

International journal of criminal study

2017 2(1)

<Index>

1. Consideration of Policies Designed to Prevent Sexual Assault CRIMES against Children with Disabilities in KOREA
/ **Choi Pan-am, Lee Kwon-ho**
2. Utilization of Sports Education to Prevent School Violence in KOREA
/ **Jung Chan-soo, Lee Kang-mun**
3. A Study on Causes of Elderly CRIMES in KOREA and Countermeasures
/ **Lee Min-hyung, Kang Kyung-soo**
4. Cases of CPTED Application in KOREA & Expected Effect
/ **Park Min-sung, Doh Hwa-jung**
5. The Effects of Socioeconomic Factors on Violent and Property CRIMES
/ **Sung Yong-eun, Back Sin-chul, Torres Christopher**

J-INSTITUTE

Publication state: Japan
ISSN: 2423-8783

Publisher: J-INSTITUTE
Website: <http://www.j-institute.jp>

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Peer reviewer
E-mail: editor@j-institute.jp

<http://dx.doi.org/10.22471/criminal.2017.2.1.01>

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Consideration of Policies Designed to Prevent Sexual Assault CRIMES against Children with Disabilities in KOREA

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Abstract

Korea has strengthened inspection of respective social welfare facilities and schools for handicapped and disabled across the country in response to the emergence of sexual assault crime against children with disabilities as a social issue. Children with disabilities often find it painful to live with disabilities, but are unable to protect or defend themselves or are sometimes unaware that they are being victimized due to their mental illnesses and physical disabilities, etc. Even if when they want to claim that they have fallen victim to by sexual assault crime, they do not know how to come forward and make their cases. Another problem is that perpetrators of sexual assault crime against children with disabilities are not punished and that compensation and treatment are not provided properly to those children, the victims of sexual assault crimes.

In addition, sexual assault crimes committed against children with disabilities pose many problems in whole processes until the cases are closed. To resolve such problems, the priority would need to be given to understanding the specificity of children with disabilities in the process of crime cases. Efforts need to be made constantly to establish the system ensuring thorough investigation and imposing strong punishment on perpetrators of sexual assault crime against children with disabilities and to improve human rights for persons with disabilities. Thus, this study was intended to identify current status and problems of sexual assault crimes perpetrated against children with disabilities and to propose measures at policy level for prevention of such sexual assault crimes.

When the sexual assault crime against children with disabilities was brought up as a social issue, it was possible to see controversies swirling and then subsiding over time. Therefore, long-term policies need to be mapped out constantly for prevention of sexual assault crimes, instead of one-time countermeasure, to fundamentally resolve the issue of sexual assault crimes perpetrated against children with disabilities.

For the purpose, first of all, it is necessary to understand the specificity of children with disabilities and reflect it in the process where cases of such crimes are handled. Additionally, more stringent punishment and expeditious and precise investigation would be needed in making response to sexual assault crime against children with disabilities. Moreover, the new government would need to devise comprehensive measures in parallel with practical support through amendment of Social Welfare Service Act so as to ensure human right protection for children with disabilities.

[Keywords] *Sexual Violence Crime, Children with Disabilities, Prevention Policy, Human Rights Protection, Social Prejudice*

1. Introduction

In Korean society, children with disabilities are often badly neglected and ostracized un-

der very unfavorable social environment. Furthermore, children with disabilities tend to fall victim to sexual assault crime as they remain unaware of their rights to be protected.

Even the cases of sexual assault crimes perpetrated against normal ordinary children reveal that they have a lack of expressive power and defensive ability necessary to avoid being victimized by sexual offenders, and children with disabilities are even more vulnerable to sexual assault crime.

Moreover, children with disabilities become victims of social prejudice and sexual assault crimes, which needs to be recognized as a grave social issue[1][2].

Children with disabilities often find it painful to live with disabilities, but are unable to protect or defend themselves or are sometimes unaware that they are being victimized due to their mental illnesses and physical disabilities, etc.

Even if when they want to claim that they have fallen victim to by sexual assault crime, they do not know how to come forward and make their cases. Another problem is that perpetrators of sexual assault crime against children with disabilities are not punished and that compensation and treatment are not provided properly to those children, the victims of sexual assault crimes.

In addition, sexual assault crimes committed against children with disabilities pose many problems in whole processes until the cases are closed. To resolve such problems, the priority would need to be given to understanding the specificity of children with disabilities in the process of crime cases. Efforts need to be made constantly to establish the system ensuring thorough investigation and imposing strong punishment on perpetrators of sexual assault crime against children with disabilities and to improve human rights for persons with disabilities.

Thus, this study was intended to identify current status and problems of sexual assault crimes perpetrated against children with disabilities and to propose measures at policy level for prevention of such sexual assault crimes.

2. Theoretical Consideration

2.1. Causes of sexual assault crimes

One of the causes of sexual assault crimes against children with disabilities is, firstly, associated with the decrease in the ability to control sexual impulse and sexual activity in certain areas of brain in perpetrators of sexual assault crimes.

Second, sexual assault crimes are encouraged by negative views towards the persons with disabilities and their weakness and by the abuse of the power that perpetrators have.

Third, the absence of sex education for the disabled is claimed to be the cause of sexual violence against them. Women with disabilities who are not informed of sexuality are exposed powerlessly to sexual violence, and particularly, women with mental retardation, may not be aware of sexual assault committed against them.

Fourth, perpetrator are not punished in consequence of low rate of reporting among victims who feel ashamed or powerless towards the sexual assault crimes committed against them, which make them victimized constantly[3][4].

2.2. Enactment of laws related to sex crimes

In Korea, 'Crimes Related to Chastity', enacted in 1953, was the first act associated with sexual assault crimes. Later, "Act on the Aggravated Punishment, etc. of Specific Crimes", amended on March 25, 1989, came into force.

In 1990s, "Special Act on Sexual Violence" was enacted to prevent sexual assault in the wake of a crime in which a stepfather was murdered. On February 3, 2000, "Act on Protection of Children and Juveniles from Sexual Abuse" was enacted to promote protection and relief for juveniles who became targets of prostitution and sexual assault.

"Juvenile Protection Act" was amended wholly and renamed to "Children and Juvenile Protection Act" on September 6, 2009. Additionally, "Act on Attachment of Electronic Device for Position Tracking" and "Act on Medication Treatment of Sexual Impulse of Sex Offenders" were written into laws in 2007 and 2010, respectively[5].

2.3. Disclosure of identities of perpetrators of sexual assault crimes

In Korea, punishment of sexual assault crime is more severe than that of other crimes. However, the most frightening thing is the registration of personal information of perpetrators.

Any sex crime offenders who are imposed fine or more severe punishment will find their personal information controlled by the government for 20 years, including actual place of residence, address, telephone number, and vehicle registration number, etc.

For repeat offenders who perpetrated crimes of same kind while their identities are registered and managed, their personal identities will be disseminated by the government all over the country[6].

3. Status and Problems of Damages from Sexual Assault Crimes against Children with Disabilities

3.1. Types of damages from sexual assault crimes against persons with disabilities

Regarding the types of sexual assault crimes against persons with disabilities in Korea, the rate of rape was found to outstrip that of other types of sexual assault crimes by wide margin, increasing to 630 cases in 2008 and 686 cases in 2010.

