

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CRIME, CRIME-RELATED ANXIETY AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to assess public perception of crime and crime-related anxiety and attitude towards community crime prevention activities. The research samples are selected amongst the public from all over Malaysia. A total of 2,117 males (54.1 percent) and 1,794 females (45.9 percent) were accepted as respondents and questionnaires were used to collect the data. The Principal Component Analysis (PCA) on 28 crime-related perception and anxiety items shows seven components, namely fear of victimization, optimism, sense of good security, fear of neighborhood crime, vague anxiety about crime, poor social circumstances and trust in the government. The PCA on 14 attitude items also shows three components, namely affirmative evaluation, someone else's problem and dissatisfaction with the status quo. Meanwhile, the Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCorA) shows that the crime perception and anxiety were influenced by three factors, namely personal safety, a sense of emergent crisis with regards to community security and an inconsistent fear of crime. The CCorA also shows that the attitude towards community crime prevention were influenced by three factors, namely the view that residents should not get involved in community crime prevention, the extent to which individuals take community crime prevention to be a personal relevant issue and the view that community crime prevention can be left to others.

Keywords: *Public perception of crime, attitude, crime prevention activities, community*

Introduction

The Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), the main law enforcement agency in this country has been given the task not only in crime prevention but also to ensure that public peace and security is maintained. As such, the main focus of RMP since the beginning till to date is to reduce crime and fear of crime

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among the public. The success in reducing crime with the reduction in the index crime statistics presented a few years ago is still not sufficient in comparison to public perception that criminal happenings are still high. In this respect, it is the responsibility of every RMP personnel to ensure that there is a reduction in the nation's crime rate whereby this will indirectly address the fear of crime among the public. This is not an easy task because it is not only commitment from the RMP but other interest groups like the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), political leaders, religious leaders, society leaders, schools, individuals who are also required to participate.

As such, various approaches are still and will be conducted by the RMP which is assessed to be helpful to the top echelon in reducing crime rates. The results were proven by the reduction in the crime index statistics. However, the statistics from the RMP were questionable by the public especially from the victims' point of views. A part of the society claimed that the RMP was manipulating the statistics because crimes are still happening in the country. They are doubtful that crime is actually on the decrease as reported by the RMP. The negative perception indirectly 'influenced' the public which causes many to believe that crime rate in Malaysia had never really gone down.

The perception and the wrong information portrayed had not demoralized every RMP personnel. Through various approaches, the RMP will continue its efforts to reduce the public fear of crime. Nonetheless, the RMP will also encourage the public to work with them to prevent crime through the community crime prevention programs. By this, we can perceive whether the public will continue to debate on the capability of the RMP or to cooperate as a team in combating crime.

In general, the research objectives are to study the perception of crime and crime-related anxiety, and attitude towards community crime prevention activities whereby specifically, the research objective is also the same. There are no local studies on public crime perception and attitude towards community crime prevention activities. However, there was a study by Hamid bin Mohamed (2010) focusing only on the perception of the public towards community policing by the RMP.

The study on public crime perception and attitude towards community crime prevention activities were done by Shibata, S., Hanyu, K., Asakawa, T., Shimada, T and Omata, K. (2011) on the Japanese society. A total of 945 Japanese between the ages of 22 years until 91 years were involved in this study. Results showed that

the older society have more positive attitude towards community crime prevention compared to younger generation. In addition, people who had a greater sense of crisis about their communities tended to view community crime prevention as a personal responsibility, whereas people who reported a less consistent fear of crime shows to have a more aloof attitude towards community crime prevention activities.

Perception on Crime

Tyler and Boeckmann (1997) mentioned two theories that could explain the process on how the people formed their perception on crime. These theories are experiential, instrumental and expressive in nature. The experiential or instrumental theory stated that the perception or fear of crime are the results of personal experiences as crime victims. The expressive theory on the other hand referred to the meaning of crime in the context of culture, social changes and relationship situations that discourage crime and free the society from the threat of actual crimes.

