

# Factors Attributed to Crime Causation Among Persons Deprived of Liberty in a Rural Jail in the Philippines

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## Abstract

Beyond every crime that happens because of different factors or reasons. Understanding the factors that cause crime is necessary to find ways and means to counter the reasons for the crimes and to recommend possible solutions. Other important of understanding the causes of crime include; pinpointing risk factors can help crime prevention managers where to allocate funds; safety and security for the society are attained hence programs to deter crimes are crafted, and law enforcement agencies can determine how society will help in mitigating the effects of crime This study was conducted to determine the factors why the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in Mountain Province District Jail (MPDJ), Philippines committed crimes; and also, to craft a program to address the surfaced factors why PDLs in MPDJ committed crimes. The study employed a qualitative-descriptive research design. Although the MPDJ covers male and female dorms, only sixteen male PDLs serve as the study's participants because there was no sentenced district female prisoner incarcerated when the study was conducted. An interview was employed to gather the data needed for the study. The participants' responses during the interview were recorded and noted using paper and pen. In light of the findings from the study, PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail committed crimes because of internal and external factors. Specifically, it includes; pleasure, impulsivity, and uncontrolled emotion for internal factors, while external factors that caused them to commit crime include; the influence of liquor, lack of education, peer influence, and poverty. Programs to address the surfaced factors why PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail committed crimes include; skill building, information dissemination, and training programs for livelihood.

**Keywords:** Persons Deprived of Liberty, Crime Causation, District Jail

## 1. Introduction

Over time, individuals have attempted to clarify the reasons behind someone's criminal behavior (Causes of Crime, n. d.). Understanding the causes of crime is needed to provide solutions that help to alleviate the problem brought by it as slated in the article entitled "Section 4. Analyzing root causes of problems: the "but why?" technique (n. d.). The causes of crime may be intricate, but understanding the reasons for it is crucial because crime affects all areas of life. Moreover, one nature of crime is dynamic in which up-to-date solutions need to be provided. Other importance of understanding the causes of crime include; pinpointing risk factors can help crime prevention managers where to allocate limited funds; safety and security for the society are attained hence programs to deter crimes are crafted, and law enforcement agencies can determine how society will help in mitigating the effects of crime.

The article "Economic and Social Effects of Crime (n.d.)" posited that crime affects the victim/s, communities, and governments socially and economically. Weatherburn (2001) also pointed out that crime rises or falls over time due to economic factors, alcohol consumption, availability of firearms, family breakdowns, poverty, and the like. Various countries attempted to tackle the negative consequences of crime by implementing different methods, such as enacting laws that enforce punishments, improving law enforcement capabilities, allocating funds to address issues, and introducing various programs to combat the root causes and negative effects of criminal activities.

The Philippines is not excused when it comes to crime effects but rather, the country experienced negative consequences from crime. This situation prompted both government and non-government sectors to implement different schemes to prevent it. In addition to the allocation of budget to prevent crime occurrence, the government implements programs, and strategies, and even revives the cultural practices that can be utilized as crime prevention measures just to decrease the crime rate.

In Mountain Province, violation of Republic Act 9165 (Dangerous Drug Act of 2002), Acts of Lasciviousness, Rape, Statutory Rape, and Murder are the five most common crimes committed for the past five years (2017-2021) based on the records of Mountain Province District Jail (personal communication, 2021). In 2022, Acts of Lasciviousness were committed by 68.75 percent of district prisoners incarcerated in Mountain Province District Jail, while 31.25 percent committed Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, attempted Homicide, theft, and severe physical harm.

Going back to what happened in 2007, sexual abuses topped the rights violations against children in Mountain Province (Dumlao, 2007). In 2017, the crime index showed an alarming trend in rape cases in the Cordillera; specifically, 9 rape cases were committed in Mountain Province (Catajan, 2017). In 2019, 800 rape cases were committed in the Cordillera Region that covers Mountain Province; perpetrators are mostly committed by family partners, neighbors, or acquaintances (Llanes, 2019).

Connecting what happened in 2007, 2017, and 2019, and the cases of those district prisoners in Mountain Province District Jail in 2022, rape, sexual assault, and acts of lasciviousness are considered the top crimes being committed. Despite the Police Regional Office-Cordillera's claims that the crime rate has fallen recently in 2021, crimes committed in Mountain Province are considered heinous and can affect the province's morality and identity. More so, it could affect the economic aspect of the province especially since the province is a tourist destination, the identity of people traveling to other places, negative stigma to those applicants hunting for jobs, and many more. With these facts being mentioned, the researcher is motivated to conduct this study to understand the cause of crime which is deemed necessary to create programs to lessen crime occurrences.

