

Impact of Curfew Hours in a Town in the Philippines

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Abstract

This paper presents the curfew implementation in the town of Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines. This provides an explanation of how curfew makes the town a safe place, street safer, prevents crimes and maintains public safety. It is a commonplace to measure the effectiveness of curfew in curbing criminality. A self-made questionnaire, undergone a thorough validation and reliability test, was used to gather responses on the extent of implementation of curfew hours, impact of the implementation of curfew hours in the municipality, problems encountered in the implementation of curfew hours and suggested solutions encountered in the implementation of curfew hours in the municipality. Descriptive research was employed using purposive random sampling. The result shows the level implementation is crucial for maintaining a peaceful community, building connectedness within the family, mending students' performance and commitment in schooling, and ensuring safety in business activity. Community awareness of curfew must be raised as recommended.

Keywords: Prevent Crime, Impact of Curfew, Effects of Curfew, Extent of Implementation, Maintaining Public Safety

1. Introduction

Prevention of crime occurrence is an attempt to maintain a peaceful community. This is done mainly through the efforts of the government to suppress crimes, arrest law violators and detect would-be criminals. On the conducted activities, the curfew is the most widely recognized as effective and popularly known to reduce crime incidence. The main foundation for this support is the belief that curfews decrease crime and make the roads harmless (Adams, 2003).

In the explanation of Collins and Kearns (2001, p.393.) curfew denotes a means for the government to manage youngsters to access to the public areas. Curfew laws look forward to providing common restrictions to youth and adults by limiting the hours that youngsters at specified ages permitted to be at public places (Grossman & Hoke, 2014, p. 301). The perceived additional features of curfew which gains popularity since the cost of enforcement are reasonably lower and perceived as a very effective measure (Adams, 2003).

Violent and property crimes committed by minors reduced significantly as evidence of the effectiveness of curfew. Less number of incidence on arrested adult and youth above 18 years during curfew hour implementation but pose less influence on statistical significance (Kline, 2011).

Curfew prohibits varied activities and implements punishment with the purpose of enhancing public safety and controlling delinquency. Curfew was founded upon the notion that prohibition on the public activities of youngsters restricts their chances of committing crimes and victimization (McDowall et al., 2000, p. 59). Ruefle and Reynolds (1995) explain this fundamental logic, such rules encompass different forms, counting the distinctions in targeted age groups, implementation hours, policy exception, and the penalty for violations.

A wide opposing concept on curfews if it truly works. Curfew was supported as a means for curbing youth crimes, protection of the youth from violence in public places and promotion of responsible parenting in New Zealand and the US (Collins & Kearns, 2001). Mayors and police officers contend that curfews aid in reducing crime (Gius, 2011). Aside from this, an added allure that curfew brings, it is an inexpensive means of addressing crime problems on children (Adam, 2003, p. 39). In spite of this curfew law popularity, disparity among prevailing literature whether it is actually effective (Wallace, 2016) but numerous cities in the US to include New Orleans, Los Angeles, Detroit and Houston, has ratified such ordinance (Kline, 2011).

In the fight against criminality in the town of Dumingag having the same strategies patterned in the above statements, in the resemblance of ways in curbing criminality in the western countries. In most cases, curfew was implemented controlling juveniles. Not a common practice in the way curfew is implemented, a resolution declaring Municipal Ordinance No. 9-2014 of Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines titled: "An Ordinance Imposing Curfew to All Individual within the Municipality of Dumingag and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof" dated July 22, 2014 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur. This curfew restricts individuals to go outside their residence after 10:00 pm and 04:00 am in the morning. Curfew implementation sought to be the solution to control the prevailing crimes in the area. The researchers were moved to conduct this study to know the extent of the implementation of the ordinance and its effectiveness in reducing crime, determine the impact of curfew hours, the problems encountered in implementation and suggested solution on the problems encountered in the town Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur.

2. Research Methodology

Research Design

This study utilized the descriptive-survey method of research considering the facts and conditions of existing problems in connection with the present research inquiry. A thorough investigation and inquiry along with the impact of curfew hours Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur was conducted.

Respondents of the Study

The study utilized purposive random sampling of the 100 Barangay Peace Keepers, 26 policemen and 30 teachers; convenience sampling of the 50 residents of San Pablo and San Pedro. The participants' responses were subject to a 5% margin of error. Lastly, simple random sampling in selecting the participants in the survey was used.

