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A Critical Study on the Influences of Socioeconomic Status on Crime Rates and Criminal Behaviour

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ABSTRACT

This research delves into how economic status impacts an individual's behavior. In this case, it focuses on how economic inequalities shape criminal propensity. Socioeconomic status can be referred to as the standard of life in which an individual experiences based on factors like income, education, occupation, and available resources. Altogether, these comprise the economic situation faced by individuals. The research aims to illustrate how status differences lead to variability among communities and population groups with respect to the crime rates encountered. A mixed method approach will be utilized in this study, where crime data analysis will be supported with insights from interviews and case studies. One of the facets of scrutiny that will be given at the forefront is how poverty, income inequality, and joblessness contribute to the type of crimes committed in such communities. It further analyzes how low SES increases stress levels, limits access to avenues of success, and has people exposed to more environments to criminal activities thereby increasing the possibility of illegal behavior. Other theories are also considered that provide an explanation of the behavior. These theories are as follows: Strain Theory- This theory proposes that people commit crimes when they are prevented or unable to achieve social goals. Social Disorganization Theory- This theory proposes that rates increase when there is a structural change within society, especially within poor neighborhoods. The study will search to understand and will execute the policy from action by going to address the socio-factors that cause crimes. The aim is to address the root cause, for action aimed at supporting crime prevention strategies and projects advocating social justice.

Keywords: *economic standing, psychological behavior, quality of life, individual perceptions, criminal patterns*

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the oldest sociological and criminological research subjects is SES and its relationship with crime. The formulation of policies and interventions against crime, crime reduction, and

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social justice will have to be based on how these different socioeconomic factors contribute to criminality. This research will take a closer look at this complex relationship by researching statistical correlations of socioeconomic indicators and crime rates, examining the impact of alternative economies, studying families' dynamics, and researching white-collar crimes vis-à-vis SES.

A. Socioeconomic Indicators and Crime Rates

Income, education, and employment are among the most important socioeconomic indicators used as a yardstick to determine the level of crime rates. These can, in turn, further affect people's opportunities, lifestyle choices, and behaviors, thus affecting their propensity to commit crimes. One often associated with crime is the level of income, whereby it is established that low earners tend to have a higher rate of committing crimes, especially in towns where the gap in economic inequality is wide. Similarly, education plays a huge role in that lower educational attainment limits one's economic opportunities, making a person veer into illegal activities as an alternative source of income. Employment status also highly impacts; in most cases, unemployment goes hand in hand with a high level of crime since the individual will be facing financial strain and social frustration.

This study is, therefore, set to give a comprehensive analysis of how these socioeconomic indicators correlate with crime rates across different regions. Using statistical methods to analyze data from various sources, this research will identify patterns and trends that bring out the influence of SES on crime. The findings are expected to bring out very key insights into the socioeconomic determinants of crime that can inform policy decisions aimed at preventing crime and ensuring social welfare.

B. Alternative Economies and Crime in Economically Disadvantaged Communities

Alternative economies entail informal trade, bartering, and underground markets that are normally self-developed mechanisms found in economically disadvantaged communities where there is a low probability of being effectively incorporated within the sphere of formal economic opportunities. Alternative economies can have this double-edged sword effect. On one hand, they provide essential goods and services that may be inaccessible through official channels, hence offering a lifeline to community members. On the other hand, they are better placed to create setups where criminal activities, such as contraband selling or the provision of illegal services, can be more pronounced.

Maturing from that, this research will establish, among others, how engagement in alternative economies impacts the extent and nature of crime within these communities. Further, the

study will try to bring out how these systems shape and are shaped to drive criminal behavior by considering dynamics in alternative economic systems and their relations with the formal structures. This dimension of the study will, in particular, contribute to a deeper understanding of the nature of crime among policy-makers and leaders who are interested in interventions that foster economic stability yet reduce illegal activities in blighted communities.

C. Structure of Family, Parental Involvement, and Juvenile Delinquency

Family dynamics come to the fore as the most central factor in the development of a juvenile delinquent. The lack or presence of parental guidance, the nature of relationships within the family, and the overall stability of the family unit significantly influence the behavior of young people. Additional stressors, such as financial instability, lack of access to quality education, and limited social support for the economically poor, heighten the risks of delinquency.

This study will focus on how family structure, parental involvement, and socioeconomic status are all conducive factors for the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. Among the factors to be looked at in this research work are different family configurations, such as single-parent households, extended families, nuclear families, and levels of parental involvement in a child's life that might mitigate or further increase the risk of delinquency. Understanding these dynamics is so critical in coming up with family-centered intervention strategies and support systems that would play a significant role in juvenile crime prevention and positive youth development.

D. Socioeconomic Status and White-Collar Crimes

White-collar crimes are usually non-violent, done mainly for monetary benefit, and include such crime categories as fraud, embezzlement, and insider trading. In theory, the crime can be considered to be one basically by the affluent. However, the influence of socioeconomic status on white-collar crime is complex and multifaceted. Whereas the former, given exposure to financial and corporate milieus, is more likely to provide people coming from higher SES backgrounds with the opportunity to engage in such crimes, it is equally true that the imperative of economic pressures and aspirations for upward mobility might propel those coming from lower SES backgrounds toward those very crimes.

This study will consider the interplay of socioeconomic status in the prevalence and nature of white-collar crime. The research shall be based on tracing the trends that lead to conditions wherein white-collar crimes occur, through the analysis of case studies and statistical data. This investigation is intended to bring out the subtlety of SES factors contributing to these

crimes—hence, a far-from-ordinary SES-based assessment challenging the idea that only the rich commit white-collar crimes.

E. Research Significance and Expected Contributions

The findings of this study will add to the broader body of literature discussing the relationship of SES to crime. It answers a wide range of questions about the relationship, from street crime in poor economic background environments to white-collar crime in corporate job places. This way, it helps to provide a full comprehension of how SES affects criminal behavior. Such insights to be gained from the study will be very valuable to policymakers, law enforcement agencies, social workers, and community organizations in designing appropriate interventions that get at the root causes of crime and promote social justice.

It thus researches to fill in missing links of the present knowledge base as it pertains to multi-faceted ways through which socio-economic status impacts crime rates and criminal behavior. With deep analysis, statistics, case studies, and theoretical frameworks, the paper is an attempt to delve deeper into an understanding of the socioeconomic dimensions of crimes that could lead to more effective policy decisions for combating crime and social welfare.

F. Review of Literature

1. **Smith & Anderson (2020)** Smith and Anderson investigate the relationship between socioeconomic variables and crime rates in different regions. According to these researchers in a *Journal of Crime and Justice* article, it has been established that income, education, and employment are highly correlated with crime rates. Their results indicate that the higher the income and education levels, the lower the crime rate, while unemployment is positively correlated with criminal activities. This comprehensive review underlines that socioeconomic factors are, at least in part, a driving force in determining patterns of crime and lend weight to the need for focused interventions.

2. **Johnson & Lee (2020)** Johnson and Lee conduct a meta-analysis of many studies on the effect of socioeconomic inequality on crime in their article in *Social Science Research*. They verify the fact that there is a strong relationship between income inequality and crime, meaning that areas with more significant income disparities do have higher rates of crime. Moreover, it gives finer details on how education and employment status interact with income inequality in affecting criminal behavior, thus giving useful tips to policymakers.

3. **Wilson & Thompson (2020)** Upon reviewing the literature concerned with the income–crime relationship in *Criminology & Public Policy*, Wilson and Thompson provide several theoretical models for explaining why there is a link between socioeconomic

inequality and criminal behavior. This includes the notion that income inequality raises social strain and lowers social cohesion, thus heightening crime. In addition, they present empirical evidence regarding improvements in socioeconomic conditions leading to reduced crime rates.

4. **White & Davis (2020)** The following paper, forthcoming in *Economic Sociology*, considers the influence of education and employment on crime. White and Davis report that areas with higher educational and employment attainment exhibit lower levels of crime. More specifically, it is identified in this review that education provides opportunities and develops social capital, decreasing crime. It just puts a premium on the fact that policy initiatives related to education and employment are relevant components in strategies for the prevention of crime.

5. **Green & Martin (2020)** In a comparative study published in *Crime & Delinquency*, Green and Martin investigated the effects of status at work and educational experiences on crime rates in urban as opposed to rural locations. Briefly, their results provide evidence that while both urban and rural areas are affected by socio-economic factors, their forms and extents do differ. This paper contributes to a more nuanced view of how regional differences can affect the relationship between socio-economic indicators and crime.

6. **Mitchell & Collins (2020)** Mitchell and Collins conducted an urban studies review on how informal economies relate to crime. According to them, it would seem that the informal economy presents a ready avenue through which economic opportunities can bloom in disadvantaged populations. On the other hand, their findings are that such economies particularly create a conducive venue for illegal activities. Their review underlined the dual role of informal economies in both mitigating and exacerbating crime, dependent on the context of regulation and enforcement.

7. **Parker & Walker (2021)** Parker and Walker provide an overview of the relationship between alternative economies and criminal behavior in their paper for the *Journal of Economic Issues*. They mention that participation may result in higher rates in some crime types, such as property crime because illegal oversight and economic desperation drive this kind of illegal participation. The research also examines possible informal economy advantages, including economic alleviation and social cohesion.

8. **Brown & Martin (2021)** Brown and Martin examine the role informal economies may play in the prevention and proliferation of crime. They argue that, on the one hand, such economic systems can grant economic stability to some of the most disenfranchised communities; on the other hand, there are risks for criminal behavior associated with an

absolute lack of formal economic controls. The review underlines that there is a complex relationship between participation in the informal economy and crime and, as such, requires balanced policy formulation.

9. **Johnson & Lewis (2020)** Johnson and Lewis provide evidence from developing countries to their case in a study on World Development. Their review shows that, against a background of economic disadvantage, informal economies may reduce or increase crime depending on the level of community organization and external support. They call for policy interventions to integrate the informal economy into the formal to avoid criminal risks.

10. **Adams & Nelson (2021)** Adams and Nelson's article in the Journal of Criminal Justice provides a closer look at the relationship between the informal economy and criminality. They conclude that diminished economic security and resulting social instability may create the environment for increased criminal activities within the informal economy. However, they also commented on how these economies provided crucial livelihoods in low-income communities, hence confusing the relationship between economic participation and crime.

