

Research Paper

A Study on Psychological Impact of Crime on Victims

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ABSTRACT

This article provides an in-depth exploration of the psychological impact of crime on victims, drawing on both existing research and the results of a survey conducted by the author. The survey aimed to gather information on the types of crimes that have the most significant psychological impact, the specific negative emotions experienced by victims, and their coping strategies. The study highlights the physical, emotional, and financial consequences of crime for victims and emphasizes the importance of addressing their psychological needs for their recovery and well-being. The article also examines the factors that contribute to victimization, such as individual, situational, and societal factors. The findings of the study suggest that a more nuanced understanding of the psychological impact of crime on victims is necessary to develop effective interventions and support services. Ultimately, the article underscores the need for greater attention to victims' psychological well-being in criminal justice systems and society at large.

Keywords: *Victims, Crime, Impact, Psychological.*

Victims of crime often experience a wide range of negative emotions, such as fear, anxiety, anger, and depression, which can have long-lasting effects on their mental health and well-being. In addition to the emotional toll, crime can also have physical and financial consequences for victims, further compounding the psychological impact. Understanding the psychological effects of crime on victims is essential for developing effective interventions and support services to help them recover and move forward. Crime can have a profound and lasting impact on its victims. The most immediate and tangible effect of crime on victims is physical harm. Victims of violent crimes, such as assault or robbery, may suffer physical injuries ranging from bruises and cuts to broken bones or internal injuries. These injuries may require medical attention and result in long-term physical disabilities or chronic pain.

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Received: May 15, 2023; Revision Received: May 24, 2023; Accepted: May 28, 2023

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In addition to physical harm, crime can have significant emotional and psychological effects on its victims. Victims may experience a range of negative emotions like fear, anger, and sadness. They may also suffer from mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These emotional and psychological effects can last long after the crime has occurred, affecting the victim's quality of life and ability to function. Victims of crime may also experience social effects such as social isolation and stigma. They may feel ashamed or embarrassed about what has happened to them and may withdraw from social activities or relationships. Additionally, they may be subjected to negative attitudes or assumptions from others, which can further isolate them and exacerbate their emotional and psychological distress.

The financial impact of crime can also be significant for victims. Victims may incur expenses related to medical treatment, property damage, and legal fees. They may also suffer the loss of income or reduced earning potential if they are unable to work due to their injuries or emotional trauma. Finally, victims of crime may experience changes in their sense of safety and security. They may become more fearful or anxious about their safety and may take extra precautions such as avoiding certain areas or carrying self-defence tools. Additionally, they may experience a loss of trust in others, particularly if the perpetrator was someone they knew or trusted.

Victimization is the process of becoming a victim of a crime, and it can occur for a variety of reasons. Some of the causes of victimization include individual factors, situational factors, and societal factors. Individual factors refer to the personal characteristics of the victim that make them more vulnerable to victimization. For example, victims may be targeted based on their age, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Victims with certain disabilities or mental health conditions may also be at higher risk of victimization. Situational factors refer to the circumstances that increase the likelihood of victimization. Situational factors can also include the victim's behaviour or actions, such as leaving doors unlocked or walking alone in an unsafe area. Societal factors refer to the larger social and cultural context in which victimization occurs. Other societal factors that can contribute to victimization include discrimination, marginalization, and systemic injustices. Another important factor that can contribute to victimization is the behaviour of offenders. Offenders may target victims based on perceived vulnerabilities or as a means of exerting power and control. They may also be motivated by financial gain, revenge, or other personal reasons.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The article "**Victimisation through bullying and cyberbullying: Emotional intelligence, the severity of victimisation and technology use in different types of victims**" was published in the journal *Psicothema* by María Beltrán-Catalán, Izabela Zych, Rosario Ortega-Ruiz and Vicente J. Llorent. The study aimed to investigate the relationship between emotional intelligence, the severity of victimization, technology use, and types of victimization (i.e., bullying and cyberbullying) in a sample of Spanish adolescents. The authors reviewed the literature on the impact of bullying and cyberbullying on adolescents, and the potential protective role of emotional intelligence. The authors also highlight the importance of understanding the different types of victimization and their unique impact on adolescents. Overall, this study contributes to the literature on the impact of bullying and cyberbullying on adolescents and suggests the potential protective role of emotional intelligence. The findings may have implications for the prevention and intervention of bullying and cyberbullying among adolescents.

