Informal Settlements and Their Relationship to Crime

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الملخص

يتناول هذا البحث دراسة العلاقة بين انتشار المناطق العشوائية وتنامي معدلات الجريمة في البيئات الحضرية، باعتبار العشوائيات ظاهرة اجتماعية–عمرانية نتجت عن النمو السكاني المتسارع، والهجرة الداخلية، وضعف التخطيط الحضري، وعدم قدرة السياسات الإسكانية على استيعاب الزيادة السكانية. تنطلق الدراسة من فرضية مفادها أن الخصائص البنيوية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية للعشوائيات تسهم في خلق بيئة محفّزة لانتشار السلوك الإجرامي بأشكاله المختلفة، سواء الجرائم الاقتصادية أو الاجتماعية أو العنيفة يسعى البحث إلى تحليل العوامل الرئيسة المرتبطة بالجريمة في المناطق العشوائية، مع التركيز على الفقر، والبطالة، وتدني مستويات التعليم، وضعف الخدمات الصحية، وسوء البنية التحتية، إضافة إلى التفكك الأسري وضعف الروابط الاجتماعية. كما يهدف إلى توضيح كيفية تفاعل هذه العوامل فيما بينها لإنتاج أنماط سلوكية منحرفة، وإبراز دور البيئة المكانية غير المنظمة في تقليل فاعلية الضبط الاجتماعي الرسمي وغير الرسمي ، اعتمدت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي من خلال تحليل الدراسات السابقة والتقارير ذات الصلة بموضوع العشوائيات والجريمة، بما يتيح توصيف الظاهرة كما هي قائمة في الواقع، ثم تفسيرها في ضوء الأطر النظرية المناسبة. واستند الإطار النظري إلى نظرية الحرمان النسبي التي تفسر الجريمة بوصفها رد فعل على الشعور بالإقصاء الاجتماعي وعدم العدالة، إضافة إلى نظرية الضبط الاجتماعي التي تؤكد أن ضعف الروابط الأسرية والمجتمعية يحد من قدرة المجتمع على ضبط السلوك المنحرف ، وتشير نتائج البحث إلى وجود علاقة ارتباط قوية بين تردي الأوضاع المعيشية في العشوائيات وارتفاع معدلات الجريمة، حيث يؤدي الفقر والبطالة إلى دفع بعض الأفراد نحو أنشطة غير مشروعة لتلبية احتياجاتهم الأساسية. كما يبرز نقص الخدمات الأساسية والتكدس السكاني وضعف الإضاءة والمرافق العامة كعوامل تزيد من فرص ارتكاب الجريمة وتقلل من فرص الردع والمساءلة. إضافة إلى ذلك، يسهم غياب البرامج التنموية وضعف اندماج السكان في المجتمع الحضري الأوسع في ترسيخ مشاعر التهميش والعزلة، ويخلص البحث إلى أن معالجة الجريمة في المناطق العشوائية لا يمكن أن تقتصر على الحلول الأمنية فقط، بل تتطلب مقاربة شمولية تتضمن تحسين التخطيط العمراني، وتطوير البنية التحتية، وتوسيع فرص التعليم والعمل، وتعزيز دور المجتمع المدني، وبناء شراكات فعالة بين السكان والمؤسسات الرسمية، بما يسهم في تحقيق الاستقرار الاجتماعي والحد من الجريمة على المدى الطويل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المستوطنات، غير الرسمية، وعلاقتها بالجريمة.

Abstract:

This study looks at how informal settlements expand, as well as how these settlements factor into the rising of crimes in cities. All three flows of migrating (or moving) to a city, population growth, and rapid urban planning that is weak in its design is the socio urban phenomenon. Housing policies are weak as well in their design and execution to meet the needs of ever-growing populations. The study makes the assumption that the informal populated settlements of cities have a social, structural, and economic character to them that gives the stimuli for the various forms of crimes to emerge. The economic and the violent crimes, as well the social crimes encapsulate the design of the settlements.