Crime-Related Anxiety

According to Warr (1995), crime-related anxiety is an emotionally reciprocal response towards a threat, whereby it is acknowledged that crime is a threat which causes anxiety of being harmed. This could be related to the individual's attitude in a given society. According to Tainton (2010) attitudes are the ways used as a reciprocal response to humans and situations based on what have been learnt through beliefs, values and assumptions held. Attitudes are manifested and may thus be determined through behaviors.

Community Crime Prevention

Reisig and Parks (2004) said that community crime prevention programme or strategy targets changes in infrastructure, culture or community physical environment with the objective to reduce crime. Various approaches have been made including the neighborhood watch, community policing, township or physical design and comprehensive efforts in various disciplines. These strategies might involve the residents, communities, non-profit organizations and local councils in combatting the factors contributing to crimes, misbehaviors and disorders.

Research Method

Respondents

A total of 5,000 questionnaires were distributed to the public from all over Malaysia. They were chosen by simple random sampling method. A total of 3,911 (78.22% response rate) completed questionnaires were collected and used to analyze the data.

Instrument

This research is in the form of survey using a set of questionnaire formulated based on past literatures. The questionnaire used was divided into three parts. The first part contained 28 items concerning the respondents' reaction on perception of crime and crime-related anxiety. The second part contained 14 items related to the respondents' attitude towards the community crime prevention activities, and the third part contained the respondents' socio-demographics details. The survey was conducted in early August 2013.

Data Analysis

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 software was used to process and analyze data obtained using the descriptive and inferential analyses. Descriptive analysis using frequencies was used to study the socio-demographic aspects of the public and their knowledge and opinions on community crime prevention programme or activities in their areas, types of problems faced, the impact of the community crime prevention activities on the rate of crime and anti-social behaviors happening in their areas and sense of security in their daily lives. Inferential analysis using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to examine the public's perception on crime and crime-related anxiety and also their attitude towards community crime prevention activities. Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCorA) on the other hand, was used to study the relationship between the public perception on crime and crime-related anxiety with their attitude towards community crime prevention activities.

Research Results

Research Subjects

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Details of Research Subjects

No.		Socio-Demographic Details of Research Subjects in Percentage						
1	Gender	Male	Female					
		54.1%	45.9%					
2	Age	Below 20 yrs	21-30 yrs	31-40 yrs	41-50 yrs	51-60 yrs	61 yrs above	
		8.5%	42.8%	28.6%	12.5%	6.8%	0.8%	
3	Race	Malay	Chinese	Indian	Others			
		76.5%	11.8%	7.6%	4.1%			
4	Marital Status	Married	Bachelor	Widow	Widower			
		60.2%	34.3%	3.3%	2.2%			
5	Highest Education Level	Primary School	Secondary School	College/ Diploma	University/ First Degree	Masters	PhD	Others
		4.6%	42.9%	27.3%	20.7%	2.5%	0.8%	1.2%
6	Employment	Not Working	Student	Own Business	Public Servant	Private Company	Pensioner	
		12.6%	0.7%	19.5%	33.5%	30.4%	3.3%	
7	Income	No Income	Below RM500.00	RM501.00- RM1,000.00	RM1001.00 -RM2500.00	RM2500.00- RM3,500.00	RM3501.00- RM5000.00	RM5001.00 above
		10.4%	4.7%	15.1%	34.9%	21.3%	9.6%	4.0%

The above table showed the results of the socio-demographic details of research subjects according to gender, age, race, marital status, highest education level, employment and income in the form of percentage.

Community Crime Prevention Activities

Percentage analyses results also showed that 68.8% of the respondents know about the community crime prevention programme or activities in their area compared to 31.2% who don't know about it. A total of 63.5% of the respondents were of the opinion that the problem they are facing is the problem of crime, whilst 36.5% on the other hand, were of the opinion that it is an anti-social behavior. A total of 77.9% of the respondents believed compared to 22.1% who do not believe that the community crime prevention activities had an impact on the rate of crime and anti-social behavior happenings in their areas. A total of 74.0% of the respondents feel safe compared to 26.0% who did not.

Perception on Crime and Crime-Related Anxiety

Responses to 28 perception on crime and crime-related anxiety items were put into the PCA and seven components were extracted (eigenvalue > 1). Table 2 showed the results of this PCA.

