well-being: Any form of relationships or interactions within the urban space that provides a sense of social connectedness and belonging.

Urban crime: Any socially unsafe act punishable under Criminal Law which threatens the survival of urban residents.

1.10 Organization of the Study

The study was presented in five chapters. Chapter One entails the introduction, and discusses the background to the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, as well as the definition of terms. Chapter Two reviews the relevant literature for the study under the following sub-topics: the concept and evolution of crime, social and demographic factors influencing

crime, effects of criminal activities on the social well-being of people as well as crime prevention strategies in crime control. Chapter Three focuses on the methodology adopted for the study, and concentrates on the research paradigm, research approach, research design, population, sample and sampling techniques, data collection methods and method of data analysis. Chapter Four focuses on the findings and discussions. Chapter Five deals with the summary, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter, scientific literature was reviewed to increase the understanding of the problem being studied. The first review covered the theoretical foundation, which includes the Social Disorganization and Strain theories. This is followed by a review of key concepts and themes raised in the research questions: the concept and evolution of crime, social and demographic factors influencing crime, the effects of crime on the social well-being of people and crime prevention strategies.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The following theories underpinned the study:

1. The Social Disorganization Theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942)

2. The Strain Theory (Merton, 1938)

2.1.1 The Social Disorganization Theory

The Social Disorganization Theory was propounded by Shaw and McKay in 1942, in their book „Juvenile Delinquency in Urban Areas" (Shaw & McKay, 1942). The theorists focus on three variables: population status, economic status, and physical status. They suggest that regions with high delinquency rates appeared to be physically degraded, located near areas of heavy industry, and home to a large number of transient residents (Criminal Justice, n.d). The primary characteristic Shaw and McKay examined was population change. They discovered that delinquency rose or fell in direct proportion to population rates (Kubrin & Weitzer, 2003).

Shaw and McKay argued that population changes contributed to delinquency because of an unstable population, culturally heterogeneous, migratory, and lower socio-

economic class, resulting in the conclusion that neighborhood ecological factors influenced crime rates more than individual resident factors (Umar, 2017). According to Social Disorganization Theory, a neighborhood's heterogeneous population raises crime rates by impeding inhabitants' ability to connect with one another, establish bonds, share values, and work together to solve issues (Graif & Sampson, 2009). Shaw and McKay (1942) concluded that there is an association between an area's population make-up and its delinquency rate. Also, the area of study, and not the cultural background of its residents, was the factor accounting to delinquency (Criminal Justice, n.d).

Social influence is, in general, the first feature of Social Disorganization, while environmental opportunity is, in general, the second, and thus, the argument of Social Disorganization derives from the combination of social influence and environmental opportunity (Opoku-Ware et al., 2021). Social Disorganization theorists posits that the physical condition or location of a neighborhood is sufficient to predict crime, regardless of the criminal opportunity or lack thereof presented by an environment, even though a crime may require people who have already acquired criminal impulses and behaviors to occur (Kubrin and Weitzer, 2003; Smith et al., 2000).

Some of the earliest criminological theory studies from the early 1800s serves as the foundation for Social Disorganization Theory. With the help of Shaw and McKay's (1942) research, the Social Disorganization proposition was formally developed as a way to explain neighborhood behavior and characteristics, as well as how shifting such qualities may affect the degree of crime. Following this, the Social Disorganization proposition had a period of dominance in criminological thinking, leading to a large number of replications and study into the early 1960s (Criminal

Justice, n.d). The Social Disorganization Theory lost favor in the 1970s as a result of sharp criticism of Shaw and McKay's (1942) work, and because of the neglect of state data concerning crime. In the 1990's, the Social Disorganization Theory saw a brief rebirth due to a renewed interest in neighborhood characteristics brought on by the weakening of American neighborhoods and rising crime rates (Warner, 2007).

The Social Disorganization Theory was adopted for the study because it provides a comprehensive explanation of the relationship between the characteristics of neighborhoods and crime incidence. Furthermore, the recent surge in population of Kasoa and the rising crime incidence have sparked interest in examining the characteristics of this peri-urban neighborhood, making the Social Disorganization Theory an important theory to adopt for this study.

Moreover, the three variables of population status, economic status, and physical status of the Social Disorganization Theory play an important role in examining the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa. I intended to use these variables to analyze the social and demographic factors that influence crime in Kasoa. For example, I sought to examine how social and demographic factors with an underlying urbanization impacts the economic status of the area, such as unemployment rates which is known to be associated with higher crime rates. Additionally, I sought to explore how physical status factors or environmental opportunities, such as inadequate surveillance or policing might be related to crime in Kasoa, and to explore crime prevention strategies that are most effective. Finally, I sought to assess how criminal activities affected the social well-being of Kasoa residents, using these variables to identify areas of Kasoa that were most susceptible to crime and examining how this impacted residents.

2.1.2 The Strain Theory

The Strain Theory of crime was proposed by Merton (1938) in his paper, "Social Structure and Anomie." Since this theory was created during the Great Depression, it is not unusual that it concentrated on strain related to failure to succeed financially. According to the Strain Theory, some stressors or strains make crimes more likely. These stressors include not being able to accomplish one's goals (such as material or status aspirations), losing positive stimuli (such as a friend's passing or the loss of priceless assets), or being exposed to negative stimuli (e.g., verbal and physical abuse). People who are under these pressures feel disturbed, and they may turn to crime as a coping mechanism (Jang & Johnson, 2003).

According to Robert K. Merton, anomie is caused by a dysfunctional link between normative goals and the legal means to achieve them, rather than by merely having unregulated goals. Despite the fact that we are all conditioned to value success, not everyone has the same possibilities to achieve it (Merton, 1938). Merton stated that people are socialized in the United States to feel that there are unlimited opportunities and to aspire to widespread success. These cultural goals are ubiquitous, but the issue is that the social structure "restricts or altogether prohibits access to these symbols for a significant portion of the same population" (p. 680).

In other words, there are institutional barriers or restrictions that prevent entire classes of individuals from achieving riches by legal methods. Lack of education and work prospects put a strain towards anomie among the lower classes for people who share the cultural goals for success, but have few resources to achieve them, which may translate into deviance. Because of the dissatisfaction this goal obstruction causes,

some people turn to crime, especially income-generating illegal such as theft, drug dealing, and prostitution (Spano et al., 2006).

According to SAGE (2017) Merton asserted that there are five general adaptations to anomie, and they are conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism and rebellion. The key to each is whether or not the cultural goal of success (or, to use a notion that is simpler to estimate, wealth achievement) is accepted or rejected, and whether or not the decision is to pursue the goal using legal or acceptable methods.

Merton‟s five general adaptations to anomie are expanded below:

(i).   The most frequent kind of adaptation is conformity. Conformists are attempting to accomplish the cultural goal of achievement or financial success by legal methods.

(ii).   Innovation is the adaptability for individuals who embrace the societal goal of success/accumulating riches but are attempting to do so by unethical methods. Innovation would include any form of profit-motivated criminality. Merton's modifications would classify robbers, thieves, drug traffickers, embezzlers, and prostitutes as innovators.

(iii). Ritualism is the term for those who have given up on the societal goal of success and wealth accumulation but still rely on legal means of subsistence. In Merton's (1938) typology, the devoted employees who will never become managers could be categorized as ritualists.

(iv).   Retreatism is the adaptation of individuals who have rejected both the lawful methods and the cultural goal of wealth gain. People who adjust in this way are referred to by Merton as being in the society, but not of it. Sociologically thinking, these are the real aliens.

(v).   Rebellion is the group for political deviants who don't follow the rules but try to alter the system to suit their own interests. Rebels repudiate the cultural goal of success/accumulating riches and replace it with another major purpose. To accomplish this goal, they may employ legal or illegal means; indicating that they employ all means required to accomplish their chosen goal. Terrorist organizations, who frequently resort to violence in an effort to further their political objectives, are perhaps the most blatant manifestation of rebellion (SAGE, 2017).

The Strain Theory has been adopted for the study because it can be seen as a synthesis of previous theories of crime, incorporating elements of Durkheim's Anomie Theory and Marx's Class Theory. This synthesis is a useful tool for explaining the complexity of crime and deviance in Kasoa. Secondly, Merton's Strain Theory provides a nuanced and comprehensive explanation for the relationship between cultural goals, means, and crime. It takes into account the complex social and economic factors that contribute to criminal behavior which is one of the goals of this study.

2.2 The Concept and Evolution of Crime

The term, "crime" comes from the Latin word, "crimen" which means "offence" or "charge". In whatever city, region or nation, crime is a social reality, a life-threatening phenomenon (Wilson, 2015). Crime is a contested concept for researchers and legal practitioners have defined it in various ways. However, in simple and general sense, crime is any form of conduct that is unlawful and punishable by the state. Michalowski (2015) states that this term has evolved overtime to encompass a variety of crimes, including violent, property, white-collar and organized crimes, among others.

According to Valasik (2013), classical criminology, which first appeared in the 18th century and was founded on the views of Jeremy Bentham and Cesare Beccaria, was one of the earliest conceptions of crime. They held that criminal behavior was a deliberate choice made by an individual, and the severity of the punishment should match the seriousness of the offence. The positivist school of criminology, which aimed to understand the origins of crime from a scientific perspective, originated in the late 19th century. Instead, solely being the consequence of free will, this school of thought regarded crime as the effect of biological, social and psychological variables (McCaghy et al., 2007).

Critical criminology, which challenges the predominate viewpoints on crime contends that social, political and economic problems including poverty, inequality, and prejudice are the root causes of crime, first appeared in the 20th century. This viewpoint also emphasizes how the criminal justice system contributes to societal injustice, and makes the case for a more fair and considerate method of combating crime (Yar, 2012).

Environmental criminology, which examines the link between the physical environment and crime, has seen increased interest in recent years. According to this viewpoint, effective crime prevention measures should include how urban areas are designed and managed since they may have a substantial impact on crime and victimization (Musto, 2019). These many academic perspectives, which range from philosophical and rationalistic perspectives to scientific and systemic ones, collectively reflect several ways of thinking about crime and how to solve it. Each point of view has helped to understand crime and shaped how policymakers and practitioners research and deal with it.

In both past and more current study of crime, the linkage between population growth and crime has garnered scholarly attention (Muggah, 2012). Urban crime is an unplanned development that lowers the quality of urban life (Setiawan et al., 2019). The majority of urban crime occurs at places with great accessibility, such commercial zones and central business districts (CBDs) (Adel et al., 2016). Urban crime is significantly impacted by urban accessibility and crime rates are greater in areas with high accessibility, like the CBD, than in other areas (Aksoy, 2017). Additionally, there is a strong connection between urban accessibility and crime, which shows that street crime is more prevalent (Dede et al., 2017). The authors suggest that the prevalence of street crime is related to urban accessibility.

There are many distinct kinds of crimes, including white-collar crimes, violent crimes, crimes without victims, and crimes against persons (Crossman, 2021). According to Crossman (2021), crimes against persons, usually known as personal crimes, include homicide, serious assault, rape, and robbery. Property crimes such as burglary, larceny, vehicle theft, and arson, entail the stealing of property without causing physical injury. Crimes against people or property perpetrated in the name of biases against a person's race, gender, gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity are known as hate crimes. Because there is no complaint or victim, crimes against morals are sometimes known as victimless crimes. Victimless crimes include prostitution, unlawful gambling and the use of drugs. White-collar crimes are those perpetrated by someone with high social standing while acting out their line of work. Included in this are insider trading, tax evasion, embezzlement (stealing money from one's company), and other income tax law offences. Youth and minors commit the majority of these offences (Onyeneke & Karam, 2022).

2.3 Social and Demographic Factors influencing Criminal Activities

There are many reasons why individuals commit crimes, and there is no one cause of crime since it is a complex phenomenon that varies through time and among cultures. As a result, crime does not merely happen in society. Some people choose to perpetrate crimes because of the potential rewards, the appeal of the target, and the favorable conditions they encounter (Ayuba et al., 2016). According to Ukoji and Okolie (2016), most offenders turn to crime for a variety of reasons, including lack of job, pressure to close the wealth/poverty gap, narcotics, greed and an ineffective crime control strategy for national security, among others.

Salim (2015) points out that a number of factors, including poverty, family stability, physical and mental health, demographics and political factors are linked to crime. Crime is a complicated and dynamic phenomenon that evolves through time and between cultures. Behaviors that were formerly not considered unlawful may become criminalized, and then be made legal once more as societies evolve through time. Sowmyya (2015) argues that no one is born a criminal. According to him, the circumstances and surroundings are what cause a person to behave criminally.

According to Clark (2014), crime is motivated differently depending on where it occurs since criminals are disproportionately concentrated in places with high rates of unemployment, poor socio-economic conditions and exclusion. According to some academics, among other things, frustration, relative deprivation, and greed/grief are some of the reasons of crime in society. The issue with crime is that it frequently involves violence and greed, which encourages people to violate inalienable rights of others (Ukoji & Okolie, 2016). According to Bhorat et al. (2017), issues with poverty, high unemployment, and inequality among the country's expanding population are to

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blame for the high prevalence of crime. Similarly, JUSTIA (2022) asserts that crime in South Africa may be attributed to the sub-culture of violence in the society, the vulnerability of young people, and the ease with which people can get guns and ammunition of various calibers. Homelessness, poverty, unemployment, marginalization of young people, the breakdown of culture, bad urban design, and neglect of public spaces are the primary causes of crime in urban areas (Gutiérrez et al., 2009).

According to studies, debates on urbanization and urban management have been prioritized ensuring a secure and safe living environment for residents, despite major changes in urban morphology and growth (Malik, 2016; Ojo & Ojewale, 2019). In a larger framework in which the location of the city influences the shift in crime levels during the next decade, Hipp and Kane (2017) investigated the connection between cities and crime rates. The authors contend that while cities with higher population density and those bordering by counties with higher populations normally have greater rises in crime during the next decade, cities experiencing population growth now see declines in crime. The study also revealed that while crime increases in locations with greater unemployment rates, it reduces in those with higher average incomes.

According to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (2020), the trend of urbanization will continue to grow in the years to ahead, creating problems with insecurity in metropolitan areas. According to Owusu et al. (2008), there are now slums in many cities around the developing world as a result of rapid urbanization, poor infrastructure, and lack of amenities to accommodate the growing urban population. The spirit and goal of Target 11 of the Millennium Development Goal

(MDG) 7, which aspires to dramatically reduce the number of slum inhabitants and improve their lives by 2020, are being undermined by the expanding prevalence of slums, particularly in the cities of the developing world (Owusu, 2016).

One of the main factors contributing to crime in society is unemployment. When a person is unemployed, he or she may be inclined to use creative, but harmful means to satisfy his or her everyday needs and desires. According to Soh (2012), criminal behavior can be found in all socio-economic groups, and even well-educated and affluent people commit crimes. As both the wealthy and the poor, politicians and government officials are entangled in the web of crime in the majority of the world's nations, the problem of crime affects all social classes of people. Crime and unemployment are positively correlated because of the ease with which low socio-economic status individuals can be enticed into a life of crime. Adegoke (2014) regards the issue of unemployment and poverty as twins who aid each other. When individuals are jobless or homeless, social instability can arise, leading to an upsurge in crime. According to Salim (2015), when people lack the financial means to acquire basic necessities, they may be enticed to engage in criminal activities in order to live.

According to Rajnish (2018), people who engage in criminal activities are affected by the consequences of unemployment in the society, just as Nkwachukwu and Bartholomew (2015) asserted in their study on developing a crime mapping GIS system for law enforcement agencies in Owerri Metropolis, Imo State, Nigeria, that unemployment, poverty and illicit drug use are some of the most common factors that contribute to crime. Unemployment and poverty are the primary causes of criminal behavior, which manifests as rape, armed robbery and kidnapping, among others (Ajaegbu, 2012; Adegoke, 2014; Adeyemi et al., 2021).

According to studies, age plays a crucial role in criminal offenses. Generally, the youth is more prone than older people to commit crimes (Steinberg, 2017). Young individuals are more sensitive to peer pressure and group dynamics and are easily influenced since they are still developing their attitudes and values (Pratt & Cullen, 2000).

Increased criminal activity has also been connected to the get-rich-quick attitude, or the conviction that riches can be obtained rapidly by unethical methods (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000). In an effort to gain riches quickly, people with this mentality may participate in illicit crimes, including robbery, fraud and drug trafficking (Pratt & Turanovic, 2008).

Criminal conduct has also been connected to a dysfunctional family structure, which includes parental neglect, lack of appropriate role models, and contact to troubled peer groups (Hser et al., 2010). Children from underprivileged households who experience poverty, abuse and neglect as young children, are more likely to commit crimes as adults (Kubrin & Weitzer, 2003).

Another reason why some people engage in criminal activities is lack of formal education, since there appears to be a substantial association between crime and education (Seda & Guler, 2013; Lochner, 2020). Several studies show that finishing high school decreases criminal activity considerably, given that poor literacy rates and education gaps serve as tools and possibilities for recruiting into people criminal gangs. A survey of numerous offenders in jails in the United States indicated that many of the inmates could not read or write beyond elementary school. According to the poll, the most prevalent offences committed by these offenders were robbery, burglary, vehicular theft, drug trafficking and shoplifting (Lochner, 2020).

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According to Hjalmarsson et al. (2015), criminals appear to have lesser academic credentials, and a rise in education can lead to a decrease in crime commission. According to the researchers, the issue of crime cannot be attributed solely to ignorant people in society because both educated and uneducated people commit crimes. There have been cases where high-ranking government officials, corporate executives, bank CEOs, and university authorities have become entangled in the web of crime, hence it is crucial to understand that crime is not just a problem for those with little education, as people with advanced degrees have been detained, accused of, and tried for crimes including money laundering, fraud and conspiracy in competent courts of jurisdiction Poverty and inequality have a positive influence on crime. This is due to the possibility that those who are below the poverty line may be motivated to engage in criminal activities in order to live. Additionally, it is thought that the wealthy also commit crimes because crime is not solely reserved for the poor (Soh, 2012). Given that poverty is typically associated with criminal conduct, the link between poverty and crime is complex and challenging to analyze (Sharkey et al., 2017). Savolainen et al. (2013) reiterate this idea when they asserted that poverty has a significant impact on crime in society. Thus, the incidence of crime rises in direct proportion to how wide the wealth disparity in the community is. According to a study by Rufrancos et al. (2013), the relationship between economic inequality and crime, property crime and violent crimes such as homicide and robbery increased in tandem with increases in income disparity.

Researchers have identified the use of illegal substances and low self-esteem as two causes of crime in society. Criminals with poor self-esteem are more likely to take drugs as an enhancer to further their illicit activities. Criminals typically use various

illegal narcotics such as heroin, meth, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines to enhance their activities, hence their relationship with drug lords is inextricably linked (Alavi, 2011). Singh et al. (2020) discovered a significant association between amphetamine-type stimulant use and violent crime in Penang, Malaysia, in a research on the relationship between amphetamine-type stimulant use and violent crime. Their study revealed that some of the criminals arrested and detained by the police were connected to narcotic offences between July-December 2017. In some cases, convicted criminals admitted to purchasing their narcotics from drug traffickers who transported them from various areas throughout the world. Criminals utilized illegal narcotics to relieve boredom, raise their confidence during operations, and improve their sexual performance, all of which led to violence and sexual assaults, among other things (Singh et al., 2020).

Other factors responsible to influence crime activities include congestion and peer influence. With congestion, the mobility of people fosters anonymity among the large population, which serves as an incentive or a channel to hiding illegal conduct because of the issues of identification. As a result, increased congestion increases the likelihood of criminal activity (Bagson, 2018; Owusu et al., 2016).

Peer influence has a strong sitting in the heart of criminology regarding the many empirical studies in the field. But, other theorists consider it to be one of the most well-known instances of an unsubstantiated relationship (McGloin & Thomas, 2019). There are several research that support the idea that associating with peers in unstructured, unsupervised situations (even those who are not delinquent), increases criminality (Augustyn & McGloin, 2013, Hoeben & Weerman, 2014, Maimon & Browning, 2010). Peers can significantly influence a person's chance of engaging in

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illegal activity (Hser et al., 2010). Individuals may become involved in criminal activity that they may not have otherwise done due to peer pressure and group dynamics (Pratt & Turanovic, 2008). This is particularly true for children, who are still acquiring their attitudes and beliefs (Steinberg, 2017).

Furthermore, studies have demonstrated that peers may positively influence a person's conduct (Hser et al., 2010). For instance, a person's risk of engaging in criminal activity can be decreased by having good relationships with pro-social peers (Pratt & Turanovic, 2008; McGloin & Thomas, 2019). Peer influence is a complicated and varied phenomenon that may impact criminal conduct in both positive and negative ways (Hser et al., 2010). In order to devise effective initiatives and policies targeted at reducing crime, it is necessary to understand how peer groups and networks influence criminal conduct (Pratt & Cullen, 2000; Thornberry & Krohn, 2000).

The literature suggests that the reasons or factors for committing crimes are varied and complex, and that crimes are not caused by any one factor. Some people may commit crimes because they see a potential benefit or because of the circumstances they are in, such as poverty or lack of job opportunities. Other factors that can be associated with crime include family stability, physical and mental health, demographics and political factors. The literature also suggests that crime is a dynamic phenomenon that changes over time, and across cultures. It is also worth noting that the literature emphasizes that no one is born a criminal, but rather it is the circumstances and surroundings that can contribute to criminal behavior.

2.4 Effects of Crime on the Social Well-Being of People

In many circles, safety is viewed as both a social and a spatial issue that is frequently related to how urban places are designed (Buckingham, 2009). According to

Agyemang (2012), all crimes, whether serious or not, have adverse effects on both the people and society or the country as a whole, and the detrimental outcomes include the loss of innocent lives, anxiety and terror, a security danger and financial restraints, among others. These crimes which include robbery, theft, auto theft, serial murdering, cyber fraud, rape, domestic violence, drug trafficking, physical assaults and property destruction, may occur in people's homes, places of employment, public places, and other settings (Agyemang, 2012). Along with a rise in crime rates in metropolitan areas, there has also been an increase in worries about the possibility of being a victim of crime, both real and perceived (Ceccato & Wikstrom, 2012).

