CHAPTER 4: Crime, Place and Space

Abstract

The chapter seeks to explore and discuss crime, place and space. The background of the argument emanates from the observation that crime is a result of socio-economic reasons. These include unemployment, poverty, social disparities, human weaknesses, lack of love and poor parenting. Crime has become an integral part of human society. Therefore, many strategies and efforts were placed towards the prevention of crime in human society. Efforts, such as increasing surveillance tools, such as CCTV, alarms and security response systems, police patrols and awareness campaigns on how to prevent crime were employed. Indeed, missing in the literature is the analysis that space and place also influence rates of crime within the society in which people live. For the methodology, the study engages the existing literature. Results indicate that crime is shaped by the external factors of the individual. The built environment also influences the rates of crime within the communities in which people live in.

INTRODUCTION

Crime has been an integral part of human society and many efforts were put in place towards the reduction of high crime rates, however, a gap remains. This is because of little attention that has been afforded in explaining and exploring the relationship between crime, space and the domicile of the people.. As a result, the strategies of crime prevention become feeble. In a way of giving well-balanced efforts towards crime prevention approaches in the cities, the concept of space and place should also be well-thought-out. The analysis that has been ignored is that the places and surroundings in which people are born, bred and live also influence positively and negatively the crime rates within societies. The causes of crime in the same country differ due to various reasons such as socio-economic and political structures. Some of the causes of crime within societies include poverty, unemployment, lack of proper education, the ineffective legal system, social disparities, alcohol and drugs, lack of love, human weakness and little public protection, security and poor parenting skills.

Crime has caused civil unrest in the communities and cities have become non-liveable places as the vice has become the order of the

day. The government and the legal sectors have made efforts toward crime prevention. These efforts include awareness safety campaigns, twenty-four-hour police patrol, neighbourhood watch, use of surveillance measures such as CCTV, alarms and security response systems. In all the efforts that were done, little was done to consider how place and space can affect crime. Crime is a concept that exists along with the creation of mankind. It is known as an act or omission of an act that causes harm to society as a whole and also causes disturbances and panic to societies. Such an act is punishable by criminal laws (Gregory, 2016). A place is a very small area, usually a street corner, address, building, or street segment. The place is a location with meaning, has a physical landscape such as buildings, parks, memorials, and infrastructures of transport and communications.

A place is also known as a particular constellation of material things that occupy a particular segment of space and have sets of meanings attached to them (Hägerstrand, 2016)). There is a deep association with place and consciousness of the places where we were born and grew up, where we live, or where we had particularly moving experiences. These experiences determine the rate of crime in society. Space is everything we can experience in daily life, sky, earth, water and land hamlet and city, street and square, a building itself from outside and inside (Brenner, 2017). Space also has some sense of influence on how people behave. Different places call for different behaviours of people, hence certain behaviours cause harm to society. There are certain elements within the society in which their absence, presence or the way they are designed encourages the occurrence of crime.

The chapter seeks to explore and discuss crime, place and space. Different sources were used to acquire data from the studies that were done in the past on crime. The data in this chapter was derivative of the secondary sources and it is desktop research. Many measures are to be set to combine or unleash how the domicile and space can be stimuli to crime. It is imperative to link the strategies of crime prevention and the spatial aspects. More must be done to understand how space and place can influence crime. The spatial planning itself, if well unified with the crime prevention methods, leads to peace within cities. It is important to engage the aspect of place and safer environs and space, along with the legal system, for it to be effective. This will create crime-free cities globally. In a bid to create crime-free societies,

it is imperative to assimilate the legal system into the spatial planning atmosphere. In light of this knowledge, the place and space will contribute to crime prevention in the cities through designing environments that are not conducive to crime.

