AMERICAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Charles Town, West Virginia

PROPOSAL FOR THESIS/RESEARCH PAPER

MASTER OF ARTS IN EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

AMERICAN MILITARY UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SECURITY & GLOBAL STUDIES

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I propose to the Thesis/Research Paper Professor and the Department a study of the following. Topic to be conducted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Emergency and Disaster Management: **criminal justice**

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Abstract

Crime is one of the most prominent shortcomings of any city across the world. The United States has a high level of crime, but this can only be seen in a few states. In criminal justice cases, the category of the crime helps a great deal in solving the crime. For this case, my research will be significant to society. Anyone can stop crime, either a law enforcement officer or a civilian for this reason, my research will be necessary for all citizen. The lack of proper role model is the most significant issue they face and lead them into crime. The community should look for the children to check for behavioral changes and act where necessary.

Introduction

Criminal Justice

Problem Statement

Crime is one of the most prominent shortcomings of any city across the world. The United States has a high level of crime, but this can only be seen in a few states. In criminal justice cases, the category of the crime helps a great deal in solving the crime. It is also essential for any prosecutor to prove that the criminal is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. But on the other hand, a criminal defense attorney can employ several different strategies to prove beyond reasonable doubt that his client is innocent and gets set free of the accusation. A criminal attorney's primary work and goal are to ensure that the client is either set free or has minor punishment due to the crime (Webb, 2017). In the United States, it can be noted that the crime rates have increased over time, with juvenile crimes increasing, especially during the covid pandemic. Minor crimes like robbery, possessions, and rape have increased among the youths during this season. The increased population can also be a leading cause of the rise in juvenile crimes in the community. Juvenile crimes have got national interests as underage teens, and young youths commit the crimes. Juvenile crimes can be regarded as crimes against the state law committed by an underage person.

Need for the Study

This research aims to ensure measures are set to stop crime among young people and ensure that and causing factor is addressed. Understanding the different crimes and the areas that they occur and understanding, who is involved, especially for juvenile crimes, is significant for this study. The research will be focused on crime but more emphasizes juvenile crimes and how

to stop juvenile crimes. The study will be helpful to the government and law enforcement officers as it will make it easier for them to prevent crime as they will understand better the reason for increased crime rates over the years and especially during the covid pandemic.

Target Audience

Crime is always a national disaster. For this case, my research will be significant to society. Anyone can stop crime, either a law enforcement officer or a civilian for this reason, my research will be necessary for all citizens. My target audience will be mainly parents and the police, as well as the community. This is because all the criminals will always live by the people. And if the crime is committed by a minor, the parent should take full responsibility. Parents will need to understand and learn the changes in behavior in their children, talk to them, and report any criminal act. The community should always help the law enforcement officers in locating the criminals and arresting them.

Objectives of the Research

1. To understand the rise in juvenile crimes during the covid pandemic
2. To come upon the best ways to stop crimes and involve the community.

Hypothesis

The increased crime rates among the juveniles are a result of the prolonged holiday caused by the pandemic. The idleness makes the teens and the active minds of the younger generations always look for ways to keep them busy. Due to this case, they get involved in crimes first as a joke or peer pressure, then later it becomes who they are, and as part of their day-to-day life, they become criminals. Looking out for this age group will be vital as it will help monitor their ways and stop them from being involved in crime now or even later in life.

Literature Review

The increase in the population among the community is the leading cause of increased crime rates among juveniles. It can be noted that the crime rates have grown to over 20% in the year 2020 from a 17% of juvenile crime rate in the previous years. It can be noted that crime rates among the young are prevalent in poor backgrounds. Many causing factors that lead to crimes can easily be identified (Blumstein & Wallman, 2020). The primary offenses associated with the underage include; robbery, rape as well as murder.

In some cases, murder crimes by underage people can be a mistake or self-defense or even problems at home. Abusive parents and spouses can cause the young to cause murder as a result. Parents, therefore, need to check out for the children to avoid such scenarios.

The severity of juvenile crimes starts from skipping classes to stealing change from parent and later graduates to severe crimes. The leading cause of the crimes can be attributed to the changing times and the broken society and homes (Alboukordi et al., 2017). Due to modernization and industrialization, parents and the community have focused all their energy on their jobs and careers. They forget to check out for the children as well. The children, therefore, get involved in crimes as they feel rejected at home and in society, but in crime, they find the attention and love they are seeking. Several reasons that can be attributed to crimes include drug abuse, abusive parents, and peer pressure. In all these cases, the parents and the society should be at the forefront to look out for the children (Bailey et al., 2017). Reporting them to the relevant authorities in case of crime can help stop further damages. One of the greatest crimes with the highest numbers of juveniles is drug and substance abuse, which is the leading case of several other crimes.

Social-economic factors can be seen to be the leading cause of juvenile crimes. Many poor backgrounds are associated with a lack of education, low-income families, broken families, and so many criminal gangs (Rathinabalan & Naaraayan, 2017). For this reason, the young will always lack a proper role model. In the urge to get well and earn some money to earn a living, they find easy and accommodative criminal gangs led by peer influence. When they realize what they are doing is wrong, it is always too late for them. The sense of security they get when in the criminal gangs is an aspect that lacks in the homes, and hence they find solstice in crime and in the teams that feel like a home person (Estime, Stephen, and Brian Williams 2021). The youths and underage children will always look out to the gang leaders and assume that crime pays, and to be successful, one has to be in crime. The lack of proper role model is the most significant issue they face and lead them into crime.

It can be noted that the juveniles will find themselves in crime to solve some of the problems they face at home and run away from the issues. To them, making a good life and driving away poverty can only be through crime or mostly robbery. Juvenile crimes should be noted and stopped as early as possible to prevent the children from being involved in serious crimes and be rooted deep into crime (Nisar et al., 2015). The parents have a responsibility to ensure that they observe any behavioral changes in the children and react to them immediately. The community should be the eyes and ears of the law and immediately report crime happening in the neighborhoods for actions to be taken. Creating awareness as well as being good role models to society can help a great deal.

Summary of Findings

Crime can always be stopped if only the root is addressed. Juvenile crimes are seen to originate from other societal problems and negligence. A child, when growing up, requires so much love and attention from society and the parent. For this reason, it Is essential to ensure that they get all the care and love they deserve. Broken families are a leading cause of juvenile crimes as children will always seek better families, and gang and criminal families will always be the way out (Hockenberry, 2020). Societal should be responsible and take care of future generations, and it is our responsibility. Providing education for children and parents to seek employment to eradicate poverty is another essential part as children join crime to make money and be rich. The government should as well provide subsidies for the schools to enable more youths to get quality education. The provision of jobs as well will allow parents to feed their families and provide basic needs. The community should look for the children to check for behavioral changes and act where necessary.

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