Exploring Crime and Its Modus Operandi in Addis Ketema, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Abstract

This study was conducted with the intention of exploring crime and its *modus operandi* in Addis Ketema, Ethiopia. It employed *exploratory research design* and a qualitative research approach. Data were collected through in-depth interview, key informant interview and focus group discussion. The data were analyzed by using thematic analysis technique. The study showed that the types of crimes usually committed against the victims were burglary, larceny; snatching, battery, robbery and physical injury have been committed predominantly. The criminals usually look at the situation, season, time of the crime considering that committed an action works against victims by studying and looking at the potential victim's overall cautions. In this regard, victims were exposed for crime incidents because of their geographical proximity, social proximity, physical proximity, attractiveness, vulnerability or accessibility to the criminals as well as the victims' reactions towards the commission of crime and sometimes due to the techniques and methods, the criminals used that is an unthinkable manner and beyond the victims' ability to defend. Modus operandi that the criminal used to commit crimes against the victims were collision with the victims, scrolling, deception, relies on seasons of the annual year and vulnerability situations of the potential victims in the study area. The criminals have used various techniques to commit crime in different times by bringing new and latest techniques that are unthinkable by the police and victims. Oftentimes, victims exposed to crime and criminal acts because the potential victims did not learn a lesson from other victims and their prior victimization experiences.

Keywords: Crime, Criminal, Ethiopia, Modus Operandi, Victim.

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Introduction

Understanding of crime is a basic concept for this study, as Imiera (2017) stated that crime is an externally and morally imputable violation of a law, which means crime is an action or omission that constitutes an offense that may be prosecuted by the state and is punishable by law. Furthermore, crime is an act or omission which is prohibited by criminal law. Each State sets out a limited series of acts (crimes) which are prohibited and punishes the commission of these acts by fine, imprisonment or some other form of punishment (Nirmala,2009).   In supporting the above definition crime is an act or omission, which is prohibited by criminal law or violation of criminal law (Ethiopian Criminal Code, 2014).

Recorded crime rose sharply in the early nineteenth century, then stabilized until the early twentieth century, then rose again very sharply after the Second World War and particularly after the 1970s. Property crime was the most common offence throughout this period. Crime patterns have clearly changed over time. Recorded crime rates have increased dramatically relative to population increased year to year. Crime is bound up with tension, stresses and strains within societies. Most commonly there is a breakdown of the smooth workings of society. Crime may be more common in the city because the city generates a distinctive way of life (Carrabine,et al, 2009). Nature and impact of crimes negatively spillover panics against the public. Further, crime has an adverse impact on the quality of life of society and is a burden for the economy as well (Ephrem, 2018).

Criminal modus operandi or techniques/methods in victim characteristics developed as central to move forward our understanding of what happens amid the crime. Modus operandi is important within the exploration of property crimes and violent crimes. It is utilized through law enforcement agencies to refer to a criminal's pattern of behavior or his or her way of committing a crime. A criminal's modus operandi is concerned with learned behaviors that can advance and create, as they have to be greater sophisticated and more secrecy. It is through analyzing modus operandi behaviors that law enforcement bodies most normally explore and link crimes to a particular criminal (Leclerc, et al., 2009)

In Ethiopia, property crimes are more widespread in urban centers than rural areas and its size increases with growing urbanization. Property crimes are characterized by fewer clearance rates compared to violent crimes (Nega & Berhanu, 2014). According to Andargachew (2004), crimes against the person and crimes against property constitute more than 50 percent of the total crime reported to the police in Ethiopia.

As Nega and Berhanu (2014) indicated that procedural difficulties in criminal justice system and fear of crime by the offender frustrate victims from reporting their cases. Hence, the crime victims may not report many property crimes

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to the police. The police may not record it, even though; it is reported, because of different reasons that are related to administration, police discretions, political motives, and efficiency evaluation.

In the global crime index by country, Ethiopia found 54 ranks in the world and 15 ranks among African countries (Global crime index, 2024). In effect, there is a considerable risk of crime in Addis Ababa. Perhaps criminals can target residents for crimes; the assumption is that they possess valuables and are more susceptible to becoming victims. Criminals do target pedestrians and their surroundings most for crimes such as pickpocketing, snatch-and-run thefts including from occupied vehicles and other petty crimes. Petty crimes like pickpocketing, purse snatching and harassment by gangs occur at random in Addis Ababa. These crimes are more common in areas with large numbers of pedestrians. Exercise caution in crowded areas, especially in the *Merkato* open-air market and its surroundings (OSAC, 2023).