### **1.1. Review of Related Literature**

Rajpurohit (2016) claims that while considering the medieval and early modern eras, intrinsic depravity and the devil's incitement were the main theories for the reasons of crime. However, Holzman-Escareno (n. d.) offers some support for the views of the great philosopher Aristotle, who stated that "poverty is the mother of all revolutions and crime." Aristotle also noted in his writings that factors contributing to crime causation include generational poverty, illiteracy, and the breakdown of family structures. Francis

Bacon, on the other hand, maintained that crime is contingent upon circumstances. He expressed his position by stating that "opportunity makes a thief." Voltaire and Rousseau declared that crime is synonymous with hedonistic conduct and disobedience to societal norms (Badua, 2019).

The article published by NetNewsLedger (2019) entitled "Top 10 Reasons for Crime" includes: poverty, peer pressure, drugs, politics, religion, family conditions, society, unemployment, deprivation, and an unfair judicial system. In Venezuela, which was tagged to be the number 1 country with a high crime rate (83.76) according to the article titled "Crime Rate by Country 2021(2021)", the underlying reasons or causes of high crime rates include; corruption among Venezuelan authorities, a flawed judiciary system, and poor gun control. This statement is supported by the article of Shultz (2019) which says that the primary cause of violence in Venezuela is the economic recession and political discourse.

The contributory factors that make Papua New Guinea rank number 2 (Crime Rate by Country 2021, 2021) with a high crime rate (80.74) include; rapid social, economic, and political changes, limited or informal education, and employment opportunities, organized crimes and its geography. Miller (2015) also found the employment factor to affect crime, whereas prisoners in the United States are more likely to be unemployed and earn less than the general population. On the other hand, Chaudhuri et al. (2015) found in their study that increased opportunities for employment and a higher literacy rate reduce crime. Additionally, Zarcone et al. (2018) found in their study in El Salvador that temporary employment programs are a critical preventive measure to reduce conflict and crime.

In South Africa, which ranks as the number 3 country with a high crime rate-76.86 (Crime Rate by Country 2021, 2021), the causes of crimes include the failure of parents to engage with their infants and children properly and the experience of violence in their childhood homes (Gould, 2015). Other causes are poverty, inequality, unemployment, social exclusion, and the normalization of violence. More so, South Africa's government, needs to spend at least 3 to 4.7 percent of its GDP on public order and safety (Public Order and Safety Spending Worldwide, 2019).

Factors found to cause crime in Kabul, Afghanistan (Rank 4 with high crime rate-Crime rate by country 2021, 2021) range from economic factors, social factors, and family Structure (Rezaie, 2018). For Honduras, factors contributing to its high crime rate include gang violence, drug trafficking, impunity, poverty, and corruption (Violence in Honduras, 2020).

In India according to Negi (2019), the main causes of crimes include; a lack of education, an ineffective legal system, poverty, alcohol and drugs, and a virtual world. Gentry et al. (2016) affirm in their work that educational attainment helps deter crime. The study of Hjalmarsson and Lochner (2012) also concludes that increasing educational attainment and school quality, and policies encouraging schooling among more crime-prone areas can produce crime reduction in both property and violent crime as a benefit. Furthermore, Machin et al. (2010) also pointed out that improving education among offenders and potential offenders can be used to combat crime.

The study of Dong et al. (2020) found that the poverty level in rural areas and the average income level in urban areas contribute to the local incidence of violent crimes in China. Meanwhile, in the United

States, the study by Imran et al. (2018) identifies poverty as a leading factor leading to the commission of property crime. More so, in the American prison population, it is noted that 85% of its population has abused drugs or alcohol. Additionally, in 2016 alone, the United States Government allotted at least \$2.7 billion for violence preparedness, prevention, security, and safety within healthcare facilities (Violent Crime, 2019). Comparing the spending rate of the United States to Israel, the Israel government spends an estimated \$1.1 billion annually for equipment and services for the Israeli Police, Prison Service, Fire, and Rescue Authority, Anti-drug and Alcohol Authority, and the Witness Protection Authority (Israel-Country Commercial Guide: Safety and Security, 2021).

In the Philippines, the causes of crime are complex, similar to other countries. The causes of crimes include poverty, parental neglect, low self-esteem, and alcohol & drug abuse (Sakin, 2021). According to Sanchez (2020), the use of illegal drugs causes a significant number of crimes all over the country. Moreover, Sylvester (2020) stated in his article that the presence of local criminal gangs, very poor regulations on firearms, poverty, and consumption of alcohol are some of the factors that lead to the commission of crime in the country.

