

**Research Article**

**An Empirical study of Crime Situation and proposal for solutions:  
A case study of Antananarivo Madagascar**

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**ABSTRACT**

Urbanization is a procedure in which rural areas grow certainly or through immigrants and replaced into big cities. Urbanization is the result of people moving to cities to seek good economic chances and improve their living conditions. This paper is aimed to focus on the urban crime and situation crime in Madagascar. To achieve the objective of this research based on primary and secondary data. With the help of literature crime situation in Madagascar was analyzed and a survey for conducted to collect the primary data. Study showed crime is increasing from last few years and present situation is not bad but people do not have much confidence on police. Law force agencies must be empowered and well equipped to control the situation. Its Government responsibilities to create employment opportunities for youth so that then cannot engage into illegal activities. Best solution to control crime is the law enforcement agencies must be proactive rather than reactive and its government duties to provide effective training to police so that they can be more proactive for peace and stability in region. One of our reason of crime is unemployment which approved by many other researchers too, so It is also government duty to create more employment opportunities for young people, there is a positive correlation between crime and unemployment.

**Keyword:** Crime, Unemployment, Police, urbanization, immigration

**INTRODUCTION**

Urbanization is a procedure in which rural areas grow certainly or through immigrants and replaced into big cities [1]. Urbanization is the result of people moving to cities to seek good economic chances and improve their living conditions particularly in developing countries, as it is common phenomena in cities there are more opportunities of employment to make life more comfortable [2]. Urbanization not became only reason of crime, but caused many environmental issues too [3-6]. This marvel has developed quickly, especially in Africa and the Asian subregion, where people migrated to cities from rural areas vastly with hoping to find more employment opportunities and improve their living conditions. Heyer, Knight and Gunatilaka

[7,8] point out that immigrants will consider the possibility of obtaining employment in an ideal city at any time, Soh [9] reinforced the view that in urban areas, all facilities have been carefully crafted to make people's lives more. Harris and Todaro [10] described it as "proceeds in response to urban-rural differences in expected earning". In some cases, people think they will get more employment opportunities in big cities but some time life in urban areas also very expensive. Urban areas are seen as centers of opportunities and have become the main force of economic growth, the center of diversity and change. In urban areas, residents live, work and interact in their narrow natural environment, matching the prospects of crime committed in the same

restricted environment, which has brought fear to many people. In recent times, crime has become a universal marvel in various forms in various cultures. The widespread crimes in urban areas make it a geographical fear space for many people. Fear is not limited to one's age, class, gender or race. Urban constancy and sustainability are related to security and security in urban areas. Personal safety and safety issues are associated with urban "livability" and "quality of life", and solving crime problems has become an important benchmark for urban quality of life [11,12]. To have secure and peaceful life its basic need and right of human being. The main purpose of this study is to 1) understand the crime situation in Madagascar, 2) the cause of the crime, and 3) the public opinion about the crime situation.

### **Literature Review**

All criminologists generally believe that crime rates in urban areas are higher than in rural areas. Although different crimes and different crime rates exist in different parts of different urban areas, but all criminologist think what is the main reason of crime in any region? In some studies, criminologists attempted to find answers to these questions through the correlation of crime rates and different variables. Consistent with social inefficiency, most such studies emphasize urban or community characteristics associated with high crime rates in a region. Despite the deliberate correlation, the most common features include socioeconomic and demographic characteristics such as ethnicity, poverty, age structure, residential mobility, management issues, political power, workforce characteristics, and divorce rates. There are many articles explaining the relevance of these indicators, but there is no single reason that can be consider of urban crime. Different kinds of crimes are due to unrelated types of persons and unrelated time and environment [13].