This research study emphasizes the poverty, the many social and economic conditions that are common to these informal settlements, which include crime. The lack of employment and the education that is needed for these kinds of jobs, the sickness care and the overall structure of the community is poorly designed. The family structure within the population is weak and the social bonds are lacking. Social structure that captures the informal settlements weakens the overall social control that is needed and used to reduce crime. A descriptive-analytical method is employed to study the phenomenon through analysis of the past studies and documentation regarding the intersections of crime and informal settlements to delineate the phenomenon in a descriptive and impenetrable manner before interpreting it in relation to the socio-theoretical constructs that are most applicable. The socio-theoretical constructs are primarily based on relative deprivation theory which conceptualizes crime through the lens of the socio-psychological constructs of social alienation and perceived injustice and social control theory which posits that the absence of social structures of family and community weakens a society's ability to control deviant behavior. This study conclusively demonstrates the correlation that exists between the extent of socio-economic deprivation in informal settlements and the crime rate in informal settlements. The primary driver of the increased

crime rate within these settlements are socio-economic factors such as poverty and unemployment, which for a portion of the population economically motivates crime to supplement one's basic necessities. The study is particularly focused on the absence of basic services, overcrowding, poor public lighting, public crime facilities, and a lack of appropriate public administration as factors that shape the extent of crime and the level of crime prevention and control. Additionally, the absence of socio-economic interventions and the lack of integration of the informal settlers into the overall urban community structure have a cumulative socioeconomic marginalization, social isolation, and informal settlements.The analysis posited that combatting crime in the informal settlements goes beyond the mere provision of security measures, and that for crime to be durably addressed, such improvements in the urban planning of the informal settlements must include the enhancement of urban infrastructure, greater educational and job provision, the maturing of civil society, and the establishment of functional collaboration between the inhabitants and the formal structures of the settlements, thereby enabling social order for the sustained reduction of crime.

Introduction

Informal settlements—better known as informal settlements—are a growing feature of modern cities. They appear in both developing and industrialised nations and pose a serious challenge to urban planners. Most of these neighbourhoods formed as populations surged while proper planning lagged behind, leaving large groups of people without basic services and forcing them to live in harsh conditions. Such instability has become a breeding ground for crime: many informal settlements residents face economic and social pressures that can push them toward unlawful activity simply to survive (Al Omari, 2018).

Rationale for the Study

This study attempts to fill the gap in understanding the relationship between informal settlements and crime in terms of social order and public safety. There is growing evidence that informal settlements act as a hotbed for criminal activities. Poverty, lack of education, high unemployment rates, and other socioeconomic factors drastically influence these regions (Touhami, 2017). The study aims to break down these linkages on the assumption that practical measures will emerge from the analysis that can reduce crime rates. Understanding this relationship is also important for developing proactive measures and tailored interventions to mitigate social issues and secure risks.

Significance of the Study

The results are important for policy formulation aimed at improving the conditions of informal settlements and, subsequently, reducing crime. Increased safety and informal settlements improvement have also been linked to better housing, more reliable services, and improved infrastructure (Abdelwahid et al., 2014). Comprehensive informal settlements-crime analysis would enable policymakers to design development projects that enhance community safety. Investigating this question may also help discover some critical areas that, when addressed, can contribute to social stability and sustainable development.

Research Problem

The study revolves around a single, central question: How do living conditions in informal settlements help crime take root and spread? From this arise several sub-questions: Which social and economic factors make crime more likely in these neighbourhoods? And how can government and community initiatives curb crime while lifting daily living standards? Previous work shows that informal settlements often combine dense populations with limited security oversight—conditions that invite criminal activity (Kareem & Hamza, 2024). By spotlighting these issues, the study seeks a deeper grasp of the informal settlements and crime link and, in turn, practical, long-term fixes.

Criminal activity in informal settlements areas is multifaceted. Struggling economically because of unemployment and limited job availability forces many to seek alternative methods to survive illegally (Ben Shouia & Tamrasit, 2021). Moreover, lacking schools and clinics in informal settlements areas, along with clean water, weakens social norms that assist in enforcing community values and supports crime (Qarnfili, 2021).

Evidence from Abdelwahid et al. (2014) shows that targeted government projects—better roads, reliable utilities, real employment schemes—help bring crime down by improving

living and learning conditions. Other studies, including Al Omari (2018), likewise stress the value of sustainable development programmes that build local skills and open economic doors.

Tackling crime in informal settlements therefore demands a full view of these intertwined factors plus fresh, workable ideas. Upgrading housing and schools, widening job prospects, and strengthening day-to-day security all stand out as steps that lower crime. By unpacking these angles, the study aims to deliver an integrated vision that policy-makers can rely on to make informal settlements safer and more livable.

Research Objectives

- To understand the relationship between living conditions in informal settlements and crime prevalence.
- To analyze the economic and social factors contributing to increased crime rates in informal settlements.
- To study the impact of lacking basic services and infrastructure on social security.
- To provide recommendations for improving conditions in informal settlements to reduce crime spread.
- To examine how governmental and community interventions affect the reduction of crime rates.