In the Cordillera, consumption of alcoholic beverages leads to the commission of the crime, specifically physical injury is the most committed crime among the index crimes (Agoot, 2019). Truntsevsky et al. (2020) support the idea that the consumption of alcoholic beverages is the main cause of crime. Grinols and Mustard (2016) also concluded in their study that problem gambling is linked to higher crime. Similarly, the article entitled "What influences Criminal Behavior (n. d.)" posited that criminal behavior and substance abuse are linked. Another cause of crime in the Cordillera, as pointed out by Llanes (2019), is the presence of numerous local and foreign tourists visiting Baguio City and other tourist spots in La Trinidad, Benguet, which allows criminals to commit criminal acts.

## 1.2. Theoretical /Conceptual Framework

The study is premised on the concept of the free will principle, and pleasure principle as supported by different theories that explain the causes of crime: Rational Choice Theory, Differential Association Theory, and Self-control Theory.

Free will is based on the premise that people can choose how to act and have the freedom to choose their behavior. The statement means that we can choose to commit the crime or not (except for a child and an insane person). Mcleod (2019) speculates that behavior is not random, but we are free from the causal influences of past events and adds that in free will, a person is responsible for their actions. With crime causation, a crime happens because a person has chosen to commit such. In other words, crime will not happen if that person decides not to do such. Moreover, humans can only perpetrate crime, and things cannot. Based on the assumptions of the freewill principle, Humans understand what is right or wrong (except for children and mentally disabled persons) and have the freedom to choose the right behavior, which could lead to not committing crimes, while choosing the wrong behavior leads to the commission of a crime. This study utilized the free will principle to explain different internal causes of crimes.

In lieu of the freewill principle, the classical theory concludes that punishment should be imposed to limit free will in choosing a behavior that the perpetrator may gain while inflicting pain or suffering on

the victim. Additionally, punishment should serve as a deterring factor to make people not commit crimes or decrease crimes (Akers & Sellers, 2013). The pleasure principle, according to Patel (2014), is the driving force that compels human beings to gratify their needs, wants, and urges, and these needs and urges can be simple or complex. To show the connection of the pleasure principle to crime causation, crime is committed because of the pleasure derived in the commission of such. A good example of this is the crime of thief. A person who needs materials or wants something but does not have the resources to acquire such may steal to satisfy his needs or wants. On the other hand, a person who lacks the basic necessities for survival may commit a crime just to fulfill the needs he/she needs. The pleasure principle was used in this study to explain the internal and external causes of crime. The preceding paragraphs discuss the supporting theory of free will and pleasure principle in explaining the causes of crime. The theory is composed of concepts and principles, and this component helps us understand or explain matters and predict future events (What is Theory?, n. d.).

**Rational Choice Theory.** People are rational individuals who have the freedom to choose their course of action - commit a crime or not. Thus, crime can be prevented if the individual knows the consequences of their actions will bring negative consequences. Rational choice theory is based on the fundamental tenets of classical criminology which hold that people freely choose their behavior and are motivated by the avoidance of pain and the pursuit of pleasure (Review of the Roots of Youth Violence: Literature Reviews, Volume 5, Chapter 3, n. d.). Rational choice, in relation to crime causation, negates that people commit crimes because they are motivated to gain pleasure and their desire; thereby avoiding pain or hardships. People are rational individuals who have the freedom to choose their course of action - commit a crime or not. Thus, a crime can be prevented if the individual knows the consequence of their actions will bring negative consequences.

**Differential Association Theory.** The theory, according to Tancangco (2018) suggests that individuals who commit deviant acts are influenced to do so by primary groups and intimate social contracts. Crime happens once a person is associated with individuals or groups that display deviant acts or commit crimes. Associating with individuals who commit deviant acts or crimes will teach people certain techniques and skills to perpetrate crimes. Thus, the person does not only learn deviant behavior or commit a crime, but they could become a skillful criminal. Prevention of crimes requires different schemes. Association with deviant or criminal groups or individuals affects all ages, adolescents, teenagers, young adults, or even adults; hence learning how to commit crimes is tantamount to learning anything else that can happen at any age level.

