

Psychosocial Consequences of Crime on Prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison Center, Gambella, Ethiopia

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Anywaa Zone Prison Center in Gambella Regional State of Ethiopia. It was designed with the objective of studying psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison Center. To achieve its objectives, descriptive survey design through systematic random sampling technique was applied to conduct the study from 169 out of 280 prisoners. In order to obtain the data, both primary and secondary sources of data were used. The primary data were collected using open and closed ended questionnaires, semi structured interview, document review and recorded files of young prisoners in the office Anywaa Zone Prison Center. To analyze the data for quantitative data, simple statistical tools and logistic regression were used. On the other hand, qualitative data were narrated in textual form. Therefore, the overall findings of the study showed that drug, anxiety, guilty, feeling shame, depression, and isolation from other peoples are the major problems that have psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners. So, to overcome the psychosocial consequences of crime, job opportunities must be created in order to alleviate these psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoner's issue.

Keywords: Psychosocial consequences; Crime; Prisoners; And anywaa zone.



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1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Criminology is a branch of criminal science which deals with crime causation, analysis and prevention of crime. Criminology as a branch of knowledge is concerned with those particular conducts of human behavior which are prohibited by society. It is, therefore, a socio-legal study which seeks to discover the causes of criminality and suggests the remedies to reduce crimes. Therefore, it flows that criminology and criminal policy are interdependent and mutually support one another. Thus criminology seeks to study the phenomenon of criminality in its entirety (Glory, 2009).

According to Glory (2009), the problem of crime control essentially involves the need for a study of the forces operating behind the incidence of crime and a variety of co-related factors influencing the personality of the offender. This has eventually led to development of modern criminology during the preceding two centuries. The purpose of study of this branch of knowledge is to analyze different aspects of crime and device effective measures for treatment of criminals to bring about their re-socialization and rehabilitation in the community. Thus, criminology as a branch of knowledge has a practical utility in so far as it aims at bringing about the welfare of the community as a whole.

Crime is a social problem, which threatens the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities as a whole. In all criminal justice systems when offenders pass through the court, or are sentenced to prison, men outnumber women by high proportion (Coyle, 2002). As stated by Radzinowicz and Kin (1977) cited in Lave (1986), crime is something that threatens serious harm to the community, or something generally believed to do so, or something committed with evil intent, or something forbidden in the interest of the most powerful sections of society. But, there are crimes that elude each of these definitions and there are forms of the behavior under each of them that escape the label of crime. The argument that crime is anything forbidden, punishable under the criminal law is open to the objection that is circular. But at least it is clear cut, it refers not to what ought to be, but to what is, and it is an essential starting point.

In 2006, 16% of the national adult prison population was composed of young offenders between the ages of 18 and 24. In total, more than 219,600 young offenders were incarcerated in either a state adult or Federal prison (Sabol *et al.*, 2007). In addition, there were over 37,000 young offenders serving time in state juvenile correctional facilities (Snyder and Sickmund, 2006). Most of these young offenders will return to their communities with much of their lives left to live.

According to Clinard and Abbott (1973), Ethiopia is one of the developing countries, suffers from problem of crime. Now days the problem is mostly exhibited in urbanized parts of the country. Mostly urbanization is made by high migration of population from rural to urban areas. This is for the sake of using different available services. But as one of the developing country; Ethiopia can't satisfy the demand of the growing population.

Ethiopia is faced with many social and economic problems which in turn causes crime. Ethiopia is suffering from the lack of basic needs of life, such as food, health care, housing and education. Ethiopia's rapid population growth also presents great problems for the nation. Homelessness in the capital city is a serious social problem. The

growing of slum areas in major cities of the country causes criminal activity. Many street children resort to theft to feed themselves (Andargachew, 2004).

Globally, crime patterns are changing. Offenders are getting more and younger; and violent crimes are becoming more common. In addition, our life, our views of the world and our ways of knowing about crime have undergone considerable change with the changing patterns of crime recent years. The roots of such violence may not be clearly understood but declining income work opportunities, and the consequent frustration, particularly for youth are important factors. Violence, crimes and anti-social behaviors are thought to be products of social inequality, social exclusion and lack of institutional and social protection (Ainsworth and Peter, 2000).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

There are a number of factors that lead to commit criminal behavior for a person at an everywhere in every time. It is obviously known that many people's come to meeting in the area of prison center by the case of crime. Among different factors social, psychological or influences of that affect people to commit crime like, personality disorders, family related influences, sibling influences, spiritual and cultural influences and many other factors that affect people to commit crime (Glaser *et al.*, 2002).