Data Gathering Instrument

The instrument of the study underwent thorough processes of validation and reliability testing. Items in the instrument scrutinized critically by experts in the field of criminal justice. Comments and recommendations were the basis for the revision of the instrument. A draft of the instrument presented to the evaluators for comments and suggestions and integrated into its revision. The revised instrument went to validation done by the adviser of this study. After this, it was pilot-tested in the town of Mahayag Zamboanga del Sur. Cronbach alpha was used in the computation of data collected during the pilot test. The result of the computed coefficient on the extent of implementation of curfew hours got a value of 0.79, effectiveness of implementation, 0.89; problems encountered in the implementation, 0.78; and for the suggested solutions obtained 0.74 which is above the accepted level of 0.70 to be reliable. This indicates that the questions were valid and reliable.

Data Gathering Procedure

Before the instrument was administered, the researcher sent a letter request to the office of the municipal mayor of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur for the approval of this study. The letter request contains a statement citing the data collected to be utilized only for research purposes and treated with the utmost confidentiality. Upon approval of the said request, the researchers gathered the data and they administered it personally to the participants.

Data Processing Technique

The main statistical tools used in the study were frequency count, percentage, mean computation Weighted Arithmetic Mean, T-test, Analysis of Variance.

To identify the number of responses belonging to the specific category researchers utilized frequency count. Mean computation was used to the obtained summation of the product of the frequency and the assigned weight divided by the total number of respondents. The T-test is used in determining the significance of the difference between the crime rate before and after the implementation of a curfew in Dumingag. Lastly, to test the difference in the perceived level of effectiveness of crime reduction of curfew implementation when grouped by sector of affiliation researchers utilized Analysis of Variance.

In drawing out the responses on the impact of curfew, the effectiveness of the implementation of curfew, problems encountered in the implementation of curfew, and the suggested solutions in the implementation of curfew hours 4-point Likert scale was employed. The following are the criteria employed in identifying the responses of the participants. Part I containing the extent of implementation of curfew hours; Part II containing the effectiveness of the implementation of curfew hours; Part III contained the problems encountered in the implementation of curfew hours; and Part IV contained the suggested solutions in the implementation of curfew hours with the four-point rating. All utilizing the four-point liker scale in the scoring procedure.

Results and Discussions

Table 1 The Extent of Implementation of Curfew Hours

Statements	Barangay Peace Keepers		Teacher s	Policemen		San Pablo		San Pedro		
	WA M	I	WAM	I	WA M	I	WA M	I	WA M	I
1) Police and barangay officials	3.07	ME	2.53	ME	3.15	ME	3.10	ME	3.20	ME

handed out warning fliers to youth in public places during curfew hours.										
2) Motor vehicles are inspected for security purposes upon passing or entering the town.	2.98	ME	2.63	ME	3.23	ME	3.12	ME	3.06	ME
3) Business establishments are required to close before the specified curfew hours.	3.33	VGE	2.37	ME	3.12	ME	3.04	ME	2.94	ME
4) Barangay Peace Action Team is deployed in the street on curfew hours.	3.05	ME	2.7	ME	3.19	ME	3.12	ME	2.78	ME
5) The penalty is imposed on the violators of the curfew ordinance.	2.95	ME	2.63	ME	3.35	VGE	2.98	ME	2.74	ME
6) Law enforcers assist parents in supervising youth at night.	3.02	ME	2.73	ME	3.23	ME	3	ME	2.86	ME
7) Penalize both parents and children for violating the ordinance.	3.08	ME	2.37	ME	3.31	VGE	3.14	ME	3	ME
8) Law Enforcement community generally engaged in enforcing curfew hours.	2.98	ME	2.83	ME	3.04	ME	2.96	ME	3.14	ME
9) Appropriate warning signals are used to warn the public on start and end times of curfew hours.	3.02	ME	2.67	ME	3.35	VGE	2.82	ME	2.86	ME
10) Prohibition of activities such as, singing karaoke, drinking alcoholic beverage etc. during curfew hours.	3.02	ME	2.33	ME	3.15	ME	3.14	ME	3	ME
Overall Mean	3.05	ME	2.78	ME	3.21	ME	3.04	ME	2.96	ME

Numerical Scale
4

Weight Continuum
3.26 – 4.00

Adjectival Equivalent
Fully Implemented

Interpretation
Very Great Extent

3	2.51 – 3.25	Partially Implemented	Moderate Extent
2	1.76 – 2.50	Rarely Implemented	Low Extent
	1.00 – 1.75	Not Implemented	Very Low Extent

Extent of Implementation of Curfew Hours

As shown in the table, the overall mean of 3.21 interpreted as “Moderate Extent” implies that the curfew hours is “Partially Implemented” as assessed by the participants. The overall mean of 3.05 implies that the implementation of curfew hours is “Partially Implemented” as assessed by the Barangay Tanod. The overall mean of 3.04 implies that the residents of San Pablo assessed the implementation of Curfew hours as “Moderately Extent”. The overall mean of 2.96 implies that the implementation of curfew hours is “Partially Implemented” as assessed by the residents of San Pedro.