Crimes ubiquitously induce a sense of fear among people (Opoku-Ware et al., 2021). People's perceptions about the likelihood of becoming a victim of a criminal activity or a community's unwillingness to exercise both formal and informal social control have an impact on fear. Overtime, these elements combine to generate a general sense of unease and perceptions of criminality (Brunton-Smith et al., 2014; Cauldwell & Like, 2012). Apart from the fear of crime, crime is also seen to affect sense of trust. There is a certain amount of mistrust among urban dwellers (Bagson, 2018). High levels of crime can create distrust among individuals and communities, leading to decreased or reduced cooperation, social capital and lower levels of trust in the criminal justice system (Farrell & Pease, 2009).

Khaile et al. (2022) did a study and explored trust in the context of social cohesion in selected rural communities of South Africa. Parents and community stakeholders made up the majority of the 19 participants that were questioned. Participants were interviewed face-to-face, to gather data using a semi-structured interview schedule. Braun and Clark's thematic analysis was used to analyze the data that was gathered.

The survey discovered a low level of community trust in both Lambert's Bay and Philippolis. In situations when there existed trust, it was more prevalent among the people who knew each other than between strangers. Generalized trust was thus difficult to achieve in both societies.

People's participation in everyday activities can also be directly impacted by crime, since it may make them more apprehensive or reluctant to engage in activities away from their homes (Tseloni, 2006). For instance, they would restrict their travels or avoid specific regions, which would minimize possibilities for social engagements and decrease social contacts (Matsueda & Heimer, 1997, cited in Seffrin et al., 2009). Additionally, nightlife, social connections, and networks, as well as community involvement, are all impacted in places where there is a perception of a high crime rate (Lemanski, 2004; Saegert & Winkel, 2004).

Overall, crime has far-reaching effects on both individuals and the society at large. It can impact people's sense of safety, trust and social participation, as well as economic development, and the overall quality of life in a community. Therefore, it is crucial to have effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies to address and reduce crime rates.

2.5 Crime Prevention Strategies

In order to effectively prevent crime, it is crucial to be aware of the types and patterns of crime since different site characteristics demand for unique crime prevention approaches. A renewed interest in safety and security has been spurred by recent advances in urban social research (Heimer, 2019; Ades & Mishra, 2021). These are indeed the core components in creating safe residential complexes and cities. In the

past two decades, people have built fortresses to make their residences safe and secure.

Many sociologists and criminologists concur that civic engagement and people' connections to one another and their communities must be the cornerstones of any effective approach to addressing crime issues. Any program of crime control by police authorities or any other law enforcement agency needs the support of the community to complete it and make it more effective. Local communities must involve community members in plans and programs aimed at ensuring public safety and crime reduction. As engagement among people rises, the community's defenders against crime become more active (Rezaei, 2013).

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) is another method that many experts in the field of crime prevention believe has great potential for reducing criminal activities in public spaces and identifying offenders. CCTV-related technology has decreased in cost, increased in quality, and attained a certain level of societal acceptance (Welsh & Farrington, 2009). The results of a survey research conducted by Nwokaeze et al. (2022) based on data from 498 respondents selected from four neighborhoods in a peri-urban location indicated that home measures households had made provisions for their security. Streets and homes in the Greater Port Harcourt City Area have high walls, some with razor wire added, guarded street gates, CCTV, electric gates and fences, and burglar-proof windows, doors, and even roofs. The need for personal safety and security has fueled the growth of "gated communities," security-zone enclaves with a focus on protection and a variety of protective measures, including walls, gates, restricted streets, and the installation of alarm systems and CCTV cameras. It is unclear if these barriers offer sufficient protection; yet, responses are

possible (Agbola & Ntamark, 2017, cited in Nwokaeze et al., 2022; Nwokaeze & Dawaye, 2020).

A great deal of research indicated police presence as a crime prevention strategy. For instance, according to research by the American Planning Association (APA) (2006), placing police stations close to centers of activity can help reduce crime, even though other socio-political factors can also have a role in where police stations are located. This suggests that with recent increases in police presence and an extra police station near the Central Business District, crime in Kasoa is expected to decrease to a moderate level.

According to studies, proactive police may significantly lower crime rates. One research, for instance, discovered that proactive police techniques, such as community policing and problem-oriented policing, were successful in lowering crime and enhancing neighborhood safety in a number of cities (Weisburd & Braga, 2006; Braga et al., 2001). Different research showed that concentrated deterrence and hot spot policing were successful in lowering gun violence in high-crime regions (Loftin & McDowall, 1992). Another method of preventing crime that has received much attention is education. By giving people the abilities and information, they need to abstain from illegal action and make wise decisions, education can help reduce crime (Tyler, 2010).

Studies have also demonstrated the effectiveness of education in lowering recidivism the probability that a former criminal would commit another crime. For instance, a study of prisoner education initiatives in the US discovered that inmates who took part in educational initiatives while jailed had a considerably lower risk of recidivism than those who did not (Magee, 2021).

The literature suggests that preventing crime requires a multi-faceted approach that involves a combination of strategies. Nonetheless, it is essential to be aware of the types and patterns of crime in specific locations to implement appropriate crime prevention measures. While the use of technology and education initiatives are important in crime prevention, the most crucial and effective approach is civic engagement and community involvement.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework refers to the tool in research that enables researchers to develop awareness and understanding of the situation under scrutiny, and to communicate it to the reader (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). A well-formed conceptual framework enables researchers to show how the basic concepts and constructs interact with each other in the actual setting and experiences within which the research study is conducted. This study developed a conceptual framework that addresses the interaction and relationship between social and demographic factors and crime.

The framework explains that population growth and unregulated urbanization can lead to strains on individuals living in peri-urban or urban neighborhoods. This can lead to various social and demographic factors that increase the likelihood of criminal behavior. For example, drug abuse can also result from these strains, leading to an increase in criminal behavior. The social and demographic factors that result from strains are individual and community-based factors. Individual factors may include drug abuse and get-rich-quick-attitude, while community-based factors may include unemployment, congestion and development of slums. These factors combine to create an environment that is conducive to high crime rates.

In addition, high crime rates can have negative effects on the social well-being of people. These include fear and panic, lack of belonginess and insecurity, sense of disunity, etc. These effects can create a vicious cycle, where high crime rates further exacerbate the social and demographic factors that lead to criminal behavior.

To reduce crime in crime prone areas such as Kasoa, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. This approach is premised on a combination of institutional security strategies, local-level community strategies and personal protection strategies. For instance, proactive policing, increased police visibility, and local engagement can deter criminal behavior. Community-based programs and neighborhoods" watchdog committees can encourage social cohesion and promote collaboration among residents. Personal protection strategies, such as instituting home security measures and practicing being at home before night, can also reduce the likelihood of crime victimization. Overall, the conceptual framework shows the inter-relationships between social disorganization, strain, social and demographic factors, effects of crime on social well-being and crime prevention strategies. The above are captured in figure 1 below:
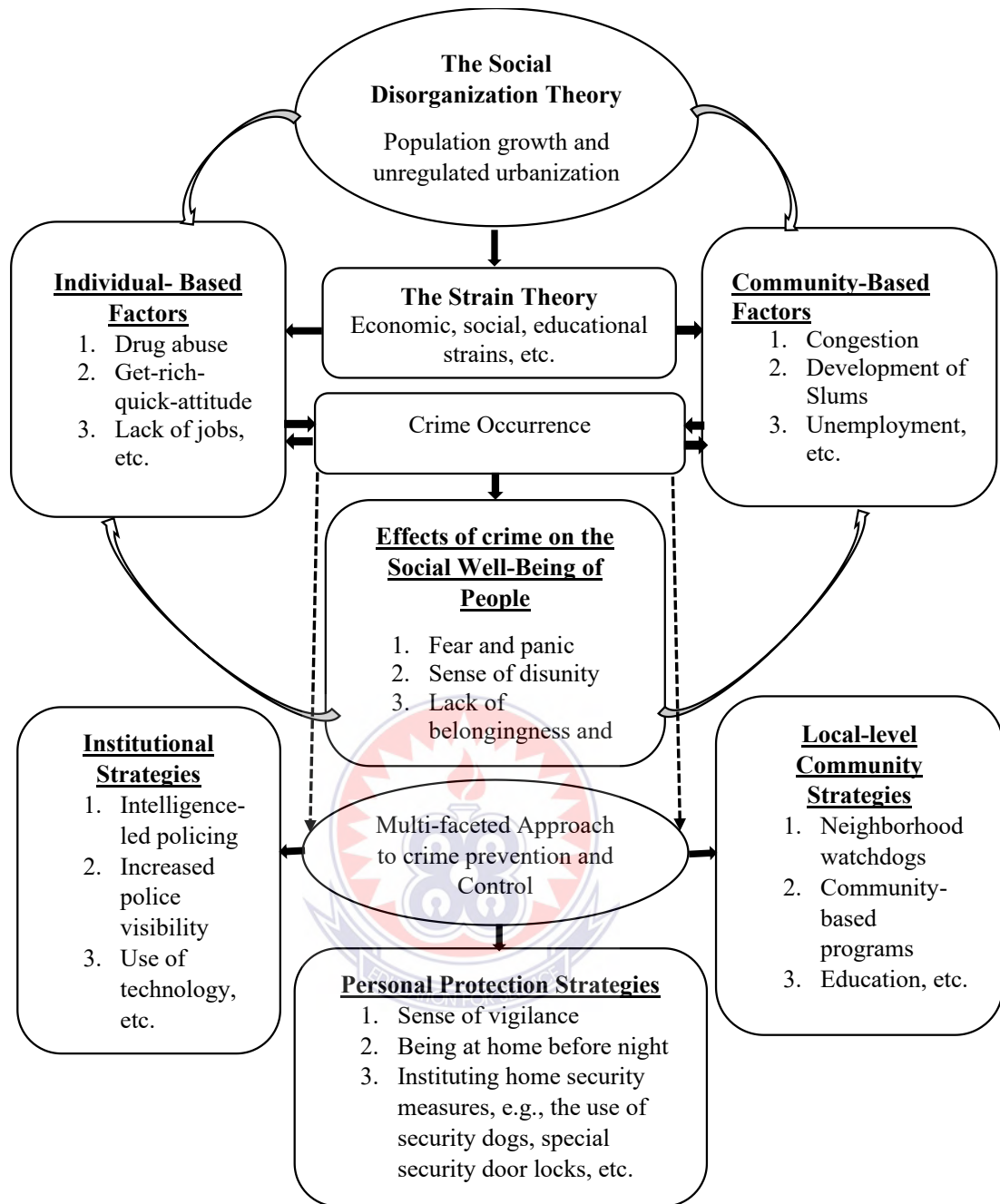
Figure 1: Conceptual framework for Social and Demographic factors and Crime

Source: Author's own construct

2.7 Summary

The literature reviewed revealed that there is a linkage between social and demographic factors and crime. The majority of crimes occur in the central business district of the urban settlements. These include white-collar, violent, victimless crimes and crimes against persons. Again, the literature revealed that the use of illicit drugs,

urbanization, parental neglect, age, lack of education, peer influence and poverty are factors responsible for crime. These factors create crime in the peri-urban and urban neighborhood, and consequently affect trust, cohesion and community collaboration. Moreover, literature has shown that police visibility, proactive policing strategies, use of technology and involvement of communities are some crime prevention measures used in the urban setting.

From the theoretical review, the major characteristic of the Social Disorganization Theory was population change, recognizing that population changes contributed to delinquency. Neighborhood heterogeneity was seen to affect residents" capacity to interact with one another, form ties, share values, and collaborate to solve problems. The Strain Theory, on the other hand, focuses on the strain experienced by individuals when they are unable to accomplish culturally-defined goals due to limited access to legitimate means. This leads to deviant behavior such as engaging in income-generating illegal activities.

It was seen that both demography and criminology share in a multi-faceted and reciprocal relationship (South & Messner, 2000) and establish a neighborhood tendency as the primary bases of criminal behaviors (Adeyemi et al., 2021). The literature suggests that the crime landscape research in the Ghanaian setting has been dominated by issues such as crime and poverty, neighborhood perception of crime, livelihood and crime victimization (Bagson et al., 2021; Opoku-Ware et al., 2021; Wrigley-Asante et al., 2021; Bagson, 2018; Owusu et al., 2016; Wrigley-Asante et al., 2016). Even though, there is a considerable body of literature on urbanization (Owusu et al., 2016), it is compelling regarding the fact that few studies have been conducted on the dynamics of crime and its accompanying social and demographic factors in fast

growing Ghanaian urban settings. The present study conveys the idea that there are complex and ever-changing relationships between different social and demographic factors that influence the occurrence of crime as a result of the continuous population growth, and thus, an understanding of these factors is necessary to develop effective crime prevention strategies.

Although both the Social Disorganization and Strain theories offer valuable insights into the relationship between social and demographic factors and crime, several scholars (Özbay, 2003; Malik, 2016; Opoku-Ware et al., 2021; Onyeneke & Karam, 2022) have adopted either of the theories in their studies. However, none of the theories used was superior or explained the phenomenon under study better than the other. As a result, gaining a thorough understanding of the relationship between social and demographic factors and crime requires considering a broader range of theories and factors. Therefore, this present study has adopted both theories to foster theoretical integration and further bridge the theoretical gap.
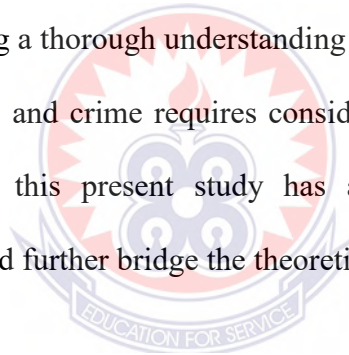
CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the methodology adopted for the study. The chapter discusses the philosophical paradigm, research approach, research design, the study area, population, sample and sampling techniques as well as instruments for data collection. The chapter further delves into legitimation [quality or validity in Mixed Methods Research (MMR)], trustworthiness, data analysis and ethical considerations. At the core of each section, justification was made on selection of a particular method, approach or actions. Limitations that came with each particular approach, method or procedure was also addressed towards conducting a coherent study.

3.1 Philosophical Paradigm

The study was conducted within the context of the pragmatic philosophical paradigm. Paradigm is used in research to mean worldview. In social research, the word "paradigm" is used to describe the philosophical presumptions or fundamental set of ideas that serve as the researcher's compass and shape their worldview in the social sciences (Lincoln et al., 2011). The paradigm, first used by Thomas Kuhn in 1970, is a way of thinking about and constructing meaning of the complexities of the real world (Creswell & Plano-Clark 2011; Patton 2002; Rossman & Rallis 2003). Paradigms are shared generalizations, beliefs, and values of a community of experts regarding the nature of reality and knowledge.

Despite the fact that there are a number of paradigms or worldviews used to structure and categorize contemporary social work research (such as constructivism, positivism, participatory action frameworks, or pragmatism), they are all

fundamentally philosophical in nature and share the following components: axiology, epistemology, ontology, methodology and rhetoric (Creswell, 2009; Lincoln et al., 2011). According to pragmatism, human behavior is inextricably linked to one's prior experiences and the ideas that resulted from those experiences. Hence, action and human mind are inextricably intertwined. Humans make decisions based on the potential outcomes of their actions, and they utilize the outcomes of those decisions to forecast the outcomes of future decisions that will likely be made in a similar manner (Kaushik & Walsh, 2019).

The pragmatic paradigm has certain drawbacks, the first of which is the difficulty in identifying contextualized research problems. For instance, Thompson (1997) notes that pragmatism's contextual, problem-centered orientation restricts its capacity to recognize and assess systemic societal issues. Second, pragmatism poses certain methodological issues when it comes to transforming epistemological concerns into research technique, and ultimately choosing the research methodologies. How can all of the layers of a research topic, for instance, be measured or observed? (Feilzer, 2010).

According to Creswell (2014), pragmatic researchers consider "what" and "how" to investigate depending on expected effects. The author also offers some hints on the form of pragmatic research. He asserts that the pragmatic research viewpoint is problem-centered and emphasizes the effects of choices. This is true for mixed methods research, when researchers frequently draw on both quantitative and qualitative premises (Creswell, 2014). This paradigm was chosen for a number of reasons. Firstly, since the pragmatic paradigm looks at problems from the perspective of consequences of actions, it was needful to employ this paradigm to examine how

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social and demographic factors influence the occurrence of criminal activities in order to make recommendations for stakeholder actions that develops a society that is less susceptible to crime. Secondly, is to achieve the following; complementarity, completeness, development, expansion, corroboration or confirmation, compensation and diversity (Tashakkori & Newman, 2010). Thirdly, pragmatic inquirers draw liberally from mixed methods assumptions, this also informed me to fuse both quantitative and qualitative research approaches for a holistic study.

3.2 Research Approach

According to Creswell's (2014) theory, research approaches are strategies and guidelines for conducting studies that cover everything from general notions to specific techniques for gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data. There are some criteria to be taken into consideration when choosing a suitable approach to apply in research, such as the nature of the research problem, the purpose of the project, the availability of resources such as time and money, the sensitivity of the problem at hand, the discipline of research, and the researcher's individual experiences, skills, interest, and attitudes, to name a few (Grover, 2015).

There are three commonly approaches to research studies namely; quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods. The approach adopted for this study was the mixed-methods approach. The collecting and "mixing" or integration of both quantitative and qualitative data in a study is a component of the mixed-method methodological framework (Creswell, 2014). According to Hafsa (2019), this approach combines two popular research genres, which has the potential to overcome the limitations of a single method, and as a result, increases the validity and dependability of a study's conclusions. In order to conduct a thorough inquiry of a phenomena, the mixed

methods approach to research requires incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data from research participants.

The mixed-method research approach keeps gaining momentum in the social science research. The purpose of mixed methods research, according to Johnson and Onwuegbuzie (2004), is not to replace qualitative or quantitative methodologies, but rather to capitalize on their advantages, while minimizing their drawbacks, both within and between studies.

According to Creswell and Plano-Clark (2011), mixed methods outperform a single method approach in three key areas: they enable researchers to address research questions that other approaches are unable to (confirmatory and exploratory questions); they offer stronger inferences through depth and breadth; and, finally, they give participants the chance to express different points of view. There are reasons that account for the adoption of this approach for the present study. Firstly, the ability to combine several strategies has the benefit of facilitating triangulation (variety of data sources, multiple perspectives to interpret the results). Secondly, considering the nature of the issue under study, it was important employing the mixed-method approach in order to explore an in-depth data on the influence of social and demographic factors on crime for analysis.

3.3 Research Design

This study used exploratory sequential mixed methods design. The exploratory sequential mixed methods research design is a two-phase exploratory design of which the results of the qualitative phase are built into the quantitative data (Creswell, 2009; Creswell & Plano-Clark, 2011). Sequential exploratory mixed method is an approach to combining qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis in a sequence of

phases (Creswell & Plano-Clark, 2018). Researchers gather qualitative data in the first phase, evaluate it, and use the findings to guide the following phase's quantitative data gathering, which might involve a survey or another kind of quantitative gathering data. This method's justification is that, it first investigates a subject before selecting which variables should be assessed (Mihas, 2019). This design is useful for developing more effective measurements by identifying the factors that need to be measured (Creswell, 2014).

Since the sequential exploratory design is best suited for measuring or assessing factors, the social and demographic factors that influence criminal activities become useful with this design. The sequential, exploratory mixed methods design is more applicable to research conducted in a relatively new field, where important issues need to be identified first (Hammond, 2020), or the relationship between phenomenon be established, in this case the relationship between social and demographic factors and crime (Lee & Jang, 2021). This design involves collecting and analyzing the qualitative data in the first phase, and using the findings from the qualitative data to either develop an instrument (instrument development model) or to establish essential variables or emergent categories to study quantitatively on a particular phenomenon (Creswell & Plano-Clark, 2011).