Higher rate of population is also related to an increase in the crime rate. This can be one of the reasons for urban crime. If it is a crime, especially

in developing countries, urbanization can be good and bad. The rapid growth of urbanization is directly related to the increase in crime rates, as unemployment has been rising, high cost of housing problems, which leads to crime in region [14,15]. According to some researchers, poverty and unemployment are the main causes of criminal activity [14,16]. In African countries, high unemployment and financial problems are reported as major cases of crime [15]. According to Soh [3], criminal behavior can be found among all types of people and even rich people can participate in criminal activities. As a general marvel, people migrate to cities to seek good employment prospects, particularly in developing nations. Because it is easy to get more work and a better life in urban areas. In poor countries, the situation does not support urbanized areas because these people participate in criminal activities to meet their daily aspirations [17]. Many researchers have tried to find out the relationship between crime and unemployment, some of whom have found a positive correlation between them, but some of them cannot prove that there is a positive correlation between these variables. In addition to a simple review of the unemployed, it has been found that a relatively large proportion of young people with unemployed rates have a higher crime rate. The University of Chicago discovered the relationship between crime and poverty. Sahw and McKay likened the delinquency rates of some cities. They found the significant and high relationship between these variables is racial heterogeneity, mobility and poverty. Poverty is the most significant factor. For decades, many comprehensive studies have empirically strengthened the link between crime and poverty. Many of these studies have observed the highest crime rates in the poorest urban slums [18]. The link between economic conditions and crime is also found at higher aggregate heights, such as states and cities. Many criminologists believe that the link between poverty and crime is straightforward and clear [15]. Messner [19] detected the relationship between poverty

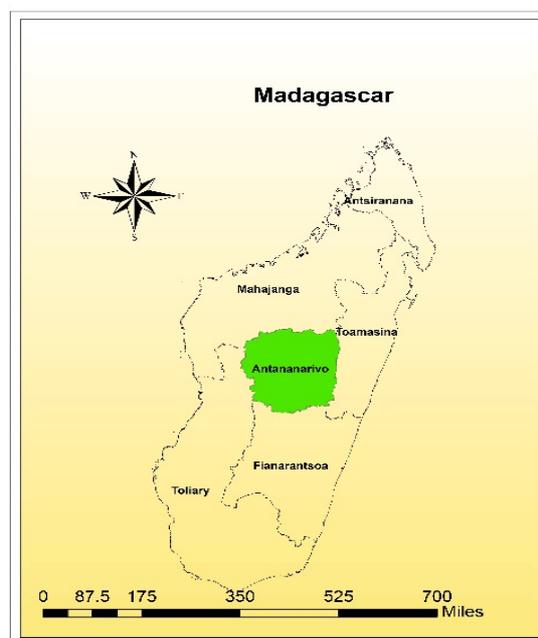
inequality and fierce crime. Many cities in developing countries do not have sufficient resources to cope up with the massive increase in population which can lead to urban crime. This is why in literature there is positive relation in criminal activity and poor population [20].

Political factors directly affect urban crime rates. Bad governance creates inequalities between people, leading to unemployment and social inequality [10]. Therefore, it has become the most important factor in urban crime that maybe some political people backup to crime [21]. All of this can lead to the marginalization of the social convincing part. It can be more directly and in different ways, such as leadership failure or poor governance, in many characteristics, responsible for depriving economic growth plans, establishing unfair national resources or wealth distribution mechanisms, resulting in unemployment and social inequality. At the same time, there are other reasons, such as bribery, corruption, poor governance and lack of policy initiatives in developing countries [22]. This is also one of the main factors in developing countries that everyone can get permission to have arms or even no armed license. This will create an unhealthy and unbalanced environment in the area. This free use of arms can be used for targeted killing, theft and even suicide [23]. If law enforcement agencies are weak or lack strong rules and laws, criminals will become easier. It has been approved by research, and crime control agencies provide more space to strengthen their criminal activities [24]. Urban sustainability and stability are related to the safety of urban area security and monitoring. Personal safety issues are related to the city's "quality of life" and "livability", and conversational crime has become an important criterion for urban life excellence [25]. On the surface, crime expectations involve any strategy aimed at reducing or eliminating the expansion of criminal activity and reducing the risk and fear of victims of crime. Always quantify prevention is better than cure. Therefore, the most appropriate method is to prevent illegal behavior before it occurs.

Relaxing immigration to urban areas Lack of proper management is a key feature of urban crime. Reducing crime and fear of crime can improve the quality of life, which is a key issue for a more sustainable development. As some countries urgently need to develop some plans to control urban crime.