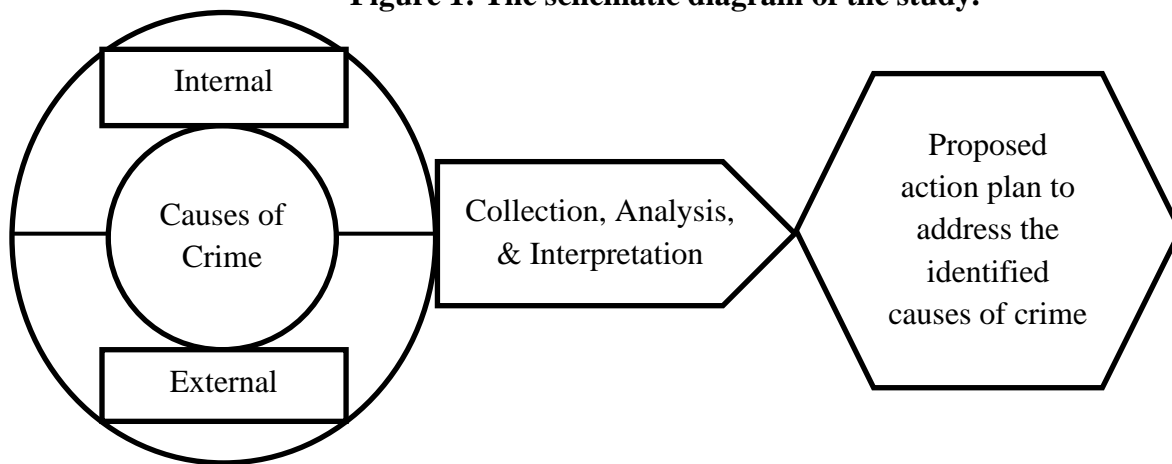
**Self-control Theory.** Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi argue that those who learn early to exercise self-control will be less involved in delinquency, crime, and other problem behaviors later in life. Moreover, self-control is the ability to forego acts that provide immediate or near-term pleasures, but have negative consequences for the acts and the ability to act in favor of longer-term interest (Gottfredson, 2017). In relation to crime causation, a person with self-control to avoid being greedy, lustful, angry, and the like is likely not to be involved in a crime. Conversely, people who cannot exercise self-control in terms of greed, lust for the flesh, anger, and similar acts are likely to be involved in deviant acts or are likely to commit crimes.

### 1.3. Schematic Diagram of the Study

Crime brings problems to society that affect members from it. Since crime become a problem in society, humanity has tried to stop its occurrence or its impact using different measures. In this study, the diagram presents the main purpose of the study which is to understand the causes of crime or the underlying factors why sentenced PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail committed crimes. The factors identified were categorized into two: internal and external factors. Internal factors, as used in this study, refer to any factors within the biological and psychological aspects of the PDLs that caused them to commit crimes. Meanwhile, external factors refer to environmental, social, and economic factors that affect the PDLs to commit a crime.

The internal and external factors found were utilized to formulate the proposed action plan, which addresses the identified causes of crime. For the researcher to create the said plan, the data gathered from the respondents were analyzed and interpreted. The action plan and its details are presented in chapter three of this study. The schematic diagram of the study is presented on the page.

**Figure 1: The schematic diagram of the study.**



### 1.4. Objectives of the Study

The major purpose of this study is to determine the factors attributed to crime causation among sentenced Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in Mountain Province District Jail (MPDJ). Specifically, the study sought answers to the following;

1. What are the underlying factors why sentenced PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail Committed Crimes?
2. What action plan may be proposed to address the significant underlying factors on the identified causes of crime?

## 2. Methods

The study used descriptive-qualitative research designs. The locale of the study was in Mountain Province District Jail, Bontoc, Mountain Province, Philippines. There were 16 male (no female district PDL when the study was conducted) District Person Deprived of Liberty who served as the participants of the study. Insular Prisoners and Detainees were not included hence they could be transferred to

National Prisons nor detainees be acquitted in their cases. Since the study was conducted during the COVID-19 surge, all necessary protocols were complied with. An open-ended interview guide question that was validated was used in gathering the data. The questionnaires focus on eliciting the factors why the sentenced PDLs committed crimes, and look into the different factors (family, work and income, hobby/ies, media, vices, educational background, environment, personality, and others) as reasons why the participants of the study committed crimes. The researcher conducted a follow-up interview with the study's participants to gather more data necessary for the study. The researcher also used pen and paper to record the participants' responses.

To protect the participant's identity, they were given a pseudonym of Respondent 1 to 16 (R1-16). Also, in the informed consent, the participants were instructed not to write their real names but instead used R-1, R2, R3, to 16. The code also allows the researcher to have a guide on whose responses were noted. Several follow-up interviews were also conducted with the participants. For the treatment of data, thematic analysis was utilized.

### **3. Results and Discussion**

During the interview, several reasons surfaced as to why the Persons Deprived of Liberty in Mountain Province District Jail committed crimes. Factors are generally categorized into two: internal and external factors.

#### **3.1. Internal Factors**

The biological and psychological aspects of human beings can be a factor in the commission of a crime. This study found that the biological and psychological aspects of PDLs incarcerated in MPDJ are a factor for them to commit crimes. Biological factors, which include variances in autonomic arousal, neurobiology, and neuroendocrine functioning, have been shown to increase the likelihood of committing criminal acts (What influences criminal behavior? n. d.). When it comes to psychological aspects as causes of crime, criminologists link individuals' personalities to the commission of the crime. Moreover, the article titled 'Causes of Crime' (2016) pointed out that psychological explanations for crime are based on the mind and mental processes. This study yielded that internal factors contributing to why the PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail committed crime include; pleasure, impulsivity, and uncontrolled emotion.