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The article "**Trauma and Victimization: A Model of Psychological Adaptation**" was published in the journal "Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology" in 1988. The authors, I. Lisa McCann, David K. Sakheim, and Daniel J. Abrahamson present a model of psychological adaptation to trauma, victims and victimization. The article reviews the literature on trauma and victimization and argues that traditional models of psychological adaptation do not adequately capture the complexity of the experiences of victims. The authors propose a four-stage model of psychological adaptation that includes an initial period of shock and denial, followed by a period of intrusion and avoidance, then a period of active coping, and finally a period of resolution and integration. It suggests that victims who receive adequate social support and who use adaptive coping strategies are more likely to successfully navigate the process of psychological adaptation. Overall, this article presents a valuable contribution to the field of victimization, providing a framework for understanding the complex experiences of victims.

Lucy Berliner and Jon R. Conte's article "**The process of victimization: The victims' perspective,**" published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence in 1995, gives a more victim-centred approach to the study of victimization, which emphasizes the importance of understanding the subjective experiences of victims and the social and cultural contexts in which victimization occurs. The authors begin by providing an overview of the different types of victimization, including physical and sexual assault, robbery, and property crimes. They then describe the various stages of victimization, from the pre-assault stage (including risk factors and situational factors that may increase vulnerability) to the assault stage (including the actual experience of victimization), and finally to the post-assault stage (including psychological reactions and coping strategies). This article is notable for its focus on the victims' perspective, and the authors draw on a range of sources to provide rich and detailed descriptions of the experiences and reactions of victims. They also highlight the importance of understanding the social and cultural context of victimization, including the impact of gender, race, and socioeconomic status.

METHODOLOGY

The objective of the study is to know the psychological impact of crime on victims. Data was collected through the survey method. A qualitative analysis was conducted.

DATA ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

Have you received any support or help since the incident?



30 responses

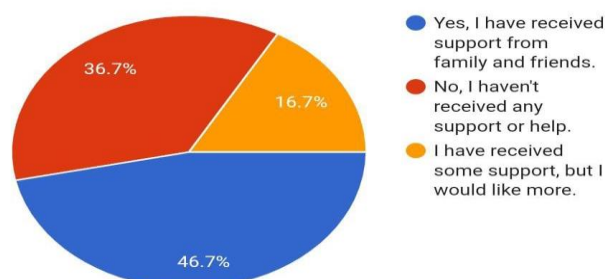


FIGURE 1 The pie chart gives data on whether the victims received any support or help after the incident.

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According to the pie chart, a majority of the victims reported receiving help and support after the incident, while 36.7% indicated that they had -not received any assistance. The remaining percentage indicated that they had received some support but were still expecting more.

Have you been able to discuss this experience with anyone else?



30 responses

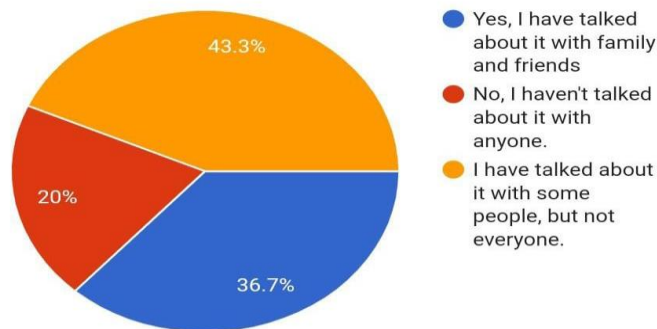


FIGURE 2

The pie chart depicts data on whether the victims were able to discuss their experience with others, with a majority of them reporting that they had talked about it with some people. About 36.7% of the victims said they had discussed it with all of their family and friends. Only a small percentage reported not discussing their incident with anyone else.