The place and space can enhance crime prevention. The spaces and infrastructure within the cities should provide more security to the inhabitants. This is through the creation of roads and streets that are accessible and transparent. Facilities like public parks should provide some sense of security to the users, to avoid theft and rape. Streets should be well-lit to avoid pedestrians walking in the dark. This will reduce the crime rate committed during the night. The community should also be engaged to participate in crime prevention programmes. Buildings should discourage crime occurrence in terms of human comfort. Formalising the informal settlement can also reduce crime. Road infrastructure should also be improved to enable access to the vehicles, especially the police patrol vehicles. The streets should contain the street features, like bus shelter and benches to avoid unnecessary loitering.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The world over, crime is one of the challenges that deter development and scares away tourists, hence crippling economies. Crime is a highly complex phenomenon that changes across cultures and time. Activities that are legal in one country, for instance, alcohol consumption in the United Kingdom, are sometimes illegal in other countries (Newton & Felson 2016). Globally, the world faced a high crime rate of sexual abuse of children under the age of 14 years in 2017. In 2005, one of the UK's largest shopping malls, Bluewater in Kent, banned customers wearing hoodies and baseball caps as part of a general clampdown on intimidating behaviour, swearing and shoplifting. In Eastern Europe, murder rates in 2015 were about one third what they had been in 2003 (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2019). Violence is often blamed on deep social causes, but such causes do not change overnight.

In the United States of America, crime is believed to be a result of the occurrence of a gap between the cultural goals of society, for instance, material wealth, status and the structural means to achieve these such as education and employment (UN, 2017). This strain between means and goals results in frustration and resentment and encourages some

people to use illegitimate or illegal means to secure success. This places pressure on the individual to commit a crime. Property crime is much more common than violence. In 2019, the FBI recorded a total of 2 109, nine property crimes per 100 000 people, compared with 379, four violent crimes per 100 000 people. The crime records indicate that there has been a decline in the United States of America violent and property crimes since 1990. As observed by the FBI data, the violent crime rate fell 49%from 1993 to 2019 with large decreases in the rates of robbery (-68%) and aggravated assault (-47%) (Gramlich 2020).

In 2017, Asia experienced murder crimes that have 104 000 victims representing a rate of 2,%of the global population. Asia, with 60%of the global population, accounted for 23%of total homicide victims (UNODC, 2019). The development of market institutions in China highlights how changing cultural values generated new economic motivations for crime in this particular context. The weakening of traditional social institutions, including family, also contributed to the crime. This caused crime to increase as there was a lack of love and parental guidance within Chinese society. The societies ended up being the place where criminals are bred. This caused social instability within the cities of China. The concentration of too many people within a small space has raised the rates of crime in Shanghai and Hong Kong, where areas of the city may have up to 30 or more high-rise buildings, some with over 100 floors (Herrmann and Felson, 2015). India records the highest crime rates in urban areas as compared to rural areas. Murder cases are the most commonly committed crimes in the urban areas of India. The rates of crimes committed changes from place to place.

Crime in Chicago in the USA differs from drugs, robbery to burglary and vehicle crime. In New York, during school days, robbery crimes are at their peak and decline during non-school days. Daytime robberies in New York clusters are high in places close to schools and subway stations, while night robberies concentrate near bars. The Afghanistan Human Rights Report (2019) argues that most commonly recorded in the cities of Afghanistan are crimes of sexual abuse of children and violent abuse of women. This is caused mostly by drug abuse, unemployment and early marriages. As a result, peace within the cities has been disturbed.

In response to the high rate of murder cases, the Ministry of Justice in Brazil, presented PRONASCI, Brazil's National Programme for Public Security with Citizenship. The programme was initiated in 2007 with the overall aim of reducing the high rate of homicide in Brazil. The programme involves structural investment to improve the criminal justice and correctional system, increase access to justice and strengthen the capacities of the police and other professionals (Jonah and Mansor, 2017). It also introduced a series of targeted funding programmes at the local level that support interventions to strengthen families and reduce community conflict and youth violence.