As shown in table1 illustrates the extent of implementation of curfew hours. The participants of the study uniformly rated curfew is partially implemented. This goes to show that there is uniformity in the implementation of curfew across the municipality.

Table 2 Impact of the Implementation of Curfew Hours

Statements	Barangay Peace Keepers		Teachers		Policemen		San Pablo		San Pedro	
	WAM	I	WAM	I	WAM	I	WAM	I	WAM	I
Crimes										
1)Curfew hours help in controlling juvenile and adult crime.	3.02	M	3.47	H	3.35	H	3.34	H	3.56	H
2)Provides safe and sound environment.	3.10	M	3.33	H	3.31	H	3.12	M	3.22	M
3)Lowers the risk factors associated with youth crime.	2.85	M	3.2	M	3.5	H	3.02	M	2.92	M
4)Provides police with additional authority and opportunity to stop and question suspicious youngsters and adults.	3.07	M	3.2	M	3.31	H	3.96	H	2.82	M
5)Deters juvenile and adults from being in public places during curfew hours.	3.03	M	3.	M	3.35	H	3.26	H	2.78	M
Overall mean	3.01	M	3.3	M	3.36	H	3.14	E	3.06	M
Family										
1)Curfew hours give parents a tool to impart discipline, respect, and rules to their children.	3.18	M	3.13	M	3.5	H	3.3	H	2.96	M
2)Builds trust and confidence between parents and children.	3.15	M	3.23	M	3.31	H	2.92	M	3.08	M
3)Reinforces important social values, such as parental responsibility and strengthen family ties.	3.27	H	3.23	M	3.15	M	2.94	M	3.12	M
4)Makes parents feel secured about their children.	3.22	M	3.4	H	3.15	M	3.18	M	2.94	M
5)Makes children spend more time at home.	3.18	M	3.3	H	3.27	H	3.02	M	2.88	M
Overall mean	3.2	M	3.26	H	3.28	H	3.07	M	3	M
Students										
1)Students’ academic performance increase.	3.03	M	3	M	3.19	M	3.2	M	2.7	M
2)Students report to school on	3.15	M	2.93	M	3.08	M	3.1	M	2.8	M

time.										
3)Pay more attention to discussion.	3.17	M	2.77	M	3.23	M	2.82	M	3.08	M
4)Become committed in going to school.	3.3	H	3.1	M	3.08	M	3.16	M	3.34	H
5)Up to date in submitting course requirements.	3.1	M	2.87	M	3.31	H	3.04	M	2.86	M
Overall mean	3.15	M	2.93	M	3.18	M	3.06	M	2.96	M
Business										
1)Curfew hours reduce the number of costumers.	3.32	H	2.83	M	3.19	E	3.18	E	3.08	E
2)Encourages investors in the municipality.	2.98	M	2.93	M	3.08	E	2.66	E	3.12	E
3)Ensures the safety of the business operation at night.	3.07	M	3.37	H	3.23	E	3.06	E	3.34	H
4)Loss of potential income and profit during night time.	3.05	M	2.83	M	3.35	H	3.22	E	2.94	E
5)Guarantees costumers' safety inside business establishments.	3.38	H	3.07	M	3.31	H	3.1	E	2.88	E
Overall mean	3.16	M	3.01	M	3.23	M	3.04	M	3.07	M
Grand mean	3.13	M	3.13	M	3.26	H	3.08	M	3.02	M
Numerical Scale	Weight Continuum	Adjectival Equivalent				Interpretation				
4	3.26 – 4.00	Strongly Agree				High(H)				
3	2.51 – 3.25	Agree				Moderate (M)				
2	1.76 – 2.50	Disagree				Less (L)				
1	1.00 - 1.75	Strongly Disagree				No Impact (N)				