For the type of disabilities in victims of sexual assault crimes, the proportion of intellectual disability was found to be the highest. This suggests that the lack of cognitive ability and coping ability in persons with intellectual disability led to high rates of sexual assault crimes against them.

In Korea, 1,177 cases of rape, sexual molestation, and sexual harassment were reported in 2008 in connection with the types of sexual assault crimes perpetrated against the disabled. In 2010, the number of cases involving rape, sexual molestation, and sexual harassment stood at 1,349, which shows an overall increase in those 3 types of crimes[7][8].

3.2. Problems facing the disabled victimized by sexual assault crimes

In Korea, many legal issues have arisen from sexual assault crimes committed against the persons with disabilities for many reasons described below. First, investigations and trials are pressed ahead even when the characteristics of children with disabilities have not been fully determined.

In particular, there are difficulties in understanding the statements presented by children with disabilities during the proceedings.

Second, the most serious issue is related to the difficulty in imposing punishment on offenders of sexual assault crimes, and even worse, victims sometimes become harmed again.

Moreover, no system has been established to provide support to victims of sexual assault crimes.

Third, the issues related to laws on sexual assault on children with disabilities are concerned with interpretation of conditions for 'incapability of resistance' (Article 6 of the Act on Special Cases concerning the Punishment, etc. of Sexual Crimes), aggravated punishment, etc., which have given rise to controversies.

Fourth, perpetrators of sexual assault crime against children with disabilities are simply given a slap on the wrist, which raises the issue of sentencing[9][10].

4. Considering of Policies for Prevention of Sexual Assault Crimes against Children with Disabilities

4.1. Stricter punishment for perpetrators of sexual assault crimes against children with disabilities

Swift and thorough investigation and severe punishment need to be assured for sexual assault crimes against children with disabilities.

No major issue has been raised thus far over the sentencing criteria for sexual assault

crimes against persons with disabilities. However, that contradicts overall sentiment of the public.

It will be difficult to preclude the ever-more increasing sexual assault crimes against children with disabilities, unless intensity of investigation and severity of punishment increase. Thus, it would be necessary to apply current law as much as possible and to strengthen punishment for sexual assault crimes by amending current laws when problems occur[11].

4.2. Comprehension of mental and physical specificity in children with disabilities

Children with disabilities who were victimized by sexual assault crime are often confronted with environment unfavorable to them, compared to that of children with other types of disabilities, in connection with their mental and physical characteristics. Consequently, there is some difficulty in resolving cases of sexual assault crime. In addition, there is considerable difficulty arising from lack of understanding and awareness among the police and prosecutors towards disabled persons when cases of sexual assault crime are processed. Therefore, it would be necessary to establish social protection measures designed to ensure expeditious processing of cases and follow-up responses by taking the specificity of children with disabilities into consideration[12][13].

4.3. Comprehensive measures to improve the human rights for children with disabilities

In Korea, corruption and frauds committed by social welfare law and facilities led to frequent infringement upon human rights of children with disabilities. The government which recently took office will need to review practical comprehensive measures to protect human rights of children with disabilities. It is important to provide support to children with disabilities through legal and institutional approach, but it is also important to ensure prevention of problems through thorough supervision and control by supervisory authorities in order to underpin human rights protection for children with disabilities[14].

5. Discussion and Conclusion

Korea has strengthened inspection of respective social welfare facilities and schools for handicapped and disabled across the country in response to the emergence of sexual assault crime against children with disabilities as a social issue.

When the sexual assault crime against children with disabilities was brought up as a social issue, it was possible to see controversies swirling and then subsiding over time.

Therefore, long-term policies need to be mapped out constantly for prevention of sexual assault crimes, instead of one-time countermeasure, to fundamentally resolve the issue of sexual assault crimes perpetrated against children with disabilities.

For the purpose, first of all, it is necessary to understand the specificity of children with disabilities and reflect it in the process where cases of such crimes are handled. Additionally, more stringent punishment and expeditious and precise investigation would be needed in making response to sexual assault crime against children with disabilities.

Moreover, the new government would need to devise comprehensive measures in parallel with practical support through amendment of Social Welfare Service Act so as to ensure human right protection for children with disabilities.

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Publication state: Japan
ISSN: 2423-8783

Publisher: J-INSTITUTE
Website: <http://www.j-institute.jp>

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.22471/criminal.2017.2.1.06>

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Utilization of Sports Education to Prevent School Violence in KOREA

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Abstract

In Korea, cultivation of humanity, which is traditionally the role of family, was transferred to the school as the transformation from complex family types to nuclear family type has progressed. As a result, schools have become a space for realizing institutionalized whole education, not a place for knowledge acquisition and training to achieve learning goals. However, as verbal abuse, violence, bullying, sexual assault, etc., among students in schools have emerged as social issues, schools can no longer be a protected area or a haven for students.

In Korea, the prevailing perception was that school violence cannot be present until the term 'school violence' began to be used widely in the society, and the response to school violence, such as physical violence, verbal abuse, bullying, etc., among students relied primarily on ethical guidance of teachers rather than dealing with school violence as crime. However, a series of suicides caused due to school violence have been reported through media, leading to an emphasis on the importance of preventing school violence, and eventually legislation has been made to prevent school violence.

The 「Act on the Prevention and Countermeasures against Violence in School」 was enacted in 2004 and institutional measures have been proposed. However, no significant results have been achieved as short-term and temporary responses were made, rather than systematic response based on precise diagnosis of causes. And the study intended to present the possibility of leveraging the sports activities and education based on sports such activities as one of educational techniques while emphasizing the importance of school violence preventive education on the basis of the recognition that approach from various perspectives is important for prevention of school violence. In addition, the study intend to present school violence prevention activities through sports education in Korea and discuss the impact that such school violence prevention activities would have on the society.

Therefore, it would be necessary to promote physical education in school, and at the same time, to recognize the importance for establishing moral values based on the influence of martial sports and martial art instructors as part of personality cultivation education for prevention of school violence, and furthermore, to provide institutional support. Moreover, it would be also necessary to cultivate fair-play spirit through martial sports and to increase the interest in fostering professional martial sports instructors to guide the students in the cultivation of personality.

[Keywords] School Violence, Cyber Bullying, Personality Education, Sports, Martial Arts Education

1. Introduction

In Korea, cultivation of humanity, which is traditionally the role of family, was transferred to the school as the transformation from complex family types to nuclear family type has progressed. As a result, schools have

become a space for realizing institutionalized whole education, not a place for knowledge acquisition and training to achieve learning goals.

However, as verbal abuse, violence, bullying, sexual assault, etc., among students in schools have emerged as social issues,

schools can no longer be a protected area or a haven for students.

The 「Act on the Prevention and Countermeasures against Violence in School」 was enacted in 2004 and institutional measures have been proposed. However, no significant results have been achieved as short-term and temporary responses were made, rather than systematic response based on precise diagnosis of causes[1].

Therefore, the study intended to present the possibility of leveraging the sports activities and education based on sports such activities as one of educational techniques while emphasizing the importance of school violence preventive education on the basis of the recognition that approach from various perspectives is important for prevention of school violence.