Moore (2005), says that there is now ample and accumulating evidence in developed and developing countries that the conditions under which children and young people grow up are crucial for their mental and physical health and emotional, social and intellectual development. A huge range of factors influence and shape their lives. The quality of early childhood care and conditions, parental and family relationships, are especially important. Local and family poverty, poor housing and environmental conditions, all have a major influence on criminal behavior (Erdwin, 2007). Researchers of different discipline study crime based on their subject matter. In this section the researcher is interested to briefly discuss studies of crime undertaken by different authors in Ethiopia. The purpose of this section is to show the gap of research and to give answer for the question of what has been done on crime and related issues in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, crime is a problem that needs to be studied with the objective of investigating the psychosocial effects of crime that contribute to criminality. Usually public claims are heard about different crime incidences like property crime. There are many factors that facilitate some criminal activities. Study made in UK by Catan (1989) compared the development of prison unit babies with their imprisoned mothers and those cared for in the community. Both groups of babies showed normal, healthy physical growth and their overall development fell within accepted norms. However, babies in the prison show a gradual decline in locomotors and cognitive scores after four months. In contrast, these babies showed a significant increase in general development score when they left the prison (Taylor, 2004).

In Ethiopian context, Selamawit (2006) has done a study on the title of "The situation of children of imprisoned mother in the case of Addis Ababa prison". This study indicated that crime is more related with poverty and undeveloped welfare system. The study attempted to assess the situation of children of imprisoned mothers. Survey method was mainly used for the purpose of data collection. Accordingly, 34 mothers in Addis Ababa Prison were asked about the situation of their 61 children. In addition, five children were interviewed about their condition. The findings indicate that children of imprisoned mothers live in a very difficult situation deprived of their basic needs and right. The findings have led to some recommendations that will help to curb the unfortunate situation of the children. This study did not take into account the causes and psychosocial effect of prisoners that make different from this study.

A study made in Addis Ababa Central Prison indicates that 17.6 % of the sampled female inmates have children in prison. The majority of these women stated the absence of special treatment for their children in the prison (Mentwab, 2001). Another study made by Prison Fellowship Ethiopia and Save the Children Denmark (2005), showed the minimal level of child right enforcement in Ethiopian prisons. Habtamu (2007), has also done a study entitled assessing the pattern and trends of crime against the women prison. The study explained the case of delinquency in relation with genetic factor and socialization. According to this study genetic factor related manhood and womanhood can be responsible for some of explicit and implicit behavior of man and women respectively. Even if the research has done, it fails to indicate clear benchmark about the driving factors of offence.

Andargachew (1988), Andargachew (2004) study the problems of crime in Ethiopia and how to address those problems. The author provided overall understandings about the field of correctional administration and the Ethiopian police system. Considering international contexts and theoretical frameworks of police systems, Andargachew attempted to discuss the case of Ethiopian policy systems by giving high consideration to the observable differences in the country. By tracing back to when modern courts started operating in the country, his studies also attempted to examine the trial process in the country by thoroughly discussing about the court systems in which the problems of the crime are dealt with. His study also discussed correctional system and other penal institutions including jail. Furthermore, in the process of rehabilitating the offenders, he attempted to show the failures of justice systems like a penal system in the country, and for that reason he tried to indicate alternative approaches that could be more effective in improving the justice system.

Nega (2011), has studied on "Trends in and Types of Crime in Addis Ababa" to investigate changes in trends of crime and the social pattern of criminality. The study also assesses issues like 'urbanization', 'migration', 'age' and 'gender' and 'social class' by relating with crime. Trends in volume of criminals and correlates of crime, trends in victimization and effectiveness of policing activities are also analyzed in the study. Molalign (2012), studied juvenile delinquency in Gondar city and stated that the prison administration focused on punishment rather than rehabilitation. He also observed the overcrowded nature of prison and lack of segregation of prisoners. The researcher was critical of inability of prison to effectively reintegrate inmates into the society. As a result, Molalign

felt that the unjust treatment of offenders inside prison cannot deter their criminal behavior. Instead, he predicted, inmate can learn additional criminal techniques and retaliate against the system by re-offending. However, he failed to provide empirical evidences that are born by data to support his argument. Based on the above studies, this study is different from the previous studies with target population and variables. So, the researcher needs to study types, causes and psychosocial effects of crime on young prisoners in the case of Anywaa zone Prison Center to fill the gap. It is possible to conclude that all the above researchers did not give emphasis for the types, causes and psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners. Understanding the existing gap, the researcher interested to conduct the study in this area in order to fill the gap.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective

The general objective of the study is to investigate the psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison Center.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

- To investigate psychosocial consequences of crime on the prisoners in Anywaa Zone.
- To advocate the psychosocial interventions to be taken to alleviate the crime in Anywaa zone.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The rationale of this study was to investigate the psychosocial consequences of crime and how to alleviate the problems. Findings of the study may also help people of Anywaa Zone by providing awareness creation workshop about the psychological, social and other factors behind criminal acts and behavior. It will be used as a reference for stakeholders, social workers and psychologists to identify psychosocial consequences of crime in the area.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was confined only to Anywaa Zone Prison Center in Abwobo Woreda, Gambella People National Regional State of Ethiopia. It focused only on psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners and how to alleviate the problems. The participants of this study were prisoners only.