In support of such ideas, a study conducted by Girma (2018) affirmed that the most serious and repeated crimes are physical injury, battery, burglary, attempt to murder and murder in Addis Ababa. Based on the above authors' reflection, Addis Ketema has a huge population of those who are moving, relocating and residing in it. Life for the residences in this area is not as easy errand as it is anticipated in a way the inhabitants and workers are confronting with diverse psychosocial and socioeconomic born problems like crime. It has high crime escalation, it is hotspot area, due to a place, where business transaction center and swarmed, because of this crime event usually occurs.

The researcher's inspiration for undertaking this study stemmed from consociate with the literature, consulted crime reports and observed crime problems that tackled on the victims in the study area. As a result of the criminal used different sophisticated modus operandi/ techniques over time and the commission of crime to against the potential victims, this tricky problem extended burden to others and to make feel of insecurity and fear of crime on the urban dwellers and residents. Based on the above-mentioned quarrel, basically, the researcher believes that crime has both legal and social implications on the community.

Therefore, this study mainly focused to explore crime and its modus operandi in Addis Ketema, Addis Ababa. It specifically attempted on exploring the types of crime committed against victims. Additionally, the study aimed to identify techniques used by the criminals. The study pursued to provide a comprehensive exploring of crime and its modus operandi by focusing the commission of crime and the techniques used the criminal to attack/against the potential victims in the study area.

Material and Method of the Study

Research design**:** for achieve this study objective; the researcher used exploratory research design, which is appropriate to explore the commission of crime and its modus operandi. It helps to describe a data collected by using interviews and focus group discussion with documentary analysis.

Research approach: the study used a qualitative research approach; this approach enables the researcher to explore multiple insights about the types of crime against victim and the techniques/methods that the criminal used to victimize the potential innocent dwellers.

Methods and instruments of data collection**:** as remarked above, this study employs a qualitative approach; therefore, this study used suitable data collection instrument like in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and documentary analysis. The interview guide questions were open-ended having a semi-structured format prepared to obtain data on the types of crime and its modus operandi.

Target participants and sampling techniques**:** Undertaken for this study, the researcher selected a sample seventeen victims were males and twelve victims were females for in-depth interviews selected based on snowball sampling techniques. Focus group discussion participants were selected from the crime victims in line with snowball sampling. Besides, the police participated in focus group discussion selected through the judgmental sampling technique. Three focus group discussions were conducted first with eight victim informants; second with others eight victim informants; and third with ten police officers. Further, fourteen police officers and three prosecutors have participated as key informant interviewees selected based on the judgmental sample technique in the study area.

Methods of data analysis**:** this study has employed thematic analysis technique; it helps to identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns and themes within the data. Therefore, in order to attain at a thematic analysis, written note and tape-record interview data and focus group discussion results were transcribed, coded and categorized before they were finally analyzed. Finally, the researcher analyzed the written notes, audiotaped data, and interviews verbatim in collaboration.

Results and Discussion of the Study

This portion of the article mainly focused on the types of crime and its modus operandi. More specifically, it has attempted to address the types of crime committed against victims, and the techniques/methods that the criminal used to attack the potential victims by referring pertinent literature review on the topic under study.

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Types of Crimes Committed against the Victims

Crime is an incident that happens on individuals committed by criminals by identifying conducive time, place, season, situation, focus, caution and victim's general attention. Both police officers' and victims' focus group discussants revealed the types of crimes that usually against the victims; snatching, battery, larceny, burglary, robbery and physical injury. Attuned the focus group discussants statement the following victims statements and verbatim confirmed that the types of crimes committed on them. The victims explained when the victims' state of condition found during the commission of the crime within their victimization experiences.

Battery is unlawful touching of another person with the aim to cause harm. As one victim, interviewee described the overall situation of the crime incident in his statement and written by the researcher in the following way:

> *The type of crime committed against me was battery by gangsters during evening around 3:30 o'clock at Autobustera. The commission of crime totally changed my life and my attitudes towards other persons. I am less approachable to persons; I tend not to be around persons anymore, just to be on my own. Physically injured a lot worse my sleep and eating patterns thoroughly changed. Everything I had in my life has totally changed due to the crime commission was server. It was a very difficult incident in my life* (Victim of battery, male and age 30).