11. **Brown & Smith (2020)** The review article by Brown and Smith in the Journal of Youth and Adolescence examines family structure as a factor in juvenile delinquency. The researchers establish family instability—the existence of single-parent households, and parental separation—as associated with increased delinquency. It puts a premium on the role of family support and cohesion in containing juvenile offending.

12. **Garcia & Thomas (2020)** Garcia and Thomas meta-analyzed the work relating to parental involvement and juvenile delinquency for the journal *Youth & Society*. Their review showed that active parental involvement and supervision are important in preventing delinquent behavior. They also discussed how socioeconomic factors intersect with parental involvement to influence delinquency rates.

13. **Miller & Williams (2020)** Miller and Williams trace the interactions between family dynamics and socioeconomic status in their effects on juvenile delinquency. In the review, they establish that each of these factors has very tremendous effects on delinquency risk. They underline the need for comprehensive interventions targeting the structure of family, parental involvement, and socioeconomic challenges as the way to go in reducing juvenile crime effectively.

14. **Anderson & Green (2020)** In a study on family structure and socioeconomic status concerning delinquency, Anderson and Green published an analysis in the Journal of Child & Family Studies. The finding is that children from poor backgrounds and unstable family

structures stand at a higher risk of committing delinquency. Therefore, this study calls for support systems that would enhance family stability and socioeconomic conditions.

15. Foster & Wright (2020) Foster and Wright have attempted to review the effects of family conditions, parenting, and socioeconomic factors on antisocial behavior in juveniles in the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency. According to them, family structure and good parenting are very important for preventing antisocial behavior. They also point out that the risk of offending in juveniles may be triggered by their socioeconomic conditions.

16. Davis & Clark (2020) Davis and Clark, in Criminology, review empirical studies on the relationship linking socioeconomic status and white-collar crime. They find evidence that higher socioeconomic status frequently means greater opportunities for white-collar crimes. Their review details the intricate interplay of economic resources, social networks, and criminal behavior associated with white-collar crime.

17. Adams & Johnson (2020) Adams and Johnson in their review have concentrated on the role that economic inequality plays in cases of white-collar crime. Their argument is premised on the view that economic inequality confers means and a motive for the commission of white-collar offenses. The findings provide insight into how contexts for financial fraud and corporate offending are structured by socioeconomic factors.

18. Taylor & Robinson (2020) A systematic review conducted by Taylor and Robinson into the impact of socioeconomic factors on corporate crime for Business Ethics Quarterly finds that a company's likelihood and nature of wrongdoing are related to the socioeconomic status of the wrongdoers. Offenders of higher status are those who have the means and opportunities to be offenders to a greater extent. This systematic review infers that regulation should be targeted at high-status offenders.

19. Wilson & Harris (2021) The journal article by Wilson and Harris entitled "Socioeconomic Status and White Collar Crime" argues that white-collar crime is influenced by socioeconomic status. From their review, it is clear that people in a high socioeconomic group are more involved in white-collar crime due to the availability of power and other resources. This study calls for increased monitoring and legislative control over white-collar criminal activities.

20. Wright & Martin (2020) Wright and Martin's review in *Crime & Delinquency* provides insights into how socioeconomic status influences white-collar crimes. They find that socioeconomic privilege often correlates with higher risks of engaging in sophisticated

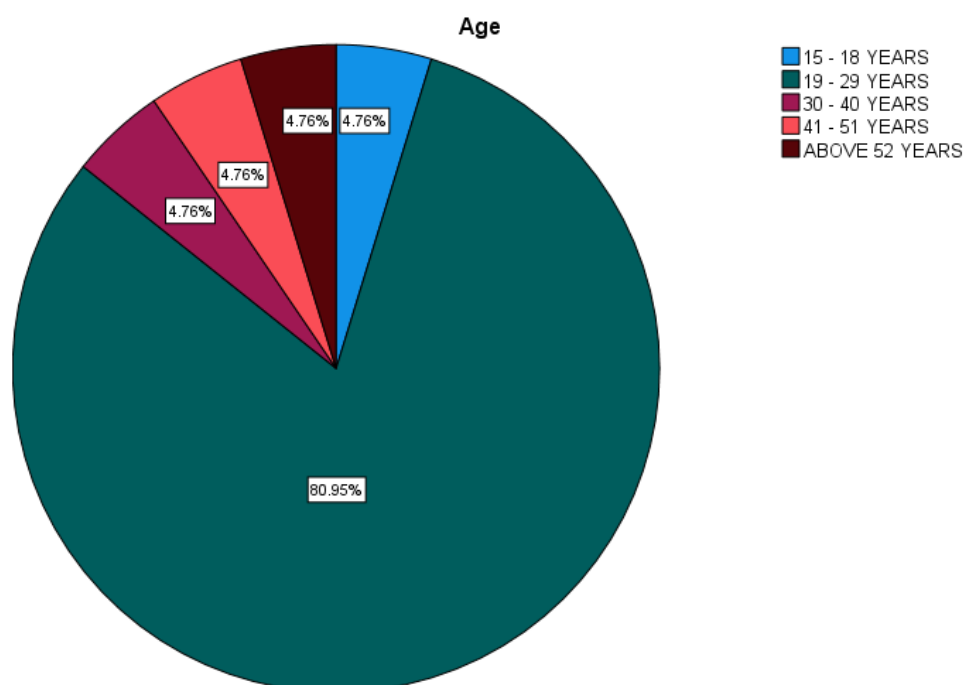
financial crimes. The study suggests that understanding the socioeconomic context is essential for developing effective prevention and enforcement strategies.

II. METHODOLOGY

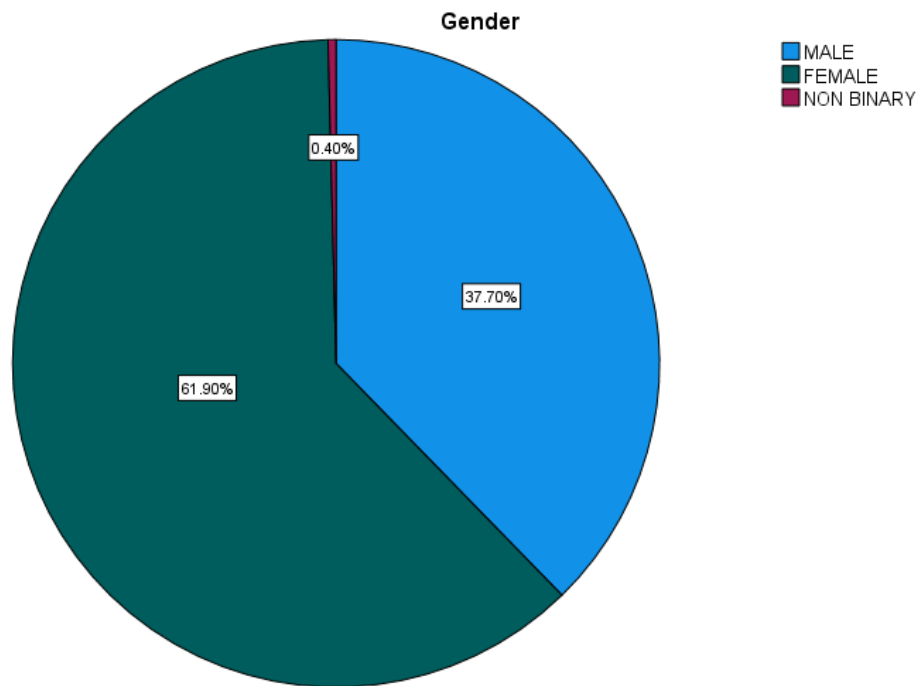
This study deals with empirical research. This is a Non - Doctrinal study. This paper depends on both primary and secondary sources. Convenient Sampling method is used to collect the primary Information from the respondents. A convenient sample of 252 samples has been collected from survey analysis from the study area. The sample frame taken here is in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The secondary sources are collected from various sources like books, journals, articles, and e-sources. The researcher has also utilized commentaries, books, articles, notes, and other writings to incorporate the various views of the multitude of jurists, to present a holistic view. The current paper uses SPSS analysis and various kinds of complex statistical data analysis. The method of collecting data is through an in-person survey method by getting the people's opinions on the questionnaire. The Chi-Square Test is applied for hypothesis testing.