Do you feel safe now?



30 responses

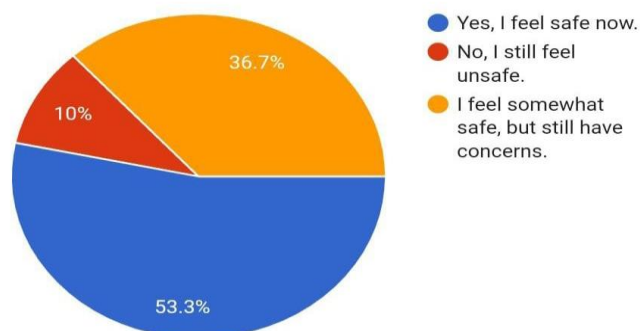


FIGURE 3

The pie chart illustrates the attitude of victims regarding their safety after the incident. The majority of victims reported feeling safe now, while a small percentage felt unsafe. About 36.7% of the victims indicated that they somewhat felt safe, but still had concerns.

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What kind of support would be most helpful for you at this time?



30 responses

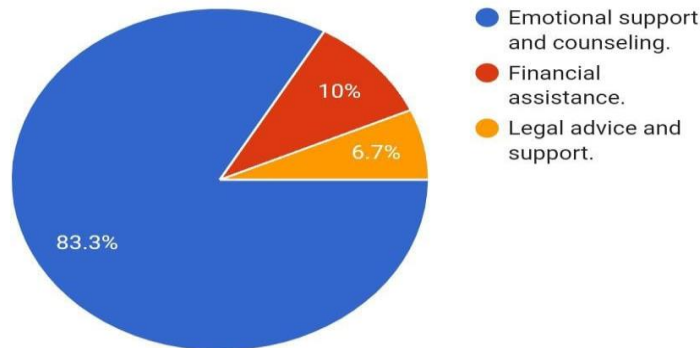


FIGURE 4

The pie chart presents data about the type of support that victims would find most helpful at this time. A majority of the victims responded that they would need emotional support and counselling to help them cope with the trauma they had experienced. Only a small percentage indicated that they would prefer legal advice and support, while about 10% of them reported requiring more financial assistance.

What are your thoughts on the criminal justice system and how it responds to victims?



30 responses

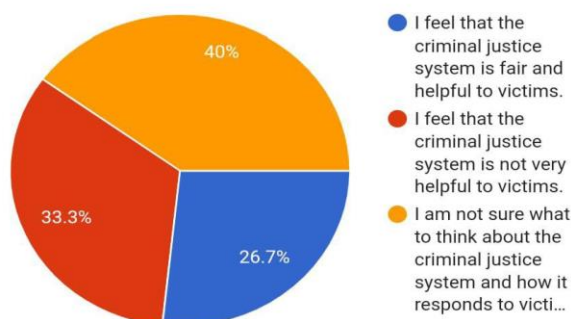


FIGURE 5

The pie chart displays the thoughts of victims on the criminal justice system and its response to victims. A majority of the victims responded that they were not sure about their thoughts on the criminal justice system's treatment of victims. A minority of the victims felt that the criminal justice system was fair and helpful to victims. On the other hand, 33% of the victims felt that the criminal justice system was not very helpful to victims.

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Are there any specific concerns or fears you have about the future?



30 responses

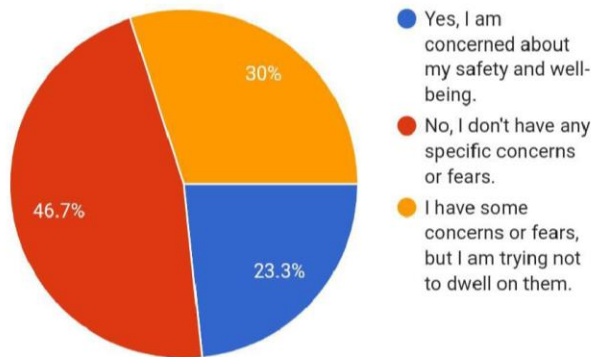


FIGURE 6

The pie chart displays data on whether victims have any specific concerns or fears about the future. A majority of the victims reported that they did not have any particular concerns or fears. About 30% of the victims indicated that they had some concerns or fears, but they were trying not to dwell on them. The least percentage of victims expressed concern about their safety and well-being in the future.