### Study Area

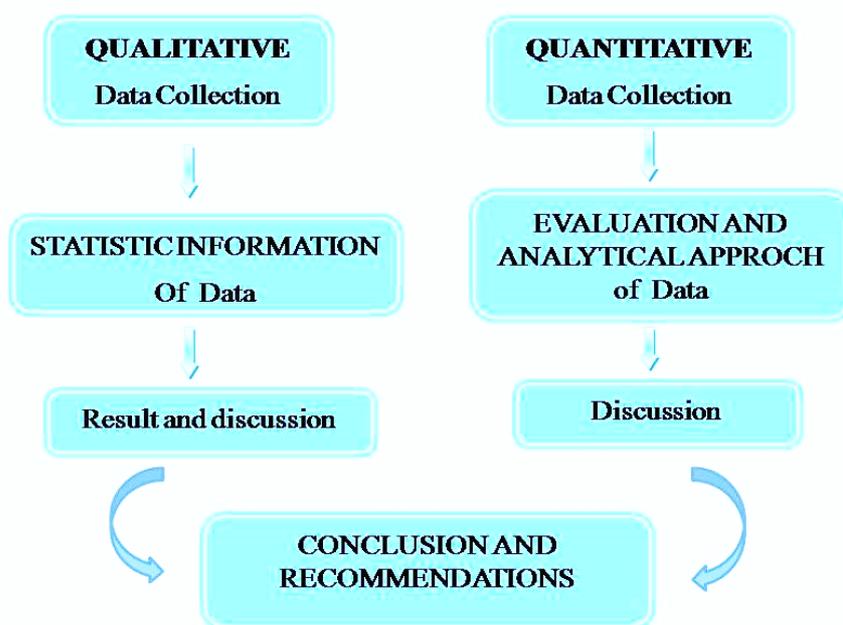
Madagascar is a very famous island, having a large island located in the Indian Ocean, on the east coast of Africa. The world's fourth main island offers visitors an incredible experience and breathtaking views. Tsingy de Bemaraha is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the main protected area in Madagascar (152,000 hectares). Located near the west coast of Madagascar, it is the most visited landmark in the Menabe region and one of the seven phenomena of Africa. The flora and fauna of Madagascar is almost unparalleled in the world, and more than 80% of it is not present, so visiting Madagascar may be the only opportunity for visitors to see lemurs, turtles, geckos, chameleons and unusual plants. Antananarivo is the Capital of Madagascar (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Map of Madagascar (Source: Author) Methodology

The research will use both primary and secondary data. The researcher will use the case study method. The researcher has adopted a case study approach in order to conduct an intensive study of the units of investigation, a survey was conducted in capital city of Madagascar to check the crime situation. A questionnaire was adopted from literature containing basic and primary information of respondent and nine basic questions related to crime situation in the area were asked from the people of Antananarivo. All questions were analyzed with carefully on the base of facts and figures. Other secondary data was obtained from analysis and review of books, journals, published academic work, publications

from key institutions working in the peace and security sector as well as reports of government commissions and taskforces on politics and electoral violence in Madagascar. The data will be analyzed using content analysis. Content analysis is a technique for making inferences by objectively and systematically identifying specified characteristics of responses and objectively and systematically identifying characteristics of responses and objectively identifying and using the same approach to relate trends. The results will be presented under identified themes. Mainly this study was based on qualitative and quantitative data and further we got results on the base of both data (Figure 2).



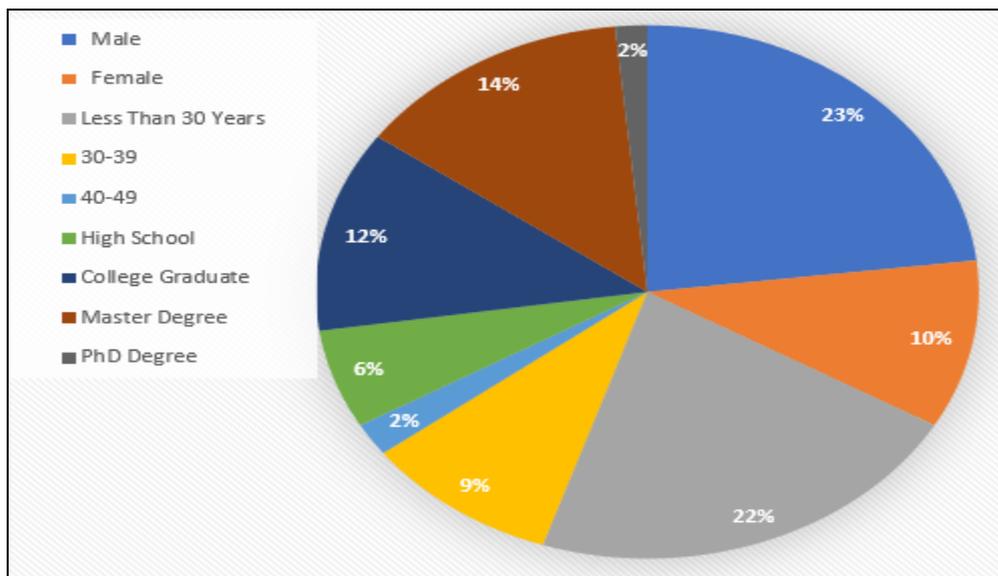
**Figure 2:** Data collection of present study(Source: Author)