##### **3.1.1. Pleasure**

Sometimes, human actions are guided by the pleasure principle. According to Patel (2014), the Pleasure principle is a powerful force that drives people to perform actions to achieve their wants, needs, and urges. Additionally, humans achieve their wants, needs, and urges differently- proper or improper. This study found that because of wanting or urges (pleasure), some respondents (R3, 13, and 15) committed acts of lasciviousness. The three participants committed acts of lasciviousness because of pleasure. With the desire to achieve such pleasure, they could not restrain themselves from doing such despite it being a wrongful action. They did not try to balance or think of the consequences of their actions to them or their victim. The pleasure tagged as "want or urge" becomes a powerful force that drives them to commit a crime. Their rational thinking was distracted, and they did not consider their actions' consequences.

According to Perlmutter (2019), instant gratification behaviors can create problems by changing human brains, distracting them from more meaningful pursuits, and leading to destructive financial, social, and health outcomes. For R3, 13, and 15, their actions bring the hardship of life being incarcerated. On the other hand, participants R3, R13 & R15 have shown low self-control. According to the Self-control theory by Gottfredson and Hirschi, self-control means the ability to forego acts that provide immediate or near-term pleasures but also have negative consequences for the acts (Gottfredson, 2017).

It can be generalized from the respondents' responses to the study that pleasure and low self-control lead to the commission of a crime. Improving self-control is needed to have rational thinking that would entail sound decision-making about whether to perform or not to perform an action.

### 3.1.2. Impulsivity

Are all crimes committed with a plan? Or do all convicted criminals commit their crimes intentionally? In this study, some participants committed their crimes impulsively. Based on the result of interviews R4, R6, & R10 committed the crime of acts of lasciviousness impulsively.

In the work of Moeller et al. (2001), as cited by Bakhshani (2014), they hold a comprehensive definition of impulsivity that includes the aspect of; decreased sensitivity to the negative consequence of behavior; immediate and unplanned reaction to stimuli before processing the information thoroughly; and no regard for long-term consequences of a behavior. Thus, concerning the experiences of R4, R6, & R10, all of them committed their crime without considering or thinking of the consequences of their actions because when the researcher asked R4 what he was thinking or had in mind when he was about to commit the crime, he stated that “nothing, it's too late to regret sir”. Likewise, R6 stipulated that after I had done that then I came to think about how to provide for the needs of my family, and the same with R10.

Impulsivity was also found by Mouilso et al. (2013) to be a trait relevant to sexual aggression. An impulsivity trait is the tendency to act impulsively when experiencing intense emotions (positive and negative urgency) and a lack of forethought and planning (lack of premeditation). In light of the study's findings, the participants committed acts of lasciviousness without thinking of its outcome, especially to their families. Moreover, their impulsive actions brought problems not only to them, their family, and their victim. Being victimized, especially by sexual or private crimes, is not easy, for it affects the person psychologically. According to the article entitled "Consequence of Sexual Harassment (n. d.)," victims of sexual harassment can suffer various physical and psychological distress. Psychological effects include anxiety, headaches, depression, sleep disorders, nausea, lowered self-esteem, and sexual dysfunction.

### 3.1.3. Uncontrolled Emotions

Emotions that are not controlled or whenever an individual cannot control his/her emotions may result in inappropriate or unacceptable actions given the situation or setting. In this study, R2 committed acts of lasciviousness, and R14 committed the crime of serious physical injury due to uncontrolled emotion.



Based on the statements of R2 and R14, both committed their crimes from having an uncontrolled emotion as the underlying factor. Specifically, love and anger. For R2, no other factors prompted him to commit such, while for R14, his anger was triggered because of headache, admonition, and the effects of alcohol.

Love is a strong force that brings intimacy, trust, and happiness. Love can be directed towards family, friends, the opposite sex, or even oneself. It is a strong force that physically and psychologically affects a person. Behrens (2018) pointed out that love has both a positive and negative impact physically and psychologically. On the negative side, love can bring depression, suicide, and stress. While for the positive side, love improves health, personal ties, and relationships. In the case of R2, love creates intimacy between him and the other party; however, because of that feeling, he cannot control it and he cannot set boundaries. In the end, his actions resulted in the breaking of the law.