Table 2: Results of the PCA of Items Assessing Perception on Crime and Crime-Related Anxiety

No.	Items	Principal Component						
		PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5	PC6	PC7
1	A lot of crime is happening in Malaysia.	.347	-.100	.107	.377	.477	.220	-.118
2	A lot of crime is happening in my city.	.221	.057	.158	.698	.281	.212	-.050
3	A lot of crime is happening in my neighborhood.	.091	.061	.295	.820	.037	.138	.056
4	A lot of crime is happening near my house.	.063	.141	.286	.795	.043	.138	.030
5	Thinking about my family or I being scammed causes anxiety to us.	.550	-.142	.078	.413	.180	.189	.011
6	It is very unlikely that my family or I can be scammed.	-.100	.742	.013	.132	.022	.063	.076
7	Thinking about someone breaking into my house causes anxiety to me.	.775	-.110	.137	.109	.246	.125	.056
8	It is very unlikely that someone will break into my house.	-.084	.833	.053	.039	-.024	.048	.079
9	Thinking about my family or I becoming a victim of sex crime causes anxiety to us.	.812	-.056	.071	.053	.147	.078	.053
10	It is very unlikely that a member of my family or I will become a victim of sex crime.	-.001	.857	.048	.042	-.020	-.000	.056
11	Thinking about someone breaking into my car causes anxiety to me.	.841	-.078	.132	.075	.155	.115	.017
12	It is very unlikely that someone will break into my car.	-.087	.862	.094	-.038	.024	-.013	.068
13	Thinking about a member of my family or I being threatened or assaulted causes anxiety.	.824	-.067	.150	.067	.118	.096	-.028
14	It is very unlikely that a member of my family or I will be threatened or assaulted.	-.091	.839	.141	-.001	-.071	.011	.081
15	Security is poor in Malaysia.	.258	.031	.777	.095	.042	.141	-.045
16	Security is poor in my city.	.111	.133	.810	.185	.150	.142	-.062
17	Security is poor in my neighborhood.	.176	.065	.790	.268	.127	.187	.003
18	Security is poor near my house.	.095	.117	.760	.287	.129	.193	-.016
19	I feel a sense of stagnation with regards to society.	.115	.116	.225	.173	-.031	.636	.037
20	Economic conditions are poor.	-.010	.082	.398	.086	.172	.677	-.026
21	I am worried about my future.	.215	-.012	.112	.192	.244	.749	.029
22	I am worried about my family.	.357	-.089	.042	.138	.321	.602	.107
23	I have faith in politics.	.057	.123	-.129	.044	.013	.112	.811
24	I trust bureaucrats.	.089	.126	-.006	-.028	.193	-.052	.804

No.	Items	Principal Component						
		PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5	PC6	PC7
25	Heinous crimes are increasing.	-.264	.202	.373	.007	-.091	.058	.404
26	I see crime-related news very often on the TV or in newspapers.	.289	-.059	.067	.006	.772	.101	.026
27	I often talk about crime with my family and/or friends.	.104	.012	.104	.150	.737	.132	.124
28	I know a lot of people who were victimized during a crime.	.225	.016	.134	.093	.770	.136	.064
Eigenvalue		7.600	4.356	2.242	1.499	1.258	1.204	1.057
Cumulative %		27.14	42.70	50.71	56.06	60.55	64.86	68.63

Table 2 above showed that the first component (PC1) had high positive loadings on items relating to anxiety about being victimized, and therefore can be said to reflect fear of victimization. The second component (PC2) had high positive loadings on items related to low estimation of the possibility of victimization, and this component can be named optimism. The third component (PC3) had high positive loadings on items relating to poor public safety in the country inclusive of the neighborhood, and this can be said to reflect the sense of good security. The fourth component (PC4) had high positive loadings on items relating to the frequency of crimes in the city and in the neighborhood, and this can be said to reflect fear of neighborhood crimes. The fifth component (PC5) had high positive loadings on items related to frequency of hearing about crimes and frequency of crime happenings in one's city generally and nationwide. This component appears to reflect a somewhat vague anxiety about crime. The sixth component (PC6) had high positive loadings on items relating to anxiety concerning one's family and oneself and poor social circumstances, and this can be said to reflect poor social circumstances. The seventh component (PC7) had high positive loadings on items relating to faith in politics and trust in bureaucrats, and this can be said to reflect trust in the government.