In the developing world, researchers noted that increases were a natural result of modernisation. It is argued that nations become more affluent but at a cost. Inequality and social dislocation increased owing to inadequate job creation, particularly in rural areas, resulting in rapid rural to urban migration and a reduction in the perceived legitimacy of social institutions. This was commonly witnessed in Uganda (Blaustein *et al.,* 2018). The inadequacy of social facilities in the cities of Uganda causes more frustration to the people, hence they opted for illegal changes showing how crime evolves within the places at an increasing rate. Though strategies were placed to control the increasing crime rate, the measures were outpaced. The crime rates continued to evolve as property rights increased, increasing official crime rates as people turned to theft and other property offences as a way of contending with anomie and a lack of legitimate opportunity in urban areas lacking informal social control. Uganda was experiencing a period of rapid economic growth that was accompanied by a near threefold increase in crime rates. The United Nations (2019) argues that in West Africa drug trafficking is the most committed crime. Between 2005 and 2007, a series of more than 20 major seizures were made in the West African region, involving thousands of kilograms of cocaine.

Crime in South Africa remains a serious challenge and there is a general feeling in the country that the situation is worsening. Though attempts have been made to reduce crime through the implementation of mechanisms that respond specifically to particular contextual problems and involve, to some extent, a local interpretation of international experiences. crime is indeed a matter that is constantly on the minds of most South Africans. A recent survey indicated that almost 40%of the population know someone who has been a victim of

crime over the past six months. It has been suggested that the high crime levels could be related to the transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. South Africa faces serious challenges because of the high levels of poverty and extreme inequalities and disparities in income, wealth and opportunity in the country. It is estimated that 57% of the South African population lives in poverty. The transition to a democratic, elected, non-racial government that was set in motion in early 1990, stirred a debate on the course of economic policies to accomplish sustained economic growth, while remedying the poverty and other socio-economic discrepancies generated by the apartheid government. Carrington (2017) argues that these include inequality and unemployment, particularly among black South Africans. corruption, rash in conflict and the most horrible – high rate of crime. Statistics show that recorded levels of all crimes increased absolutely for the period 1990 to 1994. Most crimes increased phenomenally during this period: assault increased by 18%; rape by 42%; robbery by 40%; vehicle theft by 34% and burglary by 20%.

In Zambia, the ineffective legal system has contributed to high crime rates. This is because of the police response to the cases reported by the complainants (Currie 2015). Police officers lack funding to enable them to make to respond to people's reported concerns. Zambia has tried to place many efforts such as awareness campaigns and police patrols to deter crimes, but it is still increasing. Police within the country were also engaged in primary approaches to prevent crime that involves the reduction of opportunities for crime and also strengthening community and social structures. The Zambian police are being affected by corruption within the country, long delays in the decision-making system and sometimes slack of the investigations, rich and powerful convicts being bailed out. This easy-to-get-away-with-it feeling encourages more crime.

In Zimbabwe, crime increased by 10-20% across most sectors in the past few years (2010-2020). Causes of the high crime rates are due mainly to a crippled economy. Economic challenges in the country have caused many citizens to indulge in illegal activities to earn a living. The Chivhu District experienced high crime rates of unlawful entry from 2016 to 2017. The district records an average of 58 cases of burglary out of an average monthly crime rate of 378 cases. As observed by statistics maintained at the Operations Office at Chivhu District Headquarters (DHQ), the district had a total of 21% detection

rate of Unlawful Entry cases received during the year 2015 and a total of 20% in 2016. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) National Inspectorate Team report on Chivhu for the year 2016 and 2017 respectively reveals that the district is not performing as per national standards of 25% that is the benchmark ZRP (Featherstone Station Service Plan Document, 2018).

Chivhu has been managing crime in the Mashonaland Province but the situation suddenly changed because of the high rate of corruption and lack of financial support (Dlamini, 2017). In Masvingo, where people are steeped in poverty most are unemployed, and it is getting even harder for people to find jobs. With no jobs and no means to earn a living, they resort to illegal alternatives. Poverty is true evil for society as it provides rise to not one but a large number of problems.