In addition, the study intend to present school violence prevention activities through sports education in Korea and discuss the impact that such school violence prevention activities would have on the society.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. Concept of school violence

In Korea, the term ‘school violence’ was first used by the ‘School Violence Prevention Civic Group’.

As students' violence deteriorated, which resulted in an increase in suicides by students, in 1997, this term ‘school violence’ began to be officially used by government organizations and mass media[2].

However, scholars could not take a uniform approach to the establishment of concept of school violence.

That was because the term ‘violence’ itself could be defined differently, depending on the target, place, scope, extent, subject, etc.

In Korea, school violence is generally understood as deliberate harassment, bullying, extortion/rip-off, verbal abuse, physical assault, or collective assault[3].

The 「Act on the Prevention and Countermeasures against Violence in School」, which

was enacted in 2004 and amended as much as 20 times until 2017, set forth provisions pertaining to school violence more specifically. Article 2 of this Act stipulates that the term "school violence" means actions committed against students inside or outside of school premises resulting in a physical or mental injury, or damage to property through a battery, assault, confinement, threat, kidnapping, abduction, defamation, insult, extortion, coercion, forced errand, sexual violence, bullying, or cyber-bullying, or with obscene or violent information via an information and communications network[4].

2.2. Causes of school violence in school & current status in Korea

2.2.1. Causes of school violence

The Korean government announced a five-year basic plan for prevention of and countermeasures against school violence in February 2004.

Here, school violence is considered to be manifested as a combination of complex factors such as personal, family, social, and cultural factors[5].

Among the causes of school violence, the general characteristics of adolescents are exhibited as personal factors.

In other words, adolescents slip into a vicious cycle of juvenile delinquency due to lack of adroitness in controlling their impulse and overcoming frustration, etc. This is further aggravated by broken emotional ties between parents and children in the face of family problems, leading to a lack of ability to empathize with other students and greater chances of encounter with delinquent peer groups.

Furthermore, such adolescents will have lower self-esteem due to social perception that poor performance in school signifies maladjustment to conventional school activities, and consequently, will be more likely to be exposed to delinquency as an escape.

2.2.2. Current status of school violence in Korea

According to the National Police Agency in 2013, the number of persons arrested for school violence stood at around 25,000 each year from 2008 to 2010, but it decreased to 21,957 in 2011 before increasing to 23,877 in 2012. By type, 14,6737 persons were arrested on charges of violence, the highest proportion in 2012 while 5,912 persons and 509 persons were arrested on charges of extortion and sexual assault, respectively[6].

Meanwhile, the second survey in 2016 by the Ministry of Education on current status of school violence revealed that 28,000 respondents fell victim to school violence although school violence decreased in overall way and that elementary school students were victimized the most by school violence. By type, verbal abuse topped the list of school violence with 34.8%, followed by group bullying (16.9%), physical assault (12.2%), stalking (10.9%), cyber-bullying (10.0%), extortion (6.5%), sexual molestation and sexual assault (4.9%), and forced errand (3.9%). Moreover, most violence occurred in classrooms, and particularly, 42.0% of violence occurred during the short break[7].

2.3. Policies for prevention of school violence in Korea

The School Violence Prevention Act, enacted in 2004, has been materially amended until 2017.

Specifically, the scope of school violence broadened, strengthening protection of victims and punishment against offenders. Additionally, discipline and incentives for teachers have been strengthened with an emphasis on leadership[8].

According to the current School Violence Prevention Act, the national and local governments should specify their respective responsibilities for prevention of school violence, and the Minister of Education is required to establish and implement a basic plan for preventing and coping with school violence[9].

In addition, the School Violence Prevention Act amended in 2012 made the school violence prevention education mandatory.

According to this requirement, the heads of schools should provide education to students at least once a semester with respect to concept/current status of school violence and countermeasures in order to protect students physically and psychologically and prevent school violence. In addition, education is required to be provided to teaching staffs and parents more than once a semester in connection with prevention of and countermeasures against school violence[10].

3. School Violence and Sports Education

3.1. Value and education of sports

The limitation of school violence preventive education, which arises from entrance exam-centric education and absence of personality education, has been raised up as an issue. That is aggravated by diminished role or distortion of traditional family.

Therefore, school violence prevention based on personality education is emphasized, and measures devised from various viewpoints are discussed to realize that. Sports activity and education based on it are suggested as an alternative.

In 2011 physical education curriculum was designed to help cultivate personality through class of physical education and placed an emphasis on integrated teaching and learning. This suggests that the importance of physical education was reflected in the curriculum as a solution to the problem of school violence[11].

3.2. School violence prevention education through sports in Korea

According to the comprehensive plan for eradication of school violence, which was announced by the government in 2012, a measure was proposed to increase the number of hours allocated for physical education classes in schools in order to promote cultivation of personality. It included specific measures for eradication of school violence through increase in the number of hours allocated to physical education classes of middle school,

expansion of placement of Saturday sports instructors, support for excellent sports clubs of schools, support for sports instructors, operation of middle school sports leagues, expansion of types of school sports clubs across the country, and promotion of sports education in schools[7].

In Korea, private martial arts gymnasiums, which teach Taekwondo, Judo, Hapkido, etc., have been active. Parents often send their children to those private martial arts gymnasiums to cultivate personality and controlled behavior of their children, as well as physical strength.

In the case of Korea, delinquent elements in students are neutralized by sports activities, such as martial art matches. The personality education by martial art instructors and process of learning true meaning of fair competition are supplementing the school violence prevention education within the system.

In addition, those private martial arts gymnasiums provide a variety of educational programs tailored to the needs of parents which they identify. Particularly, school violence prevention education is one such program.

4. Conclusion

In Korea, the prevailing perception was that school violence cannot be present until the term 'school violence' began to be used widely in the society, and the response to school violence, such as physical violence, verbal abuse, bullying, etc., among students relied primarily on ethical guidance of teachers rather than dealing with school violence as crime.

However, a series of suicides caused due to school violence have been reported through media, leading to an emphasis on the importance of preventing school violence, and eventually legislation has been made to prevent school violence.

Such efforts at policy level have reduced the number of victims, but still many students are suffering from school violence, and offenders cannot be released from their ethical and legal responsibilities.

Therefore, it would be necessary to promote physical education in school, and at the same time, to recognize the importance for establishing moral values based on the influence of martial sports and martial art instructors as part of personality cultivation education for prevention of school violence, and furthermore, to provide institutional support.

Moreover, it would be also necessary to cultivate fair-play spirit through martial sports and to increase the interest in fostering professional martial sports instructors to guide the students in the cultivation of personality.

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Publication state: Japan
ISSN: 2423-8783

Publisher: J-INSTITUTE
Website: <http://www.j-institute.jp>

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.22471/criminal.2017.2.1.11>

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A Study on Causes of Elderly CRIMES in KOREA and Countermeasures

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Abstract

The problem of the elderly is an issue that many people do not recognize among social problems caused by aging. In Korea, the damage caused by elderly crimes has increased every year since 1995. These elderly crimes are occurring commonly not only in Korea but also in other countries worldwide. More seriously, elderly crimes are increasing steadily at the same time as violent crimes such as murder, larceny, arson, assault, bodily harm, etc. Most of the elderly crimes were motivated primarily for survival and livelihood previously, but in recent years, the crimes committed by the elderly have increasingly fallen into the category of the major 5 crimes. The incidence and proportion of elderly crimes have been increasing steadily over time. In addition, some incidents of crimes perpetrated by the elderly population are indescribably horrendous, compared to those of the past, and therefore, thorough countermeasures would need to be mapped out.

