

**CRIME TRENDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
IN GUIMBA, NUEVA ECIJA**

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7. Abstract

7.1 Rationale/Background

The global pandemic has brought changes to the lives of every individual. However, societal issues like crime were still prevalent despite the pandemic. According to Alvarez et al. (2021), a crime is an unlawful act committed by an individual, either through commission or omission that is subject to legal punishment. Moreover, monitoring crimes is a potential method for deterring them. The study identified the crime trends during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the socio-demographic characteristics of the offenders. This research investigated the crimes in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, from 2018 to 2021.

7.2 Summary

The current study employed a descriptive research methodology through document analysis and applied the functionalist theory of Emile Durkheim. This study aims to ascertain the crime rate, trends, and types prevalent in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, as well as describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the offenders. Additionally, Microsoft Excel has been used by the researcher to calculate frequency and percentage before presenting the data through tables, graphs, and figures.

7.3 Major Findings

The study revealed that the implementation of lockdown and stay-at-home measures during the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant effect on the decrease in crime. The top three prevalent crimes during the pandemic were identified as reckless imprudence resulting to damage to property and physical injury and violations of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002. The study also found that most of the offenders were male individuals between the ages of 31 and 59, high school graduates, and unemployed. As a result, the collected information through crime analysis helped identify crime trends during the pandemic and patterns that would be relevant to understanding crime.

7.4 Conclusion

Even though crime decreased, it doesn't change the fact that the same problem with vehicle accidents and drug-related cases continues to be a hindrance to peace in the area. The implementation of Duterte's anti-crime program is still deficient in terms of appropriate measures. Thus, crime has not been completely eliminated. This supports the functionalist theory of Emile Durkheim: if some system or institution cannot function correctly, it leads to crimes. The information acquired proved useful for the government aiming to maintain public safety.

7.5 Recommendation

It is imperative to consider certain recommendations to enhance the quality of future crime studies. Research suggests that to maintain peace and order, institutions must strengthen their laws and policies to control criminality. Future researchers should also consider investigating the location of the incident to create crime mapping. In order to develop effective preventive measures against crimes, it is necessary to continue monitoring criminal activity.

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List of abbreviation

BP: Batas Pambansa

BJMP: Bureau of Prison Management and Penology

CHED: Commission on Higher Education

CIRAS: Crime Information Recording and Analysis System

CICL: Children in Conflict with the Law

DIIM: Directorate for Intelligence and Investigative Management

DILG: Department of the Interior and Local Government

IATF-EID: Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases

ICC: International Criminal Court

LTO: Land Transportation Office

NCRPO: National Capital Region Head Office

PD: Presidential decree

PDEA: Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

PSA: Philippine Statistic Authority

PNP: Philippine National Police

RPC: Revised Penal Code

R.A: Republic Act

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes

WHO: World Health Organization

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