



## ABSTRACT

## DECLARATION

Crime is one of the challenges that is facing South Africa as a country. This study focused on the causes, effects and prevalence of youth criminal behaviour at Muledane in the Limpopo Province. The study is relevant since there has never been a study of the same nature done at this particular village (Muledane). This study focused on the crimes committed mainly by the youth because young people are more involved in criminal activities than adults.

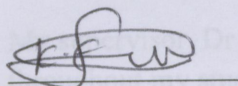
This study employed a quantitative approach. A self-administered questionnaire was given to selected participants. Simple random sampling was used to select these participants. The descriptive research design was used. The research population included Tshivenda - speaking youth residing at Muledane village under Thulamela Municipality. Data gathered from participants was analysed using descriptive statistics in which response frequencies and percentages were calculated.

The following ethics were taken into consideration: Avoidance of harm whether physically, mentally or emotionally. The researcher ensured that the ethic of informed consent was observed. This was done by informing the participants of the procedures, advantages and disadvantages of the study, as well as the possible dangers. The researcher did not deceive the participants in any way during the study. The participants privacy/anonymity/confidentiality was not violated in any way. The researcher was competent, and most importantly, made sure that the participants received feedback after the study.

## DECLARATION

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I, Semise Khathutshelo, hereby declare that the dissertation for the Masters of Arts degree in Psychology at the University of Venda, hereby submitted by me, has not been submitted previously in any other institution, that it is my work, and that all the sources consulted, used or quoted are reliable sources.



**SIGNATURE**

29/08/2014

**DATE**

The Department of Psychology at the University of Venda for giving me the opportunity to study in the department; and

Dr B. Dube for editing my dissertation.

I am grateful to all the people mentioned above and to all the participants who contributed to the study.

## DEDICATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation is dedicated to my loving mother, Mrs Matlakala Grace Semise, who sacrificed a lot of her time to ensure that I had the opportunity to complete my research.

I give all the glory to the almighty God for providing me with good health and guidance when I was doing my dissertation.

I would like to acknowledge the following people, for playing an important role in ensuring that I complete my dissertation.

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The Department of Psychology at the University of Venda for giving me the opportunity to study in the department; and

Dr B. Dube for editing my dissertation.

I am grateful to all the people mentioned above and to all the participants who contributed to the study.

## DEDICATION

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This dissertation is dedicated to my loving mother, Mrs Matlakala Grace Semise, who sacrificed a lot of her time to ensure that I had the opportunity to complete my research while she took care of my children Zwivhuya and Rotshidzwa Mphephu, and for believing in me; my father Mr Patrick Tshifhiwa Semise for always believing in my potential to do everything; and my husband Khathutshelo Mphephu for offering me support and encouragement throughout the study. It is through their encouragement and support that this dissertation is a success.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Crime is the most difficult of the many challenges facing South Africa in the post-apartheid era. The country's crime rates are among the highest in the world and no South African is insulated from its effects (Demombynes & Özler, 2003). All South African citizens are directly or indirectly affected by violence and criminal acts (Intergrated social crime prevention strategy, 2011). High levels of crime pose a serious threat to our emergent democracy. Violent crime often leads to the tragic loss of life and injury, and the loss of possessions and livelihood due to crime is incalculable. In September 2011 the minister of police and commissioner of police released the annual crime figures (2010/11) for South Africa, the announcement was followed by a week-long media focus on crime. Since the high rate of crime is a major concern for South Africans it is not surprising that this occasion attracted enormous media attention (Gould, 2011). Crime results in the deprivation of the rights and dignity of citizens. It poses a threat to peaceful resolution of differences, and the rightful participation of all in the democratic process. South Africans are confronted by crime on a 24-hour basis. Violent crime is outstandingly high in South Africa. A high number of people are murdered, raped, tortured and robbed each day. If one does not become a direct victim, vicarious victimisation takes place in many instances (Bezuidenhout, 2007).

The crime statistics presented for the 2012/13 financial year (1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013) by the police minister Nathi Mthethwa in September 2013 reveals that there has been an increase in the following crimes in South Africa:

Incidents of murder increased from 15 609 murders in 2011/12 to 16 259 murders in 2012/13. This means that there was an increase of 650 murder cases or a 4,2% increase when comparing the total numbers of murders with the previous year. This works out to almost two additional murders per day on average during the 2012/13 financial year. Consequently, our murder rate increased from a total average of 43 murders per day to 45 murders per day. Attempted murder

cases increased from 14 859 to 16 363, an increase of 10.1%. Attempted murder rates increased by 8, 7% in the past year. In a study conducted by Butchart, Peden, Mtzopoulos, Phillips, Burrows, Bhagwandin, Saayman & Cooper, (2001) about non natural deaths in South Africa it is indicated that injuries resulting from Violence ,traffic collisions and other accidents are the leading causes of death in South Africa and homicide being the leading manner of death by 45.7%. Sexual offence cases increased from 64 514 to 66 387, an increase of 2.9%. Sexual offence rates increased from 125, 1 per 100000 to 127, 0 per 100000 populations an increase of 1.5% (Institute for security studies for Africa check, 2013).

There has also been an increase in robberies in 2012/13, which is a crime that the police can directly reduce through employing effective strategies. Robberies pose a particular concern as they occur when armed perpetrators directly threaten or use violence against their victims in order to steal their belongings. This can result in severe trauma, injury or sometimes death to the victim. The total number of aggravated robberies reported to the police increased from 101 203 cases to 105 888 cases (an increase of 4 685 cases) or 4.6%. The aggravated robbery rate increased by 196.2 per 100 000 people to 202.6 per 100 000 people of which represents an increase of 3.2% (Institute for security studies for Africa check, 2013).

House robberies are reported when people are attacked by armed gangs while they are in their homes. This crimes increased by 7.1% to 17 950 incidents representing an additional 1 184 households being attacked when compared to the previous year. On average 49 households were attacked each day in 2012/13. Business robberies increased by 2.7% to 16 377 incidents. This crime type has consistently increased in the past eight years so it is 345% higher than in 2004/05. There were an additional 426 armed attacks on businesses in 2012/13 as compared to the previous year (Institute for security studies for Africa check, 2013).

Vehicle hijacking increased by 5.4% to 9 990 incidents. This means that 28 motor vehicles were hijacked every day on average in 2012/13. This is of particular concern given that most of these cases are as a result of organised crime syndicates. The number of truck hijacking increased by 14, 9% from 821 incidents in 2011/2012 to 943 incidents in 2012/2013. As with vehicle hijacking, this crime is generally perpetrated by organised crime syndicates. These increases

suggest that organised crime is on the rise in South Africa (Institute for security studies for Africa check, 2013).

It is evident from these statistics that South Africa is faced with an increasing number of criminal activities and it is for these reasons that the researcher decided to conduct the study to gain more understanding of crime at Muledane village focusing on the youth. According to Mooney, Knox & Schacht (2007), the highest arrest rates are for individuals under the age of 25. Crimes committed by people in their teens or early 20s are mostly property crimes, such as burglary, arson, and vandalism. There is an increase in the number of children and youth persons entering the criminal justice system, due to having committed serious offences or re-offences. Consequently, a high number of children are awaiting trial in correctional facilities, South African Police service holding cells and the Department of social development secure care centres (Integrated social crime prevention strategy, 2011).

Throughout the world, perhaps the most important single fact about crime is that it is committed mainly by teenagers and young adults. At least 140 studies conducted internationally looking at a range of offences and using a variety of methodologies found that people are most likely to commit crime between the ages of 12 and 30. No known study has ever failed to find this relationship (Le Pichon, 2005). Most of the young person's arrested and convicted as adult criminals were first arrested as juveniles (Hagan, 2002). Africa hosts the world's youngest population – 43% of the population of the continent is under the age of 15. In most African countries, the median age is 16-19 years, while in many developed nations it is twice that. This means a greater part of the society is vulnerable to becoming involved in criminal activity (Le Pichon, 2005). Crime presents a fundamental challenge in South Africa. Particularly disturbing is the prevalence of violence committed by and against young people. (Clark, 2011).

Offenders sentenced to life imprisonment increased from about 400 in 1994 to more than 11 000 in 2013. More than a third of those incarcerated were youth, and a large number of inmates who, while not under 25, are still in the prime of their life. Children as young as 17 years old have committed serious crimes. The average inmate is a young substance abuser who has dropped

out of school before high school, is functionally illiterate, and more often than not, homeless (Annual Report of the Department of Correctional service, 2013).

Participation in violence by South African male youth is much greater than that of any other age group. According to official records, male youth offenders are more likely to be arrested for serious offences such as possession of stolen property, vandalism, possession of illegal firearms and assault (Bezuidenhout & Joubert, 2003).

According to the Thohoyandou police station report, problematic crimes found in Thohoyandou are murder, attempted murder, house breaking, breaking into business and residences, common assault, assault grievous bodily harm, theft of motor vehicles, theft from motor vehicles, stock theft, common robbery, armed robbery, rape and culpable homicide. In 2013 the total number of Murder cases was 29, attempted murder 50, total sexual crime 527, common robbery 121, Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle 31, Burglary at residential premises 1027, Robbery at non-residential premises 70, Shoplifting 288 (Crime Stats South Africa, 2013). Out of these, the commonest types of crime found in Muledane are house breaking, breaking into business premises and residences, common assault and grievous bodily harm, common robbery, and theft.

Criminals in Thohoyandou and Sibasa have intensified their onslaught on businesses and homes mostly owned by Indians. In the period from May 2008 to date, more than 20 people and households have become the target of robberies that have left one person dead and some critically injured (Tshikhudo, 2008). The other incident happened at Thohoyandou Block F last Saturday evening, when an old woman was shot in the leg and seriously injured before the robbers ransacked the house and left with an undisclosed amount of cash and a cell phone. This has caused anger amongst community members who are now threatening to take the law into their own hands as a way of solving the problem (Tshikhudo, 2008). This shows that the problem of crime is also affecting the Thohoyandou area.

It is popular to associate criminal behaviour with the poor physical and social conditions of the impoverished segment of the population. Social scientists persist in associating the origins of criminal behaviour with lack of opportunities and improper education (Crowe, 2000). In the twenty-first century, criminologists have looked at a wide range of factors to explain why a

person would commit crimes. These included biological, psychological, social, and economic factors.

Reasons for committing a crime include greed, anger, jealous, revenge, or pride. Some people decide to commit a crime and carefully plan everything in advance to increase gain and decrease risk. Some even consider a life of crime as better than a regular job, believing that crime brings in greater rewards, admiration, and excitement, at least until they are caught. Others get an adrenaline rush when they successfully carry out a dangerous crime. Others commit crimes on impulse, out of rage or fear (Bettman, 2010).

The desire for material gain (money or expensive belongings) leads to property crimes such as robberies, burglaries, white-collar crimes, and auto thefts. The desire for control, revenge, or power leads to violent crimes such as murder, assaults, and rapes. These violent crimes usually occur on impulse or on the spur of the moment when emotions are running high. Property crimes are usually planned in advance (Bettman, 2010).

In South Africa 242 correctional centres accommodate 150608 offenders categorized according to their gender. The total inmate population according to gender as at 2012/2013 is as follows; Male (147228), female (3380). Sentenced offenders Male (102486), female (2392), this shows that there is a difference between males and females in terms of crime (Annual Report of the Department of Correctional service, 2013). Statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice (2004) indicate that females commit fewer violent crimes than males (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007). It is clear that there are substantial differences between the sexes for both blacks and whites in the incidence and prevalence of crime, particularly for more serious offences. Any diminution of the male-female gap in the past two decades is relatively small. The number of female offenders in prisons remain very low. Given the low security risk posed by women in comparison to their male counterparts, they remain ideal candidates for non-custodial sentences (Department of correctional Services, 2013).

The government of South Africa is committed to building better and safer communities and to the improvement of the quality of life for all citizens. It is for this reason that government has identified the fight against crime and corruption as one of its key priorities.

Crime and violence pose serious threats to democracy, freedom and the social fabric of the society. Acknowledging the serious challenges that crime and violence pose to development and the attainment of a better life for all, our government recognizes that reducing the current levels and preventing future crimes is a responsibility of all levels of government and the social partners in the society. It is for this reason that this study focuses on the causes, effects and prevalence of criminal behaviour among the youth at Muledane in order to understand the problem of crime at Muledane.

## **1.2 Problem statement**

There is a high rate of crime in South Africa, which is increasing on a daily basis. There are many incidents of criminal activities that are seen in the media, particularly in news broadcasts, newspapers and magazines. Despite the Thohoyandou police station's being one of the best resourced stations, crime statistics continue to escalate and the number of unresolved crimes continues unabated. This is causing unhappiness within the community. Members of the Indian community, specifically, reckon they are victims of the crime sprees and the number of robberies and housebreakings in the Thohoyandou and Sibasa areas are just escalating (Tshikhudo, 2012).

The researcher decided to conduct this study based on the fact that there is a serious problem concerning criminal behaviour in South Africa; however the study will focus on Muledane village since it is affected by crime, in November 2011, and 23 crimes in Muledane village were reported at the Thohoyandou police station (Thohoyandou police station, 2013). This study focuses on the youth who commit crime and the outcome of their criminal behaviour, the youth might be being killed whilst engaging themselves in criminal activities. The youth may be arrested and this will have a negative impact on their future as adults. The youth may drop out of school and acquire a criminal record. Having a criminal record can have serious implication for an individual's prospects of finding employment (Muntingh, 2011).

Criminal behaviour also affect significant others. The young person will have a negative relationship with others. Moreover, the community tends to be hostile towards anyone who is a criminal. The study focuses on the prevalence of youth criminal behaviour at Muledane village in the Limpopo Province. This study aims to gain an insight into the prevalence, causes and effects of criminal behaviour, particularly at Muledane village.

### **1.3 Significance of the study**

In August 25 1998, the former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela at the opening of Emthonjeni youth centre mentioned that government will not tolerate crime. However, it does not mean that we have to ignore offenders. They are part of our society's problem and rejecting them is not going to solve the problem of crime. They are human beings too; they are our brothers, sisters, our sons and daughters who have disappointed us. They have the right to a chance to unlock their potential to better themselves (Annual Report of the Department of Correctional Service, 2013). A study of this nature is important because it will bring awareness to the community about the prevalence of criminal behavior and give insight into the factors that cause such behaviour especially among the youth and how such behaviour affects the society in general and youth in particular in doing this future criminal acts by youth will be avoided.

After the causes and effects of criminal behaviour are identified, it will be easier to identify strategies to fight crime and reduce the prevalence at Muledane, and, if possible, eliminate the causes of such behaviour. Therefore, the society can then engage in campaigns to prevent further criminal behaviour. Through the recommendations from the study, crime might be reduced.

### **1.4 Aim of the study**

The aim of the study was to investigate the prevalence and causes of criminal behaviour of youth at Muledane village and the effects on the community

The study was guided by the following objectives;

- To identify the prevalence of youth criminal behaviours at Muledane village;
- To identify and describe the causes of criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village;
- To identify and describe the effects of criminal behaviour at Muledane village; and
- To recommend measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour.

## 1.5. Definition of concepts

### 1.5.1 Criminal behaviour

According to Crowe (2000), crime is an act or commission of act that is forbidden or the omission of a duty that is commanded by a public law and that makes the offender liable to punishment by the law. It refers to conduct of an offender that leads to and including the commission of an unlawful. In this study criminal behaviour refers any behaviour that has criminal intent, or result in punishment by the law.

### 1.5.2 Youth

The South African Concise Oxford Study Dictionary (2007) defines youth as being young or the period between childhood and maturity. The national youth policy 2009-2014 refers to young people as those falling within the age group of 14 to 35 years (National Youth Policy, 2009). The policy acknowledges that the 14-35 age range is by no means a general standard, but within the parameters of this age range young people can be disaggregated by race, age, gender, socio class and geographic location. Although much has changed for people since the advent of democracy in 1994, the motivation for 35 years as the upper age limit for youth has not yet changed due to the historical imbalances in the country (National Youth Policy, 2009).

### 1.5.3 Juveniles

The term refers to a young person or a person below the age at which ordinary criminal prosecution is possible (Kavanagh, 2007).

### 1.6 Delimitations

This study was conducted at Muledane village in Thulamela Municipality under the Vhembe District. Participants who did not reside at Muledane did not participate in the study. This study focused on the youth because literature shows that criminal activity is more prevalent among young people than older people (Knox & Schacht, 2007).

### 1.7 Conclusion

Crime is a serious challenge in South Africa. The majority of South African citizens are likely to have experienced or been affected by crime in the last ten years, either as a victim or as a bystander (Integrated social crime prevention strategy, 2011). This chapter presented the background and the problem statement regarding the prevalence, causes and effects of criminal behaviour among the youth. The main aim and objectives were outlined. This chapter also highlighted the significance and delimitation of the study.