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The demographic characteristics of respondents were analyzed to test age, gender, and education level of respondents as mentioned in Table 1 and Figure 3. In this exploration, mostly respondents were male accounted for 69.3% and female respondent accounted 30.7%. As far as age concerned mostly respondents had age less than 30 years that accounted for 65.3% of total respondent and second majority between 30-39 year which 28.7% of total respondents, maximum respondent 40.7% had master degree while 18% were high school graduates and rest of them hold a college level to PhD education.

**Table 1:** Demographic Information of the respondent

Categories	Frequency	Percent (%)
<b>Gender:</b>		
Male	208	69.3
Female	92	30.7
Total	300	100.0
<b>Age</b>		
Less Than 30 Years	196	65.3
30-39	86	28.7
40-49	18	6.0
Total	300	100.0
<b>Education</b>		18.0
High School	54	36.7
College Graduate	110	40.7
Master Degree	122	4.7
PhD Degree	14	100.0
Total	300	



**Figure 3:** Demographic Information of Survey(Source: Author)

The below table 2 described the descriptive statistics of all the questions (X1-X9) of interviews conducted across Madagascar. The table included Mean, Median, Standard Deviation values and some other statistical information of questions,

**Table 2:** Statistical Information of Data

		Statistics											
		Gender	Age	Education	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9
N	Valid	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Mean		1.30	1.40	2.72	1.04	2.08	1.91	3.62	2.47	1.66	1.08	1.36	1.58
Std. Error of Mean		.026	.034	.046	.012	.071	.055	.104	.065	.046	.021	.040	.029
Median		1	1	3	1	2	2	4	3	1	1	1	2

Std. Deviation	.46	.60	.81	.21	1.24	.96	1.80	1.13	.79	.36	.69	.50
Variance	.213	.362	.657	.045	1.551	.922	3.246	1.294	.640	.133	.485	.258
Skewness	.843	1.197	.023	4.320	.734	.539	-.338	-.181	.690	4.409	1.646	-.171
Std. Error of Skewness	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141	.141
Kurtosis	-1.298	.398	-.677	16.776	-.938	-.997	-1.128	-1.422	-1.097	19.020	1.085	-1.597
Std. Error of Kurtosis	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281	.281
Minimum	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Maximum	2.00	3.00	4.00	2.00	5.00	4.00	7.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00

