

CRIME IN THIKA
1968-1977

By

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ABSTRACT

Despite the paucity of data available regarding crime rates in developing countries, and the variations in the adequacy of the statistics, one finds that the generalization that criminality is rapidly increasing in developing countries can be substantiated. And Kenya, as a developing country, seems to adhere to this pattern. Studies of crime in Kenya are therefore needed if one is to try to prevent an escalation of criminal activity as Kenya continues to develop economically. The author chose to study crime in Thika since Thika is a growth centre and as such has expanded at a considerable rate in the last ten years, and the population growth is expected to continue in this direction - at around 11.1% per year.

This study gives the results of a questionnaire applied to 150 Thika residents, and findings from the police summaries for 1968-1977; in addition data gathered from the police registers for this period is analysed. Major hypotheses which were tested were:

- (1) Men have committed relatively more crimes than women;
- (2) The majority of crimes are committed by persons between the ages 20-35 years.

Testing of the hypotheses indicated that most crimes in Thika are committed by men aged 20-35 years.

The author found that the research could have been carried out more effectively if those recording the details of the accused person in the police registers could be more accurate in their descriptions of age, place of residence and occupation of the accused person.

The major recommendations the author wishes to make involve the design of houses; the patrolling of certain areas at night by police; increased co-operation amongst members of a community as a result of improved social facilities. Finally the author feels that a possible long term solution to Thika's criminal activity is to encourage the development of the informal sector.

CHAPTER ONE

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND NATURE OF THE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Thika's population rose from 13,952 in 1962 to 18,387 in 1969 - indicating an annual growth rate of 4.00%. Since it is expected that the population will continue to expand at least at this rate one can expect that there will also be an increase in certain aspects of urban life in Thika, for example, unemployment; insufficient housing facilities - which may lead to bad sanitary conditions, inadequate provision of schools; and a rise in the crime rate.

In Nairobi in particular, such conditions prevail in certain areas, and in Mombasa too. Whilst Thika's population constitutes only 0.17% of the nation's population (1969) compared to Nairobi's 4.75% and Mombasa's 2.26%, it is important to realize that Thika is a fast-growing community - and it is better to anticipate the problems arising from growth and deal with them, rather than let the situation escalate out of control.

One of the problems arising from the fact that Nairobi's population is constantly increasing, is the ever-present criminal activity which pervades all walks of life - whether it is the robbing of a bank, the

stealing of a watch by a pickpocket, the assault of a young woman or the so-called deviant behaviour of the parking boys. Crime thus has many facets in Nairobi as it has in most urban areas of the world. Indeed a large number of these facts go undiscovered. In some cases crimes are simply never discovered or kept 'dark' by the victim himself as in cases of rape. These are referred to as the dark figures of crime by Radzinowicz. Other cases of dark crimes occur when crimes are known to have been committed but because of corruption the criminal is never arrested. According to Radzinowicz the dark figure of crime is expanding - so one might ask oneself "why conduct research on a subject where all the facts and variables are never really known?" "Surely such research is not really empirical?" However if everyone adopted this attitude no scientific discoveries would ever take place. One has always to work with hypotheses - the important thing is to be aware that there is a dark figure in criminal statistics. We base our deductions on what we know and thus hope by so doing that we can learn more about what we don't know.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The research will be concerned with four main areas of study :

- (1) Has there been a relative increase in the crime rate in Thika during the period 1968-1977?

- (2) If there has been some kind of escalation in the crime rate, which types of crimes predominate?
- (3) Where are the crimes committed, and which areas do the accused persons come from?
- (4) What are the factors which influence the crime rate in Thika?

It is proposed that a study covering a ten year period be carried out in order to identify new trends in crime and attempt to analyse the reasons for the changes, for example, unemployment, the process of industrialization, the process of urbanization, inadequate housing facilities (leading to conditions physically and psychologically conducive to crime), insufficient recreation facilities (leading to crimes committed by youths - delinquent type and vandalism), or the impact of Nairobi and neighbouring towns on life in Thika (the influx of "modern" values and attitudes).

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The author feels that such research is essential to Kenya's future development since Thika is a growth centre and what occurs there may be seen later in other growthcentres.

As Thika grows industrially one expects an increase in the size of the population - what one hopes to curb is an escalation in the crime rate as new people come to the town. Crime may be seen as a negative step in the development of a town. It not only affects companies and wealthy individuals (who may be the victims of breakings and theft by servant) - but also wananchi who may be physically assaulted or robbed of the few possessions they have. This study is only a small facet of the topic of criminology - ideally one should isolate the factors which together influence people in Thika to act in a manner defined by the law as 'criminal'. The research carried out in this study is not designed to achieve this end since time and finances were limited. What the study sets out to do is to isolate age, sex and residential characteristics of the accused persons as well as establishing the area where the crime was committed and the time at which it occurred. But mention will be made of those social psychological characteristics which may influence an individual's behaviour in an urban area such as Thika.

As a necessary part of this study a section will be included giving a brief outline of the history and geography of Thika. Such an outline is essential if one is to have a full understanding of current influences and trends in Thika.

The author feels that research in Thika is really a necessity - research done in Thika now might enable town planners to anticipate problems before they arise in other urban areas which use Thika as their model.

THEORY, LITERATURE REVIEW AND
CONCEPT DEFINITIONS

While examining the crime rate in Thika one will be attempting to identify certain variables - factors which influence the crime rate to some degree; and, having identified these variables one will necessarily search for some way of relating them to the crime figures.

Those variables which singly, or en masse, may affect the crime rate in Thika, will therefore be examined in this section.

Crime in the city or town may be affected by a number of factors, some of the most important being those social psychological influences which affect the individual as is outlined in the works of Wirth, Cooley, Spencer, Riesman, Durkheim, Toennies, Weber, Sjoberg, Redfield and others.

Cooley expressed the change from rural to urban environment as being a transition from the primary to the secondary group. Spencer saw the movement as one from homogeneous to heterogeneous units, while Durkheim looked upon it as a change from mechanical to organic solidarity. Toennies expressed the change in terms of Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft, that is, community and society. Redfield refers to the situations as 'folk society' and 'urban society'. Weber viewed the change

from traditional authority to legal rational authority.
(Bell, Wendell and Boat, 1957).

Wirth sees urban life as constituting:

"the substitution of secondary for primary contacts, the weakening of bonds of kinship, and the declining social significance of the family, the disappearance of the neighbourhood, and the undermining of the traditional basis of social solidarity".

(Bell, Wendell and Boat, 1957, p. 391)

One might refer to Wirth's description of urban life as being descriptive of the "modern" way of life. What then is the so-called "traditional" way of life? What are its characteristics? And how does it contrast with the "modern" way of life?

The traditional outlook on life was said to be characterised by communalism; a simple life structure; a lack of distinct differentials in wealth; and informal social control. Communalism was really an informal system of income redistribution whereby all those in need were provided for since those who had, gave to those who had not. It often alleviated deprivation and tied a strong bond between all members of a community. The simple life style prevalent in traditional society reflects the situation which to some extent exists today in unindustrialised rural areas - there was a lack of opportunity to commit certain crimes (theft, for

example), since there were few things worth stealing apart from cattle and other stock, which were owned in varying numbers by most of the population in the community.

Related to the concept of the simple life style is the fact that there was little desire to steal since people in the traditional community had a fairly equal share in the resources available. There were in fact only small imbalances of income, unlike urban life where individuals may interact who are living in extremes of poverty and wealth, thus making the individual who has little money or possessions resent the other (because of his wealth and status), and desire his possessions.

In traditional society there existed (and to some extent still exists) a number of informal social controls designed to curb deviancy. Anyone who did not conform to the values and norms of traditional life was ostracized.

In describing the traditional way of life one has at the same time touched on certain aspects of urban life - since to a certain degree they are the opposite of this traditional life. Thika however may not be classified as a fully industrial-urban community since many of the characteristics of traditional life prevail. Indeed one can identify certain characteristics in Thika as being similar to those outlined by Sjoberg, which he

terms as belonging to the industrial city. Sjoberg says, for example, that in the preindustrial city the population tends to be ecologically polarised with "the occupational groupings, some being at the same time ethnic in character, typically reside apart from one another", and this is apparent in Thika. Thika is also an example of preindustrial production of goods (characterised by the use of animal and human energy coupled with such tools as hammers, wheels and pulleys); but at the same time is a clear example of the industrial-urban community with electricity as a generator of power. (Sjoberg, 1955, p. 439).

In the preindustrial city "there is little fragmentation or specialization of work" (Sjoberg, 1955, p. 439) as in the case of the handicraftman. Thika is a portrait of this preindustrial characteristic since the informal sector (centred in Thika's market), includes workers such as the shoemaker who markets what he makes, and the mganga (herbalist) who treats people for sickness according to his own diagnosis, with medicines concocted by himself. Alongside this is the industrial-urban atmosphere of Thika's industrial area.

Sjoberg concludes that economically in the preindustrial city there is an elite and the lower class - and "between the elite and the lower class is a rather sharp schism, but in both groups there are gradations

in rank". (Sjoberg, 1955, p. 441). Thika exhibits such a distribution - 96% of the population fall into the low income group.

Thika thus exemplifies characteristics of both the industrial-urban community and Sjoberg's preindustrial city. Sjoberg himself admits that even in the seemingly very industrialized towns a number of preindustrial patterns may remain.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS RELATED TO CRIME IN URBAN URBAN AREAS

In a town containing such a motley array of characteristics it is possible one may find all three of David Riesman's "persons", these being - the tradition-directed person; the inner-directed person; and the other-directed person. (Riesman, 1961). The tradition-directed person corresponds to Max Weber's concept of traditional orientation - this individual is motivated and acts according to the traditions, beliefs and values he holds. (Bell, Wendell and Boat, 1957). The inner-directed person however pursues goals which he perceives as valuable because his inner voice tells him they are. In contrast to this the other-directed person acts in a certain way because he is anxious to gain the approval of others. These types are useful bases for trying to identify the social psychological factors which may cause a person to become a criminal.

However they are too simplistic as Rudolf Heberle notes - "people cannot be pigeonholed into these categories" (Heberle, 1956, p. 34). In fact people may be composed of a combination of these three types, any one of which may predominate at a given time in a given situation. Riesman's types (if they do exist in varying combinations) may exist in a town like Thika where there are very many conflicting values and ideas prevalent.

Continuing in this line of thought one finds that Merton's concept (Merton, 1949) may be more enlightening in an examination of the social psychological factors related to crime. Merton has put forward a theory suggesting that every individual, when faced with his society's goals may decide to act in any of a number of different ways - conform, innovate, engage in ritualism, retreat or rebel. Society may for example, put forward the goal of getting rich. The poorer classes, when faced with such a goal, may have no means of obtaining it legally. They must therefore either abandon the goal and rebel by putting forward their own goals (thus becoming to a certain extent inner-directed), or they may engage in ritualism (living a life of pretence; being extremely tradition-directed) or retreat - by alcoholism and drugs (also inner-directed) or they may turn to crime and innovate in order to achieve the desired goal (thus becoming other-directed).

Whilst the above conditions may influence a person to act in a criminal manner, other social psychological factors may be at work. Edwin Sutherland, for example, put forward the theory of differential association whereby "systematic criminal behaviour is determined by the process of associating with those who commit crimes". (Sutherland, 1956, p. 125). This theory whilst standing for some situations has some weak points as C.R. Jeffery notes (Jeffery, 1949). It does not, for example, explain the origin of crime since crime had to exist before it could be learnt by someone else. It does not explain crimes such as murder which are committed in passion, or manslaughter (by accident). In addition there are criminals who were not "taught" by others, and there are other individuals who live in areas highly populated by criminals who do not themselves turn to crime. The theory does not deal with any concept of motivation for committing a crime.