### 1.3.1 Murder

This type of crime is serious in South Africa and it is also found in Muledane community although it is not common. The murder rate has increased in South Africa during the last 40 years, though it fell from 56.9 per 100,000 people in 1994-95 to 37.3 in 2008-09. According to official police data from 2001-2008, it has decreased significantly. Between 1994 and 2009, the murder rate reduced by 37% to 34 murders per 100,000 people. The annual crime statistics

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

The purpose of the literature review is to familiarise the researcher with the scope of the field of study; to help the researcher identify trends and developments in field of study; and to examine existing research on a particular area of study (Polit, Beck & Hungler, 2002).

The 'literature' is what is already known, and written down, and is relevant to one's research project. Literature review involves systematically identifying, locating, and analysing documents containing information related to the research problem (Robson, 2011). The literature review gives the researcher an opportunity to gain a broad understanding of the available information related to the problem (Burns & Grove, 2003).

This study focuses on causes of criminal behaviour, theories of crime, and the effects and prevention of criminal behaviour. The literature review includes the following aspects: types of criminal behaviour; theoretical framework; causes and effects of criminal behaviour; and prevention of criminal behaviour.

#### 2.2 Types of criminal behaviour

In order to understand crime better, this section focuses on the different types and classifications of crime.

##### 2.2.1 Murder

This type of crime is serious in South Africa and it is also found in Muledane community although it is not common. The murder rate has increased in South Africa during the last 40 years, though it fell from 66.9 per 100,000 people in 1994–95 to 37.3 in 2008–09. According to official police data from 2003–2009, crime decreased significantly. Between 1994 and 2009, the murder rate reduced by 50% to 34 murders per 100,000 people. The annual crime statistics

released in 2011 show a continuing downward trend, except for rape, which went up by 2.1%. (South African Police Service, 2012).

Murder is defined, in common law, as the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought. It is the most serious of all common-law crimes (Siegel, 2004). Murder involves causing the death of another person without legal justification or excuse. The youth may commit murder in the course of engaging in other criminal activities. Stannard (2008) talks of a ruthless risk taker. The label 'ruthless risk-taker' is used here to denote a killer whose conduct, whilst not directly designed to kill, nevertheless manifests disregard for human life as to merit the label of a murderer. For instance, a terrorist bomber blows up a crowded building without proper warning to those inside, or an arsonist pours petrol into an occupied house and sets it on fire. Where these actions result in death, the person responsible may deny any intention to kill. They may claim that they never meant to kill anyone.

According to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual report of the National injury Mortality surveillance system (2007), Violence and motor vehicle accidents continue to be major causes of death in South Africa. Out of the 33513 non natural deaths, 79% were male and 19% female. Africans constituted 76% of all cases, Whites 10%, coloreds 9% and Asians 3%. The majority of deaths were of young adults, it is said in this report that violence was the major cause of non natural, accounting for 36 % (or 11994 deaths) of all deaths. The leading manner of non natural death for males was homicide and for females transport related deaths. Sharp objects were the major external cause of violence for ages 15-29, 35-39, and 45-49 years. Firearms were the largest single external cause of violence for the age group 30-40, 40-44, 50-59, 65-69 and 80-84 years. Blunt objects were the major external cause of homicide for those aged 0-4, 10-14, 60-64, 70-79 and 85+ years (Donson, 2008).

Incidents of murder increases from 15609 murders in 2011/12 to 16259 murders in 2012/13, this works to almost two additional murders per day on average during the 2012/13 financial year (South African Official crime statistics, 2013). Murders and attempted murders that take place during aggravated robbery or inter-group conflict (such as gang or taxi violence) and vigilantism

make between 35% and 45% of all murders and attempted murders (South African Official crime statistics, 2013).

### 2.2.2 Forcible rape

Rape is defined, in common law, as the unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman/man by force or without legal or factual consent (Siegel, 2004). It is also defined as a violent act in which sexual relations are merely a means of expressing violence, aggression, and domination (Hagan, 2002). Many youth commit this crime of rape mostly at parties. At times they may even involve themselves in gang rape. Rape is an under-reported and under-recognised problem. Research indicates that nearly a quarter of all women have been raped at least once in their lifetime (Wingood & DiClemente, 1998).

South Africa has one of the highest rates of rape in the world, with some 65,000 rapes and other sexual assaults reported for the year ending in March 2012, or 127.6 per 100,000 people in the country. The incidence of rape has led to the country being referred to as the "rape capital of the world". One in three of the 4,000 women questioned by the Community of Information, Empowerment and Transparency, said they had been raped in the past year. More than 25 per cent of South African men questioned in a survey published by the Medical Research Council (MRC) in June 2009, admitted to rape of those, nearly half said they had raped more than one person. Three out of four of those who had admitted rape, indicated that they had attacked for the first time during their teens. South Africa has amongst the highest incidences of child and baby rape in the world. If the rapist is convicted, his prison time is usually around 2 years (South African police service, 2012).

The recent brutal rape and murder of Duduzile Zozo reminds us that despite having policies in place for many years, South Africa seems unable to reduce gender-based violence. Zozo was found dead with a toilet brush in her vagina at the home she shared with her mother and three sisters in Thokoza on the weekend of 29 June 2013. This is one of several high-profile rape and murder cases of a woman in South Africa in 2013. The first was the rape and murder in February 2013 of 17-year-old Anene Booysen. Booysen was found by a security guard the morning after

she had been gang-raped and mutilated at a construction site in Bredasdorp, in the Western Cape (Mofana & Gould, 2013).

These are just two of the more than 47 896 rapes that the police recorded throughout South Africa in the past year (2011/12). In the 2012/2013 crime statistic overview, it was indicated that contact crime including sexual offence was reduced by 4.2 percent during the past financial year (2012/2013). It is chilling to think that the daily average of 132 rapes reported to the police is in reality a small proportion of the actual scale of the problem (Mofana & Gould, 2013).

### 2.2.3 Assault and battery

Battery refers to offensive touching, such as slapping, hitting, or punching a victim. Assault does not involve touching, but involves either attempted battery or intentionally frightening the victim by word or deed (Siegel, 2004). Hagan (2002) distinguishes between aggravated assault and assault. The former refers to the unlawful intentional infliction of serious bodily injury or unlawful threat or attempt to inflict bodily injury or death by means of a deadly or dangerous weapon with or without actual infliction of injury. The latter refers to the unlawful intentional infliction of less than serious bodily injury without a deadly or dangerous weapon or an attempt or threat to inflict bodily injury without deadly or dangerous weapon. Disagreements, especially among male youth can result in assault since they tend to be aggressive in times of misunderstandings. Assault is very common in the Muledane village and it seems that the youth are involved in many cases of assault.

### 2.2.4 Robbery

Robbery is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear (Siegel, 2004). Robbery is common among young people because of the benefits that come with it. These may include money and goods that are taken, as well as being feared by the victims. A study done by Baloyi (2013), shows that robberies have risen between the financial years of 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 and that they remain at high levels. This type of crime

impacts negatively on the public image of the area, and often increases public fear of crime (Masuku, 2003).

Robbery also affects the community as a whole; it can cause conflict within the family and between the family and other community members as they can sometimes feel that the parents did not instill enough discipline to their child who is robbing people of their belongings. Robbery has a major impact on perceptions of safety due to its violent nature, and also because it has a significant economic impact (Burger, Gould, & Newman, 2010). In a study by Masuku (2003), robberies were found to be the biggest threat for people living in the Nelson Mandela Metro.

### **2.2.5 Burglary**

Burglary is the unlawful entry into a structure to commit a felony or theft (Feldman, 1993). Siegel (2004) defines burglary as the unlawful entry into a fixed structure, vehicle or vessel used for regular residence, industry, or business, with or without force, with the intent to commit a felony or larceny. This type of crime is also present at Muledane. The impact of burglary can have long-term effects on the health and wellbeing of the victims. Offenders commonly adopt the guise of a utility official or council worker. Research suggests that this type of event can contribute to a decline in health amongst victims aged over 65 years (McGraw & Drennan, 2006). Residential burglary began to increase in 2007/2008, burglaries at businesses began increasing a year earlier, during the 2005/06 period (Burger, Gould, & Newman, 2010). The increase in burglary affects the victims as they will not feel safe in their own homes with the fear that someone might enter and steal their belongings or injure them in the process. It also has a negative impact on the economy of the country, since instead of paying for the goods, burglars take for free.

### **2.2.6 Theft**

Theft is the unlawful taking of property without the use of force, violence or fraud. This includes shoplifting, pickpocketing and purse-snatching (Feldman, 1993). It is the unlawful taking of

property other than a motor vehicle from the possession of another, and without deceit, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property.

Youth are also involved in identity theft, which is made possible by the nature of modern payment systems. In the modern economy, sellers are willing to offer goods and services to strangers in exchange for a promise to pay, provided the promise is backed up by data that link the buyer to a specific account or credit history. Identity theft involves acquiring enough data about another person to counterfeit this link, enabling the thief to acquire goods while attributing the charge to another person's account (Anderson & Durbin, 2008). Theft leaves the victims feeling very sad and angry because their property is stolen from them. Victims may also feel unsafe when they are walking around in town because of the fear of pickpocketers and purse snatchers. The feeling of unsafe makes people staying on alert for fear of losing their belongings and also life should they fight back for protection.

### 2.2.7 Domestic violence

A person stands a chance of being kicked, stabbed, shot, or otherwise brutalised within one's own home. Domestic violence includes child abuse (excessive mistreatment, either physically or emotionally, of children beyond reasonable explanation), spouse abuse, and elder abuse (Hagan, 2002). Domestic violence is again defined as the physical, sexual, or emotional/psychological violence directed toward men, women, children, or elders. This occurs in current or past intimate relations, whether the individuals are cohabiting or not, as well as violence directed toward dating partners. Domestic violence is a problem as it also affects children who are exposed to violence at their homes. These children may become involved in violent behaviour when they become adults because they grew up in a home filled with violence, and for the reason that learned behavior is easily practiced. Women and children worldwide are especially vulnerable to aggression, violence, and abuse by family members and caretakers (Draucker, 2002).

### 2.2.8 Occupational crimes (white collar crimes)

These are crimes committed by “respectable” people in the course of their jobs, especially against the interest of consumers. Occupational crime involves criminal acts for the benefit of the individual, whereas corporate crimes consist of criminal acts committed in the course of business in which the principal benefactor is the corporation, not the individual (Feldman,1993). Another form of corporate crime refers to the production of unsafe products and the failure of corporations to provide a safe working environment for their employees, resulting in negligence, and the pursuit of profit at any cost (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007).

Eighty three percent of South African companies reported being affected by white collar crime in 2005, and 72% of South African companies reported being affected in 2007. Sixty four percent of the South African companies surveyed stated that they pressed forward with criminal charges upon detection of fraud. Three percent of companies said that they each lost more than ten million South African rands in two years due to fraud (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007). White collar crimes affects the country in a negative way because of the funds that are lost in the process this will in turn contribute to unemployment. It also has a negative impact on the company because it will run at a loss and some of the employees may be retrenched.

Louis Strydom, the head of Pricewaterhouse Cooper's forensic auditing division, said that the increase in fraud reports originates from "an increased focus on fraud risk management, and embedding a culture of whistle-blowing." According to the survey, 45% of cases involved a perpetrator between the ages of 31 and 40; 64% of con men who held a high school education or less (Independent Newspapers Online, 2004).

### 2.2.9 Advance fee fraud

Advance fee fraud scammers based in South Africa have in past years reportedly conned people from various parts of the world out of millions of Rands. South African police sources stated that Nigerians living in Johannesburg suburbs operate advance fee fraud (419) schemes. In 2002, the South African Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, wanted to establish a call centre for businesses to check reputations of businesses due to proliferation of scams such as advance fee

fraud, pyramid schemes and fly-by-night operators. Fly-by-night operators leave the victims feeling frustrated because the money that they thought they were investing is no longer there and this changes all the plans that they have. This affects the victims as well as significant other because when money is lost adjustments must be made in living conditions. In response to this problem, the South African Police Service has established a project which has identified 419 scams, closed websites and bank accounts where possible (Independent Newspapers Online, 2004).

### 2.2.10 Car hijacking

Although vehicle hijacking is a worldwide phenomenon, it has increased to such an extent in South Africa that it is regarded as one of the countries with the highest hijacking figures in the world (Davis, 2001). South African insurance company, Hollard Insurance stated, in 2007, that they would no longer insure Volkswagen Citi Golfs manufactured in the previous two years as they were one of the most frequently hijacked vehicles in South Africa. Certain high-risk areas are marked with road signs indicating a high incidence of car hi-jackings within the locality (Institute for Security Studies, 2013). Money can be a big motivation for vehicle hijacking, according to Davis (2002), vehicle of which the chassis number had already been changed and had been reregistered at a traffic department could be sold for anything between R 30 000 and R80 000.

Vehicle hijacking increased by 5.4% to 9 990 incidents meaning that 28 motor vehicles were hijacked everyday on average in 2012/13 (South African Official crime statistics, 2013).

Car hi-jacking affect car owners because they are always on guard when they drive their cars, even though car hi-jacking is not common at Muledane it does happen and this leaves other car owners with fear that their cars might be taken away from them at any time. The SAPS 2007/2008 annual report demonstrated an average of about 14201 vehicle hi-jackings in reported and recorded cases during the 2007/08 financial year indicating that there is serious problem regarding this issue. Car hijacking is not common in Muladane, according to Davis (2002), hijackers select specific targets and they assess the difficulty, risk, opportunities and rewards associated with this crime.

## 2.3 Causes of criminal behaviour

In this section, the discussion will focus on a number of factors that are seen as causes of crime. These include biological, environmental, psychological and social factors.

### 2.3.1 Biological factors

There are three sets of biological risk factors for involvement in crime; namely Genetics; neurotransmitters; and neuro-biology. These factors should be understood as representative of the kind of issues about the causes of crime addressed in biological research (Lee, 2005).

While the important role of psychosocial factors in the development of criminal behaviour has long been acknowledged, there has been an increasing interest in the neurobiological basis of aggression and crime over the past decade, boosted by methodological advances in neuroimaging and molecular genetics. Researchers recognised the potential role of biological factors in the etiology of criminal behaviour some time ago, and, in this vein an intriguing result of a long-term study is reported (Sterzer, 2010).

#### 2.3.1.1 Heredity and brain activity

Searching for the origins of antisocial personality disorders and their influence over crime, led to studies of twins and adopted children in the 1980s. Identical twins have the exact same genetic makeup. Researchers found that identical twins were twice more likely to have similar criminal behavioural patterns than fraternal twins who have similar but not identical genes, just like any two siblings. Other research indicated that adopted children had greater similarities of crime rates to their biological parents than to their adoptive parents. These studies suggested a genetic basis for some criminal behaviour (Streshinsky, 2010).

Hormones are chemicals used by the body to communicate between cells. Serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine are the three hormones that have been the focus of research about the links between hormones and criminal behaviour. Overall, there appears to be a strong

relationship between low levels of serotonin and anti-social behaviour, a moderate relationship for norepinephrine, and no effect for dopamine. Numerous studies have found links between low serotonin activity and childhood conduct disorders, antisocial personality disorders and criminal behaviour, particularly crimes involving impulsivity (Lee, 2005).

Gao, Raine, Venables, Dawson & Mednick (2010), in their study, tested whether abnormal fear-conditioning predisposes one to crime. Fear-conditioning is a basic form of learning in which fear is associated with a previously neutral stimulus. The study by Gao *et al* (2010) is based on the hypothesis that fear-conditioning is the mechanism by which we learn to link antisocial acts with negative consequences such as punishment or social exclusion. By leading to a failure in such social learning, poor fear-conditioning would thus predispose an individual to antisocial behaviour. If poor fear-conditioning has a causal role in crime, it should be detectable early in life, before antisocial behaviour becomes manifest. In the framework of a large birth cohort study, Gao *et al* (2010), tested fear-conditioning in children aged 3. Twenty years later, they probed the association of poor fear-conditioning in early childhood with adult criminal behaviour. A group of 137 individuals who had been convicted of committing crimes by age 23 was compared with a carefully matched group from the same cohort who showed no evidence of criminal behaviour. Strikingly, skin responses to the conditioned stimulus were significantly smaller in children who became criminals later on. In fact, on average there was no evidence of any conditioning at all in the criminal group, as skin responses to the conditioned stimulus were statistically indistinguishable from responses to a stimulus that was not conditioned. The implications of this finding are at least twofold. First, it provides new insights into the etiology of criminal behaviour; second, it may help to guide early therapeutic interventions in children at risk of antisocial behaviour.

The central brain structure in the circuitry underlying fear conditioning and the perception of threatening stimuli in the environment is the amygdala. Deficient amygdala function has been thought to render individuals unable to recognise cues that signal threat, thus, making them relatively fearless (Phelps, 2005).

### 2.3.1.2 Genetic influences

More recent studies have indicated a genetic predisposition for many disorders and antisocial behaviour, including aggression and violence. Many studies have linked cortisol to antisocial behaviour. One might, therefore, expect to see reduced levels of cortisol in antisocial people. Cortisol is involved in autonomic arousal, which means that those who are low in cortisol do not fear punishment unless it is immediate, and, because of this, they may commit crime (Anderson, 2007).

