

Abstract

An Empirical Analysis of the Relationship between the Socio-economic Status of the Household and the Household as a Victim of Crime: A Study of Trinidad and Tobago 1997.

Anselm Dopson Richards

The spread of crime throughout Trinidad and Tobago poses a crucial problem to the society. In many parts of the country, crime rates are rising, with an attendant increase of the fear and anxiety of households. Citizens are moving out of their old homes into “safer” neighborhoods. This thesis empirically examines the relationship between the socio-economic status of the household and the household as a victim crime in Trinidad and Tobago.

Discriminant Analysis, utilizing cross-sectional data from the 1997 Survey of Living Conditions (SLC1997) conducted by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the Ministry of Planning, is used to analyze the data.

The results provide important socio-economic and environmental bases for the understanding of criminal activities as they relate to victims in Trinidad and Tobago. In particular, the results indicate that per capita consumption (HPCC), educational attainment of the household (HEDA) and the location of the household (LOCH) are the three factors that best distinguished between victim-of-

crime households (group 1), and non-victim households (group 2) in Trinidad and Tobago. Indeed, they indicate a positive and significant relationship between the household as a victim of crime and its socio-economic status. More specifically, they suggest that the household with the higher Per Capita Consumption and Educational Attainment is more likely to be a victim of crime in Trinidad and Tobago. They also indicate that locations with a high concentration of households with a high per capita consumption are more likely to be targeted by criminals.

Keywords: Anselm Dopson Richards, Trinidad and Tobago, Crime, Households, Socio-economic Status and Victim.

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