Additionally, other victim shared the crime situation, place and the time of the crime occurrence:

> *"I am a waiter at Grocery. One day, in 2019 at 4:30 o'clock in the night, a customer came and ordered me for a beer. I told him that we were closing the grocery, because we are done. He did hit my head by taking a bottle from a chair. The type of the crime committed against me was battery"* (Victim of battery, male and age 36).

Snatching crime is taking of cash, a wallet or purse, mobile and run away from a person without using sharp material or threat of force and without causing physical injury on the victim.

The crime victim interviewee's explanation confirmed this idea as follow:

> *The type of crime committed on me was snatching. While I was set to travel to the countryside, unknown people came on my way to the bus station in a place commonly called Gojjam Berenda around 11:30 o'clock at night in 2019. The thieves took my Samsung mobile phone, bag, money and then they*

ran away. The crime committed on me took place in the street (Victim of snatching, female and age 31).

Physical injury crime is unlawful attack of victim with the aim of causing harm and injury on the victim persons,

"The type of crime committed against me was physical injury. In 2019 around 3 o'clock in the morning, I started a verbal conversation with my neighbor on the demarcation of our fence, and then because of the disagreement between us, unexpectedly he punched on my face and then my front tooth broken." (Victims of physical injury, male and age 38).

Based the victim's statement, the victim and criminal were anger before this crime was committed on the victim. Similarly the victim's verbatim Siegel (2000) explained that some victims' characteristics increase risk because they arouse, anger and destructive impulses in potential offenders.

Theft from the victim often referred to as pickpocketing that normally include personal property such as a purse, handbag, wallet, mobile phone and other materials the criminal by entering the victim's pocket.

"The crime was committed on train transportation. In 2020 around 12:00 o'clock in the afternoon, while I was travelling on train from Atkilttera to Autobustera, they took my Hawaii mobile phone around Sebategna area, which I bought for 5500 ETB." (Victim of pickpocketing, male and age 39).

Larceny is taking away the personal materials of another with the intent to take and possess the material goods. The crime victim explained the committed crime on her:

The type of crime against me was larceny and committed on the bus station. In 2018 at 11:00 o'clock in the afternoon, after arriving from countryside, I was looking for someone to help for me by holding my luggage until the taxi station. Then, one person came over me to carry my luggage. On my way to the taxi station, I found a buddy of mine and while welcoming him at that moment the individual escape from me with my whole luggage (Victim of larceny, female, age 32).

Burglary is the act of illegal entry in the victim's house with the intent to steal, particularly in the night time with the intent to commit an offence. Crime victim interviewee explained the commission of the crime in the following way:

"The type of crime committed against me was burglary. It was in 2018, but I do not know the exact time; the day was Ethiopian Epiphany holiday, I was not in the house, the criminals broken my house by using sharp materials and they took my 32-inch LG TV, Toshiba laptop and other properties from my house at night." (Victim of burglary, male, age 40).

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Compatibility to the above victims' description on the commission of crime and the condition where the victims were found and correspondingly within a study made by Nirmala (2009) that revealed the person who became a victim in crime being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Those victims called as the depressive types of victims who are an easy target, being careless and unsuspecting.

Based on the above victims' statements the types of crimes committed against the victims are crime against person and crime against property. Under crime against person category, battery and physical injury have been committed. Under crime against property category such as snatching, burglary, larceny and robbery have been committed on victims.

In conclusion, the types of crimes committed on the victims take into account of the overall situation of the victims, considering the time and place of the crime, for that reason, pickpocketing, snatching, and larceny crimes were committed against the victims that the place where there are so many people moving and working area, particularly, in supermarkets, shopping centers and transport stations. On the other hand, physical injury and battery were committed against victims a few or sometimes in areas where no more people in the areas. Exceptionally, burglary crime was mostly committed against the victim in the night time in the absence of the owner in the house.

Victims' Exposure to Crime

As Illingworth (2007) described person becoming a victim of crime is an unpleasant and unwanted life experience. The impact of crime victimization is serious, throwing victims into a state of shock, fear, anxiety and anger. The physical, psychological, social and financial repercussions of crime can be devastating to victims. Coping and recovering from victimization are complex process.