One can tentatively accept Sutherland's theory of differential association as being a partial explanation for crime, as Jeffery does. Jeffery concludes that a person cannot become a criminal unless he interacts with other human beings, but he may become a criminal without interacting with other criminals. It is in fact then social interaction which is all important. Indeed it has been found that crime rates tend to be high in groups where social interaction is characterised

by isolation, impersonalization, anonymity and anomie. These areas are transitional areas where there is a minimum of personal or intimate relationships. From this concept develops the idea that the criminal is one who has no interpersonal relationships and as a result is a lonely individual who has no place in lawful primary groups. He is insecure, hostile, aggressive and feels he is not loved or wanted. In fact he seems to be experiencing "anomie". Robert MacIver defines anomie as "a state of mind in which the individual's sense of social cohesion is broken or fatally weakened" (Jeffery, 1955, p. 542). MacIver sees anomie as the disease of urban society.

This theory of social alienation is very important since, unlike the theory of differential association developed by Sutherland, it explains sudden crimes of passion, and why a person can live in a predominantly delinquent area without becoming one himself, It explains why a person who has not mixed with criminals will commit crimes and it also explains the origin of criminal behaviour.

The main points which have emerged from this discussion of social psychological factors are:

- (1) That urban life presents the migrant with new values which are mainly alien to traditional values;

- (2) Of these new values some of the most important are the doctrine of materialism, and social impersonalization; (Quetelet's theory should be mentioned at this point - that is, that through the emphasis on materialism many people do not steal purely from necessity - but from a sense of "relative poverty" which they feel as a result of accepting the doctrine of materialism); and the new values constitute a society where "we judge people not in terms of their psychological worth, but in terms of the cars they drive or the homes they occupy". (Jeffery, 1955, p. 534).
- (3) The migrant is thus faced with new values - he must either conform, innovate, engage in ritualism, retreat or rebel.
- (4) The migrant's choice of the above will be determined by the type of social interaction he has undergone in the past and is still experiencing.

SOCIAL STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS IN THE CITY WHICH MAY INFLUENCE
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Mention has already been made of the values and psychological conditions which prevail in urban areas such as Thika. It is now necessary to examine how the

physical layout of a town may be influenced by criminal activity and may itself influence criminal activity; and how the introduction of industry may affect the crime rate to some extent.

ZONE CONCEPT.

In this research it is hoped that it will be possible to identify certain areas of Thika as being places where crimes are committed, and other areas as the places of residence of the accused persons, as is outlined by Calvin F. Schmid (Schmid, 1960). In his study of Seattle, Schmid finds a relationship between natural areas and the distribution of crime. This concept of linking ecological areas to the distribution of types of crime is developed from Burgess's Concentric Zone concept.

T. Morris in The Criminal Area outlined the concept of Park and Burgess - "Zone 1. Central Business District. Zone 2. Zone of transition containing the rooming house district, the underworld dens. Zone 3. Zone of working men's houses. Zone 4. Residential zone of apartment houses (flats), residential hotels, and, on the edge, single family dwellings. Zone 5. The commuters' zone, i.e. respectable suburbia". (Morris, 1957, p. 8). These zones are the outcome of the ecological processes of urban growth, of population movements and economic development. The ecologists saw

population movements and changes in land use in terms of the sequence of "invasion", "dominance" and "succession", comparable to stages in the life of plants where new species come in and take over from existing ones.

According to the ecologists, the population of the city originally lived around the central business district, but this area was seen to be the obvious location for new commercial and industrial businesses. And as industries were set up, those who could afford to, moved out. Conversely, as the areas declined in terms of desirability as a place of residence, the rents fell and the area, thus attracted newcomers to the city - those who sought housing at the lowest cost. Respectable craftsmen tended to move out of the central business district and began to move to the areas now inhabited by the wealthier class who in turn moved out - thus providing the ecologists' five zones.

The ecological zone concept provides a sound argument for explaining the development of a town or city. However one may find that such an "ideal type" cannot be so freely applied in reality. In this study Thika will be examined with regard to areas of activity (past, present and future plans). The notion of "natural" distribution of crimes will be examined in Thika.

The introduction of industrialization to an area brings about a number of changes, in particular it may affect the crime rate of the area since employment in a factory where there is a minimum of supervision presents the employee with the opportunity to steal. In addition workers in factories may experience lack of "job satisfaction"; they may not feel loyalty towards their employers since they work with machines and as such are relatively isolated from the manager or owner of the factory - in such circumstances they may be expected to steal. The fact that more people are being employed in factories and other businesses in Thika (including women) necessitates the employment of a person such as an ayah to work in the house and look after children. These ayahs are paid relatively low wages, and as a result may decide to steal some of the possessions of their employers - which they have easy access to.

In addition to social psychological factors and social structural conditions, one finds that demographic characteristics also have a role to play in explaining the crime rate of an area.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND CRIME RATE

While studying factors which may influence the crime rate one must not fail to recognize the important role played by demographic characteristics in studying

crime. Demographic characteristics do not of course in themselves cause crime - but a study of them may help one in a search for an overall explanation of various types of crime.

It is necessary therefore to study age as a characteristic which may relate to the crime rate in Thika, and sex.

CRIME: THE AGE FACTOR

In the 1830's Adolphe Quetelet, a great Belgian social statistician, wrote:

"The propensity to crime must be at its maxim at the age when strength and passions have reached their height, yet when reason has not acquired sufficient control to master their combined influence".

Quetelet

"ascribed petty theft to the boys, violence, rape, burglary to the young men, fraud and minor sex offences to the old whose strength and agility were declining but who had had time to develop their cunning".

This classification, while not elaborate, is still upheld by modern criminologists. (Radznowicz and King, 1977, p. 17).

It has been found, for example, that the young, in proportion to their numbers, claim by far

the highest share in crimes of violence. And since in most areas of the world today the young represent a much higher proportion of the total population than they did even a generation ago, this in itself contributes therefore to higher levels of crime. In addition the situation and environment prevailing in the developed countries today is such that:

"the young are kept far longer in the care, not to say the custody of educational systems. They are absorbed far later into the now separate adult world of earning and responsibility. They tend to form a group apart, with their own aspirations, with leisure and often with spending power far beyond what was available to earlier generations of youth". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 17)

And at the same time employment prospects for the young are frequently much lower than those of adults - thus creating a situation ripe for criminal activity. Such an environment may fast be developing in countries such as Kenya.

Juvenile delinquency has long been a world-wide problem which finds its predominance in urban areas. In some cases, especially where juveniles are concerned, it may be that some youths engage in stealing partly because they desire those material things propounded by their society, partly from necessity (or because they suffer from a sense of relative poverty), or because their young minds and bodies seek some kind of excitement.

Stealing, for example, may temporarily satisfy this need.

Mention has already been made of Sutherland's theory of differential association which is useful in explaining the occurrence of juvenile delinquency - it is often (but not always - as was pointed out earlier) the influence of companions and one's environment that leads a youth to embark on a life of crime, although this is not the only factor which encourages delinquency. (Sutherland, 1956). Sir Cyril Burt in his study The Young Delinquent expands this concept. (Burt, 1944).

Burt finds that poverty - leading to overcrowding, an absence of recreation facilities, defective family relationships (also mentioned by Jeffery), lack of discipline and such domestic problems as parental alcoholism may encourage the development of delinquency. Having delinquent friends - either of the same age or older, may also contribute to pulling a youth towards the life of a delinquent.

Regarding entertainment, it seems, as Burt suggests, that two extremes are bad - too much entertainment (the cinema, gambling), or too little - leaving the youth idle. If the youth is still attending school it is important that the atmosphere is conducive to learning and that he is actively encouraged to participate in school life. And if the young man has left school a

satisfying type of employment is essential (although this is often extremely difficult to obtain), since frustration as is experienced from monotonous manual work or even unemployment contribute to the kind of atmosphere which leads a youth to become a delinquent.

In many developing countries, according to Radzinowicz and King, "under the pressures of population explosion, social, economic and political change, old patterns of responsibility for the rearing and social education of children have been dissolving even more sharply". The conditions in these areas can be described as "hordes of youngsters, abandoned and adrift, with crime or begging their only way to keep alive". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 19). It is clear from these descriptions that the situation is becoming increasingly worse as regards the degree of involvement of the young in the field of crime. And imitation of such countries as the United States has led to the mushrooming of various juvenile gangs -

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Name of Gang</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|
| France, Belgium, Switzerland | Bloussons noirs |
| Germany | Halbstarken |
| Italy | Vitellari |
| Poland, Russia | Hooligans |
| Australia | Bodgies Widgies |
| South Africa: Africans | Tsotsis |
| Whites | Ducktails |
| Coloureds | Skilly |
| Britain | Mods Rockers Hell's Angels Skinheads Punk Groups |
| Japan | Mambo |

In Taiwan and the Philippines the gangs were distinguished by class - "uppercrust students indulging in delinquencies connected with cars, cinemas and other modern inventions and lower-class boys going in for traditional crime". Even Greece, Israel and Argentina, with their various different backgrounds have undergone similar experiences. In England there have been a number of different groups within a short period of time - Teddy boys, Mods, Rockers, Hell's Angels, Skinheads and more recently "punk" groups. On the continent the bloussons noirs have been succeeded by the provos, "with their mixed class' backgrounds, ages, and sexes, their propaganda and their claims to ideological justification". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 20).

Whilst different types of juvenile gangs are constantly coming to the fore in various parts of the world, they do not in themselves pose a long-term problem since:

"the bulk of juvenile crime is committed either alone or in twos or threes. Moreover, the group offence becomes less and less common as boys grow older. Very few, even in the most criminal areas, graduate from the juvenile gang to the adult criminal organisation. And it is only a tiny fraction of young people who belong at any stage to what could be classed as a delinquent gang". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, pp. 21-22).

Whilst it remains true that very few young people do graduate from the juvenile gang to the criminal organisation, it would seem from a letter written to the "Daily Nation" mailbox column (June 8, 1978) that cases of this nature may be occurring in Thika:

"I write to comment on the rampant criminal activity in Thika town. I have been a resident of this town since 1972. In 1974 there sprang up a group of juveniles who, I believe, were primary school dropouts. They started engaging in pickpocketing and petty thefts. The authorities could have stepped in and taken these boys to an approved school but this was not done....This group has now grown in size. It seems to have graduated from pickpocketing and is now resorting to some violence during the day and total violence at night...If unchecked this group will move on to post-graduate courses in bank holdups...."

(Daily Nation, June 8, 1978, p. 5).

As was mentioned earlier it is hoped that by ascertaining the ages of criminals in Thika, the types of crimes they commit, and from interviewing residents in housing estates in Thika to see whether they feel that there are a number of juveniles who are involved in criminal activity as the writer of the above letter seems to indicate, and if such conditions do exist, what suggestions Thika residents can make to remedy the situation, the author should be able to make some recommendations in view of the findings.

Having dealt with the age factor in crime, the demographic characteristic of sex will now be discussed with regard to the possible influence it may exert on the crime rate.

CRIME: MALE AND FEMALE DIFFERENTIAL

According to Radzinowicz and King "age, class residence, may all be ambiguous and changing.....sex in the rarest instances, is not", and since it has been found that men and boys are found guilty about six to eight times as often as women and girls, one is forced to ask whether there are any distinctive physical, psychological, or physiological characteristics of women which make them constitutionally and permanently less likely to commit crimes. Cesare Lombroso reasoned that "women are more conservative than men, more wedded to social stability, because the ovum is less mobile

than the sperm". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, pp. 13-14). Others have also emphasized that women are more submissive, conformist, (susceptible to social disapproval), adaptable, less likely to take risks because their sexual role is passive and accepting. Modern sociologists have placed even more emphasis on social pressures. It was argued in the past that women are presented with fewer opportunities to commit crimes than men. However, as Radzinowicz and King point out, today there are more opportunities than in the past, for example, where both sexes work in the same levels of employment. In America among the blacks, where women carry heavy burdens of earning and family responsibility, the gap in crime between the sexes is narrower than among the whites; and in the poorer classes, where women are the least protected, the difference is narrower than amongst the middle and upper classes. Radzinowicz and King attribute the rise in female criminal activity to "the modern rash of protest and revolutionary activity". But the main emphasis should be on the increased opportunities for criminal activity. Today, for example, it is relatively easy for women to steal - "in large impersonal stores, they are left to pick what they want with every chance of concealment...." and "in their leisure, girls are much freer than they used to be to go their own way, choose their own company". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, pp. 15-16).