There is ongoing debate about the role of genetics in human behaviour, although research does suggest that some inherited characteristics may contribute to anti social or criminal behaviour. In particular, there is some evidence that suggests a genetic connection with chronic offending and, in particular, property crime. There is limited, but growing evidence about the risk and protective factors associated with particular genes. There is evidence for a genetic influence on criminal behaviour but this influence is complex because of the interaction of inherited characteristics and the environment (Lee, 2005).

### 2.3.2. Environmental factors

Criminal behaviour may develop as a result of interpersonal interaction with other people and the environment. In this section, the researcher focuses on different contexts which could precipitate criminal behaviour. Well-organised neighbourhoods offer a range of concrete educational and recreational opportunities for children and adolescents. These include positive norms and role models for prosocial behaviour, and mechanisms of formal and informal social control to enforce norms for expected behaviour. Delinquency, along with adolescent involvement in a variety of problem behaviour such as using illicit substances and joining gangs, are more likely to occur in neighbourhoods that are socially disorganised (Elliot, Wilson, Huizinga, Sampson, Elliot, & Rankin, 1996).

### 2.3.2.1 *The family*

The family environment is one of the most important influences on the psychosocial development of young people (Hargovan, 2013). Family factors associated with criminality are poor home discipline, neglect, alcoholism of parents, absence of one or both parents, and an unhappy home life. Parental criminality and parental transmission of criminogenic attitudes may influence criminal behaviour (Hagan, 2002).

Family structure and child-rearing practices appear to be important causes of crime, but they are, in all likelihood, themselves genetically determined, implying that modification of family structure or practice would have little or no effect on the crime rate (Wilson 1995). The Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention's 2008 National Youth lifestyle study, shows that respondents who had seen family members intentionally hurting one another were found to be 2-3 times more likely to have carried a weapon, 2.1 times more likely to have physically fought with someone and 4.4 times more likely to have threatened or injured someone else with a weapon in the past year than those who had not been exposed to violence in their family environments (Leoschut, 2009). Families with poor communication and weak family bonds have been shown to have a correlation with the children's development of aggressive and criminal behaviour (Garnefski & Okma, 1996). Children exposed to severe, perhaps even violent conflict between adults in their homes, often vent their anger, confusion, and frustration in delinquent behaviour (Hagan, 2002). Young people are being exposed to violence not only as direct victims, but are also being made to witness acts of violence perpetrated against others, exposure to violence within families and communities appears to have a significant influence on the behaviour of young people in South Africa (Clark, 2012). Youth who grow up in households characterised by conflict and tension, where the parents are absent or separated, or where there is lack of familial love and support, are susceptible to the crime-promoting forces in the environment.

The lack of supervision, fair discipline, care and support in the aftermath of divorce, may expose some children to the negative effects of antisocial peers, which may result in criminal behaviour (Siegel, 2004). The youth may have lack of supervision and fair discipline because the parents may not be around, many children in South Africa live in child headed families because their

parents are working in cities like Johannesburg which is far, HIV and aids is another cause of child headed family, by the year 2002 14 million children had been orphaned globally because of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. A great number of these children have become the heads of households and are forced to look after themselves and siblings (Maqoko & Dreyer, 2007), growing up in a child headed family without adults may leave the youth vulnerable to committing crime. In South Africa thousands of children who had been exposed to political violence were not able to attend school because of the loss of their family members; children learned that violence was an approach to solving conflict (Intergrated social crime prevention strategy, 2011).

### 2.3.2.2 Easy access to firearms

Firearms play a dominant role in criminal activity (Siegel, 2003). Firearms are readily available in South Africa as a result of the liberation struggle and in border countries such as Mozambique and Angola (Naudé, 2000). Many firearms used in crimes are stolen or purchased illegally (bought on what is called the "black market"). Firearms provide a simple means of committing a crime, while allowing offenders some distance or detachment from their victims. Guns are the immediate cause of death, and are used to threaten or injure victims in hundreds of thousands of robberies and assaults (Wilson, 1995). Although firearm availability does not cause violence, it is certainly a facilitating factor (Siegel, 2004).

### 2.3.3 Social factors

This section focuses on interaction between individuals and socialisation to show how this interaction could result in criminal behaviour. The social factors that are discussed include interaction with peers, how the school environment contributes to crime, and how the community structure and culture influence crime.

### 2.3.3.1 Peer relations

Peer groups have a powerful effect on human conduct. Peers can have a dramatic influence on decision-making and the choices one makes in life. Adolescents are exposed to powerful influence from their peers. They feel persistent pressure to conform to group values. When the individual is among friends who share negative influences among themselves, adolescent criminal activity can be initiated as a group process (Siegel, 2004).

This is in line with a study done by Adewuyi & Akinsola (2013), about peer influence in substance abuse, the findings indicated that adolescent of the same age range get involved in substance abuse through peer influence and interaction. There is a significant relationship between peer influence and criminal behaviour.

In a study conducted by Hargovan (2013) of South African children who were diverted to a diversion programme, at least ten children admitted to falling prey to negative peer influences. Due to the fear of rejection, or the desire for peer approval, the children will be indirectly influenced by his or her peers. The peer group can be enormously powerful in transmitting culture, values, and norms that influence behaviour (Hargovan, 2013).

Rewards such as respect within peer group, feeling of power and admiration by peers can be a cause of crime, this is supported by a study done by Davis (2000) wherein participants who hijacked cars indicated that the decision to hijack a vehicle were influenced by friends having respect and admiration for them.

### 2.3.3.2 The schools

Children who do poorly in school, lack educational motivation, and feel alienated are the most likely to engage in criminal acts. Schools contribute to criminality in that when they label problem youths, they set them apart from conventional society. Many school dropouts, especially those who have been expelled, face a significant chance of entering a criminal career. In contrast, doing well in school and developing attachments to teachers has been linked to crime resistance (Siegel, 2004).

Violent acts are committed in schools and may contribute to youth criminal activity, on a the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention's National Youth Victimization survey 2005,36% of respondents had had their property stolen at school, 12.8 % had been threatened at school, and 5.8% had been assaulted at school during the past 12 months (Pelser,2008). According to Wilson (1995), in January 1992, two students at Thomas Jefferson high school in Brooklyn, New York, were fatally shot by an angry 15 year old classmate. School violence is often blamed on a violence prone society. Some urban schools are located in slum neighbourhoods where drug sellers routinely kill one another, as well as innocent by-standers in the streets surrounding the school (Wilson, 1995).

### 2.3.3.3 The community

This study examines how community structures and cultures produce different rates of crime. It argues that a low economic status, ethnic heterogeneity, and residential instability lead to the disruption of local communities and social organisations. The disruption of local communities account for variations in crime and delinquency (Wilson, 1995). Exposure to violence is deeply disturbing to young children and many children live in communities in South Africa where violence is endemic, on a survey conducted in a poor area in Cape Town showed that 70% of 8 year olds had witnessed violence and 47% had been victims of assault (Intergrated social crime prevention strategy, 2011). Living in communities that have a high rate of crime has a negative effect on the youth and may lead to future criminal acts. South African children are exposed to a number of risk factors. As a result of intergenerational poverty and unemployment, caused by little or no education, children grow up in communities characterized by violence, crime and weak social cohesion (Hargovan, 2013). Every city has its more unsavory parts that are best avoided. In South Africa, cities such as Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Durban have particularly large numbers of no go areas. In Cape Town, 'top deck'- the upper floor of the central train station is a hot sport for muggings; the crime spreads to the city's townships of Gugulethu and Khayelitsha. In Johannesburg, there is a significant number of high crime areas such as the city centre (Clark, 2011).

## 2.3.4 Psychological factors

This section addresses factors that could affect an individual psychologically, leaving him/her prone to committing crime. Psychological factors refer to all the things that can influence the functions, attitudes and characteristics of the human mind. These factors can, turn, affect the behaviour and wellbeing of a person.

### 2.3.4.1 Media

Society is highly interested in criminality and sexual delinquency, newspapers, television, films, and literature are crowded with it (Hoffmann, 2009). According to Wilson (1995), research shows that there are 5 to 6 violent acts per hour on prime time, and 20 to 25 acts on Saturday morning children's programmes. Laboratory experimental studies show that there is a connection between media violence and aggressive behaviour. According to the precipitation hypothesis, exposure to media violence, fact or fiction in comic books, music, newspapers, magazines and movies produces greater propensities to aggression and violence (Hagan, 2002).

### 2.3.4.2 Psychoanalytic interpretations of crime

According to the Freudian psychoanalytic perspective, a major cause of crime and delinquency is a malfunctioning ego or superego. For example, superego deficiencies may be expected to correlate with deficiencies in ego control, and failure to delay gratification. Furthermore, disturbed parental relationships are unlikely to be confined to the oedipal stage, and superego problems are, hence, associated with unconscious conflicts arising at all developmental stages. These conflicts motivate deviant acts in later life, when early conflict situations are reproduced.

Psychoanalysts, therefore, propose three main sources of criminal behaviour, which relate to a harsh, weak, or deviant superego. First, criminal acts may reflect a harsh superego, and resemble a neurosis. In both symptomatic and criminal neurosis, the unconscious conflict is repressed, the only difference being that in the former, it is experienced as an autoplasmic change in the individual's functioning, while in the latter, the conflict is "acted out" in an attempt to change the

environment. In "compulsive" theft, for example, the act of stealing or the object stolen symbolises the conflict. One variant of this view is that the neurotic criminal has a punitive superego, and experiences extreme unconscious guilt over repressed infantile wishes. The acted-out wish invites punishment in the form of legal sanctions. Alternatively, crime may represent substitute gratification of the need for security, acceptance, or status, which is not met within the family (Ladikos, 2000). Perhaps the family should offer more security and acceptance to its youth so that they do not turn to crime for the purpose of gratifying this need.

Unfulfilled unconscious wishes may be sublimated, and may find expression in alternative actions which provide the needed recognition or status, for example, in the context of gang delinquency. Crime is also seen as a solution to the frustration of emotional needs for personal effectiveness and social attachment within the family.

Delinquency has been an issue in psychoanalysis from its very beginning (Hoffmann, 2005). Many neurotics commit small crimes in their childhood, above all thefts and fraud, but also arson, in order to relieve the strong guilt feeling resulting from oedipal longings via punishment administered by adults (Hoffmann, 2009).

The effect of a weak superego has long been associated with a psychopathic personality, and the notion of an egocentric, impulsive, guiltless, and unempathic individual is, in fact, a psychodynamic portrayal. Although an early formulation identified "impulse-ridden" characters, who express primitive instinctual needs unmodified by either superego or developmental fixations, most writers propose a combination of unresolved oedipal and pregenital fixations (Ladikos, 2000). Early complex and intense mother relationships can contribute a great deal to delinquent tendencies (Hoffmann, 2009).

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sources of criminal behavior, which relate to a harsh, weak, or deviant superego (Ladikos, 2000). Studies using attachment and mentalisation concepts have confirmed how strongly early deprivations are concerned with later violent and delinquent behavior (Fonagy, 2004).

### 2.3.5 Economic Factors

Crime might be influenced by the fact that the youth do not have the necessary finance to carry out daily activities or to lead a normal life. Economic factors include all the considerations that are relevant to decisions in life that involve economic variables such as prices and wages.

#### 2.3.5.1 *The labour market*

Employment is one of the most significant determinants of the welfare of any nation (Kyei & Gyekye, 2011). South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, currently standing at 25.2 %, thus a quarter of economically active people are unemployed (STATSSA, 2008). The question of the effect of unemployment on crime has traditionally motivated analyses of crime and the labour market. Many believe that joblessness is the key determinant of crime, and have sought to establish a significant crime-unemployment trade-off. Researchers have called for greater attention to be paid to the variables linking unemployment to crime. In particular, it has been suggested that people's interpretation of their labour market situation plays a large role in shaping their responses to it (Baron, 2008).

According to Breetzke (2010), recent statistics in South Africa indicate virtually no poverty among white people (1.1%), whereas poverty rates for coloured people and black people are 16.3% and 33% respectively. South Africa's townships, street children, and beggars are some of the most visible indicators of poverty; in 2008 54% of the population was classified as poor. Others do whatever they can to survive and make ends meet, which may entail theft, and other criminal activities. The causes of poverty are multiple and include unemployment and HIV/AIDS (Clark 2011).

Utilising the general strain theory, this research examines the role that unemployment plays in the criminal behaviour of 400 homeless street youths. Of particular interest is the way that these youths interpret their labour market experiences, and how these interpretations and experiences influence criminal behaviour. The findings revealed that the effect of unemployment on crime is mediated and moderated primarily by other variables. In particular, unemployment is conditioned by external casual attributions that lead to anger over unemployment, which in turn leads to crime. The direct effect of unemployment on crime is moderated by monetary dissatisfaction and minimal employment searches. Anger over unemployment is also the result of negative subjective interpretations of economic situations and a continued attachment to the labour market. In addition, these negative subjective perceptions, the lack of state support, a decrease in social control, and prolonged homelessness directly lead to greater participation in criminal activities. Criminal involvement is also encouraged by peers, deviant values, and a lack of fear of punishment (Baron, 2008). Unemployment levels in South Africa are high, particularly among the young (Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, 2009). In June 2009, 48.1% of the population between the ages of 15 and 24 was unemployed. Exacerbating the problem is that due to the vastly inferior 'Bantu education delivered during the apartheid era and to some extent to this day still- many black and coloured people are ill equipped for the job market (Aliber 2003). In a study done by Kyei & Gyekye (2011) Africans face an unemployment rate of 41% compared to 23.3%, 17-1%, 6% of coloureds, Indians and whites respectively. This indicates that Africans are more likely than any other race to be unemployed.

Most studies examining the relationship between poverty, unemployment and crime have examined crime rates in areas marked by poverty and unemployment rather than rates of participation in crime by individuals who are poor and/or unemployed. The trouble with this kind of research is that, on its own, it cannot tell us whether it is the poor and unemployed who are committing crime. The tendency to draw unwarranted inferences about who is involved in crime from information about the characteristics of crime-prone places is sometimes referred to as ecological fallacy (Weatherburn, 2001).

Absolute deprivation refers to the absence of the basic requisites for survival, such as food, water and shelter, absolute deprivation can lead to crime (Breetzke, 2010). Studies which have

examined the experiences of particular individuals generally find that individuals at the lower end of the socioeconomic status scale are more likely to participate in crime. There are some notable exceptions to this rule, but, generally speaking, they involve crime which is relatively minor in nature. Since crime frequently leads to arrest and imprisonment and this, in turn, reduces an individual's employment prospects, it is possible to argue that crime leads to poverty and unemployment rather than vice versa. The only reliable way to determine the causal direction of the relationship is to conduct a longitudinal study to see whether crime follows or precedes exposure to poverty and unemployment. Generally speaking, longitudinal studies tend to find that low socioeconomic status individuals are more likely to become involved in crime. A similar pattern of findings has been obtained in relation to longitudinal studies of unemployment. At least one major longitudinal study has also found evidence that individuals who are already prone to involvement in crime, offend more frequently during periods of unemployment (Weatherburn, 2001).

Poverty and unemployment are usually thought to cause crime because they motivate people to offend as a means of overcoming their disadvantage. More recent research has highlighted other possibilities. Parents exposed to economic or social stress have been found to be more at risk of inadequate parenting practices, such as neglect, poor supervision, and inconsistent, erratic discipline (Weatherburn, 2001). This parental behaviour increases the risk of juvenile involvement in crime. It is possible, then, that social and economic stress act as important influences on crime, their effects being mediated by family factors. This possibility is supported by empirical evidence (Weatherburn, 2001). When the youth are unable to find work, they have little opportunity to escape from the poverty trap and often experience high levels of frustration, frustration in turn may manifest itself in violence and crime (Clark, 2012).

### *2.3.5.2 The country's history as a cause of crime*

South Africa's transition from apartheid to a truly multi-racial democracy stands as one of the significant political events of the last century (Inmann, 2013). High and rising levels of crime plague post-apartheid South Africa. A common explanation for the high violent crimes in post-apartheid South Africa links the country's unique socio-political past to a system of ineffective

social control mechanisms existing within certain communities, notably on the periphery of metropolitan areas (Breetzke, 2010). Since the end of apartheid, crime has migrated and is no longer confined to the country's townships. Crime has also become increasingly violent. The result is that today crime can be considered 'among the most difficult of many challenges facing South Africa' (Clark, 2011).

Economic inequality, or unequal distribution of wealth, money, and other economic resources between racial groups, had greater salience in explaining crime rates. Economic inequality engenders resentment, hostility, frustration, and it is a precipitating factor in the impetus of criminal behavior (Stolzenberg, Eitle, & D'Alessio, 2006).