Table 3 and figure 4a revealed the response of all respondents of X1 question i.e. How safe do you feel in your area? The majority of respondents were feeling safe with 95.3% while only 4.7% said they do feel safe, only some people feel unsafe and secure in their native areas. Table 4 and figure 4b revealed the response of all respondents of X2 question (Do you think that your area will be a better or worse place to live in the next 12 months, or do you think it will stay the same?). The majority of respondents 46.7% said it will get more better in near future but at same time there 22.7% people they said it will remain same and some people said it can be worse in near future 8%. Table 5 and figure 4c revealed the response of all respondents of X3 question (Do you think crimes in general are best dealt with by the police or by community residents?). The majority of respondents 45.3% said Crime is dealt in their area with the help of local police, while 26% people said it is only due to police and 23.3% people were in the favor of crime dealt by community only. Table 6 and figure 4d revealed the response of all respondents of X4 question (How frequently do you see police patrols in your area?). As Police is a local authority of any country to maintain inner peace of region, so it's very necessary by police to visit their region regularly to check the situation. As this question have seven answer related to police visit in their duty areas. The majority of respondents 32% said they see police less than once a week in their area while 25.3% said they see several times week. Table 7 and figure 5a revealed the response of all respondents of X5 question (How much confidence do you have in the capability of the police to protect you from crime?). The respondents said they do not have confidence was very high with 39.3% while 32% have confidence and 20% people are unsure about Police capabilities to protect them from crime. Table 8 figure 5b revealed the response of all respondents of X6 question i.e. Do you consider your area a high, medium or low crime area? This question was asked to know the response about the overall situation in the respective areas. Majority of people 54.7% were in the favor of medium crime while 24.7% said there is low crime. While 20.7% respondent's response was that there is very high crime. Table 9 and figure 5c revealed the response of all respondents of X7 question (How satisfied are you with the way the criminal justice system handles crime?). The majority of respondents with 94.0% were in the favor of satisfied with existing criminal justice in Madagascar while 3.3% are not satisfied. Table 10 and figure 5d reveals the respond of all respondent of X8 question (By police patrolling in your area, do you think that would help prevent crimes from occurring?). The majority of respondents with 76.7% were in the favor of yes while 10.7% said no and rest of them answer that they don t know. Table 11 and figure 6 revealed the response of all respondents of X9 question (Who do you think is the most likely group to commit crime?). majority of respondent with 56.7% said unemployed people are easy to do such activities because they do not have any source of income, so they chose illegal way to get money, while 42.7% narrated as middle

class maybe this class want to get more high standard in society so they adopt such ways and only 0.7% said it is Upper Class.

**Table 3:** How safe do you feel in your area?

Options		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	286	95.3	95.3	95.3
	no	14	4.7	4.7	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

**Table 4:** Do you think that your area will be a better or worse place to live in the next 12 months, or do you think it will stay the same?

Options	I think it would get better	I think it will remain the same	I think it would get worse	No idea	others	Total
Frequencies	140	68	24	62	6	300
Ratio (%)	46.7	22.7	8.0	20.7	2.0	100.0

**Table 5:** Do you think crimes in general are best dealt with by the police or by community residents?

Options	Crimes in general are best dealt by community residents and police working together	Crimes in general are best dealt by community residents	Crimes in general are best dealt by the police	Depends on the situation or crime	Total
Frequencies	136	70	78	16	300
Ratio (%)	45.3	23.3	26.0	5.3	100.0

**Table 6:** How frequently do you see police patrols in your area?

options	Several times a day	About once a day	Several times a week	About once a week	Less than once a week	A few times a month	Never	Total
Frequencies	76	18	8	76	96	16	10	300
Ratio (%)	25.3	6.0	2.7	25.3	32.0	5.3	3.3	100.0

**Table 7:** How much confidence do you have in the capability of the police to protect you from crime?

Option	I am extremely confident about the police protecting me from a crime	I am confident about the police protecting me from a crime	I am not confident about the police protecting me from a crime	Do Not Know	Total
Frequencies	96	26	118	60	300
Ratio (%)	32.0	8.7	39.3	20.0	100.0

**Table 8:** Do you consider your area a high, medium or low crime area?

Options		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Low crime	164	54.7	54.7	54.7
	Medium crime	74	24.7	24.7	79.3
	High crime	62	20.7	20.7	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