Although, for the most part, developing countries do not present women with so many opportunities to commit crimes, they are steadily increasing, especially in the capital cities and centres of development. Moslem women, in a number of societies in the world, are no longer kept in strict seclusion from the outside world. And in those countries where the men are migrant labourers, the women are forced to become more independent. In short they are forced to cope as best they can. Such a new situation has repercussions - "Between 1957 and 1971 Brazil found women's convictions rising twice as fast as men's; by 89 as against 43 per cent", and in India "in the four years from 1962 to 1965, the percentage increase of females amongst convicts was over four times that of males". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, pp. 15-16). And in 1975 a report to the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders said that "most of the scant statistical evidence demonstrates that the increasing crime rates among women is a new universal phenomenon". (United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, 1975).

It is important to realize, as Radzinowicz and King point out, that whilst crime rates of women have increased (and are increasing) more than those of men, the reason they show percentage increases which are higher than those of their male counterparts is that they start from a far more modest base. In conclusion

Radzinowicz and King refer to Orwell - "as women become more equal men become more equal still".

In summary the findings of the above criminologists seem to suggest that women are still the second sex in regard to the field of crime. And this is particularly true during the period of child rearing - "It is before and after that stage that their crime is more markedly rising". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 17).

In this research the criminal statistics will be examined for the period 1968-1977 in order to test the hypothesis that men have committed relatively more crimes than women. The years - 1968, 1971, 1974, and 1977 will be examined to present an overall picture of the situation so that comparisons may be made and trends established.

In the above sections the social psychological factors, the social structural conditions, and the demographic characteristics have all been discussed with regard to their possible effects on the crime rate. Clearly one fact emerges from the discussion - that is, that no one factor explains criminal activity. It is not possible in this study to deal with the social psychological factors which influence a person's behaviour since a large number of in-depth case studies

would need to be conducted with different sex and age groups. What will be attempted will be an isolation of age, sex and residential characteristics of the accused persons.

Perhaps the most profound statement regarding crime in developing countries was made by Clinard and Abbott in their book - Crime in Developing Countries. They conclude that:

"Increased crime in less developed countries can be expected primarily because in these countries young people predominate, the growing cities attract the young, and it is the young who are most noticeably affected by the way of life in the city and who are drawn more easily into criminal activities". (Clinard and Abbott, 1973, p. 101)

CHAPTER TWO

METHODOLOGY

In order to conduct this research it was necessary to collect both primary and secondary data. Since it was essential to include a brief historical description of Thika so that the town might be viewed in perspective it was necessary to consult the National Archives and the Lands Office (Nairobi).

SECONDARY DATA

(I) Archive Material

The Annual Reports for the period 1951-1960 (writtten by District Commissioners) were read. Unfortunately earlier records were not available but these Reports were useful in furnishing a background to the study.

(II) Lands Office (Nairobi)

At the Lands Office it was possible to get a copy of the original Proclamation regarding Thika's status as a township (1924). And descriptions of Thika at this time, taken from old newspaper articles (Daily Standard, November 27, 1925); (Sunday Post, July 1, 1956) were also obtained.

(III) Police Monthly and Annual Summaries

These summaries were constructed by Thika Police from the information available in the Police Charge Registers. From these statistics it was possible to assemble tables showing percentages and thus crime trends for the period 1968-1977.

(IV) Police Charge Registers

The Police Charge Registers for Thika date back only to 1968 but are available up to the present. The researcher, in view of this, decided to begin the research (that is - use of available data) in 1968 and continue it up to (and including) relevant data for 1977. The charge registers include the following:

- (1) Name of complainant and his/her address
- (2) Name of accused and his/her address
- (3) Occupation of accused
- (4) Age of accused
- (5) Sex of accused
- (6) Type of crime committed
- (7) Time crime was committed
- (8) Amount of money/property stolen (if any)
- (9) Sentence passed

This information was coded onto computer sheets and its analysis will be dealt with later.

(V) Population Data

Statistics regarding the population size of Thika (past, present and projected future growth); the current layout of the town and its expected future development; were obtained from the Thika Town Planning Department, as were various maps of different sections of the town.

(VI) Court Files

Initially it was hoped that data gathered from the court files of Thika could be usefully analysed by computer in order to gather information about where crimes were committed, where the criminal comes from, what time the crime was committed. However, unfortunately (in spite of the co-operation received from the officials at the courts, Thika) it was not possible to use the court files for this purpose since a large number of files were missing; (the present buildings were not completed till after 1965 so due to lack of storage facilities a number of files were mislaid; others may be with magistrates; and others may be stored elsewhere). In view of these difficulties the researcher decided that such partial information could not be usefully employed in the study.

PRIMARY DATA

In addition to examining secondary data, primary data was obtained by conducting a questionnaire interview in the town centre, the market, and the housing estates in Thika. The aim of the interviews was to collect additional information about crimes, since not all crimes are reported. The questionnaire was designed to ascertain public opinion on crime in Thika, whether crime was increasing (and if so, which types), if the respondent had been a victim (and if so, what happened), and any measures which the respondent might suggest to improve the situation, i.e. reduce crime in Thika.

The justification for sampling the three areas was the need to get a spectrum of Thika residents that was as closely representative as possible. Thus from the town centre, office workers like secretaries, bank employees, accountants, shopkeepers and hotel workers formed the target group, while from the market, both buyers and sellers were interviewed; and from the housing estates, housewives, workers on nightshift, people on leave and the unemployed were interviewed. The sampling technique used is discussed below.

SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLE SELECTION

A total of 150 interviews were conducted, distributed as follows:

| <u>Area</u> | <u>Number of Respondents</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Town Centre: | |
| Office Workers | 9 |
| Shopkeepers, etc. | 18 |
| Market | 15 |
| Housing Estates: | |
| Low income housing areas | 79 |
| Medium income | 13 |
| High income | 9 |
| Very high income | 7 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | <u>150</u> |

The sampling procedure was stratified random sampling, the strata being based on income differentials and density of population for the housing estates (these were gathered from the Town Planning Department, Thika, in order to arrive at more accurate strata sizes), and on the relative numbers of people between the town centre, market and housing estates. Thus 108 interviews were conducted in the housing estates while only 15 people were interviewed in the market.

For the purpose of the research the following housing estates were identified as being low to very high income and low to very high population density:

| <u>Estate</u> | <u>Dominant Income Group</u> | <u>Density</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Bendor | Very high | Low |
| Chania (Hailie Selassie) | Very high | Low |
| Mortgage Section, II | High | Low |
| Section IX | Medium | Medium |
| | High | Low |
| Kimathi | Medium | Low |
| Ziwani | Medium | Low |
| Garissa Road (Rental) | Medium | Low |
| (Site and Service C.U.) | Low | Low |
| Makongeni | Low | Medium-High |
| "Pilot" | Low | High |
| Starehe | Low | High |
| Jamhuri (T.U.D.C.) | Low | High |
| Ofafa | Low | High |
| Bondeni | Low | High-Medium |
| Majengo | Low | Very high |
| Bahati ("Biafra") | Low | Very high |
| Kiandutu | Low | Very high |
| Kiangombe | Low | Very high |

After consulting with the Town Planning Department Thika the following distribution of interviews was made.

| <u>Estate</u> | <u>Approximate Population</u> | <u>Percentage of Total</u> | <u>Number of Interviews</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bendor | 255 | 2 | 4 |
| Chania | 92 | 1 | 3 |
| Mortgage Section, IX | 468 | 2 | 5 |
| Section IX | 337 | 2 | 4 |
| Kimathi | 762 | 4 | 5 |
| Ziwani | 240 | 1 | 3 |
| Garissa Road (Rental) | 456 | 2 | 5 |
| (Site and Ser- vice C.U.) | 450 | 2 | 5 |
| Makongeni | 800 | 4 | 7 |
| "Pilot" | 1,200 | 6 | 6 |
| Starehe | 576 | 3 | 4 |
| Jamhuri (T.U.D.C.): | 1,152 | 6 | 6 |
| Ofafa | 2,016 | 10 | 8 |
| Bondeni | 240 | 1 | 3 |
| Majengo | 5,247 | 26 | 18 |
| Bahati ("Biafra") | 2,050 | 10 | 10 |
| Kiandutu | 3,000 | 12 | 9 |
| Kiangombe | 1,000 | 8 | 3 |
| Totals | <u>18,187</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>108</u> |

In administering the questionnaire in Majengo, Kiangombe and Kiandutu it was necessary to omit those parts of the questions referring to the then illegal brewing of changaa (Questions 23-27), since

respondents in these areas became suspicious of the interviewer at the mention of this sensitive subject.

Most of the areas were fairly accessible by foot, with the exception of Kiangombe which is situated beyond Kiandutu and is quite difficult to reach because of the very uncultivated terrain. Bendor also proved rather inaccessible since there is no transport to the estate (residents of this very high income estate appear to own at least one car).

At houses selected in Bondeni estate it was necessary to make two visits as most of the residents in that area seem to be working day-shifts and were only available at lunch time.

In the market the officers in charge were extremely co-operative and took the trouble to introduce the researcher and her assistants to the respondents so that they were not mistaken for price control officials.

Generally speaking the questionnaire was well received (the exception being one who was "tired of being interviewed" - the Town Council had already conducted a survey; and those who felt their time was being wasted).

Data Analysis

The data was analysed to determine the trends of crimes of different types, the relationships between type of crime and the kind of person committing it, the respondents' views on aspects of criminal behaviour. The relationship between crime rates and variables such as age and sex was also determined.

After the data was analysed a number of hypotheses were tested. The hypotheses formulated for the purpose of this study are listed below:

- (1) There is a high correlation between unemployment and commitment of crimes during the period 1968-1977.
- (2) Crime in Thika has been relatively increasing during the period 1968-1977.
- (3) Persons living in low income estates (i.e. who are classified by Thika Town Planning Department as having a monthly income of less than 1,200/- K.shs.) in Thika, have committed relatively more conventional crimes (for example, robbery from a person, theft of property, house breaking), than persons living in high income estates, (i.e. persons with a monthly income in excess of 1,200/- K.shs.).

- (4) The rates of property offences increase with the degree of urbanization.
- (5) Men have committed relatively more crimes than women.
- (6) The majority of crimes are committed by people between the ages of 20-35 years.

In this study a number of concepts will be utilized. The definitions of the major concepts are given below. Other concepts will be defined as they are encountered in the study.

DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Crime - crime in law is the contravention of the Penal Code of a country. It is possible to distinguish the following as being the main crimes encountered in Thika - (1) Violent crimes against the person - homicide, assault, rape, theft; (2) Crimes against property - theft and vandalism; (3) Professional crime which consists of "either fraudulent or inadvertent violation of law in the course of one's work". (Mushanga, 1976, p. 20).

Organised crime - Thorsten Sellin has described organised crime as business enterprises for the purpose of making economic gain through illegal activity - it is thus organised in the same manner that legitimate

businesses are organised.

Juvenile delinquency - "is any act that violates the law by ordinance committed by an individual below the legal adult age of a society". (Mushanga, 1976, p. 24).

CHAPTER THREE

THE GROWTH OF THIKA

Thika formally attained the status of a township in 1924 and it is around this time that one is able to obtain a full physical description of the town. However Thika as an entity began some time before this - but it is difficult, from the sources available, to ascertain a date when settlement began to take place. It is possible though to gather a general description of the area prior to 1924.

Elsbeth Huxley, for example in her book The Flame Trees of Thika refers to Thika as "a name on a map where two rivers joined. Thika in those days - the year 1913 - was a favourite camp for big-game hunters and beyond it was only bush and plain". And Ruiru (now a small town near Thika) was "just a few dukas kept by Indians and a river crossing, not even a bridge: a causeway made by shovelling murram into the swampy stream and putting up some white posts". Huxley describes Chania Falls, Thika -

"we came at last to a stone bridge over the Chania river, newly built, and considered to be a great achievement of the P.W.D.S. Just below it, the river plunged over a waterfall into a pool with slimy rocks and thick-trunked trees all around it, and a little further on it joined the Thika. This meeting-place of rivers was a famous hunting-ground; not long before Winston Churchill had slain a lion there, and many others come to camp and shoot". (Huxley, 1959, p. 7)

And Blue Posts Hotel, near Chania Falls, is also described - a hotel had been started just below the falls. It consisted of a low-roofed thatched grass hut whose veranda posts were painted blue and gave the place its name, of three or four whitewashed rondavels to sleep in, and a row of stables". One also reads of houses built by Indians in Thika during this period which were rectangular in shape. (Huxley, 1959, p. 11).