Guiding Questions

- In what ways do the living conditions typical of informal settlements give crime a foothold?
- Which social or economic pressures make offences more likely in these neighbourhoods?
- How much can state action and grassroots involvement ease crime while lifting daily living standards?

– Does improving roads, lighting, water, and other services really translate into lower crime rates?

– What part do civil-society groups and NGOs play in tackling the problem on the ground?

Key Terms

- Informal settlements — "Residential pockets that emerge without formal planning when low-income households spread outward in search of affordable shelter" (Al Omari, 2018, p. 55).

- Crime — "Any act that violates the law and is punishable under local or international statutes, covering behaviour that harms individuals or society as a whole" (Abdelwahid et al., 2014, p. 86).

- Deprived urban environment — "City zones starved of essential services and basic infrastructure, a shortfall that drags down quality of life and fuels negative behaviours" (Touhami, 2017, p. 232).

- Criminal behaviour — "A spectrum of unlawful acts—minor to complex—that harm people or property" (Al-Zahrani, 2019, p. 25).

Theoretical Framework

Theories Used to Explain Crime in Informal settlements

Relative Deprivation

At its heart, relative-deprivation theory argues that people who feel short-changed when they compare themselves with better-off groups often slide into frustration and resentment. In a bid to close the gap, some resort to illegal means (Al Omari, 2018). Informal settlement wellers, trapped by poverty and thin job prospects, experience this sense of unfairness every day; the

feeling, in turn, feeds anger and criminal acts as a rough form of "social justice" (Touhami, 2017).

Social Control Theory

Social-control theory takes a different tack: it suggests that tight family bonds and strong community ties keep crime in check. Strip away those bonds—as happens under heavy economic and social stress—and offending becomes more likely (Al-Zahrani, 2019). In many informal settlements, money worries wear down the very networks that should restrain wrongdoing, leaving residents exposed to deviant paths in their efforts to meet basic needs (Abdelwahid et al., 2014).

Cultural and Social Norms

Culture, too, plays a part. When people grow up in neglected, marginalised settings, local norms can drift toward accepting petty theft or violence as routine. Weak public awareness and poor schooling reinforce that shift, making crime seem like an acceptable route to one's goals (Ben Shouia & Tamrasit, 2021). Qarnfili (2021) notes that in some informal settlements a low-level tolerance of everyday violence becomes almost woven into daily life, normalizing repeat offences.

Economic and Social Drivers

Poverty and Joblessness

Poverty stands out as the most stubborn driver of crime in informal settlements districts: when legal income cannot cover food or rent, unlawful shortcuts look tempting (Touhami, 2017). Long-term unemployment deepens frustration—especially among young people—so crime spikes as an alternative source of cash (Abdelwahid et al., 2014).

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Infrastructure and Basic Services Deficiencies

Informal settlements are deprived of basic infrastructure and core public amenities such as education, healthcare and communal facilities, a deprivation that exacerbates crime rates. The absence of public lighting, unpaved streets and the shortage of recreational venues heightens the perilous urban environment in these areas, thereby creating a milieu conducive to the spread of criminal behaviors (Al-Zahrani, 2019). It is worth mentioning that Al-Omari (2018) asserts that such service deficits intensify residents' feelings of isolation and neglect, prompting some to adopt unlawful practices as a means to express discontent or secure personal gains.

Education and Health Impacts

Education serves as a vital crime deterrent by cultivating awareness and economic prospects. Within informal settlements, educational deprivation correlates strongly with unlawful behaviour, as skills-deficient individuals lack competitive employment qualifications (Ben Shouia & Tamrasit, 2021). Moreover, inadequate healthcare provision propagates physical and psychological comorbidities; such conditions heighten vulnerability to criminal coping mechanisms amidst daily stressors (Al-Omari, 2018). Al-Qarnfili (2021) notes that to directly improve community safety, upgrading the quality of schooling and medical provision can markedly reduce crime rates while bolstering social security.

Social Cohesion and Community Fragmentation

Weakened Family and Community Ties

Weak family bonds and social fragmentation constitute significant drivers of crime in informal settlements. Research demonstrates that robust familial connections play a decisive role in maintaining proper conduct and steering individuals away from criminal behaviors (Al-Zahrani, 2019). Nevertheless, these neighbourhoods frequently experience family breakdowns caused by economic and social pressures, leading to the absence of parental supervision and the erosion of social support. Such fragility renders individuals more vulnerable to criminal engagement in pursuit of belonging or financial reward (Abdelwahid et al., 2014).