**Table 9:** How satisfied are you with the way the criminal justice system handles crime?

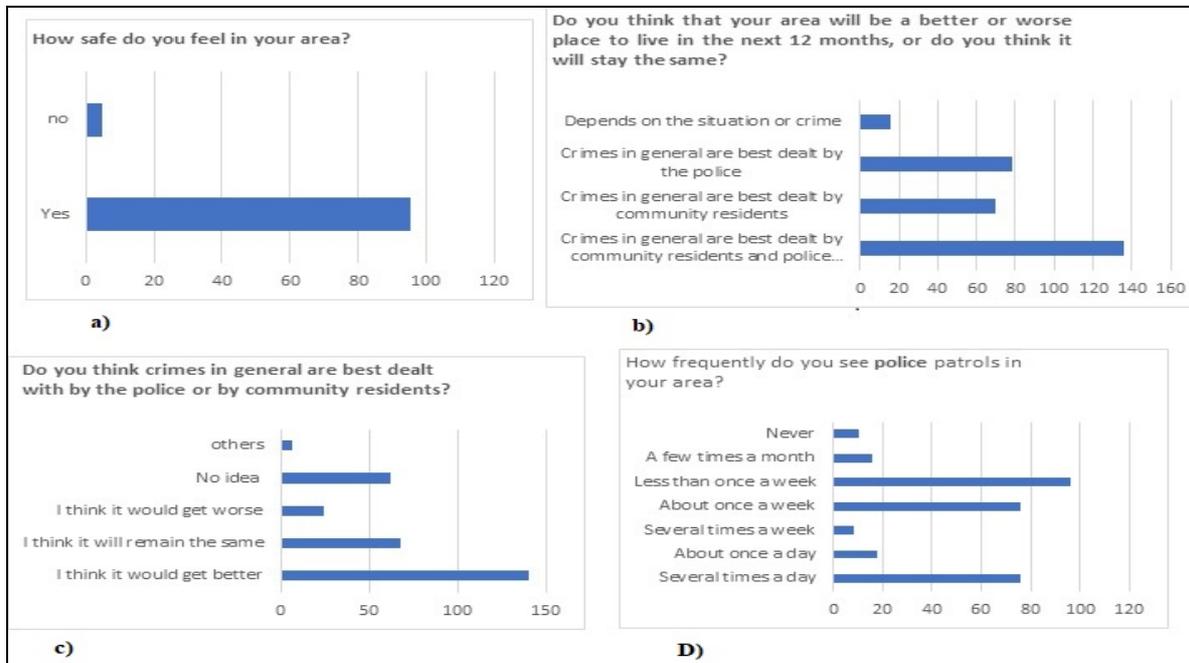
Options		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Satisfied	282	94.0	94.0	94.0
	Dissatisfied	10	3.3	3.3	97.3
	Neutral	8	2.7	2.7	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

**Table 10:** By police patrolling in your area, do you think that would help prevent crimes from occurring?

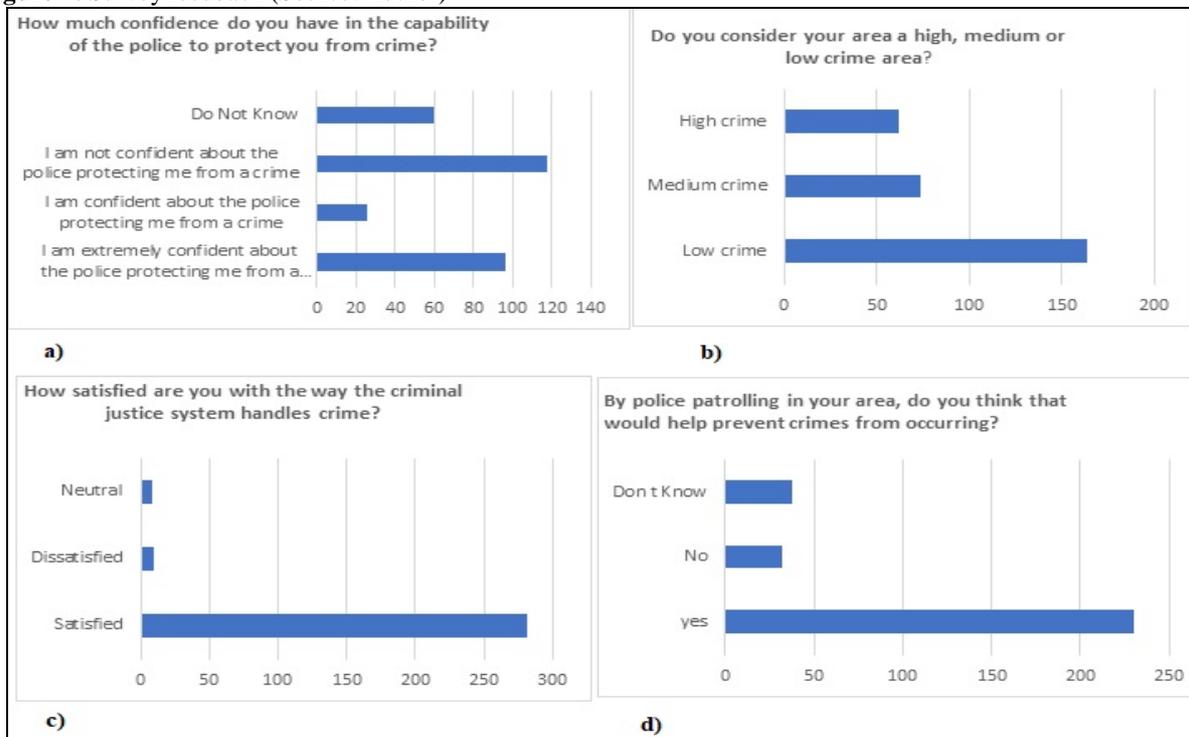
Options		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	230	76.7	76.7	76.7
	No	32	10.7	10.7	87.3
	Don t Know	38	12.7	12.7	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