By 1919 Thika had progressed considerably from being a camp for game hunters. It was at this time that the Acting District Commissioner for Kiambu expressed his views about the conditions in Thika -

"....the state of Thika Township is highly unsatisfactory. Trade is increasing. Long strings of carts and waggons are always coming in and in consequence the demand for shops is considerable. These are at present being dotted about without the slightest regard for arrangement, convenience or sanitation. The road is a quagmire and until the township is surveyed and apportioned it is impossible to charge any township fees, and in the absence of such and a conservancy staff matters will get worse and worse". (Letter from Acting District Commissioner for Kiambu, 1919).

Thus by 1919 Thika was growing rapidly and in 1924 attained the title of "township". In 1924 the following proclamation was thus issued:

"PROCLAMATION NO. 64 S.17099/4/3

EAST AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS ORDINANCE,
1903

PROCLAMATION

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon me by the East African Township Ordinance, 1903, I, Robert Thorne Coryndon, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor of the Colony of Kenya, do hereby declare the area described in the Schedule hereto to be a Township for the purpose of the above Ordinance and to be named "Thika".

Given under my hand at Nairobi this 15th day of March, 1924.

R.T. CORYNDON
Governor

GOD SAVE THE KING"

(Proclamation No. 64, 1924).

According to the Schedule mentioned above the boundaries of Thika were as follows:

"Commencing at the North-east corner of L.O. No. 4016 on the Thika river; thence bounded by the centre of the course of that river, downstream, to the North-west corner of L.O. No. 281; thence by part of the Western boundary of the latter portion of its Northern corner; thence by a straight line Westerly across the Fort Hall Road Reserve to the North-east corner of L.O. No. 1131; thence by the North-eastern boundary of that portion to its Northern corner; thence North-easterly by part of the South-eastern boundary of L.O. No. 3793 to its Eastern corner; thence by the South-eastern boundary of L.O. No. 4016, across the Fort Hall Road Reserve and onwards to the point of Commencement". (Schedule, 1924).

Whilst Thika was declared a township and her boundaries were drawn up the physical appearance of the town did not change, and on November 27th, 1925 the following headlines appeared in a local newspaper - the "Daily Standard" -

"THIKA TOWNSHIP

A Government Cinderella
Thirty Miles from Nairobi

STAGNATION AND FILTH

The "Horrible Example" of the Early
Days of Settlement

A VAST RUBBISH HEAP"

The newspaper reporter continues in this vein - "there can be no practical excuse for the continual existence of the "township" - unless the Government intends to create the nucleus of a museum of all that is foul and primitive in the early settlement of East Africa. Thika township would be a splendid set piece for such a purpose". He refers to Thika's "frank negation of all town planning and public health principles". His physical descriptions of Thika enables one to see Thika as it was in 1925 -

"The first view of Thika suggests the dumping ground of a lot of much-worn packing cases. Closer acquaintance alters the simile somewhat and calls up memories of Wild West pictures, mining camps and the appropriate backgrounds associated therewith - with some important essentials lacking, for there are at Thika no fringed trousers, though certainly the sombreros are in evidence. But no Wild West township was ever, architecturally at any rate, quite so wild as Thika. The so-called packing cases presently resolve themselves into shacks of all sorts, some of wood, some of mud, a few of iron and others which are frankly mixtures both of styles and materials. Scattered among them are remnants of abandoned motor cars and waggons. The ensemble is as extraordinary as it is unique".

('Daily Standard', November 27, 1925)

Whilst the newspaper article was written with a bias towards creating a "sensational" story, the descriptions themselves are fairly accurate of the types of conditions prevailing at this time in Thika. The reporter provides a description of Thika's high street -

"one of the widest surely in all Kenya, lined on each side by packing cases already described, reared on end and dumped down promiscuously. On one side of the street are some 50 Indian dukas; on the other a miscellaneous collection of European stores, workshops and dwelling houses...Behind these are the unsightly traces of native huts removed by order of the District Commissioner from Kiambu some weeks ago".

('Daily Standard', November 27, 1925).

Thika really owed its beginnings to the railway, whose offices were its most imposing piece of architecture.

But in 1925 it was decided that the railway buildings should be moved to a new site a mile and a half away. And "when the Government started to move the railway buildings they commenced by demolishing the only public latrine in the town". This leads the reporter to describe Thika as being "one huge dustbin...Everywhere one encounters heaps of decaying refuse tipped in full view of the main road and having a truly nauseating effect on the visitor". ('Daily Standard', November 27, 1925).

Administration in Thika at this time did not exist - Thika had no administration of its own. The administrative headquarters were situated at Kiambu which meant that the District Commissioner only came periodically to hold a court. In fact there was no resident police officer and the nearest policeman was stationed about a mile away, but he had no authority to pursue either investigations or criminals in Thika township. "He may come to the "Coffee Bean" (a bar in Thika) for a ginger beer, but if a theft takes place under his nose it has to be dealt with by the Ruiru policeman twelve miles away". ('Daily Standard', November 27, 1925).

In November 1925, a township committee was formed consisting of four Europeans, two Indians and a Goan. They decided to present to Government a memorandum "showing the layout of a new township on the square

principle affected generally in new countries". This then was the situation prevailing in 1925. And in 1927 the Official Gazette published a General Notice - No. 606 stating that a plan was available of the proposed layout of Thika township. By 1951 the town was developing fast - and crime was becoming prevalent. In the Annual Report for that year one is able to get an idea of the type of crime that was occurring at that time -

"Crime

Of this there was a good deal, especially stealing which the Police tackled with a large measure of success.

Our star criminal was a Kakamega burglar with very long feet, which eventually led to his undoing. He burgled just about every European house in Thika, including the District Commissioner's! Finally he was caught identified by his feet, sentenced to eight years hard labour and sent to Nairobi from which he succeeded in escaping towards the end of the year, and he has not yet been recaptured. There are, however, no indications that he is resuming his professional career locally". (Annual Report, Thika, 1951).

The period of the Emergency (declared in October, 1952) provides the next milestone in Thika's history. The Emergency undoubtedly had its effect on Thika - in the Annual Report of 1952 one reads - "the murder of two Africans on the Anglo-French Sisal Estate can be directly attributed to 'Mau Mau,' whilst the murder of an Indian at Mananja and an attack on Mikindi were undoubtedly inspired by the same organisation". However

whilst Mau Mau activities continued to occur the development of Thika still went on and in 1952 it was decided that the Township Committee (formed in 1925) should be replaced by an Urban District Council (U.D.C.) which was to be made up of nominated members - "12 by County Council (8 by Township residents and 4 extra rural) 3 by the Member for Local Government, and the District Commissioner by virtue of his office". (Annual Report, Thika, 1952).

In 1953, the Mau Mau movement was as strong as ever and the 1953 Annual Report discerned that "Thika Township has proved to be a food supply depot and staging camp for recruits (i.e. Mau Mau) mostly Nairobi spivs and unemployed en route to the active gangs operating in the forests, native lands and settled areas". (Annual Report, Thika, 1953). May, 1953 saw the formal establishment of the Urban District Council for Thika. Education was also progressing with the foundation of a number of schools - The Indian Primary School; African Thika Township School; Holy Ghost Mission School; Catholic Schools of the White Sisters; a school at Kalimoni; and a teacher training school at Kilimambogo; Anglo-French Sisal Estate School. In addition to these larger institutions there were 17 well established schools on various estates; and there was also a Technical and Trade School in the Township.

But in 1954 Mau Mau activities were also widespread -

"There were numerous reports of gangs and illegal movements of Kikuyu in the district, throughout which the "Batuni" oath, a form of Mau Mau national service, was widely administered. The object of the oath was in fact to get the labour on the farms on the side of the terrorists so that the latter would have little difficulty in obtaining food and shelter as occasion arose....Thika was a base for gangs operating as far afield as the forest reserves". (Annual Report, Thika, 1954)

And later in 1954 "in Thika township there was a committee of women (Mau Mau) and, actually, a female over-all commander was appointed". In the same year T.U.D.C. began erecting its own administration block.

The Annual Report for 1955 stated that "...the general picture during 1955 has been in marked contrast to that of 1954, when for a time, a state of virtual anarchy prevailed. The year under review has seen the exclusion from the district of militant Mau Mau gangs, except for sporadic incursions of a limited nature". (Annual Report, Thika, 1955). In this more relatively calm atmosphere it was possible for Thika to develop industrially. An article in "The Sunday Post", 1st July, 1956, appearing amidst these political developments, predicts Thika's future role in (an independent) Kenya. Entitled "Thika - A Golden Chance for Industry", it describes Thika's already growing industrial importance

which, the writer says, will rival Nairobi. However despite this optimism there are still echoes of the 1925 situation. Referring to the Vasey Housing Scheme (now known as Majengo) the newspaper reports -

"Individual Africans obtained loans from Government to build their own homes, repaying the loans with income derived from letting rooms. Aspects which were ignored were layout and sanitation. Layout was simply on the build-how-and-where-you-like basis, and sanitation was non-existent. The result is a hotch-potch housing estate whose squalor is paralleled only by some of the Nairobi quarries' shanty towns".

In spite of this depressing scene the writer still finds "Thika is preparing to become a gracious town. The broad streets are a pleasure to drive along; trees lining the streets afford shade to pedestrians". Mention has already been made of the fact that newspaper reports are not altogether reliable sources of information. However one is able to construct a fairly clear picture of the type of town Thika was around 1956, and the way in which the town was developing, from the newspaper reporter's comments. ("The Sunday Post", 1st July, 1956).

By 1957 no crimes were reported which were attributable to Mau Mau activity. And in March of that year African elections were held but only a few people registered either as resident or absent voters. 1959 saw the foundation of The New Kenya Group, the Kenya

Society, the United Party, the Kenya Independence Movement and the Kenya National Party - movements whose aims were realised on December 12th, 1963 when Kenya won her Independence.

The Post-Independence Period - Thika as a Growth Centre

Since Independence Thika has developed along the lines predicted in 1956 - that is, Thika is identified now as a growth centre for industry in Kenya. The principle industries currently situated in Thika are - Kenya Cannery, Metal Box, Acif Ltd., United Textile Industries, Thika Cloth Mills, Kenya Toray Mills, Kenya Paper Mills, Bulleys Tanneries, Kenya Tanning Extract, British American Tobacco, Africa Synthetic Fibres, Leyland.

It is expected that Thika will continue to expand in the industrial field and that by the year 2000 will have a population of 250,000. Whilst it is important and necessary that Thika should expand in this way the new growth of population must be catered for - with regard to jobs and housing, education, health and recreation facilities. These will be discussed later as the neglect of any one of these aspects of development can have adverse effects on various sections of the population, and may lead directly, or indirectly, to a rise in various types of criminal activity, for example,

theft by servant (by factory workers); robbing a person, house breaking (by unemployed); assault (by those whose energy is not used at a recreation centre). Analysis of the frequency of occurrence of these and other crimes will be carried out in the following chapters. After ascertaining the current (and past) commitment frequencies of such crimes it should be possible to make some suggestions for future development patterns in Thika.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE DATA

The questionnaire (see Appendix) was administered to 150 respondents according to the method described in Chapter Two. Thus stratified random sampling was employed. It was found that 66% of those interviewed were male and 34% female.

Of those interviewed, 79% fell into the 20-40 years age group, whilst 8.66% were aged 15-20 years, and 12% were over 40. Those ^{who} were married formed 68.66% of the respondents; while 30.66% were single; and only one person (0.66%) came into the divorced category.

Over half the respondents (51.33%) had attained secondary education or higher, while 35.33% had attended primary school only; and 13.33% had no formal education.

Only 4% of those interviewed were born in Thika. Approximately one-fifth (21.32%) have lived in Thika for less than two years; 28% for between two and five years; and 50% have been there for over five years.