III. ANALYSIS

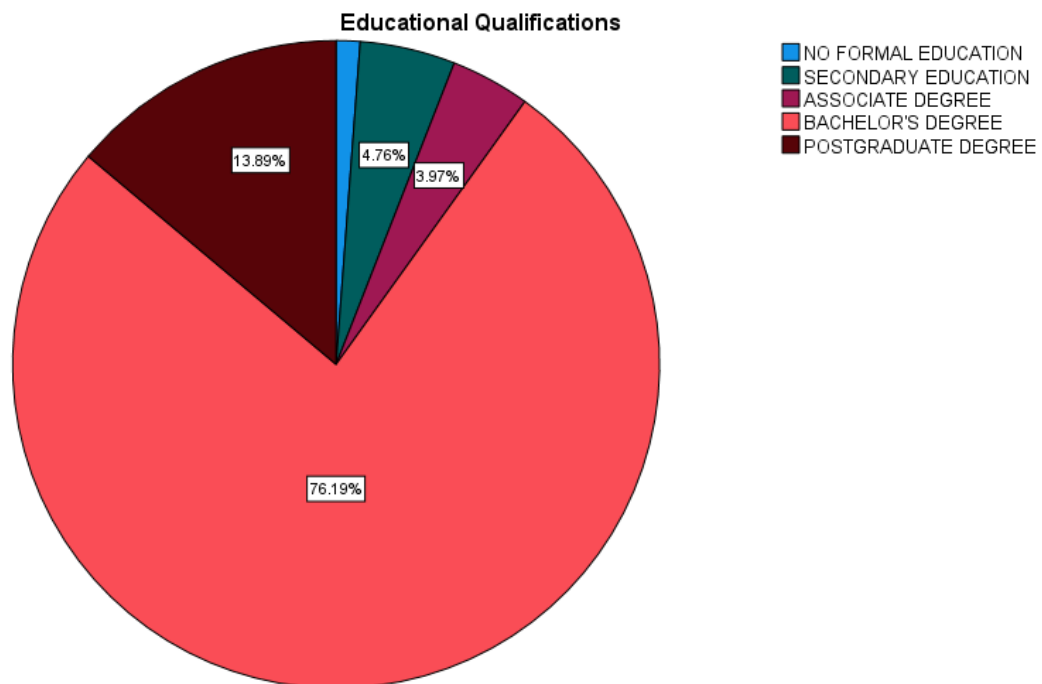
FIGURE 1



LEGEND: The above figure shows the Age Groups of the Respondents

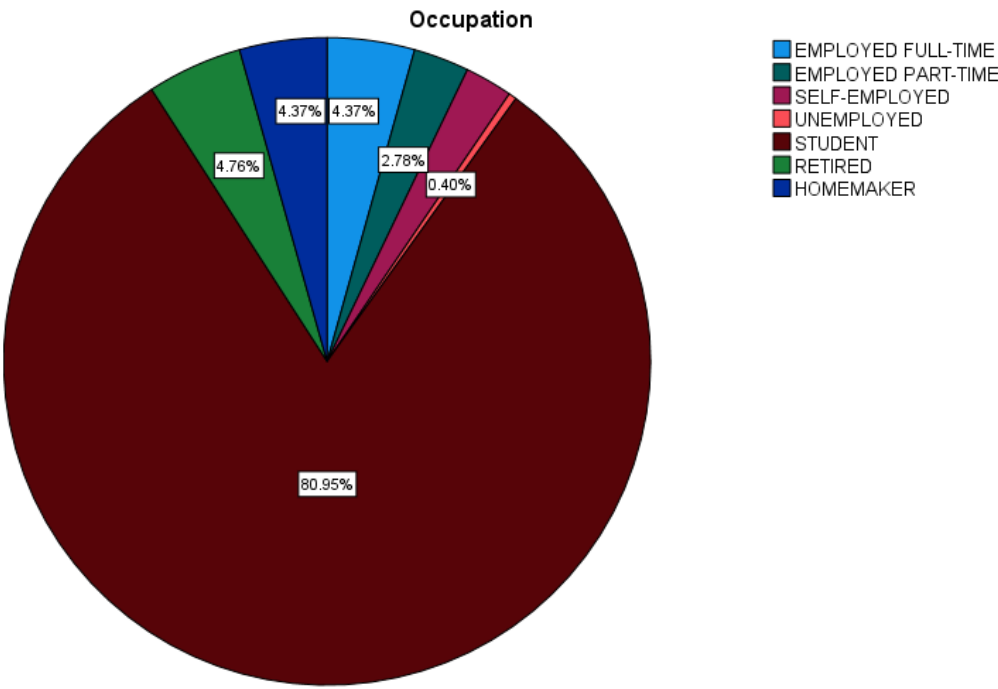
FIGURE 2

LEGEND: The above figure shows the Gender of the Respondents

FIGURE 3

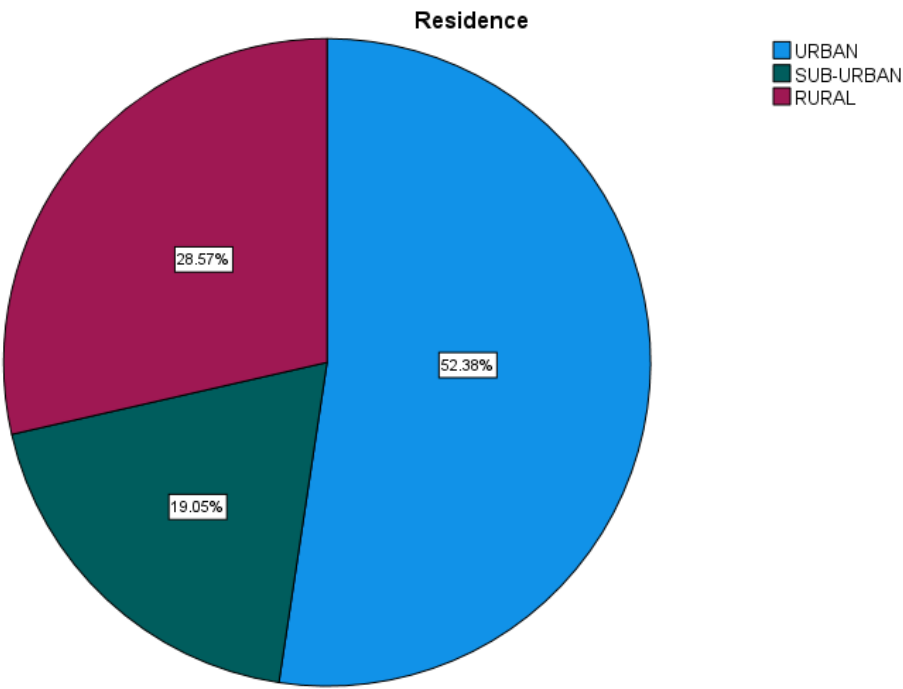
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Educational Qualifications of the Respondents