**Table 11:** Who do you think is the most likely group to commit crime?

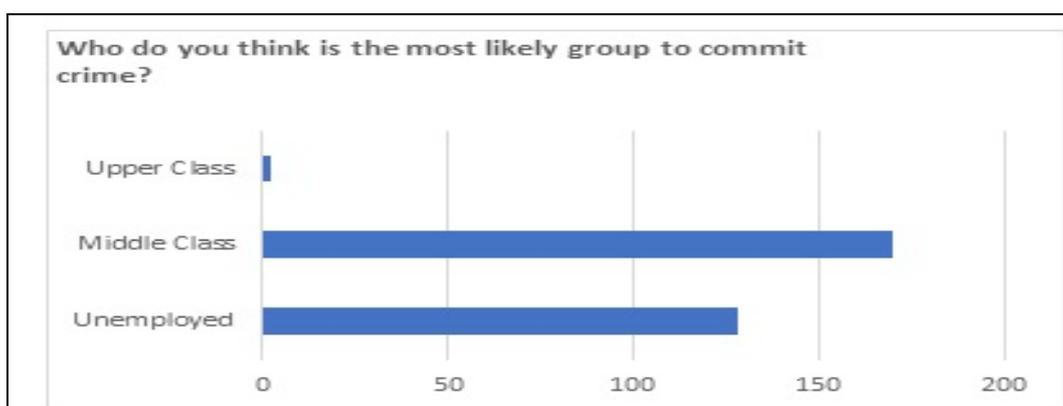
Options	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Unemployed	128	42.7	42.7
	Middle Class	170	56.7	99.3
	Upper Class	2	0.7	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0



**Figure 4:** Survey feedback (Source: Author)



**Figure 5:** Survey feedback (Source: Author)



**Figure 6:** Survey feedback (Source: Author)

Furthermore, some well-known well wide data base issued report related to crime rate in different region of world, as per Numbeo database 2017 and 2018 data was collected about Madagascar overall situation and in capital city of Madagascar Antananarivo (Table 12). Crime in Madagascar is higher and it is cumulative significantly from some years, Madagascar citizens not feel safe at home. Citizens has armed there and used for robbery. Situation in Antananarivo almost same, people are not feeling securing at home, robbery rate is high, use of drugs and due to its property crime ratio is increasing and at alarming rate. These all indicators showed that situation in this area have problem related urban crimes, as Madagascar in the list of developing nations and perhaps they are not talented to control it with fast outcome.

**Table 12:** Crime Situation in Madagascar and Antananarivo

Country	Level of Crime	Crime increasing in the past 3 years	Worries home broken and things stolen	Worries being mugged or robbed	Worries car stolen	Problem people using or dealing drugs	Problem property crimes such as vandalism and theft	Problem violent crimes such as assault and armed robbery
Madagascar	<b>78.57 High</b>	<b>92.86 Very High</b>	<b>66.67 High</b>	57.14 Moderate	53.57 Moderate	32.14 Low	<b>64.29 High</b>	<b>71.43 High</b>
<b>Cities of Madagascar</b>								
Antananarivo	<b>81.25 Very High</b>	<b>93.75 Very High</b>	<b>67.86 High</b>	59.38 Moderate	56.25 Moderate	37.50 Low	<b>68.75 High</b>	<b>75.00 High</b>