In Harare, there is a high unemployment rate that has caused many to indulge in street money changing. The country is relying mostly on an electronic currency called the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS). Most of the citizens are chasing after the United States dollar for external markets. This becomes the motivation for crime. The ZRP Featherstone Station Service Plan Document (2018) argues that the country is facing an increasing rate of informality, hence more informal activities are prone to occur. For instance, in Hopely, Harare, there have been high rates of robbery as people try to earn a living. Many crimes are committed mostly when people are under the influence of drugs.

The ZRP) lack proper funding and training. Officers find it difficult to respond to a call for mobile assistance (Zimbabwe, 2020; OSAC Crime and Safety Report 2020). Often, a complainant must go to the nearest police station and pick up an officer to assist. Another possible reason for crime in Zimbabwe is lack of proper education. This is so because people without education fall into the criminal trap easily. Lack of education leads a person to choose the wrong path for earning money easily. Many efforts have been made towards crime prevention by the governments, but they have been failing to reduce crimes although sometimes they succeed but not for long, As a result, it is imperative to understand how place and space influences crime.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Crime investigation has many facets that evolve around it. The attention of this study is centred on how place and space can influence crime within societies. It is possible to reduce the rate of criminal activities occurrence by changing the surroundings.

CRIME

Many countries have used common law and defined crime as a highly complex phenomenon that changes across cultures and across time place and space. Crime happens in places where offenders and victims live and spend time (Cornish and Clarke, 2016). It is known as an act or omission of an act that causes harm to society as a whole and also causes disturbances and panic in societies. Crime is triggered by different factors, including the environment in which people live. The idea of crime alludes that it evolves from place to place and from time to time. Crime rates depend on the structures and features of the surrounding in which the crime is taking place.

PLACE

It is referred to as a meaningful site that combines location, locale and sense of place. Places are often recognised in terms of their material structures that come to stand for a place (Dlamini, 2017). Places are continuously enacted as people go about their everyday lives – going to work, shopping, spending leisure time and hanging out on street corners (Creswell, 2016). The notion of place alludes that people perform best when they are at a place they belong and weaken as they are removed from it. The place lies at the centre of geography's interests and places are practised. Materiality, meaning and practice are all linked (Gregory, 2016). The material topography of the place is made by people doing things as observed by the meanings they might wish a place to evoke. Practices often conform to some sense of what is appropriate in a particular place and are limited by what particular material structures offer (Creswell, 2016). In this study, the concept of place mentions that it shapes the behaviour of its inhabitants. Bad behaviour is more weakened if the places where it is taking place is removed and changed. The physical designs and layouts of urban living environments are a principal factor that determines why some places are more vulnerable to crime than others. The structures that are found within the locations, encourage or discourage good

behaviour. Places that are well-built are invulnerable, hence vulnerable places are prone to depraved activities.

SPACE

Space becomes a place when it is used and lived. Space is regarded largely as a dimension within which matter is located or a grid within which substantive items are contained (Zewolde *et al.,* 2020). It involves the structures shaping society and it must work to make them fairer and more equitable for the users. Each space has its own internal rules of conduct – breaching these rules can create a potential for deviance. Spaces can also be defensible. This means that there are physical spaces outside of a house that the residents of that house understand as their own private space that they may occupy and interact with accordingly (Fisher *et al.,* 2013). Geographers argue that these spaces are not simply the 'backdrop for our social interactions but that by contrast, they help to shape the very nature of our social interactions' (Green, Harvey and Knox, 2018). They argue that space is an area in which people live. The features within different spaces determine the rate at which illegal activities take place. They also determine what type of behaviour occurs in space. The improvement of human space also means improving the way they think. Spaces also determine the type of people who are being raised from it. The way the spaces are developed determines the type of people who live within that location. Structures and facilities that are sited in different spaces define the character of the people who live within it. Social facilities, including bars, clubs and pubs, sited at certain places, tell the behaviour of the people who live there.