The euphoria of political transformation in 1994 brought with it an initial spike in violent crime levels in South Africa as a result of the inclusion of the ten Bantustans in the crime count for the country (Leggett, 2004). Crime levels in South Africa are affected by many of the same universal factors, which manifest themselves in other countries such as Northern Ireland. South Africa's unique situation and history have, however, contributed to a range of factors specific to its own situation. According to the South African Government Information (1996), the factors outlined below contributed to the crime levels in the country:

- Comparative research, from countries such as the former Soviet Union and Northern Ireland, suggests that all forms of crime increase during periods of political transition. South Africa's own rapid transition had the unintended consequences of breaking down the existing (and illegitimate) mechanisms of social control without immediately replacing them with legitimate and credible alternatives. This weakness was exacerbated by the historical breakdown of other vehicles of social authority, such as schools, the family and traditional communities.
- The political transition also generated substantial material expectations, many of which were largely beyond the immediate delivery capacity of the new government. This has generated frustrated expectations. The very high, and often unrealised, expectations associated with transition have contributed to the justification of crime. In addition, the legitimating of violence associated with political causes has served to decriminalise certain categories of crime related to intergroup conflict or political rivalries. Historical

criminalisation of political activity and protest has also contributed to a blurring between legitimate forms of protest and criminal activity.

- South Africa's violent history has left the country with a "culture of violence", which contributes to the high levels of violence associated with criminal activity in South Africa. Violence in South Africa has come to be regarded as an acceptable means of resolving social, political and even domestic conflicts. According to Dawes (2007), children are exposed to structural, political and interpersonal violence, he also emphasized that in South Africa, and thousands of children who had been exposed to political violence were not able to attend school because of the loss of their family members.
- Historically shaped, poverty and underdevelopment provide key contextual factors in understanding increasing crime levels. Although poverty does not directly lead to higher crime levels, together with a range of other sociopolitical and cultural factors, it contributes to conditions for an increase in crime and the growth of criminal syndicates and gangs.
- The number and easy accessibility of fire-arms is a major contributor to violent crime. The fact that a large proportion of the citizenry is armed serves to escalate the levels of violence associated with robbery, rape and car theft. Illegal firearms are readily available in South Africa as a result of the liberation struggle and in border countries such as Mozambique and Angola. These weapons are frequently used in crimes of violence (Naudé, 2000).
- Gender inequality, both in terms of popular attitudes and the inadequate service offered by the criminal justice system to women, contributes to the high levels of violence perpetrated against women (South African Government Information, 1996).

While there is much debate about the causes of poverty in South Africa, data strongly indicate that there is a link between structural violence and crime. As of 31 May 2010, for example, of the total 161,496 inmates in South Africa's prisons, 129,913(80 %) were black, 28,063 (17.4 %) were coloured, 2705 (1.7%) were white, and 815 90.5%) were Asian (Department of Correctional Services South Africa, 2010). The apartheid era, and the brutality with which it was

synonymous, may further help to account for the prevalence of violence in South African society today (Clark, 2011).

According to Breetzke (2010), relative deprivation is an outcome of social comparisons and it is seen as a mechanism whereby poverty leads to crime. Individuals evaluate their socio-economic position in relative terms and become frustrated and can resort to violence based on their perceived deprivation relative to the socio-economic position of others (individuals will compare themselves others with whom they come into frequent contact). The gross inequalities of apartheid and its legacy resulted in the majority of black people in post apartheid South Africa being much poorer than their white counterparts (Breetzke, 2010). It is however important to note that it is generally acknowledged that crime was high and rising long before democratic rule (Breetzke, 2012).

## 2.4 The effects of crime

It is believed by many citizens that crime is out of control and, because of this, people live in fear. Many factors fuel this fear or crime hysteria, namely the mass media, the lawlessness of many gangs and syndicates, mob violence, emotionally coloured statements of politicians, as well as the absence of an effective criminal justice system.

### 2.4.1 Psychological effects

For many citizens, crime has become a part of everyday life. The stark reality for many young people in South Africa is that violence and crime is a way of life, it insidiously infiltrates every aspect of their lives with both direct and indirect effects on their psychological, emotional, developmental and physical wellbeing (Burton, Leoschut & Bonora, 2009). According to psychiatrist Dr Eugene Allers (2010), Up to 25% of South Africans could suffer from post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD). When crime and motor vehicle accidents are taken into consideration, six million South Africans could be suffering from PTSD. Nearly a third of these are between the ages of 30 and 40 years.

Allers (2010) further argues that 58% of South African children have witnessed incidents of violence and crime, and 22% of these children could meet the criteria for PTSD. PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after an experience that is sudden or unexpected, that involves a threat to life or safety, or physical injury. In addition, many people develop psychosomatic symptoms and they may abuse substances to numb the emotional and psychologically aroused state they experience because of the crime situation. This may also lead to substance abuse. Scientists believe that the youth are being brutalised by the constant barrage of serious crime incidents. They start to act out and become incorrigible, which also impacts on the psyche of their guardians. A significant number of youths become alienated and desperate. This can cause them to commit crime and become part of the crime problem South Africa is experiencing. This contribution explores all the above factors to indicate what impact crime is having on the South African citizenry (Bezonheit, 2010).

Escalating crime is the subject of the high-level cooperation between the Minister of the Departments of Safety & Security and the minister of Justice and Correctional Services, who deplore the crime situation that has resulted in thousands of people fearing for their lives, both in and outside their homes. All South Africans recognise crime as an issue of national concern today. In fact, the general epidemic of crime sweeping South Africa goes so deep that all South Africans fear that crime has to be defeated, in order for them to achieve peace, stability and development.

Crime manifests itself in a violent way where victims are either injured or murdered or psychologically tortured (Makhanya, 2000). Criminal acts of violence may arise within families (interpersonal), groups of people in communities or within the whole society (intergroup). Crime violates the rights and dignity of people. Crime has an impact on the quality of life of the people in society. Capturing the impact of violence on the quality of life is not an easy task. The impact of crime on human quality of life should be seen as: human injury and destruction; psychological disruption and dehumanization; and, crime as seductive self-destruction (Makhanya, 2000).

## 2.4.2 Gated communities

A gated community is a form of residential community or housing estate containing strictly controlled entrances for pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles, and it is often characterised by a closed perimeter of walls and fences. Gated communities usually consist of small residential streets, and they include various shared amenities (Low, 2001).

Gated communities are popular with the South African middle class, both black and white. Gated communities are usually protected by high perimeter walls topped with electric fencing, guard dogs, barred doors and windows, and alarm systems linked to private security forces. The Gauteng Rationalisation of Local Government Affairs Act 10 of 1998, allows communities to "restrict" access to public roads under the supervision of the municipalities. The law requires that entry control measures within these communities should not deny anyone access. The Tshwane Municipality has failed to process many applications it has received, leaving many suburbs exposed to high levels of crime. Several communities successfully sued the municipality, won and are now legally restricting access. These measures are generally considered effective in reducing crime (within those areas). Consequently, the number of enclosed neighbourhoods (existing neighbourhoods that have controlled access across existing roads) in Gauteng has continued to grow (Institute for Security Studies, 2012).

## 2.4.3 Private security companies

In order to protect themselves and their assets, many businesses and middle- to high-income households in South Africa make use of privately owned security companies with armed security guards.

The South African Police Service employs private security companies to patrol and safeguard certain police stations, thereby freeing fully trained police officers to perform their core function of preventing and combating crime. A December 2008 British Broadcasting Corporation documentary "Law and Disorder in Johannesburg" presented by Louis Theroux examined such firms including the Bad Boyz security company in the Johannesburg area.

It is argued that the police response is generally too slow and unreliable, thus private security companies offer a popular form of protection. Private security firms promise response times of two to three minutes. Many levels of protection are offered, from suburban foot patrols to complete security checkpoints at the entry points to homes (Institute for Security Studies, 2012).

## 2.5 Crime and gender

Crime is an activity carried out by both young and adult males and females. Sex crime ratios (that is the proportions of men and women offenders) vary by offence. However, convictions for serious offences in England and Wales in recent years show that over 80 percent of the crimes have been by males. Shoplifting, often thought of as a typically female crime, is one for which more males than females are convicted in Britain.

The most dramatic differences, however, occur in more serious crimes such as robbery. In recidivism rates, women tend to commit less serious crimes and do so less often. Sex is, therefore, a crucial variable, in predicting criminality (Wilson, 1995). Statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice (2004) indicate that females commit fewer violent crimes than males (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007).

It is clear that there are substantial differences between the sexes for both blacks and whites in the incidence and prevalence of crime, particularly for more serious offences. Any diminution of the male-female gap in the past two decades is relatively small (Feldman, 1993).

Males are more likely to commit crime than females, at least where serious crime is concerned. The ratio of male to female participation in crime varies by offence, but one recent Australian study found ratios averaging around 2:1. Crime, however, is pre-eminently a preoccupation of the young, whether male or female. Estimates of the average age of onset of involvement in crime vary from study to study. Most estimates range between 12 and 16 years, but it is possible to predict involvement in crime at much younger ages than this.

The prevalence of involvement in crime typically rises from late adolescence, reaches a peak in the late teenage years and then begins to decline (Weatherbun, 2001).

## 2.6 Psychological theories of crime

This section explores the different psychological theoretical frameworks concerning the causes of crime. The role that psychological factors play in the development of crime is outlined in this section. It is important to understand the psychological causes of crime, in order to have an insight into what goes on in the mind of a criminal. The psychological theories that are discussed in this section are the behavioural theory, the external reinforcement theory, the observational learning theory, the social labeling theory, and the psychoanalytical theory.

### 2.6.1 Behaviour theory

This theory is attributed to the work of B.F Skinner. The primary thesis of the theory is that all behaviours are learned and can be unlearned. Behaviour theory is based on the belief that it is not the conscious that is important, but rather the behaviour, which can be observed and manipulated. This theory assumes that neurotic symptoms and some deviant behaviour are acquired through an unfortunate quirk of learning, and are rewarding to the person. Thus, criminal behaviour also can be learned and imitated (Reid, 1994). According to this theory, criminal behaviour is learned and can be unlearned. This means that those youth who have learned criminal behaviour can unlearn such behavior and live in an acceptable manner.

### 2.6.2 External reinforcement

Criminal behaviour are strongly controlled by their consequences, experienced by both the offender himself and by observers and significant others. On one hand positive outcomes of crime (rewards markedly outweigh costs) will tend to maintain criminal behavior, while on the other, negative outcomes (loss outweighs rewards) will tend to diminish criminal behaviour (Feldman, 1993). In order for criminal behaviour to be controlled and eventually diminished, the young person should receive negative reinforcement after committing a criminal act as a way of discouraging the behaviour.

### 2.6.3 Observational learning

The view of this theory is that people acquire behaviour through their own direct experiences and by observing the experiences of others. Thus, observational learning is concerned with behaviour which are acquired without any direct reinforcement to the learner. Instead the behavioural experiences, including their consequences, of another person considered a role model, are observed. The greater the opportunity for the observational learning of crimes, the more likely it is that they will be acquired (Feldman, 1993).

Basically, to learn in an observational manner someone must notice something someone else is doing, remember it or record it in his/her mind, and finally replicate the behaviour. The behaviour may or may not happen again. The choice to continue exhibiting the behaviour depends on the outcome (positive or negative reward) (Gillian, 2010).

Modeled behaviours which are judged by the observer to be markedly inappropriate to the model will have a much less imitative effect than behaviour judged relatively appropriate. If the observer judges criminal behaviour to be appropriate, the likelihood is that the behaviour will be imitated (Feldman, 1993).

Learning is a by-product of interaction. Criminal behaviour is learned as a by-product of interacting with others. People actively participate in the learning process as they interact with other individuals who serve as teachers and guides to crime (Siegel, 2004).

### 2.6.4 The social labeling theory

People frequently take on the roles they have been assigned to by others. The labeling theory holds that society, by placing labels on juvenile delinquents, stigmatises them, leading to a negative label for the youth. This, in turn, develops into a negative self-image. A court of law, some other agency, a youth's family and supervisors, and/or the youth's peers give a name or a "label" to the youth, often in "degradation ceremonies". These ceremonies may include a suspension by the principal or dean of a school, a court trial, or a home punishment, among

others. Youths who are labeled as "criminals" or "delinquents" may hold these as self-fulfilling prophecies, believing in the labels that others assign to them, and may act according to them. A youth who succumbs to a label may then proceed to act as a "criminal" or act as a "delinquent," abandoning social norms because he or she believes that he or she is a bad person, and that this is what bad people are supposed to do (Siegel, 2002).

### 2.6.5 Psychoanalytic theory

Reid (1994) argues that Sigmund Freud, who is credited with having made a contribution to the development of psychoanalytic theory, did not advance a theory of crime per se. His theory attempted to explain all human behaviour. According to Freud, humans have mental conflict because of desires and energies that are repressed into the unconscious. These urges are basic, but they are repressed because of the society's morality. Freud saw original human nature as assertive and aggressive, characteristics which are not learned, but are rooted deeply in early childhood experiences.

Human beings all have criminal tendencies, but during the socialisation process, most of them learn to control these tendencies by developing strong and effective inner controls. The improperly socialised child does not develop an ability to control impulses and acts them out. The child may become a delinquent. According to this theory, if an individual does not develop the ability to control impulses during childhood, this may result in criminal behaviour.

Of all the theories that are discussed above the theory which is more relevant to the study is the external reinforcement theory which states that criminal behaviours are strongly controlled by their consequences, experienced by both the offender himself and by observers and significant others. The positive outcomes of crime (rewards) will tend to maintain the criminal behaviour. This study shows that the youth continue to participate in crime because of what they gain, and they do not really consider the loss.

## 2.7 Crime prevention

This section will look into different strategies that can be used to prevent criminal behaviour in different contexts. Although recent research suggests that it is simplistic to regard protective factors as simply the opposite of risk factors (Farell & Flannery, 2006), nine key factors have been identified as enhancing young people's resilience to crime, namely education, gender, non-violent family environments, non-exposure to criminal role-models, substance abstinence, non-victimisation, neighbourhood factors and attitudes intolerant of violence and anti-social behaviour (Leoschut & Burton, 2009). More importantly, these factors interact with one another to increase resilience to violent or criminal behavior, and they help explain why the majority of youth remain resilient to violence and crime despite growing up in risk-filled environments (Leoschut, 2009).

### 2.7.1 Self- protection

The main idea is how the potential victim could protect himself by anticipating victimisation in advance. This involves avoiding victimisation by taking appropriate pre-emptive action such as not going out at night, avoiding certain areas completely, even when in a vehicle, keeping clear of certain types of strangers when walking, carrying limited amounts of cash, locking doors and windows, and installing extra devices such as burglar alarms (Feldman, 1993). According to Muncie (2009), personal security could be improved by a vast array of risk avoidance measures. People should avoid behaviour or actions that will make them vulnerable to being victims of crime. Opportunities for crime are enhanced or reduced by the attractiveness of the target, levels of security, lifestyle patterns or a combination of these factors (Masuku, 2003). It is therefore important that people ensure that they are not vulnerable to crime.

### 2.7.2 Victim empowerment programme

Recognition of the role and rights of victims is vital in addressing the effects of crime and creating crime-resistant communities. This programme is aimed at making the criminal justice process more victim-friendly, thus minimising the negative effects of crime on its victims. This empowerment of victims is aimed at creating a greater role for victims in the criminal justice

process, as well as providing protection against repeat victimisation (South African Government Information system, 1996).

### 2.7.3 Community programmes

Community programmes are programmes that are designed to reduce crime or to keep a closer look at the community. Neighbourhood watch programmes involve local residents in crime prevention strategies. In most communities, men patrol the streets in high crime areas of the city during weekend nights. Members of the community also report crime and drug sales to the police so that the police can be aware of criminal activities in the community, in order to solve the crimes (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007).

### 2.7.4. Youth programmes

Youth programmes are formed to keep the youth busy by engaging them in activities so that they do not participate in crime. This prevention strategy concerns youth programmes such as boys and girls clubs, designed to keep young people 'off the streets'. These provide a safe and supportive environment, and offer activities that promote skill development and self-esteem (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007).

The provision of services, such as health care, job opportunities and recreation in rural and urban areas will contribute to children's early growth, development, functioning and progress in society (Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy, 2011).

### 2.7.5 Surveillance

Greater surveillance of high-risk areas might be effective in reducing crime (Feldman, 1993). In order to prevent crime, surveillance by the police is required, especially in places that are identified by members of the community as high risk areas or areas in which criminal activities occur the most. According to Wilson (1995), police should, depending on their resources, engage in directed, not random patrol, to reduce the opportunity for criminals to victimise others. Rather

than patrolling the streets, police should also direct their surveillance on known criminals so that they can determine if they are planning to commit other crimes again.

### **2.7.6 The criminal justice policy**

The criminal justice system is based on the principle of deterrence, that is, the use of harm or the threat of harm to prevent unwanted behaviour. Maximising punishment will deter and cause crime rates to decrease (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007).

### **2.7.7 Environmental design**

The way in which buildings are structured plays a role in whether or not the house will be accessible or not to criminals. Buildings should be oriented towards the street so as to encourage natural surveillance (by residents and passers-by), Outdoor spaces should be placed in proximity to intensively used areas, again to encourage surveillance and, hence, reduce vandalism. Appropriate design enhances protection from crime thus reducing crime (Feldman, 1993).