Respondents who work in Thika formed 76% of the total while a further 2.66% are employed outside

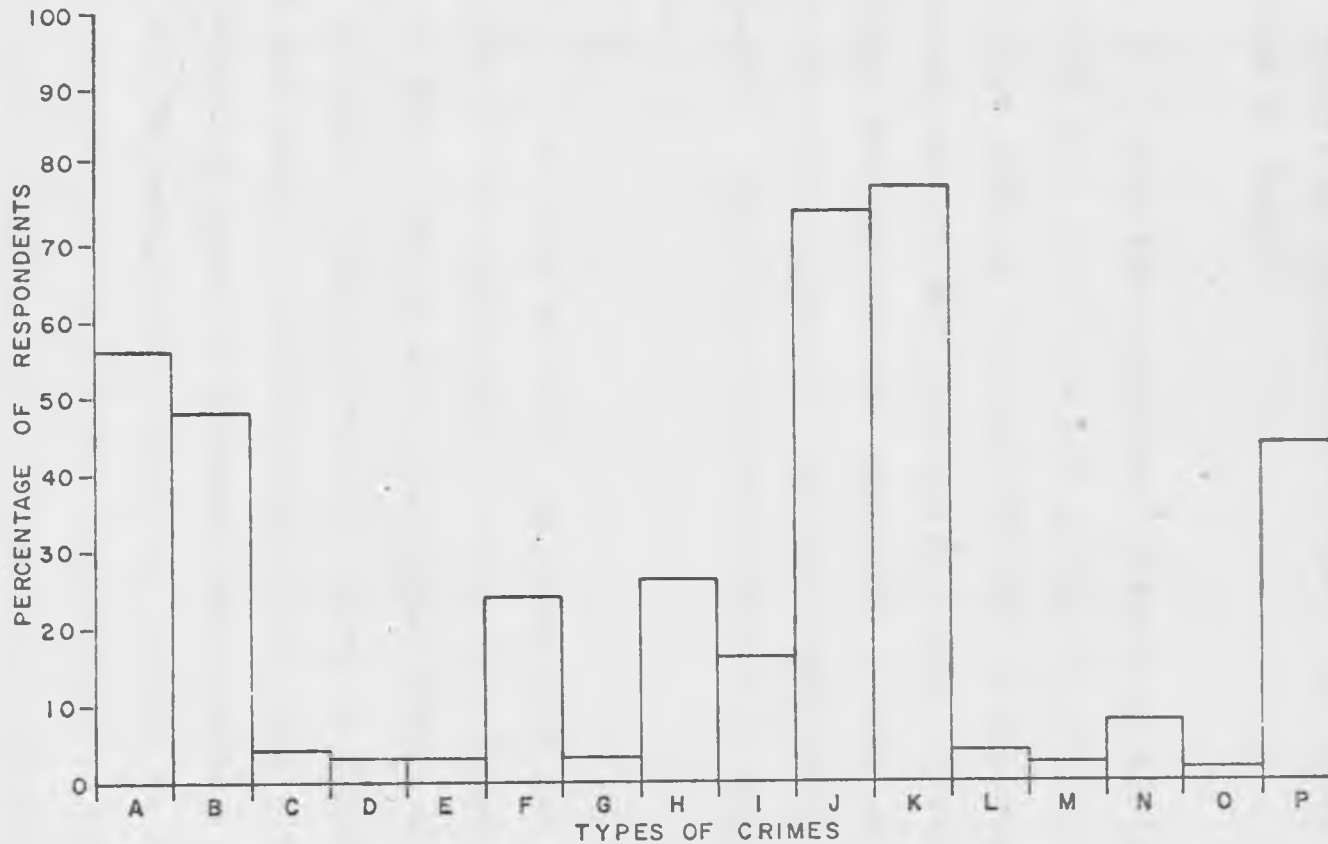
Thika; 6% of those interviewed were housewives; and 8.66% were unemployed. Slightly less than half the respondents (45.33%) had themselves been the victim of a crime.

From the replies given to the questionnaire (see Appendix 1); it was possible to construct the following tables (Tables 4.1-4.12) and figures (Figs. 4.1-4.6) to illustrate the circumstances prevailing at the time a crime was committed.

In order to obtain an overall picture of the crime trend in Thika respondents were asked which type of crimes they felt were most common when they first came to live in Thika. Their views are expressed in Fig. 4.1.

Crimes such as robbing a person and theft from house by strangers were thought to be common at this time, as were the brewing and selling of illicit brews, and prostitution, to a lesser extent. Pickpocketing was also common. The taking and selling of drugs, and cases of assault were also considered to be problems at this time. It will be useful to compare this listing of common crimes of the past, with those believed to be on the increase at present.

FIG. 4. CRIMES WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TO BE COMMON AT THE TIME RESPONDENTS FIRST CAME TO LIVE IN THIKA



KEY

- A.....Brewing and selling illicit brews
- B.....Prostitution
- C.....Rape/indecent assault
- D.....Defrauding
- E.....Theft by servant
- F..... Assault
- G..... Shoplifting
- H.....Selling drugs illegally
- I.....Taking bhang etc.

- J.....Theft of property from house by strangers
- K.....Robbing a person
- L.....Theft from vehicles
- M.....Theft of vehicles
- N.....Murder
- O.....Rent evasion
- P.....Pickpocketing

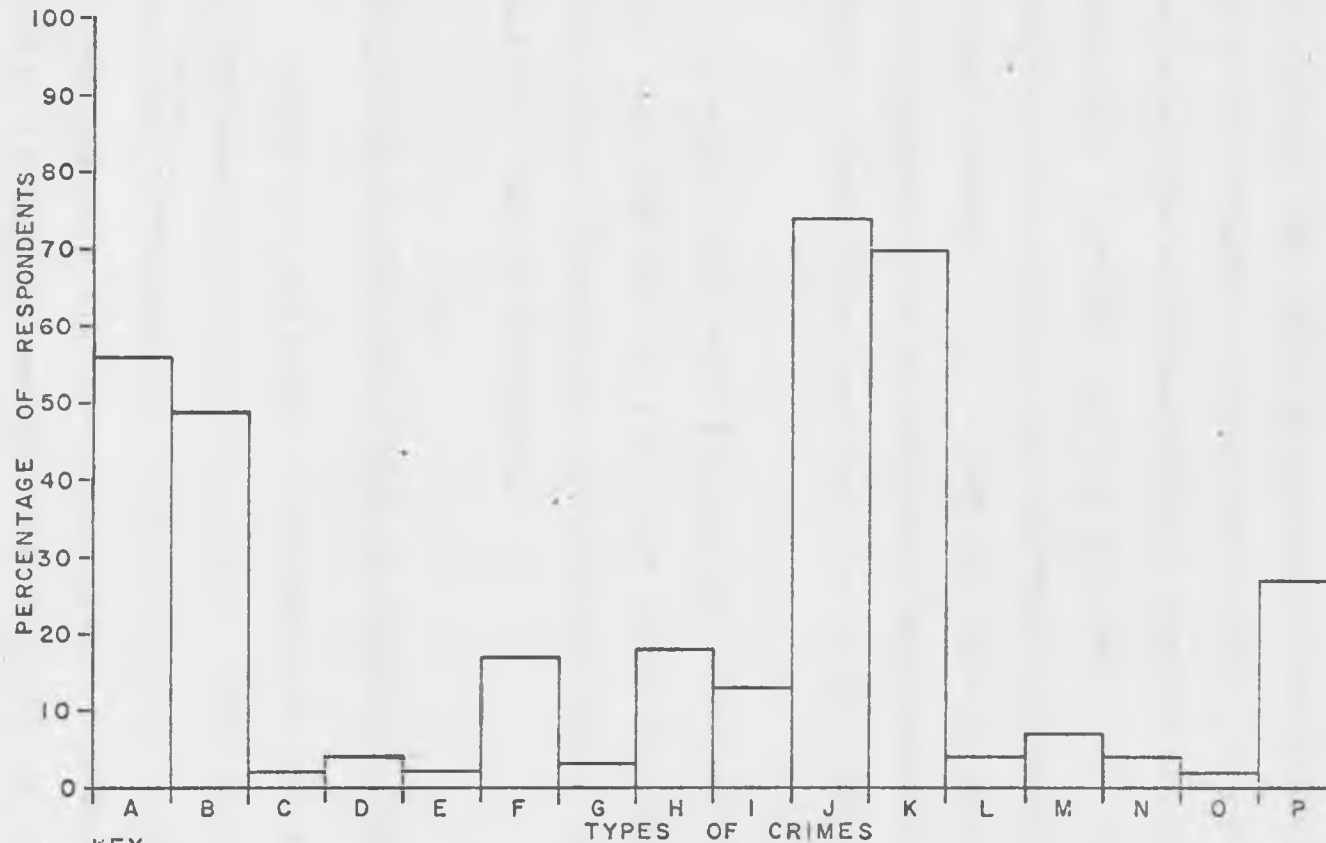
(NB----About 78% of Respondents had lived in Thika for at least 2years..).

Respondents were then asked whether they thought that the crime rate in Thika had risen, fallen or remained at the same level since they first came to live in Thika.

Over three-quarters of those interviewed (79.33%) felt that crime had risen; 13.33% believed the crime rate had fallen; 3.33% felt it had remained the same; and 4% said they did not know. These findings thus tentatively support H_1 - that crime in Thika has been relatively increasing during the period 1968-1977. This will be tested further in Chapter Five.

Of those who felt the crime rate had risen (79.33% of the respondents) - a further question was put to them - asking which particular crimes were on the increase. Their answers are shown in Figure 4.2. From the graph it is immediately clear that theft of property from house by strangers and robbing a person are the two major crimes which are thought to be on the increase (74.66% and 70% respectively). In addition brewing and selling illicit brews and prostitution also figure strongly (55.33%; 49.33%). Pickpocketing, assault, and the selling and taking of drugs are also noteworthy crimes.

FIG. 42 : CRIMES WHICH ARE THOUGHT TO BE ON THE INCREASE



KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
| A.....Brewing and selling illicit brews | J.....Theft of property from house by strangers |
| B.....Prostitution | K.....Robbing a person |
| C.....Rape /indecent assault | L.....Theft from vehicles |
| D.....Defrauding | M.....Theft of vehicles |
| E.....Theft by servant | N.....Murder |
| F.....Assault | O.....Robbery from premises like banks |
| G.....Shoplifting | P.....Pickpocketing |
| H.....Selling drugs illegally | |
| I.....Taking Bhang etc | |

A comparison with the crimes thought to be common in the past shows very little difference with the crimes thought to be on the increase. But the roles of robbing a person and theft of property from house by strangers are reversed - in the past robbing a person was considered the most common crime whereas at present the respondents consider theft of property from house by strangers to be more on the increase, which may be seen to lend some support to H_4 - that the rate of property offences increases with the degree of urbanization. This will be tested more conclusively in the next chapter.

Having dealt with the general trend of crime in Thika, the time factor; the place where the crime occurred; and the demographic characteristics of the criminals will now be discussed.