As Siegel (2000) stated that target antagonism, target vulnerability and target gratifiability of the victims to makes them easy target to potential criminal act and being victimized. Quite often victims exposure to potential offenders and being victimized because of the contributing factors for victimization and exposed for criminal acts, among those, victims near to potential criminal like geographical proximity, social proximity, physical proximity, attractiveness, vulnerability or accessibility as well as reactions to crime (Elzeiny, 2016; Hope, 2007; Dastile, 2004).

1. **Geographical proximity:** as Dastile (2004) stated that victims who live in close proximity to potential criminals are more likely being victimization. On top of this, potential criminals are more likely to commit crimes in areas close to their households. Thus, victims living in areas where motivated criminals are present

are more likely to be supposed as suitable targets for crime. In this regard, as one victim interviewee explained his victimization issue in the following way:

> *"The type of crime committed against me was physical injury. In 2020 around 8 o'clock in the afternoon, I started a discussion with my neighbor on the current political issue it was extended up to ethnical case, and then because of the disagreement between us, unexpectedly he battered my leg and then my leg was injured too much."* (Victims of physical injury, male and age 38).

2. Social proximity: victims who spend most of their leisure time with friends during the day, evening, night, and going to places of enjoyments that leads to risk of being exposed to potential criminals**.**
One victim interviewee explained her victimization case in line with social proximity exposed to criminal and being victimized in the following manner:

> *The type of crime committed against me was physical injury. There was disagreement between us before this conflict happened. In 2018 around 4 o'clock in the evening, I started a conversation with my husband on the household expense and his lateness at evening my husband pass his rest time with his friends and spent much too money for drinking and entertainment purpose, one day; he was turned to home with intoxication as a result of excessive alcohol drinking. Because of such problem, discrepancy made between us; suddenly he stalked me, and my front tooth broken. At that time I battered him by hurling a glass and his head was injured and then there was too much bleeding* (Victim of physical injury, female and age 35).

The above victim's statement indicated that two spouses have a prior discrepancy or they waited in conflict because of their household expense and related factors. Espousing the above case, with respect to target antagonism Siegel (2000) described that some victims' characteristics increase risk because they arouse, anger, jealousy or destructive impulses in potential criminals.

Police officer FGD participants explained that victims are mostly vulnerable to crime because they hang out with their friends and a sort of taking excessive alcohol in the evening session. Correspondingly the above victim's verbatim in the same token Shapland and Hall (2007) described feelings of fretfulness through shock that such a thing has happened and worries about re-victimization, sometimes leading to feelings of loss of trust on the spouse and suspicious mentality between husband and wife in the near future victimization.

Dastile (2004) described in victim reaction to criminal act section he stated as victims respond differently to crime incidents this may alter victim's lifestyles. Victims' responses to crime could be considered because of either their own victimization or those who are close to them. This means that the way people react

to crime might lead to certain way of life changes, which could minimize a person's exposure to victimization.

As one victim interviewee stated that, he is living with his nephew together in one rent house. In 2018, as he remembered the day was a holiday and they were drank much alcohol after finishing their entertainment they returned to their home at 3 o'clock at evening. While walking together, they discussed about hot issue at that moment and instigated by alcohol they engaged into conflict and stalked with each other by punching around community policing station. Luckily, the police officer was in the gate of the police station and he saw their conflict then the police officer asked about the overall situation and their relationship. Lastly, the officer tried to make negotiation with victim's nephew at night though they did not know the motive that caused the conflict when the police asked them.

In line with the victim's statement, Siegel (2000) revealed target vulnerability the victims' physical weakness renders them unable of resisting or preventing crime and makes them easy targets.

Police officers' focus group participants explained the reasons that victims become mostly victimized and exposed to criminal act; because of intoxication or excessive use of alcohol. Espousing this statement, as Dodson (2001) portrayed that alcohol and drug use may contribute to crime victimization in several ways. First, the mental and physical capacities of an intoxicated or impaired person are greatly diminished which may impair their ability to avoid dangerous situations or to defend themselves when the circumstance arises. Second, intoxicated individuals are more likely to engage in criminal and violent behavior, which may result in their own victimization.