According to Crowe (2002), crime prevention through environmental design has proven to be a success in reducing the incidence of crime and fear of crime. Significant results have been produced in many places, including residential areas, malls, to mention but a few.

### **2.7.8 Government programmes**

According to Frank (2006) the information used by the government for crime prevention planning is relatively weak and the official SAPS crime statistics are inadequate for crime prevention practitioners as more information is required in order to implement crime prevention programmes. Crime awareness campaigns, the 'say-stop' programme assessments, the Ke- Moja programme, community development, youth development, the child protection register, substance abuse prevention programmes, HIV & AIDS prevention programmes, community reintegration, provision of social grants, early childhood development, support for pregnant women, domestic violence programmes, victim and support empowerment, crime prevention

,combating corruption are services currently provided by the government departments to individuals , families and communities (Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy, 2011). The National Crime Prevention Strategy was initiated by the Cabinet in March 1995. The strategy is the result of an extensive process of research and analysis, and it has drawn on international experiences. Both Businesses against Crime and non governmental organisations concerned with crime prevention have made a substantial contribution to this strategy.

The National Crime Prevention strategy has the following objectives:

- The establishment of a comprehensive policy framework which will enable government to address crime in a coordinated and focused manner which draws on the resources of all government agencies, as well as civil society.
- The promotion of a shared understanding and common vision of how South Africa, as a nation, is going to tackle crime. This vision should also inform and stimulate initiatives at provincial and local level.
- The development of a set of national programmes which serve to kick start and focus the efforts of various government departments in delivering quality service aimed at solving problems leading to high crime levels.
- The maximisation of civil society's participation in mobilising and sustaining crime prevention initiatives.
- The creation of a dedicated and integrated crime prevention capacity which can conduct ongoing research and evaluation of departmental and public campaigns, as well as facilitate effective crime prevention programmes at provincial and local level.

This National Crime Prevention Strategy is based on a fundamentally new approach by government. In particular, it requires the development of wider responsibility for crime prevention and a shift in emphasis from reactive "crime control"; which deploys most resources towards responding after crimes have already been committed, to proactive "crime prevention" aimed at preventing crime from occurring at all (South African Government Information system, 1996).

## 2.8 Conclusion

The literature study on the types of crime, their prevalence, causes and effects reveals that crime is a real problem that has been around for a long time. It seems that there are many reasons why people commit crime. People are affected differently by crime, which is why a number of prevention strategies were outlined in the literature review.

The research design is described in this section. In this chapter, the population that was studied is defined. The chapter explains how the population was defined and what sampling methods were employed. This chapter comprised the following sub-sections: Research approach, research design, research population, sampling and sampling size, research location, data collection instrument, data collection procedure, data analysis and pilot study. It also includes a description of the ethical principles.

### 3.2 Research approach

A quantitative approach was used in the study because the study intended to find out the causes, effects and prevalence of criminal behaviour. A quantitative study is more highly formalized and explicitly controlled than the qualitative approach. The purpose of using a quantitative approach was to test predictive and cause-effect hypotheses about social reality (Fuchs & Delport, 2003). The quantitative approach was thus chosen because it would help the researcher to test predictive and cause-effect hypothesis from a large group of participants.

Various authors suggest different classifications of designs. Nkomo (2000) distinguishes between quantitative and qualitative research designs. Research designs always address certain key issues such as who will be studied, how these people will be selected, and what information will be gathered from or about these subjects. Bellows & DeJong, 2008). For the purpose of this study, the researcher employed a quantitative approach because the issue of crime affects many people at Muldersburg.

## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

The research methodology chapter discusses the research approach that was used in the study. The research design is described in this section. In this chapter, the population that was studied is defined. The chapter explains how the population was defined and what sampling methods were employed. This chapter comprises the following sub-sections: Research approach, research design, research population, sampling and sampling size, research location, data collection instrument, data collection procedure, data analysis and pilot study. It also includes a description of the ethical principles.

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Various authors suggest different classifications of designs. Neuman (2000) distinguishes between quantitative and qualitative research designs. Research designs always address certain key issues such as who will be studied, how these people will be selected, and what information will be gathered from or about them (Monette, Sullivan & Dejong, 2008). For the purpose of this study, the researcher employed a quantitative approach because the issue of crime affects many people at Muledane village.

### 3.3 Research design

Mouton (2001) defines a research design as a blueprint of how a researcher intends to conduct research. According to Mouton, a research design focuses on the end product, formulates a research problem as a point of departure, and focuses on the logic of the research.

This study employed a descriptive design. The aim of a descriptive study is to provide a picture of the phenomenon as it naturally occurs. It seeks to draw a picture of the situation, person or event or show how things are related to each other (Gray, 2009).

### 3.4 Research population

The research population is defined as a set of entities in which all the measurements of interest to the researcher are presented. The entities may be people, or things (Strydom, 2005). Mouton (1996) defines a population as a collection of objects, events or individuals having some common characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying.

The population has an important role in sampling. In order to define the population; the unit being sampled was specified, as well as the geographical location, and the temporal boundaries of the population.

In this study, the research population consisted of all the Tshivenda speaking youth, both males and females, who are residing at Muledane. The study included youth between 15 and 35 years who have experienced crime, those whose friends are criminals, and those who have assisted others to carry out criminal activities. However, preference was given to youth who have engaged themselves in criminal behaviour.

### 3.5 Sampling and sample size

According to Neuman (2000), sampling is a process of systematically selecting cases for inclusion in a research project. Sampling eliminates any selection biases, which means that each unit in the population has an equal chance of being selected (McClendon, 2004).

The researcher obtained a list of house numbers and households at Muledane village from the local civic with the aim of reaching young people in those households, especially those who have experienced crime, those whose friends are criminals, and those who have assisted others to carry out criminal activities. Then simple random sampling was used in this study.

According to McClendon (2004), in simple random sampling, a researcher develops an accurate sampling frame, selects elements from the sampling frame according to a mathematically random procedure, then locates the exact elements that are selected for inclusion in the sample. Random sample/blind selection means that it is impossible to predict ahead of time which units will be selected. The size of the sample that the researcher selected consisted of 60 youths, comprising both males and females.

### 3.6 Research location

The study was conducted at Muledane village in Thulamela Municipality under Vhembe District. Vhembe is one of the five districts of the Limpopo Province of South Africa. It is the northernmost district of the country and shares its northern borders with Zimbabwe. According to the 2001 census, the population of Vhembe District is made up of 80 000 Tshivenda speaking people, 300 000 the Tsonga speaking people and 27 000 Northern Sotho speaking people. The seat of Vhembe is Thohoyandou, the former capital of the former Venda Bantustan (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thohoyandou?>).

Muledane falls under the town of Thohoyandou, which is a town dominated by an informal economy. It is situated 372 km north east of Pretoria. There are hardly any job opportunities in Thohoyandou and the majority of its residents live in both relative and abject poverty. Thohoyandou is the main development node in Thulamela local municipality approximately 500 000 residents within its boundaries. It is surrounded by small rural townships such as Maniini, Shayandima and Muledane.

### 3.7 Data collection instrument

A data collection instrument is a tool or device that the researcher uses to collect data (O'Leary, 2004). A questionnaire can be defined as a set of questions on a form which is completed by the respondent in respect of the research project (Delpont, 2005).

This study used a self-administered questionnaire as a data collection instrument. According to Delpont (2005), a self-administered questionnaire is handed to the respondent, who completes it on his/her own. The researcher is available in case problems are experienced and the participants need clarification of some concepts. However, the researcher limits his contribution in the completion of the questionnaire. In this study the researcher was available when the participants individually filled the questionnaire and assisted some of the participants by reading the questions and explaining them in Tshivenda. The first section of the questionnaire collected biographical information of the participants, the second section was designed to explore personal experience with crime, the third sections asked participants about the possible causes of criminal behavior, in the fourth section the participants were required to reflect their opinions on the effects of criminal behavior, the fifth and the last section of the questionnaire requested participants to make recommendations on how crime can be prevented. All the sections in the self administered questionnaire were designed to meet the objectives of the study which are to identify the prevalence, causes and effects of criminal behavior at Muledane village and to recommend measures to prevent criminal behavior.

### 3.8 Data collection procedure

Before collecting data, some critical decisions about the research topics would have been made. The research questions would have been formulated, variables that would be measured specified, and hypothesis generated. This step in the research process involves actually gathering information from the participants (Swartz *et al.*, 2008).

Quantitative data collection methods often employ measuring instruments. This is why it is important to understand the concepts of validity and reliability (Delpont, 2005).

Validity refers to the extent to which an empirical measure accurately reflects the concept it is intended to measure. The definition of validity has two aspects, namely the instrument that actually measures the concept in question and the accurate measurement of the concept. Content validity refers to the judgment that an instrument is measuring what it is supposed to measure. Thus, every question or item on the instrument must have a logical link with the objective (Kumar, 2011).

### 3.10 Pilot study

The reliability of a measurement procedure is the stability or consistency of the measurement. This means that if the same variable is measured under the same conditions, a reliable measurement procedure will produce identical measurements. It refers to a measuring instrument's ability to yield consistent numerical results each time it is applied (Delport, 2005).

In this study, the researcher ensured that the data collection instrument was designed in such a way that it would produce relevant results all the time when it was applied. Firstly all the youth at Muledane who are well known for committing crime were identified (both female and males), then a list of their names was made. The names were cut into separate pieces and put into a container then from the container sixty names were selected for participation in the study. After the selection arrangements were made with the participants for the researcher to administer the questionnaire to each one of them at their homes. The study was explained to the participants. They were made to feel comfortable and then they gave informed consent. The participants were provided with pencils, and to erasers to complete the questionnaire as well as a black pen to put a cross on their responses once they were sure of their answers. The instructions were explained to participants, in order to avoid errors.

### 3.9 Data analysis

Data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. Data in professional research can be analysed manually or by computer. After the data has been collected, it is edited, thus, enabling the researcher to scrutinise and ensure that data is 'clean', free from inconsistencies and incompleteness. Data analysis is a process that unlocks the

information hidden in raw data and transforms it into something useful and meaningful (Monnete, Sullivan & De Jong, 1990).

In the present study, data were analysed using descriptive statistics. Response frequencies and percentages were calculated. The results are presented below in the chapter that follows.

### **3.10 Pilot study**

A pilot study can be regarded as a small-scale trial run on all the aspects planned for use in the main inquiry. It helps the researcher to fine tune the study for the main inquiry. The pretesting of a measuring instrument consists of trying it out on a small number of persons having characteristics similar to those of the target group of participants (Strydom, 2005). Pretesting a research instrument entails a critical examination of respondents, and an understanding of each question and meaning (Collis & Hussey, 2009).

In this study, a pilot study was conducted on six participants, that is 10% of the total number of participants which was 60. The questionnaire was administered to three females and three males who had a similar profile to the study population. The purpose of the pretest was to identify problems that could arise during data collection. The other purpose was to check if the instructions and the wording of questions were clear to participants. The pilot study also ensured that the questionnaire was valid, thus ensuring that the correct information would be collected.

### **3.11 Validity and reliability of the study**

Quantitative data collection methods often employ measuring instruments that their validity and reliability have to be understood and ensured (Delpont, 2005). This section addresses how the two principles were ensured in this study.

### 3.11.1 Validity

The definition of validity has two aspects, namely, the instrument that actually measures the concept in question and the accurate measurement of the concept. For the purpose of this study, content validity was considered (Delpont, 2005). According to Kumar (2011), content validity refers to the judgment that an instrument is measuring what it is supposed to measure and that every question or item on the instrument must have a logical link with the objective. That was the reason piloting was done on the instrument, to ensure that it was valid for its purpose and the aspects covered had a link with the objectives of the study.

The researcher ensured that the data collection instrument was designed in such a way that the questions would provide answers that are relevant to the research objectives. The questions in the different five sections of the questionnaire served the purpose of identifying the prevalence, causes and effects of criminal behavior by the youth at Muledane. The researcher also ensured validity of the measuring instrument through piloting. Such process allowed the researcher to check whether the responses that were given by the participant were relevant or give answers to the objectives of the study.

### 3.11.2 Reliability

The reliability of a measurement procedure is the stability or consistency of the measurement. This means that if the same variable is measured under the same conditions, a reliable measurement procedure will produce identical measurements. It refers to a measuring instrument's ability to yield consistent numerical results each time it is applied (Delpont, 2005).

In this study, the researcher ensured that the data collection instrument is designed in such a way that it will produce relevant results all the time when it is applied. The researcher believes that the instrument is reliable in terms of measuring the variables which are the prevalence, causes and effects of criminal behavior because the five sections in the questionnaire effectively measures these variables and would do so consistently every time it could be administered in

order to identify these objectives. The instructions were explained to participants in order to avoid errors in completing the questionnaire.

Information on the goal of the investigation, the procedures which were to be followed during

### 3.12 Ethical considerations

risks and dangers to which participants may be exposed, as

Ethics are a set of moral principles which are suggested by an individual or group, and are subsequently widely accepted. They offer rules and behavioural expectations about the most correct conduct towards experimental subjects and participants, employers, sponsors, other researchers, assistants and students (Strydom, 2005). The researcher has a responsibility to those who participate in the study, and to the discipline of science, to be accurate and honest when reporting a research study.

before they gave

#### 3.12.1 Submission for approval

##### 3.12.1.1 Decision of participants

The proposal was submitted to the University of Venda Higher Degrees Committee of the School of Health Sciences for approval prior to the execution of the research project. Once approved, the proposal was sent to the university senate and then to the university's research office for ethical clearance before the study was conducted.

Decision involves withholding information, or giving incorrect information, in order to ensure

#### 3.12.2 Avoidance of harm

that they would otherwise not intend to do so. The researcher

Harm can embrace a very wide range of issues, ranging from physical to mental and emotional harm (Gray, 2009). Participants can be harmed in a physical and/or emotional manner. An ethical obligation rests with the researcher to protect subjects, within reasonable limits, from any form of physical discomfort that may emerge from the research project. Emotional harm to subjects is often more difficult to predict and to determine than physical discomfort. However, it often has more far-reaching consequences for participants. This study avoided causing participants anxiety, stress, embarrassment or loss of self-esteem. The participants were respected and assured that the study was designed in a way that would not pose any danger or harm to them.

the study. Confidentiality implies that only the researcher and possibly a few

members of the research staff will be aware of the identity of the participants. Anonymity means

### 3.12.3 Informed consent

Information on the goal of the investigation, the procedures which were to be followed during the investigation, the possible advantages and dangers to which participants may be exposed, as well as the credibility of the researcher, was communicated to the participants before they gave their informed consent.

Participants were provided with an information leaflet explaining what the study was about. After reading the information leaflet, they were asked if they wanted to participate in the study. Those who agreed were given a consent form to sign, indicating that they agreed to take part in the study. Five participants were minors. Therefore their parents and guardians were asked to sign the consent form.

### 3.12.4 Deception of participants

Deception means representing one's research as something which it is not (Gray, 2009). The deception of subjects is described as deliberately misrepresenting facts, in order to make another person believe what is not true. This violates the respect to which every person is entitled. Deception involves withholding information or offering incorrect information, in order to ensure participation of subjects when they would otherwise have refused to do so. The researcher provided the participants with honest information regarding the nature of the study. Participants were offered correct interpretation of facts related to the study.

### 3.12.5 Violation of privacy, anonymity and confidentiality

Privacy is defined as that which is not intended for others to observe or analyse. The right to privacy is the individual's right to decide when, where, to whom, and to what extent his or her attitudes, beliefs and behaviour will be revealed. This principle can be violated in a variety of ways, which is why the researcher safeguarded the privacy and identities of the participants who participated in the study. Confidentiality implies that only the researcher and possibly a few members of the research staff will be aware of the identity of the participants. Anonymity means

that no one, including the researcher, should be able to identify the participants afterwards. (Strydom, 2005). This study took all of these issues into consideration. The participants were informed that the information that they would give would not in any way be linked to them. They were also assured that their consent form would be kept safely.

### **3.12.6 Actions and competence of the researcher**

Researchers are ethically obliged to ensure that they are competent and adequately skilled to undertake the proposed investigation (Strydom, 2005). The researcher is experienced in conducting a study, and she was determined to undertake the investigation because it will be of great benefit to both the researcher and the community.

### **3.12.7 Release or publication of the findings**

According to Strydom (2005), findings of the study must be introduced to the public in written form. Otherwise even a highly scientific investigation will be meaningless. A report which is accurate and objective was compiled. The findings of the study are going to be made available to the University of Venda's Library so that other people can have access to the information.

### **3.12.8 Debriefing the participants**

According to Strydom (2005), there should be debriefing sessions during which the participants get an opportunity, after the study, to work through their experiences. During the debriefing exercise, problems generated by the research experience can be corrected. After completion of the project, the researcher visited all the respondents with the aim of clearing and rectifying misperceptions that might have arisen in the minds of the participants.

## **3.13 Dissemination of the results**

The results of this study will be made available to the University of Venda library special collections section so that other students, researchers and the community can have access to the

results of the study on request. Depending on the permission from the participants, the researcher intends to publish articles on this work.