2. Research Design and Methodology

2.1. Research Design

The researcher employed descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey design is the study which is describing the characteristics of a group of people. In this design, the researcher defined clearly, what he wants to measure and must find adequate methods for measuring it along with a clear cut definition of 'population' he wants to study. This design refers to the use of frequency, percentages, means and standard deviation, in the process of describing psychosocial consequences and psychosocial interventions to be done to alleviate the problem. Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were used to investigate the existing psychosocial consequences of crime. Therefore, analyzing quantitative data and the narrative interview were guided by the research design.

2.2. Location of the Study Area

Gambella People National and Regional State (GPNRS) is one of the nine regions of the Federal States of Ethiopia that shares borders with the Republic of South Sudan in the West, Oromia region in the North and East, and SNNPR in the South and East. The region is situated within 7° N and 8° 37' N latitude and 33° E and 35° 2' E longitude. Gambella region comprises an area of 34,063 km². According to the 2012 census, the population was 306,918. The latest estimates for 2015/16 indicate that this has increased to 390,593. Politically, the region has three ethnic zones (Anywaa, Nuer and Majang). It further divided into 1 special Woreda, 12 Woredas and 1 town administration. Anywaa zone is located around 47 kilometers away from the main town of a region in Abobo woreda.

2.3. Sources of Data

In order to secure genuine information for the subject under study, both primary and secondary sources of data were used in order to complete and to enhance the level of precision of the research. Primary data were collected from prisoners who were in prison center through using questionnaires and interview. Secondary data were collected from recorded files of prisoners in the office and other recorded documents.

2.4. Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The target populations for this study were 280 criminals who were found in Anywaa Zone Prison Center. The study included prisoners only. Various types of sampling procedure were employed to determine the sample size. First the researcher purposively selected the Anywaa Zone Prison Center because it is the only prison in Anywaa zone and 7 female prisoners. Then, to select the sample size from the remaining 273 male prisoners, the researcher used systematic random sampling technique to select the participants of the study. The sample size is determined by using the (Yamane, 1967) formula:

Sample size (n):

$$ni = \frac{Ni}{1 + Ni(e)^2}$$

Whereas:

(N_i)- is the total population of the study,

(n_i) - is the total sample size to be taken and

(e) – is the sampling error.

$$ni = \frac{273}{1 + 273(0.05)^2} = 162$$

Table-1. Sample size and sampling techniques

No	Participants	Population	Sample size	Sample technique
1	Male prisoners	273	162	Systematic random sampling technique
2	Female prisoners	7	7	Availability sampling technique
Total		280	169	

Sampling procedure of the Study, 2017

Based on the above formula and table 1, 162 samples were taken as respondent from male and 7 from female through availability sampling. Therefore, the total sample respondents were 169.

2.5. Data Collection Instruments

The present study employed both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Questionnaire, interview and documents reviews were used as a tool for gathering the data. The quantitative data was gathered through questionnaire to generate prevalence of psychosocial consequences of crime. Qualitative information was collected through interviews and documents review. The items of the instruments were all written in English and translated into Anywaa language.

2.6. Methods of Data Analysis

After collecting data through questionnaire, the raw data were classified and tabulated depending on the kinds of question to make it manageable and understandable. The quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as, frequency and percentage for demographic characteristic. In the quantitative data analysis, statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 20 was used for processing the data and inferential statistics such as logistic regression were used to estimate and determined the psychosocial consequences of crime. Responses from interview were analyzed and presented through descriptive, narration and interpretation in order to supplement the quantitative data. The response of interview and document analysis was also interpreted by words.

3. Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

3.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The demographic characteristics of the respondents selected for the study are age, sex, religion, place of residence, educational status, and occupation. Hence, to analyze the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, simple descriptive statistics such as frequency, and percentage were applied.

Table-1. Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Characteristics of respondents		Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	162	95.9
	Female	7	4.1
Total		169	100

Source: Field research survey, 2017

Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics of respondents in terms of sex. It was indicated that 162(95.9%) were male and 7(4.1%) of them were female respondents out of 169. Therefore, this may clearly indicate that the majority of the respondents were males.