Despite the fact that both phases are analyzed individually, they both have combined interpretation as they connect at their early stages of data collection. The sequential exploratory design-instrument development model was considered the most appropriate mixed methods approach for this study. This design is ideal for the explorations of new phenomena (Hammond, 2020). As there is little empirical understanding on the effects of criminal activities on the social well-being of

community members, sequential exploratory mixed method approach serves as an appropriate design for this study. In using this approach (Babbie, 2004), the data from the first phase (qualitative phase) of this study was used to design the quantitative instrument to analyze the influence of social and demographic factors on criminal activities at the second phase (quantitative phase). It has been suggested that researchers using the instrument development model give much credence to qualitative domain of the study than quantitative domain (Creswell & Plano-Clark, 2007). However, in this study, equal weighting or priority was given to both approaches.

| Qualitative Phase (1st) | → | Quantitative Phase (2nd) | → | Combined Interpretation of data |
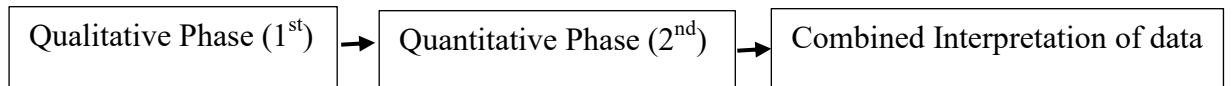
Figure 3: Overall study design

3.4 The Study Area

A map showing Kasoa is captured in Figure 2.
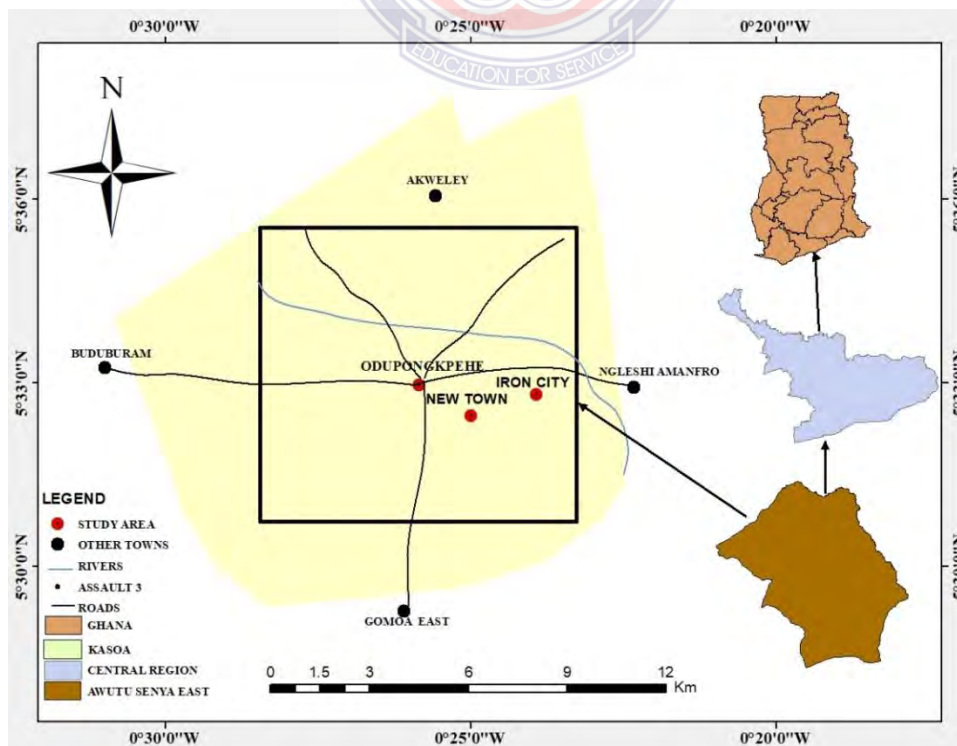
Figure 2: A Map of Kasoa
Source: Konlan, (2022)

The purpose of the study was to analyze how social and demographic factors influence crime in a growing Ghanaian urban space. To achieve this purpose, one research location was purposefully selected. That is Kasoa, the capital of the Awutu Senya East Municipality, The Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly (ASEMA) is one of the Municipalities created in the Central Region in 2012. The Municipality was carved out of the former–Awutu Senya Assembly in 2012, and established as a Municipality by Legislative Instrument (LI) 2025 (Government of Ghana, 2019). Reasons on why this site was selected was highlighted in Chapter One of this study.

3.4.1 Reasons for site selection

Apart from reasons highlighted in Chapter One of this study, Kasoa was also chosen for the study for three reasons. Firstly, the town has had a 'ripple effect' as a result of Ghana and West Africa's rapid population increase over the last three decades, making the Township one of the quickest-growing localities in the country (Opoku-Ware et al., 2021). Secondly, Kasoa's abrupt urban development has caused chronic and deep-seated social issues since the town lacked the necessary facilities to handle a huge population who descended on the town to dwell (Yankson, 2012; Ministry of Finance, 2014). Thirdly, recent media reports suggest increased crimes in Kasoa (Akwetey-Wayo, 2019; Opoku-Ware et al., 2021).

3.4.2 Geography of the Area

The Awutu Senya East Municipality covers a total land area of about 108.004 sq km (Government of Ghana, 2019), with its capital; Kasoa having 62 sq km. According to the 2010 Population and Housing Census analytical report on the Awutu Senya East Municipality, the Municipality has 6 zonal councils, including Zongo, Ofaakor, Akweley, Opeikuma, Walantu and Kpormetey (GSS, 2014). In addition, it has 14

electoral areas and one constituency known as the Awutu Senya East Constituency. Specifically, the study was centered within the geographical demarcation of the Zongo Zonal Council which has 3 electoral areas, including Odupongkpehe/Zongo, New- Town and Iron City (GSS, 2014). This was due to the fact that these 3 electoral areas constitute the main Kasoa formally known as Odupongkpehe. Therefore, only residents within Zongo, New- Town and Iron City were considered for the study.

3.4.3 Population Structure

The total population of the Municipality was 236,527 by 2021. The male population was 48.8 percent while the female population was 51.2 percent. The Municipality is both urban and rural. The urban population was 97.1 percent while the rural was 2.9 percent. The dependency ratio is 66.1 (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021).

3.4.4 Ethnic Composition

The people of the Kasoa are mainly Guans and they speak Awutu. There are other settler tribes of different ethnic backgrounds, including the Ga, Akan, Ewe, Wala/Dagaba, Moshie, Basare and other numerous tribes. The main language spoken is Akan. English is the official language. Kasoa is said to be one of the fastest growing communities in West Africa (Government of Ghana, 2019).

3.4.5 Economy

The main economic activities in Kasoa include trading (wholesale/retail), agro-processing, informal sector service and commerce. Trading and its related activities are the leading economic ventures which, according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, employ about 35.7 percent of the working population in the Municipality. Livestock production is also practiced in the Municipality, but on a small-scale. The informal sector's contribution to the economy of the Municipality is

enormous as the sector employs about 81.9 percent of the working population in the banking and service sectors, but needs to be integrated with the formal sector. Other economic activities include manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing and transportation, among others (GSS, 2014). The topography of the Municipality is characterized by isolated undulating highlands located around the Ofaakor and Akweley area. The nature of the topography is directly related to the soil type. The highland and lowland area have loamy and clay soils. In the semi deciduous forest zones, the soil type is mostly loamy soil which supports many plants, and therefore, suitable for arable farming. These crops include pineapple, cassava, plantain, yam, maize, cola-nuts, citrus and pawpaw (Government of Ghana, 2019).

3.5 Population

The population of the study comprised all the residents in Kasoa. Due the fact that the population was too large and highly heterogenous, it was necessary considering a target population. The target population comprised residents of the 3 electoral areas that constitute the main Kasoa Township, formally known as Odupongkpehe. These are Zongo, New- Town and Iron City. The accessible population comprised only household respondents who were willing to be participants of the study, and key informants; the District Crime Officer (Head of Criminal Investigation Department), secretary to MUSEC (Municipal Security Council).

3.6 Sample and Sampling Technique

A sample is a proportion of the population that participates in the study (Creswell, 2005). Sampling, therefore, refers to the process of selecting individuals for the sample. It is a representative group drawn from the population. There are two types of sampling; probability and non-probability sampling (Bryman, 2008). Under

probability sampling, each sampling unit of the population has equal chance of being selected and included in the sample while under non-probability sampling; there is no probability of each unit being included in the study. Sampling is necessary for this study because population interest is large, diverse and scattered over a large geographic area (Kothari, 2008).

3.6.1 Sampling for the Qualitative Phase

The sampling involved the process of selecting the participants in the study, as asserted by Stake (2013). Stake elucidates that researchers adopt sampling strategies to guide their choice of what to observe or who to interview in order to make systematic contacts with a phenomenon under study. Creswell (2013) maintains that since qualitative studies are considered a small-scale study, researchers are interested in deep exploration in order to provide rich, detailed, holistic description. The design adopted for the study was the sequential exploratory design which mandates exploring qualitative phase aforehand.

The purposive sampling technique was used to select 2 key informants: the District Crime Officer (District Head of CID) and the Secretary to Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) of the Awutu Senya East Municipality. The rationale for the inclusion of these informant lies in the fact that they are in charge of crime and deals with security issues in each district/municipality, respectively. In general, they have adequate knowledge of the subject matter that will yield to a credible data and sound analysis. Twenty-four (24) community residents were also conveniently sampled in a focus group discussion (FGD). The selection and inclusion of FGD participants were based on criteria, that is, both female and female residents who attained the age of 18 years and above and lived in each community for a year and more. Eight (8) participants

each were considered at each three-community level. That is, Zongo, New-Town and Iron City. At the end of all community level focus group discussion, data was saturated (Glaser & Strauss, 2017) and hence, there was no need to conduct further FGD.

3.6.2 Sampling for the Quantitative Phase

In order to get a representative sample size for respondents for the quantitative phase, the Fisher, Laing, Stoeckel and Townsend formula (as cited in Gyimah, 2018) was adopted.

$$n = \frac{z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where:

n= the desired sample size (when population is greater than 10000).

z= the standard normal deviation, usually set at 1.96 which corresponds to the 95 percent confidence level.

p= the proportion in the target population estimated to have a particular set at 0.8;

q= 1.0-p. Thus, q=1.0-0.8= 0.2; and

d= degree of accuracy desired, usually set at 0.05

Substituting these figures into the formula:

$$n = \frac{1.96^2(0.8)(0.2)}{(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{(3.8416)(0.16)}{0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{0.614656}{0.0025}$$

$$n = 245.86$$

$$n = 246$$

From the above equation, 246 household respondents were selected for the study. Based on the sample size of 246, the cluster sampling technique was employed to

select respondents for the study. To actualize this, the study area was divided into 3 clusters based on the number of electoral areas that constitute the Zongo Zonal Council (i.e., Iron City, New- Town and Odukponkpehe/Zongo). Subsequently, the total number questionnaire respondents (246) was divided by the 3 clusters to obtain 82 respondents per cluster. In each cluster, respondents were randomly selected using the lottery method. By using the house numbers in each cluster obtained from the Zonal Council as the sample frame, I carried out the lottery method, by inputting the list of the house numbers in each cluster at www.randomizer.org website, a free resource for researchers and students in need of a quick way to generate random numbers. This was done singularly without replacement. Questionnaire respondents were chosen from each household that corresponded with the numbers randomly generated. The cluster sampling technique was employed due to group heterogeneity in the study area. Thus, in all, a sample size of 272 respondents were involved in the study. This includes 26 participants for the qualitative study and 246 respondents for the quantitative study.

3.7 Instruments for Data Collection

The data for the study was gathered using an interview guide (for key informant and focus groups), observation checklist and a questionnaire. Thus, triangulation of data was carried out through the use of interview guide, a questionnaire and observation protocol as instruments for data collection.

3.7.1 Interviews

Two participants were interviewed as key informants. The interview done was the face-to-face. Additionally, 24 (8 each) participants were also interviewed in a focus group in three community levels. The kind of interview guide used was the semi-

structured. Creswell (2014) states that "qualitative interviews are the means by which a researcher conducts face-to-face interviews with participants, telephone interviews, on the internet, or engages in focus group interviews with six to eight interviewees in each group" (p. 189). In order to prevent the discussion from being rowdy, 8 participants for each focus group were considered (Creswell, 2014). The reason for the use of interviews was because it allows researchers to facilitate a peaceful conversation using a flexible set of topic-specific questions. (Yin, 2009). The semi-structured interview guide provides a clear set of instructions for interviewers and can provide reliable, comparable qualitative data. Semi-structured interviews also allowed the interviewees the rightful expression their own viewpoints. Also, the interviews were done because it became a stepping stone to explore issues in advance for the quantitative phase.

3.7.2 Questionnaire

The questionnaire, made up of closed-ended items and few open-ended items were divided into six sections, namely A, B, C, D, E and F. Section A and B dealt with the demographic characteristics of respondents, including their age, gender, marital status, ethnicity, educational level, employment characteristics and housing conditions. Sections C, D, E and F were also designed to address the research questions. With this motive, Section C of the questionnaire focused on common crimes committed in Kasoa, Section D captured the social and demographic factors that influence crime. Section E captured the effects of criminal activities on the social well-being of residents in Kasoa. Finally, Section F centered on crime prevention strategies.

3.7.3 Observation Protocol

Bell (as cited in Kusi, 2012) believes that observation is useful in determining what people actually do or how they actually behave in their contexts. In this study observation also entailed collecting evidence about items and subjects under investigation. Hence, the field observation involved the exploration of the study area to observe the behaviors of residents as well as items useful for the peri-urban crime study. Employing the non- participatory observation, I visited the study area after interviews, using an observation checklist which was designed with indicators on crime prevention and control. Structured non-participant observation involves some sort of observation schedule. Before they begin their observation, researchers make a list of behaviors or items that they expect to see. They then use this list to tick off what they see (StudySmarter, n.d). The Table below defines the overall sampling method used for the study.

Table 1: The sampling method

Method	Sample group	Sample Size	Mode
In-depth key informant interviews	District Crime Officer (Head of CID-Kasoa Police Divisional Command) Municipal Security Council Secretary	2	Face-to-face
Focus Group Discussion	Community Residents at Iron City, New- Town and Odukponkpehe/Zongo	24	Face-to-face
Survey Observation	Household Respondents	246	Questionnaire Non-participant observation
Total		272	

Source: Field Data, 2022

3.8 Sources of Data

The data collected for the study was from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data gathered was from the key informant interviews, Focus Group Discussions, survey and observations. The secondary data on available crime report cases was also gathered from Kasoa Divisional Police Headquarters.

3.9 Data Collection Procedure

The data for the study was gathered within the period of 6 weeks (23rd September, 2022 to 4th November, 2022) for both phases of the study with frequent visits to the Kasoa Divisional Police Headquarters, Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly and the 3 communities. The first phase of the data collection comprised interviewing the District Crime Officer (which was conducted in a moving car) followed by the Municipal Security Council Secretary and ended with focus group discussions with the participants. The focus group discussion was done in a very quiet environments to avoid noise disturbance that may interfere in the recording of data.

The second phase was commenced by obtaining house numbers from the zonal councils followed by the distribution of questionnaires within the 3 community levels. This was done with the aid of two research assistants I trained for field data collection. Fraenkel et al. (2012) maintain that certain data collection procedures or methods have been identified with qualitative researches such as: interview transcripts, field notes, photographs, audio recordings, videotapes, diaries, personal comments, memos, official records, textbook pages, and anything else that can convey the actual words or actions of people. In the entire phase of my data collection, I used interview transcripts, field notes, photographs, audio recordings and official records.

3.10 Validity and Reliability

According to Patton (2002), an instrument is valid if it measures what it is intended to measure and accurately achieves the purpose for which it was designed. Trustworthiness of data from the interviews was enhanced by a careful piloting of the interview guides after it was scrutinized by peers and supervisor. The FGD guide was piloted to a sample of 3 participants in Akweley. However, the key informant guides were not piloted due to time constraints. The piloting enabled me to check that all questions and instructions were clear and to remove out items which did not yield usable data and also to check that my interview technique was sufficiently open and invitational to draw out rich responses. Further, piloting the interview guide enabled me to restructure my questions by adjusting to the verbal styles of the respondents as suggested by Lindlof and Taylor (2002). After, piloting the interview guide, the main qualitative data was collected, transcribed and coded in QDA Miner Lite software before pre-testing the questionnaire for the quantitative phase.

In the quest to find out how reliable the questionnaire items were, a pre-test reliability mission was undertaken by piloting the questionnaire to few household respondents in areas within the Akweley community in the Awutu Senya East Municipality. The reliability analysis was employed to check if items are internally consistent (Kuranchie, 2021). Akweley was selected for the pilot study because its similar characteristics and proximity to the Central Business District. A number of 30 questionnaires was distributed to households. Based on the number of the questionnaire items administered, a Cronbach Alpha internal reliability score was obtained using the SPSS version 20 software as indicated in the table below.

Table 2: Reliability test

Construct	Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient
Social and demographic factors influencing crime	0.81
Effects of crime on social well-being of residents	0.84
Crime prevention strategies	0.82

Source: Field Data, 2022

Hence, the interpretation of the internal consistency of the questionnaire items was acceptable. Cronbach's alpha was devised in response to the need to analyze items evaluated in multiple answer categories (Ritter, 2010). This interpretation of the internal consistency supports Creswell (2008) that for consistency to be present in the main data, the alpha for the reliability test must be above 0.70. After the second pilot exercise, quantitative phase of field data collection begun.

3.11 Trustworthiness

Polit and Beck (2014) maintained that trustworthiness of a research study refers to the degree of confidence in data, interpretation and methods that are utilized to assure the quality of a study. To ensure trustworthiness, a particular attention was paid to credibility, conformability, transferability, and dependability in the context of the study on the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa.

Credibility is the confidence in the truth of the study (Polit & Beck, 2014). Credibility was ensured through triangulation, member checking and reflexivity (Stahl & King, 2020). I used multiple sources of data will be used, including community members, crime officer, Municipal Security Council secretary, crime reports and population statistics. This helped to increase the credibility of the findings by allowing for the verification of information across these multiple sources. With member checking which Creswell and Miller (2000) deem as the most important method, I verified the accuracy of the data collected by sharing the findings with participants and allowing

them to provide feedback and corrections where necessary. I then reflected on my own biases and assumptions throughout the research process and make an effort to remain impartial especially during the transcription phase.

Confirmability is neutrality of researcher in interpreting findings (Nyirenda et al., 2019). To ensure conformability, I employed audit trail and peer review strategies. I also kept a detailed record of the research process, including notes from interviews, decisions made during the analysis process, and other relevant information (Nyirenda et al., 2019; Stahl & King, 2020). This was to ensure that the findings are transparent and can be verified by supervisor if necessary. Also, I subjected the findings of the research to be reviewed by a peer in the field of criminology to identify any potential biases or inconsistencies in the analysis.

According to Korstjens and Moser (2018), transferability in qualitative research considers the extent to which research findings may be transferred in various contexts or settings with different respondents. To ensure transferability, I ensured thick description and sample selection strategies (Stahl & King, 2020. The findings of the research were presented in detail, including information about the context in which the study was conducted, the characteristics of the participants, and the methods used to collect and analyze data. This helped to provide a rich description of the study that can be used to evaluate its applicability to other contexts. Next, I sampled participants in a way that is representative of the population of Kasoa, which increased the likelihood that the findings are transferable to other communities with similar crime issues (Korstjens & Moser, 2018).

Dependability examines whether the same study findings would be consistently replicated in the same or comparable setting (Stahl & King, 2020). To ensure

dependability, I employed inter-coder reliability and data saturation (Korstjens & Moser, 2018; Stahl & King, 2020). Through discussion with peers, I have them code the data I have already coded to ensure consistency in coding. Also, at the interview process, I ensured data saturation is reached. This helped to ensure that the findings are reliable and consistent.

In order to obtain recognition in both quantitative and qualitative research, Onwuegbuzie and Johnson (2006) used the word legitimation to refer to validity and trustworthiness in MMR. The integrative model of design quality and interpretive rigor needed to be expanded, therefore, the legitimation typology was created. It is now used to evaluate the validity of conclusions produced by mixed methods studies (Onwuegbuzie & Johnson, 2006). This typology is based on the notion that quality assessment is an ongoing process of evaluation that takes place across all phases of the research project, from the development of high-quality meta-inferences to the research aim (Plano-Clark & Ivankova, 2016; Onwuegbuzie & Johnson, 2006). Getting data and drawing conclusions that are "credible, trustworthy, reliable, transferrable, and/or confirmable" is a problem when using the legitimation typology (Onwuegbuzie & Johnson, 2006, p. 52).

Getting trustworthy data is an issue that often arises in mixed methods research since each strand has unique obstacles with representation and legitimation that also cause integration issues (Onwuegbuzie & Johnson, 2006). The original 2006 legitimation typology provided nine strategies to these issues in MMR research. The nine-legitimation types are: sample integration, inside outside, weakness minimization, sequential, conversion, paradigmatic mixing, commensurability, multiple validities,

and political legitimation (Onwuegbuzie & Johnson, 2006). The following were followed to ensure legitimation of the study:

1. Sample integration: I used both purposive sampling to select key informants and cluster sampling to select household respondents, combining both quantitative and qualitative data.

2. Inside-outside: The mixed-methods approach I adopted for the study allowed for both quantitative and qualitative data to be collected and analyzed, incorporating both the "inside" (subjective experiences and perspectives of the crime officer, Municipal Security Council Secretary and FGD participants) and "outside" (objective measures and data from the survey) perspectives.

3. Weakness minimization: The mixed-methods approach I used further allowed the study to address the limitations of one method with the strengths of another, minimizing the weaknesses of either qualitative or quantitative approach.

4. Sequential: The exploratory sequential mixed methods design I used allowed for a sequence of data collection and analysis, starting with qualitative data and building towards quantitative data ending with combined interpretation.

5. Conversion: To ensure conversion legitimation, I facilitated the conversion of qualitative data into quantitative data through the use of semi-structured interviews, structured questionnaire, and observation guide.

6. Paradigmatic mixing: I designed the study within the pragmatic philosophical paradigm, with a mix of philosophical assumptions and beliefs that guided my actions.

7. Commensurability: The use of semi-structured interviews, questionnaires, and observation guides ensured the comparability and consistency of the data

collected, allowing for commensurability. Also, I considered potential bias and confounding variables by comparing data from the different sources.

8. Multiple validities: The use of a mixed-methods approach allowed for multiple forms of validity, including content, face and construct validity. I triangulated data sources and did member checking.

9. Political legitimation: The study aimed to address issues related to crime and its effects on social well-being and crime prevention strategies, contributing to the political legitimization of the importance of addressing such issues by stakeholders.

3.12 Data Analysis Methods

Qualitative data (first phase) analysis was done, using QDA Miner Lite (v2.0.9) software. The transcription of the interview data was the first step. To identify broad themes from key informant and focus group data, a template technique (Patton, 2002) was employed. This method entailed creating a coding "template" that contained hierarchical categorization of major themes, which I created before and throughout the data review. The iterative technique was essential in identifying basic elements and patterns arising from the data. Using the aforementioned template, or codebook I constructed, more specific themes were recognized and classified as sub-codes inside the wider categories. As a result, the qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The table below is an example the theming process used in the study.