The emotion of anger, according to Howells (2004), is important as an antecedent for many forms of violence. Tarabay and Warburton (2017) defined anger as an emotion that motivates and energizes one to act. Anger can drive destructive behavior and energize people to make constructive changes. On the negative side of anger, aggression is produced. Aggression can be physical (punching), verbal (hurting another with words), and relational (damaging another person's relationships) (Tarabay & Warburton, 2017).

In light of the findings, the experience of R14 supported the claims of Howells (2004) that anger led to violence. The identified experience is related to the work of Tarabay and Warburton (2017); both proved and contradicted it. On the proving side, R14 became aggressive (physical and relational) due to his anger which led him to commit serious physical injury. On the contrary, his anger did not offer him or bring him a constructive change; hence, he was punished by being imprisoned, and his relationship with his victim became problematic.

Emotions are part of human beings, and it has a crucial role. According to Cherry (2021), Emotions can play an important role on how an individual thinks and behaves. This emotion that an individual feels daily can compel him/her to take action and influence decisions. However, with the study, one needs to control his emotions since emotions always have a positive and negative impact on anyone. Worst, emotions can lead one to break the laws and would lead to suffering, to having broken families, and the like.

### **3.2. External Factors**

As supported by sociological theories, external factors are criminal activities influenced by societal conditions (Sociological theories of crime: overview & features, 2014). Several studies have concluded that societal factors, as pointed out in the sociological theories, were related to crime. For Jose (2021), social and environmental factors cause crime. Hamzah and Lau (2013) also found in their study entitled "The Role of social factors in explaining crime" that population, fertility, unemployment, and economic growth (GDP) in either the short or long run period influenced crime. Meanwhile, Henry (2016) pointed out that poverty or financial capability, a child's education, and parents' choice of how to raise their children play a role in criminality. Families who lack solid communication and weaker bonds directly

impact the development of aggressive behavior; families who are financially or mentally unstable may cause one to participate in criminal activity. This study also found that external factors contribute to why the PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail committed crimes, including the influence of liquor, lack of education, peer influence, and poverty.

### 3.2.1. Influence of Liquor

One of the common causes of crime is related to alcohol. The study by Galbicsek (2021) emphasizes that 40% of all convictions are down to alcohol abuse in which the perpetrator was intoxicated when committing the crime. This intoxication makes a person lack inhibition, especially when speaking about underage drinking. Alcohol and violence statistics state that over 86% of homicides were committed under the influence of alcohol. Juergens (2021) claims that alcohol can severely impair a person's judgment, be belligerent, angry, and prone to violence, which causes them to take risks and commit actions they would never have otherwise. Moreover, Truntsevsky et al. (2020) claim that the main cause of crime is the existence of human vices, which decreases public morality. The findings of the study support the work of Galbicsek (2021), Truntsevsky et al. (2020), and Juergens (2021). Whereas R1, R8, R12, and R16 committed crimes due to the influence of liquor.

Those mentioned participants were able to commit acts of lasciviousness, theft, serious physical injury, and other acts of child abuse due to their being under the influence of liquor which caused them to lose their rational minds. R1, R8, R16, and R12 committed crimes because they were under the influence of alcohol. Being under the influence of alcohol made them lose their rational mind to understand what is right or wrong. Alcohol inhibits them from thinking rationally and intellectually. Actions that are irrationally and unintellectually pondered usually produce harmful effects. Furthermore, they do not understand the consequences of their actions; that these would affect their family's reputation.

Persons who overconsume are susceptible to committing crimes; thus, vices do not bring good things to life but only destroy the person in all aspects not only on the effect of incarceration but even on health, family, and community. When it comes to health, drinking too much alcohol endangers everybody; and with crime, it affects mood, specifically anxiety and irritability. This character is linked to crime causation. For families, alcoholism can cause financial drain, unhealthy relationships, undisciplined and unguided children, and, worst, broken families. Alcoholism is one of the factors that cause juvenile delinquency.

The community is not spared from the impact of alcoholism; in fact, alcoholism brings unproductivity, unemployment, and accidents in the workplace. The community is also disturbed when traffic accidents along the road happen by drivers who are alcoholics.

### 3.2.2. Peer Influence

The influence of peers shapes human behaviors. However, not all individuals are influenced by peers, but some accept this influence because they want to be welcomed and valued by their friends. Others did it because of inefficient social (family, education, church, and other sectors) guidance and discipline. In general, peer influence can offer both negative and positive effects. On the negative side, peer influence leads to acquiring vices like smoking or using alcohol or illegal drugs, which could be considered a

factor in the commission of a crime. On the positive, peer influence can make a teenager do something good at school (Peer pressure and influence: pre-teens and teenagers, 2021). In this study, peer influence negatively affects the respondents, leading them to commit a crime. This study found that R12, R14, and R16 learned how to drink alcohol and other vices through peer influence. Those vices learned became a contributory factor for them to commit thief (R12) and acts of lasciviousness (R15 & R16), as supported by their statements.