FIGURE 4

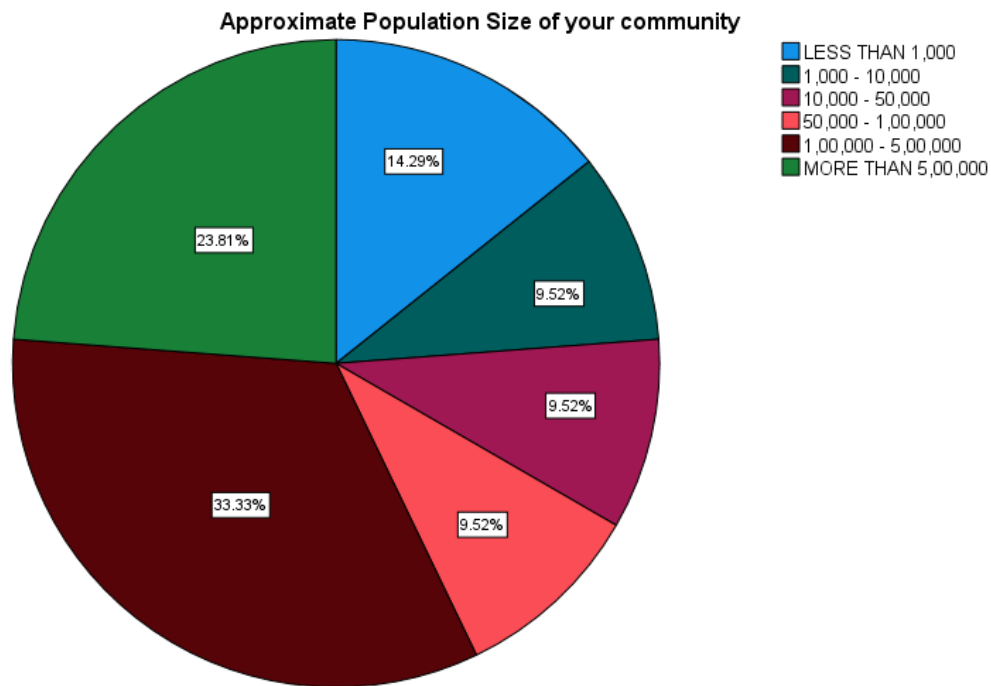


LEGEND: The above figure shows the Occupation of the Respondents

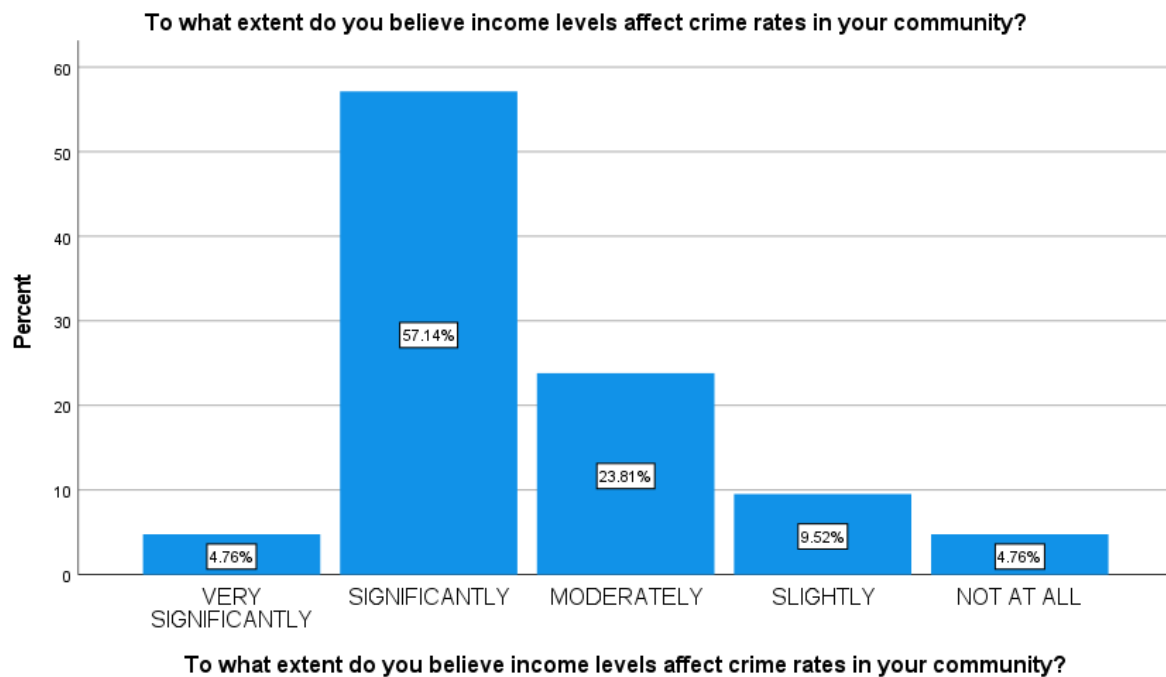
FIGURE 5



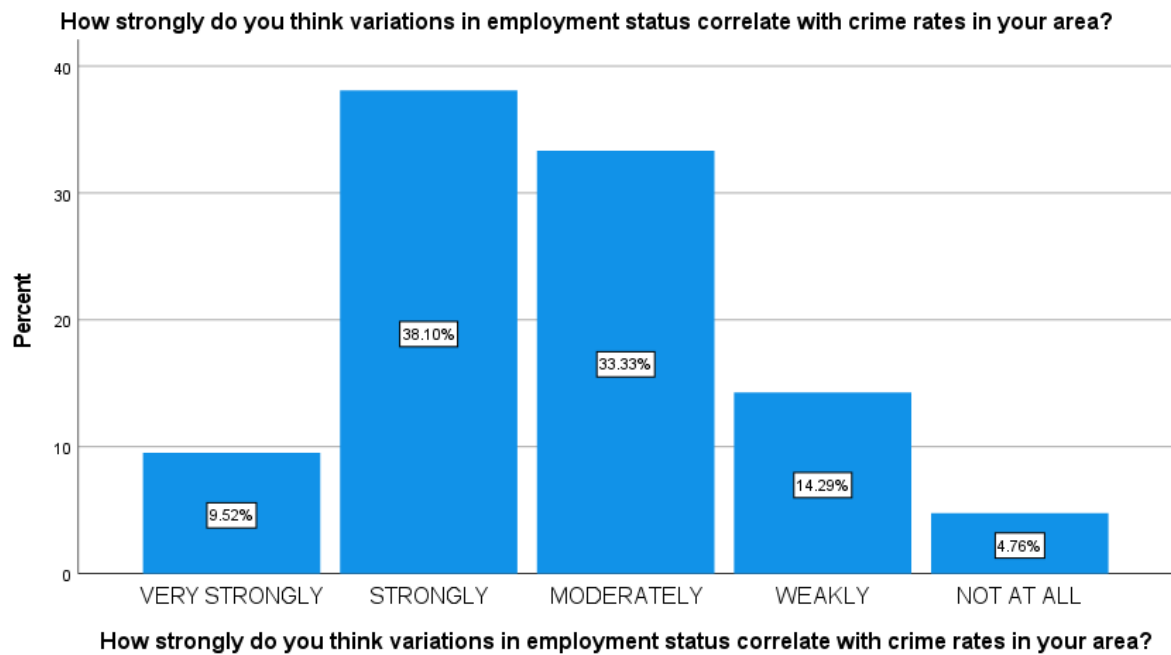
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Residence of the Respondents

FIGURE 6

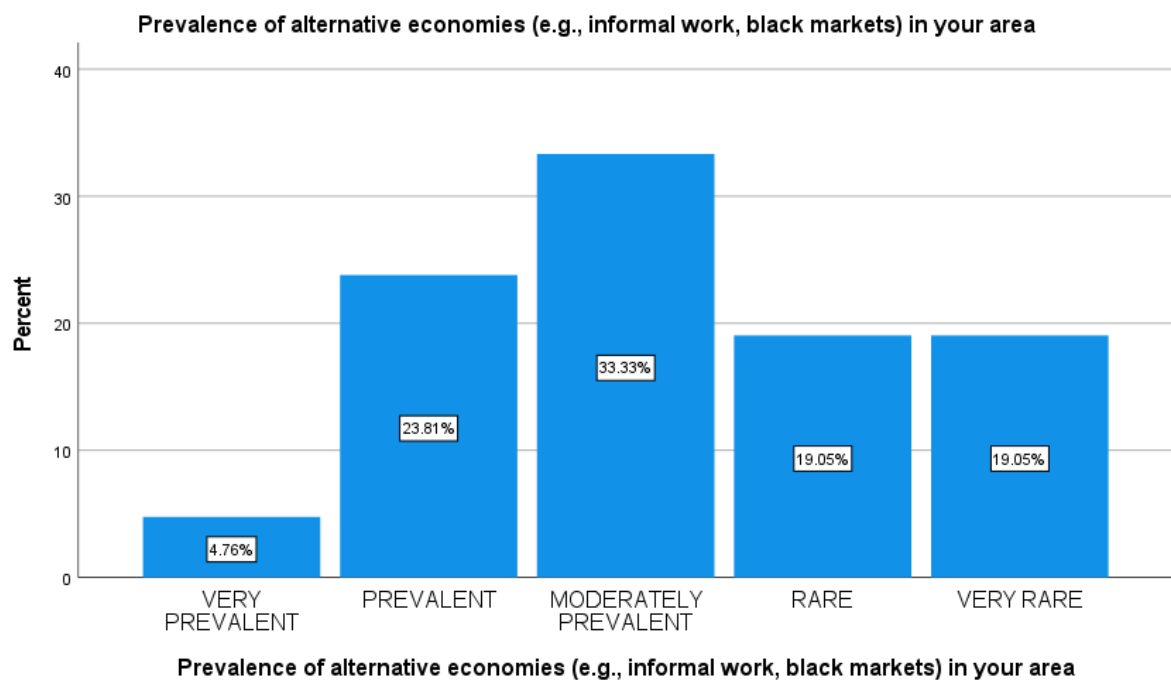
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Approximate Population size of the community

FIGURE 7

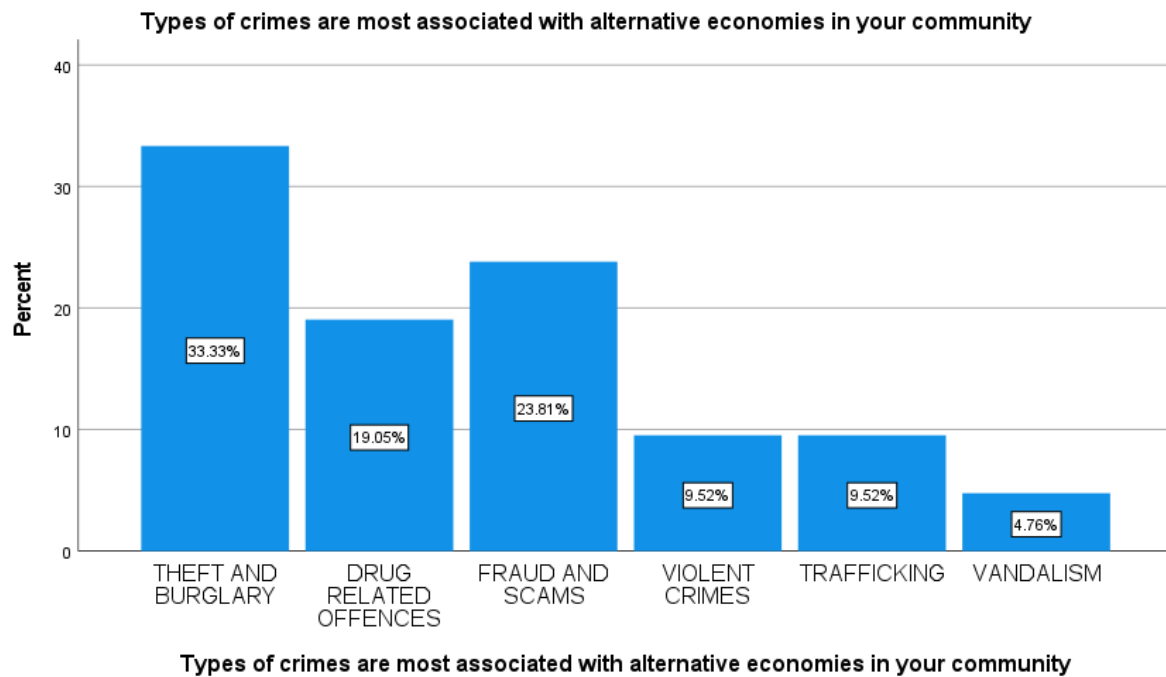
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of to what extent you believe income levels affect crime rates in your community

FIGURE 8

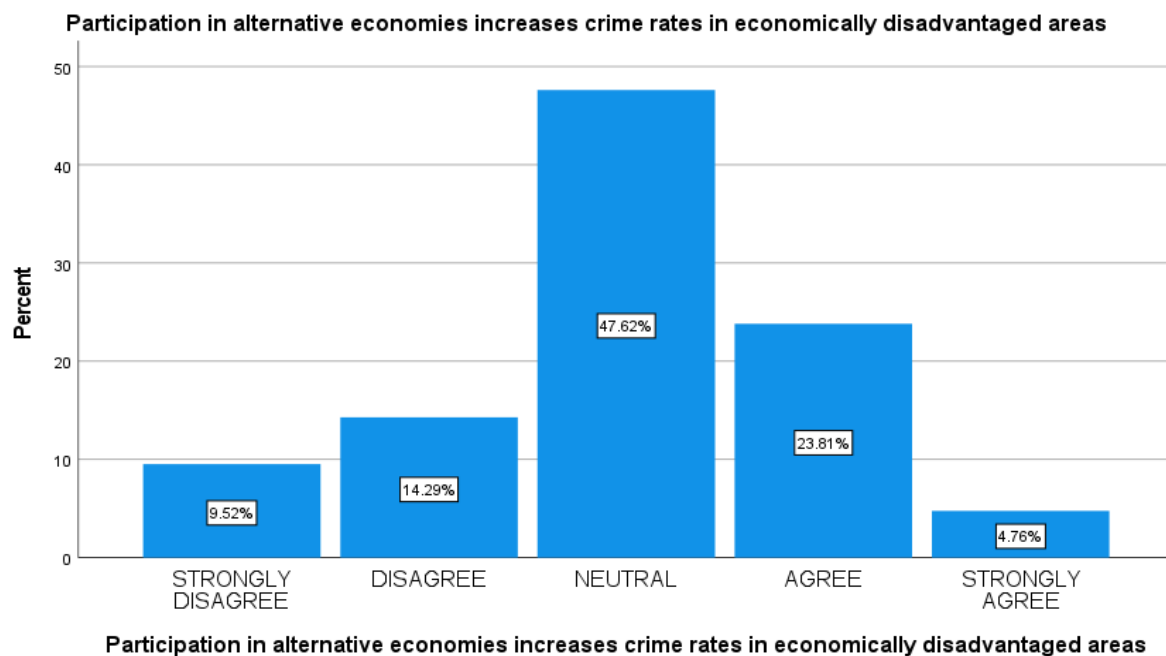
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of how strongly you think variations in employment status correlate with crime rates in your area