Attitudes toward Community Crime Prevention Activities

Responses to the 14 attitude items were also entered into the PCA, and three components were identified (eigenvalue > 1).

Table 3: Results of the PCA of Items Assessing Attitudes toward Community Crime Prevention

No.	Items	Principal Component		
		PC1	PC2	PC3
1	We can leave community crime prevention to somebody enthusiastic.	.391	.106	.318
2	I would like to participate in those activities if there is an opportunity.	.719	-.055	.084
3	Local residents should be actively involved in community crime prevention.	.693	.178	-.157
4	Those activities are not so effective.	-.095	.214	.603
5	Security of the region should be the responsibility of the administration and the police.	.011	.822	.203
6	Crime prevention activities by local residents contributed to the safety of the region.	.612	.479	-.214
7	We live in peace, thanks to those activities.	.761	.045	.012
8	Crime prevention activities by local residents are well organized.	.651	.121	.120
9	It is a good thing that local residents work together at community crime prevention.	.717	.288	-.177
10	Crime prevention should be carried out by Non Profit Organizations.	.396	.470	-.102
11	It is undesirable that local residents conduct police-like activities.	.148	.049	.701
12	Cooperation among residents, administration and the police is very important in community crime prevention.	.493	.452	-.379
13	I find it a bothersome to participate in those activities.	-.134	-.033	.764
14	We can leave community crime prevention to the administration and the police.	.146	.726	.285
Eigenvalue		4.253	2.046	1.205
Cumulative %		30.38	44.99	53.60

Table 3 showed that the first component (PC1) had high positive loadings on items relating to the active participation of local residents in crime prevention activities and their perceived effectiveness of those activities. Results showed that a total of 3,045 respondents (77.9%) believed that the community crime prevention activities had an impact on the rates of crime and anti-social behaviors happening in their areas. PC 1 can therefore be interpreted as representing an attitude that community crime prevention by local residents is a good thing and that the approach is effective 'affirmative evaluation'.

The second component (PC2) had high positive loadings on items related to leaving such activities to others, like the administration, the police and the Non-Profit Organizations. PC2 can therefore be interpreted as representing the attitude that the respondent does not need to do it by himself because it is 'someone else's problem'.

Finally, the third component (PC3) had high positive loadings on items relating to the dissatisfaction with current activities 'dissatisfaction with the status quo', based on positive loadings on items relating to the ineffectiveness of the activities and that the activities should be better it conducted by the police.

Though both PC1 and PC2 were related to the participation in community crime prevention activities, there was nevertheless a large difference between them. PC1 was associated with a positive evaluation of the effectiveness of the current prevention activities by the local residents, while PC2 was better off leaving such activities to others.

Relationship between Perception of Crime and Crime-Related Anxiety, and Attitude Towards Community Crime Prevention Activities

To examine the relationship between perception of crime and crime-related anxiety and attitude towards community crime prevention activities, principal component scores of both these factors were calculated and entered into CCorA. 3 significant canonical correlations were identified. Explained variance was 42.26% by the first canonical variable, 40.55% by the second and 17.19% by the third, for a total of 100.00% of the variance explained. Figure 1 showed the standardized canonical coefficients of perception of crime and crime-related anxiety, and attitude towards community crime prevention activities with their canonical variables. It also showed correlations between the canonical variables.

In Figure 1, AT1, AT2 and AT3 are the canonical variables for attitude, whilst PA1, PA2 and PA3 are the canonical variables for perception of crime and crime-related anxiety. Blue solid lines indicate positive coefficient values and green solid lines indicate negative values. Coefficients less than 0.2 have been omitted from the figure.