THE TIME FACTOR IN THE COMMITMENT OF CRIMES IN THIKA

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.3 summarise the times at which the various crimes took place. From Table 4.1 the individual percentages of types of crimes (regarding the time of day when they occurred) can be observed. For example, it can be seen that the majority of the cases of theft of property from house by strangers occurred during the night - 6 p.m.-6 a.m. (69.04%), and pickpocketing is clearly a daytime crime (75% of the cases recorded occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.). Shoplifting and defrauding - from the small samples available, appear to

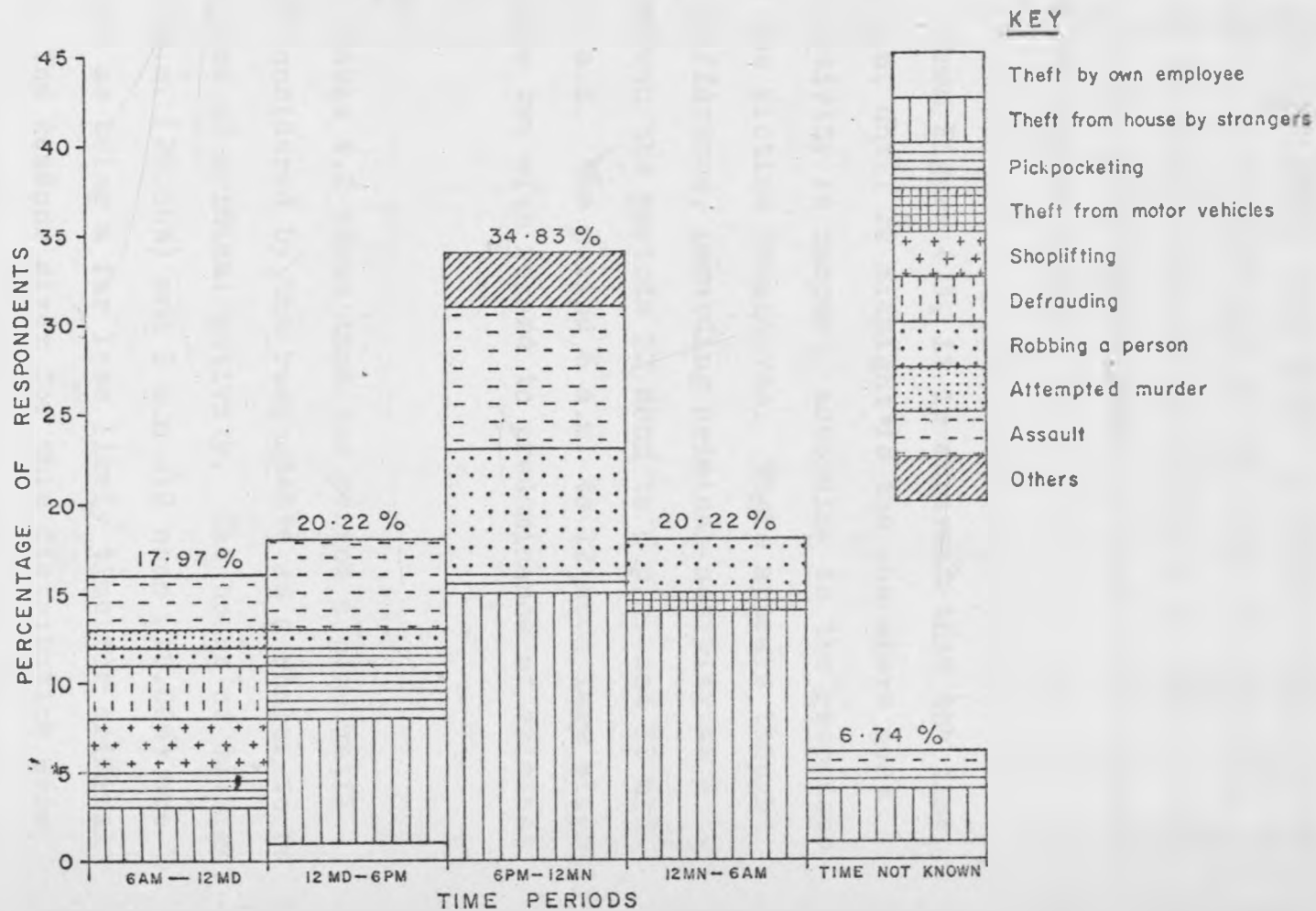
Table 4.1

The Time at Which the Crime was Committed

| Type of Crime | 1 (6 a.m.- 12 noon) | 2 (12 noon- 6 p.m.) | 3 (6 p.m.- 12 mid- night) | 4 (12 mid- night - 6 a.m.) | 5 (Unknown) | N |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----|
| Theft by own employee | | 1 (50.0%) | | | 1 (50.00%) | 2 |
| Theft from house by strangers | 3 (7.14%) | 7 (16.66%) | 15 (35.71%) | 14 (33.33%) | 3 (7.14%) | 42 |
| Pickpocketing | 2 (25.00%) | 4 (50.00%) | 1 (12.50%) | | 1 (12.50%) | 8 |
| Theft from motor vehicle | | | | 1 (100.00%) | | 1 |
| Shoplifting | 3 (100.00%) | | | | | 3 |
| Defrauding | 3 (100.00%) | | | | | 3 |
| Robbing a person | 1 (8.33%) | 1 (8.33%) | 7 (58.33%) | 3 (25.00%) | | 12 |
| Murder attempt | 1 (100.0%) | | | | | 1 |
| Assault | 3 (17.64%) | 5 (29.41%) | 8 (47.05%) | | 1 (5.88%) | 17 |
| Totals | 16 | 18 | 31 | 18 | 6 | 89 |

Note: Some respondents were the victims of more than one type of crime

FIG. 43: THE TIME THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED



occur in the morning hours (6 a.m.-12 noon). Cases of robbing a person seem, like theft of property from house by strangers, to be confined to the hours of darkness (83.33% of the cases occurred between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.). Assault, by way of contrast, seems to occur at no specific period of the day or night.

From Figure 4.3, it is apparent that the time period 6 p.m. until 12 midnight is the one where most criminal activity is rampant, according to the responses given by the victims themselves. There appears though to be no difference, regarding criminal activity as a whole, between the periods 12 noon to 6 p.m. and 12 midnight to 6 a.m. The period 6 a.m. to 12 noon lags slightly behind these two with regard to predominance of criminal activity.

Table 4.2 shows that the period 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. is considered by the respondents as a whole, to be the peak time of criminal activity. The hours of daylight - 12 noon-6 p.m. (20.66%) and 6 a.m.-12 noon (18.00%) are looked upon as being a far less likely time for criminal activity. The reasons given for this distribution were similar - in the hours of darkness, the criminal is not easily identified; many people are asleep and so are not alert if their help is sought to catch a criminal; a sizeable proportion of Thika's population works night-shifts and their houses are thus left empty - a ready

target for the criminal.

If all the respondents' answers are compared with those of the victims of crimes who were interviewed a digression is immediately apparent - the victims reported that 6 p.m.-12 midnight was the time when they were victims; and the time periods 12 noon-6 p.m. and 12 midnight-6 a.m. were equal as regards criminal activity. It will be useful to refer to these time periods later when examining the police registers in Chapter Six.

Table 4.2: The Time the Majority of Crimes are Thought to be Committed in Thika

| Time Period | Percentage |
|---------------------|------------|
| 6 p.m.-12, midnight | 84.00 |
| 12 midnight-6 a.m. | 83.33 |
| 6 a.m.-12 noon | 18.00 |
| 12 noon-6 p.m. | 20.66 |
| Time unknown | 0.66 |

THE PLACE WHERE THE CRIME OCCURRED

The areas where the crimes were committed were quite varied. Pickpocketing, for example, seems to occur in streets, bars and shops (75.00%), whereas the victims of robbing said that the crime took place

mainly in the housing estates (50.00%) and lonely un-built up areas (25.00%). In cases of assault - 47.05% of the cases occurred in the victim's own house, 11.76% in another's house, and 17.64% in the town centre. Theft of property from house by strangers occurred mostly in low income areas (61.90%), with 16.66% of cases in very high income, 7.14% high income (together accounting for almost a quarter of the cases) and 11.90% in medium income areas.

In view of the fact that 96% of Thika's population belong to the low income group (that is, earn less than 1,200/- K.shs. per month), the above figures would seem to suggest that around one-third of the cases of housebreakings recorded during the interviews occurred in that segment of the population which accounts for only 4.00% of Thika's total population.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CRIMINALS

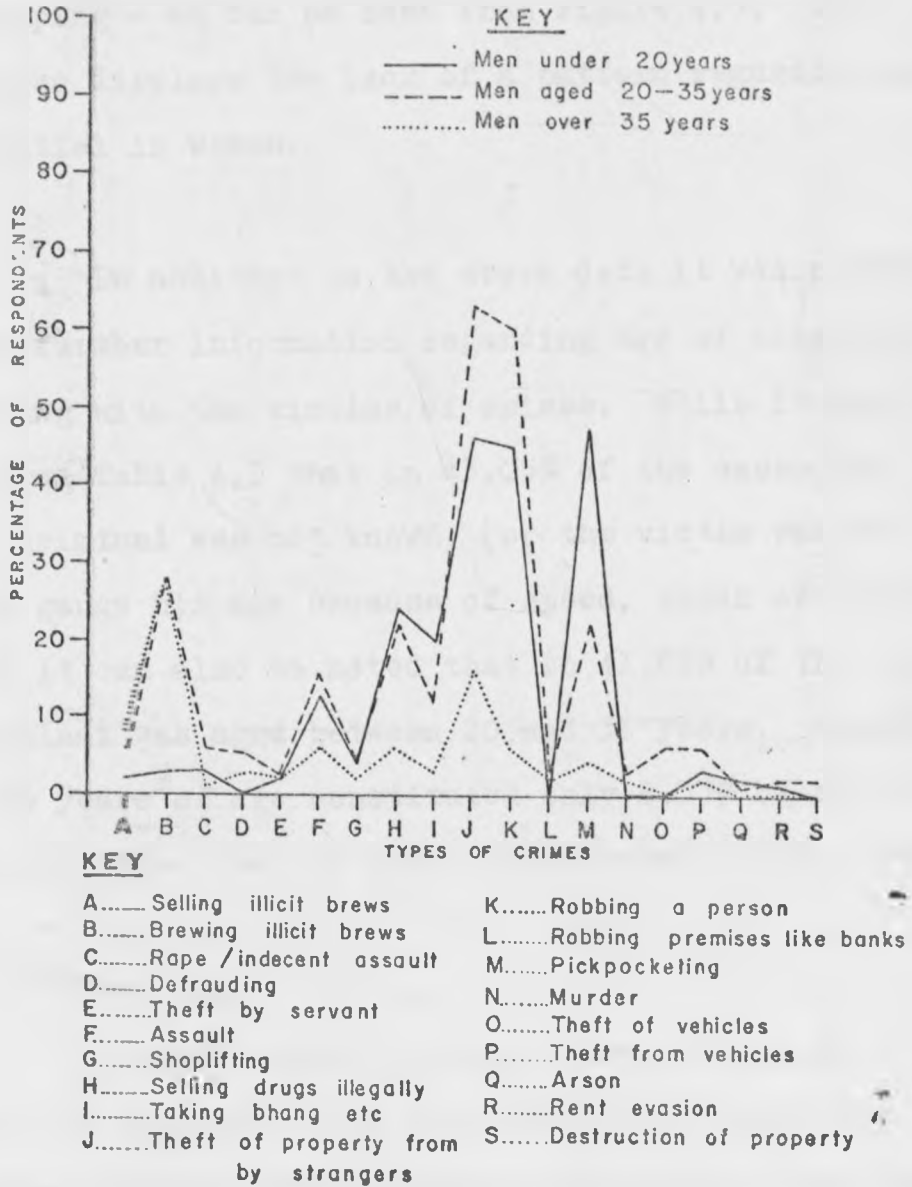
Part of the questionnaire was concerned with determining, from the respondents, whether age was a factor in determining criminal behaviour - in other words, whether the age of criminals could be linked to specific types of crime.

It was found that 78.66% believed that age could be linked to specific types of crime, 14% disagreed with this idea; and 7.33% were undecided about the concept.

The 78.66% who felt age could be linked to types of crime were asked to identify the crimes they could associate with men under 20 years; men aged 20-35 years; and men over 35 years. From these findings a clear distinction of crime types related to age becomes apparent. Whilst theft of property from house by strangers was among the crimes most common to each age grouping, it must be noted that the frequency varied. For example, in the male under 20 years group it recorded a "vote" of 46.00%; in the 20-35 years group - 63.33%; and in the over 35 years group only 16.66%. This quasi-ratio type of structuring appears in the case of other types of crimes, for example, robbing a person and pickpocketing, and can be seen clearly in Figure 4.4. Indeed it appears that those over 35 years commit the least number of each type of crime and those aged 20-35 years are thought to have a higher crime rate than the other age groupings - the only exception being the predominance of the under 20 years age group in selling drugs illegally and pickpocketing. These findings seem to suggest that H_6 - which states that the majority of crimes are committed by people between the ages of 20-35 may be valid.