Differential association theory (DAT) suggests that individuals who commit deviant acts are influenced to do so by primary groups and intimate social contracts (Tancangco, 2018). This study supports differential association theory's claims that R12, R14, and R16 were taught by their peers to drink, gamble, and smoke which became a factor for them to commit a crime. Without the negative effects of peers on the identified respondents, they would not have committed such a crime. Surprisingly, despite whether the respondents of the study learned to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, chew betelnuts, and gamble on their own, or due to the influence of peers, or culture, all of them learned about their vices when they were in their teenage years-they learned such as early as 12 years of age. Thus, this scenario portrays the role of the different sectors of society in exerting effort to teach, discipline, and monitor teenagers. A published article titled "How Does Peer Pressure Affect a Teen's Social Development?" (2021) claimed that peer influence is inevitable because as children grow, they want to spend less time with their parents, but more time with friends, even if via social media. As such, there is a need for the parents and the community to communicate with them and intervene if necessary to avoid the negative consequences of peer influence.

### 3.2.3. Lack of Education

In the research arena, some have proven that educational attainment is linked with the crime committed. However, some say that educational attainment is not linked to crime causation. In this study, most of the respondents belonged to the elementary level, and none of them were able to graduate from college. Specifically speaking, R4, R9, and R12 claimed that they committed a crime due to a lack of education. R4 and R9 stated that if they had the chance to finish their studies they would tend not to commit such crimes while R12, would focus on his work and doing other things rather than being involved in drinking and gambling.

An online published article titled "Lack of education: Causes and effects" (n. d.) claims that what prevents one from acquiring a quality education is the same as severe as the effects of the lack of education. In addition, the article explains that lack of education is not because of having no access to education and non-attendance; rather, it is also a direct consequence of the poor quality of teaching. In Papua New Guinea (Crime Rate by Country 2021, 2021), India (Negi, 2019), and in the study of Holzman-Escareno (n. d.), one of the factors that contribute to the causation of crime is lack of education.

On the other hand, studies by Machin et al. (2010), Hjalmarsson and Lochner (2012), Chaudhuri et al. (2015), and Gentry et al. (2016), in general, found that improving and increasing educational attainment helps to deter, reduce, and combat crime. The statements of R4, R9, and R12 strengthen the findings of Machin et al. (2010), Hjalmarsson and Lochner (2012), Chaudhuri et al. (2015), and Gentry et al. (2016)

that improving and increasing educational attainments helps to deter, reduce and combat crime hence, education can land an individual to a good job and attitude which would prevent committing crimes. This insight is true in the Philippines, where education is crucial for a good-paying job to counter crime because even menial work requires at least a high school graduate or college level. Many studies have concluded that unemployment is linked to crime due to a lack of finances for needs and wants. Thus, finishing studies is one of the many good countermeasures against criminality.

#### **3.2.4. Poverty**

Poverty is established as a factor that led to crime causation way back, even in the time of Aristotle, who said that "poverty is the mother of all revolution" (Badua, 2019). In this research study, respondents 4, 9, and 12 have pinpointed that poverty has somewhat become a factor in the commission of crimes. R4, R9, and R12 all say that life is hard. Poverty was found by Weatherburn (2001), Imran et al. (2018), Negi (2019), Dong et al. (2020), and Sylvester (2020) in their respective study to be a factor in the commission of a crime. Additionally, an article published by NetNewsLedger (2019) and the article entitled Crime Rate by Country 2021 (2021) and Violence in Honduras (2020) also claimed that poverty causes crime. Thus, this study also speculates that poverty is one of the causes of crime.

Poverty on many faces led people to commit crimes. For example, due to the inability to provide basic needs, people may commit theft, robbery, and the like to acquire the need. Another, poverty due to unemployment and limited income may lead people to commit crimes. In this study, three (3) participants claimed that life is hard. Due to the hardness of life, their educational needs were unmet, and as a result, they could not be able to finish their studies. One of the participants claimed that instead of focusing on their job and doing other things, he focused on drinking and gambling, which led him to commit a crime. For the other two participants, finishing their studies would have led them to have higher and more advanced thinking capacity, which would be a deterrent factor for them not to commit a crime. According to this study's findings, poverty is a factor that leads to the commission of a crime before and even to this date.