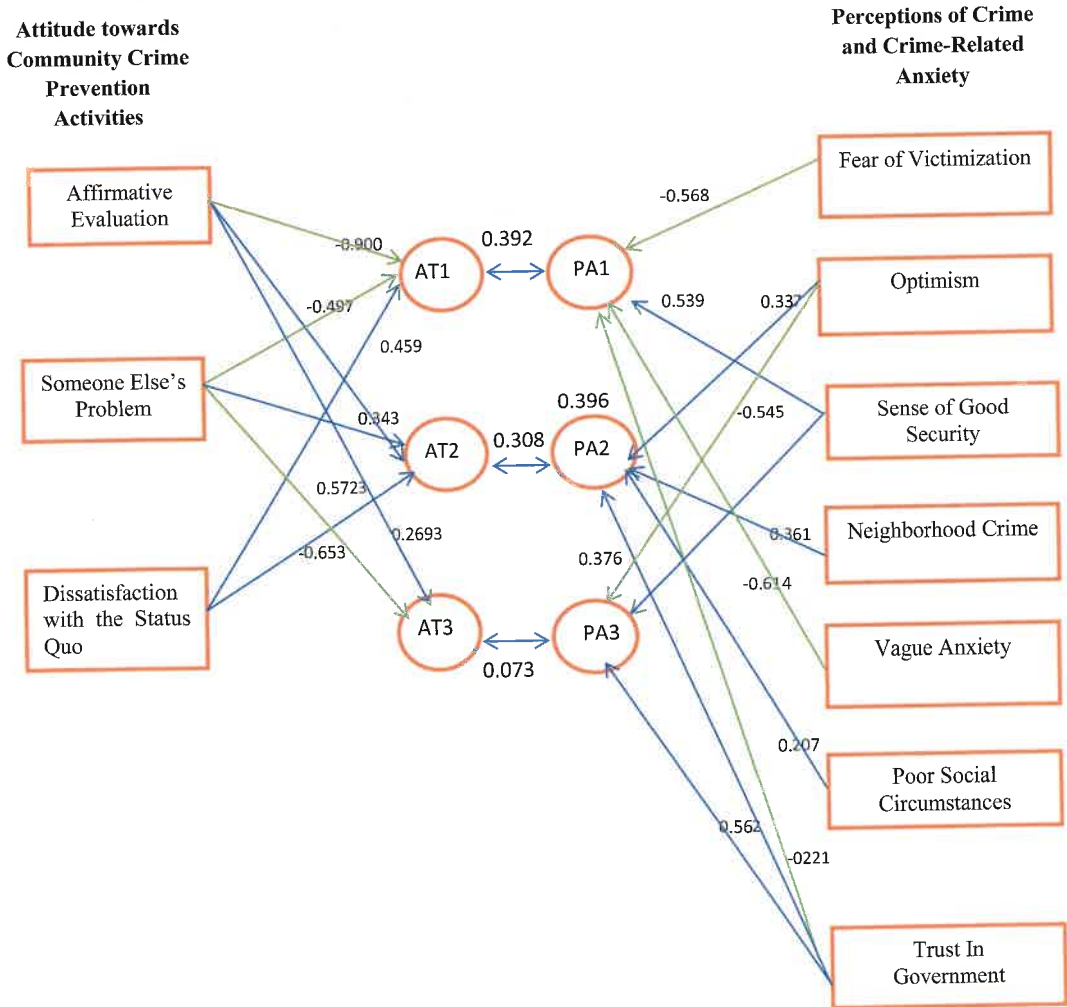


Figure 1: Results of Canonical Correlation Analysis

Source: Shibata, S., Hanyu, K., Asakawa, T., Shimada, T and Omata, K. (2011).

The standard canonical coefficients in Figure 1 showed that on the first canonical variable for attitude (AT1), affirmative evaluation and someone else's problem had negative weights (-0.900 and -0.497 respectively), while dissatisfaction with the status quo had positive weight (0.459), and thus can be interpreted as the view that residents should not get involved with community crime prevention. On the second canonical variable (AT2), affirmative evaluation, someone else's problem and dissatisfaction with the status quo (0.878, 0.343 and 0.572 respectively), had

positive weights and thus can be interpreted as the extent to which individuals take community crime prevention to be a personal relevant issue. The third canonical variable (AT3) was affected by affirmative evaluation (0.269) and someone else's problem (-0.653), and thus can be interpreted as the view that community crime prevention can be left to others.