The age differential, when applied to women, appears to form a less definite trend. Prostitution is highest (61.33%) among the 20-35 years group, with those under 20 years recording 58.66%, and those over 35-40.66%. The brewing and selling of illegal brews is thought to

FIG. 4.4: CRIMES IN THIKA ASSOCIATED MORE WITH MEN — THE AGE DIFFERENTIAL



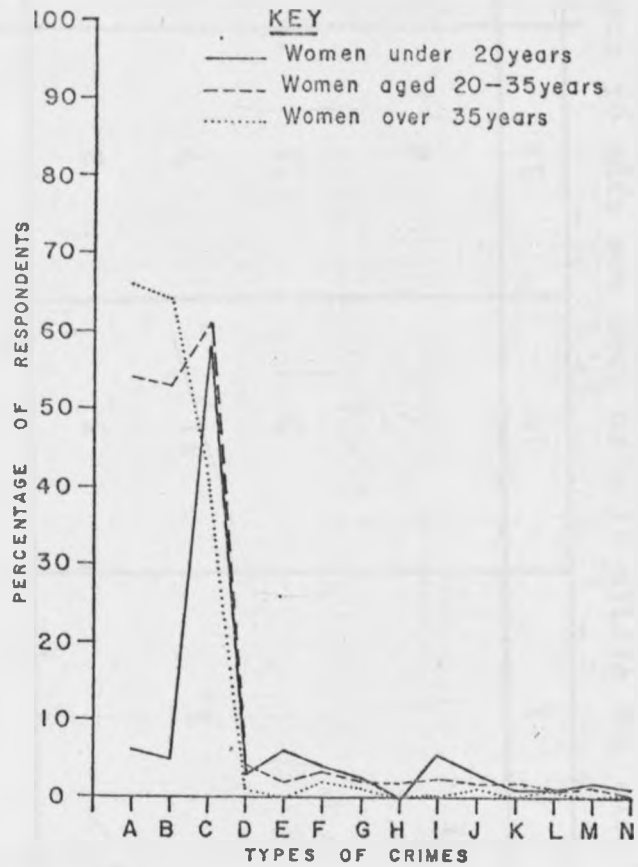
occur at about the same rate (64.00-65.33%) in the 20-35 years age group and the over 35 years group - whereas it is regarded by the respondents as occurring very rarely amongst those women under 20 years of age (6.00%).

Other crimes are recorded at low levels, similar in each age grouping - as can be seen from Figure 4.5. The graph also displays the lack of a pattern regarding age differential in women.

In addition to the above data it was possible to gain further information regarding age of criminals by talking with the victims of crimes. While it may be noted from Table 4.3 that in 43.05% of the cases the identity of the criminal was not known, (or the victim was not able to gauge his age because of speed, shock or limited vision), it can also be noted that in 41.65% of the cases the criminal was aged between 20 and 35 years. Criminals under 20 years of age constituted only 8.33% of all the cases; and those over 35 years constituted 6.94% of the cases.

From the above figures, then, it may be tentatively concluded that the majority of criminals committing offences such as theft of property from house by strangers; attempted murder; assault; and robbing a person; belong to the 20-35 years age group. This gives further support to H_6 - that the majority of crimes are committed by people between the ages of 20-35 years. This

FIG. 4.5: CRIMES IN THIKA ASSOCIATED MORE WITH WOMEN—THE AGE DIFFERENTIAL



KEY

- A.....Selling illicit brews
- B.....Brewing illicit brews
- C.....Prostitution
- D.....Defrauding
- E.....Theft by servant
- F.....Assault
- G.....Shoplifting
- H.....Selling drugs illegally
- I.....Taking bhang etc.
- J.....Theft of property from house by strangers
- K.....Robbing a person
- L.....Kidnapping or babysnatching
- M.....Pickpocketing
- N.....Murder

Table 4.3:

The Age of the Criminals

| Age of Criminal | Theft of Property from House By Strangers | Attempted Murder | Assault | Robbing a Person | Totals |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|------------------|--------|
| Under 20 years | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 20-35 years | 11 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 30 |
| Over 35 years | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Identity of criminal not known | 29 | | | 2 | 31 |
| N = | 42 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 72 |

Note: Some respondents were the victim of more than one type of crime.

finding will be compared with those gathered from the police registers in Chapter six. It is interesting to note that Quetelet's theory was that crimes of violence, rape and burglary were committed by young men (as opposed to boys and old men) - the findings of the survey seem to substantiate his theory. (Radzinowicz and King, 1977).

Having dealt with the role of age generally, the questionnaire focussed attention specifically on the part played by youths in criminal activity in Thika. Respondents were asked whether they felt there were large numbers of youth (aged around 10-20 years) who were engaged in criminal activity in Thika. Of those interviewed, 90.66% said they believed there were; 7.33% felt there were not; and 2.00 per cent said that they did not have any idea about the situation.

The respondents who answered in the affirmative (90.66%) were then asked why they thought youths turned to criminal activity. Their responses are recorded in Table 4.4. From the replies of those interviewed, it would seem that "lack of jobs" is a critical factor ("necessity" is linked to this of course). But "other reasons" - consisting mainly of factors such as family background,, influence of friends and lack of educational facilities also play a role; as do "lack of recreational facilities" and "boredom" (the latter two constituting 35.99%). These

reasons are similar to the explanations given by Burt in his book The Young Delinquent (Burt, 1944).

Table 4.4: Reasons for Youths, Aged 10-20 Years, Committing Crimes in Thika

| Reason | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| Lack of jobs | 63.33 |
| Necessity - stealing to survive | 54.66 |
| Other reasons (mainly family background) | 33.33 |
| Lack of recreation facilities | 18.66 |
| Boredom | 17.33 |
| Sense of relative poverty | 12.00 |

It is now necessary to discuss the demographic characteristics of sex, in order to determine whether men are primarily responsible for the commitment of crimes. Table 4.5 (compiled from victim's responses) shows that 63.88% (46) of those involved in the crimes were male; while 4.16 were female; and only 1.38% involved male and female criminals working together. In 30.55% of the cases the identity of the criminal was not known.

Table 4.5:

Sex of the Criminal - Male or Female?

| Sex of Criminal | Theft of Property from House By Strangers | Attempted Murder | Assault | Robbing a Person | Totals |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|------------------|--------|
| Male | 20 | | 15 | 11 | 46 |
| Female | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| Both male and female | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Identity of criminal not known | 21 | | | 1 | 22 |
| N = | 42 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 72 |

Note: Some respondents were the victim of more than one type of crime.

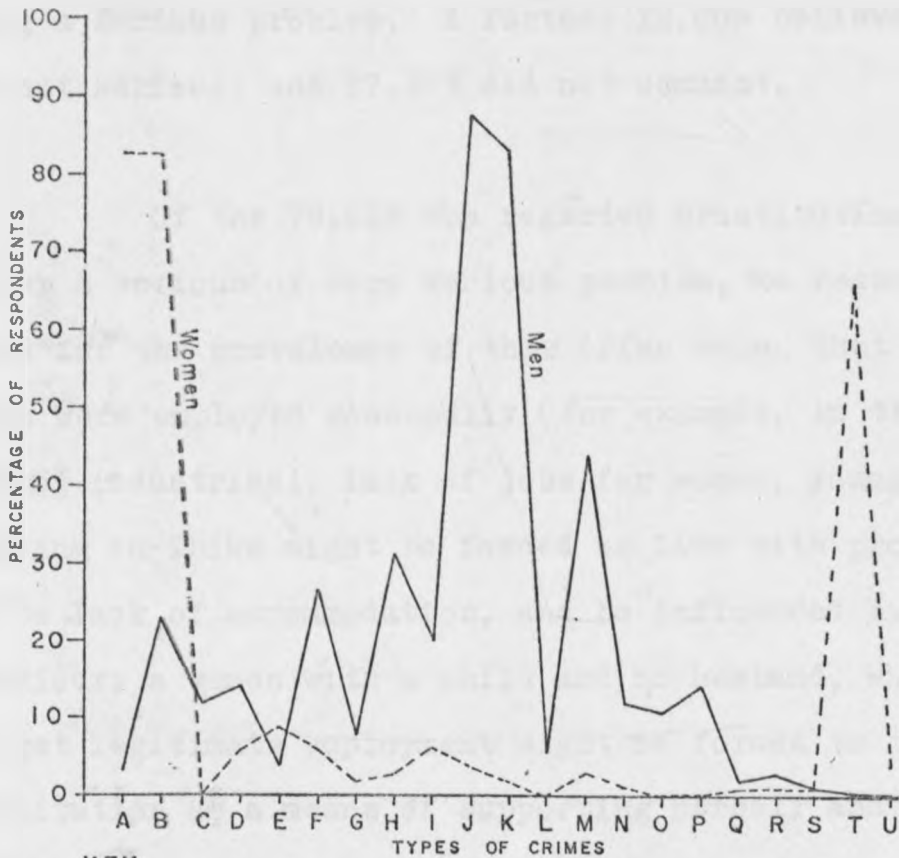
It can be concluded from the above figures that males are the main perpetrators of crimes such as theft of property from house by strangers; assault; and robbing a person - indeed it would seem from the results gathered from the survey that H_5 - that men have committed relatively more crimes than women, is valid. It will be tested further in the following chapters.

As was mentioned in Chapter One, although women in developed countries are becoming more active in the field of crime (as was found by Radzinowicz and King, 1977), in developing countries there are not so many opportunities to commit crimes (the absence of large supermarkets and stores in small towns, for example), and in Thika, from these figures, it would seem women are very much the second sex with regard to the field of crime. Their role in crime will be looked at again in Chapter Six when the data from the police registers is examined.

An attempt was made to ascertain whether the respondents in general felt there existed a delineation of crimes because of the sexual role. Figure 4.6 shows that those interviewed did distinguish between the role played by a male and that of a female criminal.

It may be noted, for example, that theft of property from house by strangers and robbing a person are

FIG. 4.6: CRIMES IN THIKA ASSOCIATED MORE WITH MEN AND CRIMES IN THIKA ASSOCIATED MORE WITH WOMEN



KEY

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| A.....Selling illicit brews | M..... Pickpocketing |
| B..... Brewing illicit | N.....Murder |
| C.....Rape /indecent assault | O.....Theft of vehicles |
| D.....Defrauding | P.....Theft from vehicles |
| E.....Theft by servant | Q.....Arson |
| F.....Assaeri | R..... Rent evasion |
| G.....Shoplifting | S.....Destruction of property |
| H.....Selling drugs illegally | T.....Prostitution |
| I.....Taking Bhang etc. | U.....Kidnapping or babysnatching |
| J.....Theft of property from houses by strangers | |
| K.....Robbing a person | |
| L.....Robbing premises like banks | |

considered to be predominantly male crimes, while brewing and selling illicit brews and prostitution are allotted to the female criminal. With regard to prostitution, 49.33% of those interviewed looked upon prostitution as being a very serious problem in Thika and 21.33% saw it as being a serious problem. A further 12.00% believed it was not serious; and 17.33% did not comment.

Of the 70.66% who regarded prostitution as either a serious or very serious problem, the reasons given for the prevalence of this crime were: that many women were employed seasonally (for example, in the canning industries); lack of jobs for women, young girls arriving in Thika might be forced to live with prostitutes due to lack of accommodation, and be influenced by their behaviour; a women with a child and no husband, who could not get legitimate employment might be forced to turn to prostitution as a means of supporting herself and her child; the psychology of town life which encourages a need to "get rich quick" is conducive to prostitution; isolation from one's home area facilitates promiscuous behaviour.

Having examined the time and place where the crimes are committed, and the demographic characteristics of the criminals in Thika, the author will now look at the number of criminals involved, the relationship between the criminals and the victim, and finally the areas where criminals are thought to live.

From Table 4.6 it is possible to ascertain percentages of the number of criminals involved in the commitment of a crime (based on the responses given by victims). It may be computed from Table 4.6 that in 15.27% of the crimes described by the victims, only one criminal was present; in 18.05% of the crimes, two or three criminals took part in the act; and in 27.77% of the crimes there were more than three criminals involved. However in 38.88% of the crimes described to the author, the victim was not present at the time the crime was committed and so was unable to say how many criminals were involved.