There has been a growing importance of practical research, such as the research into characteristics of elderly crime, factors inducing elderly crimes, and policies for prevention of elderly crime, etc., from the standpoint of criminology in respect of crimes committed by the elderly population in Korea. Thus, it would be important to analyze the characteristics of elderly crimes committed recently in Korea based on various statistical data and literature related to elderly crimes, and based on that, to identify the causes of skyrocketing elderly crimes and establish countermeasures. With the increase in the relative ratio of elderly crimes and elderly population, it is expected that elderly crimes would be highlighted as a serious social problem when the baby boomers join the ranks of elderly population in the period ahead. Therefore, this study was intended to investigate current status and causes of the elderly crimes in Korea, which actually occurred or were likely to occur in Korea in the period ahead and to seek countermeasures.

Thus, the study can consider the following policy proposals for achieving a society without elderly crimes. First, it would be necessary to promote a shift in the awareness of the public towards elderly crimes. Second, it is necessary to promote and strengthen role-sharing among social welfare organizations. Third, it is necessary to create a pool of professional manpower for prevention of elderly crimes. Efficient countermeasures would need to be taken against elderly crimes by securing professionals specialized in prevention of elderly crimes in order to accommodate the aging and environmental changes. Fourth, elderly crime control system would need to be established by criminal justice organizations. Elderly crimes are accidents that occur in communities and require cooperation with concerned local authorities and organizations.

[Keywords] *Elderly Crime, Aging Society, Economic Poverty, Elder Crime Prevention, Social Alienation*

1. Introduction

The problem of the elderly is an issue that many people do not recognize among social problems caused by aging.

In Korea, the damage caused by elderly crimes has increased every year since 1995.

These elderly crimes are occurring commonly not only in Korea but also in other

countries worldwide. More seriously, elderly crimes are increasing steadily at the same time as violent crimes such as murder, larceny, arson, assault, bodily harm, etc. Amid rapid aging, the elderly may be likely to change from victims to perpetrators.

Most of the elderly crimes were motivated primarily for survival and livelihood previously, but in recent years, the crimes committed by the elderly have increasingly fallen into the category of the major 5 crimes.

The incidence and proportion of elderly crimes have been increasing steadily over time. In addition, some incidents of crimes perpetrated by the elderly population are indescribably horrendous, compared to those of the past, and therefore, thorough countermeasures would need to be mapped out.

Recognizing the seriousness of these problems, OECD member countries, including the United States, have been steadily proceeding with research into elderly crimes since 1980s. By Contrast, only basic reports have been presented in Korea on number of cases involving the elderly crimes, ratio of elderly crimes, etc., while overall problems associated with elderly crimes have been neglected. In other words, there have not been many in-depth studies in Korea which investigated current status of elderly crime and offenses committed by the elderly population[1][2].

Under those circumstances, there has been a growing importance of practical research, such as the research into characteristics of elderly crime, factors inducing elderly crimes, and polices for prevention of elderly crime, etc., from the standpoint of criminology in respect of crimes committed by the elderly population in Korea.

Thus, it would be important to analyze the characteristics of elderly crimes committed recently in Korea based on various statistical data and literature related to elderly crimes, and based on that, to identify the causes of skyrocketing elderly crimes and establish countermeasures.

Therefore, this study was intended to investigate current status and causes of the elderly crimes in Korea, which actually occurred

or were likely to occur in Korea in the period ahead and to seek countermeasures.

2. Theoretical Consideration of Elderly Crimes

2.1. Trends of elderly crimes

The concept of the elderly was defined in various ways, but is generally defined as “persons undergoing degradation of physical activities due to changes in psychological, physiological and socio-environment in the aging process over time”

In the conceptualization of elderly crime, elderly crime was defined as the involvement in criminal activities by the persons at the stage of physical degeneration through complex processes in breach of laws[3].

Regarding the trends of elderly crimes in Korea, the number of elderly offenders aged 65 and older stood at 77,125 which accounted for only 3.3% of total offenders in 2008, but rose to 89,648, comprising 4.6% of total criminals, in 2014.

According to “2015 Crime Analysis”, a data published by the National Police Agency, elderly crimes caused “accidentally” reached 19.4%(10,557 cases) out of 54,373 cases, excluding 40,999 cases with unidentified motives, among 95,372 cases of crimes committed by elderly population in connection with motives of crimes in 2014[4][5].

2.2. Major characteristics of elderly crimes

The characteristics of elderly crimes are classified into physical characteristics, psychological characteristics, financial characteristics, and social characteristics[6]. First, elderly crimes exhibit physical characteristics.

As a result of physical changes, the elderly show weak self-confidence, more fear and hypersensitivity reaction, and furthermore, insensibility to external stimulus, which increases the probability of crimes.

Second, elderly crimes exhibit psychological characteristics. Their brain sensory functions are compromised by mental stress caused by the death of spouse, the death of

friends and acquaintances, poverty, and isolation from family, etc.

Those symptoms are manifested in the form of crime such as alcoholism, etc., or suicide.

Third, elderly crimes exhibit financial characteristics. Most of the elderly stop working due to aging and lose the ability to earn money, which often leads to the loss of income and poverty.

The types of crimes attributable to financial characteristics of the elderly crime are mainly larceny, fraud, embezzlement, malpractice, which fall under the category of crimes for survival and livelihood[7][8].

Fourth, elderly crimes exhibit social characteristics. Elderly people lose their social status and functions, and consequently, experience the vanishing sense of existence towards their roles, and sometimes commit crimes to express social dissatisfaction[9].

3. Analyses on Causes and Current Status of Elderly Crimes

3.1. Lack of job opportunities for the elderly

With the advancement of science, production technology has been improved, and a large part of production has been replaced by automation systems. By contrast, the number of workers required to provide simple labor has decreased.

Although the diversity of jobs has increased as a result, competition has been induced in areas requiring the labor. Elderly people, who have become physically and emotionally depressed, have fallen behind competition and find a decline in the number of jobs available to them.

Furthermore, age limitation at production sites has led to the loss of job roles and activities of the elderly. The problem is that most of the elderly people who has lost the ability to work for survival and livelihood will face serious secondary ramifications such as family breakdown[10].

3.2. Financial poverty of the elderly

Korea has already entered the era of aging society and is expected to emerge as an ultra-aged society in the early 2030s, but financial poverty of the elderly is considerably more serious than that of the elderly in OECD member countries.

The reason behind the poverty of the elderly in Korea, which is more serious in comparison to that of the elderly in other countries, is that the elderly who have been traditionally supported by the family are confronted with a situation in which they live as independent households amid the change in family type.

In other words, the elderly who do not have economic means are more likely to fall into economic poverty. In Korea, the rate of poverty is higher particularly in elderly women than their male counterparts.