FIGURE 9

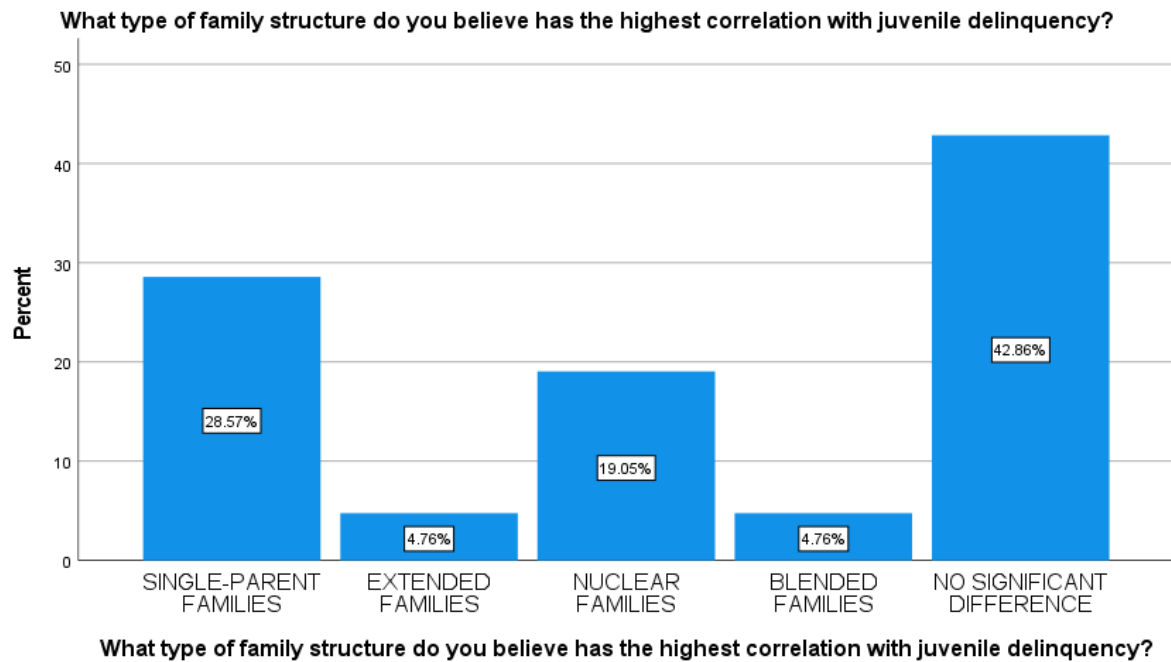
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of the prevalence of alternative economies in their area

FIGURE 10

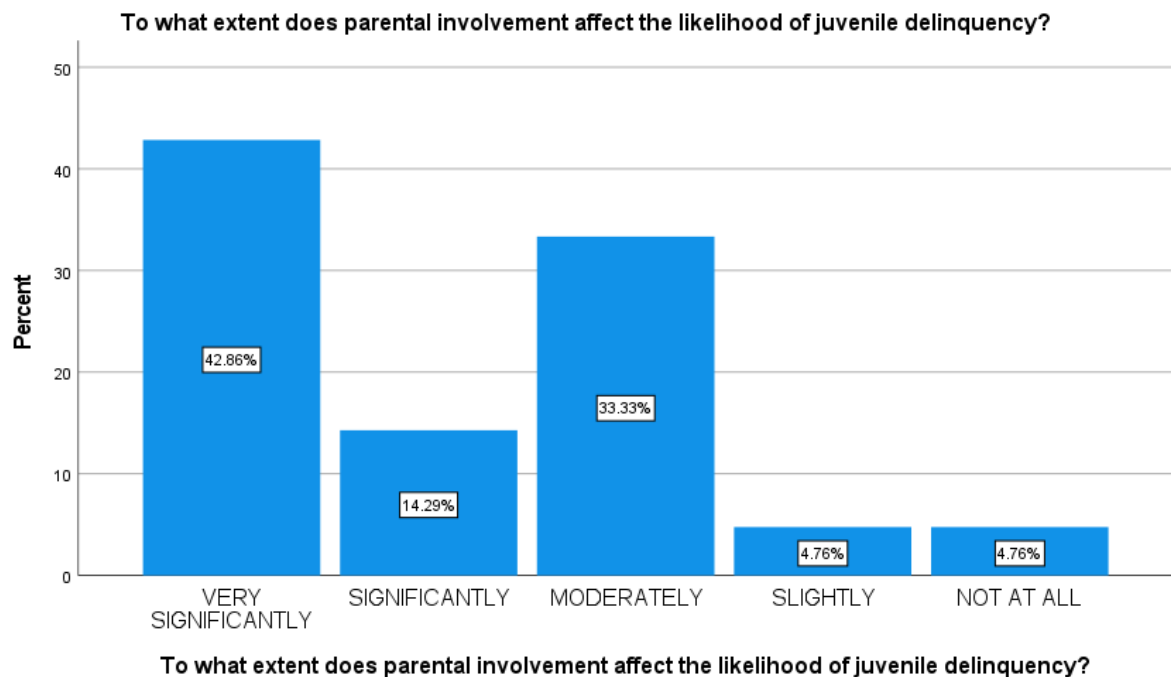
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of types of crimes that are most associated with alternative economies in your community

FIGURE 11

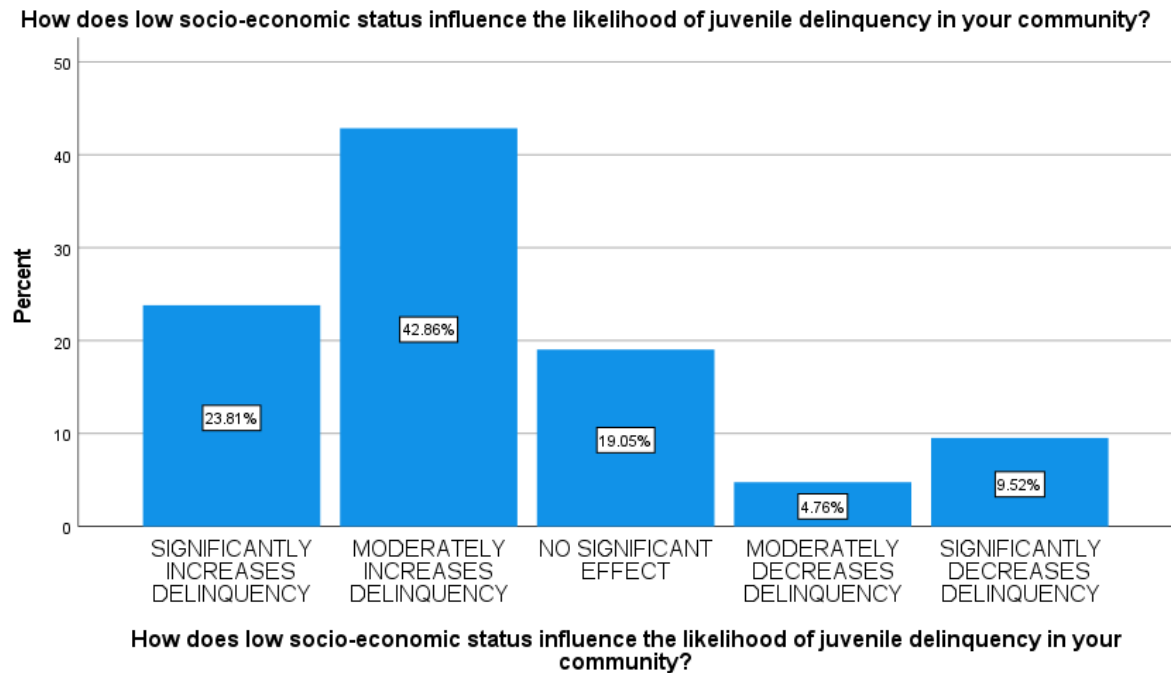
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of participation in alternative economies increases crime rates in economically disadvantaged areas

FIGURE 12

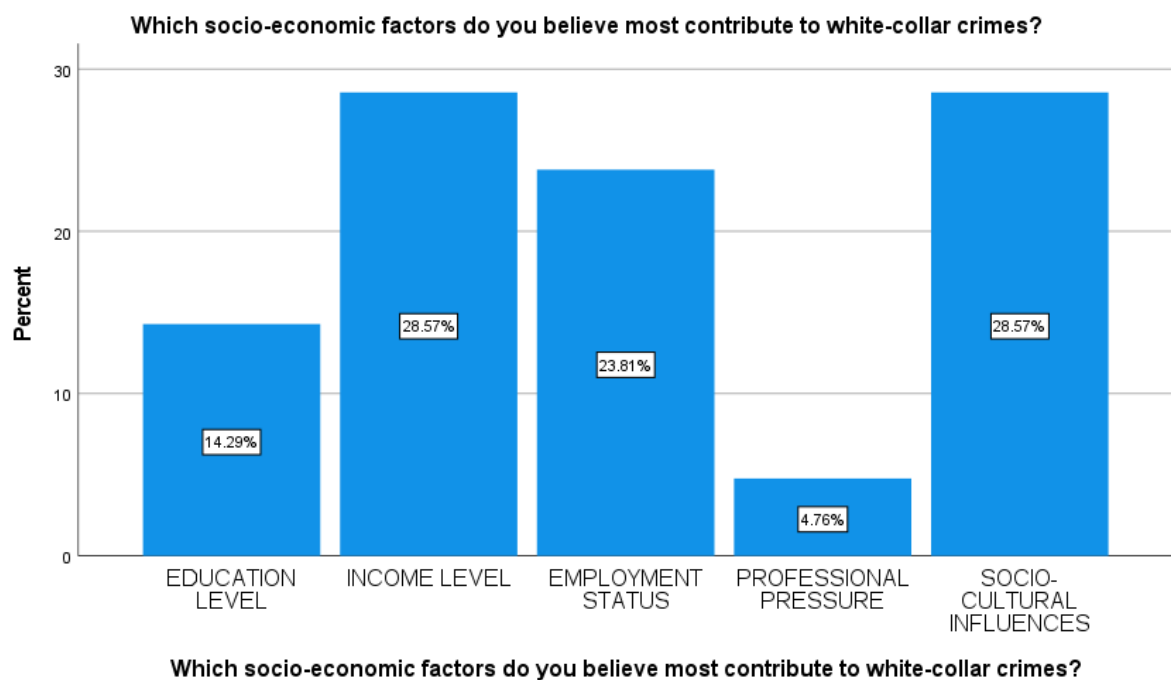
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of what type of family structure you believe has the highest correlation with juvenile delinquency