As to Policemen, the grand mean of 3.26 with an adjectival equivalent of “Strongly Agree” interpreted as “Very Effective” implies that the implementation of curfew hours is effective as perceived by the Police participants. For Barangay Tanod and Teachers, the grand mean of 3.13 with an adjectival equivalent of “Agree” interpreted as “Effective” implies that the implementation of curfew hours are effective as perceived by the Barangay Tanod and Teachers- respondent. The grand mean of 3.08 with an adjectival equivalent of “Agree” interpreted as “Effective” implies that the implementation of curfew hours is effective as perceived by the residents of San Pablo. The grand mean of 3.02 with an adjectival equivalent of “Agree” interpreted as “Effective” implies that the implementation of curfew hours is effective as perceived by the residents of San Pedro.

Curfew implementation in the municipality has shown significant effects on crime, family, students, and business activities. Among the identified areas in which curfew has contributed, in crime, curfew poses a very significant influence in controlling youth activities in the town. On the family side, curfew helps parents to manage their children's activities and generally contributes to family ties among them. On students, curfew implementation and restriction hours for the youth stay outside their houses provides ample time for students to focus on their studies that result in commitment to going to school. Lastly, the most beneficial effect of curfew implementation provides a safer business transaction during nighttime in the town. This implies that curfew is effective and serves its purpose in crime reduction in the municipality. The curfew ordinance significantly provides a safe environment for the people during its implementation. Crimes reduce significantly in the municipality as a result of curfew. Protecting the possible victims by deterring criminal activities during curfew hours. This finding corroborated by the study of Cooper and Love (2017) that juvenile crimes in Northbridge Australia decrease and the perception of the populace is consistent with the West Australian Police data on the crime committed. Growth in public safety was noticed by the stakeholder in Northbridge. It changes the violent crime arrests, property crime arrests, drug-related arrests, and arrests for public order offenses with statistical significance (Wallace, 2016).

Additionally, reduce adults' mobility, is actually the result of curfew and its restriction, either, because of cross-age interactions or stepped up social programming efforts that might accompany curfew enactment (Cooper & Love, 2017). Further supported, as observed, apprehension records show there was a significant reduction in violent and property crimes for youthful offenders resulting from curfew implementation (Kline, 2011). In some studies youth curfews crimes were committed to another time of the day (Adams, 2003).

The study also shows that curfew in the town of Dumingaghasan influence on youth attitudes and schooling. Parents have more time to manage their children and monitor their activity because of curfew implementation. In this way, parents have an important task to keep their youngsters out from the streets during curfew hours implementation. Curfew mirrors fear about unruly youths from urban areas, it is clear from the result of interviews, that TeKuitiand Paera towns that curfew promotes parental responsibility (Collins and Kearns, 2001, p.397). This is strengthened by Kline (2011) which he rationalizes alternately the proof that parents play a very significant part within the social control of curfews over and on top of that of law enforcers. If local curfew act as the epicenter in instituting the household roles, may lead to substantial changes within the behavior of youth. The possible obligation of parental self-implementation of curfew is a significant topic for future studies. Additional researches can offer a clear picture of parental role and youths' behavior in education and domestic controls. Adding that behavioral management of parents to the youngsters, monitoring on child's activities, undisputedly linked to higher test scores. As it tells, curfew benefits children when more hours are spent at home in their school performance (Adams, 2003 p. 139).

Additional assertions that curfew strengthens parental obligation and less-involved parents are forced to be more responsible for the well-being and behavior of their children (Collins & Kearns, 2001, p. 09) Parents are at ease to impose a rule of curfew when adolescence is early at home (Ruefle & Reynolds, 1995). For some, curfew displays an opportunity to change family involvement (Yeide, 2009). While curfew has extensive support amongst politicians, worries about how effective it is had been expressed (Collins & Kearns, 2001). Apparently, the success of curfews as a measure in preventing crimes gains strong support for these laws (Adams, 2003, p. 140).