Table 3: The theming process

Category	Theme	Code or Sub-themes
Social and demographic factors	Parental Neglect, etc.	Leaving children unsupervised Lack of parental guidance
Institutional Security strategies of crime prevention	Increased police visibility, etc.	Frequent patrols Increasing checkpoints Deployment of police with motorbikes

Source: Field Data, 2022

Quantitative data (second phase) collected from the field was entered, coded and presented using descriptive statistics such as, frequency, percentages, with the aid of the Statistical Package for Service Solution (SPSS) version 20 software. The two set of data were combined, interpreted and discussed with literature at the interpretation phase of the analysis. Pictures that there taken during field observations were used to confirm the data.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

According to Resnik (2020), ethical considerations refer to the discipline or norms of behavior that guide research or a study, such as philosophy, religion, law, psychology, or sociology. The study was driven by ethical principles such as access, informed consent, confidentiality, and respondent anonymity (Halai, 2006). In terms of access, I first obtained an introduction letter from the Department of Social Studies Education, University of Education, Winneba, before going to the field to gather the data for the study. Subsequently, permission was also sought from the Criminal Investigation Department of the Kasoa Police Divisional Headquarters and the Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly, regarding the intention to interview officials from their CID department and Municipal Security Council, respectively. Before the data collection process, participants were briefed on the purpose of the study, and thereafter, their

consent was sought before they participated in the study. Moreover, permissions were sought from participants prior to audio recordings. Also, to protect respondents' identities and rights, pseudo names were used to ensure confidentiality.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

The aim of this study was to examine the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa. The study was conducted and presented in two phases. Phase one presents the qualitative data analysis while phase two presents the quantitative data analysis. A brief description of participants" demographic characteristics who took part in the study were provided to give credence to the data gathered. This chapter also presents an in-depth and systematic analysis of the themes and descriptive statistics realized from the field data through the research questions. In doing so, GSS data, crime data, Social Disorganization and Strain theories were used to discuss the combined findings for nuanced analysis.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Participants

This section describes the demographic data of the participants for the study.

Crime Officer: He currently has the rank of Deputy Superintendent of police. He is the District Crime officer for Kasoa Division. He is also the Regional Police Intelligence Director. Thus, he provides two services for the Ghana Police Service. In these roles, he leads crime investigations and gathers intelligence on criminal groups to support proactive and predictive policing efforts. He also provides regional intelligence and oversees personnel in the Intelligence-led policing departments of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). He has worked for 24 years for the Ghana Police Service. This information suggests that, he has extensive experience and expertise in the field of crime investigation and intelligence gathering and therefore very useful for the study.

Municipal Security Council Secretary: He currently has the rank of Assistant Director II in the administration Unit of the Municipality and assists Assistant Director I to record minutes of the meetings of MUSEC. He is also in charge of legal proceedings, in terms of jurisprudence, and also work with the Justice and Security sub-committee of MUSEC. He performs other roles in the administrative unit, including being in charge of the Ofaakor and Akweley Zonal Councils. Though he has only worked for a year and half, he provided valuable insights that shed light on the current study.

Focus Group Participants: The ages of FGPs ranged between 19 to 56 years, with 11 being above 30 years. They included teachers, nurses, food vendors, shoe repairers, electricians, business men and women, construction workers, glaziers, photographers, hairdressers, shop attendants, decorators, tertiary students and an SHS leaver. Majority of them were married people. They had lived in their various communities (Odukponkpehe/Zongo, New Town, Iron City) between 3 and 45 years. Their maturity level, period of living in the communities and work area implies their ability to provide in-depth, varied, but complementary information, and hence were deemed appropriate for the study.

Survey Respondents: The background information collected on survey respondents included the following: age, gender, number of years living in community, marital status, ethnicity, highest level of education. Other demographic data captured included their employment and housing characteristics. These are captured on items 1 to 14 on the questionnaire. The background data are represented in tables 4, 5 and 6 below:

Table 4: Demographics of respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age group	25 and below years	92	37.4
	26-35 years	87	35.4
	36-45 years	47	19.1
	46-55 years	11	4.5
	56 and above years	9	3.7
	Total	246	100
Sex distribution	Male	137	55.7
	Female	109	44.3
	Total	246	100
Number of years lived in the community	1-10 years	111	45.1
	11-20 years	72	29.3
	21-30 years	38	15.4
	31-40 years	12	4.9
	41-50 years	8	3.3
	51 and above years	5	2.0
	Total	246	100
Marital status	Single	120	48.8
	Cohabitation	22	8.9
	Widowed	8	3.3
	Married	91	37.0
	Divorced	5	2.0
	Total	246	100
Ethnicity	Guan	14	5.7
	Ga/Dangme	19	7.7
	Moshie	11	4.5
	Akan	80	32.5
	Hausa	31	12.6
	Ewe	59	24.0
	Bassare	26	10.6
	other	6	2.4
	Total	246	100
Highest level of education	No Formal Education	31	12.6
	Basic	21	8.5
	SSS/SHS	91	37.0
	Vocational	21	8.5
	Technical	26	10.6
	Tertiary	56	22.8
	Total	246	100

Source: Field data, 2022

Table 4 shows that the majority of the respondents were in the age group of 25 years and below, and 26 to 35 years. These age groups were considered mature enough to engage in the study and provide meaningful responses.

Concerning the sex distribution of the respondents, Table 4 shows that majority of them, 137 out of 246 (55.7%) were males while 109 (44.3%) were females. This data implies that the sample of the study was fairly balanced, in terms of sex representation, with slightly more males than females participating. It suggests that the views and experiences of both men and women in the community had been captured in the study.

Regarding number of years the respondents had lived in their community, Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents, 111 out of 246 (45.1%) had been living in the community for 1-10 years. The data implies that, majority of the residents had lived in their communities for more than a decade, and therefore had adequate knowledge of crime events, and were, therefore, eligible for the study.

Regarding marital status, Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents 120 out of 246 (48.8%) were found to be single. This implies that these people were usually free to choose and exhibit their lifestyles within the urban neighborhood which is susceptible to crime, as marital status can sometimes impact their behavior and perspectives on various issues, such as crime.

Concerning the ethnic backgrounds of the respondents, Table 4 shows that majority of them, that is, 80 (32.5%) were Akan, 59 (24.0%) were Ewe, 31 (12.6%) were Hausa, 26 (10.6%) were Bassare, 19 (7.7%) were Ga/Dangme, 11 (4.5%) were Moshie, 14 (5.7%) were Guan and 6 (2.4%) were others such as Frafra, Bimoba, Konkomba, and

Talensi. The ethnic backgrounds of the respondents indicate that Kasoa is a heterogenous community. This cultural diversity indicates that Kasoa is a migrant settlement.

Regarding the highest level of education of the respondents, Table 4 shows that the majority of the respondents, that is, 91 (37.0%) had SSS/SHS level, 56 out of 246 (22.8%) had tertiary level, 26 (10.6%) had technical level, 21 (8.5%) each had vocational and basic levels. Only 31 (12.6 %) of the respondents could be described as illiterate since they had no formal education. These results provide insight into the level of literacy and education in the community, indicating that 215 (87.4%) of the respondents were literates. The educational background of the respondents resonates with the secondary data from GSS which indicate that out of the total population of 236,527 for ASEM, 212,043 – the population of 6 years and older accounting for 89.6% were literate (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021). The data provided in Table 5 pertains to the work status and average monthly income of respondents.
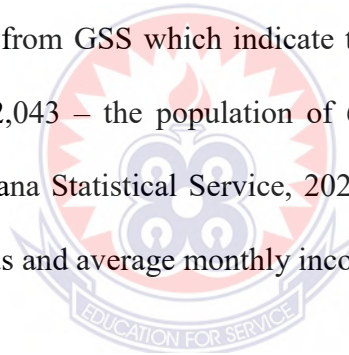
Table 5: Employment characteristics of respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Work status	Unemployed	41	16.7
	Sales/services	42	17.1
	Skilled manual	31	12.6
	Unskilled manual	6	2.4
	Professional/technical/managerial	46	18.7
	Student	66	26.8
	Pensioner	6	2.4
	Agriculture/Farmer	8	3.3
	Total	246	100.0
Average monthly income (Gh)	1-500	23	9.3
	501-1000	44	17.9
	1001-1500	24	9.8
	1501-2000	13	5.3
	2001-2500	10	4.1
	2501 and above	25	10.2
	No response	107	43.5
	Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 5, 41 (16.7%) of the respondents were unemployed. The high number of respondents who were engaged in sales and services, skilled manual work, and professional, technical, and managerial work suggests that there was a diverse range of employment opportunities available in the Kasoa Township. On the other hand, the relatively high number of respondents who were unemployed or students indicates a need for job creation and support for education in Kasoa. This is an important step to prevent and reduce crime occurrences.

When it comes to average monthly income, 23 (9.3%) of the respondents earned between Gh 1 and 500, and 44 (17.9%) earned between Gh 501 and 1000. The data shows that a majority of the respondents earn less than 1000, while few people earn 2501 and above. This indicates a low standard of living among the people in Kasoa.

The data provided in Table 6 pertains to the housing conditions of respondents. The household conditions indicate the level of vulnerability to crime.

Table 6: Housing conditions of respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Kind of house	Detached housing	19	7.7
	Semi-detached housing	9	3.7
	Flat/apartment	58	23.6
	Compound housing	123	50.0
	Kiosk/container/improvised home	7	2.8
	Uncompleted building	30	12.2
	Total	246	100.0
Number of rooms	1 to 7 rooms	201	81.7
	8 to 14 rooms	40	16.3
	15 to 21 rooms	3	1.2
	22 to 28 rooms	2	.8
	Total	246	100.0
Number of people in a household	1 to 8 people	172	69.9
	9 to 15 people	54	22.0
	16 to 22 people	11	4.5
	23 to 29 people	3	1.2
	30 to 37 people	6	2.4
	Total	246	100.0
Main source of lighting	Electricity	224	91.1
	Gas lamp	2	0.8
	Solar energy	10	4.1
	Generator	2	0.8
	Flashlights (torches, etc.)	4	1.6
	No light	4	1.6
	Total	246	100

Source: Field Data, 2022

In the Table, 123 (50%) respondents lived in compound housing while 58 (23.6%) lived in flats or apartments. The majority of the respondents living in compound housing implies a higher population density and limited space for people"s privacy,

compared to other types of housing. The data also implies that there is a limited availability of low-income housing options for the people in the community.

When looking at the number of rooms in the household, the majority, 201 (81.7%) of households have between 1 and 7 rooms. The data suggests that the majority of households in the population have a relatively low number of rooms.

In terms of the number of people in the household, the majority, 172 (69.9%) of households have between 1 and 8 people. 54 (22.0%) of households have between 9 and 15 people, the data suggest a higher number of people in a household compared to the number of rooms which indicate overcrowding and limited living space. However, people"s choices differ depending on factors such as cultural norms and preferences for shared living spaces.

Table 6 also pertains to the main source of lighting used by the sampled population. According to the data, 224 (91.1%) of the households used electricity as their main source of lighting. The data suggest that the majority of the sampled population use electricity as their main source of lighting. The availability of lighting does have an impact on security as it reduces the visibility of potential threats. A large number of households using electricity as a main source of lighting is a positive indicator but it does not guarantee complete security from crime.

4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis

Since the sequential exploratory mixed design was used, both analysis, that is, the qualitative (phase 1) and quantitative (phase 2) were presented respectively, followed by a combined interpretation and discussion under each research question.

4.2.1 Common Crimes Committed in Kasoa

Research objective one purposely sought to gather data on the common crimes committed in Kasoa. The qualitative data was first presented. Consequently, the quantitative data were also presented in frequencies and percentages. The crimes that were found to be common includes stealing/theft, assault, armed robbery or robbery, fraud and murder. Generally, crime was seen to reduce to a moderate level at all the three community levels studied. This could be attributed to the increasing ability of the Intelligence-led Police Department of the CID to foster proactive and predictive policing in the Township. In order to fish out these common crimes, key informants and FGD participants were asked to share their views. The first common crime that was addressed was stealing/theft.

(i)   Stealing/Theft

Stealing or theft was seen to be perpetuated by both Ghanaian and other ECOWAS nationals who resided in Kasoa. They mostly engaged in it through pick-pocketing and snatching of phones. They also cut through their victims" windows and made way with valuable items. The District Crime Officer said, "*Stealing is common. There is a lot of stealing, but because stealing is without violence, we don't hear about it".* The MUSEC Secretary also added, "*We have an influx of foreigners in this region. So, we register the incidence of stealing and petty theft, among others".* A glazier at Iron City commented, "*For Iron City, I can say that the most common crime is stealing. They will come to your window, cut through the mesh and steal your phones, and sometimes take other valuables*.

Overall, the data suggests that stealing/theft was a crime prevalent in Kasoa, and that it was often committed by both Ghanaians and foreigners.

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(ii) Assault

The study found assault to be one of the common crimes as it occurs on daily basis. It was revealed by both the key informants and FGD participants. Assault was more pronounced because it was aided by two main things; first, it was visible slums and second due to drug abuse. The District Crime Officer said, "*Assault is also common. There are lot of people living in slums so several cases of assault are reported*". A glazier at Iron City also said, "*Assault is common here. You see, when people get drunk, they easily pick up a fight against one another. They easily break bottles to stab one another. They beat people here a lot*".

The data suggests that assault is prevalent in Kasoa, and that it is often associated with alcohol consumption and slums.

(iii) Armed Robbery or Robbery

Robbery, including robbery aided by the use of arms was also seen to be common in Kaosa. Again, this was seen to be perpetuated by both Ghanaians and other ECOWAS nationals who resided at Kasoa. This study also found that armed robbery or robbery also occurred at dawn. The MUSEC Secretary commented, "*We have an influx of foreigners to the region. So, we have armed robbery activities such as gun point snatching of bags*". A headmistress at Odupongkpehe said, *"The kinds of crime that are common here include armed robbery..."* An SHS leaver at Iron City also said, "*Robbery occurs, sometimes around 4 a.m. One can be robbed, especially when going to board a car to somewhere*".

The above data suggests that armed robbery and robbery were prevalent in the Kasoa.

(iv) Fraud

Fraud was also identified as one of the common crimes in Kasoa. Some of the centers where these fraud activities were carried out included game centers while others remained unknown. The District Crime Officer said, "*I have some friends who have been victims of fraud*". A food vendor at New Town also said, "*Should I say fraud or scam, for my area, instead of the young boys going to school, they indulge in fraud that will fetch them money quickly*". An electrician at Iron City said, "*Because our boys want to be like Nigerians, they follow them and do whatever they do. Many boys have followed this path. They even influence other youth into it*".

The above data suggests that fraud was a common crime in Kasoa, and it was often caused by the desire of young people to make quick money.

(v) Murder

Murder was also found to be a common crime, and this came to light at the FGD sessions, but not from the key informant interviews. Thus, residents saw murder to be common. This could be attributed to the degree of fear associated with the reported cases of murder in Kasoa. Ceccato and Wikstrom (2012) postulate that apart from fear associated with real crimes, there has also been perceived risks of becoming a victim of crime in urban and peri-urban areas. These are what some of the participants recounted:

> Murder comes with a lot of fear and panic. But it doesn't mean that murder occurs here every day. But one murder will make headlines. So far, this year 2022, we have recorded only one murder case. If we say that murder is common, then it is a severe situation. [District Crime Officer]

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> Murder is a common crime here. Mr. Dela‟s wife came from the husband's shop. She said they had a land somewhere in Nyanyanyo that needs some checking. A taxi pulls up with the driver asking where she was going, she took dropping. …She said they took her to a certain place blindfolded and heard one of them saying he doesn't like the skin color of the lady. She was then beaten and abandoned in a bush blindfolded, while they drove away. May be, they wanted to use her for rituals. [A headmistress at Odupongkpehe]

The data implies that murder cases were not an end in themselves, but a means to an end. Thus, there was some form of motivation associated with murder, possibly for wealth generation. Therefore, these murder cases (attempted or occurred) have underlying ritualistic purposes. The data suggests that a variety of crimes, including stealing, assault, armed robbery, fraud and murder were common in Kasoa. In addition, there was a connection between unemployment and criminal activities in Kasoa.

Despite the fact that these crimes were seen to be common, crime rates had decreased moderately in all the three communities selected for the study, possibly due to the effectiveness of intelligence-led policing techniques through proactive and predictive policing. The MUSEC Secretary commented, *"Crime has been relatively down in recent times"*. An SHS leaver in Iron City said, "*Iron city has a moderate crime level. Crimes don't happen like Liberia camp, and Odupongkpehe where it is very high"*. A decorator at Odupongkpehe also said, *"For now, crime level is moderate in Odupongkpehe".*

As a result of the above crimes revealed in the study, it was, therefore, necessary to develop a map of common crimes together with the communities in which they occurred with the aid of a crime report on Kasoa from the Kasoa Police Divisional

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Command. The map shows that assault, stealing/theft, fraud, trespass, threats of death and harm were common at places such as the Kasoa new market, the central business district, new station, old market and Zongo. A crime hotspot map on Kasoa is captured in Figure 4.
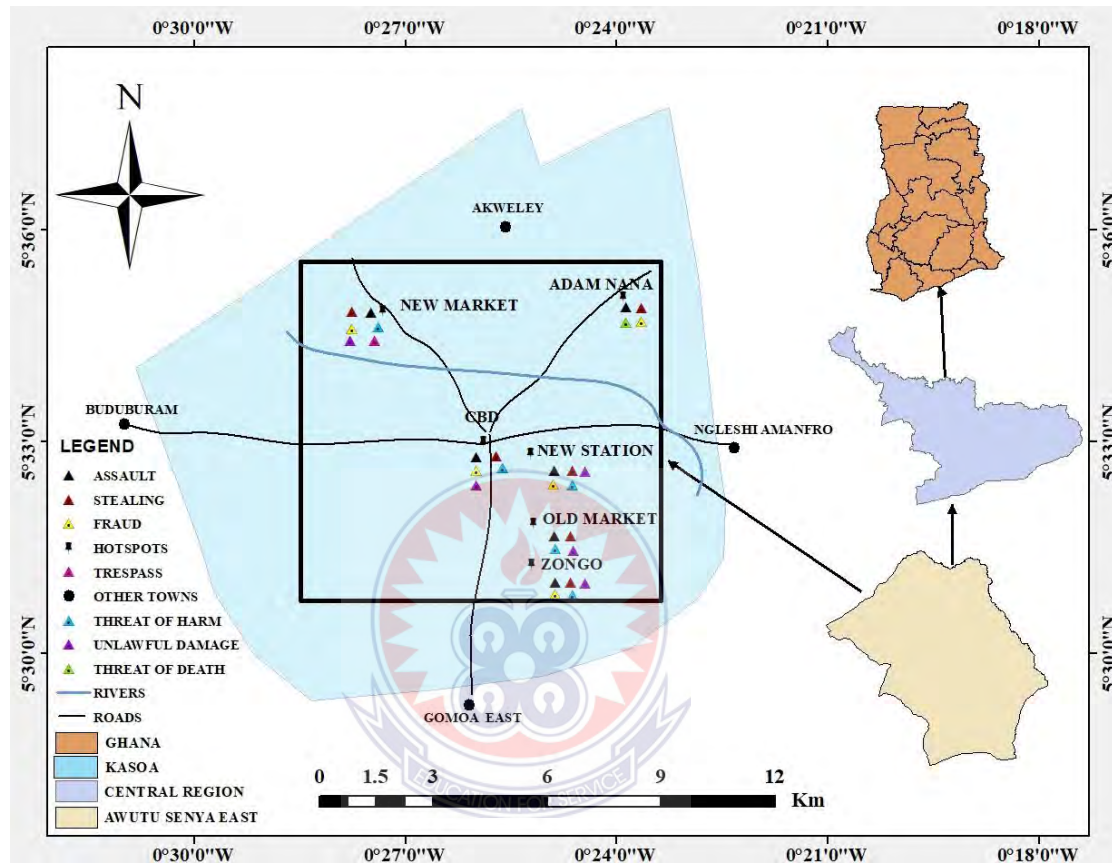
Figure 4: Crime Hotspots in Kasoa

Source: Konlan, 2022

4.2.1.1 Frequency of Crime Occurrence

Respondents were made to indicate the frequency of occurrence at all the three communities selected for the study. Table 7 presents the results obtained.

Table 7: Crime occurrence

Crime Occurrence	Frequency	Percentage
Never	25	10.2
Occasionally	54	22.0
Sometimes	117	47.6
Often	31	12.6
Always	19	7.7
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 7, majority of the respondents, 117 (47.6%) stated that crime occurred "sometimes" in their community, 31 (12.6%) stated that crime occurred "often", 54 (22.0%) mentioned that crime occurred "occasionally", and 19 (7.7%) stated that crime occurred "always". The data indicates that crime occurrence was moderate, but a persistent issue in the communities.

4.2.1.2 Ranking of Crime

Respondents were made to rank the various crimes found in Kasoa. Thus, the respondents were made to rank murder, robbery, assault, stealing/theft and fraud as occurring very low, low, moderate, high or very high. Table 8 presents the results obtained.

Table 8: Ranking of crime activities

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Rank of murder	Very low	94	38.2
	Low	52	21.1
	Moderate	52	21.1
	High	25	10.2
	Very high	23	9.3
	Total	246	100
Rank of Robbery	Very low	48	19.5
	Low	67	27.2
	Moderate	49	19.9
	High	46	18.7
	Very high	36	14.6
	Total	246	100
Rank of stealing or theft	Very low	29	11.8
	Low	49	19.9
	Moderate	68	27.6
	High	38	15.4
	Very high	62	25.2
	Total	246	100
Rank of Assault	Very low	62	25.2
	Low	51	20.7
	Moderate	59	24.0
	High	41	16.7
	Very high	33	13.4
	Total	246	100
Rank of Fraud	Very low	39	15.9
	Low	43	17.5
	Moderate	46	18.7
	High	56	22.8
	Very high	62	25.2
	Total	246	100

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 8, majority of the respondents, 94 (38.2%) ranked murder as very low threat to their security and safety. When it comes to robbery, majority of the respondents, 67 (27.2%) ranked it as low. However, even those who ranked both murder and robbery as very low or low still acknowledged their presence in Kasoa and their potential to cause harm.