The primary reason for financial poverty facing the elderly is that they lost the regular income sources and that their sources of income are replaced with retirement benefits, pensions, savings, and property revenues as a result[11][12].

3.3. Social isolation and loneliness of the elderly

Korea needs to pay special attention to the issues of the elderly amid rapid aging of the society and efforts need to be made to resolve problems facing the elderly population. Such endeavor is for mitigating the social problem that most elderly people feel alienated from the society due to socio-psychological conflict.

The main reason contributing to such social problem is the gap in the value and difference in education level among generations, degraded status of the elderly, transformation of the family form into nuclear family-based family, and consequently, a considerable number of the elderly suffer from loneliness and psychological alienation from their families[13].

The most serious malady arising from social exclusion of the elderly is the increase in the rate of suicide among the elderly.

4. Discussion & Conclusion

With the increase in the relative ratio of elderly crimes and elderly population, it is expected that elderly crimes would be highlighted as a serious social problem when the baby boomers join the ranks of elderly population in the period ahead.

Thus, the study can consider the following policy proposals for achieving a society without elderly crimes.

First, it would be necessary to promote a shift in the awareness of the public towards elderly crimes. In other words, the priority would need to be given to raising up elderly crime as a social issue, increasing the awareness of the public towards the seriousness of elderly crimes, and resolving and coping with elderly crimes based on common interest.

For a uniform awareness towards in mapping up policies to tackle elderly crimes, concerned organizations, academic circles and researchers should work closely together and take a unified stand against elderly crimes.

In addition, measures should be devised to raise attention of the public towards elderly crimes and resolve them practically.

Second, it is necessary to promote and strengthen role-sharing among social welfare organizations. For prevention of crime and recidivism, it would be important to secure background information on elderly ground and check criminal history and subsequently provide counseling and treatment to elderly offenders through social workers or criminal counselors affiliated with private-sector organizations.

Third, it is necessary to create a pool of professional manpower for prevention of elderly crimes. Efficient countermeasures would need to be taken against elderly crimes by securing professionals specialized in prevention of elderly crimes in order to accommodate the aging and environmental changes. In other words, it is urgent to develop educational institutions and programs to train 'elderly crime prevention experts'.

Fourth, elderly crime control system would need to be established by criminal justice organizations. Elderly crimes are accidents that occur in communities and require cooperation with concerned local authorities and organizations. In other words, it is necessary to build a council-type elderly crime control system in order to ensure that comprehensive countermeasures can be established by social institutions, such as social welfare organizations, educational institutions, enterprises, NGOs, police and prosecutors, etc., against elderly crimes as well as governmental organizations.

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Publication state: Japan
ISSN: 2423-8783

Publisher: J-INSTITUTE
Website: <http://www.j-institute.jp>

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.22471/criminal.2017.2.1.16>

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Cases of CPTED Application in KOREA & Expected Effect

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Abstract

CPTED(Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) theory was first introduced in Korea in late 1980s, and research began in full scale from late 1990s. Moreover, academic circles have vigorously pressed ahead with research into the preconditions for CPTED application, supportive organization activities, physical environment design factors, analysis of citizens' awareness based on pilot projects, etc. While various researches have been conducted in Korea, ranging from consideration of traditional theories to actual applications, criticisms have been raised about passive implementation of projects focusing on conceptual elements of CPTED.

This study was intended to introduce the cases of CPTED applications in Korea and to examine the anticipated effects of crime prevention based on results of such CPTED applications. Additionally, the results would provide theoretical basic data for constructive alternative for CPTED application projects, along with discussion on future direction of CPTED application projects. Additionally, the results would provide theoretical basic data for constructive alternative for CPTED application projects, along with discussion on future direction of CPTED application projects.

In practical application of CPTED strategy, surveillance network should be put into place which serves as invisible psychological barrier blocking criminals, as well as physical environment creation such as natural surveillance, access control, and boundary reinforcement. Collaborative network with security organizations can be built, buttressed by the attention and support of residents. Constant efforts to create bright image of streets bustling with residents and maintain a pleasant environment will eventually lead to crime reduction. Active participation and attention of local residents is of utmost importance for placing a lot of pressure on criminals conscious of around-the-clock surveillance on them by local residents and reinforcing the boundaries unnatural and difficult to access for criminals.

The image of safe village, which is embedded in the minds of the public, has been benchmarked as a best practice in the neighboring area. CPTED is highlighted in the process of improving the quality of life. Thus, future CPTED application projects should serve as pivot for vitalization of local community and induce active participation of local residents. For the purpose, a process should be established to heed the opinions of residents from the stage of project planning and allow residents to take initiatives spontaneously.

[Keywords] *CPTED, Situational Crime Prevention Theory, Citizen Participation, Urban Environment Improvement, Crime Monitoring*

1. Introduction

CPTED(Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) theory was first introduced in

Korea in late 1980s, and research began in full scale from late 1990s.

Specifically, CPTED has been applied to new city development, apartment building

design, and old-age city housing refurbishment project, etc., and has been actively pushed forward by local governments since the CPTED action plan was implemented first by the National Police Agency in 2005[1].

Moreover, academic circles have vigorously pressed ahead with research into the preconditions for CPTED application, supportive organization activities, physical environment design factors, analysis of citizens' awareness based on pilot projects, etc.

While various researches have been conducted in Korea, ranging from consideration of traditional theories to actual applications, criticisms have been raised about passive implementation of projects focusing on conceptual elements of CPTED.

This study was intended to introduce the cases of CPTED applications in Korea and to examine the anticipated effects of crime prevention based on results of such CPTED applications.

Additionally, the results would provide theoretical basic data for constructive alternative for CPTED application projects, along with discussion on future direction of CPTED application projects.

2. Theoretical Consideration of CPTED

2.1. Concept of CPTED

CPTED refers to crime prevention strategies structured artificially to minimize the chance of success in crime for potential criminals so as to ensure that good citizens can feel secure in their environment[2].

In particular, access control and rigorous monitoring are the main principles of CPTED, creating an environment that doubles the effort required for crime, which is consistent with the situational crime prevention theory that emphasizes crime prevention through reduction of crime opportunities.

CPTED reduces the chance of crime through defensive design in architectural designing and urban planning, etc., thus creating an urban environment which allows urbanites to feel less fear of crime and maintain

their sense of security, which will eventually help improve the quality of life[3].

2.2. Strategies & application of CPTED

The main principles behind CPTED are monitoring, access control, and community reinforcement. Based on this principle, CPTED consists of five components such as natural surveillance, natural access control, territoriality reinforcement, activity reinforcement, maintenance and management. Each element has, in principle, overlapping and inter-complementary relationship, rather than being independently planned or utilized[4].

CPTED focuses on spatial arrangement that maximize visibility to ensure natural surveillance and difficulty with access to facilities, natural access control that increases the risk of exposure for potential criminal behaviors, and physical environment design that reinforces boundaries through specific demarcation. By increasing the activities of local resident and improving the image through maintenance of facilities, CPTED maximizes the sense of security for the public and creates an environment unnatural to criminals.

Simply improving the physical aspects of cities cannot make the society safer. The CPTED strategy can be maximized by strengthening social cohesion through voluntary community problem-solving activities of local residents and by creating community culture that promotes cultural activities of local residents[5].