Figure 1 also showed that on the first canonical variable for perception of crime and crime-related anxiety (PA1), fear of victimization, vague anxiety and trust in government had negative weights (-0.568, -0.614 and -0.221 respectively) while sense of good security had positive weights (0.539). This variable can be interpreted as related to personal safety. As for the second canonical variable (PA2), optimism (0.396), fear of neighborhood crime (0.361), poor social circumstances (0.207) and trust in government (0.376) had positive values, thus can be interpreted as a sense of emergent crisis with regards to community safety. As for the third canonical variable (PA3), optimism (0.337) and trust in government (0.562) had positive values, while sense of good security (-0.545) had negative value, thus can be interpreted as an inconsistent fear of crime.

As seen in Figure 1, individuals who view that residents should not get involved with community crime prevention (AT1) was correlated with personal safety (PA1, $r = 0.392$). Individuals who take community crime prevention to be a personal relevant issue (AT2) was correlated with a sense of emergent crisis with regards to community safety (PA2, $r = 0.308$), and the attitude of leaving community crime prevention to others (AT3) was correlated with an inconsistent fear of crime (PA3, $r = 0.073$). These results suggested that people who have a sense of emergent crisis with regards to the safety of their communities tend to take community crime prevention as their own issue and are willing to participate in such activities. Results also suggest that people who feel they are safe and those who have a somewhat inconsistent fear of crime tend to think that they should not get involved with community crime prevention activities and that these activities are not their business and that the administration, the police or the Non-Profit Organizations should handle this issue. Therefore, realization of a sense of crisis could be a key factor in individuals taking community crime prevention seriously, such that they actually take part in these activities.

Perception of Crime and Crime-Related Anxiety

Results showed that there were seven components that reflected the public perception of crime and crime-related anxiety. The first component was related to fear of victimization. Widely disseminated of information through the social

media today enables us to see, watch and learn about crime faster (Chan and Chan, 2012). For example, the case of a robbery involving a bank officer that was shot dead by a security guard in Subang Jaya was easily disseminated through the social media (Berita Harian dated 23 October 2013). The wide and fast dissemination of information through the social media was instrumental in increasing the fear of crime among the public. The shooting incident involving a security guard who shot dead a bank officer was an isolated case. However, with the wide dissemination of the scene of crime and the grisly state of the victim in the internet, had caused the public to perceive that bank workers are not safe and that security guards are not to be trusted, thus causing public fear of being victimized.

The second component is the optimism. The public have low estimation of the possibility of victimization. Various efforts of the RMP like the implementation of Blue Ocean Strategy, patrol on motorbikes, omnipresence, distribution of call cards and telephone numbers of nearby police stations, special operations like 'Ops Payung' (an initiative to reduce crime, where the police put up big umbrellas equipped with desks and chairs in people dense areas where the public could have access, get help and give information to the police), 'Ops Lejang' (focusing on combating vehicle thefts) and 'Ops Dadu' (combating computerized gambling especially those in the pretext of cyber café business) are many more approaches that have given high confidence to the public. They are very optimistic that the RMP is able to carry out its responsibilities efficiently. This group believes that they will never be victimized and expressed their confidence that their lives and properties will be protected by the police. This group often feels very confident on the capability of the RMP and accepted the fact that crimes are normal in a community. As such, they are not worried of the possibility of victimization, thus reflecting their optimism.

The third component was related to a sense of good security. The competencies of the police with various approaches implemented, have given confidence to the public that crimes had reduced as announced by the RMP. The RMP's initiatives like feet on street, patrol on motorbikes and omnipresence are seen as not only helpful to the community policing, but are also able to reduce crime like snatch thefts in certain areas. The frequencies of patrol on motorbikes and Mobile Patrol Vehicles (MPV) in housing areas are assessed to be able to prevent house breakings in daylight and night time. The same goes with the police measures in encouraging people to leave behind their house particulars when they return to their hometown or go on vacation during festive seasons, has also helped to reduce house breakings. Response received revealed that the RMP's effort has resulted in very positive receptions from the public when they submitted the

notification forms when on holidays to the nearby police stations. This indicated that the public is confident that their properties will be safe with the presence of the police, thus reflecting a sense of good security. Results of this study supported the study done by Reisig and Parks (2004) that shows that when the public perceive high levels of police-community cooperation, they also perceive lower levels of crime and disorder and feel safer than other citizens that do not perceive a good relationship.