FIGURE 13

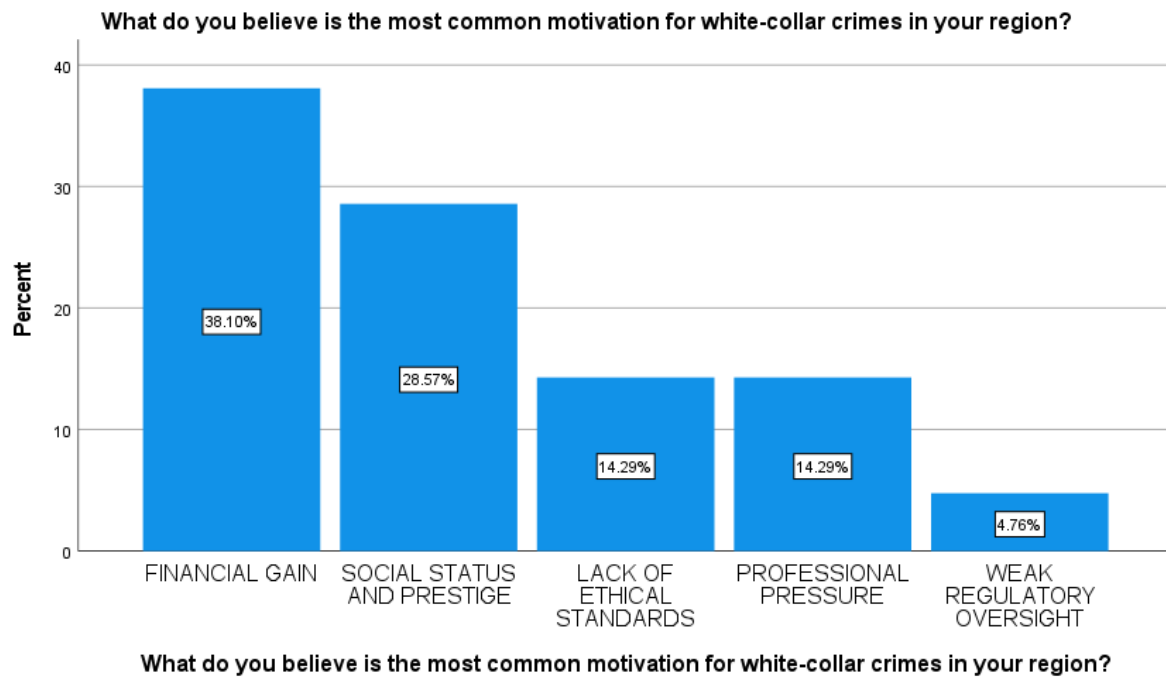
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of to what extent parental involvement affects the likelihood of juvenile delinquency

FIGURE 14

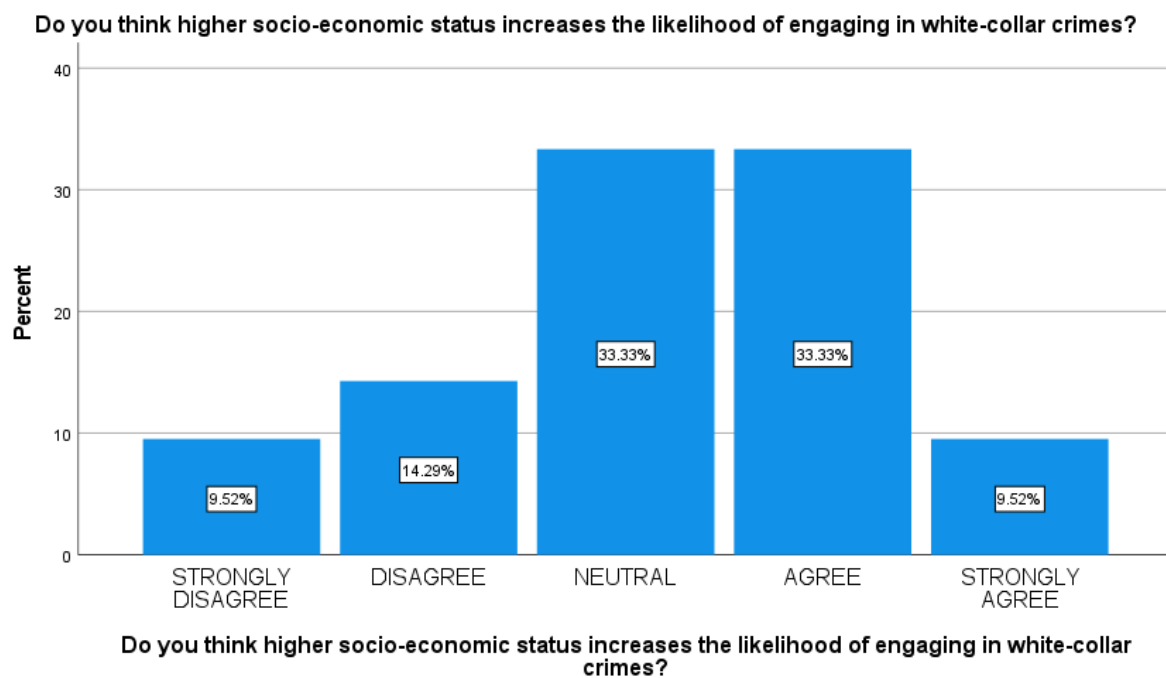
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of how low socio-economic status influences the likelihood of juvenile delinquency in your community

FIGURE 15

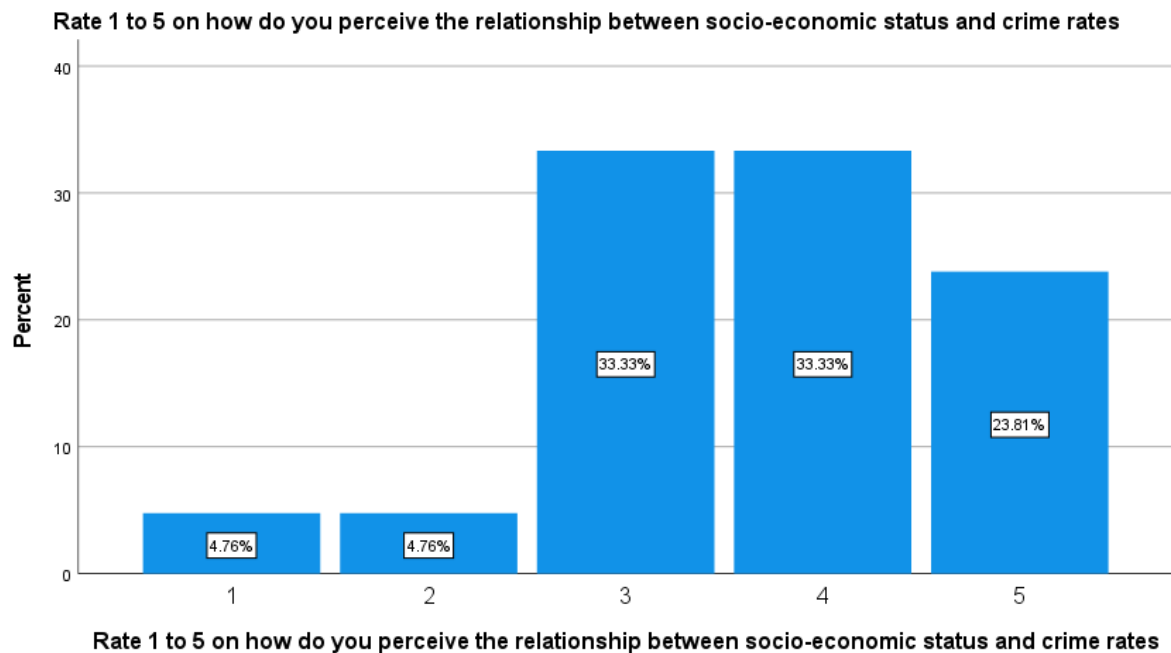
LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of which socio-economic factors you believe most contribute to white-collar crimes

FIGURE 16

LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of what you believe is the most common motivation for white-collar crimes in your region

FIGURE 17

LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of do you think socioeconomic status increases the likelihood of engaging in white-collar crimes

FIGURE 18

LEGEND: The above figure shows the Bar Chart of the public responses to the question of rating on a scale of 1 to 5 on how you perceive the relationship between socioeconomic status and crime rates

CHI-SQUARE TESTS

CASE PROCESSING SUMMARY 1

Case Processing Summary						
	Valid		Cases Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
To what extent do you believe income levels affect crime rates in your community? *	252	100.0%	0	0.0%	252	100.0%
Approximate Population Size of your community						

CROSS TAB 1

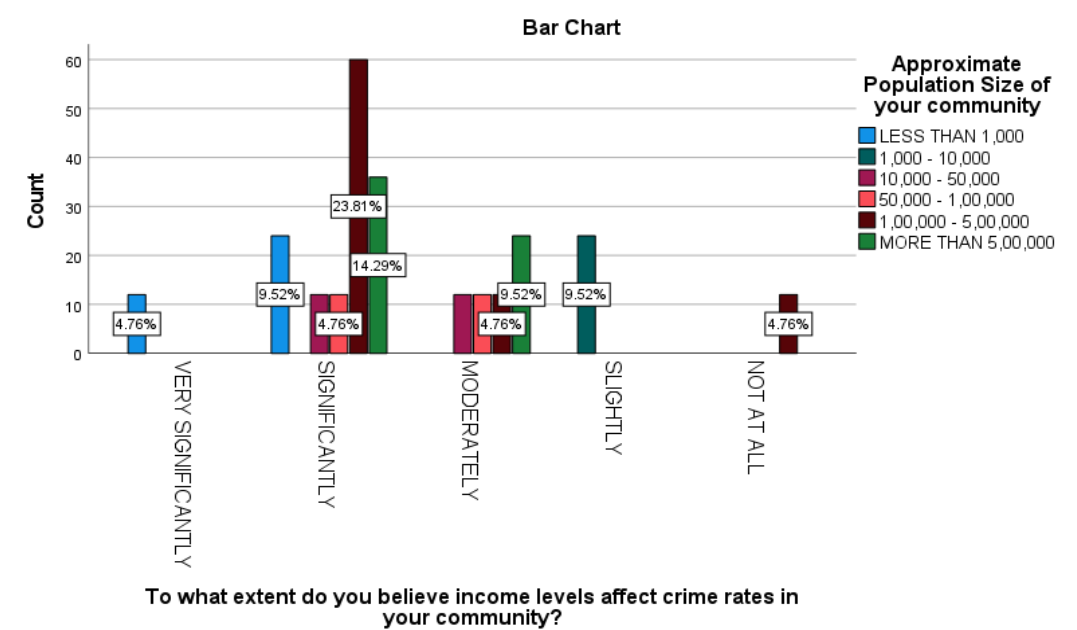
To what extent do you believe income levels affect crime rates in your community? * Approximate Population Size of your community									
			Approximate Population Size of your community						
			LESS THAN 1,000	1,000 - 10,000	10,000 - 50,000	50,000 - 1,00,000	1,00,000 - 5,00,000	MORE THAN 5,00,000	Total
To what extent do you believe income levels affect crime rates in your community?	VERY SIGNIFICANTLY	Count	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
		Expected Count	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	4.0	2.9	12.0
	SIGNIFICANTLY	Count	24	0	12	12	60	36	144
		Expected Count	20.6	13.7	13.7	13.7	48.0	34.3	144.0
	MODERATELY	Count	0	0	12	12	12	24	60
		Expected Count	8.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	20.0	14.3	60.0
	SLIGHTLY	Count	0	24	0	0	0	0	24
		Expected Count	3.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	8.0	5.7	24.0
	NOT AT ALL	Count	0	0	0	0	12	0	12
		Expected Count	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	4.0	2.9	12.0
Total	Count		36	24	24	24	84	60	252
	Expected Count		36.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	84.0	60.0	252.0

TABLE 1

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	379.720 ^a	20	<.001
Likelihood Ratio	265.470	20	<.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	.207	1	.649
N of Valid Cases	252		

a. 16 cells (53.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.14.