Table 3 Problems Encountered in the Implementation of Curfew Hours

Statements	Barangay Peace Keepers		Policemen	
	WAM	I	WAM	I
1) Deficiency offends in the implementation of curfew.	3.13	S	3.23	S
2) An insufficient number of vehicles and other equipment in the implementation and enforcement of curfew hours.	2.98	S	3.12	S
3) The additional burden to officers' workloads.	2.9	S	2.96	S
4) Lack of public cooperation and willingness to obey the rules	3.05	S	3.08	S
5) Unavailability of shelter homes for youth violators	3.02	S	3.08	S
6) Aggressive behavior of curfew violators	2.97	S	3.23	S
7) Lack of available resource in conducting patrol to detect violators of the ordinance.	2.95	S	3.04	S
8) Lack of personnel that will man the implementation	3	S	3	S
9) General Public movement, activities, and events	3.22	S	3	S
10) Lesser public support and acceptance.	2.9	S	3.15	S
Overall mean	3.01	S	3.09	S

Numerical Scale	Weight Continuum	Adjectival Equivalent	Interpretation
4	3.26 – 4.00	Strongly Agree	Very Serious

3	2.51 – 3.25	Agree	Serious
2	1.76 – 2.50	Disagree	Less Serious
1	1.00 - 1.75	Strongly Disagree	Not A Problem

Problems Encountered in the Implementation of Curfew Hours

The response of the Barangay Peace Keepers and Policeman has shown that implementing curfew pose greater challenges and problems along the way. It shows that in curfew implementation serious problems may arise due to resources and attitude of the people towards the enforcement. Kline (2011) identified enforcement as a challenge in the implementation. There are odds to face problems in curfew implementation is undeniably present. Another evidence shown during the conference of Mayors in the US in 1997 discovered 23 % of cities re-counted the problems in the implementation (Wenger & Broadwater, 2014), Human nature, materials need and environmental constraints are few of the problems that arise in curfew hours implementation. Apparently, these problems pose serious concerns to the authorities concerned in curfew implementation. In Cooper (2017) he described the problems on the participation of families since there are difficulties in engaging the families in the activities offered, and participation was very few among families involved.

Table 4 Suggested Solutions Encountered in the Implementation of Curfew Hours

Statements	Barangay Peace Keepers		Policemen	
	WAM	I	WAM	I
1) Request for the additional budget from LGU.	3.1	Agree	3.2	Agree
2) Allocate the resources needed for the implementation.	3.2	Agree	3.2	Agree
3) Provide incentives to officers who render duties in the implementation of the curfew ordinance.	3.07	Agree	3.17	Agree
4) Increase public awareness through symposiums and lectures.	3.37	Strongly Agree	3.17	Agree
5) Provide shelter care institution for the juvenile violators.	3.13	Agree	3.2	Agree
6) Send officers to training on how to handle aggressive and violent behaviors.	3.17	Agree	3.27	Strongly Agree
7) Encourage the cooperation of barangay officials and the community.	3.27	Strongly Agree	3.07	Agree
8) Empower the constituents through volunteerism to participate in the implementation of the curfew ordinance.	3.28	Strongly Agree	3.03	Agree
9) Encourage the agencies involved in activities to schedule the event earlier without violating the curfew hours.	3.22	Agree	3.2	Agree
10) Increase police community relation (PCR).	3.4	Strongly Agree	3.13	Agree
Overall mean	3.22	Agree	3.16	Agree

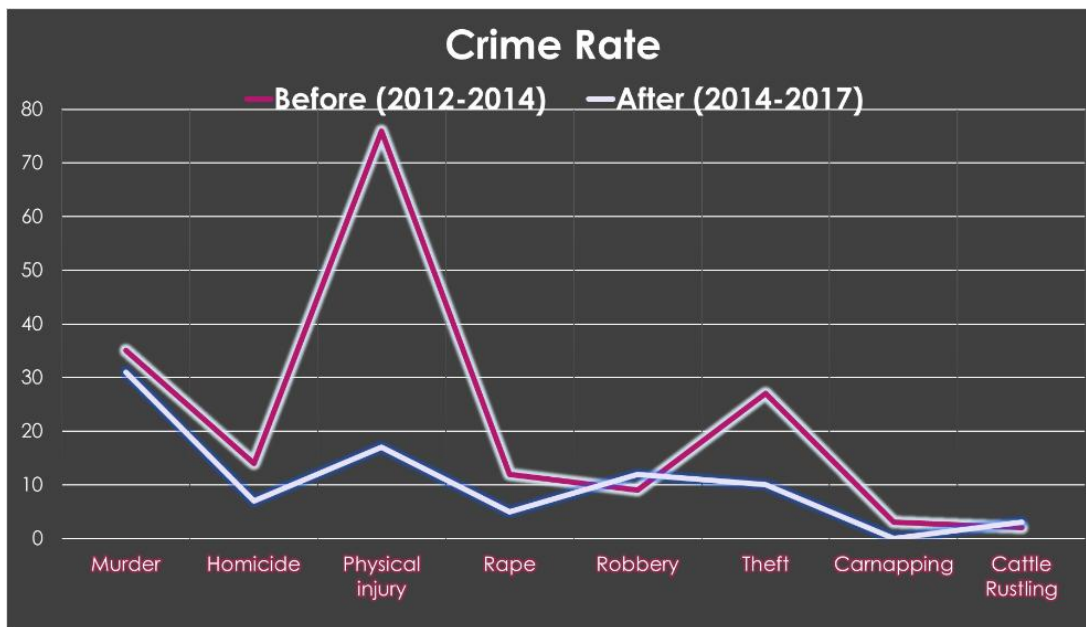
Table 4, presents the response of the Barangay Peace Keepers and Policeman on the implementation of curfew hours. The overall mean of 3.22 rated as “Agree” which implies that the suggested solutions to the problems encountered in the implementation of curfew hours are suggested by the Barangay Peace Keepers. As to Policemen, the overall mean of 3.43 rated as “Strongly Agree”, which implies that the suggested solutions to the problems encountered in the implementation of curfew hours are suggested. Curfew policies have also found support among the public, particularly residents of jurisdictions in which they are used (Wilson et al., 2016)