In terms of stealing or theft, the majority of the respondents, 68 (27.6%) ranked it as moderate, indicating that theft is perceived to be a prevalent and significant issue in Kasoa. For assault, the data suggests that majority of the respondents, 62 (25.2%) ranked it as very low threat while 59 (24.0%) ranked it as moderate to their community's safety. In terms of fraud, majority of the respondents, 62 (25.2%) ranked it as very high. The high and very high rankings of fraud imply that fraud poses a security and safety concern to Kasoa.

The secondary data obtained on crime report from the Kasoa Divisional Command indicate that, the total cases of crime reduced from 5,315 to 4,106 for both 2020 and 2021, respectively. Also, the total cases of crime for the first, second and third quarter amount to 2,774 for the year 2022. These indicate that crime cases had reduced moderately in recent times.

4.2.2 Social and Demographic factors that influence Crime in Kasoa

Research objective two purposely sought to gather data on the social and demographic factors that influenced crime in Kasoa. The qualitative data was first presented. Consequently, the quantitative data were also presented in frequencies and percentages. The first theme presented is unregulated urbanization.

(i) Unregulated Urbanization

Unregulated urbanization adversely influences other factors leading to the occurrence of criminal activities. Thus, crime occurrence in Kasoa was as a result of the process of urbanization. An interview with Key Informants and FGD participants revealed that both foreign nationals of the West African sub-region and Ghanaians from other parts of the country, with existing pressures migrate to Kasoa, with diverse forms of criminal behaviors that affect the security of Kasoa.

The key informants in the study contended:

> We have an influx of foreigners in Kasoa, hence crimes such as stealing, rape, petty theft, kidnapping and armed robbery like gun point snatching of bag are very common. Currently, the information we have from the security services is that the majority of the foreigners who engage in crime are from Nigeria and Liberia. We do also have Ghanaians committing criminal activities. But, some of the crimes committed such as kidnapping, are alien to indigenes. [MUSEC Secretary]

> There are foreigners here but, I wouldn't say criminal activities are committed by only by them. Some Ghanaians also commit crimes. Sometimes, we create the impression that every offence is committed by foreigners, and Ghanaians are angels. Though Nigerians are here, I think their number is the highest (population wise), Liberians who commit crimes, the same way Ghanaians also commit crimes. But, recently, there was a robbery case involving two Nigerians, and they had been jailed. In the same way, there have been robberies involving Ghanaians. [District Crime Officer]

A teacher at Odupongkpehe also recounted saying, *"Kasoa is hosting a lot of people from other places such as Accra, Chokor Nima, Ashaiman, where is densely*

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populated and are settling in Kasoa. They are coming down with different kinds of criminal behaviors".

The study has shown that the influx of foreigners as well as Ghanaian nationals from other cities and towns heavily contribute to the occurrence of crime activities in the Kasoa.

(ii) Age

Age appears to be an important demographic factor that influenced criminal activities in Kasoa. Within this context, the youth and teenagers formed this category. The study revealed that they ranged between the ages of 15 and 35 years. Their youthful exuberance and also certain circumstances beyond their control, including issues of parental neglect (as explored later in the study) motivated their indulgence in crime. In view of this, they took advantage of their youthful exuberance and engaged in criminal activities to provide their daily needs and other expectations. In order to find out how age influence crime activities, key informants and FGD participants were asked to share their views. The District Crime Officer said, "*Most of the crimes are committed by 19 to about 35-year-old people. That is, the youth. We have them involved in so many different kinds of crime activity".*

The MUSEC Secretary also recounted, "*In recent times, the youth, within the ages of 16 and mid-30 are into criminal activities. It is as a result of unemployment, and sometimes, youthful exuberance".* A teacher at New Town commented, "*Those involved are mostly teenagers between ages 15 and 20. Children of today are having big bodies".* A nurse at Odupongkpehe also said, "*Some of them are school boys".*

The data shows that age was a significant factor influencing crime in Kasoa, with the majority of crimes being committed by young people between the ages of 15 and 35 years. Those in the age bracket included school going children and adolescents.

(iii) Low level of education

Individuals who had no education or less education tend to engage in criminal activities. Because of this low level of education, they were easily influenced. They tend to think that the only way they can reap from the society is to engage in criminal behavior. The study found that crimes were normally committed by the less educated people. This means that, the more people get educated, the less they engage in criminal activities.

The District Crime Officer shared:

> Most of the people who engage in crime such as stealing and assault, don't even have senior high school level certificate. Hardly will you get a tertiary graduate committing a crime. I think if people had the opportunity to go to school or learn a trade, it will be better.

The MUSEC Secretary recounted saying, "*We have school dropouts. We also have people who probably never furthered that much. These groups of people are easily influenced by people who are already involved in crime*". A hairdresser at Odupongkpehe also said, "*There are also school dropouts who don't find any work to do, but engage in stealing*".

The responses suggests that lack of education increases the likelihood of individuals being indoctrinated into criminal activities.

(iv) Unemployment

Unemployment is one of the crucial social and demographic factors that influence crime. The commercial activities in Kasoa attract ethnically diverse people. These people come only to realize that their expectations could not be met and are eventually recruited to engage in stealing, robbery and other criminal behaviors. An interview with key informants and FGD participants revealed that, crime itself is an employment given to frustrated individuals by criminal groups due to lack of jobs.

The District Crime Officer said, "*There are teenagers who come from different parts of Ghana, and taking care of themselves. They are not doing any meaningful job and as a result, they are easily lured into criminal activities*".

The MUSEC Secretary said, "In *recent times, the youth between the ages of 16 and mid-30 are into criminal activities as a result of unemployment*". A decorator at Odupongkpehe also added, "*The devil finds work for an idle hand, and since most of them are unemployed, they go to game centers and join criminals seated behind their computers*". A glazier at Iron City said, "*There are many unemployed youths. But since they have negative attitude towards artisanship, they engage in criminal activities to meet their daily needs*".

The responses imply that the youth who struggle to find work and make a living are more likely to turn to criminal activities as a means of survival.

(v) Parental Neglect

The poor nature of certain families influences the development of deviant behaviors in certain children. Most children under the age of 20 years are denied parental guidance and affection. This results in an easy influence on the part of these young people to get themselves involved in criminal activities. Interview with key informants and

FGD participants revealed that broken homes, single parenting and lack of parental guidance contribute to young people"s indulgence in criminal activities.

A key informant in the study commented:

> In recent times, the two kids that beheaded a colleague of theirs, one of them used to visit the colleague. They took him as one of them and fed him, only for him to be influenced by another who came from a broken home. As some children are neglected by their parents, they become easily influenced to criminal activities. [MUSEC Secretary]

Some FGD participants also recounted the following:

> Some parents here do not have time for their children. As early as 4 a.m., they go to Kantamanto to do their business without giving proper care and guidance to their children. They come back home as late as 9 to 10 p.m. As peer pressure is also common here, their children are influenced into criminal activities. [A glazier at Iron City]

> Some children are raised by mothers in the absence of their fathers. When their children make mistakes, these mothers do not penalize them. Because their mother does not discipline them, their children come to believe that everything they do is good, so they do not see indulgence in crime as a bad thing. [A Teacher at New Town]

The above responses imply that lack of guidance and supervision leads to children being influenced by others to engage in criminal activities.

(vi) Development of Slums

Slums have an influence in occurrence of criminal activities due to the fact that they become the survival zones of certain migrants who cannot afford decent accommodation. Thus, they use these places to commit all manner of crimes, including theft. The District Crime Officer said, *"Slums are common here. When people come, they don't have money to rent a room. They see any open place and occupy it. There are slums in Kasoa market"*. The MUSEC Secretary also said,

"Slums are developing in Kasoa. There are lot of people who come to Kasoa who don't have money to build homes or even rent houses, and they create these little settlements to places to commit crimes".

The data implies that slums are breeding grounds for criminal activities. Living in slums can lead to feelings of hopelessness and despair which can lead individuals turn to criminal activities as a means of survival. Also, slums tend to provide a sense of anonymity and concealment for criminals to carry out their activities.

(vii) Get-Rich-Quick Attitude

Get-rich-quick-attitude is one of the most common conditions influencing the rate of occurrence of criminal activities. The most common category of people who have this attitude are teens and the youth, in general. They easily develop the taste for flashy lifestyles. In order to live these expensive lifestyles, they engage in any form of criminality to make a gain. Interview with key informants and FGD participants revealed that, some individuals who have jobs but also greedy tend to engage in criminal activities to meet their expectations.

The key informants in the study shared the following:

> We talk about lack of jobs, even those who have jobs are also into crimes. There was a case somebody used GH 160,000.00 to gamble, just because he wants to amass wealth quickly. So, lack of jobs you may say, but others who also have jobs have get-rich-quick-attitude, especially the youth. This attitude influences them to engage in crime to meet their lifestyle. [District Crime Officer]

> Some of the youth look at their colleagues who are driving big cars, living luxury lives and they also want to live this kind of lifestyle. With the kind of jobs available in recent times, they are not likely to make a lot of money to afford that kind of lifestyle. So obviously, this is what drives them into these criminal activities. [MUSEC Secretary]

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A construction worker at Iron City said, "*Because some youths are driving expensive cars, those who completed basic school desire to be like them. So, they eventually fall in the trap of these criminal activities instead of learning artisan work".* A glazier at Iron City also recounted saying, "*Boys don't want to learn artisan work. If you tell them that you would like to sponsor them, they ignore you. They don't have time to spend with you once they follow the boys who engage in crime".*

The data implies that the desire to have a luxurious lifestyle, driven by the desire to emulate others who are perceived as successful and wealthy, lead some young people to engage in criminal activities as a means of achieving this goal.

(viii) Congestion

The commercial activities in Kasoa attracts people from different localities, creating congestion, especially in the CBD area. These individuals come to Kasoa with genuine intentions, but are rather frustrated because of their inability to find legitimate livelihoods, and thus engage in criminal activities. Interview with key informants and FGD participants revealed that, they involve themselves in criminalities in order to survive. The key informants in the study shared the following:

> Kasoa has a lot of commercial activity, thus many people are attracted here. People come and then they realize that their expectations are not met, and are, therefore easily lured into other things. They meet one or two guys and complain to them, then, they introduce the business to them and it could be illegal. So, I think the commercial activities have brought a lot of men and women who are into criminal activities here. [District Crime Officer]

> With the large number, it comes with different kinds of people. There are people who find it difficult having three square meals a day. Sometimes, even a day is a problem and some people have obviously

adopted these aggressive and violent crimes in order to make a living out of it. [MUSEC Secretary]

A headmistress at Odupongkpehe also stated, "*We can also blame it on the fact that the place is becoming overcrowded. As this place is overcrowded, it attracts business owners. So, the criminals use this opportunity to carry-out their plans*".

The data suggest that congestion creates opportunity for criminals to carry out their plans as the area is more densely populated and congested. This is as a result of not finding any opportunities and instead being lured into illegal activities as a means of survival.

(ix) Drug abuse

Drugs such as shisha and marijuana play an influenced indulgence in criminal activities in Kasoa. These addictive drugs are easily accessible at drinking bars. These drugs make individuals who consume them to be criminally-minded. Interview with Key Informants and FGD participants revealed that, drinking bars and ghettos have become breeding grounds for drug intake and their subsequent involvement in crime activities such as stealing and robbery. The District Crime Officer said, *"Drug such as marijuana is common. Once you have a lot of young people coming up, certainly that is also part of the problem.* A shop attendant at Odupongkpehe also stated, "*For drugs, don't go there. It is prevalent because the ghettos are all over. The drinking bars are also there, they sell everything, including marijuana drink, "shisha", etc*. A food vendor at New Town mentioned that, *"In my area, there are lots of young boys who are into drugs. A mere seeing them will tell you who they are*".

The responses suggest that growth in population in the area has led to an increase in drug-related crimes.

(x) Peer Influence

The study revealed that peer group influence individuals, especially the youth to engage in criminal activities. It was revealed that, those influenced by their peers are mostly people who were either born out of broken homes or lack parental attention and proper nurturing. These are what some of the participants recounted:

> In recent times, the two kids that beheaded a colleague of theirs, one of them used to visit the colleague. They took him as one of them only for his behavior to be corrupted by his peer who came from a broken home. [MUSEC Secretary]

> Some parents here do not have time for their children. As early as 4:00 am, they go to Kantamanto in Accra to do their businesses, without giving proper care and guidance to their children. As peer pressure is also common here, they are influenced into criminal activities. [A glazier at Iron City]

The data shows that peer influence can lead to crime in a number of ways. For example, young people who are not properly supervised, and do not also have positive role models, tend to be more susceptible to the influence of their peers. This leads to them getting involved in criminal activities, such as drug use, theft, or violent crime. The data from the quantitative phase follows.

4.2.2.1 Perpetrators of Crime

Respondents were made to indicate the perpetrators (in terms of age) of criminal activities that occurred in their communities. Table 8 presents the results obtained.

Table 9: Perpetrators of crime

Perpetrators of crime	Frequency	Percentage
Juveniles (below 18)	39	15.9
Youth (18-35)	179	72.8
Adults (Above 35)	28	11.4
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 9, 39 (15.9%) of the respondents stated that the perpetrators of crime were juveniles (below 18 years of age), while 179 (72.8%) mentioned youth (between 18 and 35 years of age). Additionally, 28 (11.4%) of the respondents mentioned adults (above 35 years of age). The data shows that the majority of crime were committed by young adults between the ages of 18 and 35, implying that age was a demographic factor that influenced crime.

4.2.2.2 Category of People involved in Crime

The study sought from respondents the categories of people involved in criminal activities that occur in their communities. Table 9 presents the results obtained.

Table 10: Category of people involved in crime

Category of people in crime	Frequency	Percentage
Migrants	61	24.8
Jobless people	61	24.8
Less or non-educated	36	14.6
Educated people	18	7.3
Drug addicts	68	27.6
Not sure	2	.8
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 10, 61 (24.8%) of the respondents stated that migrants were involved in crime, 61 (24.8%) identified jobless people were involved in crime, 36 (14.6%) stated

that less/non-educated people were involved in crime, 18 (7.3%) stated that educated people were involved in crime, 68 (27.6%) stated that drug addicts were involved in crime, and 2 (.8%) stated that they were not sure. The data implies that drug use, urbanization and joblessness influenced criminal activities.

4.2.2.3 Community and Individual-Based factors that influenced crime

The study also identified factors that influenced criminal activities in Kasoa. Thus, respondents were asked to indicate the community and individual-based factors that influenced crime activities in Kasoa. The results gathered are presented in tables 11 and 12, respectively.

Table 11: Community-based factors that influence crime

Community-based factors	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	68	27.6
Peer pressure	52	21.1
Parental neglect	49	19.9
Development of slums (Ghettos)	26	10.6
Congestion	15	6.1
Quiet nature of the environment	25	10.2
Nature of layout	11	4.5
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

Table 11 shows that majority of the respondents, that is, 68 (27.6%) mentioned unemployment as a factor that influenced crime. The data also shows that peer pressure, parental neglect, congestion, development of slums were other community-based factors that influenced crime in Kasoa.

Table 12: Individual-based factors

Individual Based factors	Frequency	Percentage
Drug abuse	59	24.0
Greed	22	8.9
Idleness	34	13.8
Get-rich-quick attitude	48	19.5
Lack of jobs	83	33.7
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 12, majority of the respondents, 83 (33.7%) stated that lack of jobs as a factor that influenced crime in Kasoa. This was followed by 59 (24.0%) of the respondents who indicated drug abuse as a factor, 48 (19.5%) of the respondents also indicated the get-rich-quick-attitude of the people as a factor. The data implies that lack of jobs, drug abuse, greed, iddleness and get-rich-quick attitude were the main individual-based factors that contributed to crime in Kasoa.

4.2.3 Effects of Criminal activities on the Social Well-Being of Kasoa Residents

Research objective three purposely sought to gather data on how criminal activities affected the social well-being of the Kasoa residents. The effects of crime included fear and panic, lack of belongingness and insecurity, lack of confidence in the police, lack of trust for others, sense of disunity and interference in people‟s daily activities. Consequently, the quantitative data was also presented using frequency counts and percentages. Both qualitative and quantitative data were presented. The first theme presented is fear and panic.

(i) Fear and Panic

Crime creates fear and panic in the residents. Frequent patrols by the police service and other security agencies were, however, seen to ameliorate their sense of fear.

Despite this effort, the residents lived with a sense of insecurity knowing that certain areas in Kasoa such as the Kasoa New Station, Zongo, markets, and in general, the CBD area were prone to crime and also because, they had to carry out some of their daily activities at night. Thus, night time was labeled as dangerous and unsafe. The District Crime Officer averred, "*Crime puts fear in the residents*". The MUSEC Secretary also added, "*In recent times, according to reports from security services, crime has relatively reduced as compared to the previous times. Despite this, it affects residents by creating fear and panic in them*".

Two of the FGD participants also shared the following:

> The residents here live in sense of fear and panic. It was very intense some years back, but we don't feel as it used to be because we have the police patrolling in the township, and at times, the Immigration Officers also come in to assist the police. However, in the night around 11 pm, this area can be unsafe. [A glazier at Iron City]

> Crime puts fear and panic in us. At times, when one travels and is returning home late, one is scared. So, when I go to Kasoa (main) and I arrive at Newtown, I get scared walking home alone. [A Tertiary student at New Town]

The above data shows that criminal activities in Kasoa have negative effects on the social lives of the residents. Specifically, the occurrence of crime in Kasoa leads to fear and panic among residents, which disrupt their sense of safety and security. This fear may hinder their ability to form relationships and connections in Kasoa.

(ii) Lack of Belongingness and Insecurity

Crime obviously affects the sense of belonging among the residents of Kasoa. This is accentuated by the fact that people in the crime prone areas had developed the attitude

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of „minding their own businesses". The study indicates that there is high level individualism in the neighborhoods of Kasoa. The residents also noted that they felt a sense of insecurity talking to strangers. This was verified through my transact walk and observations prior to the collection of the field data for the study. Moreover, police investigations ended up exposing residents who acted as witnesses to crime events. For this reason, many of them simply hesitated to give out information regarding crime activities or interfered in the affairs of others. Some of the participants" comments are captured in the following excerpts:

> Boss…the whole thing is, you cannot correct any child for a deviant behavior. Secondly, when one tries to intervene into an issue of theft, they end up beating the person. Here, when a thief is caught, whoever begs on his or her behalf of the thief is deemed culpable. So, people are self-centered and will not even dare shout for a thief to be rounded up. [A teacher at New Town]

A shop attendant at Odupongkpehe added, *"I feel insecure talking to a stranger. Formally, I never wanted to live at Odupongkpehe because I was hearing stories about killings and robberies. It was a situation that compelled me to come and live at Odukpongkpehe"*. A tertiary student at New Town also shared, *"The police don"t protect the witnesses, and when the witness" name is mentioned, she or she is attacked. Personally, I was a victim. So, people want to mind their own businesses"*.

The above data shows that there was lack of social connectedness, and a sense of belonging among the people of Kasoa. This is more so because there was lack of protection of informants, and this had created an environment where people were more inclined to mind their own businesses, rather than engaging in social interactions with others.

(iii) Sense of Disunity

Crime affects the sense of unity of the Kasoa residents. The people lacked the needed unity to fight criminal activities. Again, there was sense of disunity because some of the residents interviewed did not want to become the targets of criminals. The result of this is that the police service faced difficulties in their attempts at fighting crime. Here are some excerpts from the interviews conducted:

> I think that unity among members of the community is missing because the police expose those who witnessed crime events. So, if I see any crime activity taking place, I can't report to the police because I don't want to be attacked by the criminals later. [A teacher at New Town]

> I have a soldier friend who attempted to form a community watchdog committee here in Iron City, but people were not willing to support it. He was going from house to house, but he didn"t receive any support from the people. [A businessman at Iron City]

A decorator at Odupongkpehe also narrated, *"I think this place is like Accra central, where everybody tends to mind his or business"*.

The above responses suggest that there was a sense of disunity, and this was influenced by the lack of trust in the police to protect informants and lack of willingness among community members to support initiatives to improve their safety and security. Therefore, community members found it difficult to work together to address issues of crime and safety. Additionally, people were more focused on their individual lives and concerns, rather than working together to improve the security in the community as a whole.

(iv) Lack of Confidence in the Police

The influence of crime on confidence in the police was well recognized in Kasoa. The study revealed that the residents lacked confidence in the police. Lack of confidence in the police was based on the manner and outcome of certain crime events. Also, residents lack confidence in the police, in terms of the way they handled certain criminals. Thus, at some point in time, they tried to vent their anger on some criminals by giving instant justice to them. Moreover, though residents acknowledge the efforts of police, in combating crime by the frequent patrols, snap checks and rounding up of criminals (as reported later in this study), certain police officers were seen to be fueling crime activities. A Teacher at Odupongkpehe stated:

> Last year, they arrested some armed robbers and interrogated them on how they managed to get their guns and they mentioned the name of one policeman. The police service traced him to the Tetegu Junction and found out he supplied such criminals with guns. So, some of us don't trust the police.

A teacher at New Town said, "*Instead of the police to protect people who helped and identified the criminals, they rather expose them to these criminals. As this happens, the witnesses become the target of these criminals*" A businessman at Iron City also narrated, "*I don"ttrust the police because of the corruption they engage in. The same way, I don"talso trust them, in terms of how they work to fight criminal activities in Kasoa*".

An FGD participant expressed her view on mob or instant justice in this comment saying, "*For my area if one is caught as a criminal, one may not go home again. They will beat and kill the one. They have killed two in my presence*. [A headmistress at Oduponkpehe]

Even though community watchdogs were noted to be used as strategies to prevent and reduce crime (as reported later in this study), there was also the belief that criminals should be met with severe instant punishment due to lack of confidence in the police. The above responses suggest that crime had reduced people‟s confidence in the police at Kasoa.