THEORIES UNDERPINNING THE STUDY

The social disorganisation theory argues that crime is shaped by external factors of the individual. Crime can be influenced by the environment in which one is living. The experiences within the neighbourhood, the peer group, the structures and the family can affect the behaviour of the individual. The theory postulated that high crime rates are higher in areas characterised by poor housing and infrastructure, poor health facilities, socio-economic disadvantage and transient populations. These impoverished settlements cause depression and frustration to the people. This leads to residents believing that crime is a function of neighbourhood dynamics and not due to individuals and their actions. It shows that in areas where there are few schools and people lack proper education and have few

chances of getting a job, people will resort to illegal paths. One-way places matter is that different types of facilities increase or decreases crime in their immediate environment. The theory links crime rates to neighbourhood ecological characteristics. An individual's residential location is a substantial element shaping the chances in which the individual becomes involved with illegal activities.

The theory shows that among determinants of an individual's later illegal activity, residential location is more responsible for that than the individual's characteristics. The way societies are built and developed plays a crucial role in criminal activities. The arrangement of these places also causes the dislike or fear of places by the inhabitants that is referred to as topophobia. It includes all negative emotions people have about certain places. Topophilia is all about the pleasant experiences of places (Trigg, 2016). Certain places cause depression, resentment and frustration. If infrastructure is in a dilapidated state, people behave negatively within society. The everyday challenges of survival and the anxiety of inhabitants seems to force one into this vicious cycle. Dilapidated educational infrastructure and housing facilities are not enjoyable. These conditions compel people to indulge in wrongdoings, hence committing a crime. Depressed and frustrated people rarely think sensibly. For instance, they may opt for illegal ways of solving problems they are encountering within their society.

Places that lack facilities like libraries, sports grounds, churches, neighbourhood centres and museums encourage residents to indulge in illegal activities like drug abuse, sexual abuse, robbery, violence, murder, among other crimes. Due to unemployment in the area, the places develop informal settlements and businesses that will cause high crime rates. Provision of better infrastructure to ensure pleasing experiences in places in which people live will help to reduce crimes. People like the pleasure which they gain when they encounter the environment. Those pleasing experiences or exciting emotions gained from certain places are to be kept forever. This could be because of the designs, social facilities and economic structures of the community. The only way to change the behaviour of human beings is to change the environs in which they live by improving the facilities they use daily. Changing the infrastructure around them means change of lifestyles and behaviours. This can be done by improving the places that breed criminal minds.

Open parks and open spaces should provide security to both female and male residents, old and young. The parks are meant for different activities except for criminal activities, hence in designing them they should discourage the occurrence of illegitimate activities.

It is imperative to consider the hot spots for crime and then alter the spaces to reduce. Factors like the causes of crime in a certain area must be considered. For instance, if the criminal activities are because of the absence of lights, then the alterations should consider the provision of streetlights. Most social life is conducted within the social spaces like parks, so the absence of security within these parks is the root cause of illegal activities, hence there is need to put in place security measures.

Sampson *et al.* (1997) argues that there are inequalities in the places where people live. These inequalities in life lead to structural barriers and cultural adaptations that undermine social organisation hence lack of control over crime (Dlamini, 2017). The theory postulates that the rich and elite do not commit street crime. For those who live in places that are well built, in terms of infrastructure and economic status, the chances of indulging in criminal activities are very slim as compared to the poor people who live in deprived neighbourhoods. People living in these neighbourhoods commit crime such as burglary and mugging, as they are not employed and have no source of income. Being disadvantaged means the people are not able to access basic needs such as schools, proper shelter and jobs. The creation of better places that will offer them proper education, shelter and activities to earn a living will give the disadvantaged group a better life and they will discontinue the criminal activities. This will enable the police to manage the crime as a few crime spaces are left unoccupied.