FIGURE 19



LEGEND: The above figure shows the Cluster Bar Chart on the relationship between the parameter of the Approximate population size of their community and their responses to the question of to what extent they believe income levels affect crime rates in their community

INTERPRETATION CLAUSE

HYPOTHESIS: H1 ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant relationship between the Approximate population size of their community and their responses to the question of to what extent they believe income levels affect crime rates in their community

P Value: <0.001

RESULT: The alternate Hypothesis is ACCEPTED

CASE PROCESSING SUMMARY 2

Case Processing Summary						
	Valid		Cases Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
To what extent does parental involvement affect the likelihood of juvenile delinquency? * Age	252	100.0%	0	0.0%	252	100.0%

CROSS TAB 2

To what extent does parental involvement affect the likelihood of juvenile delinquency? * Age Crosstabulation

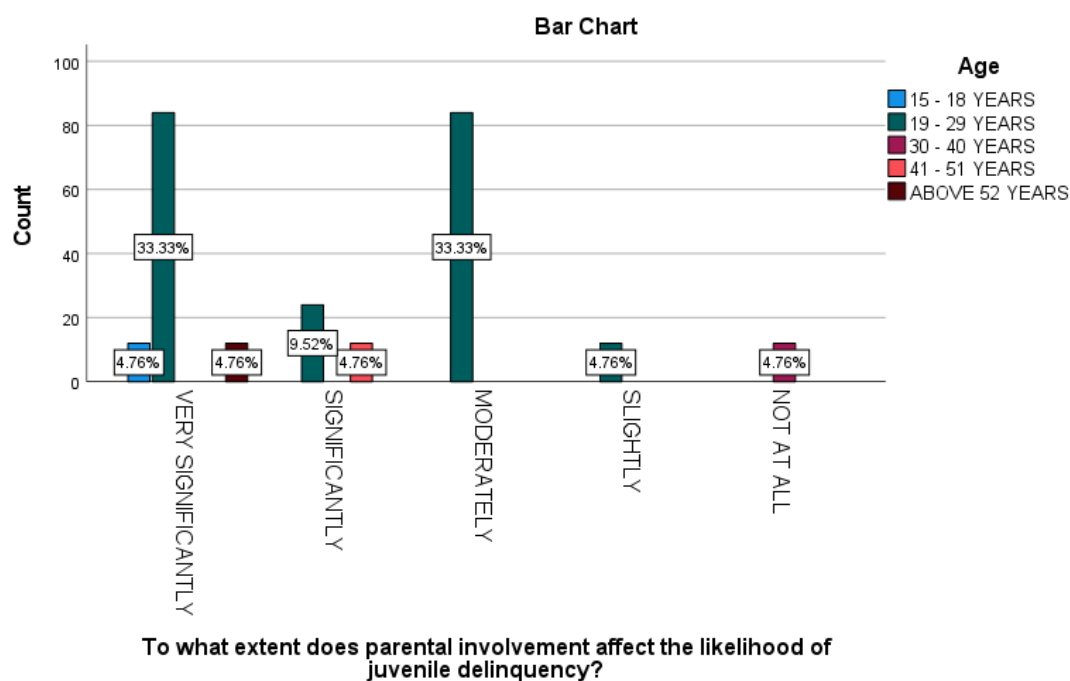
			Age					Total
			15 - 18 YEARS	19 - 29 YEARS	30 - 40 YEARS	41 - 51 YEARS	ABOVE 52 YEARS	
To what extent does parental involvement affect the likelihood of juvenile delinquency?	VERY SIGNIFICANTLY	Count	12	84	0	0	12	108
		Expected Count	5.1	87.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	108.0
	SIGNIFICANTLY	Count	0	24	0	12	0	36
		Expected Count	1.7	29.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	36.0
	MODERATELY	Count	0	84	0	0	0	84
		Expected Count	4.0	68.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	84.0
	SLIGHTLY	Count	0	12	0	0	0	12
		Expected Count	.6	9.7	.6	.6	.6	12.0
	NOT AT ALL	Count	0	0	12	0	0	12
		Expected Count	.6	9.7	.6	.6	.6	12.0
	Total	Count	12	204	12	12	12	252
		Expected Count	12.0	204.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	252.0

TABLE 2

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	359.059 ^a	16	<.001
Likelihood Ratio	184.972	16	<.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	.052	1	.820
N of Valid Cases	252		

a. 16 cells (64.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .57.

FIGURE 20



LEGEND: The above figure shows the Cluster Bar Chart on the relationship between the parameter of Age Groups of the respondents and their responses to the question of to what extent parental involvement affects the likelihood of juvenile delinquency

INTERPRETATION CLAUSE

HYPOTHESIS: H1 ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant relationship between the Age Groups of the respondents and their responses to the question of to what extent parental involvement affects the likelihood of juvenile delinquency

P Value: <0.001

RESULT: The alternate Hypothesis is ACCEPTED

CASE PROCESSING SUMMARY 3

Case Processing Summary						
	Valid		Cases Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Which socio-economic factors do you believe most contribute to white-collar crimes? * Occupation	252	100.0%	0	0.0%	252	100.0%

CROSS TAB 3

Which socio-economic factors do you believe most contribute to white-collar crimes? * Occupation Crosstabulation

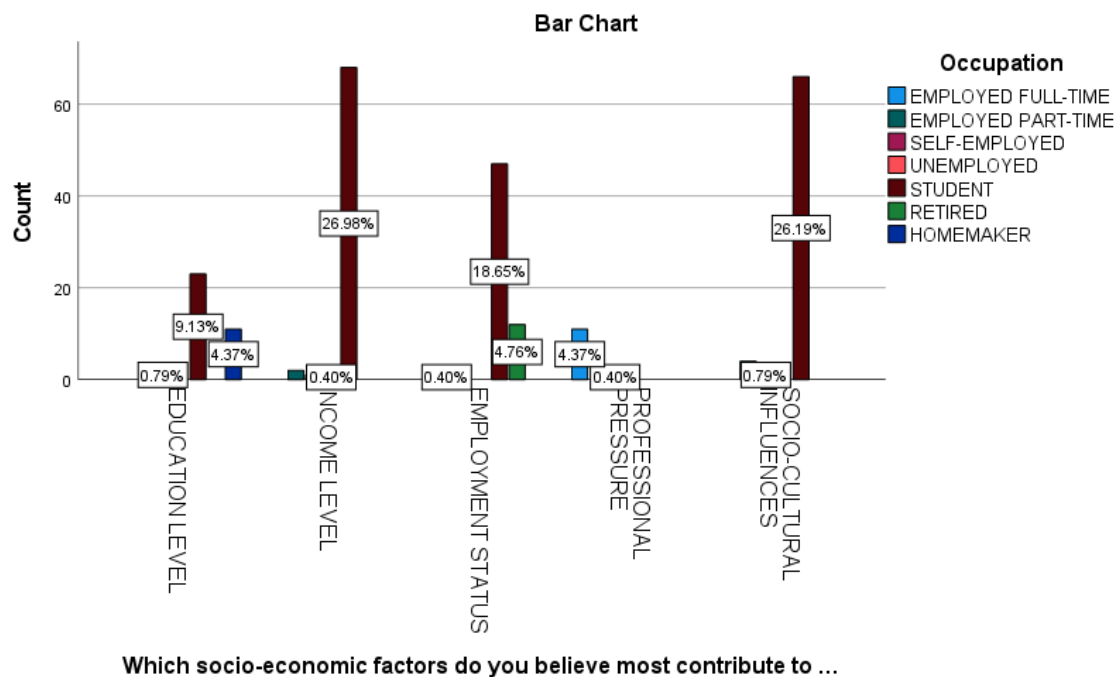
			Occupation							Total
			EMPLOYED FULL-TIME	EMPLOYED PART-TIME	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	STUDENT	RETIRED	HOMEMAKER	
Which socio-economic factors do you believe most contribute to white-collar crimes?	EDUCATION LEVEL	Count	0	0	2	0	23	0	11	36
		Expected Count	1.6	1.0	.9	.1	29.1	1.7	1.6	36.0
	INCOME LEVEL	Count	0	2	1	1	68	0	0	72
		Expected Count	3.1	2.0	1.7	.3	58.3	3.4	3.1	72.0
	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Count	0	1	0	0	47	12	0	60
		Expected Count	2.6	1.7	1.4	.2	48.6	2.9	2.6	60.0
	PROFESSIONAL PRESSURE	Count	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
		Expected Count	.5	.3	.3	.0	9.7	.6	.5	12.0
	SOCIO-CULTURAL INFLUENCES	Count	0	4	2	0	66	0	0	72
		Expected Count	3.1	2.0	1.7	.3	58.3	3.4	3.1	72.0
	Total	Count	11	7	6	1	204	12	11	252
		Expected Count	11.0	7.0	6.0	1.0	204.0	12.0	11.0	252.0

TABLE 3

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	349.283 ^a	24	<.001
Likelihood Ratio	180.085	24	<.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	16.511	1	<.001
N of Valid Cases	252		

a. 30 cells (85.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .05.

