STRATEGY AND TOOL KIT IN THE PREVENTION OF PROPERTY CRIME AND VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

This study examines an approach to property crime prevention and violence strategies that can be used by enforcement agencies as well as the community in ensuring that the crime rate in our country decreases. In addition, the recommendations of the crime safety tool kit are also listed in educating the public on the prevention and response that needs to be done during or before the occurrence of crime as one of the crime prevention processes. This study is quantitative using the questionnaire survey method. The sample of this study is 300 respondents consisting of communities in the northern areas involving the states of Kedah, Perlis and Penang. Based on the results of the study, aspects of strategies that can be used in dealing with property crime and violence nowadays The PDRM needs to work with the community and other agencies to fight crime. Regarding the action that needs to be taken in the event of a criminal incident, the community must first identify the guests who come to the house before allowing guests to enter. And the response that will be made if it is found that a crime has occurred to oneself or another person, the main thing that needs to be done at that time is to win oneself during the incident. Therefore, it can be discussed as a whole that these findings are very useful to the community as a precautionary measure. To ensure the crime of property and violence can be reduced, the emphasis on strategies and tool kits is very important to ensure a quality and prosperous life for the present and future generations.

Keywords: Crime, Tool Kit on Prevention, Property and Violent Crimes

I. INTRODUCTION

In spite of all the efforts done by the governments in several countries to improve individuals personalities, their awareness, self-integration and contribute to rebuilding civilization positively (Shatnawi & Ababneh, 2007; Rababah, Bani-Melhem, Jdaitawi, et al., 2012; Jdaitawi, 2020; Jdaitawi, Al-Mutawa, & Talafha, 2014), crime related problem is one of the social phenomena plaguing the world, and Malaysia has no exception. High crime rates can give a detrimental effect on a country’s political stability (NorIna, Norizan,& Ruslan, 2013), its economic development (Chor, 2010) and the people’s quality of life (Aldrin, & Sharmila Hany, 2006). Realizing the effect of crimes to the public and social security, Malaysian government has done various efforts to reduce crime rates. Among the efforts are; the establishment of Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF), the formation of Government Transformation Program (GTP) that focuses on the principle of ‘People First, Performance Now’ and the development of National Key Result Area (NKRA) where crime reduction agenda was put as the first key result area.

In Malaysia, crime rates is continue to increase over the years and this can be evidenced by thesocial media reports and police reports. For example, in the first of quarter of 2016, a total of 38,877 crime index cases have been recorded, which indicates an increment of 4.6% crime rates as compared to previous years (Utusan Malaysia, 2016). There are instances where crime cases were not reported to the police and were not recorded.
under the Malaysia Crime Index, thus this situation had instilled fears among the society and reduced their perceptions towards social security and safety (Aldrin, & Sharmila Hany, 2006).

According to the Situational Awareness theory and the theory of Broken Window, one way to overcome public fear towards crimes is by inculcating awareness of one’s surrounding and gaining knowledge on how to prevent crimes, how to respond towards crime and what to do after the encounter (Clarke, 1997; Brandon & Farrington, 2012). Based on these theories, many prevention strategies including the works and researches have been done on crime, particularly on the usage of CCTVs as prevention tools (Hamidi, 2008), the employment of more security officers (NorIna, Norizan, Ruslan 2012), and the effectiveness of Rakan Cop program in preventing crimes (Suffian, Abdul Hadi, Jamilah, & Jeffrey, 2012). However, there is still gap in the current researches in the area of exploring and measuring public awareness and knowledge on how to respond towards crime situation and what to do after the encounter.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to design “crimefree environments” draws upon the growing crime prevention tradition, responses towards crimes experiences, as well as suggestions for remedial approaches need to be taken after the crimes encounter. It must be noted that there is a sizeable proportion of crimes (including the property and violent crimes) that goes unreported thus unrecorded as index crime. These unreported crimes reflect the dark figures and to get a complete picture of the crime situation, this study also need to identify public perceptions towards current crime rates specifically in the northern part of Malaysia. This location is selected based on the finding that shows the closer the state to the country’s border, the higher the chances of crime incident (Sidhu, 2005).

This article discusses an approach to crime prevention and violence strategies that can be used by law enforcement agencies as well as the community in reducing crime rates in our country. In addition, the recommendation of a crime prevention tool kit is also listed in educating the public on the prevention and response that must be taken during or before the crime as one of the crime prevention processes as well as precautionary measures to keep the area and the environment safe.

Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is a term describing techniques used for reducing victimization as well as deterring crime and criminals (Siti Nur Zahara & Laun, 2013). It is applied specifically on efforts made by governments to reduce crime, enforce the law, and maintain criminal justice. Obviously, crime prevention is including any initiative or policy which reduces or eliminates the aggregate level of victimization or the risk of individual criminal participation (Shelden, n.d). It includes government and community based programs to reduce the incidents of risk factors correlated with criminal participation, the rate of victimization as well as efforts to reduce perceptions/fear of crime (Aldrin & Sharmila Hany, 2006).

Over the past two decades, immediate action to reduce crime opportunity has steadily grown as an area of research and policy. These efforts include Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), which seeks to design microenvironments to be inhospitable for crime (Brandon & Farrington, 2012). In addition, numerous experiments, and quasi-experiments in “situational crime prevention” have gotten even more specific in thwarting criminal opportunities. Additional knowledge about crime displacement gives us reasons to believe that crime prevention efforts can decrease overall crime rates significantly (Clarke, 1997). Moreover, there are increasing reasons to believe that crime can be prevented at remarkably little cost in money, complexity, or controversy. The robust increase of crime rates in Malaysia represents poor public security and political instability which instills public fear of crime, thus may affect the quality of individual and community life as a whole (Aldrin & Sharmila Hany, 2006). The surge in crime rates also ignites public awareness to control the problem with immediate effect.

A review on the literature has found very little evidence of researches being done on public awareness and knowledge on how to respond towards crime situation and what to do after the encounter in the Malaysian context. For this reason, it is impetus to establish an empirical study to shred valuable information for the government agencies to combat criminal activities, specifically on finding ways of crime prevention, responses, and remedial.

Property crimes and Violent Crimes

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Crime affects all Malaysians, regardless of race, religion, gender or income levels. Crime refers to the violation of societal rules of behavior as interpreted and expressed by a criminal legal code created by people holding social and political power (Sidhu, 2006).

Crime may be divided into two categories known as property crime and violent crime. Property crime includes those offenses involving the loss of property during which there is no use of violence by the perpetrators. There are seven types of crimes in this category and they include housebreaking and theft by day, housebreaking and theft by night, theft of lorries and vans, theft of motorcar, theft of motorcycles and scooters, theft of bicycles and lastly other forms of theft (Tang, 2010). On the other hand, violent crime generally includes crimes of violence that are sufficiently regular and significant in occurrence of which there are eight in all.

These include murder, attempted murder, gang robbery with firearm, gang robbery without firearm, robbery with firearm, robbery without firearm, rape and lastly voluntarily causing hurt. This research will focus on two types of property crimes (housebreaking and vehicle theft) and two types of violent crimes (rape and robbery). This selection is made based on the current highest crime rates under those two categories (Tang, 2010; Sidhu, 2005).

II. LITERATURE REVIEWS

Michelle, Elena, Eugenia, John and Charles (2018), in their study ‘Neighborhood Interventions to Reduce Violence’, proved that reducing alcohol availability, improving street connectivity, and providing green housing environments can reduce violent crimes. Studies suggest that neither transit changes nor school openings affect community violence. Michelle, Elena, Eugenia, John and Charles (2018) in their research also stated that, people who feel unsafe may reduce their physical activities and adopt maladaptive coping strategies such as substance use, may developmental illness, or may withdraw from neighborhood social and civic life. According to Michelle, Elena, Eugenia, John and Charles (2018), the most consistent evidence is in the realm of housing and blight remediation. Demolition of high-rise public housing, and provision of affordable scattered site housing via new construction or rehabilitation, had reduced rates of homicide, assault, and violent crime in general in surrounding areas.

Zubairu (2017) in his study ‘A Comparative Study of Urban Crime between Malaysia and Nigeria’, stated that the best approach to crime management is primarily prevention strategy rather than waging war against criminal activities. Therefore, government, security and law enforcement agencies should be ‘proactive’ in crime prevention rather than being ‘reactive’ to crimes. According to Zubairu (2017), among the many strategies of crime prevention, the holistic strategy which goes beyond the involvement of police manpower and equipment, should be considered, in which this strategy involves eliminating the root causes of crimes such as reducing the aggregate level of unemployment and poverty. When the government and other stakeholders initiate and implement economic and developmental policies for building sound economy, this will generate employments, no doubt, it naturally reduces poverty level to the barest minimum as well as crimes. Equally, if factors that created unemployment and poverty are addressed, youths will not engage in crimes. The government should initiate and invigorate sound developmental economic policies that will create employment corridors and poverty eradication among the citizens along with improving law enforcement agencies vigorously in urban crimes prevention. Therefore, Safer City Program can be achieved and every individual will feel safe to live, work, shop and play in their cultural environment, making the urban areas will no longer seen to be unsafe.

