

ABSTRACT

Crime has been on the rise in the past 20 years, becoming a major problem for cities all over the world. Global studies show that 60% of all urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime at least once over the past five years. Studies done by previous scholars also show that the physical character of an urban space and the organization of activities in space that make up the streets have an effect on peoples interactions with the space including even the shaping of crime patterns. The increasing crime rates in Kenya especially Nairobi pose a major challenge to peace and security in the country, which in the process frustrates both domestic and foreign investments. The main objective of this research therefore is to investigate the crime incidences affecting enterprises in Eastleigh Estate. Other specific objectives of the research included; enterprises prone to crime, causes of crime on enterprises and crime prevention strategies against crime on enterprises. The variables under study included; causes of crime on enterprises and enterprises prone to crime as independent variables; types of crime as the dependent variable and crime prevention strategies and policies and legislation as intervening and moderating variables. Target population for this research study was the enterprises in Eastleigh. Data collection is through interviewing, observation and instrument administration. A total of 60 samples comprising of 8 respondents per street the study area having 8 streets with the last General Waruingi Street sampling 4 were administered this ensured that a wider area of study was researched on. This research has also interviewed key informants like: area chiefs of Eastleigh North and Airbase, the Officer Commanding Police Division for Kamkunji and Buruburu Division, Officer Commanding Police Stations of Pangani and Buruburu, Officers at the City Inspectorate Department and officers at Private Security Organizations by the use of structured interview guides. A pilot study was conducted prior to data collection to improve the validity of the questionnaires. The research will be focusing on Section 2 of Eastleigh Estate between 6th Street and 12th Street located in Nairobi City County to the Eastern suburbs on the outskirts of the metropolitan area. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used in data entry. The array of data was then coded and analyzed using descriptive analysis mainly inferential statistics and correlation of variables to establish the association between the attributes of the variable under study. Frequency distributions were used to present the findings of the study. The results of this study indicated that robbery was the main type of crime against enterprises was robbery and embezzlement. It was also observed that crime hotspots in the study area were along the roads connecting the study area with the major roads such as Juja Road to the North and Jogoo road to the South and at junctions with high concentration of activities. Most respondents viewed mobile enterprises to be more prone to crime attacks and a majority of the respondents being mobile entrepreneurs practiced closing early as a key crime prevention strategy while stationary enterprises mostly agreed to using grills and CCTV cameras as their main crime prevention strategy. It is expected that the result of this study will add to the existing body of knowledge in the area of crime especially urban crime. Researchers and policy makers both in the public and private sector will find it particularly useful in making decisions around urban and regional planning and creating safe environments for entrepreneurship. Main recommendations included; repair and proper maintenance of existing damaged streetlights, installing solar powered streetlights, reclamation of road reserves and parking spaces, reclamation of market space and public private partnerships in the provision of security.