The defensible space theory argues that defensible space is a model that can inhibit crime in residential environments (Donnelly and Newman, 2010). These environments may be specific buildings, projects or the entire neighbourhood. The space theory also states that more of the spaces where crime is committed are vandalised and dirty as compared to the private ones that are better maintained. It is possible to create physical spaces in a way that will reduce crime by affecting the behaviour of both the residents and the offenders. This leads to a lower crime rate. More layouts should be created in a way

that allows the residents to have better control in the areas and deterring the potential criminal. The theory outlines the four concepts: territoriality, surveillance, image and milieu. It is imperative to create spaces that provide some territorial influence to give residents a sense of responsibility. The image and milieu concept explains that vertical housing projects should not be built in areas with high crime rates. A space within or outside of a building is considered defensible space when the residents or occupants of a building extend their control into that space (Fisher *et al.,* 2013). Such control may include both resident appropriation and surveillance of the space. Most urban areas that are designed with defensible spaces promote positive social dynamics while also deterring negative ones such as personal and property crime. Areas that are isolated, dark, closed-off spaces foster street crime, while visibility acts as a deterrent. A housing community's physical design is a primary determinant in whether outdoor private spaces are defensible spaces or not. How the physical and artificial features are arranged determines how vulnerable the places are to crime and illegitimate behaviour.

APPROACHES AND METHODS OF UNDERSTANDING CRIME IN PLACES AND SPACES

There are sociological approaches to understanding crimes. Anomie or Strain Perception is one of these approaches. It helps in understanding crimes in places and spaces as it explains the breakdown of social norms that often accompany rapid community change. Sociologists argue that crime occurs when there is a gap between the cultural goals of a society. Examples of the cultural goals include wealth, materials and status within the society. In the circumstance where people in a certain place fail to attain the desired living standards legally, they opt for other easy and illegal ways of earning better living standards. This approach argues that the surroundings in which people live put pressure on individual citizens to commit crimes. If the surroundings in which people live discourages them from achieving desired success, they commit a crime. The structural and economic disparities between the poor and rich neighbourhoods explain why people commit crimes.

Studies have noted that burglary does not happen by accident with incidents being more dominant in clustered settlements (Rengert and

Wasilchick, 1989). Figure 1 shows the various Hypothetical Spatial Patterns that may be used to describe the behaviour of burglaries.
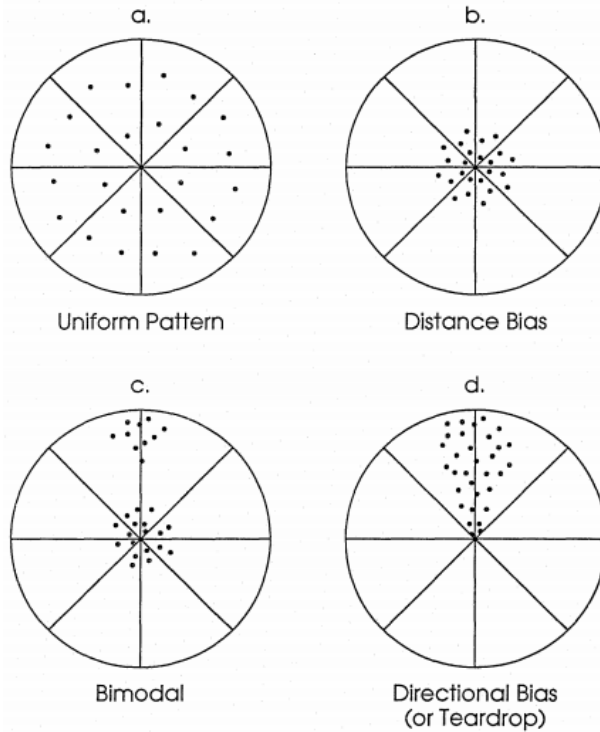
a.

b.

Uniform Pattern

Distance Bias

c.

d.