Eric (2018) conducted a study on ‘The Crime Prevention Effect of CCTV in Public Places: A Propensity Score Analysis’. According to Eric (2018) the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) has become a mainstream crime prevention strategy around the world. This study measures the effect of CCTV in Newark, NJ across three separate crime categories: auto theft, theft from auto, and violent crime. CCTV view sheds, denoting camera line-of-sight, were the units of analysis. View sheds for treatment units were created by digitizing live CCTV footage within a geographic information system (GIS). Control view sheds were created with GIS tools and aerial imagery from Google maps. Treatment cases were matched with control cases via propensity score matching (PSM) to ensure statistical equivalency between groups. Effect was measured via odds ratios and average treatment on the treated statistics. Findings offer modest support for CCTV as a deterrent against auto theft while demonstrating no effect on the other crime types. These results suggest that CCTV appears to be a viable option for jurisdictions wishing to target auto theft. Agencies suffering from other street-level crime problems may not benefit from CCTV and may need to deploy CCTV alongside other evidence-based strategies, rather than as a stand-alone tactic, in order to achieve crime control benefits.
Zalmizy (2014) in his study, ‘Pencegahan Tingkah Laku Agresif Samseng Jalanan’ Berkonsepkan Strategi “Community-Oriented Policing’, stated that economic, social and community imbalances are among factors that also affect the rise of criminal cases. Therefore, the police need to form a mechanism that encourages and stimulates the community to play a role in preventing crime. According to Zalmizy (2014) national security and security require close ties between community and the police. This relationship needs to be maintained and expanded throughout the country in order to reduce the crime rate in the country. Therefore, the launch of community oriented policing (C-OP) is an important element in reducing indexes or crime rates. Zalmizy (2014) argued that through community-oriented policing the community can work together with the Police in devise strategies, policies and implementing preventative programs.

Nurhafilah Musa (2016) in her study of ‘Ilman Dan Kesannya Terhadap Pencegahan Jenayah’, stated that, among the most important elements in crime prevention include knowledge or Ilman. According to Nurhafilah Musa (2016), Ilman is an Arabic word which means ‘knowledge’, ‘skill’, ‘wisdom’ and intelligence. Ilman, from the perspective of its impact on crime prevention, refers to the way how knowledge belongs to individuals, institutions or agencies can be used to combat and prevent crime at various levels in society. In this study, Nurhafilah Musa (2016), outlined six preventive measures of crime i.e.; introducing a crime-prevention module at the school level; introduce a crime prevention module, especially crime to civil servants; making the appropriate crime prevention in Islam for families and communities as part of the mosque; incorporate home crime prevention programs in wedding preparatory courses; establish stronger co-operation and links between federal enforcement agencies and state government agencies to reduce crime rates and resolve criminal cases and strengthen family roles to prevent young people from engaging in criminal activities. Nurhafilah Musa (2016), also stated the principles of Islam emphasize prevention and the act of keeping away from the factors can lead to a crime. While in the international context, the principles outlined by Islam can be said to have expanded its understanding of the need for a risk-taking approach to consideration various aspects and the importance of knowledge to organize strategy to combat crime.

Mohd Dahlan and Ida Shafinaz (2010) in their study, ‘Jenayah Dan Masalah Sosial Di Kalangan Remaja: Cabaran Dan Realiti Dunia Siber’, stated that there is a significant relationship between the use of the internet and the crime that involves teenagers today. Therefore, Mohd Dahlan and Ida Shafinaz (2010) stated that the psychological and law enforcement approach can help in addressing these problems, as well as the programs and activities that have been implemented such as the Bina Insan,Remaja Sihat Tanpa AIDS (Prostar) program and the establishment of the Prevention of Crime club in schools nationwide. In addition, the authorities play an important role in addressing this problem. On the other hand, community members also play a role in providing information, awareness and teaching to teenagers about the risks and dangers of cyberspace. Parents, teachers and schools should also play an important role in monitoring their children or their students when conducting their online activities and behaviors. There are a variety of computer software available in the market can be used to check and monitor activities that are potentially harmful to teens.