### 3.14 Conclusion

This study was quantitative in nature wherein Data were collected from youth at Muledane village. Participants comprised both male and female youth. A self administered questionnaire was used and the participants completed the questionnaire at their homes. The results of this study were analysed manually using descriptive statistics. The findings of this study are discussed in the next chapter.

The results are presented as they appear in the questionnaire under the following headings: The participants' biographical information, the experiences of youth with regard to crime, types of crimes committed, prevalence of youth criminal behaviour, punishment for the crimes, causes and effects of the crimes, and measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour.

## 4.2 Results

### 4.2.1 Participants' biographical information

This section provides the biographical information of the participants. It gives important information about the participants who took part in the study. This information include age grouping that shows the number of participants in each age group, the gender of the participants, and their experiences with crime.

## CHAPTER 4

### PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

Findings of the study are presented in this chapter based on the objectives of the study. The objectives of the study were: to identify the prevalence of youth criminal behaviour at Muledane village; to identify and describe the causes of criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village; to identify and describe the effects of criminal behaviour on youth at Muledane village; and, to recommend measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour.

The results are presented as they appear in the questionnaires under the following headings: The participants' biographical information, the experiences of youth with regard to crime, types of crimes committed, prevalence of youth criminal behaviour, punishment for the crimes, causes and effects of the crimes, and measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour.

#### 4.2 Results

##### 4.2.1 Participants' biographical information

This section provides the biographical information of the participants. It gives important information about the participants who took part in the study. This information include age grouping that shows the number of participants in each age group, the gender of the participants, and their experiences with crime.

**Figure 1: Participants by age**

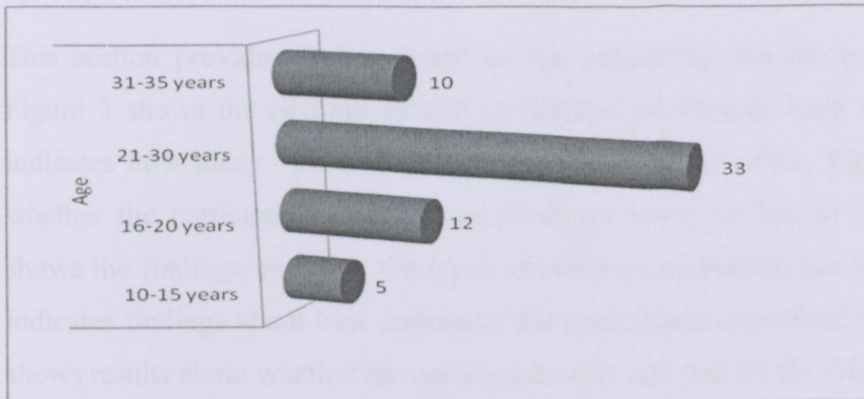


Figure 1 shows that most of the participants (33) were in the age group 21 to 30 years, whilst other groups fell in the ages of 10-15, 16- 20 and 31- 35.

**Figure 2: Participants by gender**

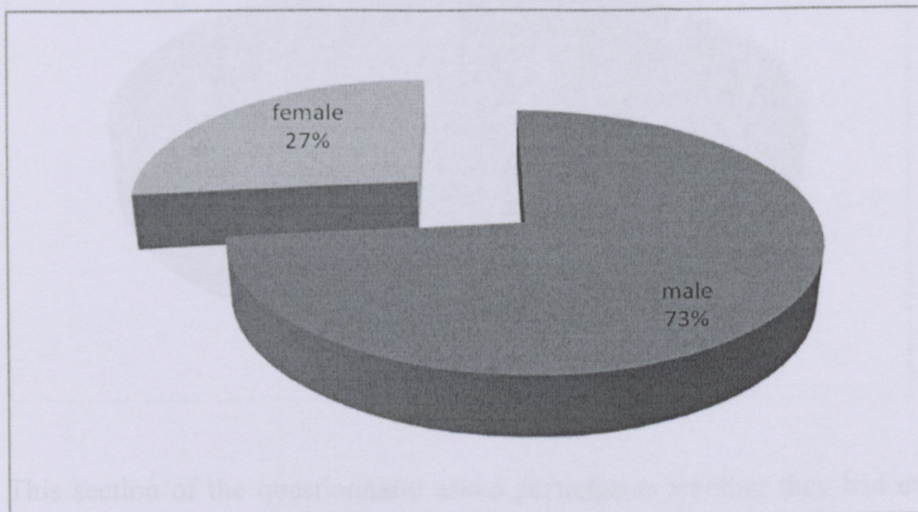
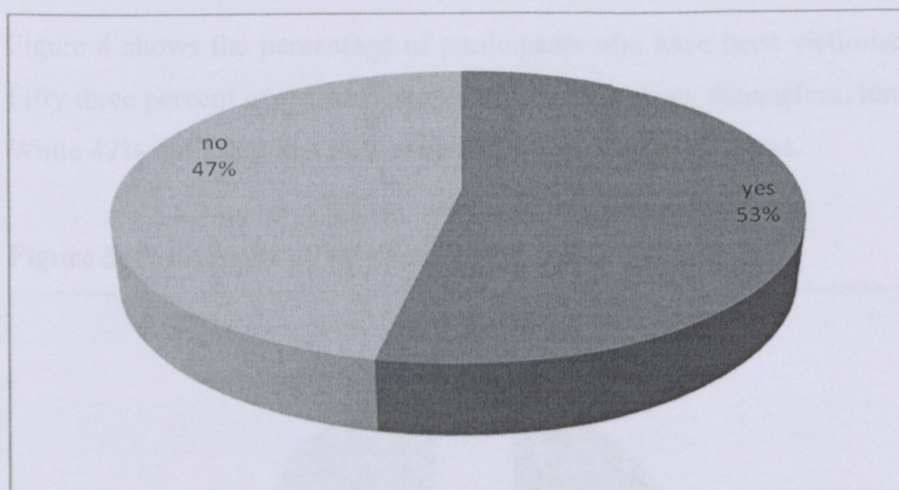


Figure 2 shows that 73% of the participants were male and 27% were female. This shows that more males than females participated in the study. This could be due to the fact that most of them had knowledge about crime; the majority had committed some criminal offence.

#### 4.2.2 Prevalence of crime

This section provides finding based on the experience that the participants had with crime. Figure 3 shows the findings related to whether participants have committed crime ,Figure 4 indicates how many participants have been victims of crime, Figure 5 shows results about whether the participants have witnessed others being victims of criminal activities. Table 1 shows the findings based on the types of crime committed by the youth at Muledane, Table 2 indicates findings about how frequently the participants committed the crime. This section also shows results about whether the participants were arrested for the crime or not (Figure 6) and the kinds of sentences that were imposed on them (Table 3).

**Figure 3:** Participants by personal experience with crime



This section of the questionnaire asked participants whether they had ever committed a crime. Figure 3 shows that the majority (53%) of the participants had engaged themselves in some criminal activities, However 47% of the participants had never committed a crime.

**Figure 4:** Participants being victims of crime

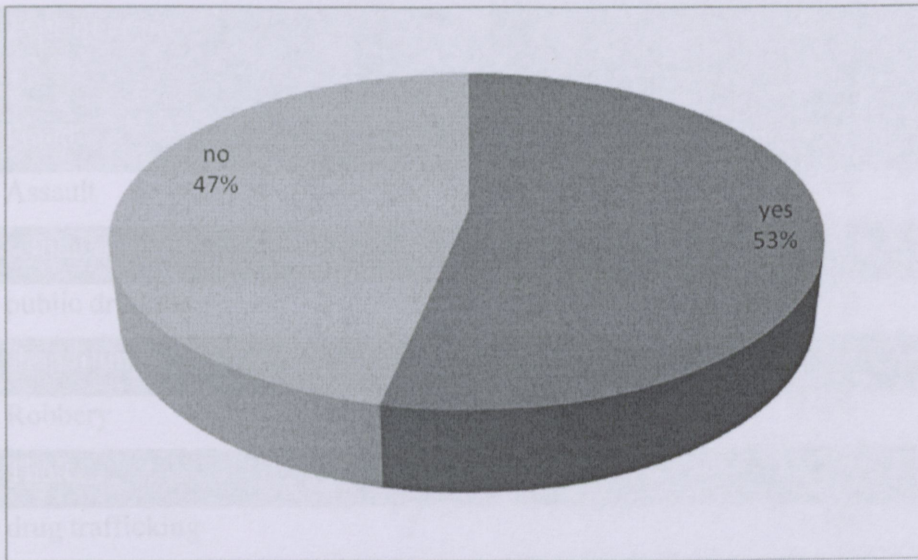


Figure 4 shows the percentage of participants who have been victimised by criminal activities. Fifty three percent of the participants reported that they, themselves, have been victims of crime, While 47% indicated that they have never been victims of crime.

**Figure 5:** Participants by whether they have experienced crime

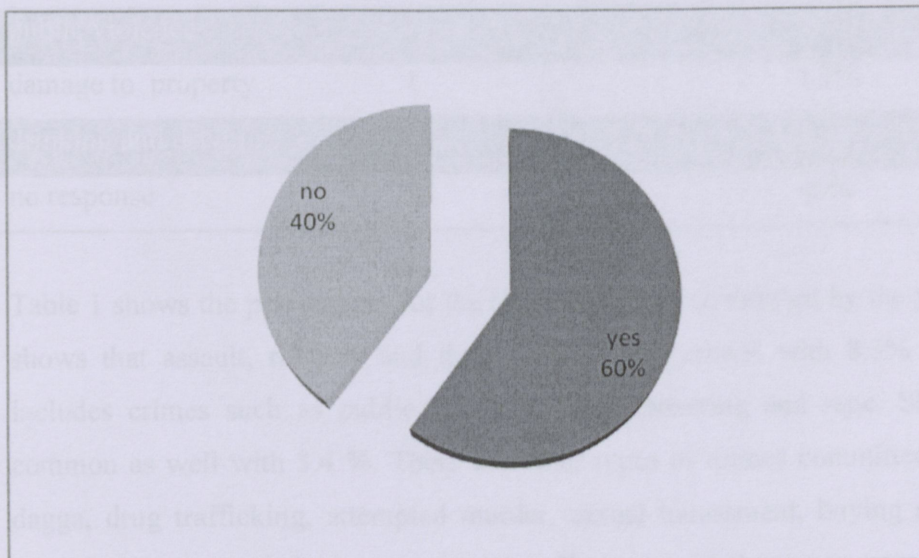


Figure 5 shows that 60% of the participants had experienced crime at some point in their lives, While 40% say they have never experienced crime in their lives.

**Table 1: Participants by Type of Crime Committed**

| Type of crime        | Response frequency | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Fraud                | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| Assault              | 5                  | 8.5%           |
| selling dagga        | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| public drinking      | 3                  | 5.1%           |
| shop lifting         | 2                  | 3.4%           |
| Robbery              | 5                  | 8.5%           |
| Theft                | 5                  | 8.5%           |
| drug trafficking     | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| attempted murder     | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| house breaking       | 3                  | 5.1%           |
| sexual harassment    | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| Rape                 | 3                  | 5.1%           |
| buying stolen goods  | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| car theft            | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| public violence      | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| damage to property   | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| drinking and driving | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| no response          | 23                 | 40%            |

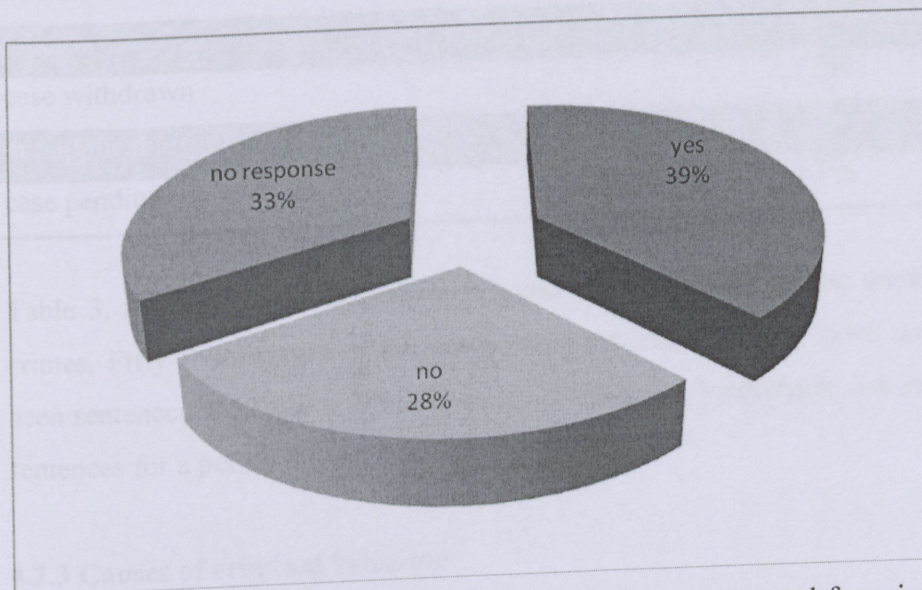
Table 1 shows the percentages for the types of crimes committed by the youth. The above table shows that assault, robbery and theft are common crimes with 8.5% each. However 5.1% includes crimes such as public drinking, house breaking and rape. Shoplifting seems to be common as well with 3.4 %. There are other types of crimes committed such as fraud, selling dagga, drug trafficking, attempted murder, sexual harassment, buying stolen goods, car theft, public violence, and damage to property. Each one of these was committed by 1.7% of the participants.

**Table 2:** Participants by the frequency of crime commission

| Frequency of crime commission | Response frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Once                          | 23                 | 39.7%          |
| Twice                         | 2                  | 3.4%           |
| more than five times          | 4                  | 6.9%           |
| I can't remember              | 3                  | 5.2%           |
| Other                         | 2                  | 3.4%           |
| no response                   | 24                 | 41.4%          |

Table 2 indicates the frequency or how often the participants committed crime. Thirty nine percent have committed crimes once in their lives, 6.9% have committed crime more than five times, 5.2% of the population cannot remember the number of times they have committed crime. The majority ( 41.4 %) of the population has never committed a crime.

**Figure 6:** Participants by whether they were arrested for the crime



Participants were expected to indicate if they were ever arrested for crime. Figure 6 shows that 39% of the participants have been arrested for the crimes they committed, whereas 28% said were not arrested for committing crimes.

**Table 3: Participants by sentence imposed**

| Sentence       | Response frequency | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| None           | 33                 | 55%            |
| R 1000 fine    | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| R100 fine      | 3                  | 5%             |
| No sentence    | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| 3 years        | 4                  | 6.7%           |
| 15 years       | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| 3 months       | 3                  | 5%             |
| 36 months      | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| 6 Months       | 3                  | 5%             |
| 9 months       | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| 2 months       | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| 5 years        | 2                  | 3.3%           |
| 4 years        | 2                  | 3.3%           |
| 48 hours       | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| 6 hours        | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| case withdrawn | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| not applicable | 1                  | 1.7%           |
| case pending   | 1                  | 1.7%           |

Table 3, shows that the majority of people who committed crime were not arrested for their crimes. Fifty five percent of the participants reported that they were not sentenced, 6.7% had been sentenced for 3 years, 5% were given R100 fines, 3 months or 6 months, and 3.3% received sentences for a period of 4 to 5 years.

#### 4.2.3 Causes of criminal behavior

These sections of the results consist of Table 4 that shows the responses that were given by participant regarding the causes of crime.

**Table 4:** Participants by cause of criminal behaviour

| Cause   | CD        | D         | N          | A          | CA         |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| criminal behaviour is caused by poverty                               | 3         | 5         | 10         | 15         | 27         |
| criminal behaviour is a result of unemployment                        | 2         | 5         | 11         | 21         | 21         |
| peer pressure causes people to commit crime                           | 0         | 3         | 9          | 34         | 14         |
| family problems can influence a person to engage in criminal behavior | 1         | 3         | 10         | 35         | 11         |
| media plays an important role in motivating criminal behavior         | 0         | 9         | 16         | 25         | 10         |
| abuse of substances can lead to criminal behaviour                    | 3         | 4         | 8          | 32         | 13         |
| psychological disorders lead a person to behave in a criminal way     | 1         | 6         | 16         | 32         | 5          |
| stress leads to criminal behavior                                     | 9         | 9         | 10         | 28         | 4          |
| criminal behaviour is inherited                                       | 24        | 13        | 10         | 8          | 6          |
| Personality determines criminal behavior                              | 5         | 12        | 17         | 21         | 5          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>48</b> | <b>69</b> | <b>117</b> | <b>251</b> | <b>116</b> |

Table 4 indicates that 42 % of the population agrees that crime is caused by poverty, 42% thinks it is caused by unemployment, 48% completely agree that the cause of crime is peer pressure, While 46% believes that family problems cause crime. The media and substance abuse are also seen as major causes, Psychological disorders, such as stress, are also seen as a causal factor. However, 37% do not agree that crime can be inherited.