For instance, Seoul Metropolitan Government designated and operated the daily sharing projects, such as volunteer camp construction, joint day care center, apartment resident school, and shared launderette, etc., through projects involving participation of local residents from 2011 to 2013[6].

3. Cases of CPTED Application in Korea

3.1. CPTED project of Seoul metropolitan government

'Salt Road' in Yeomri-dong, Mapo-gu is the most typical of the 'Crime Prevention Design

Project' led by Seoul Metropolitan Government. Yeomri-dong, Mapo-gu was designated by the Police Agency as Citizen Protection Police Reinforcement Zone to cope with accelerated pace of slumming and increased risk of crimes which resulted from suspension of residential environment improvement project in this area. As a result, this 'Salt Road' was selected for Crime Prevention Design Project of Seoul Metropolitan Government in 2012 and pushed forward until 2013[7].

The main purpose of this project are improvement of nighttime lighting in alleyways, prevention of illegal dumping of garbage to create a pleasant environment, operation of safety guard houses and emergency bell management in cooperation with local residents, diurnal and nocturnal opening of residents' rest area that villagers can share.

A village brand called 'Salt Road' stretching about 1.7km was established which can stimulate the space by allowing the residents to exercise and take a walk around the space where residents feel anxious.

In addition, there were various exercise facilities and exercise guide signs, guidance signs installed along with CCTV, 69 safety streetlamps with LED number indicators for safety guidance and crime prevention, security guard houses(safe houses) for emergency call, and painting of the walls with residents[8].

Particularly, yellow cord with high visibility was assigned to various spaces and facilities that need emphasis through differentiation from other facilities, and designs adopting the motives of the 'Salt Road' were developed and applied.

In addition, spare space was used to allow residents to exercise and take a rest along the 'Salt Road' in order to facilitate the natural surveillance by residents.

'Salt Naru', formed at the entrance to the 'Salt Road', was being used as a local community space, serving as the center of residents' community, so that residents can maintain and improve their own environment on their own.

Salt Naru, featuring the book cafes, courier parcel storage, makeshift rest area, autonomous anti-crime checkpoint, etc., is being used as a space for opening and friendship, conducive to promoting the exchange among residents[9].

3.2. CPTED projects led by Busan metropolitan government

In Busan, Busan Metropolitan Government, Busan District Prosecutors' Office, and Busan Regional Police Agency have proceeded with "prevention safe village project", "CPTED project", and "CPTED happy village project", respectively, since 2013.

Among the sites targeted for the projects, the Himangdidimdol(Hope Stepping Stone) village in Deokpo-dong is the area where the kidnapping, sexual assault, and murder of female middle school students occurred in 2010 and is dotted with detached houses of low-income families and deserted houses in the vicinity of an industrial complex. At that time, this dark-lit village with many meandering alleyways was prone to violent crimes.

Crime prevention education and 'law and order' campaigns were planned but not implemented while only physical environment improvement strategies were carried out such as improvement of natural surveillance through installation of streetlights, security light with CCTVs, emergency bell, deserted house signage and shutdown, access control with special anti-crime police checkpoints, wall paintings, guide signs, reinforcement of boundaries through pavement of roads and stairs, etc[10].

The CPTED application project led by Busan Metropolitan Government was centered around natural surveillance and access control, which could affect the satisfaction of the residents. However, local community space conducive to voluntary participation of residents has not been secured sufficiently and interactive cultural events that aim to create resident community culture have remained insufficient.

3.3. Expected effects & improvement plan

According to the press release(April 2014) published by Seoul Metropolitan Government, the survey of awareness of residents, which was conducted after completion of pilot projects, showed that residents' fear of crime decreased by 9.1% and their attachment to the neighborhood increased by 13.8%.

In particular, the extent of awareness towards the crime prevention effect of 'Salt Road' reached 78.6% while the extent of satisfaction was as high as 83.3%[11].

According to the study by Lee Kwang-Guk (2016) who conducted a survey on the satisfaction of residents in the site for "Safe Busan Village" pilot project, Decrepit detached house complexes would require active projects, such as installation of CCTVs, streetlights, community rest area, window boundary devices, wall structures for crime prevention, reflectors, etc., which corresponded to surveillance and access control in connection with the principles of CPTED configuration, rather than passive projects such as guide signage installed within the scope of budget, painting-centric environment improvement like stair cleanup, etc[12].

Future CPTED projects tailored to physical, psychological, and environmental characteristics of the community should be developed and applied and should be carried out with constant attention and support from public and private-sectors to ensure spontaneous participation of residents.

4. Discussion & Conclusion

The image of safe village, which is embedded in the minds of the public, has been benchmarked as a best practice in the neighboring area. CPTED is highlighted in the process of improving the quality of life.

In practical application of CPTED strategy, surveillance network should be put into place which serves as invisible psychological barrier blocking criminals, as well as physical environment creation such as natural surveillance, access control, and boundary reinforcement.

Collaborative network with security organizations can be built, buttressed by the attention and support of residents.

Constant efforts to create bright image of streets bustling with residents and maintain a pleasant environment will eventually lead to crime reduction. Active participation and attention of local residents is of utmost importance for placing a lot of pressure on criminals conscious of around-the-clock surveillance on them by local residents and reinforcing the boundaries unnatural and difficult to access for criminals.

Thus, future CPTED application projects should serve as pivot for vitalization of local community and induce active participation of local residents.

For the purpose, a process should be established to heed the opinions of residents from the stage of project planning and allow residents to take initiatives spontaneously.

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Publication state: Japan
ISSN: 2423-8783

Publisher: J-INSTITUTE
Website: <http://www.j-institute.jp>

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.22471/criminal.2017.2.1.21>

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The Effects of Socioeconomic Factors on Violent and Property CRIMES

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Abstract

Due to poor socioeconomic conditions such as declining wages and high unemployment rates, unskilled young people may be drawn to the commission of crime. Several recent studies have found that worsening economic conditions cause social disorder and crime. The purpose of this study is to assess whether various socioeconomic indicators have a positive impact on both violent and property crime rates at the county level within the state of Texas in the United States. The present study hypothesizes that: 1)violent and property crime rates are higher in counties with high levels of poverty; 2)violent and property crime rates are higher in counties with high levels of unemployment; 3)violent and property crime rates are higher in counties with low levels of median household income; 4)violent and property crime rates are higher in counties with low levels of educational attainment.

The data used in the analysis was collected from the Uniform Crime Report(UCR) and the United States Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Service(USDA) for the year 2015. Within the present study, the total enumeration of counties(254) located in the state of Texas(United States) was designated as the units of analysis. This study measures two dependent variables: violent crime rates and property crime rates. Four unique independent variables were chosen for the analysis based off findings in the current body of literature: (a)poverty, (b)unemployment, (c)median household income, and (d)educational attainment. An Ordinary Least Squares(OLS) regression model is employed to empirically investigate the relationships between socioeconomic indicators and crime rates. In addition, Geographic Information Systems(GIS) were employed to demonstrate the link between unemployment, violent crime, and property crime.