Depending on the abovementioned victims' cases, the researcher concluded that criminals harass and abuse their own husbands, wives, families, relatives, even sometimes themselves as the result of such incidents their family and social ties could be broken. Therefore, it is possible to say the victims knew their attackers.

3. Physical proximity, Hope (2007) described that physical proximity mean a victim's residence in an area which is also likely to have a high rate of offenders whom it is presumed may be likely to victimize their fellow residents.

In one case, a police officer stated that he had two victims living together in one house .They are comrade and they engaged into conflict and stalked with each other and then called to the police officer at night. Then the police officer tried to go out at night and made reconciliations between them. As understood from foregoing case, police routinely did not arrest suspect by slight personal dispute, rather police sometimes used a conflict resolution mechanism like negotiation/reconciliation of the disputant individual considering of the impact of the incident on him/her was not serious.

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4. Accessibility, target gratifiability and attractiveness of victims: Dastile (2004) described that there are social and technical accessibility, in this regard, social accessibility in this setting described as the carelessness of victims. In such cases, victims said to be good targets as there is no one present who could prevent the criminal act. On the other hand, technical accessibility is refers to the nonexistence of preventive measures such as the police, security personnel and proper lighting or security cameras in certain areas. Siegel (2000) argues concerning target gratifiability of victims, some victims have quality, possession, skill or attribute that the criminal want to obtain, use, have access to, or manipulate. Having attractive possessions may make victim vulnerable to potential crime.

In support of the above argument, attractiveness, target gratifiability and accessibility of victims precipitate their own victimization. In this regard, police key informants explained that mostly female victims exposed for crimes because they would have expensive materials in their bags, phones, earrings and other jewelers. Because of this attractiveness, the problem is severe in females even after being snatched by the criminals they cannot respond as quickly as their male counterparts are. It is because that the women are not able to run and mingle like men.

It is clear that repeat victimization occurs when the same victim suffers by one crime incident repeatedly over a specified period of time. In line with repeat victimization, one victim interviewee described his victimization experiences concerning crime incidents against him. He stated that his house exposed to burglary three times, even his family members told him that he should go to police station for reporting, but he did not report the case to the police. He suffered too much the result of repeated crime incident. The impacts of the commission of crime touched every part of his life and his family. It leaves bad panic experiences on him and his wife and children as well (Victim of burglary, male and age 55).

As understood from the above informant's statement, victim is ensuing exposed to crime; because the victim did not learn a lesson from prior victimization. The victim did not report the case to the police and was not took protective measures in the repeated victimization. Due to victim's recklessness and for not taking proactive measures the criminals frequently targeted him. It is therefore the victim's first victimization that enhanced successive victimization instead of reducing the tendency of victimization. Siegel (2000) revealed on trigger factors for risk of victimization are social, personal and experiential factors would interact to enhance chronic victimization. In line with the former statement, the consequence of crime on victims as the researcher adapted from Hanson, et al. (2010) explained repeated victimization often exposes to chronic stresses that alter victims' perception that exacerbates the levels of distress and fear, due to this the victims exposed for further victimization .

In strengthening of the foregoing ideas, as Siegel(2000) portrayed that most repeated victimizations occur soon after a previous crime has occurred on the

victims, this suggesting that repeat victims share some personal characteristic that make them a magnet for predators. Repeat victimization may also be criminal's rational choice, once criminal learns the weakness of victims.

Compatibly Siegel (2000) revealed that there may be stable patterns of behavior that encourage victimization, and some people who maintain them may become chronic victims, people who are constantly the target of potential criminal act. Earlier victimization is a strong indicator of future victimization. Victims who have been crime victims maintain a significantly higher chance of future victimization than people who have remained non-victims.

Importantly victims may also benefit from guardianship 'services' available collectively in the locales in which they find themselves, including physical environmental opportunities facilitating surveillance, organized citizen surveillance such as block watches, citizen patrols and police patrolling (Hope,2007). As police officers discussant described that these above-mentioned patrolling practices have not carried out by victims and police officers around in victims' house and residence areas in an expected level at evening and night sessions because of such problem victims becoming a victim of crime and they have been living within a complex victimization life experiences.