Civil Society and NGO Interventions

Community support is equally vital for curbing crime through assistance to individuals and households in need. Non-governmental organisations and charitable associations improve living conditions by offering financial aid, education and vocational-training programmes (Al-Omari, 2018). In the absence of such backing, people may find themselves in despair and turmoil, compounding the likelihood of offending. Touhami (2017) clarifies that providing community-support networks can enhance interpersonal ties and create a more stable, secure environment.

Interventions and Public Policies

Awareness and Education Programs

Awareness and civic-education initiatives rank among the most effective instruments for crime reduction in informal settlements. Such programmes elevate residents' understanding of the hazards of crime and of practical ways to avoid it, while cultivating positive values and encouraging constructive, community-oriented behaviours (Kareem & Hamza, 2024). They

typically comprise workshops and lectures designed to offer guidance on managing economic and social pressures through legitimate channels.

Infrastructure and Service Improvements

Upgrading infrastructure and public amenities within informal settlements constitutes a fundamental intervention for diminishing crime. The lack of street lighting and unpaved roads, coupled with scarce recreational spaces, allows crime to flourish in these locales (Al-Zahrani, 2019). It is worth mentioning that studies by Al-Omari (2018) indicate that infrastructure enhancements create safer environments and narrow the opportunities for criminal behaviors. Moreover, providing core services—healthcare and education above all—improves quality of life and alleviates the stresses that may push individuals toward unlawful conduct.

Job-Creation Initiatives

Providing employment opportunities is one of the most decisive factors in curbing crime within informal settlements. Poverty and unemployment compound despair, leading some residents to illegal activity as a source of income (Touhami, 2017). Ben Shouia & Tamrasit (2021) underline how small-scale job schemes and vocational training can lift household earnings and, in turn, shrink crime.

Role of Governmental Entities and Civil Society

Importance of Government-Civil Society Cooperation

Cooperative interaction between government structure and civil society is important in dealing with issues of informal settlements as well as crime. Governments have the capability to create policies and implement them on a large scale through projects, while civil society has community-level access and insight (Abdelwahid et al., 2014). Touhami (2017) confirms

that productive collaboration between public bodies and community organizations yields greater improvement in the residents' living conditions and crime reduction.

Impact of Integrated Interventions on Crime Mitigation

Integrated interventions combining governmental and societal initiatives yield tangible outcomes in crime mitigation. These encompass awareness programmes, infrastructure enhancement, alongside employment and educational opportunities. Al-Zahrani's (2019) study revealed that interventions simultaneously upgrading infrastructure whilst providing education and employment significantly decrease criminal incidence. Al-Omari (2018) posits that such multidimensional approaches foster socially stable environments that reinforce residents' sense of security and belonging amongst communities.

Conclusively, scholarly evidence indicates that combating crime within informal settlements necessitates comprehensive strategies incorporating familial and communal bond reinforcement, infrastructure improvement, alongside integrated governmental-civil societal support. Cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders potentially enables sustainable situational enhancement with measurable crime mitigation.

Literature Review

Earlier scholarship underscores the need to probe the forces that make informal settlements fertile ground for crime. Al Omari (2018), working in Jeddah, traced the demographic, social, and economic profile of informal settlements residents and showed that poverty and unemployment sit at the heart of rising offence rates. Put simply, when livelihoods improve—through steady work or better public services—crime falls.

Al-Zahrani (2019) took a different angle, focusing on what happens when street-lights, paved roads, and other basics are missing. His evidence was blunt: a dark lane or a broken sidewalk

invites wrongdoing. Upgrading infrastructure, he argued, must be part of any crime-prevention playbook.

Family bonds also matter. In their 2021 survey, Ben Shouia & Tamrasit found that weak household ties and frayed community networks leave young people adrift and more likely to offend. They singled out local charities and NGOs as potential anchors—organisations that can rebuild trust through awareness drives and skills training.

Touhami (2017) similarly identified socioeconomic factor interplay as exacerbating relative deprivation wherein perceived inequality reinforces criminal proclivities. Educational interventions were thusly proposed as viable conduits for behavioural modification.