How has this experience affected your daily life?



30 responses

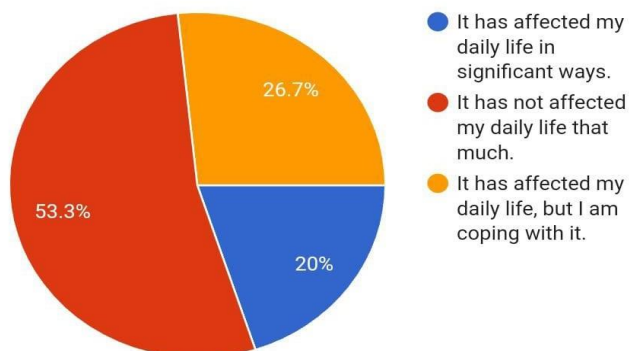


FIGURE 7

The pie chart depicts data on whether the victims' daily life has been affected by the experience. A majority of the victims responded that the incident had not affected their daily life that much. Only a small percentage of victims reported that the experience had

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significantly impacted their daily life. However, 26% of victims acknowledged that it had affected their daily life but that they were coping with it

Major Findings of The Study

- The pie chart shows that most victims reported receiving help and support after the incident, but a significant percentage did not receive any assistance and some still needed more support.
- The majority of victims have discussed their experience with others, with a significant proportion talking to their family and friends, but some chose not to discuss it with anyone.
- It is evident from the chart that most victims have recovered from the traumatic experience and feel secure, while some still struggle to overcome their fears.
- It is clear from the chart that emotional and psychological support is the most essential need for most victims to recover from the trauma they had suffered.
- It is evident from the chart that most victims have recovered from the traumatic experience and feel secure, while some still struggle to overcome their fears.
- It is evident from the chart that many victims are uncertain about the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in addressing their needs, while a significant proportion expressed doubts about its ability to support them.
- The chart shows that many victims are trying to move on from the traumatic experience and are not worried about the future. However, some still struggle with concerns and fears, while others face specific worries about their safety and well-being.
- The chart shows that while some victims have experienced significant disruption to their daily life, most have managed to continue with their routine despite the trauma they have suffered.

CONCLUSION

Someone who has been harmed as a result of an offence or wrongdoing is considered a victim. Victimization can result in physical, mental, or financial injury. The effects of victimisation may include trauma, fear, and loss of trust. To assist victims in coping with the aftermath of their victimisation, it is critical to provide them with resources and support. Addressing the root causes of crime and injustice, such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, is necessary to prevent victimisation. This establishes a secure and equitable society in which all individuals have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. To foster a more just and equitable society, it is necessary to recognize the experiences of victims and take action to prevent victimisation. Preventing victimisation involves a variety of strategies, including education, awareness-raising, community building, addressing social and economic inequality, strengthening the justice system, offering victim services and support, and promoting a culture of respect and nonviolence.

Individuals, communities, and institutions must work together to prevent victimisation. Coping with victimisation is a personal journey that may involve a range of emotions and challenges. Asking for help and taking care of oneself are steps toward healing and recovery. In conclusion, it is critical to understand the impact of victimisation on individuals and to work toward both prevention and support for those who have been harmed. By increasing awareness, promoting prevention initiatives, and providing resources and support for victims, individuals and communities can contribute to creating a safer and more equitable society.

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Acknowledgement

The author(s) appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

How to cite this article: Jamuna, K.V, Anuroop, M., Thomas, T.S., Reddy, C., Rajan, Y. & Sharma, R. (2023). A Study on Psychological Impact of Crime on Victims. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 11(2), 1369-1376. DIP:18.01.146.20231102, DOI:10.25215/1102.146