#### 4.2.4 The effects of criminal behavior

The table below (Table 5) below presents finding about the effects of criminal behavior.

**Table 5:** Effects of Criminal Behaviour

| Effect  | CD | D | N  | A  | CA |
|---|----|---|----|----|----|
| criminal behaviour cause conflicts within the family  | 1  | 4 | 5  | 30 | 20 |
| criminal behaviour causes youth to drop out of school | 1  | 2 | 7  | 16 | 34 |
| involvement in crime may result in the death          | 0  | 2 | 9  | 13 | 36 |
| criminal behaviour affects relationships with peers   | 0  | 1 | 11 | 27 | 21 |
| an individual will be arrested after committing crime | 0  | 1 | 8  | 13 | 38 |

|  |          |           |            |            |            |
|--|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| having a criminal record will result in difficulty to get employment | 1        | 2         | 3          | 14         | 40         |
| engaging in criminal behaviour causes anxiety in the individual      | 1        | 1         | 9          | 32         | 17         |
| youth who commit crime live in fear                                  | 3        | 2         | 20         | 24         | 11         |
| criminals always feel guilty for their actions                       | 1        | 2         | 27         | 22         | 8          |
| communities are hostile toward youth who commit crimes               | 0        | 1         | 10         | 38         | 11         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>8</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>109</b> | <b>229</b> | <b>236</b> |

Table 5 shows the effects of crime, Fifty percent believe that criminal behaviour causes conflicts in the family, 49% agreed that death can result from crime, 54% say that it will be difficult to get employment with a criminal record, while 49% says crime affects the individual as he/she feels anxious all the time because of the community's hostility towards them.

#### 4.2.6 Suggested measures for crime prevention

This is the last section of the results, Table 6 shows the recommendations that were made by the participants on how criminal behavior can be reduced at Muledane village.

**Table 6:** Suggested measures for crime prevention

| Suggested measure                                  | Response frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| job creation                                       | 38                 | 21%            |
| building more schools                              | 4                  | 2.2%           |
| police visibility in the community                 | 6                  | 3.3%           |
| educate youth about crime                          | 13                 | 7.2%           |
| free education                                     | 11                 | 6.1%           |
| punishment must be strong                          | 14                 | 7.7%           |
| community patrol                                   | 13                 | 7.2%           |
| motivational speakers must come and speak to youth | 10                 | 5.5%           |
| sport and entertainment                            | 21                 | 11.6%          |
| youth must engage in community service             | 5                  | 2.8%           |
| taverns must close in time                         | 5                  | 2.8%           |
| no alcohol to under age                            | 2                  | 1.1%           |

|                                   |   |      |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|
| Rehabilitation                    | 3 | 1.7% |
| counselling                       | 3 | 1.7% |
| prevent alcohol and drug abuse    | 6 | 3.3% |
| hire more police                  | 2 | 1.1% |
| death penalty                     | 2 | 1.1% |
| creating tenders for youth        | 2 | 1.1% |
| Church                            | 7 | 3.9% |
| start own business                | 5 | 2.8% |
| cannot be prevented               | 4 | 2.2% |
| fund raising                      | 1 | 0.6% |
| changing television programmes    | 3 | 1.7% |
| security in the community         | 1 | 0.6% |
| arresting culprits                | 3 | 1.7% |
| people must hide their assets     | 1 | 0.6% |
| solve family problems             | 1 | 0.6% |
| peer pressure                     | 1 | 0.6% |
| avoid showing off property        | 1 | 0.6% |
| extra security                    | 1 | 0.6% |
| avoid strangers inside your home  | 1 | 0.6% |
| parents must guide their children | 1 | 0.6% |

Table 6 consists of measures that the participants proposed in order to solve the problem of criminal behaviour. Twenty one percent thought that job creation will solve the problem of crime, 11.6% suggested that there should be sports and entertainment, 7.7% felt that strong punishment for offenders is crucial to decrease crime, 7.2% suggested community patrol and educating the youth about crime, 6.1% suggested free education as a solution. About 5.5% of the population thought that motivational speakers will assist with crime, 3.9% said that the church can also help to reduce crime, and 3.3% talked about police visibility as another way of reducing crime.

### 4.3 Conclusion

The findings of the study show that the majority of the youth who participated in this study have experienced crime in their lives. Most participants have committed crimes once in their lives, whereas some of them reported that they had not committed any crime. The types of crimes that are commonly committed at Muledane are: assault, theft, robbery, public drinking, house breaking and rape. Thirty nine percent of the youth have been arrested for the crimes that they have committed, whereas 28 percent have not been arrested.

The study also shows that most did not receive serious sentences as the sentences ranged from 6 months to 4 years. Some of the youth reported that they were given fines for the crimes they had committed. The cause of crime seems to be poverty, unemployment and peer pressure. Many participants ruled out the argument that crime is inherited. The study found that the family is affected by criminal behaviour, and that the person who has committed a crime would also have difficulties getting a job because of the criminal record.

## CHAPTER 5

### DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings of the study that were presented in the previous chapter. The following topics from the previous chapter are discussed in detail: Participant's biographical information, the prevalence of youth criminal behaviour at Muledane village, types of crimes committed by the youth, the effects of criminal behaviour among the youth at Muledane village, measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour.

#### 5.2 Participant's biographical information

Crime is an activity that does not have an age limit or gender. The findings of this study show that crime is committed by both young males and females. Gender crime ratios (that is the proportions of men and women offenders) vary by offence. Statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice (2004) indicate that females commit fewer violent crimes than males (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007).

It is clear that there are substantial differences between the sexes for both blacks and whites in the incidence and prevalence of crime. Sixty participants took part in this study, of whom 73% were males and 27% were females. This indicates that the young males at Muledane commit crime more and they know more about criminal behaviour as compared to the females. This could be due to the fact that male youth at Muledane village are the ones that are commonly involved in criminal activities. All participants in the study were Tshivenda speaking. However, they also understood English. The participants in the study were aged between 10 and 35 years, however many respondents were aged between 21 and 30 years.

### 5.3 The prevalence of youth criminal behaviour at Muledane village

The first objective of the study was to find out about the prevalence of youth criminal behavior the Muledane village. The second and third sections of the self administered questionnaire asked questions in relation to the participants experience with crime in order to establish how frequent crime is at Muledane village. The findings of the study show that the respondents who participated in this study were exposed to crime at least once in their lives. It is also evident from this study that the majority of youth at Muledane have participated in crime at least once in their lives. Sixty percent of the participants reported that they had experienced crime at some point in their lives. The participants were asked whether they had ever committed crime. The findings show that the majority (53%) of the participants have engaged themselves in some criminal activities, while 47% of the participants have never committed crime. These figures indicate that there is a high rate of crime in Muledane village since more youth have been involved in crime.

When asked to indicate whether or not they had been victims of crime, 53% of the participants reported that they had been victims of crime, whereas 47% of participants reported that they had never been victims of crime. This could be due to the fact that these youth do not commit crimes in Muledane only, but they also target other communities nearby. This will then explain why 47% reported that they had never being victimised by criminals in their community of Muledane.

According to Mooney *et al* (2007), the highest arrest rates are for individuals under the age of 25 years. This study provides evidence that there is a high rate of youth crime incidents at Muledane village. The findings indicate that 39.7% of the youth at Muledane have committed crime once in their lives. While 6.9% of the youth have committed crime more than five times, this indicates that youth are involved in crime.

There is no doubt that there is a high prevalence of crime in Muledane even though 41.4 % of the population did not comment on the question of how many times they had committed crime. The figures show that the majority of youth at Muledane have committed crimes at least once in

their lives, supporting the argument that more youth have committed crime. In general, criminal activity is more prevalent among younger people.

#### 5.4 Types of crimes committed by the youth

Participants were asked to indicate the types of crime that they have committed and the most mentioned type of crime was robbery. This study indicates that robbery is the most common type of crime found at Muledane village. Robbery is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear (Siegel, 2004). Evidence shows that robbery is very common at Muledane village since 8.5% of the participants reported that they had robbed people within the community; and community members have also complained of being robbed of their belongings.

The other type of crime that is serious in Muledane is theft. The findings from the study indicate that the participants perceived theft to be as common as robbery at Muledane. Theft is defined as the unlawful taking of property without the use of force, violence or fraud. This includes shoplifting, pick-pocketing and purse-snatching (Feldman, 1993). The youth at Muledane are highly involved in theft, as 8.5% reported that they have participated in theft. Shoplifting seems to be common as well. Some of the youth reported that they also shoplifted at the local supermarkets and, sometimes, in Thohoyandou town, which is nearby.

Assault refers to the unlawful intentional infliction of serious bodily injury or unlawful threat or attempt to inflict bodily injury or death by means of a deadly or dangerous weapon with or without actual infliction of injury (Hagan, 2002). Assault is a common crime in Muledane since to commit robbery and theft, criminals inflict injury on their victims. Since theft is not associated with violence or force, assault will be used during robberies in order to scare the victims so that they do not resist the robbery and because sometimes the victims may try to fight back so that they can avoid the robbery. Criminals consider the possibility that the victims could carry a weapon and use it, the risk of being shot or injured by the victim is given serious consideration (Davis, 2002), and it is for this reason that the criminals will assault their victims.

In addition to robbery, theft and assault, public drinking, house breaking and rape were also evident amongst the participants in Muledane village. There were other types of crimes committed by 1.7% of the participants, These include fraud, selling dagga, drug trafficking, attempted murder, sexual harassment, buying stolen goods, car theft, public violence, and damage to property, however the findings clearly indicates that robbery, theft and assault are the most serious of them all. These types of crime of crimes are committed at a lower rate in Muledane as compared to robbery and theft. In a study conducted by Davis (2002), criminals reported that various factors are considered before committing a crime, like the place, the time, roles allocated, accomplices (e.g. driver), and a buyer of the stolen goods. These factors also play a role and explain why some of the types of crime are not common at Muledane. The most common types of crimes that are committed by the youth at Muledane are robbery, theft and assault because the youth know that they will benefit immediately after stealing from their victims.

## **5.5 The causes of criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village**

This study revealed that there are different causes of crime. In this section, such causes are discussed separately and supported by literature.

### **5.5.1 Poverty**

According to Holtmann and Du Plessiss (2004), there is undoubtedly a significant link between poverty and crime since research suggests that poverty increases vulnerability to crime, and the impact of crime on victims who often have less access to support and assistance.

Evidence concerning the relationship between poverty and crime connection in developing countries is still relatively sparse due to lack of available crime data (Fajnzylber, Lederman & Loayza, 2000). The preset study supports these findings because in this study, 42 % of the participants thought that crime was caused by poverty since some of these youth find themselves in a situation where they have no clothes to wear and no food to eat, leading them to engage in criminal activities in order for them and ,sometimes their families, to survive. Poverty is a

serious contributor to youth criminality at Muledane as some of them indicated that they will do whatever it takes to make ends meet, Hargovan (2013) stated that the long and deep poverty in which many children grow up is part of a range of contextual drivers to anti-social and violent conduct in young people.

#### 5.5.4 Family problems

### 5.5.2 Unemployment

When asked to indicate what the negative family members caused apart as crime, 42% of the According to Baron (2008), unemployment is conditioned by external casual attributions that lead to anger over unemployment, which, in turn, leads to crime. The direct effect of unemployment on crime is moderated by monetary dissatisfaction and minimal employment searches. Anger over unemployment is also the result of negative subjective interpretations of economic situations and a continued attachment to the labour market. In this study, 42% of the participants think that crime is caused by unemployment. Many believe that joblessness is the key determinant of crime, and have sought to establish a significant crime-unemployment trade-off. The participants reported that being unemployed or jobless will motivate an individual to participate in crime, in order to have money. It is evident from the study that unemployment and poverty are serious causes of youth criminal behaviour at Muledane.

Unemployment is one of the causes of criminal behaviour among the youth at Muledane. This is due to the fact that there is a high rate of unemployment in South Africa. Some of the youth are not educated and some do not bother to look for employment because they prefer the quick reward that they will get after they have robbed someone.

### 5.5.3 Peer pressure

Peers can influence one another to do good or bad things. This study shows that 48% of the participants believe that the cause of crime is peer pressure. The youth interact with one another regularly. Those youth who associate themselves with peers who are involved in crime will also be taught how to commit different types of crime, in order to fit into the group or to be accepted. Peer pressure does play a big role in influencing the youth at Muledane to participate in crime. This finding is in accordance with Siegel's (2004) comment that adolescents are exposed to

powerful influences from their peers. They feel persistent pressure to conform to group values. When the individual is among friends who share negative influences, he can find himself taking part in adolescent criminal activity initiated by the group.

#### 5.5.4 Family problems

When asked to indicate whether negative family relations played a part in crime, 46% of the participants indicated that family problems can influence the youth to commit crime. This finding supports Hagan's (2002) argument that children exposed to severe, perhaps even violent conflict between adults in their homes, often vent their anger, confusion, and frustration in delinquent behaviour. Youth who grew up in family environments where there is no supervision or guidance will often find guidance from their peers who will initiate them into criminal behaviour. Lack of discipline will make the youth commit crime without fear of being punished by parents or any other family member. This also applies to some of the youth at Muledane who grow up in households characterised by conflict and tension, where the parents are absent or separated, or where there is lack of familial love and support, they become susceptible to the crime-promoting forces in the environment. The lack of supervision, fair discipline, care and support in the aftermath of divorce may expose some children to the negative effects of antisocial peers. This may result in criminal behaviour (Siegel, 2004). The finding from the study support that family problems especially the absence of parents who can guide the youth will lead most of the young people at Muledane vulnerable to being initiated into crime by others.

#### 5.5.5 Media

The media according to the findings from the study is also seen as major cause of criminal behaviour among the youth. In this study, only 35% of the participants indicated that the media plays an important role in motivating criminal behaviour, they believed that crime can be influenced by exposure to acts of criminal behaviour in the media especially the television. Laboratory experimental studies show that there is a connection between media violence and aggressive behaviour. According to the precipitation hypothesis, exposure to media violence,

fact or fiction in comic books, music, newspapers, magazines and movies, produces greater propensities to aggression and violence (Hagan, 2002). It is evident that the media does play a role in influencing criminal behaviour amongst the youth at Muledane because the youth are the ones who use the media more than adults. The youth love television which exposes them to different types of criminal acts in movies, advertisements and music. The youth often practice the criminal acts that they have observed in the media because they are always exposed to criminal behaviour.

### 5.5.6 Antisocial behaviour

More recent studies have indicated a genetic predisposition for many disorders and antisocial behaviour, including aggression and violence. Many studies have linked cortisol to antisocial behaviour. We might, therefore, expect to see reduced levels of cortisol in antisocial people (Anderson, 2007). Cortisol is involved in autonomic arousal, which means that those who are low in cortisol do not fear punishment unless it is immediate, and because of this, they may commit crimes (Anderson, 2007). In terms of whether there is a genetic predisposition to crimes the participants had different views. However, 37% of the participants agreed that there are psychological influences to whether a person will commit a crime or not. This shows that antisocial behaviour is not considered to be the major cause of criminal behaviour among the youth at Muledane. Few participants indicated that there might be a genetic influence in criminal behaviour but of all the causes of crime discussed in this chapter, the findings show that the major causes of crime at Muledane are Poverty, unemployment, family problems and peer pressure.

### 5.6 The effects of criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village

The study revealed that there are a number of ways in which crime affects the community as a whole including the perpetrators. In this section such effects are discussed separately.

### 5.6.1 Family conflicts

It was evident in this study that crime can directly cause conflicts in the family since some of the family members do not agree with what the person is doing. Fifty percent of the participants agreed that family conflicts can be caused by the criminal behaviour of one of their members especially the youth. Some of the youth go to the extent of stealing from their family members and this leads to conflicts in the family. Youth criminal behaviour has a negative impact on relationship between the youth and other family members, especially the parents because they may blame themselves or one another for the youth actions and may feel that they have failed to be good parents. In a study by Hargovan (2013), twenty two out of forty-two children that were studied in relation to a diversion programme to determine the reasons for youth offending behaviour reported that they wanted to change either themselves and their behaviour or their relationships with their families and friends. Many children wanted to be 'a better person' and make their families proud. The family will also be in conflict with other families in the community as a result of having a youth who is a criminal.

### 5.6.2 Death

Crime can also lead to the death of either a victim or a perpetrator. That is because if the criminal activity that is being carried out does not go according to plan and the criminals are caught, sometimes they can be killed in the act. As a result, community and family members can suffer trauma. As it is the case with many villages, the death of a community member calls for financial contribution; this might be a challenge for some of the households. In a study conducted by Davies (2002) 83% of vehicle hijackers reported that they considered the possibility of dying during a hijacking and that death is regarded as part of the risk that is associated with this illegal action. Families have different expectations of their children, and these can be shattered by death of a child who is involved in criminal activities. In some cases poor families might be anticipating an improvement in their situation through the child's focus on education and employment. The death of a young person is unacceptable because much is still expected from them. This is the reason why the family of a young person who dies at a

young age will be greatly affected, especially if the young person died in the act of committing a crime.