This study confirmed victimization theory assumption, victims' exposure to victimize as Elzeiny (2016) described in lifestyle theory individuals become victims because their way of life increases exposure to criminal act. Therefore, the researcher concluded that victims exposed for crime and become victimized because of their carelessness, attractiveness, lifestyle, and accessibility; nature of their job and lack of capable guardians to prevent the criminal act such as security devices and lack of patrol police officer.

Based on the abovementioned cases, the relationship between victims and criminals, they were acquaintances, relatives and families concerning crime against the person that committed on the victims. In this regard, victimization has occurred within parents, families and relatives. Whereas crime against property that committed against victims, the criminals and victims did not have any kind of relationship and they did not know each another.

In the above discussion attempt has been made to describe the victims' exposure to potential criminal act respective of victims' victimization experiences. In this regard, in line with victims' statements and views the researcher would say victims' trait, recklessness and the relationship between the victims and offenders are triggering factors for victims exposed to crime incidents and victimization experiences.

Methods and Techniques Used by the Criminals to against the Victims

The criminals techniques and methods is concerned with learned behaviors that can advance and create, as they have to be greater sophisticated and more secrecy (Leclerc, et al., 2009). A criminal's modus operandi conduct is specified to

be the foremost imperative law enforcement has to explore and join criminal cases. This investigative strategy has developed from the use of criminal informants and tremendously skilled detectives into the extra make use of criminal database systems and frameworks.

In most cases, the criminals attack the victim persons by using heavy drugs and drinking alcohols, mostly criminals attack by carefully researching the opportunities usually by being in a group and identifying the potential victims to snatch mobiles, expensive materials, vehicle spare parts, and deceiving people around taxi lines. The criminals committed crime through carefully assessing the victim's ability and level of consciousness to respond and by being in a small group in terrifying the victim with sharp materials and by using force.

A technique that the criminals used to against the victims is that by identifying the person's level of consciousness or caution, by intentionally creating mess and chaos with the victim. By itching saliva on people's clothes and body then after in apologizing and by pretending as if they are cleaning the saliva they snatch and pickpocketing money and smartphones. Surprisingly, a tricky and still now a headache for police as well as for the victims is that the situation when the criminals use something that seems magical. As a result, in some cases, even the crime victims do not aware and know how their property had been taken away from them; they remember the loss of their property after a long time of delusion (Prosecutor, male and age 39).

Other technique which the criminals used to against the victims is that criminals by forming group, which consists of three to eight criminals to deceive and use force to against the victims. Criminals also by pretending and seeming like an intoxicated person and foolish or abnormal person, and occasionally by preparing a master key (similar key) that opens the doors or gates of a certain office or house, then to rob and to commit burglary in a house or in the organization *(*Crime investigation police officer, male and age 35).

Victims' focus group discussants portrayed the criminals snatch by using highly sophisticated tactic, by pretending and seeming like a traveller (taxi, bus, and train user), and causing physical injury by using excessive force to attack the victims. One police key informant stated that the techniques used by the criminals are the following: by showing sharp materials to terrify, through identifying areas that are free from police patrols, by pretending like a mad and beggar. In the other ways, by pretending like employees of Ethio-Telecom, Ethio-Electric and water drainage sectors and of course by wearing their uniforms to deceive maids, females, mothers and children to commit various crimes *(*Crime investigation police officer, male, and age 36). Sometimes criminals wear expensive suits to deceive the victims by creating false sense of security because in Ethiopia most people believe that if a person wears good suits he/she is not considered as a criminal.

Among the different techniques and methods that the criminals used to attack the innocent persons and crime victims, as the researcher obtained through

key informant interviewees and focus group discussants and then put in an articulated manner in the following way:

1. **Wetebe :-** this is a tactic that a criminals use to commit crime, in this case, taking money from the victim, through deceiving by pretending as if they have won a lottery, within seriously crying that they do not have IDs in order to take the money from the authorized body. To do so, the suspects negotiate with the victims to have their valuable and expensive materials like smartphones, gold and even money as establishing confidence/grantee. However, the lottery is forgery (fake) and intended to deceive the victims.

2. **Gebie:-**this is a technique that criminals by knocking at the victim's mirrors (windows) of vehicle and the driver opened the mirrors, so that to run away and escape by lifting property (like smart phone, laptops, and bags).