**Source:** Table generated by author from Numbeo database 2017 and 2018 [26]

Madagascar, officially the Republic of Madagascar, and previously known as the Malagasy Republic, is an island country in the Indian Ocean, approximately 400 kilometers off the coast of East Africa. The nation comprises the island of Madagascar and numerous smaller peripheral islands. Many people from all over the world move to Madagascar to see these attractive islands of this beautiful country, its normal as soon as people travel to any place first of all they want to know security situation in that particular area. As per safe travel an online website provides information to traveler about safety of different countries Tables 13. According to this data base three variables of given tables are in high risk zone firstly Madagascar is known for petty theft. Petty crime (mainly pickpocketing) usually takes place in crowded areas and airports and foreigners are the target, more often than not. Take precautions when walking in street markets and avoid walking at night in urban areas and secondly Transport is not very safe in Madagascar. Be cautious when taking a so-called bush taxi (taxi-brousse) as there were reports of people being robbed by taxi drivers. Driving a rented car isn't much safer, since there have been incidences of carjacking and they are on an increase. Most of these crimes occur at night, so do your best to travel only during the day and thirdly

Muggings and robberies are also very common in this country. What is important to remember here is that these crimes occur not only in urban areas but also in nature reserves and beaches. Be very careful around the capital, Antananarivo and southern districts of Toliara and Fianarantsoa provinces.

**Table 13:** Warnings & Dangers in Madagascar

	Conditions (Risk)	Description
OVERALL RISK:	MEDIUM	Madagascar is, for the most part, a safe country to visit. However, it does have a rather high crime rate, though it's mainly ridden with petty crime due to vast unemployment and poverty. Tourists are advised to remain vigilant and take all possible precaution measures in order to minimize the risk of getting stolen from.
TRANSPORT & TAXIS RISK:	HIGH	Transport is not very safe in Madagascar. Be cautious when taking a so-called bush taxi (taxi-brousse) as there were reports of people being robbed by taxi drivers. Driving a rented car isn't much safer, since there have been incidences of carjacking and they are on an increase. Most of these crimes occur at night, so do your best to travel only during the day.
PICKPOCKETS RISK:	HIGH	Madagascar is known for petty theft. Petty crime (mainly pickpocketing) usually takes place in crowded areas and airports and foreigners are the target, more often than not. Take precautions when walking in street markets and avoid walking at night in urban areas.
NATURAL DISASTERS RISK:	MEDIUM	Since Madagascar widely varies in terrains and has a specific geographic location, its land often suffers from a number of annual natural disasters – such as cyclones and tropical storms, flood, drought and locust infestations.
MUGGING RISK:	HIGH	Muggings and robberies are also very common in this country. What is important to remember here is that these crimes occur not only in urban areas but also in nature reserves and beaches. Be very careful around the capital, Antananarivo and southern districts of Toliara and Fianarantsoa provinces.
TERRORISM RISK:	LOW	There haven't been any terrorist attacks recently in Madagascar, but they shouldn't be ruled out. Remain vigilant and aware of your surroundings at all time.
SCAMS RISK:	MEDIUM	You should expect that many people will try to scam you in this poverty-ridden country. There are a number of scams performed on tourists, and the locals might use tricks to trick you in order to get money from you. Double check everything, and negotiate everything in advance.
WOMEN TRAVELERS RISK:	MEDIUM	Madagascar is relatively safe for solo women travelers but not at night. Avoid going anywhere after dark. Use your common sense and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Avoid wearing purses and do not walk alone or ride in taxis (or bush taxis) at night.

Sources: Travel-Safe abroad (<https://www.travelsafe-abroad.com/madagascar>) [27]

## CONCLUSIONS

Crime is an evil and make can make any nation weak, Madagascar is a developing country in African region. Madagascar is a getting more attention for tourist due to its green and attractive sights. In this study author tried to examine crime situation in Madagascar with different ways. Situation of crime in developing countries is in dangerous zone due to lack of resources. Study showed crime is not in too worse in this area, although still there is some problems which needs to see before it gets too late. In present study survey showed overall people are ok with the

present situation about urban crime but still many people did not have trust on police capabilities to solve the problems. In any society where, urban crime prevail it created unsafe environment, threaten to lives, threaten to belonging and have impact on life quality and economy of the country. Best solution to control crime is the law enforcement agencies must be proactive rather than reactive and its government duties to provide effective training to police so that they can be more proactive for peace and stability in region. One of our reason of crime is unemployment which approved by many other researchers too, so

It is also government duty to create more employment opportunities for young people, there is a positive correlation between crime and unemployment.

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