The fourth component reflected the fear of neighborhood crimes. Incidents of crime even though small that happened in certain areas can cause fear among the local residents. In a broken window theory for example, incidents of crime even though small needed to be addressed and quickly controlled. If not, it will cause bigger incidents of crime in an area or neighborhood. Cases of missing shoes for example might be seen as very insignificant to certain groups, but it is actually serious because such cases usually involved drug addicts. The presence of drug addicts indicated that there are drugs pushing and distribution activities going on in the area. It is related with demand and supply of drugs. Thus, crime happened in one's neighborhood even though small, can influence the fear of neighborhood crimes.

The fifth component reflected a somewhat vague anxiety about crime, where the public often see crime-related news on social media and often discussed about them with their family and friends. The dissemination of grapevine through word of mouth or social media has expedite the dissemination of the crime happenings. There are times when the information received is not accurate or true. Nonetheless, its wide dissemination had caused the public not to feel safe, deemed that their properties are threatened and their safety is compromised. A very apparent example is the dissemination of information that there was a commotion in a certain area where in actual fact there was none as claimed. As a result, it caused unfounded fear, anxiety and suspicion among certain races in the country. There are times when there was an actual incident involving two races in a road accident that was exaggerated by irresponsible groups claiming there were racial riots, thus causing anxiety and fear among the two races involved.

The sixth component was related to poor social circumstances, where anxiety is reflected on the future of a person's family and himself. In the opinion of this group, the development of the modern world environment had also influenced the poor social circumstances. In this context, it is regarded that existing technology had contributed to where the younger generation only play computers at home or cyber cafes. The same goes with the influence of hand phones which had limited the recreational activities of the younger people. As such, they do not have much

time to interact with family and friends. Due to this, they have no interest in the crime happenings in their surroundings. This group is also not interested to assist the police and the community to reduce crime and indirectly reduce the public fear of crime.

The final component represented a general trust in the government. It is related with the faith in politics and the government. This group has positive perception on the capability of the police and the government. They are confident and believe that the anxiety voiced by a minority of anti-establishment people is baseless. This group is satisfied with efforts of the RMP and has high confidence that crime had successfully been reduced, thus in a way has lessened the fear of crime.

These results supported the study done by Shibata, S., Hanyu, K., Asakawa, T., Shimada, T and Omata, K. (2011) on the Japanese people which shows that there were seven components reflecting the perception of crime and crime-related anxiety among the public.

Attitude Towards Community Crime Prevention Activities

Results showed that there were three components that reflected the attitude towards community crime prevention activities. The first component was affirmative evaluation that can be interpreted as representing an attitude that community crime prevention is good and that the approach is effective. Thus, the drastic measures taken by the top echelon of the RMP in the effort to reduce crime indexes and fear of crime among the public had received very positive reactions from most of the people in this country. The majority of the public was of the opinion that the efforts were very good and very effective especially on the latest approach by the RMP in launching and implementing the special 'Ops Cantas'. The arrest and detainment of many secret society members and those involved in crime had effectively controlled these gangsters and criminals. This consequently had upheld and enhanced the image of the RMP which was seen as taking a very serious approach and earnest actions in curbing crime and criminals. Thus, majority of the public supported the continuous and serious efforts of the RMP. This is in line with the results of this research where the public perceived that the community crime prevention activities are very good and effective.

The second component was it was someone else's problem. This indicated that there are still certain people who feel that they do not need to do community crime prevention activities despite the effectiveness of these perceived activities in reducing crimes and the fear of crime among the public. This is because

they feel that it is someone else's problem. These people are those who can be categorized as anti-establishment groups like Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and individuals. They are adamant with their negative stand and assertion that the RMP concealed the actual criminal cases by manipulating the statistics of the crime indexes. These groups claimed that the crime prevention efforts are someone else's problem and they do not have to get involved in reducing crimes. They feel that the RMP should do what was given and be accounted for them without the help from the community, as they claimed that it is the responsibility and the work of the police to reduce crime. To gain confidence and support from the majority of the public, these groups continuously questioned and belittled the efforts of the RMP by assuming that these activities should be shouldered by the local councils, non-profit organizations and the police. In general, these groups reflected the attitude that it is someone else's problem.