3. **Shuashua:** this is a technique and method that used by the criminals in deliberately forming a group of people with 5 to 6 on a mini-bus, then by selectively allowing other passengers to enter to the car/ vehicle by pretending as if they are giving taxi services and then to victimize those people by taking the victims a place comfortable to commit crime and they took all the property and money that the victims have on hand. Then they will leave them somewhere in a dark place and easily dislocate themselves from the area.

4. **Scrolling:** this is a method that used by criminals which running away by taking someone's property after initially agreeing and negotiating (with prior intent of property crime) to carry the property for a certain amount of money as a payment for the service, after a few moments the criminals go swiftly and escape from the eyes of the owner of the property.

5. **Collision**: it is a method that the criminals confront and collide with the victims intentionally in crowded areas so that they commit a pickpocketing, larceny and snatching crimes in areas where there are forming a group of two or three criminals in transit fences and crossroads.

6. **Boru Tail :** it is a deception method by which criminals seal and pack small amount of their own money (100 to 1000 ETB) by carton or plastic just like that of banking system. Then, they put this money somewhere in the roadside expecting a passerby (potential victim) to pick up the money. They hide themselves and carefully watch over the person who picks the money so that to follow him/her and then to say let us share the money because we do watched it. After the negotiation succeeds, they change their mind by saying that they do not want the money packed by plastic instead, they tell that they

want the money from one's own pocket (by informing that they are hurried or providing other excuses) hence they are aware of the money decorated with the plastic. Finally, the passerby becomes a victim by giving more money and material to the criminal as if he/she thinks gained more money from the packed one. Whereas the criminal achieves his/her, target by taking more money.

7. **Deception**: deceiving of women who were returned from middle east and Arabian countries, by saying that the government is set to provide house and residence area for the dwellers, then criminals by espousing please use this opportunity /chance, the criminals saying that we have an authority to do this if you pay attractive money, we are given a house or a settlement area to you where you want. For doing this, the criminals convince the victims by making a fake receipt card with city administration stamp and rendered for women and received money from them.

8. **Seasons and situations**: Criminals commit burglary crime during the summer season and particularly at rain time with at night. In terms of situation, many crimes were also committed in the time of Ethiopian holidays and the eve of holidays. Criminals did a study, when people go out to visit their family especially during a holiday, people who have a job during the night session, and then broke into a house and stole their property and wealth.

In supporting of such idea, burglary mostly takes place during night, in a rainy summer season. Moreover, it takes place in situations like the victims leave their home to celebrate holidays somewhere outside the home, and when the victim is at work in a night shift and in the absence of nobody. As Hope (2007) revealed under the accessibility of victim clues, risks of victimization may be heightened in many kinds of places where people who are likely to commit crimes might congregate and where circumstances are conducive to their being encouraged to commit crimes.

According to the above-mentioned techniques, criminals particularly use all the available opportunities in order to deceive/attack the victims by identifying specific seasons at which people are more prone to something else. In conclusion, criminals use various methods and techniques to commit crime in different times on bringing new and latest techniques that are unthinkable by the police, victims and the society at all.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn. As remarked in the finding of the study, crime is an incident that happens on the victims committed by the criminals. The criminals have used different vulnerability

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condition of the victims mainly the criminal looking suitable time, place, season, situation, focus, caution and victim's general attention. Informants and focus group discussants reflected the types of crimes that usually committed to against the victims in the study area were snatching, battery, larceny, burglary, robbery and physical injury. Basic techniques that the criminals used to against the victims, the criminal identifying the victims' level of consciousness, caution, criminals intentionally creating mess, deception, and chaos with the victims.

Furthermore, the criminals committed the above remarked crimes through carefully assessing the victim's ability to respond/defend and by being in a group in terrifying the victim with sharp materials and by using force. The result of the study indicated that there is a tricky and still now a headache for police officers as well as for the potential victims, it is a situation when the criminals use something that seems magical. As a result of this technique, in some cases, even the crime victims do not aware and know how their property had been taken away from them; they remember the loss of their property after a long time of delusion.

Finding showed that victims exposed for criminal acts as a result of victims' geographical proximity, social proximity, physical proximity, attractiveness, vulnerability or accessibility to the potential criminals as well as the victims' reactions towards the commission of crime. Depending on the findings of the study, it is possible to conclude that the techniques that used by the criminal and the commission of crime on the victims have brought multidimensional turmoil on victims' socio-economic life and activities.***

Acknowledgment

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