The findings of the current study reveal that (1)violent crime rates are on average higher in counties with high levels of unemployment; (2)property crime rates are higher on average in counties with higher levels of unemployment. To clarify, a 1 Standard Deviation(SD) unit increase in unemployment predicts a 6% increase in the expected count of violent crime($p < .001$). Also, a 1 SD unit increase in unemployment predicts a 29% increase in the expected count of property crime($p < .001$). Unemployment is the only significant independent variable and can thus be viewed as a possible source of criminality within the counties in Texas. One method of reducing unemployment and ultimately reducing crime is by implementing a community development model. This will lead to the creation of a "community network" that draws local resources, services, and facilities together for the creation of more jobs. The contributions, limitations and suggestions for the future study were discussed in conclusion.

[Keywords] *Socioeconomic Conditions, Violent Crime, Property Crime, Ordinal Least Squares Regression, Community Development Model*

1. Introduction

Due to poor socioeconomic conditions(e.g. declining wages and high unemployment

rates), unskilled young people may be drawn to the commission of crime[1].

Several studies found that worsening economic conditions cause social disorder and crime[2][3]. Rosenfeld and Levin(2016) represented the most plausible research on the correlation between acquisitive crime and inflation[2]. They examined how macroeconomic conditions(i.e., inflation, unemployment, income, economic growth, and consumer sentiment) impacts financial crime rates covering the period from 1960 to 2012 on the national level[2]. The study concluded that inflation factors affect crime rates on a both short and long-term basis. Similarly, Seals and Nunley(2007) found that the exogenous macroeconomic variable(inflation) is statistically significant, positive, and consistent for all property crime rates in the United States from 1959 to 2005 on the national level[4]. Also, Arvanites and Defina (2006) have conducted research on the relationship between state-level gross domestic product(GDP) per capita and property crime rates[5]. In the study, they confirmed that GDP per capita is significantly associated with increasing crime rates in the United States[5]. The present study investigates the relationship between socioeconomic indicators(i.e., poverty, unemployment, median household income, and educational attainment) and the occurrences of violent and property crime. Indeed, scholars have increasingly taken advantage of the focus on socioeconomic factors affect to develop and test crime theory[2][3][5][6][7]. Yet little attention has been given to empirically examining the affect of socioeconomic factors on violent and property crime at the country level. Drawing on prior research, we developed and tested a series of hypotheses about the affect of socioeconomic factors on violent and property crime rate. Accordingly, the current study focuses on assessing the relationship on socioeconomic factors affect the likelihood of both violent and property crimes among the 248 counties analyzed in the state of Texas. In addressing these gaps in the literature, the following hypotheses highlight the main goals of the analysis:

Hypothesis 1: Poverty factor have a positive impact on violence and property crime. (violent and property crime occurrences are higher in counties with high levels of poverty)

Hypothesis 2: Unemployment factor have a positive impact on violence and property crime. (violent and property crime occurrences are higher in counties with high levels of unemployment)

Hypothesis 3: Median household income factor have a negative impact on violence and property crime. (violent and property crime occurrences are higher in counties with lower levels of median household income)

Hypothesis 4: Educational attainment factor have a negative impact on violence and property crime. (violent and property crime occurrences are higher in counties with lower levels of educational attainment)

2. Methods

This section presents the specific research methods implemented to assess the relationship between socioeconomic indicators and crime rates via the use of multiple data sets. The specific procedures, measures, and the method of data analysis are presented below.

2.1. Data

The data on violent and property crime was collected from the Uniform Crime Report(UCR) for the year 2015. UCR data has been available for law enforcement, students, and researchers since the early 1930s. It is a summary-based report in which crime information is stratified to aggregate units(e.g., states or counties). The data is provided by law enforcement agencies who voluntarily participate in the UCR program[8]. In total, 248 counties in the state of Texas are used as the units of analysis in the present study(6 counties are left out due to the unavailability of data). Texas was chosen for analysis because it is the second most populated state and has a high concentration of crime in the United States. Additionally, data was collected from the United States Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Ser-

vice(USDA) on poverty, unemployment, median household income, and educational attainment for the year 2015.

2.2. Measures

This study measures two dependent variables: violent crime occurrences and property crime occurrences. Four unique independent variables were chosen for the analysis based off findings in the current body of literature: (a)poverty, (b)unemployment, (c)median household income, and (d)educational attainment.

2.3. Analytic strategy

Descriptive analyses were performed on all variables to describe the sample characteristics and responses to the candidate variables. Multiple regression analyses were employed to predict the net impacts of the set of predictors(i.e., poverty, unemployment, median household income, and educational attainment – less than high school diploma) on the variables of violent and property crime. Ordinary Least Squares(OLS) regression was used for the analysis since the set of predictors had linear relationships with the dependent variables.

To examine the links between socio-economic variables and violent and property crime, a multi-variate analysis was conducted. Specifically, the current study diagnoses the correlations between poverty, unemployment, median household income, and educational attainment. The OLS model considered in this study has the following form[9]:

$$y_i = \alpha + \beta x_i + \epsilon_i.$$

In addition, Geographic Information Systems(GIS) were employed to demonstrate the link between unemployment, violent crime, and property crime.

3. Results

The relatively high R2 value of .65, indicates that the variables included in the model account for a large amount of variation in the dependent variable: violent crime. It shows that 65% of the variation in violent crime comes from the socioeconomic factors. Likewise, the relatively high R2 values of .67 shows that the variables included in the second model account for a large amount of variation in the dependent variable: property crime. It demonstrates that 67% of the variation in property crime comes from the socioeconomic variables. To investigate the detrimental presence of multicollinearity, Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor(VIF) tests were conducted. The findings of this study reveal that all the independent variables in both models have Tolerance levels above .20, and the VIF scores for all the independent variables are less than 10. Therefore, multicollinearity is not problematic in the two OLS regression models.

<Table 1> and <Table 2> indicate that there are relationships between socioeconomic factors, violent crime, and property crime. First, unemployment is positively associated with both violent crime and property crime. A 1 Standard Deviation(SD) unit increase in unemployment predicts a 6% increase in the expected count of violent crime($p < .001$). Also, a 1 SD unit increase in unemployment predicts 29% increase in the expected count of property crime($p < .001$). Second, poverty is not a significant predictor of either violent or property crime. Third, median household income is not associated with either violent or property crime. Last, educational attainment is not a significant predictor of either violent or property crime.

Table 1. Ordinary least squares regression model for violent crime.

Model	Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity statistics		
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF	
1	(Constant)	353.427	334.278		1.057	.291		
	Poverty	-6.687	6.273	-.088	-1.066	.287	.216	4.628
	Unemployment	.056***	.003	.817	20.619	.000	.928	1.078
	Median household income	-3.115	2.286	-.107	-1.363	.174	.236	4.230
	Less than a high school diploma	1.861	3.374	.025	.552	.582	.709	1.410

Note: *p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001

Table 2. Ordinary least squares regression model for property crime.