### 5.6.3 Difficulties in getting employment

The findings show that majority of the youth (54%) who participated in the study indicated that it will be difficult to get employment with a criminal record. This will negatively affect the youth as no one wants to hire an ex-convict to work for him/her. The youth who involve themselves in crime are known in the community, and for this reason, potential employers within the community will not consider employing them since it will be difficult to trust them. Once a person is arrested for committing a crime it becomes public knowledge why they were arrested even after they are released from jail community members will not be comfortable around them or to employ them especially at their homes. One would not be sure whether the individual behaviour would change. The fact that 54% of the participants are aware of the fact that having a criminal record can disadvantage a person who is looking for employment shows that difficulty in getting employment seriously affects the youth at Muledane who have committed crime.

### 5.6.4 Persisting anxiety

It is evident in this study that crime affects individual as they feel anxious all the time because the community tends to be hostile towards them. The youth who are known for committing crimes in the community will not be accepted by members of the community who are afraid that the criminal might victimise them. Criminals are not free when they are in their communities because community members are hostile towards them. They are also rejected rejection by other community members, and they will not accept them or help them if they need help. The community member are also not comfortable when they are around the youth who is involved with crime.

## 5.7 Measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour

Based on the findings that criminal behaviour is a result of many factors, it is evident that there should be measures to be adopted to prevent the occurrence of crime in the area. In this section, such possible preventive measures are addressed.

### 5.7.1 Job creation

The majority of participants indicated that unemployment is a major cause of crime. As a result, they advised that jobs be created to reduce crime. It appears from the findings that job creation will contribute to reducing crime since some of the participants highlighted that unemployment is another cause of criminal behaviour among youth in Muledane village. Literature shows that job creation serves as a solution to the problem of increasing rates of crime. If more jobs are created for the youth, they will not engage in crime, instead they will provide for their families or meet their needs.

### 5.7.2 Sports and entertainment areas

It is also evident from the findings that sports and entertainment can contribute towards the reduction of crime in the area. This is in line with Mooney, Knox and Schacht (2007) who suggest that crime prevention strategies should include youth programmes such as boys and girls clubs, designed to keep young people 'off the streets'. These provide a safe and supportive environment, and offer activities that promote skill development and self-esteem. The youth should be more involved in sporting activities. There is need for an increase in entertainment areas in and around Muledane village, in order to provide youth with a number of alternative ways of entertaining themselves, thus, helping them to abstain from crime.

### 5.7.3 Punishment

The study also found that strong punishments for offenders are crucial to decrease crime because if the punishment that is given to offenders is harsh, they will not repeat the criminal act again. Strong punishments will also serve as a warning to other criminals that they should stop what

they are doing. If the youth who commit crime are not punished, others will follow into their footsteps because they will see that nothing is being done to people who commit crime. Strong punishments can be used to send a strong message to other youth that there are negative consequences if one involves himself/herself in crime.

#### **5.7.4 Community control**

In most communities, men patrol the streets in high crime areas of the city during weekend nights. Seven comma two percent of the participants in this study recommended that there should be community patrolling, in order to reduce crime. Members of the community should also report crime and drug sales to the police to make them aware of areas that they should give special attention (Mooney, Knox & Schacht, 2007). The residents at Muledane must take control of their community by patrolling the streets, and by alerting the local police of any criminal activities taking place in the community.

#### **5.7.5 Crime education and motivational talks**

It appears in this study that education on crime and motivational talks in churches and in the community will help in crime reduction. The youth need to be made aware of the consequences of involving themselves in crime, such as being arrested, being injured or killed while committing crimes and the fact that they will face many challenges in life such as not getting a job if they have a criminal record. Motivational talk to motivate youth to focus on their education rather than crime are necessary to reduce the crime levels at Muledane village.

#### **5.7.6 Free education**

The findings show that 6.1% of the participants believe that free education is a solution to crime because if all the youth are at school, they will not have a chance to engage in crime. If the youth are educated then they raise their chances of getting jobs, and this will reduce crime because they will be working and not stealing. If the youth are educated, then they can have higher chances of getting jobs. This will reduce crime because they will be working and not stealing. The South

African government must ensure that all schools are free and that bursaries are available at tertiary institutions for students who cannot afford the funds that are needed to further their studies.

### 5.7.7 Police records and visibility

The study found out that police visibility is vital in reducing criminal behaviour. This shows that the community has confidence in police visibility as a way of reducing criminal behaviour in the area. According to Wilson (1995), police should, depending on their resources, engage in directed, not random patrol to reduce the opportunity for criminals to victimise others. Rather than patrolling the streets, police should also direct their surveillance on known criminals so that they can determine if they are planning to commit other crimes again. The study shows that 3.3% of the participants want police visibility as another way of reducing crime.

### 5.7.8 Personal security

According to Muncie (2009), personal security could be improved by a vast array of risk avoidance measures. People should avoid behaviour or actions that will make them vulnerable to being victims of crime. A few participants (0.6%) suggested that people should avoid showing off their property, and that they must not let strangers inside their houses, in order to avoid being robbed. It is evident from this study that the residents at Muledane do not believe in providing personal security. This is due to the fact that burglaries are taking place even when they have locked their houses. A small percentage believes in personal security. This shows that residents at Muledane need to be educated on personal security.

The overall findings in relation to the measures that can be adopted to reduce crime indicate that participants felt that the provision of free education will reduce criminal activities by the youth at Muledane because some involve themselves in crime because they are not educated and as a result it becomes a challenge for them to get employment, the participant also felt that job creation is necessary so that the youth work for the money instead of stealing. If the youth are recreated and involved in sports they will be occupied and safe from being lured into joining

groups that are involved in crime. The participants indicated that crime education to the youth and motivational talks will bring awareness to the youth about the consequences of getting involved in crime. If a long prison sentence is imposed as punishment after the youth have committed crime, it will send a strong message to other youth that crime does not pay and the perpetrator will have more time be correction in jail. Few participants (0.6 %) felt that personal security was necessary to avoid putting the victims at risk, however police visibility in the community is seen as being more important in the reduction of crime.

describe the causes of criminal behaviour among youth in Malwedane village community and describe the effects of criminal behaviour on victims in Malwedane village and to recommend measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour among youth in Malwedane village during the study.

### 6.1.1 Prevalence of youth criminal behaviour

The study concludes that the youth in Malwedane village community is involved in crime which supports the hypothesis that there is a high prevalence of criminal behaviour among the youth in Malwedane village. This is because 85% of the participants had committed one or more types of criminal crime before.

### 6.1.2 Types of crime committed by the youth

After conducting this study, it is clear that the types of crimes that are commonly committed by the youth in Malwedane village include robbery such as pickpocketing and mugging, theft in the form of shoplifting and pick-pocketing, drug smuggling, and assault.

### 6.1.3 The causes of criminal behaviour among youth in Malwedane village

This study also proved that a number of factors are responsible for this kind of behaviour. Such factors include poverty, unemployment, and peer pressure. This is in line with the hypothesis that biological, psychological, social and economic factors have a causal effect on criminal

## CHAPTER 6

# CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Conclusion

The conclusion of the study is based on the objectives of the study. The objectives of the study were to identify the prevalence of youth criminal behaviour at Muledane village; to identify and describe the causes of criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village; to identify and describe the effects of criminal behaviour on youth at Muledane village; and to recommend measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behavior. All of these objectives were met during the study.

#### 6.1.1 Prevalence of youth criminal behaviour

The study concludes that the youth at Muledane are involved in criminal behaviour which supports the hypothesis that there is a high prevalence of criminal behaviour among the youth at Muledane village. This is because 60% of the participants indicated that they have experienced crime before.

#### 6.1.2 Types of crime committed by the youth

After conducting this study, it is clear that the types of crimes that are commonly committed by the youth at Muledane include robbery such as breaking into houses and stealing valuables, theft in the form of shoplifting and pick- pocketing, purse snatching, and assault.

#### 6.1.3 The causes of criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village

This study also proved that a number of factors are responsible for this kind of behaviour. Such factors include poverty, unemployment, and peer pressure. This is in line with the hypothesis that biological, psychological, social and economic factors have a causal effect on criminal

behaviour. The study shows that family problems can also be a major cause of crime, as youth can turn to criminal activities to deal with challenges that are faced at home

#### **6.1.4 The effects of criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village**

After undertaking this study, it was found that criminal behaviour has negative effects on society. Fifty percent believe that criminal behaviour causes conflicts in the family, 49% agreed that death can result from crime, 54% reported that it will be difficult to get employment with a criminal record, and 49% say crime affects the individual as they feel anxious all the time since the community tends to be hostile towards them.

#### **6.1.5 Measures that can be adopted to prevent criminal behaviour**

The following measures can be used to prevent youth from involving themselves in crime: Job creation, sports and entertainment areas, punishment, community control, crime education and motivational talks, free education, Police records and police visibility, as well as personal security.

### **6.2 Limitations of the study**

According to Fouché (2005), although problems are never completely eliminated from any study in the caring professions, various means of limiting problems must be spelt out. This study employed a quantitative approach in which a questionnaire was used to gather information from the participants. However, more information would have been gathered if an interview had been conducted with the participants, to get them to talk about their views of the causes of crime and why they engage in crime. Some participants did not want to be seen with the researcher, for fear of being investigated or victimised by other community members for participating in the study. Some of the participants felt that only criminals are supposed to be part of the study and if they took part in the study, they would be labeled as criminals in Muledane.

Since some of the participants did not feel comfortable to participate in the study, it was challenging to convince them to participate and to assure them of confidentiality of the information they would give. The researcher was able to convince the youth to participate and to make them feel free to complete the questionnaire.

The population in this study comprised female and male youth. Some of them felt that they should be paid for completing the questionnaire but the researcher explained that there would be payments, and that the study would benefit them and the whole community. The study was limited to the youth at Muledane, but some adults within the community felt that they should have been involved since they also have knowledge concerning crime in the area.

The other limitation of this study was the fact that the study focused on criminal behaviour of youth in Muledane village only, and because of this the findings cannot be generalised to other surrounding in the Thohoyandou town.

## 6.3 Recommendations

### 6.3.1 Police visibility and Community patrols

Based on the findings of the study, police visibility was recommended by participants as a way of reducing crime. The South African government's concern about the crime challenge is reflected in the substantial increases in budget of the SAPS and numbers of police officials that have been recruited (Burger, Gould, & Newman, 2010). It is recommended that the community and the police should work together, in order to reduce crime. Police visibility is of high importance, especially in areas that are high in crime. This is in line with the study about planning a vehicle hijacking, conducted by Davis (2002), wherein car hijackers indicated that it was impossible to hijack cars if the police were around or patrolling the streets. Although there are police patrols, the researcher also recommends that the community should also do its part in patrolling the streets during the night, in order to stop criminal activities from taking place. This is because most of the criminal activities occur during the night. The community of Muledane must work hand in hand with the police by reporting crime and informing the police of criminal activities that are taking place within the village.

### 6.3.2 Job creation and Free Education

Due to the fact that unemployment was found to be another cause of criminal behaviour at Muledane, it is recommended that new jobs be created by the government for unemployed youth in the area, in order to reduce criminal activities. The participants indicated that job creation will solve the problem of crime because they believed that most youth commit crime because they are unemployed. The provision of jobs will help in the reduction of crime especially for the youth who commit crime in order to make ends meet. Youth can also create their own jobs by finding the different kinds of work that they can do for other people within the community and by starting their own project however, this can be achieved by providing free education to all the youth. Globally low education levels are associated with high levels of crime (Naudé, 2000), so providing free education will ensure that the youth have better chances of getting employment.

### 6.3.3 Sports and recreation

It is recommended that there should be more sporting activities within the community, in order to keep the youth busy. Recreational activities should also be made available in the community so that the youth can spend their time engaging themselves in these activities instead of becoming part or members of gangs or criminals. It is therefore recommended that more recreational facilities and sporting grounds must be made available to the youth at Muledane.

### 6.3.4 Punishment

It is recommended that if the youth cannot be prevented from engaging in criminal activities through relevant programs including sports and recreation then they must be arrested and their punishment should be harsh. Harsh punishments or sentences should be considered for the corrective purposes so that they do not repeat the crimes they have committed. Seven comma seven percent of the participants felt that harsh punishment for offenders is crucial to decrease crime. Harsh punishments might serve as a warning to other youth that if they commit crimes, they will suffer the same consequences. It is recommended that long jail sentences be imposed

for those who commit crime no matter how small the crime may seem so that other youth will not consider committing crime.

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## APPENDIX A

Data collection instrument.

### 1. Biographical Data

Please fill in the information below

|           |             |                          |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Age    | 10-15 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|           | 16-20 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|           | 21-30 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|           | 31-35 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Gender | Male        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|           | Female      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### 2. Personal experience with crime (Please select your answer by marking the relevant box with an x)

|  |     |                          |
|--|-----|--------------------------|
| 1. Have you ever committed crime?        | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | No  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Have you ever been a victim of crime? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | No  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3= Completely agree

3. Have you ever experienced any types of crime? Yes

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

No

4. If yes, what kind of crime? Please specify

-----

-----

5. How often did you commit the crime?

- 1. Once
- 2. Twice
- 3. More than five times
- 4. I can't remember
- 5. Other. \_\_\_\_\_

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

6. Were you arrested for that crime?

Yes

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

No

7. If arrested how long was the sentence?-----

### 3. Causes of criminal behaviours

Encircle the number that reflects your opinion most accurately.

1= Completely disagree

2= Disagree

3=Neutral

4=Agree

5= Completely agree

|  | Completely disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Completely agree |
|--|---------------------|----------|---------|-------|------------------|
| Criminal behaviour is caused by poverty.   | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Criminal behaviour is a result of unemployment.  | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Peer pressure causes people to commit criminal behaviours.   | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Family problems can influence a person to engage in criminal behaviours.                           | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| The media plays an important role in motivating criminal behaviours.                               | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| The abuse of substances can lead to criminal behaviours.   | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Psychological disorders lead a person to behave in a criminal way.                                 | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Stress leads to criminal behaviours.   | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Criminal behaviours is inherited.  | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| The personality of a person determines whether they will engage themselves in criminal behaviours. | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |

#### 4. The effects of criminal behaviours

The youth who commit crime live in

Encircle the number that most accurately reflects your opinion.

1= completely disagree

2= Disagree

3=Neutral

4=Agree

5= Completely agree

|   | Completely disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Completely agree |
|---|---------------------|----------|---------|-------|------------------|
| Criminal behaviours cause conflicts within the family.                | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Criminal behaviours causes youth to drop out of school.               | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Involvement in crime may result in the death of the youth.            | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Criminal behaviours affects the youth's relationship with peers.      | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| An individual will be arrested after committing crime                 | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Having a criminal record will result in difficulty to get employment. | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |
| Engaging in criminal behaviours causes anxiety in the individual.     | 1                   | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5                |

The youth who commit crime live in fear.      1      2      3      4      5

Criminals always feel guilty for their actions.      1      2      3      4      5

The community becomes hostile towards youth who commit crimes.      1      2      3      4      5

**5. Recommendations on measures to prevent criminal behaviours.**

In the space provided below, please suggest measures that can be taken to prevent criminal behaviours.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX B

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### Information leaflet

5.

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This is a study about criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village. It seeks to identify prevalence, causes and effects of criminal behaviour amongst these youth.

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This study aims to investigate what causes people to commit crime, particularly the youth in Muledane. The study will also look at the effects of criminal behaviour. The findings of the study will be used for the benefit of the people around the Muledane area as well as surrounding areas.

If you decide to participate in this study, your participation will be kept confidential, and private. However, the findings of this study will be made available to the public to read but your name will not be mentioned.

If you decide to participate in this study, it should be voluntary. You are free to withdraw your consent at anytime without fear of victimisation.

## APPENDIX B

### Information leaflet

This is a study about criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village. It seeks to identify prevalence, causes and effects of criminal behaviour amongst these youth.

This study aims to investigate what causes people to commit crime, particularly the youth at Muledane. The main reason is to reduce the criminal behaviour of the people around Muledane by focusing on criminal offences that are committed by young people residing at this village. The study will also look at the effects of criminal behaviour. The findings of the study will be used for the benefit of the people around the Muledane area as well as surrounding areas.

If you decide to participate in this study, your participation will be kept confidential, and private. However, the findings of this study will be made available to the public to read but your names will not be mentioned.

If you decide to participate in this study, it should be voluntary. You are free to withdraw your consent at anytime without fear of victimization.

Name of interviewer .....

Signature of interviewer .....

Date .....

## APPENDIX C

### Consent form

I will require you to show your consent by writing your name and signing in the spaces provided below:

I ..... certify that I have been fully informed of the study and its purpose and fully understand. Furthermore, any questions I had, have been answered. I give my consent and agree to participate in this study entitled *Criminal behaviour among youth at Muledane village: Identification of prevalence causes and effects* and I have been given a copy of this consent form and information sheet.

Name of participant..... Witness.....

Signature of Participant..... Witness.....

Name of interviewer.....

Signature of interviewer .....

Date.....