Lastly, Abdelwahid et al. (2014) examined weakened social regulation mechanisms in informal settlements, demonstrating that deficient familial and communal oversight corrodes accountability, thereby increasing offences. Policy recommendations centered on governmental-civil society partnerships fortifying social bonds through targeted support programmes.

Comment on Previous Studies

Previous research consistently demonstrates consensus regarding the pivotal role of socioeconomic factors in crime proliferation within informal settlements. Al-Omari (2018) and Al-Zahrani (2019) concur that infrastructure enhancement and employment provision significantly mitigate delinquency rates. Complementarily, Ben Shouia & Tamrasit (2021) underscore familial cohesion and community support systems as critical crime containment mechanisms; a position corroborated by Touhami's (2017) emphasis on awareness initiatives.

Scholarly evidence further indicates that governmental-civil society collaboration constitutes a fundamental prerequisite for effectively addressing criminality in these areas. Such

cooperation strengthens communal capacity to establish secure residential environments (Abdelwahid et al., 2014). Interventions integrating economic rehabilitation with educational programmes yield demonstrably sustainable outcomes.

Collectively, extant literature illuminates the necessity of comprehensive strategies simultaneously targeting economic, social, and educational dimensions. These must incorporate: infrastructure modernisation; reinforcement of kinship-communal bonds; and behavioural modification programmes promoting prosocial values whilst discouraging deviant conduct.

Research Methodology

For examining crime-informal settlement dynamics, the descriptive-analytical method stands as particularly suitable. This approach lets researchers unpack socioeconomic realities through crunching both numbers and narratives from existing studies. Accurate documentation of real-world phenomena through its descriptive side, while the analytical angle helps make sense of patterns and connect dots to crime rates (Abdelwahid et al., 2014). This dual focus works best for building evidence-backed insights that actually meet research goals.

Research Instrument

Based on prior studies, secondary data analysis serves as an appropriate instrument for information collection. This approach includes a review of previously published research and studies examining the relationship between informal settlements and crime. This instrument offers reliable qualitative and quantitative information without the necessity for additional surveys. Al-Zahrani's (2019) study and Al-Omari's (2018) research exemplify the effective utilization of published data to acquire in-depth insights regarding the socio-economic conditions within informal settlements.

Population and Sample

The results of the investigation at hand are based on a deep investigation of different studies and scholarly materials dealing with informal settlements and crime. By conducting a systematic literature review and analyzing secondary data, I have addressed the research questions and elucidated the major causes of crime in informal settlements and the impacts of different attempts to alleviate this problem.

Research Findings

The findings of this study are derived from an extensive analysis of previous studies and academic sources addressing the relationship between informal settlements and crime prevalence. Through a systematic literature review and secondary data analysis, clear answers to the research questions are presented, highlighting the key factors influencing crime proliferation in informal settlements and assessing the effectiveness of various interventions in mitigating this phenomenon.

1. In what ways do the living conditions in informal settlements enhance the likelihood of crime?

Research shows that informal settlements are consistently characterized by inadequate living conditions, which thinking and acting criminal. Moreover, it has been established that the residence of informal settlements directly correlates with the lack of basic essential services (Al-Omari, 2018). As Abdul Wahad and others concluded in 2014, lack of economic opportunity as well as unemployment are the chief motivators for individuals engaging in unlawful activities. An additional contribotor to crime is the inadequately supplied overcrowded settlements , which fuels competition for the already scarce resources. This fosters interpersonal conflicts, which produce numerous disputes that lead to criminal acts.

2. Which social- economic characteristics add sufficiency of crime within the informal settlements?

A number of key socio-economic elements have been identified, including unemployment alongside poverty, that exacerbates chances of criminal activities within informal settlements. Tohami (2017) emphasizes that there is a noticeable gap in employment which leads to greater frustration and alienation for young people, thereby driving them towards illegal means of making financial ends meet. Additionally, insufficient educational attainment remains a pivotal contributor to crime prevalence as poorly educated individuals typically lack necessary vocational skills (Al-Zahrani, 2019). Deficiency in familial ties in the society further adds to the upsurge of crime causing behaviors among adolescent boys.

3. In what ways can government and community intervention initiatives reduce crime and improve the quality of life?

Informal settlements benefit from effective government and community-based intervention initiatives that reduce crime and improve living standards, as noted in various empirical studies. Upgrading physical infrastructure, coupled with the provision of necessary services like education and healthcare, alleviates social and psychological pressures that lead to criminal behaviour (Ben Shweya & Tamrassit, 2021). As outlined by Tohami (2017), educational and vocational training initiatives actively reduce unemployment and enhance economic conditions, confirming his educational and training program effectiveness. In addition, community awareness and advocacy for vulnerable families is delivered through joint awareness campaigns organized by government agencies and civil society groups.