#### **3.3. Propose Action Plan to address the surface factors why sentenced PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail committed crimes**

In light of the findings of the study on the factors why Persons Deprived of Liberty in Mountain Province District Jail (MPDJ) committed crimes, an action plan was crafted to address the surfaced factors. Furthermore, the KRAs are the external and internal factors. The action plan was crafted by the researcher. However, before the finalization of the action plan, the researcher interviewed the Warden of MPDJ to gather data or information to improve the proposed action plan. The contents of the said action plan may be studied by the personnel of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and other correctional institutions to fit into their reformation or rehabilitation program or inmates' welfare and development program or may invite the researcher to discuss the contents of the action plan. Table 1 presents the action plan crafted.

**Table 1: Action Plan**

<b>KEY RESULT AREA</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>FEEDBACK MECHANISM</b>	
Impulsivity	1. To build skills that will reduce	a) Psychotherapy	Psychology Unit of BJMP In	Program crafted by Psychologist	Assessment or Progress report by Therapist	
	Impulsive Behaviors	b) Extension activity through MOA	Coordination with DOH and SUCs			
	2. To Increase Mindfulness of PDLs to counter impulsivity	a) Seminar-workshop	BJMP Inmates Welfare and Development Unit, DOH, and SUCs	Semestral	Reflection paper or testimony of PDLs	
		b) Extension Activity through MOA				
	Uncontrolled emotions	1. To disseminate information on strategies for emotional management and developing emotional intelligence	a) Seminar-workshop b) Extension Activity through MOA	BJMP Inmates Welfare and Development Unit, DOH, and SUCs	Semestral	Evaluation of the Seminar-workshop
		2. To enhance self-control through various activities	a) Games that teach self-control b) Seminar-workshop on effects of low-self control	BJMP Inmates Welfare and Development Unit, DOH, and SUCs	Quarterly	Evaluation of various activities Progress Report by Psychologist or Psychometrician
			c) Psychotherapy			
			d) Extension Activity			

		through MOA			
Influence of Liquor and peer influence	1. To disseminate information regarding the negative effects of liquor and peer Influence	a) Seminar-workshop b) Extension Activity through MOA	BJMP Inmates Welfare and Development Unit, DOH, and SUCs	Semestral	a) Reflection paper or testimony of PDLs b) evaluation sheet
Influence of liquor	1. To disseminate informative ways to curb alcoholism	a) Seminar-workshop b) extension activity through MOA	BJMP Inmates Welfare and Development Unit, DOH, and SUCs	Semestral	a) Reflection paper or testimony of PDLs b) Evaluation sheet
Poverty	1. To provide ideas of income generation activities that can be availed of thus PDLs after Release	a) Seminar-workshop b) Extension Activity through MOA	BJMP Inmates Welfare and Development Unit, SUCs, TESDA, LGU, and NGOs	Semestral	a) Reflection paper or testimony of PDLs b) evaluation sheet
	2. To provide a skills training program that promotes livelihood	a) Seminar-workshop b) Extension Activity through MOA	BJMP Inmates Welfare and Development Unit, SUCs, TESDA, LGU, and NGOs	Semestral	a) Reflection paper or testimony of PDLs b) evaluation sheet

In summary, the proposed action plan to address the factors that cause the PDLs in Mountain Province District Jail to commit crimes includes building skills that reduce impulsive behaviors, information dissemination on strategies for emotional management and development of emotional intelligence, enhancement of self-control through various activities, an increase of mindfulness to counter impulsivity, information dissemination regarding negative effects of liquor and peer influence, information dissemination on ways to curb alcoholism, providing ideas of income generation, and providing a skills training program that promotes livelihood.

#### 4. Conclusions

Studies have found different causes of crimes. Causes of crimes include poverty and unemployment factor, educational factors, economic factors, family related factors, political factors, unfair judicial factors, emotional and psychological factors, and many more.

In this study, Persons Deprived of Liberty in Mountain Province District Jail committed crimes because of a mixture of internal and external factors. This means that internal factors are not the sole reason for committing, but external factors have contributed to it and vice versa. Further, the study found that more external factors cause PDLs to commit crimes than internal factors. However, family-related factors, personality, work and income, and media were found not to be an underlying reason why PDLs in MPDJ committed crimes.

## 5. Recommendation

Based on the foregoing conclusions, the following are hereby recommended:

1. MPDJ can communicate with HEIs, LGU, and other non-government sector organizations for the conduct of information dissemination or seminar-workshop on ill-effects and possible solutions of vices, peer influence, uncontrolled emotions, impulsivity, and the like;
2. MPDJ can coordinate with TESDA and the likes to provide skills-based training which the PDLs could utilize to accumulate living once they are released from jail;
3. MPDJ can forge MOA with HEIs, LGU, and other non-government organizations to help them conduct what was cited in the action plan of this study;
4. Future researchers may continue to understand the factors why PDLs commit a crime, especially to establish up-to-date crime prevention programs and activities against criminality; and
5. Adopt the action plan cited in this study.

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