Model	Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity statistics		
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF	
1	(Constant)	1645.832	1609.121		1.023	.307		
	Poverty	-30.647	30.198	-.080	-1.015	.311	.216	4.628
	Unemployment	.287***	.013	.833	21.921	.000	.928	1.078
	Median household income	-13.834	11.002	-.095	-1.257	.210	.236	4.230
	Less than a high school diploma	7.007	16.243	.019	.431	.667	.709	1.410

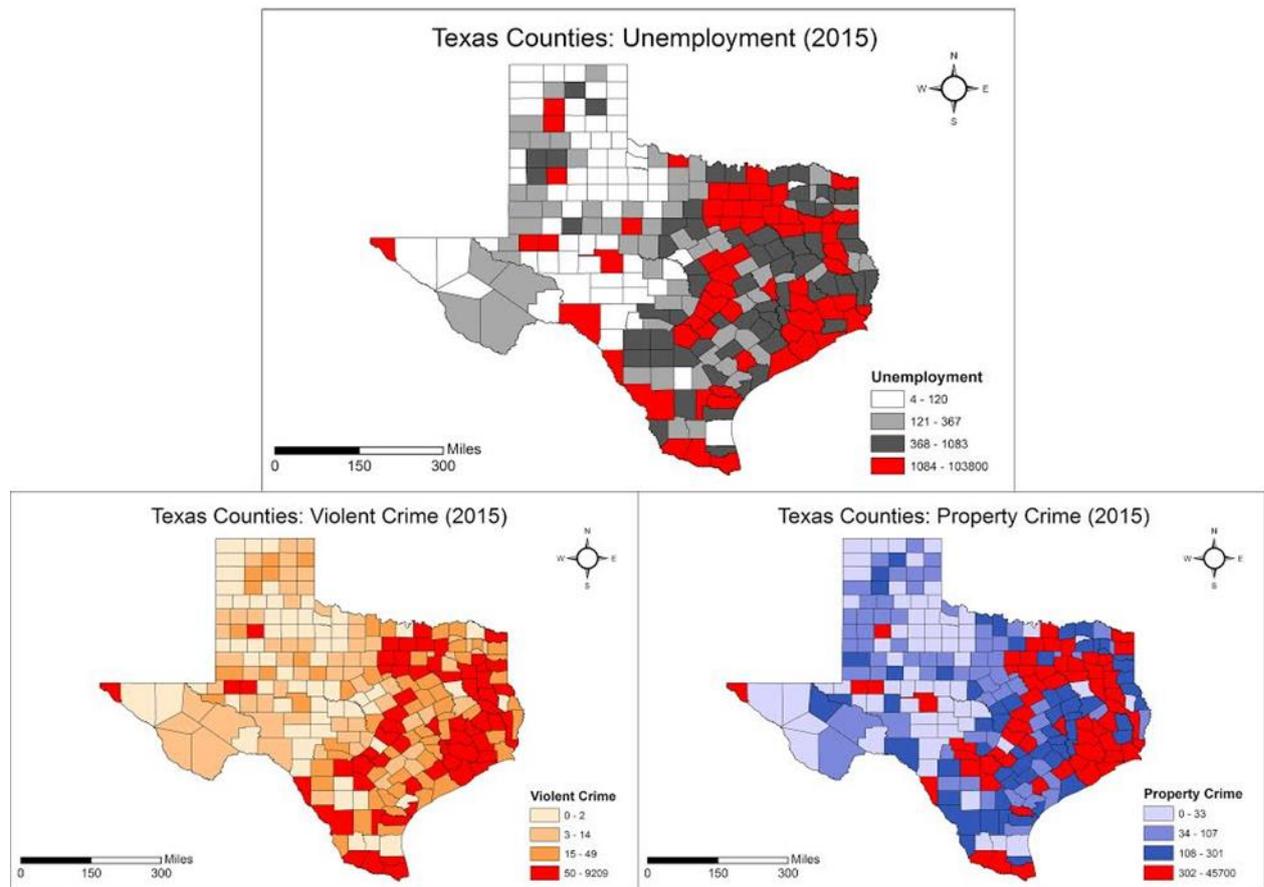
Note: *p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001

A geospatial analysis was conducted to illuminate exactly where unemployment, property crime, and violent crime exist in space. The counties with the top five highest counts of unemployment are Harris(103,800), Dallas(54,348), Tarrant(41,251), Bexar(33,500), and Hidalgo(26,299). The counties with the top five highest counts of violent crimes are Harris(9,209), Fort Bend(830), Montgomery (821), Hidalgo(684), and Travis(613). The counties with the top five highest counts of property crimes are Harris(45,700), Bexar(6177), Montgomery(5655), Hidalgo(4519), and Fort Bend(4233). Harris County accounts for the most sums among all three comparative

variables. In addition, Hidalgo County is present among all three variables.

According to the maps in <Figure 1>, it is clear to see that the counts of unemployment(the one significant variable in the regression model) are concentrated in the eastern sectors of Texas. The two dependent variables in the analysis(property and violent crime) are also located in the same eastern segment. The “hotspots” of all three comparative variables are highlighted in red on the maps in <Figure 1>. The results found in the geospatial analysis supports the findings of the OLS regression analysis, which examine the links between unemployment, violent crime, and property crime.

Figure 1. The spatial links between unemployment, violent crime, and property crime.



4. Discussion and Conclusion

The current study seeks to explore how socioeconomic factors affect the likelihood of both violent and property crimes among the 248 counties analyzed in the state of Texas. This study hypothesized that violent and property crime rates would be higher in counties with higher levels of poverty, unemployment, low levels of median household income, and low levels of educational attainment. In the current body of literature, forms of economic deprivation such as poverty and low median household income are correlated with violent crime[6][10]. Unlike these previous studies, unemployment was found to be strongly affect on both violent crime and property crime. Contrary to preconceived expectations, poverty was not a significant predictor of either violent or property crime. Finally, the occurrence of both violent and

property crime were not influenced by median household income or educational attainment. Therefore, counties with high levels of unemployment are more likely to face both violent and property crimes.

These findings dictate that policy/reform efforts should focus on increasing employment opportunities. Unemployment is the only significant independent variable and can thus be viewed as a possible source for criminality within the counties in Texas. Theoretically, if the source is effectively combatted, then a reduction should be seen in crime rates/occurrences. One method of accomplishing this goal is by implementing a community development model. This will lead to the creation of a “community network” that draws on local resources, services, and facilities for the creation of more jobs[7].

According to a study conducted by Greenstone and Looney(2011), what all effective development programs have in common is that they match people to jobs that they are suited for[11][12]. Therefore, a specific tailored approach must be taken within each county to enhance the job market. Coordinating businesses, non-profit organizations, and public service departments can do this. This approach will drastically reduce the monetary costs associated with big “one-size-fits-all” tactics. If a community comes together to create jobs and reduce unemployment, they will also actively reduce crime rates.

There are two main limitations present in the current study. First, the conclusions drawn in the analysis were based on cross-sectional data gathered at one point in time. Thus, any conclusions drawn will be significant to the year 2015. Second, six counties were left out of the analysis due to the unavailability of data for their specific geographic locations(Anderson, Coleman, Concho, Foard, Hays, and San Augustine). Future research should use longitudinal data to attain a more in-depth understanding of the relationship between socioeconomic factors and crime. In conclusion, the findings presented here support a key principle for studying the causes of crime: unemployed individuals are more likely to be involved in the commission of violent and property crimes.

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