The third component was the dissatisfaction with the status quo that revealed the attitude of the public who were not satisfied with the community crime prevention activities which they claimed were not well organized and bothered them. There are many of this people in Malaysia that are influenced by political, social, religious and economic backgrounds. Even though they are conscious of the vast efforts by the RMP, they are still assuming and claiming that the authority failed to reduce crimes. They continue to debate what was done by the police and the government because they were influenced by the above mentioned factors.

These results supported most part of the study conducted by Shibata, S., Hanyu, K., Asakawa, T., Shimada, T and Omata, K. (2011) on the Japanese, which showed that there were four components that reflected the attitude of the public towards community crime prevention, namely affirmative evaluation, someone else's problem, need for administrative organization and dissatisfaction with the status quo. Nonetheless, results of this study showed there were only three components that reflected the attitude of the public towards community crime prevention, namely affirmative evaluation, someone else's problem and dissatisfaction with the status quo.

Relationship between Perception of Crime and Crime-Related Anxiety, and Attitude Towards Community Crime Prevention Activities

The result shows that attitude towards community crime prevention activities were influenced by affirmative evaluation, someone else's problem and dissatisfaction with the status quo. The combination of these three factors can be interpreted as

the view that residents should not get involved with community crime prevention. From another perspective, the combination of these three factors can also indicate the extent to which individuals take community crime prevention to be a personal relevant issue. Results also showed that attitudes can also be influenced by affirmative evaluation and someone else's problem. These two factors combined, can be interpreted as representing the attitude that the respondent does not need to do it as it was someone else's problem.

Results also indicated that the perception of crime and crime-related anxiety were influenced by fear of victimization, vague anxiety about crime, trust in the government and sense of good security. The combination of all these factors can be interpreted as related to personal safety. However optimism, fear of neighborhood crimes, poor social circumstances and trust in the government when combined can be interpreted as a sense of emergent crisis with regards to community safety. Whereas optimism, trust in the government and sense of good security when combined can be interpreted as an inconsistent fear of crime.

On the other hand, results also show that individuals who take community crime prevention to be a personal relevant issue, has positive correlations with personal safety and a sense of emergent crisis with regards to community safety. Meanwhile, the attitude of leaving to others to do the community crime prevention has positive correlations with the inconsistent fear of crime.

Some members of the public still have the perception that crime is still happening in this country. This group of people is not anti-establishment, but ordinary citizens who probably they themselves, their children, parents, siblings or relatives had been victimized. As such, the trauma still persisted and the perception that victimization happened to them and their families could also happen to other people. In comparison with the anti-establishment group, this group of people is confident that the efforts of crime prevention by the RMP are very relevant not only to themselves, but also to the public in general. As such, crime prevention efforts could be left to others or they themselves could do it. In this case, this group is still traumatized by what had happened to them. Consequently, they also fear that this may also happen in their community. However, their fear of crime is inconsistent, whereby they still fear for their lives and properties and at the same time, confident of the capability of the RMP in reducing crime in this country.

Conclusion

In general, it can be concluded that the perception of crime and crime-related anxiety of the public are more positive where their level of confidence with the crime index statistics announced by the RMP have increased. They are very confident with the continuous efforts by the RMP. The public trust will definitely be an added value to the top echelon to enhance the efforts of crime prevention, with the objective to reduce fear of crime among the public. The people will continue to see, observe and assess how far the Blue Ocean Strategy and other approaches by the RMP can really give an impact in reducing crime. The capability of the RMP in future can only be measured by the reduction in the crime indexes and other crimes and not just by mentioning it through a reduction in statistic. The public wants to see the statistic of snatch thefts for example to be enormously reduced. They also want crimes like house breakings, rapes, robberies and others to decline. Only by this way can the RMP reduce the fear of crime among the people and thus enhance its image. However, the task of changing the negative perception of the public have to be given top priority. It is not an easy task because it takes commitment, seriousness, sincerity and honesty and involves high costs from all concerned. Up and foremost, the RMP should continuously establish good rapport with the media because the public's knowledge of crime and justice is largely derived from this source.

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