Bimodal

Directional Bias
(or Teardrop)

Figure 1: Hypothetical Spatial Patterns (Rengert and Wasilchick, 1989)

Theoretically, it is expected that non-drug dependant burglars are more concerned with risk as opposed to gain maximisation and as a result, choose clustered sites while casual drug users are expected to exhibit a bimodal configuration focused on home and drug supply area as shown by Figure1 (Rengert and Wasilchick, 1989). One may, therefore, argue that the arrangement of settlements can either deter or promote criminal activities in the neighbourhood. In another study, it was observed that areas dominated by liquor stores and taverns in Chicago recorded more crime rates (Block and Block, 1995). This shows that the designing of neighbourhoods to determine where to

place what can either promote a neighbourhood's safety or make it more unsafe.

Another approach to understanding crime in places and spaces explains crime in terms of crime opportunities that happen in daily life. Three elements should converge in time and space for a crime opportunity, i.e. a motivated offender, a suitable target or victim and the absence of a capable guardian. A guardian at a place like a street could have security guards or even ordinary witnesses to the criminal act and possibly intervene or report it to police. The absence of parental guidance within families to societies encourages crime to happen. This is because the children, both male and female, are growing under a lack of supervision. Crime occurs in places where the victims are vulnerable. This helps in understanding that in places where there is no public protection, the area tends to be prone to high crime activities. Crime is not random, it is planned. Crime happens when the activity space of the victim or target intersects with that of an offender. The path is the route that the individual takes to and from typical areas of activity in everyday life. Edges are the boundaries of an individual's awareness space. The areas that people use determines the occurrence of crime in places.

Crime in places can be understood through economical approaches. The approach explains that most potential criminals are normal individuals. They commit a crime if the expected net benefit from committing a crime exceeds the benefits derived from legitimate activity. The people within the societies are rational in some sense as they compare the benefit of violating the law with possible cost and severity of punishment. If people benefit or gain much in committing a crime than from legitimate activity, they opt for the former for their survival. In any community, if the benefits earned from indulging in wrongdoings outweigh the right doing, the people commit more crime. Design approaches help to understand crimes in places where people live. The environmental designs with help to prevent crime or encourage illegal activities (Willcocks, *et al.,* 2019). How the buildings and roads are arranged promote hotspots for crime and become the hiding places for robbers. This approach argues that residential areas with designs that involve more cul-de-sacs reduce criminal activities. This is so as the residence will easily notice someone who is not supposed to be in that place. This reduces criminal activities within the areas as the offenders are deterred.

The behavioural approach also helps in the understanding of crime in places. It is a psychological approach that explains that human behaviour, including violence and criminal behaviour, is acquired through interaction with the social environment (Bartol, 2002). People in different places are not born with a violent and criminal disposition. Rather, they learn to think and act criminally because of their day-to-day experiences. People who live in bad communities learn to model the destructive behaviour of their neighbours. They believe that violent activities are rewarded, hence commit a crime in their societies.

Personality and violence are other approaches that help in understanding crime in places. It is known as a stable pattern of behaviour and actions that outline the differences of people in a certain place. Certain personalities are prone to criminal behaviour, or instance, personalities that have traits like egoism, self-centeredness, jealousy, lack of empathy and hostility. In a community with such personalities, high crime rates are always recorded as the people get easily frustrated and immediately feel like attacking if there are any visible threats.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
Different sources were used to acquire data from studies that were done on crime in different countries. Sources used include textbooks, the internet, newspapers, magazines and some government documents on crime in African and European countries. Published materials were used and other sources include the national and world crime reports.