3.2. Determine the Psychosocial Consequences of Crime

This part is show the result and discussion of psychosocial consequences of crime on the prisoners

Table-3. Logistic Regression summarized the responses of the respondents about psychosocial consequences of crime on young prisoner

Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Drugs use	3.64	1.11	3.28	0.001***	1.46	5.82
Isolation	-3.39	1.37	-2.46	0.014***	-6.09	-.689
Anxiety	13.03	4.88	2.67	0.008***	3.46	22.60
Guilty	-2.08	.986	-2.12	0.034**	-4.02	-.155
Feeling Shame	3.63	1.48	2.45	0.014***	.730	6.54
Depression	.1799	.013	13.08	0.000***	.152	.207
Constant	-10.05	4.27	-2.35	0.01	-18.43	-1.67

From the table 3, shows, drugs are significantly affecting the psychosocial make up of young offender's prisoners at 1% level, other variables being constant. Hence, the degree of psychosocial effect of crime is 3.64 time higher on those who use drugs. Therefore, this may indicate that drugs are one contributor factors for psychosocial consequences of crime on offender's prisoner in Anywaa Zone Prisoner Center.

In table 3, it was indicated that isolation was highly affecting the psychosocial make up of young offender prisoners negatively by the significance level of 1% and other variable being constant. By one percent decrease the psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners decrease by -3.39 times lesser on those who isolate themselves comparing with those who feel stress, guilty, shame, anxiety and depression.

The result from the same table, show that anxiety was highly affecting the psychosocial make up of young offender prisoners positively by the significance level of 1% and keep other variable constant. By one percent, the consequence of psychosocial make up of crime on young offender prisoner increased by 13.03 times higher on those who feel shame, depression, guilty and stress comparing to anxiety.

Table 3, was indicated that guilty was another factors that were highly affecting the psychosocial make up of young offender prisoners negatively by the significance level of 5% and keep other variable constant. By five percent, the consequence of psychosocial make up of crime on prisoners decrease by -2.08 lesser on those who feel guilty comparing to those who feel stress, shame, anxiety, isolation and depression.

From the table 3, it was indicated that feeling shame was another factor that was highly affecting psychosocial make up of young offender prisoners positively at the significance level of 1% and keep other variables constant. By one percent increase, the effects of psychosocial make up of crime on offender prisoner by 3.63 times higher on those who feel others effects comparing with those who feel shame.

Result in the table 3, was clearly indicated that Depression was found to be highly affecting the individual psychosocial make up of young prisoners. This is depicted by the significance level at 1% keeps other variables constants. By one percent, it increases psychosocial effect of crime on young offender prisoner.

4. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1. Summary

The main purpose of this study was to investigate psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison Center. The data collected were used to answer the following two basic questions:

1. What are the psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners?
2. What are the psychosocial interventions to be designed to alleviate the problem?

Descriptive survey design was used for this study. This design was preferred due to its suitability to collect data from sample groups than entire population. This research mainly focused on a quantitative approach; meanwhile, it is also enhanced by some qualitative information that was gathered. Systematic random sampling technique and availability sampling technique was used to select 169 sample size found in Anywaa Zone Prison Center. Regarding the analysis of the data, statistical tools employed were percentage, frequency, mean, standard deviation, and regression. To come with the finding on demographic characteristics of the respondent, 162(95.9%) were male and 7(4.1%) were female. So the majority respondents of this study were male when we compare them with female.

Drugs, anxiety and depression were highly significantly affecting the psychosocial make up of prisoners positively at 1% level. Therefore, this may indicate that drugs, anxiety and depression were contributing factors for psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison Center. In the other hand isolation, guilty and feeling shames were also contributing factors which were highly affecting the psychosocial make up of prisoners negatively by 1%. As a result, these variables were highly affecting the psychosocial make up of prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison Center. From the document review of Anywaa Zone Prison Center, it show that anger, depression, hopelessness, worry and being isolation and withdrawal from other were the most consequences of crime.

5. Conclusion

In line with the findings of the study, it is possible to arrive at the following conclusions:

As indicated in the finding, this study was clearly concluded that the most psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison were anxious, worry, suffer from nightmares, loss of their memory because of crime, withdrawals, and sleepless, hopelessness, depression, being angry and isolation from other people and sometime they do not believe and interested in other people. Finally, this psychosocial problem may conclude as a big problem that affected psychosocial make up of prisoners in Anywaa Zone Prison Center.

6. Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher could suggest the following points.

- Government needs to set rules and regulations towards drug users and sellers in the Anywaa Zone Area.
- Government needs to create job opportunities for young unemployed to eradicate criminal activities in communities.
- Community elders need to cooperate with psychologist and other expert in order to provide enough information for criminals about the consequences of crime.

- Psychological treatments should be provided for prisoners in the prison center.
- Anywaa Zone prison needs to invite psychologist and sociologist expertise in order to give awareness creation training about psychological, social and other consequences behind criminal acts and behavior for prisoners.
- Anywaa Zone Prison needs to employ one social psychologist and one counselor in order to minimize the psychosocial consequences of prisoners through providing counseling service.

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