

Abstract

The primary purpose of this study is to examine and analyze the factors contributing to the growth of criminal and juvenile delinquent acts, in Trinidad and Tobago, between 1960 and 1966. Specifically, the study investigates the possible impact on the crime and delinquency rates by the "subculture of poverty," the "institutional link," and a threefold system of crime incorporating traditional, white collar and organized crime. The procedural methods used to obtain data include the administration of questionnaires, the participant-observation technique, chi-square analysis, psychological testing and supportive psychological research. Additional data were gathered from official sources, e.g., the Central Statistical Office, the Prison Administration, and the Police Administration.

The discussion centers around an exposition of the historical, economic, and social background of Trinidad and Tobago which may be viewed as an underdeveloped nation whose social structure is characterized by cultural pluralism.

Within this framework, it was found that there was a significant increase in the number of criminal and juvenile delinquent acts reported to the police between 1960 and 1966. Crimes prosecuted decreased significantly. The

majority of crimes reported were traditional and were generally committed in depressed urban areas. However, a system of organized and white-collar crimes also prospered. The juvenile and penal institutions were overcrowded and did not provide inmates with meaningful rehabilitative or guidance programs.

Recommendations based on the results and conclusions presented in this paper include: the innovation of special service programs in the subculture of poverty, an overhaul of the school system, extensive employment and guidance programs, renovation of the juvenile and penal institutions, and the establishment of a Drug Information Centre.