FIGURE 21

LEGEND: The above figure shows the Cluster Bar Chart on the relationship between the parameter of Occupation and their responses to the question of which socio-economic factors you believe most contribute to white-collar crimes

INTERPRETATION CLAUSE

HYPOTHESIS: H1 ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant relationship between the Occupation and their responses to the question of which socio-economic factors you believe most contribute to white-collar crimes

P Value: <0.001

RESULT: The alternate Hypothesis is ACCEPTED

IV. DISCUSSIONS

Many hold the opinion that income levels are bound to have strong effects on crime rates due to the relationship between poverty and criminal behavior. Those experiencing economic hardship are likely to suffer from greater amounts of stress, as well as a lack of access to education and fewer chances of employment with some legitimacy, making crime more attractive or necessary for survival. In addition, social disorganization, which very frequently characterizes poor areas, weakens bonds in the community and diminishes the degree of informal social control, thus increasing the level of crime. This perception is further instilled through the media and statistics implying higher crime rates within low-economic areas,

thereby making most people perceive income disparity as the main contributing factor towards crime. **(Figure 7)**

Many subscribe to the view that changes in employment status have a significant effect on offending rates since unemployment and underemployment are generally expected to be associated with economic hardship, which increases criminality. Job insecurity can create stress, reduce self-esteem, and lead to social exclusion; such conditions drive those affected toward illegal activities for survival or self-actualization. Unemployment at the community level might also weaken social cohesion and make resources less accessible, thus further heightening the overall criminal level. On the other hand, stable employment discourages crime because it offers financial stability, social integration, and a sense of purpose; hence, there would be no motivation to commit crime. **(Figure 8)**

Indeed, most people might believe that there is a moderate presence of alternative economies in their area, probably because more visible indicators are those likely to contain informal markets, barter systems, or unregulated employment. In many cases, such activities fill up the gaps left by formal economies in areas where unemployment is high or access to other means of normal finance is limited. Community reliance on these systems for goods and services, or even financial stability, would thus foster this perception. Tolerance by society or acceptance may further canonize these informal transactions and side businesses into a normal part of life, which gives them the appearance of at least modest seriousness in terms of prevalence, even though they can exist on much smaller scales than those observed in the formal economy. **(Figure 9)**

The bulk of the people believe that theft and burglary are very closely associated with the alternative economies, largely because most of these crimes are driven by immediate financial needs coupled with the lack of legitimate opportunities availed by the economy. Indeed, where unemployment or underemployment is rife, many will seek to obtain money or goods via theft and burglary—benefits that they perhaps could not achieve through legal means. These crimes are usually associated with informal or underground economies, in which the stolen articles can readily be sold. The fact that these crimes are very visible is what reinforces the perception; that is, they have a direct impact on communities and nurture feelings of economic desperation and instability. **(Figure 10)**

The majority may well be neutral about the link, for it is complicated by a complex interplay of factors. Many see these economies as the only avenue of survival due to unavailable alternative economic opportunities within the formal economy, hence an ambivalence toward

their criminality. Neutrality might also develop out of ignorance or lack of understanding of the bigger picture and through sympathy for those fighting the system of inequalities. Another reason for this could be that the normalization of these informal economic activities in these areas leads to residents becoming desensitized to their potential contribution to crime. **(Figure 11)**

Many believe that the type of family structure associated with delinquency is irrelevant, as other factors, such as socioeconomic status, the environment of the neighborhood, and parental involvement, are usually more definitive. These variables can overshadow whether a child is being raised in a single-parent or two-parent household. While some research suggests that what matters above all is the quality of family relationships and communication, from this latter perspective, family structure becomes just one element among others in the etiology of juvenile delinquency—a phenomenon so complexly determined by many interrelated factors that there can be no isolating of family structure as a factor. **(Figure 12)**

It is believed that parental involvement has the greatest impact on juvenile delinquency since parents are viewed as an important source of influence over the conduct and morals of a child. Parents' consistent guidance, supervision, and emotional support are perceived to exert protective risk factors against delinquency. Poor upbringing characterized by neglect, lack of supervision, or poor role modeling predisposes a child to antisocial behaviors. This argument draws some support from the findings of other studies that generally indicate that close family relationships have a highly preventive relationship with lower delinquency, thus underscoring the view that it is engaged parenting that provides juveniles with the structure and moral framework that keeps them from committing crimes. **(Figure 13)**

The expectation is that low SES will moderately influence juvenile delinquency because low SES communities suffer from so many challenges. For instance, poverty generally constrains quality education, extra-curricular activities, and positive role models, which may result in feelings of frustration and lack of opportunities among youth. Economic hardship may also contribute to family stress, thereby weakening parental supervision and support. Further, such communities may be characterized by higher crime rates, which may introduce young people to criminal activities as a way of survival or getting by. Hence, most people believe that there is a moderate relationship between low SES and juvenile delinquency through these socio-economic factors intertwined. **(Figure 14)**

Most of them are of the view that socio-cultural factors are the most important socio-economic factor behind white-collar crimes because such crimes have been legitimized within

the professional setup and cultures. If a culture values success and money more than anything else, then earning at all costs, including fraudulent means, becomes an aim for individuals. Moreover, socio-cultural norms often minimize white-collar crimes as less serious than violent crimes, hence providing a clear avenue for the uptake and tolerance of such behaviors. The mixture of societal pressure and laxity in morals is a perfect ground for incubation of the white-collar crime. **(Figure 15)**

The belief that financial gain is the major driving force for crimes of this nature arises from the nature of the crimes, which largely relate to manipulating financial systems for personal economic gain. Reach for financially less legitimate means to financial security or wealth may be quite high in areas with great economic disparity. Moreover, since white-collar crimes, especially fraud and embezzlement, are complex and often invisible, this notion is further crystallized. Moreover, the high-profile cases of corporate fraud and corruption that have been bandied about in the media further solidify the notion that financial gain is the real driver of these crimes above all others. **(Figure 16)**

It's hardly surprising that there's a unanimous view that high socio-economic status translates to a higher propensity to commit white-collar crimes. After all, money and prestige normally come with the presence of every key ingredient needed for such intricate financial crimes: resources, network, and opportunity. Furthermore, individuals with high socio-economic status have less to lose, at least in the immediate sense, because of their financial power, which may further embolden them to take bold risks. Evidence also upholds the neutral view, adding that economic privilege is a sure distortion of moral judgment and weak regulatory oversight, which makes it easier for the well-off to exploit loopholes in committing crimes without significant repercussions. This combination thus leads to its broad acceptance of the correlation. **(Figure 17)**

The majority rating of 3 or 4 out of 5 regarding the perception of the relationship between socio-economic status and crime rates suggests a moderate belief in the correlation between the two. A rating of 3 indicates acknowledgment of some sort of connection; a rating of 4 reflects stronger but not overwhelming agreement. It may mirror the complexity of this relationship where SES is merely one among many different probable variables affecting the crime rate. Participants may realize that while low SES will increase the crime rate due to limited opportunities and social strain, other variables such as personal choices and system failure will play a huge role in commissioning crimes. **(Figure 18)**

V. SUGGESTIONS

Several lines of inquiry can improve the research relating to the impact of socio-economic factors on criminal rates and criminal behavior: large data sets from high-level national and international databases — such as the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program, Eurostat, national statistical offices — are needed to be able to undertake meaningful analysis of statistical correlations. Advanced statistical methods, such as multivariate regression analysis, will be employed in separating the effect of particular socioeconomic indicators on crime rates, net of confounding variables like urbanization and policing practices. Qualitative research methods for investigating alternative economies could involve ethnographic studies and interviews with community members to understand the dynamics of such an informal sector and the nature of crimes more common in an economically disadvantaged area. Case studies across different regions, in comparison, can show how economic policies at the local level and community resilience could combine to impact local crime patterns. Mixing the methodology in such a way that it encompasses both quantitative data and qualitative interviews can elicit complex interactions regarding the impact of family structure, parental involvement, and socioeconomic status on juvenile delinquency. In relation, longitudinal studies are more important in monitoring changes over time and thus able to understand long-term changes regarding socio-economic changes affecting youth behavior. Finally, white-collar crime studies need to take an industry-by-industry approach whereby it is determined by what kind of socio-economic background and organizational culture enhances the possibility of these kinds of crime within especially vulnerable sectors. Comparative research involving other countries may clarify how different degrees of economic development and the nature of the regulatory environment affect the nature and incidence of white-collar crime. This may be supported by information derived from credible sources, such as the World Bank and country crime reports, in combination with academic and industry research.

VI. LIMITATIONS

This is one-time research conducted over a very short period. A small size population of 252 samples was another limitation. The data that was collected may not be completely accurate. However, the responses were collected from people who are quite aware of this matter. Another limitation is that inconsistent data sources and quality across regions may affect the reliability of statistical correlations. Underreporting will most likely affect data on white-collar crime and alternative economies, while old data may distort the current trends. There is definitional variability of crimes, socioeconomic status, and family structures, all of which

make comparative analysis very problematic across different regions. The various difficulties in measuring participation in alternative economies are, by definition, hidden. Therefore, it cannot be generalized to other areas characterized by different socioeconomic settings; that means the conclusion of the study might apply only to the regions under investigation.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study, in emphasis, draws on the issue of SES having a very strong influence on crime rates and criminal behavior; it further clarifies the intrinsic relationships among the variables that make up the main variables of SES—such as income, education, and employment status—with several types of crime. Statistically analyzed, the data from the study strongly showed that reduced SES indicators—a lower level of income and education, along with higher rates of unemployment—are almost inseparably related to higher crime rates in their respective geographical areas. It is expected that there would be higher rates of both violent and property crimes among those of lower socioeconomic status, thus indicating the acuteness with which interventions must be specifically targeted toward lower economic areas. The examination of alternative economies—heavy on the informal or illicit—would show their strong influence on overall crime rates. Participation in such economies is often a coping strategy in disadvantaged communities, though it may foster an environment for further crime, mainly related to drug trafficking and theft. Such alternative economic activities lead to perpetuating cycles of crime but can also redefine the nature of criminality in these areas. Family structure and parental involvement have a crucial role in shaping juvenile delinquency. It simply means that, according to available research, children whose background is either single-parent or no parental involvement are more predisposed to antisocial behavior. These risks increase with additive socioeconomic pressures and therefore clearly spell out how poverty and family setup affect the level of juvenile crime. Finally, the study on white-collar crime reveals that individuals in higher socio-economic cadres are not immune to criminal activities either. However, their nature, as frauds, embezzlement, and insider trading, is very distinct from crimes on the streets and is usually inconspicuous, although equally harmful. White-collar crimes are therefore influenced by socioeconomic status in that individuals of higher socioeconomic classes have far greater opportunities for committing these types of offenses.

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