RESULTS
The way the places are built determines the type of crime committed within certain areas. Deprived neighbourhoods cause frustration to the dwellers and they turn to doing wrong things. The absence of social facilities such as libraries, playing grounds, museums and churches within the places in which the people live is the reason for crime. This is so as people grow up and spend time in areas where they are not supervised and get exposed to bad behaviours. Most of the crimes committed in the cities are a result of unemployment. For instance, a 36-year-old black man was convicted in the UK for selling drugs because that was all he could survive on, though illegal (Peace, 2012). The absence of livelihoods within the areas forced people to survive on means that are not always legitimate. It is noted that the increase in informal settlements leads to a rise in crime rates. Most of the people

in these settlements are rural migrants lacking skills and unemployed and, therefore, are driven. to indulge crime. In places where there are few or no schools at all that offer proper education to people, criminal minds tend to manifest. In a case of a 24-year-old male in Uganda who was convicted of robbery and being violent to the community, confessed in an interview that he left school at the age of eight because there were no proper school facilities in his area (Blaustein *et al.,* 2018). Corridors that are not transparent and well-lit corridors tend to be hideaways for robbers and murderers. Areas that have insufficient street fixtures encourage unnecessary wandering. It is noted that the environmental designs in the cities trigger or reduce crime. This calls for governments, legal systems, local authorities, spatial planners and architects to understand that place and space are stimuli to crime in different nations.

DISCUSSION

Crime within the world cities has increased, hence necessary actions should be taken to address this situation. Many causes of crime have been identified and how they are affecting the living standards and social life of the people. Understanding the contribution of space and place to crime is very crucial in the social life of the people (United Nations, 2019). Cities have been experiencing unemployment, poverty, economic disparities, corruption, little public protection and security and deprived neighbourhoods. All countries have struggled to ensure safety and security for their citizens and to increase the quality of their lives. Although place and space can influence crime, it is imperative for to develop sustainable facilities and space. The changes in facilities and development should be monitored for a sustainable result. In the altering of spaces and development of new places, more funding from the private and NGOs should be channelled to the development. Many ideas and policies must be created to enable crime-free cities with better public services.

The knowledge that place and space affect crime occurrence will enable the reduction of illegal activities in the cities leading to the creation of secure spaces. It is imperative to provide streets well-lit and well-used and bus stops and car parks ought to be located near places of activity for better surveillance. The street fixtures such as benches and bus shelters should also be provided to avoid unnecessary loitering within the corridors. City authorities should create more facilities such as playing grounds, churches, neighbourhoods centres,

libraries and museums that discourage criminal minds. They should provide security within the streets and parks.

Considering the greening of the cities, the setting of taller trees and shrubs should be discouraged in the paths and streets for shorter trees and shrubs. City authorities should encourage more public participation in neighbourhood patrols and watches and other security measures. This will help in identifying and eliminating trouble spots in the neighbourhoods. Strict rules should be enforced to govern human behaviour in different kinds of spaces. It is imperative for increased use of CCTV and other surveillance equipment and in different areas not within the buildings to reduce and monitor wrongdoings. Creation of more educational facilities like schools from early child development schools to tertiary schools will provide proper education to the people. Encouraging folks to engage in different affordable livelihoods so that they will earn an honest living will discourage them from indulging in illegal activities. Planners and architects should take part and guarantee that the correct designs are produced and implemented within the cities to prevent crime.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY OPTIONS

It is concluded that in a bid to make the world cities favourable places to live in for all humans despite class and race, it is imperative to know that place and space can influence the occurrence of crime within communities. This knowledge will help in achieving the main goal of close to crime-free cities. Urban safety and security play a crucial role in improving the quality of life of citizens and sustainable development of urban cities. It is noted that many efforts were made towards crime prevention by the different cities. This was through the provision of security measures but these measures do not last long because of different factors in different nations. These factors include political instability, corruption and lack of funding. This chapter will help the government towards the development that should be taken within the communities. Understanding that space and place can influence crime will enable the transformation of lifestyles within communities. The developments should strongly encourage defensible spaces and strict rules. This will also enable peace and reduce civil unrest within the cities. More funding is needed to make such developments within societies. The private sector is also encouraged to invest in terms of technology and innovations.