(v)   Lack of Trust for One Another

The study revealed that residents had developed less trust for one another. The study showed that crimes made residents form preconceptions to perceive others as spies who only wanted information from them to criminalize them later. Often because crime activities made them skeptic at one another at any point in time. In order to find out how crime influences their lack of trust for one another, key informants and FGD participants were asked to share their views. The MUSEC Secretary said, "*Crime has created skepticism among the people. This is Kasoa, where anything such as crime can happen. There's this element of doubt when people are dealing with one another and hence the less trust".* A nurse at Odupongkpehe added, "*Crime activities in this community affect our sense of trust for one another. To me, if it's one‟s first time trying to talk to me, it means that one simply needs information from me to attack me later".*

The above responses suggest that crime had had a negative effect on people‟s trust for one another in Kasoa. This lack of trust had also affected their relationships and interactions with others in the community.

(vi) Interference with Residents' Daily Activities

It was revealed that crime partly affected residents in their daily activities. Commercial activities during the day were not seen to be distorted. However, nighttime in the Township was unsafe. The District Crime Officer shared:

> Crime affects people, but it has not affected anybody's daily activities. There is bad news here, and this will make one to think that Kasoa is only noted for its criminal activities. However, people freely go about their businesses and daily activities.

A food vendor at New Town added, *"I feel free to engage in my daily activities during the day, but in the night, they can just snatch my phone or kidnap me".* A hairdresser at Odupongkpehe also said, "*During the day, one can engage in one"s daily activities without much problems, but it is not safe for the person at night, especially after 6:00 pm in the market, unless one is also a member of the criminal gangs".*

From the responses provided above, it could be seen that crime activities partly interfere with people"s engagement in their daily activities. Overall, crime affected the social well-being of residents as it could create fear and panic and a sense of disunity in addressing crime, lack of confidence in the police, lack of belonginess and insecurity, lack of trust for others, and it had partly affected residents" engagement in their daily activities.

4.2.3.1 Victims of Crime

Having explored how crime affected the social well-being of the residents, there was the need to further explore the experiences of the victims of crime. The focus was on whether key informants, FGD participants as well as their families or friends had ever been victims of crime. Consideration was given to the nature or form of the crime and

the description of the crime event. Thus, key informants and FGD participants were asked to share their experiences with crime themselves, their families or friends who had been victims of crime. Participants shared the following:

> I have close friends who have been victims of fraud, even robbery, stealing... It was all about trips to abroad. My friends paid the money but later realized they have been defrauded. Some of these are also about Q-net and NAM 1. [District Crime Officer]

> One of my colleagues at the administration here got robbed in the Central Business District. One morning, when she was coming to work, two guys on a motorbike, wearing face masks just snatched her bag containing phones and other valuables from her and sped off. [MUSEC Secretary]

The responses suggest that crime incidents occurred both during the day and night, and in various locations such as on the street, in taxis, and at workplaces. Some residents described being careful to protect themselves from various crimes, while others had friends or family members who had been victims. A Photographer at Iron City illustrated, *"I can say that during the day around 10 a.m. in the year 2020, here in Iron City, they robbed me of my phone*. A teacher at New Town commented, *"My friend bought rice, oil and other ingredients for food business during Salah. A „truck‟ pusher took everything and ran away. So, some of these „truck‟ pushers are also criminals"*.

A food vendor at New Town said:

> My sisters had been victims of crime. One received a call and when she finished making the call, she was about to drop the phone in her bag, and all of a sudden, the phone was snatched. My other sister was walking by the roadside, before she realized, her bag was gone.

A headmistress at Odupongkpehe also added:

> Our two vehicles were stolen. The first one which was a taxi was stolen on October 16, 2016. The criminal hired our driver from Kasoa here to Aburi. He persuaded the driver to stop for him to do shopping and also persuaded him to give him his car key to give to the security of the place to keep. The criminal latter picked the key and stole the car away. Two years later, the second one also got stolen.

The responses suggest that some FGD participants, their families and friends had been victims of crime. Fraud, robbery, attempted ritual murder, stealing of items such as cars, phones, bags and even groceries were seen to be the forms of crime in Kasoa. The quantitative data from the second phase of the study follows.

A set of structured questionnaire items were specifically designed as part of my quest to unearth the effects of crime on social well-being of the Kasoa residents. like for neighborhood, sense of belonging and safety and other effects were covered. These were represented in the tables 13, 14 and 15.

Table 13: Like for Neighborhood

Do you like your neighborhood?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	138	56.1
No	108	43.9
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 13, 138 (56.1%) of the respondents stated that they liked their neighborhood, while 108 (43.9%) stated otherwise. This implies that the satisfaction they had in their neighborhood was positive. However, many of the respondents also did not like their neighborhood, suggesting that there may be issues or factors that were contributing to their negative dislike of their neighborhood.

Table 14: Sense of belonging

Do you feel belonging to this community?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	133	54.1
No	113	45.9
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

The data in Table 14 pertains to the sense of belonging among the respondents of their community. The data suggest that some of the respondents (almost half) did not feel a sense of belonging to their communities.

Table 15: Sense of safety

How safe are you?	Frequency	Percentage
Very safe	19	7.7
Safe	65	26.4
Not safe	123	50.0
Very unsafe	39	15.9
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

Table 15 shows that majority of the respondents did not feel safe in their communities. This is a disturbing situation since a sense of safety is crucial for the well-being of individuals and the community as a whole.

4.2.3.2 Effects of crime

This aspect of the data further looked at the effects of crime on the residents. Firstly, respondents were asked whether crime occurrences in Kasoa had affected them. Secondly, the respondents who responded in affirmative were asked how crime in Kasoa had affected them. These are represented in tables 16 and 17, respectively.

Table 16: Effects of crime on respondents

Does crime affect you?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	167	67.9
No	79	32.1
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 16, majority of the respondents, 167 (67.9%) stated that crime occurrences in Kasoa had affected them, while 79 (32.1%) stated otherwise. This shows that crime is a concern for majority of the population hence its effect on the social well-being of residents should not be underestimated. Table 17 looks at the effects of crime on the residents of Kasoa.

Table 17: Effects of crime

Effects of crime	Frequency	Percentage
I fear and Panic	56	22.8
I distrust others	33	13.4
I lack confidence in the police	23	9.3
Crime has affected my business	31	12.6
Crime affects my ability to collaborate with others	14	5.7
Crime affects my engagement in daily activities	10	4.1
Total	167	67.9

Source: Field Data, 2022

Table 17 pertains to the effects of crime on the respondents. The data shows that out of 167 respondents affected by crime, majority of the respondents, 56 (22.8%) stated that crime had created fear and panic in them, 33 (13.4%) stated distrust for others, while 31 (12.6%) mentioned that crime had affected their businesses. The data shows that the main effect of crime on the social well-being of the residents in Kasoa were fear and panic, distrust for one another and its negative effects on their businesses.

These findings indicate that crime had a negative effect on the social well-being of the residents in Kasoa.

4.2.3.3 Respondents' experiences with crime

To further understand the effects of crime on the residents, respondents were asked if they had ever been victims of crime, the nature of the crime they were victims of, as well as the nature of the experiences. These are reported in tables 18, 19 and 20, respectively.

Table 18: Victims of crime

Ever been a victim of crime	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	97	39.4
No	149	60.6
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

The data in Table 18 depicts that some of the respondents, 97 (39.4%), had been victims of crime. This shows that crime was not just a perceived problem, but a real issue that was affecting the personal safety and well-being of Kasoa residents.

Table 19: Nature of the crime on victims

Nature of the crime	Frequency	Percentage
Murder (attempted)	5	2.0
Armed robbery/robbery	27	11.0
Fraud	21	8.5
Stealing/theft	28	11.4
Assault	16	6.5
Total	97	39.4

Source: Field Data, 2022

Of the 97 respondents who had been victimized, majority, 28 (11.4%) stated that they were victims of stealing or theft, 27 (11.0%) were victims of armed robbery or

robbery, and 21 (8.5%) were victims of fraud and the rest of the respondents, support with figures from the table were victims of attempted murder and assault. The data implies that the respondents had been victims of different types of crime.

Table 20: Nature of residents'' experiences with crime

How was your experience with crime?	Frequency	Percentage
Hurting	32	13.0
Frightening/fearful	36	14.6
Sad	19	7.7
Good	10	4.1
Total	97	39.4

Source: Field Data, 2022

Table 20 shows the nature of the experience the 97 victims had with crime in Kasoa. In the table, the majority, 36 (14.6%) stated that their experience with the crime was frightening or fearful, 32 (13.0%) said they were hurt, 19 (7.7%) mentioned they were sad. However, 10 (4.1%) of the respondents said it was a good experience. The data implies that crime can create a lasting fear in the victims. This can lead to distrust for one another, and in general, their relationships with others.

4.2.4 Crime Prevention Strategies available to reduce Crime in Kasoa

Research objective four purposely explored the crime prevention strategies that were available to reduce crime in Kasoa. Largely, available strategies deployed by security institutions (the Kasoa Police Division and Municipal Security Council), the community and individual residents were explored. Thus, the themes from the data analyzed were categorized as follows: institutional security strategies; local-level community strategies; and personal protection strategies.

4.2.4.1 Institutional Security Strategies

The major themes identified under this category were proactive policing, increased police visibility, local engagement/involvement, education and use of technology. The security institutions deploy these crime prevention strategies to reduce the occurrence of criminal activities.

(i) Proactive policing

The study revealed that the Police Division heavily relied on intelligence to prevent crime in Kasoa. This method proved to be successful considering, the reduction in crime rate as seen earlier in this study. The District Crime Officer asserted:

> We are doing proactive policing where we have intelligence on the ground. You can even arrest some of the criminals in their planning or preparation stages. It is not all the time that you have to chase them after they had committed offences. Certainly, in every society, there will be crimes but the job is to work and suppress it. People commit crime and run away thinking that they are free, but we are able to get them.

The above data shows that the police in Kasoa were using intelligence and proactive policing as a key strategy to reduce crime in the area. Thus, the Ghana Police Service has advanced and is implementing „policing of mind than of might‟ (an intelligence-driven policing).

(ii) Increased Police Visibility

Increased police visibility is one of the effective strategies deployed by the Kasoa Police Division to control criminal activities in the Kasoa and the Awutu Senya East Municipality at large. To this end, the police has engaged in frequent patrols, increasing checkpoints and deployment of police with motorbikes at various junctions. The District Crime Officer said, "*Now, everywhere in Accra, there are*

police with motor bikes at every junction. We are on course trying to implement them here too". The MUSEC Secretary asserted:

> The Ghana Police service actually increased the number of checkpoints. This has discouraged criminal activities. Also, there's a random patrolling by the Ghana Police service in the Municipality. We have the Kasoa division, Ofaakor as well as the regional patrol teams. So, this has contributed to stabilizing Kasoa.

In affirmation, A Photographer at Iron City recounted saying, *"The police have been helping the community a lot. They engage in frequent patrols"* A headmistress at Odupongkpehe also added, *"When the issue of crime became rampant in my area the police mounted their tents and kept a close eye over the town"*.

The data indicates that the presence of police officers has discouraged criminal activities and contributed to stabilizing Kasoa. Therefore, increased police visibility has been an effective crime prevention strategy in the area. Observations made on the field shows that the police were seen around major junctions or locations, especially the CBD. In addition, a new police station has been constructed at the CBD to increase police visibility. Figure 5 and 6 affirm this.

them, it makes your job easier, in terms of implementation. [MUSEC Secretary]

The above data implies that the security institutions in Kasoa are implementing a strategy of enhanced community policing, which involves forming strong partnerships with community leaders, such as chiefs, assembly members, and religious leaders. This approach aimed to reduce crime by fostering a better relationship between the community and the police, and by identifying and addressing potential criminal activity before it occurs.

(iv) Education

The security agencies carried out community education to make residents aware of the contributions they can make in the fight against crime. In particular, the Municipal Security Council educates the residents on issues relating to justice and security, through intermediaries who represent the communities via its sub-committee known as the Justice and Security Committee. The District Crime Officer postulated, *"Sometimes, we go to communities, churches, and mosques to educate people about crime. If they don't understand what we are doing, we will not get their support. Education is, therefore, very important"*. The MUSEC Secretary added:

> We have a sub-committee known as the Justice and Security Committee, which is inclusive of Assembly members who are not just mere members, so whatever we discuss, they go back to their electoral areas to educate their people about them and consider what they can do to prevent crimes. They then discuss with their various electoral areas then bring us feedback, then we take action on them.

The data shows that education was an important component of crime prevention and reduction efforts in Kasoa, with the police working to educate the community on crime and how to prevent them, and community leaders collaborating with the police.

(v) Use of Technology

The use of technology to fight crime is an increasingly novel strategy in Ghana. However, it became evident that the cameras were not enough for effective crime prevention and control in Kasoa. It was observed that the CCTV and other cameras were mainly at the Central Business District. The District Crime Officer postulated, "*We are using technology to fight crime. We are using CCTV cameras. We are also using technology to track phones. Almost every junction in Ghana now is having cameras, and we are using that to arrest criminals*". The MUSEC Secretary averred:

> The thing about CCTV cameras is about how many of them are at vantage points in the Municipality. I can say that the CCTV cameras are only found at the Central Business District. Criminals are one of the smartest people you could ever think of and they may rob people at places without cameras.

From the above, it could be seen that the installation of surveillance systems is very critical to crime prevention and reduction. Technology prevents crimes. However, the absence of these crime-related technological tools may leave some areas vulnerable to criminal activity as criminals may target new emerging neighborhoods, where they believe there is less surveillance. The field observation confirmed the use of CCTV cameras as seen in Figure 7 below:

Accra about it as well as to obtain legal backing to act. So, we do have some individual community watchdogs that are also acting to help the security services combat crime.

The District Crime Officer said that, *"Sometimes, you see people chase phone snatchers. So, criminals do not have a free day"*.

However, in two of the communities; Iron City and New Town, these community watchdogs were absent. A participant at Iron City shared this:

There are community watchdogs at other parts of Kasoa but here at Iron City, we don't have one. I have a soldier friend who attempted to create one, but the people were not willing to support it. He went from house to house to form the group, but he didn"t receive any support from the people. [A businessman at Iron City]

A tertiary student at New Town said, "*The very people who should make a conscious effort to foster these community watchdog committees are also involved in these criminal activities, so how is that possible?"*
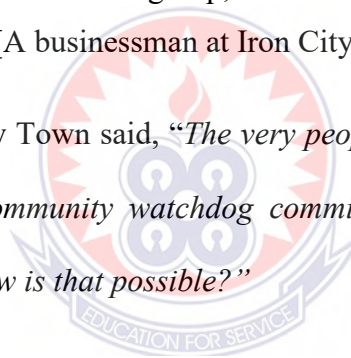
The above data shows that community watchdogs were being utilized as a strategy to prevent and reduce crime in only one of the communities studied. These groups were being formed with the help of the police to provide them with training and legal backing to act. But, these community groups were not present in all areas as there was little support from community residents for their formation.

4.2.4.3 Personal Protection Strategies

Apart from the institutional and community crime prevention strategies explored, attention was also paid to the protection strategies individual residents deployed to avoid being victims of crime. The themes that emerged include; being at home at the right time, sense of vigilance and instituting home security measures.

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(i) Being at home before night

The participants indicated that they were usually at home before night as a strategy to prevent and control crime. They were conscious of their time, especially at night since the criminals were noted to carry out their activities in the night. These groups of people were mostly workers such as construction workers, nurses, hairdressers and teachers. A hairdresser at Odupongkpehe said that, "*Sometimes, when I close from work, I like to stay behind a little to do my private studies, but because of my fear for crime, I leave early.*

In affirmation, other FGD participants from Iron City added the following:

> As for me, I can't go to Kasoa (main) to buy anything after 9 p.m. I will wait till the day breaks before I go and buy it. Since I know that Kasoa is prone to insecurity, I do not need to go home late. [A construction worker at Iron City]

> It is not even safe walking at night because when a criminal asks of your valuables and you don't have anything to offer, he can stab you. They have to take something from you at all cost. [A glazier at Iron City]

Therefore, the issue of being at home before night shows the importance of residents being aware of their surroundings and their potential dangers, and taking the necessary steps to protect themselves.

(ii) Sense of Vigilance

The residents also indicated that they had adopted some measures to ensure vigilance, especially in their daily activities. These included avoiding making wrong readings not to be potential victims of crime, boarding vehicles at the right places and staying

alert at overcrowded places. Some FGD participants at the various communities recounted:

> I am very careful with those who persuade passengers to board their vehicles. Some of them have connection with thieves and robbers. In my area, I know some of them. They are present at the Kasoa overhead. So, if you are not careful, they will snatch everything from you, especially on Mondays. [A tertiary student at New Town]

> One of the things you can do is to avoid looking at facial expressions because criminals are also advancing their techniques on their activities. Looking at people‚s appearance and dressing to determine if one is a criminal is very wrong. We once witnessed a scene where a person was dressed in a clergy garment, but was a thief. [A teacher at New Town]

> I think it's very good to board a car at the station. Also, observing the kind of people in the car before boarding is recommendable. Additionally, I ask the driver to roll the glasses down to increase my chances of safety. [A hairdresser at Odupongkpehe]

Other participants indicated that they positioned their bags or belongings in front of them. They also adopted crafted styles of walking in order to deter criminals and they made entrenched decisions about their possessions. Here is what they shared:

> The only thing that can help you is to have your bag in front of you and walk like a gangster because they, sometimes read the way you walk from afar. For me, I don't do „lady walk". Otherwise, my bags will be snatched away. They snatched my sisters" (a nurse) bag containing laptop and money, so since that day, she sleeps at the hospital and comes home the next day. [A teacher at New Town].

> "Boss… we washed our things and left them on the drying line till the next day. We woke up only to realize that our clothes were gone

Table 21: Effectiveness of State security agencies

Are security agencies effective?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	143	58.1
No	103	41.9
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 21, 143 (58.1%) of the respondents mentioned that the state security agencies were effective in combating criminal activities, while 103 (41.9%) mentioned that they were not effective. The data suggests that majority of the respondents believed that state security agencies were effective in combating criminal activities in Kasoa. This indicates that security agencies, including the Police and MUSEC were working hard in the crime combat landscape.

4.2.4.5 Home Security measures for Crime Prevention and Control

Crime against persons and property mostly occurred in their homes. In Table 22, respondents were asked to tick as many home security measures they used to prevent and control criminal activities. I was interested in home measures with the highest percentages to identify the popular measures adopted by the respondents. Based on this, the percentage values were used and interpreted. Table 23 highlights the effectiveness of the home measures adopted by the respondents.

Table 22: Home security measures

Home Measures	Frequency	Percentage
Use of dogs	126	15.7
High fence/wall	126	15.7
Use of security doors	107	13.3
Installed burglar alarm	80	10.0
Caretaker or security guard	78	9.7
Neighborhood Watch	94	11.7
Use of CCTV	78	9.7
Prayer/religious options	90	11.2
No measures	23	2.9
Total	802	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2022

In Table 22, it appears that the most popular measures adopted by respondents was the use of security dogs, security doors, locks and high fence. The table indicates that most of the community members had adopted, at least, one measure to prevent crime.

Table 23: Effectiveness of home Measures

Are home measures effective?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	148	60.2
No	75	30.5
No Response****	23	9.3
Total	246	100.0

No Response**** = Those who did not adopt any home measures

Source: Field data, 2022

In Table 23, out of 246 respondents, 148 (60.2%) stated that the home security strategies they had adopted were effective in preventing them from being victimized, while 75 (30.5%) stated otherwise. The data implies that, some residents in Kasoa were not adopting effective measures to prevent crime in their homes.

4.2.4.6 Community Crime Prevention Strategies

Respondents were asked to indicate the crime prevention strategies they adopted at the community level to prevent and reduce criminal activities. The outcome of the responses is reported in Table 24.

Table 24: Community crime prevention strategies

Community crime prevention strategies	Frequency	Percentage
Community-based programs	35	14.2
Rely heavily on the police	72	29.3
Community watchdogs	65	26.4
Mob or Instant justice	74	30.1
Total	246	100.0

Source: Field data, 2022

Table 24 shows the community crime prevention strategies adopted by the residents as indicated by the respondents. The data suggests that majority of the respondents indicated mob justice, reliance on the police and community watchdogs to prevent and reduce crime. The data also suggests that community-based programs are also in place to prevent crime. The fact that majority of the respondents indicated that they relied on mob justice to prevent crime could mean that the residents did not trust the formal justice system to effectively address crime in their communities. Despite the fact that they engaged in mob justice, they recognized the role of the police in law enforcement in maintaining public safety.

4.3 Discussion of Results

The first research question sought to determine the common crimes committed in Kasoa. Both qualitative and quantitative findings revealed that Kasoa was faced with common crimes such as only stealing/theft, assault and fraud to be common crimes. Data from the Kasoa Divisional Command provided insights into the hotspot zones of

these crimes, with stealing as the most common crime, followed by assault and fraud. According the 2020 and 2021 Annual Crime Data of Kasoa, 1,418 and 1,146 stealing cases were recoded respectively. For assault, 1402 and 1,139 cases recorded in the same period, and all fraud cases of 653 and 428, respectively were also recorded. Therefore, crime reduced to a moderate level at all the three communities selected for the study.