4. To what extent does enhancement of physical infrastructure and service provision mitigate crime proliferation?

Research substantiates substantial crime mitigation resulting from improvements in physical infrastructure and basic services within informal settlements. Al-Zahrani (2019) underscores street lighting enhancement, better public transport, and healthcare service provision collectively fostering safer community environments. Al-Omari (2018) posits that overall enhancement of living conditions bolsters residents' sense of security and community affiliation, consequently reducing criminal activity. Moreover, the establishment of recreational areas and green spaces significantly mitigates social tensions; such improvements create positive communal environments thereby curtailing crime opportunities.

5. What roles do civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) perform in addressing crime within informal settlements?

Civil society and NGOs execute substantial roles providing both social and economic support within informal settlements. Tohami (2017) identifies the pivotal function of these entities in implementing awareness-raising programmes and educational interventions reshaping negative attitudes towards positive behavioural outcomes. Furthermore, NGOs' financial and food assistance considerably diminishes economic pressures deterring criminal survival strategies. Provision of counselling and advisory services enhances families' capacities to confront daily adversities constructively.

One successful illustration encompasses training-cum-qualification programmes for youth organised by specific NGOs. Designed explicitly to equip youth with employment-oriented skills. Ben Shweya and Tamrassit (2021) affirm that these initiatives meaningfully reduce unemployment and proffer alternatives to criminal engagement.

Summary of Findings

Conducting this study revealed that crimes in informal settlements are influenced mainly by socio-economic factors. On the other hand, the degree of crime as well as the general living

conditions of the residents is amenable to effective action by governmental and non-governmental organizations. In any case, accomplishing such objective demands a balanced approach that includes concentrated efforts on infrastructure, employment opportunities, and social bonding advancement. There is ample evidence that collaboration between government and civil society improves conditions of stability in these regions. Residents are able to deal with difficulties and are less likely to engage in criminal activity when there are improved education and healthcare systems and meaningful employment opportunities.

Recommendations

Centered on the findings from this study, and the examination of prior research, the following recommendations are made directed at informal settlements with the aim of reducing crime and improving life conditions for residents:

1. Infrastructure Development: Municipal authorities need to focus on the informal settlement features and work towards improving street lighting, paving roads, and building public amenities like parks, open spaces, etc. Such additions will contribute to the creation of safer communities and foster better behavioral outcomes at the community level (Al-Zahrani, 2019).

2. Improvement of Educational and Vocational Training Opportunities: Informal educational and vocational training for young people living in informal settlements areas are crucial for improving skills and increasing employability. Such programs developed through the collaboration of governmental departments and NGOs can aid in reducing unemployment, while enhancing economic stability (Ben Shouia & Tamrasit, 2021).

3. Shifting the Focus Toward Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations: Support is needed for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) for the implementation of awareness and educational programs, as well as the

provision of material and social assistance to vulnerable families. These organizations are significant in strengthening the social fabric of the community and promoting anti-social behaviors (Touhami, 2017).

4. Development of Continuous Employment Opportunities: Fight against crime in informal settlements needs to include the creation of continuously available jobs. Support for small and medium enterprises which can provide new job opportunities and lessen the dependence on underground economic activities can achieve this.

5. Strengthening Community-Based Security: Implementation of community policing and regular police presence in informal settlements can improve residents' feelings of safety and deter criminal behaviors. Community security depends on the reciprocal relationship between police and community members. It builds friendly collaboration which helps reduce crime (Abdulwahid et al., 2014).

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that the prevalence of crime in informal settlements, which are geographically located in underserviced urban areas, results from the confluence of various and interrelated social and economic factors. The harsh living conditions of poverty, lack of employment, and inadequate access to essential social services reinforce criminal behavior.

In any case, the combination of crime, deteriorating living conditions and lack of social services may be interpreted as social protests against prevailing conditions. With the appropriate measure from government and community interventions, the situation can be improved and crime can be significantly reduced.

The provision of physical infrastructure, education, employment, and the strengthening of non-governmental organizations can greatly ameliorate the safety and stability of these

environments. To achieve this, coordinated action toward all social actors, state and non-state, are required.

With this strategy, a sustainable society can be built which increases the opportunities for its citizens while controlling crime in a systematic and sustainable way.

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