According to David, Michael and Agne (2015) in their study ‘Victimisation, Well-being and Compensation: Using Panel Data to Estimate the Costs of Violent Crime’, the total cost of violent crime for victims includes direct costs such as lost wages, medical care costs and property damage, and intangible and potentially long-term costs associated with pain, psychological distress, and a decrease in quality of life. For some, experiencing violent crime results in long-term psychopathology, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Nevertheless, violent crime leads to more subtle behavioural changes that affect one’s quality of life and daily functioning and can indirectly affect the wellbeing of other family members, including spouses and children. According to David, Michael and Agne (2015),monetary compensation has been unquestionably taken in law courts as the only way of helping an individual to overcome psychological distress after a traumatic event. At the same time, gaining reliable estimates of compensation is also important for the economic evaluation of social programs aimed at reducing crime, for example substance abuse treatment and community policing. However, the authors also suggest that some victims of crimes are able to take remedial actions, such as separating from a spouse, or changing neighborhoods.

Geshina and Nadiah (2015) in their study ‘Penilaian dan Pengurusan Psikologi Pemandiri Trauma’, revealed that the psychological assessment and management of appropriate trauma performination is crucial in ensuring that psychotherapy, behavioral treatment and support networks for victims of crime are sufficient for the long term trauma so that the individual can function normally. According to Geshina and Nadiah (2015) traumatic events can leave prolonged effects on an individual despite physical invisible. In terms of emotions, traumatized
individuals tend to experience prolonged and deep emotional instability. Therefore, practical model for traumatic psychological assessment has been used to solve this problem. The practical model for this psychological assessment and treatment of trauma involves four phases. The first phase involves the determination of trauma types faced by individuals. The second phase involves the treatment performed for the crisis. This is followed by combined treatments indirectly using various psychological measures to determine the diagnosis and treatment plan in the third phase. The final phase involves long-term care depending on client's needs and treatment evaluation. Geshina and Nadiah (2015) also pointed out that in order to increase the probability of a recovery program from effective trauma, the recovery plan should incorporate recovery from emotional, physiological and relationship aspects.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is a quantitative study using survey method in questionnaire form which was widely used in the literature (Jdaitawi, 2020; Al-Mutawa, Jdaitawi, et al., 2014; Jdaitawi, 2013; Jdaitawi et al., 2020; Al-Nabrawi, Jdaitawi, & Talafha, 2015). The sample was 300 respondents from the community in the northern region, which involves states of Kedah, Perlis and Penang. The instruments in this study have been adapted from previous relevant studies that consider variables related to prevention strategies and tool kits in preventing property crime and violence. Data processing was performed using SPSS 23.0 software to inform the real picture based on the findings.

IV. RESULT

Property and Violence Crime Prevention Strategies

Table 1 shows the strategies that can be used in dealing with property crime and violence today. The main strategy according to the respondents in the community is that the PDRM should work with the community and other municipal agencies to combat crime and physical disturbance, with the mean value of 4.59. The second strategy was that Patrol should also be conducted by walking and cycling (mean = 4.56) and the third, members of the volunteer movement in each residential area should regularly share information with all members of the local community about crime, criminals, or neighborhood (min = 4.54). while other strategies are as described in Table 1.

<table>
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<th>Mean</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 The police have to work with the community and other municipal agencies to fight crime and physical disorders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Patrols also be done by walking and cycling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Volunteer movement members in each residential area should regularly share information with members of the local community about crime, criminals, or neighborhood.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Performs quick response to any emergency call.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 The use of technology and electronic applications in combating crime should be implemented more widely.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Volunteers in each residential area need to establish positive relationships with members of their community regardless of status.</td>
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<td>7 Enforcing a neighborhood setting is an effective way to obtain information about criminals or criminals in the area.</td>
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<td>8 Implementing the system processes dynamically analyze crime data and generate reports weekly.</td>
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<td>9 Aggressive enforcement on aspects of crime reduction needs to be expanded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 It is necessary for community meetings where community members and police work together to identify problems and create solutions in the neighborhood.</td>
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Based on Figure 1, the results of the analysis on the survey showed that the community listed 14 tools kit that should be available to individuals in residential areas as a precautionary measure to prevent crime in the community.

**Figure 1: Prevention Tool Kit in the Property Crime and Violence**

**V. SUMMARY**

This article discusses the summary of studies and findings of the study and discusses the policy recommendations to strengthen an organization's future. In the context of the study area, this study aims to assist the PDRM in ensuring the safety of the local population by providing the safety strategy and the tool kit listed as actions that should be taken by the community as a precautionary measure. To ensure crime and violence are minimized, the emphasis on these strategies and tool kits is vital in ensuring a quality and prosperous life for the present and future generations.

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**REFERENCE**