The second research question was formulated to examine the social and demographic factors that influence crime in Kasoa. The study found that unregulated urbanization influenced other factors to engender criminal activities in Kasoa. Although, the universality of the nexus of crime and population growth is yet to be established (Lee & Jang, 2021; Malik, 2016). The findings suggest that the rapid and unplanned growth of the city created an environment that is conducive to crime, due to factors such as unemployment and slums, among others. Additionally, the high cost of accommodation in the area, as a result of the high number of immigrants exacerbates the existing accommodation situation and creates a breeding ground for criminal activity. Owusu et al. (2006) concurs that urbanization in the Ghanaian cities faces the problems of poor and inadequate infrastructure and amenities to support the growing urban population. The Awutu Senya East Municipality is mainly urban with few rural settlements (ASEMA, 2017; GSS, 2014), depicting that majority of the population are concentrated in Kasoa. Within national context, seven regions are urbanized. That is, more than half of the population in those seven regions live in urban areas. The Central Region is the 4th most urbanized and the 2nd most densely populated region (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021). According to the United Nations, approximately 66% of the global population is likely to dwell in urban centers by 2050 (United

Nations, 2014). In addition, the natural increase in population of ASEMA was 2,482 (2.29%) in 2010, which is projected with 2.8% growth rate in 2021 (ASEMA, 2021).

The influx of immigrants accompanied with natural growth rate can put additional strain on resources and infrastructure, exacerbating social and economic challenges in the Kasoa Township. This strain can contribute to social disorganization and strain among both the immigrant population and the normal residents, potentially leading to increased crime rates. Criminal activities, as a result of population growth with an underlying urbanization and natural growth, were influenced by age, low level of education, unemployment, parental neglect, drug abuse, get-rich-quick-attitude, development of slums, congestion and peer influence as contributing social and demographic factors in Kasoa.

The study also found age as a factor that influenced crime in Kasoa, where greater proportion of crimes were committed by young adults, between the ages of 18 and 35 years. According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, Ghana‟s population age structure is transitioning from one dominated by children (0-14 years) to one dominated by young people (15-35 years). The proportion of children declined from 41.3 percent in 2000 to 35.3 percent in 2021, while that of young people increased from 34.6 percent in 2000 to 38.2 percent in 2021 (GSS, 2021). That is, Ghana has a youthful population.

Also, more young people (15-35) live in urban than rural areas (GSS, 2021) often because they want to find greener pastures in the former. However, in the course of finding better lifestyles, the youth is more prone than older people to commit crimes (Steinberg, 2017). Pratt and Cullen (2000) corroborate Steinberg‟s assertion, and further explain that young individuals are more sensitive to peer pressure and group

dynamics, and are, therefore, easily influenced since they are still developing their attitudes and values. Crime rates peak at age 18, and keeping teenagers in school during this key period can help ensure that they never proceed down the wrong track (Bell et al. 2018). Therefore, parental control is very important in pulling young people out of crime. Lack of parental control and supervision, coupled with a weak sense of community, create an environment that is conducive to criminal behavior among young people.

Another factor that influenced crime in Kasoa was low level of education, where less or non-educated individuals were identified as being involved in crime. Lack of education can lead to unemployment and increase the likelihood of individuals engaging in criminal activities to make a living. The study shows that most of those who engaged in crime did not have higher education. A study found that finishing even a high school decreases criminal activity considerably (Lochner, 2020). Data from GSS depicts that out of the total population of 236,527 for ASEM, 212,043 – the population of 6 years and older accounting for 89.6% were literates (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021). A well-established research finding in the economics of crime literature is that education lowers criminality (Bell et al., 2018).

However, the high crime rate in Kasoa can be blamed on the fact that although the literacy rate in Kasoa is high, many individuals may not had had access to higher education or vocational training, and this might have limited their employment opportunities and increase their likelihood of engaging in criminal activities to earn a living. Therefore, addressing the issue of low level of education, by providing access to high-quality education and vocational training, as well as addressing other underlying factors such as low income, poverty, residential mobility collectively

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called social disorganization are important to further decrease the crime rates in Kasoa. These are very important considerations in the Social Disorganization Theory.

Unemployment was also another factor that influenced crime in Kasoa, where individuals without jobs were identified as being involved in crime. Unemployment created an environment for individuals to be recruited into criminal activities. Both data found that lack of government jobs and a negative attitude towards learning artisan work among the youth further exacerbated the unemployment issue in Kasoa. Unemployment is delicate issue in Ghana. In the Central Region, 13% (145,281 out of 1,095,275 labor force) were unemployed (GSS, 2021). Within the national context, the 2021 Population and Housing Census report showed that 1,551,118 (27.8%) persons in Ghana were unemployed. Across all the three age brackets (15-24 years, 15-35 years, and 15 years and older), unemployment rate was higher in urban than rural areas (GSS, 2021).

It can be seen that the issue of crime in the Central Region is closely linked to the broader socio-economic challenges facing Kasoa. Therefore, unemployment has an influence on individuals to engage in criminal activities in Kasoa. The findings of this study are consistent with the findings of Adel et al. (2016), whose study showed that unemployment connects with crime rates. As a result, Ghana's rising unemployment potentially brings together cohorts of the jobless, and the existence of such formation cannot be overlooked in the emergence of gangs (Bagson, 2018).

Moreover, the study revealed parental neglect as a factor that influenced crime in Kasoa. The data revealed that parents" inability to be actively involved in the lives of their children made them vulnerable to negative peer pressure and other negative influences. The study concurs with Hser et al. (2010), who found that dysfunctional

family structure due to parental neglect makes young children more likely to commit crimes. According to the Social Disorganization Theory, parental neglect can contribute to crime in a neighborhood by weakening the social bonds between individuals and their community. In addition, the collective efficacy of such families to fight crime decreases, where community members may not feel empowered to come together to address neighborhood issues and prevent crime. Merton‟s Strain Theory provides further insight into the parental neglect in Kasoa. In this instance, children who grow up in dysfunctional families may feel a sense of alienation and frustration, which can lead them to engage in criminal behavior as a means of achieving material success and gaining status.

In addition, both the qualitative and quantitative data revealed drug abuse as a factor that influenced crime, highlighting the significant effects that substance abuse could have on criminal activities. Drugs such as "shisha" and marijuana play an influential role in people‟s indulgence in criminal activities. This was evidenced by the many drinking bars and ghettos in the Kasoa Township, and this creates easy accessibility to addictive drugs. Researchers on drugs and crime found that criminals take drugs as an enhancer to further their illicit activities. Criminals typically use various illegal narcotics; including cannabis to enhance their activities (as discovered in this study) hence it is no doubt that they may have links with drug lords (Alavi, 2011).

In the view of the Social Disorganization Theory, the prevalence of drug abuse in Kasoa can be seen as a symptom of a disorganized community. According to this theory, communities that lack strong social bonds and effective social control mechanisms are more likely to experience social problems, such as drug abuse and criminal activities. Also, in the view of the Strain Theory, those under the influence of

drugs may engage in illegal behavior to obtain more drugs or money to purchase them. The addiction can also lead to financial strain, making individuals more vulnerable to engaging in criminal activities to fund their addiction. This creates a vicious cycle.

Moreover, the data revealed the get-rich-quick-attitude as a factor that influenced crime in Kasoa. This attitude was common among teens and the youth. The culture of betting and gambling is fast developing in Kasoa. Studies have found that increased criminal activity has links with get-rich-quick-attitude because certain people think that riches can be obtained via unethical methods (Thornberry & Krohn, 2000). Thus, people with this mentality may participate in illicit crimes including robbery and fraud (Pratt & Turanovic, 2008) as found in this study. In the view of Merton's Strain Theory, the get-rich-quick-attitude among the youth in Kasoa could be seen as a response to the disconnection between socially-accepted way of wealth creation and the means to achieve those goals. Therefore, this attitude may make them more susceptible to engaging in criminal behavior, especially in a culture of betting and gambling as revealed in the study.

Development of slums was also revealed in the study as a factor that influenced crime in Kasoa. It was seen that slums had become the survival settlements of certain migrants who could not afford decent accommodations. The findings confirmed a study by Owusu (2008) who found that slums are visible as land had become expensive within the Ghanaian urban space, often because the influx of international migrants worsens housing conditions (Owusu, 2008).

Rapid population growth in the urban areas requires that adequate amounts of accommodation are available for housing (Yankson & Bertrand, 2012). In the case of

Kasoa, it not solely about adequacy of accommodation as Yankson and Bertrand (2012) argue, but an affordable accommodation. Because the rapid population growth had led to the development of slums as a survival strategy for migrants who could not afford decent accommodation. In the context of Merton's Strain Theory, the rapid population growth in Kasoa could create a strain on the community members, especially migrants who were unable to find affordable and decent housing. According to Merton, when there is a disconnection between socially-accepted goals and the means to achieve them, individuals experience strain, which may lead to criminal behavior.

Another factor revealed in both qualitative and quantitative findings was congestion. The qualitative data provided more in-depth information on the relationship between congestion, the commercial activities in Kasoa, and the high level of criminal activities as a result of frustration and the inability to find legitimate livelihoods. The finding confirms other studies that, because of the difficulties of identification among the large population, the mobility of the population foster anonymity, which serves as an incentive or a channel to hiding illegal conduct. As a result, increased congestion increases the likelihood of criminal activity (Bagson, 2018; Owusu et al., 2016).

The population density of ASEM is 3,729.5 people per square kilometer (GSS, 2021). Population densities of over 1,000 people per square kilometer are considered high, while densities of less than 500 people per square kilometer are considered low. Therefore, the area has a high population density. Within the national context, Central Region, 9.3% (which harbors ASEM) is part of 3 other regions (Greater Accra, 17.7%, Ashanti, 17.6%, Eastern, 9.5%) containing more than half (54%) of the toatal Ghanaian population according to the 2021 Population and Housing Census.

Therefore, the high population density and congestion contribute to social disorganization, while the frustration and strain resulting from the inability to find legitimate livelihoods lead to criminal behavior.

Lastly, peer influence emerged in the qualitative data as a factor that influenced crime, which was confirmed in the quantitative data, where mostly people either from broken homes or lack parental attention and proper nurturing were subjected to negative peer influence. Thus, the study found that people, especially the youth in Kasoa were influenced to crime due to lack of proper supervision at home. Additionally, when young people are exposed to the criminal behaviors by their peers, they view it as normal or acceptable behavior. Studies found that indeed peers can significantly influence a person's chance of engaging in illegal activity (Hser et al., 2010). As found earlier in this study, the youth were the main perpetrators of crime.

Therefore, the results from both the qualitative and quantitative phases confirm several social and demographic factors that influence crime in Kasoa, including age, low level of education, unregulated urbanization, unemployment, parental neglect and drug abuse. Other factors such as, development of slums, congestion, get-rich-quick-attitude and peer influence also influenced crime in Kasoa. The data implies that there are multiple interconnected factors that contribute to crime occurrence in Kasoa and that addressing these issues will require a multi-faceted approach.

The third research question was to analyze the effects of criminal activities on the social well-being of the Kasoa residents. The results of the qualitative and quantitative phases of the study provided a comprehensive understanding of the issue. Both data revealed the following; fear and panic, lack of belongingness and insecurity, sense of disunity, lack of confidence in the police, lack of trust for one another and

interference in respondents" daily activities. Indeed, both data also showed that FGD participants and survey respondents, 39% had been victims of crime. Their experiences of being victims were frightening and hurting.

Fear and panic among residents were confirmed in both phases of the study. Fear and panic affect the sense of safety and security among residents, and thus hinders their ability to build relationships and connections in the community. The findings are in line with Agyemang (2012) who opines that, crimes such as stealing or theft, robbery and assault and others whether major or minor, have negative effects on both individuals and community. He found the main negative effects to be fear and panic. In the view of the Social Disorganization Theory, the presence of crime and the resulting fear and panic among residents can further contribute to disorganization of the Kasoa Township. Because fear and panic disrupt social bonds, trust, and the collective efficacy to fight crime activities. Residents may become more isolated, less likely to engage in community activities, and less willing to intervene in situations that address crime.

Also, both qualitative and quantitative data suggest that crime has a significant effect on sense of belonging among residents in the peri-urban neighborhood. Fear of crime and the lack of protection of witnesses had led to a sense of insecurity and individualism, reducing social connectedness and a sense of belonging in Kasoa. The study, however, contradicts Bagson's (2018) study that, effective social cohesion is promoted in urban neighborhoods because of regular interaction – among members and encouraged by a significant number of compound houses – a popular dwelling form in Tamale's middle-class socio-economic neighborhood. Social disorganization also connotes the breakdown of social bonds and the collective efficacy necessary for

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maintaining order and cohesion within a community. The study shows that Kasoa residents perceive their environment as unsafe and lacking protection, therefore, they tended to withdraw from community engagement and interaction, leading to a weakened sense of belonging.

In addition, both phases of the study confirmed that there was disunity in Kasoa due to lack of confidence in the police and lack of willingness among community members to support initiatives to improve safety and security. Therefore, crime affect the sense of unity of residents. The outcome supports other studies that communities with perceptions of high crimes are affected as social ties, and networks as well as community participation remains weak (Lemanski 2004; Saegert & Winkel, 2004). Moreover, both phases of the study confirmed that crime had had a negative effect on residents" confidence in the police, affecting their perception about the police service, in terms of its fight against criminal activities in Kasoa. Also, in the course of crime investigation, witnesses became the target of criminals. The study aligns with Gyamfi (2022), who found that, lack of public confidence in the police resulted from fear of retaliation from criminals reported to the police, and lack of confidence due to perceived poor performance of the police.

Furthermore, both phases of the study confirmed that crime had had a negative effect on trust for one another, affecting their relationships and connections in Kasoa. This finding confirmed a study by Bagson (2018) that the likelihood of togetherness leads to a stronger impression of insecurity in neighborhoods. Bagson (2018) found that there is a certain amount of mistrust among urban dwellers and stated that, it is usual because of the heterogeneity which is similar to the case of Kasoa. Trust is a fundamental component of collective efficacy against crime which supports the notion

of social disorganization. Because when trust for others is eroded, it becomes more difficult for community members to rely on each other and work together, especially with the local police to address common problems, including crime.

The negative effect of crime on trust for one another also indicates a sense of vulnerability and fear in Kasoa. When residents experience or witness crime, it creates a sense of distrust and suspicion towards others, as they perceive their neighbors or community members as potential threats. This erosion of trust can further isolate individuals and weaken the social fabric of Kasoa. The Social Disorganization Theory maintains that, a strong sense of collective efficacy, which includes trust and shared values among community members, is necessary for effective crime prevention and control.

Lastly, both phases of the study confirmed that crime partly affected residents" engagement in their daily activities. Since commercial activities were not seen to be distorted during the day, but at night, it is necessary to conclude that crime only partly interfered in engagement in daily activities. Matsueda and Heimer (1997), cited in Seffrin et al. (2009), found that crime affected the engagement of individuals in their daily activities because they restricted their travels or avoided specific locations. The Social Disorganization Theory suggests that crime and disorder can disrupt the normal functioning of a community and hinder residents' engagement in daily activities. Therefore, addressing crime and promoting safety are essential for restoring a sense of security and normalcy, allowing residents to freely engage in their daily activities and enhance their overall social well-being.

Research question four was to assess the crime prevention strategies available to reduce crime in Kasoa. When both results are combined, it is evident that various

strategies are being deployed by the different stakeholders to reduce crime in Kasoa. The police and the Municipal Security Council were implementing institutional security strategies, while the community and individual residents were adopting local-level community strategies and personal protection strategies, respectively. These strategies show a multi-faceted approach to reducing crime in Kasoa.

The qualitative data has revealed that the Kasoa Police division and the Municipal Security Council have implemented various strategies such as proactive policing, increased police visibility, local engagement/involvement, education and the use of technology to prevent crime in Kasoa. The quantitative data supports the qualitative results when respondents stated that they relied heavily on the police to prevent and reduce crime. The field observation also confirmed that the police had increased their visibility in Kasoa, regarding the establishment of new police stations and the deployment of police officers with motorbikes in the Kasoa Township. The observation also confirmed the use of technology in crime prevention and control. The American Planning Association (APA) (2006), found that placing police stations close to the centers of activity can help reduce crime. In addition, Weisburd and Braga (2006), and Braga et al. (2001) did a study and found out that, proactive policing techniques, such as community policing and problem-oriented policing, were successful in lowering crime and enhancing neighborhood safety in a number of cities.

In the view of Social Disorganization Theory, the implementation of institutional security strategies by the Kasoa Police division and the Municipal Security Council aligns with the theory's premise that effective social control and organization are necessary to prevent crime and maintain community order. The theory posits that

crime and disorder arise from the breakdown of social control mechanisms in a community, and the implementation of institutional security strategies aims to restore or strengthen those control mechanisms.

In addition, local community strategies were employed to prevent crime in Kasoa. The qualitative data indicated that the community had also taken an active role in reducing crime by forming neighborhood watch groups though this was only carried out at Odukpongkpehe (the CBD area). This was confirmed in the quantitative data. In addition, the residents also relied on the police and carried out community-based programs to prevent and reduce crime. Rezaei notes that any program of crime control by police authorities or any other law enforcement agency needs the support of the community to make it more effective. As engagement among people rises, the community's defenders against crime become more active (Rezaei, 2013). Thus, emphasis must be placed on establishing more community watchdogs and giving special training to such groups. From the perspective of Merton's Strain Theory, the formation of neighborhood watch groups can be seen as a response to strain. By forming neighborhood watch groups, the Kasoa community is actively working to strengthen social bonds, increase informal surveillance, and create a shared responsibility for maintaining safety and order.

Moreover, both phases of the study confirmed that some respondents were victimized. Therefore, residents had implemented personal protection strategies such as being at home before night, exhibiting sense of vigilance in public places and instituting home security measures. They had also adopted, at least, one home measure to prevent crime with the use of security dogs, high fence and the use of security doors as the most popular measures. The field observations further confirmed the above personal

security measures, including positioning of their belongings at places of safety. The results corroborate a survey research conducted by Nwokaeze et al. (2022) based on data gathered from 498 respondents selected from four neighborhoods in a peri-urban location, that residents had made provisions (walls, gates, installation of alarm systems) for their security.

By implementing personal protection strategies, Kasoa residents were attempting to address the strain and insecurity they experienced due to social disorganization. These strategies allowed individuals to regain a sense of control and security in their lives, even in the face of challenging times. Notwithstanding, it is noteworthy that while personal protection strategies provide only a temporary sense of security. They do not address the underlying causes of crime or solve the broader issues related to social disorganization and strain.

4.4 Theoretical Implications of the Findings

The study utilized the Social Disorganization and Strain theories. Both the Social Disorganization and Strain theories provided theoretical frameworks for examining the social and demographic factors that were associated with crime in Kasoa.

The Social Disorganization Theory provided the basis for understanding the relationship between crime and the characteristics of the Kasoa Township, including the dynamics in population and factors such as unemployment, urbanization, and drug use. The theory helped to examine how these neighborhood-level factors influenced to the development of crime such as stealing and fraud.

On the other hand, the Strain Theory provided an understanding of how individuals who experienced various forms of strain or stressors were engaged in criminal

behavior in Kasoa. This theory helped to examine how the inability to achieve certain goals led individuals to engage in crime as a way of coping. For example, it emerged from the study that immigrants who came to the Kasoa Township for genuine reasons such as to seek jobs or engage in businesses became frustrated to achieve their goals. They, however, adopted illegitimate means such as engaging in fraudulent activities and snatching of bags as a coping mechanism.

By using these theoretical frameworks to guide the analysis, I gained a better understanding of the underlying factors that contribute to crime, the effects of crime, as well as crime prevention strategies. These informed recommendations (potential interventions or policies) aimed at reducing crime and improving the social well-being of the people.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter highlights the summary, major findings, conclusions, recommendations of the study. In addition, suggestions for further studies have been made.

5.1 Summary

The study sought to examine the influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa in the Awutu Senya East Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana. The study was underpinned by Social Disorganization and Strain theories. In all, the study was made up of five interrelated chapters. Each chapter focused on various aspects of the topic under investigation and this enabled me to address the objectives of the study. Through an exploratory sequential mixed-method design, data was gathered from two key informants from the Municipal Security Council and Criminal Investigation Department of the Kasoa Police Divisional Headquarters, twenty-four FGP and two hundred and forty-six respondents (246) by triangulating methods such as interviews, questionnaires and observations. I was able to elicit responses on the common crimes committed in Kasoa, the social and demographic factors that influenced crime, effect of crime on social well-being of residents and crime prevention strategies through these methods of data collection. The qualitative data from the first phase were analyzed and discussed under emergent themes using QDA Miner Lite software. The quantitative data obtained from the second phase were analyzed and discussed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages, with the aid of the Statistical Package for Service Solution (SPSS) version 20 software.

5.1.1 Major findings

The major findings of the study are presented in line with the research objectives/questions spelt out for the study.

(i) Firstly, research question one (RQ1) was targeted at determining the common crimes committed in Kasoa. Findings from the study indicate that crime has reduced moderately with stealing/theft, fraud and assault to be common crimes.

(ii) Secondly, research question two (RQ2) was formulated to examine the social and demographic factors that influence crime in Kasoa. The study revealed that criminal activities in Kasoa were influenced by social and demographic factors such as unregulated urbanization, age, low level of education, unemployment, parental neglect, drug abuse, get-rich-quick-attitude, development of slums, congestion and peer influence.

(iii) Thirdly, research question three (RQ3) was targeted at analyzing the effects of criminal activities on the social well-being of the Kasoa residents. Findings from the study revealed that criminal activities in Kasoa negatively affected the social well-being of residents, causing fear and panic, affecting sense of belonging, confidence in the police, trust for one another, their sense of unity and partly affecting their engagement in their daily activities.

(iv) Fourthly, research question four (RQ4) sought to assess the crime prevention strategies to reduce crime in Kasoa. A multi-faceted approach to reducing crime was identified from the results of both qualitative and quantitative data. These include institutional security strategies, local-level community strategies and personal protection strategies. With institutional security strategies; proactive policing, increased police visibility, local engagement/involvement,

education and use of technology were revealed. With local community strategies; neighborhood watchdogs and community-based programs aimed at raising awareness about crime and safety were found while personal protection strategies revealed being at home before night, sense of vigilance in public places and instituting of home security measures including use of dogs, high fence/wall and special security door locks were also found.