Crime Rate in the Municipality

Table 3 Crime Rate Before and After the Implementation of Curfew Hours

Crime	Before	P(%)	After	P(%)	Percent Decrease
Murder	35	19.66	31	36.47	-11.43
Homicide	14	7.87	7	8.24	-50.00
Physical injury	76	42.70	17	20	-77.63
Rape	12	6.74	5	5.88	-58.33
Robbery	9	5.06	12	14.12	33.33
Theft	27	15.16	10	11.76	-62.96
Carnapping	3	1.69	0	0	-100.00
Cattle Rustling	2	1.12	3	3.53	50.00
Total	178	100	85	100	

Figure 1. The crime rate in the municipality of Dumingag Zamboanga del Sur Philippines before and after the curfew implementation.



Crime Rate Before and After the Implementation of Curfew Hours

Before the Implementation of Curfew hours, out of 178 crimes committed, 35 or 15.38% belongs to murder; 14 or 5.77 %,Homicide; 76 or 48.08 %, Physical Injury; 12 or 15.38%, Rape; 9 or 5.06%, Robbery; 27 or 11.54%, Theft; 3 or 1.6%, Carnapping; and 2 or 1.2%, Cattle Rustling. The result shows that many of the crimes committed before the implementation of curfew hours. after the Implementation of Curfew hours, out of 85crimes committed, 31 or 36.47% belongs to murder; 7 or 8.24%, Homicide; 17 or 20%, Physical Injury; 5 or 5.885%, Rape; 12 or 14.12%, Robbery; 10 or 11.76%, Theft; 3 or 3.53%, Cattle Rustling.

This result shows how curfew effectively suppresses crimes in the town where it was implemented. Therewas a significant decrease inthe crime rate up to 47.75%. This implies that the implementation of curfew hours is one of the effective means of controlling criminality in the municipality.However, these results significantly differ from previous studies conducted, it is vital to recognize that studying to use individual-level information to analyze the consequence of curfew on criminal activity(Guis, 2011).Curfews signify to have vital effects on the criminal behavior of youngsters and yet curfews give the impression to show effectiveness at reducing youth apprehensions (Kline, 2011).

The proof proposes that curfews are effective at lowering the violent and property crime incidence committed by youngsters. The apprehension of adults and youngsters above the curfew age decreases in the time of curfew hour implementation (Kline, 2011). Contrary to this finding, the result shows evidence that suggests that juvenile curfews are unsuccessful at suppressing crime and victimization (Wilson et al., 2016).

3. Conclusion

Curfew ordinance was implemented uniformly in the town but was not perceived as fully implemented as a result is showed significant effects on crime rates as it reduce the crime occurrence in identified periods. Curfew was perceived by the participants to have significant impact on family, schooling and business. The problems encountered by the implementers in the curfew implementation are classified as serious due to a deficiency of funds in the implementation of curfew. The impact of curfew on a town depends on how it was implemented. This entails that the extent of curfew implementation is crucial in relation to its measured impact in maintaining a peaceful community, building connectedness within the family, mending students' performance and commitment in schooling, and ensuring safety in business activity. Lastly, curfew implementation cannot solely be the basis for the crime rate reduction.

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