

An Autopsy of the Social-environmental Factors Driving the Youth to Commit Crime in Selected African Countries

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ABSTRACT Indubitably, uncondusive socio-environmental factors can present perfidious impact to the lives of the youths. This heralds the need to address the underpinnings of poverty as a sure way of tackling crime rate. This paper aims to make an autopsy of pertinent socio-economic underpinnings influencing the rate of crime among the youths in selected African countries. Findings indicate that the rate of crime among the youths is largely driven by the phenomenon of the youths mimicking the media services; exposure to poor parenting; being in a state of adolescence and peer pressure. The article concludes that all the learning institutions need to recognize that the adolescence stage is a difficult one and put in place measures to help the adolescents adjust to the adolescence; implores upon the governments of the developing countries to comprehend the existence of an inextricable relationship between youth misbehaviour and poverty. They should also realize that to successfully fight crime they need to heavily invest in addressing people's poverty; and at last the youths should embrace the culture of responsibility and accountability. It is not an acceptable for them to use peer pressure as a scapegoat when they want to indulge in a criminal activity.