5.2 Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions have been drawn in line with the study''s objectives/questions:

(i) Residents in Kasoa face vulnerability to common crimes, including stealing/theft, assault and fraud. This vulnerability persists despite the apparent moderation in overall crime levels.

(ii) The social and demographic factors that influenced crime in Kasoa are complex and multi-faceted, with unregulated urbanization, age, low level of education, unemployment, parental neglect, drug abuse and peer influence, significantly contributing to crime occurrence. Therefore, multiple interconnected factors contribute to incidence of crime in Kasoa.

(iii) Criminal activities have a negative effect on the social well-being of residents, where crime is high, causing fear and panic, affecting their sense of belonging, confidence in the police, trust for one another, their sense of unity and partly affecting their engagement in their daily activities. Again, 39 in every 100 persons in Kasoa had been victimized of a crime activity.

(iv) A multi-faceted approach encompassing institutional security strategies, local-level community strategies, and personal protection strategies is essential and needs leveraging for crime prevention and reduction in Kasoa.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations have been made:

(i) Government, through the Ministry of Education, should increase its investment in education to improve the educational level of residents in Kasoa. This could be done by increasing the number of schools, providing better facilities and resources, and encouraging teachers to take their responsibilities seriously in order to improve the educational attainment of residents and reduce the number of individuals who may turn to crime as a means of livelihood.

(ii) Government, through the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, should increase employment opportunities to the citizens, especially the youth to discourage rural-urban migration to reduce the high rate of unemployment which influences crime occurrence.

(iii) The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly should institute social systems or structures for the vulnerable in Kasoa, aimed at improving family support and stability, reducing drug abuse, and promoting positive attitudes towards crime prevention.

(iv) The Ghana Police Service and Municipal Security Council of the Awutu Senya East Municipality should work with the local community to create more legal backing neighborhood watch groups and community-based programs to improve the social well-being of residents.

(v) Personal protection strategies such as being at home before night, exhibiting sense of vigilance in public places and home security measures should be

encouraged through information services centers at the CBD, new markets and bus stations.

(vi) Government should aid the Ghana Police Service to acquire and make use of technology in its crime prevention efforts, such as using CCTV cameras, forensic tools and databases, to more effectively track and prevent crime in Kasoa.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies

Future research should examine the role of community support networks in reducing crime, especially in crime hotspot zones. A further study should investigate the influence of social media use and indulgence in crime. In addition, a study needs to be conducted on the influence of education and employment opportunities in reducing crime rates among vulnerable populations.
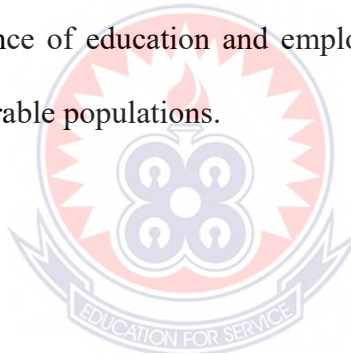
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Letter of Introduction for Data Collection

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION
P. O. Box 25, Winneba, Ghana   socialstudies@uew.edu.gh
+233 (020) 2041096

15th September, 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

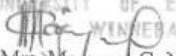**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION: MR. LEONARD ATSU TORSU (202114236)**

We write to introduce Mr. Leonard Atsu Torsu to your outfit to assist him conduct his research. He is pursuing a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in Social Studies Education at the Department of Social Studies Education of the University of Education, Winneba with index number 202114236.

As part of the requirements for the award of M.Phil in Social Studies Education, he is undertaking a research on the topic *"Influence of Population Growth on Crime in Kasoa Township."*

We would be grateful if he could be offered any assistance he may need to enable him achieve the purpose of his study.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Margaret G. Nyala
For **Ag. Head of Department**

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APPENDIX B

Interview Guide for District Crime Officer

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION
Key Informant Interview Guide

Informed Consent to Participate in the Research

My name is Leonard Atsu Torsu. I am a Master of Philosophy (Social Studies) student at the University of Education, Winneba. I am conducting a research on the topic: "Influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa". I, therefore, seek your help in responding to some few questions. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with any of my questions, let me know. I wish to strongly assure you that this discussion is purely for academic purposes, towards being awarded Master of Philosophy in Social Studies Education, and any information provided will be used for academic purposes only. You are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. Thank you.

This interview guide was used for interviewing the District Crime Officer.

Details of Interviewee

1. Name ………………………………………………………………………...
2. What is your current position? ……………...……………………………..
3. What are your key areas of work in your organization? ……………………….
4. How many years have you been working in the Police Service?........................
5. In which unit are you? ………………………………………………………….

Section A: Common Crimes Committed in Kasoa

6. What are the most common forms of crime committed in this community?

    a. Could you please indicate the various age groups involved and the forms of crime they usually commit?

7. What categories of people are engaged in crime in this community?

Section B: Social and Demographic Factors that Influence Crime

8. What community-based conditions or factors engender criminal activities in this community?

   a. How do these factors you talked about engender criminal activities in this community?

9. What individual factors do you think push these criminals to engage in criminal activities?

   a. How do these factors you talked about engender criminal activities?

Section C: Effects of crime on the Social Well-Being of Residents

10. How does crime affect the safety of the members of this community?

11. Are there specific safety concerns?

    a. What are they?

12. In what ways do crime activities affect community members" sense of belonging?

13. How does crime influence the level of trust in this community (neighbors, strangers)?

14. How does crime affect community members" collaboration?

15. How does the incidence of crime affect community members" engagement in their daily activities?

16. Have you or any of your friends or families ever been a victim of any crime activity?

    a. What is the form/nature of the crime?

    b. Kindly describe the experience, please.

Section D: Crime Prevention Strategies in Fighting Crime

17. Generally, what crime prevention strategies are available for the Police Service?

18. What specific crime prevention strategies have been deployed by the Kasoa Police Service to manage crime in this community?
    a. Why are such strategies deployed?
    b. How effective are they? [Progress signs]

19. What collaborative strategies has the Police Service put in place to curtail crime activities in Kasoa?

APPENDIX C

Interview Guide for MUSEC Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION
<u>Key Informant Interview Guide</u>

<u>Informed Consent to Participate in the Research</u>

My name is Leonard Atsu Torsu. I am a Master of Philosophy (Social Studies) student at the University of Education, Winneba. I am conducting a research on the topic: "Influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa". I, therefore, seek your help in responding to some few questions. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with any of my questions, let me know. I wish to strongly assure you that this discussion is purely for academic purposes, towards being awarded Master of Philosophy in Social Studies Education, and any information provided will be used for academic purposes only. You are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. Thank you.

This interview guide was used for interviewing the Municipal Security Council Secretary.

Details of Interviewee

1. Name …………………………………………………………………………...

2. What is your current position?..

3. What are your key areas of work in your organization? ……………………….

4. How many years have you been working as member of the Municipal Security Council?

Section A: Common Crimes Committed in Kasoa

5. What are the most common forms of crime committed in this community?

6. What categories/kind of people are engaged in crime in this community?

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Section B: Social and Demographic Factors that Influence Crime

7. What community-based conditions or factors engender criminal activities in this community?

    a. How do these factors you talked about engender criminal activities in this community?

8. What individual factors do you think push these criminals to engage in criminal activities?

    b. How do these factors you talked about engender criminal activities?

Section C: Effects of Crime on the Social Well-Being of residents

9. How does crime affect the safety of members of this community?

10. Are there specific safety concerns?
    b. What are they?

11. In what ways do crime activities affect community members sense of belonging to each other?

12. How does crime influence the level of trust in this community (neighbors, strangers)?

13. How does crime affect community members" collaboration?

14. How does the incidence of crime affect community members" engagement in their daily activities?

15. Have you or any of your friends or families ever been a victim of crime activity?
    a. What is the nature of the crime?
    b. Kindly describe the experience, please.

Section D: Crime Prevention Strategies in Fighting Crime

16. Generally, what are the available crime prevention strategies used by the Municipal Security Councils?

17. What specific crime prevention strategies have been deployed to control crime in this community by MUSEC?

18. Why are such strategies deployed?

19. How effective are they? [Progress signs]

20. What collaborative strategies do the Municipal Security Council put in place to curtail crime activities in Kasoa?

APPENDIX D

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide for Residents

Informed Consent to Participate in the Research

My name is Leonard Atsu Torsu. I am a Master of Philosophy (Social Studies) student at the University of Education, Winneba. I am conducting a research on the topic: "Influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa". I, therefore, seek your help in responding to some few questions. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with any of my questions, let me know. I wish to strongly assure you that this discussion is purely for academic purposes, towards being awarded Master of Philosophy in Social Studies Education, and any information provided will be used for academic purposes only. You are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. Thank you.

Section A: Common Crimes Committed in Kasoa

1. What is your impression/view regarding crime and criminal activities in this community?

2. What types/forms of crime are common in your community?

3. What are the levels of the crime you talked about? *[Probe into the forms of crime and the level of each*]

4. What categories/kind of people are engaged in crime in this community?

Section B: Social and Demographic Factors that Influence Crime

5. What factors promote or influence crime activities in this particular community?

   [Community Based Factors/Conditions]

a. Are there proofs of such conditions/factors you have mentioned?

6. In your opinion, what factors push such categories of people to commit crime in this community? [Individual Factors]

Section C: Effects of Crime on the Social Well-Being of Kasoa Residents

7. How does crime affect your safety in this community?
8. Are there specific safety concerns?
   a. What are they?
9. In what ways do crime activities affect your sense of belonging to each other?
10. How does crime influence your level of trust in this community (neighbors, strangers)?
11. How does crime affect your sense of collaboration with others?
12. How does the incidence of crime affect community members" engagement in daily activities?
13. Have you or any of your friends or families ever been a victim of crime before?
    a. What is the nature of the crime?
    b. Kindly describe the experience, please.
14. What personal protection strategies do you engage in to escape crime activities in this community?

Section D: Crime prevention strategies in fighting crime

15. What do you do as a community to prevent crime?
    [Community Crime Prevention strategies]

16. How effective are they? [Progress signs]

17. How does your community collaborate with other institutions to prevent criminal activities in your community?

APPENDIX E

Questionnaire for Residents

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

<u>Questionnaire for Kasoa Residents</u>

<u>Informed Consent to Participate in the Research</u>
My name is Leonard Atsu Torsu. I am a Master of Philosophy (Social Studies) student at the University of Education, Winneba. I am conducting a research on the topic: "Influence of social and demographic factors on crime in Kasoa". I, therefore, seek your help in responding to some few questions. I wish to strongly assure you that your response will be used for academic purposes only, towards being awarded Master of Philosophy in Social Studies Education. You are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. Kindly tick [√] the appropriate responses and write where necessary. Thank you.

I agree to respond ☐

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (Please, Write or tick ✔ the appropriate box).	
1.	Age: ………………………………years
2.	Sex: 1. Male ☐ 2. Female ☐
3.	How long have you been living in this community? (in years) ……………………………………..
4.	Marital status: 1. Single ☐ 2. Cohabitation ☐ 3. Widowed ☐ 4. Married 5. Divorced
5.	Ethnicity: 1. Guan ☐ 4. Akan ☐ 7. Bassare ☐ 2. Ga/Dangme ☐ 5. Hausa ☐ 8. Other (specify)……………………………… 3. Moshie ☐ 6. Ewe ☐

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6.	What is your highest level of education completed? 1. None ☐ 2. Basic ☐ 3. SSS/SHS ☐ 4. Vocational ☐ 5. Technical ☐ 6. Tertiary ☐
7.	What kind of work do you do? 1. Unemployed/Not working ☐ 6. Professional/technical/managerial ☐ 2. Sales/services ☐ 7. Student ☐ 3. Clerical ☐ 8. Pensioner ☐ 4. Skilled manual ☐ 9. Agriculture ☐ 5. Unskilled manual ☐ 10. Other (Please specify): …………………………………………………….
8.	If you work, what is your average monthly income (in Ghana cedis - GH¢)? …………………………………………………………………….

SECTION B: HOUSING CONDITIONS

9.	What kind of house do you live in? 1. Detached housing ☐ 5. Kiosk/container/improvised home ☐ 2. Semi-detached housing ☐ 6. Uncompleted building ☐ 3. Flat/apartment ☐ 7. Other (Please specify) ……………………. 4. Compound housing ☐
10.	How many room(s) does your household occupy? (*count living rooms and bedrooms only*) Number …………………………………………………
11.	How many people are living in your household? Number …………………………………………….
12.	What is the **main** source of lighting for your household after sunset? (**Tick only one**). 1. Electricity (main) ☐ 5. Generator ☐ 2. Kerosene ☐ 6. Flashlights (torches, etc) ☐ 3. Gas lamp ☐ 7. No light ☐ 4. Solar energy ☐ 8. Other (Please specify): …………………..

SECTION C: Common Crimes Committed in Kasoa

13. How often does crime occur in your community?

1. Never ☐   2. Occasionally ☐   3. Sometimes ☐   4. Often ☐   5. Always ☐

How would you rate the level of the following crimes in your community? (Rank in the order of severity: 5 as very high and 1 as very low).

Please, tick in the appropriate box (✔)

Crime ranking						
No.	Type of crime	5 Very high	4 High	3 Moderate	2 Low	1 Very Low
14.	Murder					
15.	Armed Robbery/Robbery					
16.	Stealing/Theft					
17.	Assault					
18.	Fraud					

SECTION D: Social and Demographic factors that influence Crime

19. In terms of age, who are the most common perpetrators of crime in this community?

    1. Juveniles (below 18) ☐   2. Youth (18 - 35) ☐   3. Adults (above 35) ☐

20. What is the **main** category or kind of people who engage in criminal activities in your community?

    1. Migrants ☐   2. Foreigners ☐   3. Jobless people ☐

    4. Less or non-educated ☐   5. Educated people ☐   6. Drug addicts☐

    7. Other (Please specify): ………………….

21. In your opinion, what is the **main** community-based condition or factor that promote crime happenings in your community? [**Tick (✔) only one**]

    1. Unemployment   ☐   5. Overcrowding/Congestion   ☐

    2. Peer Pressure   ☐   6. Quiet Nature of environment ☐

    3. Inadequate Parental control ☐   7. Single Parenting   ☐

    4. Development of slums (Ghettos) ☐   8. Nature of Layout (Tight conners) ☐

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9. Other (Please specify): ………………….

22. In your opinion, what is the **main** individual condition or factor that make people to engage in crime in your community? [**Tick (✔) only one**]

1. Drug Habits ☐   4. Get rich quick attitude ☐

2. Greed ☐   5. Lack of Jobs ☐

3. Idleness ☐   6. Other (Please specify): ………………

SECTION E: Effects of Criminal Activities on the Social Well-Being of Residents

23. Overall, do you like living in this neighborhood?   1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐

24. Do you feel belonging to this community?   1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐

25. How safe do you feel in your community currently?

1. Very safe ☐   2. Safe ☐

3. Not safe ☐   4. Very unsafe ☐

26. Do crime happenings in your community affect you?

1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐ (**Skip to question 28 if you tick No.**)

27. Socially, what is the **main** effect of crime on your well-being? [**Tick (✔) only one**]

1. I fear and panic ☐   2. Crime affects my trust for others ☐

4. Crime affects my business ☐   3. I lack confidence in the police ☐

5. Crime affects my ability to collaborate with others ☐

6. Crime affects my engagement in daily activities ☐

7. Other (Please specify) ………………

28. Have you or any of your friends or family members been a victim of crime activities?

1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐ (**Skip to question 31 if you tick No.**)

29. If yes, what was the nature or form of the crime?

1. Murder ☐   4. Stealing/Theft ☐

2. Armed Robbery/Robbery ☐   5. Assault ☐

3. Fraud ☐

7. Other (Please specify) …………………………….

30. How was your experience?

1. Hurting ☐   2. Frightening/Fearful ☐   3. Sad ☐   4. Good ☐

5. Other (Please specify): …………………………………………………….

SECTION F: Crime Prevention Strategies in Fighting Crime

31. In your view, are state agencies (Police/Municipal Security Council etc) effective in fighting crime?

1. Yes ☐   2. No   ☐

32. What measures do you take to prevent crime in your home? (*Tick as many as you want*)		**Tick appropriately**
1.	Use of dog (s)	
2.	High fence/wall	
3.	Use of security doors/special door locks	
4.	Installed burglar alarm	
5.	Caretaker or security guard	
6.	Neighborhood watch	
7.	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	
8.	Prayer/other religious options	
9.	No Measure	

33. Are those preventive strategies you put in place effective?

1. Yes ☐   2. No   ☐

34. What is the **main** thing you do as a community to prevent the occurrence of criminal activities? [**Tick (✔) only one**]

1. Community-based programs   ☐   3. Community Watchdogs ☐

2. Rely heavily on the Police   ☐   4. Engage in mob or Instant justice ☐

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5. Other (Please specify) …………………….

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

APPENDIX F

Observation Checklist
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

Observation Checklist

Crime Prevention and Reduction Measures	Was the resultant behavior or item observed? Yes ( ) or No ( ). If applicable	Comment(s)
Use of electric devices, metal gates, burglar proofs, security dogs for protection of house and self		
Use of burglar proofs for property protection at workplaces.		
Exhibiting sense of vigilance within the public space regarding self and personal belongings.		
Presence of institutional crime prevention measures such as cameras, police visibility, patrols, Check points.		

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION
THESIS/VIVA CORRECTIONS FORM

RESPONSE MEMO

Candidate Name: Leonard Atsu Torsu
Index Number: 202114236
Thesis/Dissertation Title: Influence of Social and Demographic Factors on Crime in Kasoa.

Subject: Corrections/Response to comments/suggestions

No.	Section/Chapter	Comments/Suggestion	Response to Comment
1.	Preliminary Pages and the entire work	Reframe the topic to "Influence of Social and Demographic Factors on Crime in Kasoa".	The topic has been reframed from "Influence of Population Growth on Crime in Kasoa Township" to "Influence of Social and Demographic Factors on Crime in Kasoa".
2.	Chapters 1 to 5	Demonstrate the Social Studies content in the work.	I duly demonstrated the Social Studies content in the work.
3.	Chapter 2	Link the conceptual framework to the research objectives and research question.	This has been done in the new version of the thesis **(Page 37).**
4.	Chapter 1	Reword research question 1.	This has been done by rewording "socio-demographic factors" to "social and demographic factors". This has become research question 2 **(Page 11).**
5.	Chapter 3	Work on the methodology.	This has been done by appropriate placement of sections, and working on trustworthiness of the study **(Pages 40-62)**.

6.	Entire work	Follow the guidelines on formatting from the UEW Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation Project Work Handbook.	I formatted the thesis to the guidelines of UEW Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation Project Handbook
7.	Chapter 1	Ensure that the research objectives are related to the topic.	I related the research objectives to the topic (**Page 11**).
8.	Chapter 5	Rephrase your recommendations by ascribing responsibilities to specific agencies.	I duly ascribed responsibilities to specific agencies (**Page 136 to 137**).
9.	Entire work	Correct the numerous grammatical, syntactical and typographical errors in the entire work and take note of other comments in the project reports.	I corrected the grammatical, syntactical and typographical errors in the entire work.
10.	Chapter 1	Add one more research objective/question to determine the forms of crime committed in the Kasoa.	I added the research objective and question on common crimes committed in Kasoa (**Page 11**).
11.	Chapter 2	Locate the theoretical framework appropriately, and also improve on the conceptual framework, and provide appropriate explanation for it.	The theoretical framework has been relocated to **pages 16 to 21** in the new version of the thesis. Also, appropriate explanation for the conceptual framework was provided and improved.
12.	Entire work	Do not combine the American and British English versions in the entire work. Adopt any one of them in the write-up and, not both.	I used the American English version in the entire work.
13.	Chapter 3	Improve on your explanation for trustworthiness and its four criteria with relevant references.	This suggestion has been carried out and reported in **pages 56 to 58**.

14.	Chapter 1	Relocate "limitations of the study" to its appropriate place.	The "limitations of the study" has been moved to **page 13.**
15.	Chapter 4	Improve upon themes such as "unsatisfactory education", "poor family structure"	The themes "unsatisfactory education" and "poor family structure" has been reworded to "low level of education" and "parental neglect" respectively (**Pages 81, 82** and throughout the entire work).
16.	Chapter 4	In some instances, the explanations of quantitative data (tables) ended with recommendations, pages 76, 85, 86, 89, 90, 91, 111, among others.	I removed all recommendations under the tables throughout chapter 4 (**Pages 76 to 117**).
17.	Chapter 4	Correct several unclear statements made in the entire Chapter Four.	I duly corrected the several unclear statements I made to enhance the quality of the work.
18.	Chapter 4	Correct the repetition of themes and discussion of results which appeared three times in the analysis, that is on pages 92, 112 and 131.	I removed all repetitions of themes and created a single section for discussion of results (**Pages 117 to 131**).
19.	Chapter 5	Improve on conclusions. They should be according to the research objectives and numbered, for example, 1, 2, 3, etc. or (i), (ii), (iii), etc.	According to the suggestions of the Internal Assessor, I improved the conclusions and numbered them (i), (ii), (iii), etc. (**Pages 135**).
20.	References	Cite all the references in the work in the Reference List, and also delete those in the Reference List, but cannot be found in the work. Follow the APA style taking not of spacing and the appropriate use of capital and small letters.	I addressed all these issues by copying and pasting in-text citations and arranging them in the alphabetical order, and then matched them to the external reference list. All external references were done using APA referencing style for journals, publications, thesis, books, newspapers, magazines and online journals (**pages 138 to 153**).

CANDIDATE

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SUPERVISOR

Name: Prof. Mrs. Esther Yeboah Danso-Wiredu   Signature: _____   Date: 07/02/2024

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Name: Dr. Joseph Ignatius Obeng   Signature: _____   Date: 07-02-2024