Regarding the relationship between the criminal and the victim, it will be found from Table 4.7 that in only 8.33% of the cases, did the victims know the criminal very well. In 4.16% of the cases the criminal had been seen once or twice by the victim before the crime was committed. What is most noticeable is that in almost half the cases (48.61%) the criminal was not known at all by the victim. In 38.88% of the cases the victim did not see who committed the crime and so did not know if there was any type of relationship between himself and the criminal.

Table 4.6:

The Number of Criminals Involved

| Number of criminals involved | Theft of Property from House By Strangers | Attempted Murder | Assault | Robbing a Person | Totals |
|------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|------------------|--------|
| 1 | 5 | | 5 | 1 | 11 |
| 2-3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 13 |
| More than 3 | 6 | | 6 | 8 | 20 |
| Unknown | 26 | | 1 | 1 | 28 |
| N = | 42 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 72 |

Note: Some respondents were the victim of more than one type of crime

Table 4.7:

Relationship between Criminal and Victim

| Type of Relationship between Criminal and Victim | Theft of from House By Strangers | Attempted Murder | Assault | Robbing a Person | Totals |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------|---------|------------------|--------|
| Criminal is very well known to victim | 1 | | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| Criminal has been seen once or twice by victim | | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| Criminal is not known at all by victim | 14 | | 11 | 10 | 35 |
| Victim was not present when crime was committed | 27 | | | 1 | 28 |
| N = | 42 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 75 |

Note: Some respondents were the victim of more than one type of crime

The survey also sought to isolate the areas where respondents believed criminals lived. From Table 4.8 it is clear that Majengo, Kiandutu and Kiangombe (64.00% and 59.33% respectively) fall into this category. In addition "Pilot" estate and Bahati (known as "Biafra" locally) also figure, as does Garissa Road estate - mainly Makongeni (8.00%).

In Chapter Six the police registers will be examined to determine the places of residence of the accused persons, and comparisons will be made with the questionnaire responses. And from the findings two maps will be constructed (Chapter Seven) - one to illustrate where crimes are committed and the other to show the places of residence of the accused persons.

Table 4.8: The Areas in Thika where Criminals are Thought to Live

| Area | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Majengo | 64.00 |
| Kiandutu and Kiangombe | 59.33 |
| "Pilot" estate | 25.33 |
| Bahati ("Biafra") estate | 14.66 |
| Garissa Road (mainly Makongeni) | 8.00 |
| In the town centre | 4.66 |
| Other | 4.00 |
| T.U.D.C. (Jamhuri), Starehe estates | 1.33 |

The survey also attempted to gauge whether respondents felt that there were criminals who came from outside Thika specifically to commit crimes in Thika. Only 26.00% felt that such criminals of non-local origin did come to Thika for the pursuit of criminal activity; 56.66% disagreed with the idea, and 17.33% said that they had no idea as to the situation.

Of the 26.00% who believed that non-local criminals came and committed crimes in Thika, some felt these criminals came from Nairobi, others from Kiambu and others from Muranga. Ruiru was also mentioned.

These findings will be compared with those from the police registers in Chapter Six.

The final section of the questionnaire was concerned with obtaining respondents' suggestions for reducing criminal activity in Thika. Tables 4.9 and 4.10 outline their responses. It would seem from these that the respondents would welcome more police foot patrols at night - both in the town centre and the housing estates. It was also felt that more day foot patrols by the police and provision of more employment opportunities might deter criminal activity in the town centre in Thika. The employment of guards and watchmen, and the presence of the police during daylight hours was suggested for the housing estates.

Table 4.9: Suggestions for Reducing Crime in the
Town Centre, Thika

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| More night police patrols (foot) | 57.33% |
| More day police patrols (foot) | 36.00% |
| Provide more employment opportunities | 23.33% |
| Other measures | 19.33% |
| More night police patrols (car) | 10.66% |
| Employ guards and night watchmen | 7.33% |
| Build another police station | 7.33% |
| More severe punishment to criminals | 6.66% |
| More day police patrols (car) | 5.33% |

Table 4.10: Suggestions for Reducing Crime in the
Housing Estates, Thika

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| More night police patrols (foot) | 67.33% |
| Employ guards and night watchmen | 16.66% |
| More day police patrols (foot) | 16.00% |
| Other measures | 12.66% |
| Provide more employment opportunities | 6.66% |
| More night police patrols (car) | 6.00% |
| Build another police station | 4.66% |
| More day police patrols (car) | 4.00% |
| More severe punishments to criminals | 4.00% |

Having established ways of improving the present situation in the town centre and housing estates, respondents were then asked about measures which were at present being taken in their own estates, by the community, to prevent criminal activity. Table 4.11 shows that very little is in fact being done - 67.33% of those interviewed said no measures were being taken; approximately one-fifth (21.33%) employ night watchmen; and 10.66% relied on dogs and locked gates to deter criminals. A further 4.00% employed day guards. Only 2.66% (constituting Bendor estate) formed a group in their estate to patrol the area.

Table 4.11: Measures at Present Being Taken in Housing Estates in Thika (By the Community Itself) to Prevent Crime

| Measure | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| Nothing | 67.33 |
| Employment of watchmen (night) | 21.33 |
| Other measures (mainly dogs and locked gates) | 10.66 |
| Employment of day guards | 4.00 |
| House owners patrol in shifts | 2.66 |

Finally since plans are already in process to build another police station in Thika, (to be located near Garissa Road estate), and since these plans are not known to the general population in Thika, the survey

sought to gain respondents' own ideas as to where a new police station should be located. Table 4.12 - which records 72.00% of those interviewed as suggesting Garissa Road estate as a site, and 14.66% - the industrial area (which adjoins Garissa Road estate) confirms the Town Planning Department's choice of site.

Table 4.12: Location of a New Police Station

| Suggested Site | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Garissa Road estate | 72.00 |
| Industrial area | 14.66 |
| Other area | 4.00 |
| Kiandutu | 2.66 |
| Bendor estate | 1.33 |
| Kimathi estate | 1.33 |
| Next to the railway station | 1.33 |
| Kiangombe | 0.66 |

The reasons given for their choice was that Thika is expanding in this direction (that is, Garissa Road estate) at a very rapid rate and the present police station (which is located in the town centre) is too far away.

The recommendations for reducing criminal activity in Thika will be discussed in more detail and some aspects developed further in the final chapter of this study.

CHAPTER FIVE

ANALYSIS OF DATA GATHERED FROM POLICE SUMMARIES

In the Police summaries at Thika the author found that crimes were classified as follows:

Series Types of Crimes:

| <u>Classification</u> | <u>Types of Crime</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A | Murder |
| B | Manslaughter |
| C | Rape |
| D | Assault |
| E | Other offences against the person |
| F | Robbery and stealing from the person |
| G | Breakings |
| H | Cattle theft |
| I | Other stock theft |
| J | Theft over 400/- K.shs. |
| K | Other thefts |
| L | Theft from motor vehicle |
| M | Theft of bicycle |
| N | Theft of produce |
| O | Theft by servant |
| P | Receiving or handling stolen property |
| S | Other offences against property |
| T | All other penal code offences |

Type T is rather general - it includes approximately thirty different types of crimes. For the purposes of this study Types A to S will be analysed. These crimes will be dealt with in two sections - violent crimes against the person (types A-F), and crimes against property (types G-S).

VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

Type A - Murder

From Table 5.1 one finds that murder formed 1.07% of all serious crimes. And Table 5.2 shows that the largest proportion of murders (18.75%) were committed in 1977 and that over half of all murders committed during the period 1968-1977 (54.16%) occurred during 1974-1977.

One finds that there has been an overall increase (from 1968-1977) of 350%. Whilst the population of Thika has also increased, its overall increase during the same period was 134.24%.

It is also possible to identify a distribution pattern for the commitment of murders for the period 1968-1971. During these years murders were committed during the months February-May (inclusive) and in August and September.

Table 5.1:

Distribution of Types of Crimes as Percentage of Annual Total

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A | 0.60 | 1.26 | 1.15 | 0.59 | 0.92 | 0.71 | 0.91 | 1.12 | 0.67 | 1.07 |
| B | | 0.31 | | | | 0.95 | 1.09 | 0.64 | 0.40 | 0.47 |
| C | | 0.94 | 1.73 | 2.17 | 1.23 | 0.71 | 1.09 | 1.77 | | 0.71 |
| D | 9.60 | 22.15 | 23.12 | 18.37 | 13.84 | 18.09 | 14.38 | 17.58 | 21.10 | 21.07 |
| E | 0.90 | 2.21 | 0.28 | 1.18 | 1.38 | 0.71 | 0.72 | 1.29 | 1.62 | 2.38 |
| F | 7.20 | 2.21 | 2.02 | 7.11 | 10.00 | 8.33 | 8.19 | 7.25 | 7.57 | 5.00 |
| G | 15.91 | 17.40 | 17.63 | 17.58 | 21.53 | 23.33 | 19.67 | 14.19 | 17.86 | 16.30 |
| H | | | 0.57 | | 0.30 | 0.23 | 0.18 | 0.96 | 0.94 | 0.95 |
| I | | 0.94 | 1.15 | 0.59 | 0.46 | | 2.00 | 1.12 | 0.67 | 0.23 |
| J | 3.00 | 1.58 | 0.86 | 2.17 | 2.46 | 2.61 | 4.55 | 4.83 | 4.46 | 3.57 |
| K | 19.51 | 13.92 | 13.29 | 16.60 | 13.38 | 14.52 | 13.47 | 14.83 | 12.71 | 15.23 |
| L | 5.10 | 3.16 | 2.31 | 6.52 | 2.92 | 5.71 | 4.91 | 8.54 | 2.57 | 4.52 |
| M | 11.71 | 6.32 | 12.42 | 7.70 | 5.69 | 6.66 | 4.91 | 1.45 | 2.84 | 2.26 |
| N | 4.50 | 7.59 | 2.02 | 3.75 | 2.00 | | 0.54 | | 0.27 | 0.83 |
| O | 4.20 | 6.96 | 7.22 | 4.74 | 7.69 | 4.76 | 8.92 | 8.87 | 12.85 | 11.78 |
| P | 0.60 | 0.94 | 0.86 | 1.18 | 0.30 | | 0.18 | 0.16 | 0.13 | |
| S | 2.70 | 2.53 | 3.17 | 1.77 | 3.53 | 1.42 | 3.46 | 2.74 | 4.87 | 3.69 |
| T | 14.41 | 9.49 | 10.11 | 7.90 | 12.30 | 11.19 | 10.74 | 12.58 | 8.38 | 9.88 |
| N = | 333 | 316 | 346 | 506 | 650 | 420 | 549 | 620 | 739 | 840 |

Table 5.2:

Annual Distributions of Types of Crimes in Percentages

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | N |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| A | 4.161 | 8.33 | 8.33 | 6.25 | 12.5 | 6.25 | 10.41 | 14.58 | 10.41 | 18.75 | 48 |
| B | | 4.54 | | | | 18.18 | 27.27 | 18.18 | 13.63 | 18.18 | 22 |
| C | | 5.55 | 11.11 | 20.37 | 14.81 | 5.55 | 11.11 | 20.37 | | 11.11 | 54 |
| D | 3.32 | 7.27 | 8.31 | 9.66 | 9.35 | 7.90 | 8.21 | 11.33 | 16.21 | 18.39 | 962 |
| E | 4.10 | 9.58 | 1.36 | 8.21 | 12.32 | 4.10 | 5.47 | 10.95 | 16.43 | 27.39 | 73 |
| F | 6.62 | 1.93 | 1.93 | 9.94 | 17.95 | 9.66 | 12.43 | 12.43 | 15.46 | 11.60 | 362 |
| G | 5.51 | 5.72 | 6.34 | 9.26 | 14.56 | 10.19 | 11.23 | 9.15 | 13.73 | 14.25 | 961 |
| H | | | 7.40 | | 7.40 | 3.70 | 3.70 | 22.22 | 25.92 | 29.62 | 27 |
| I | | 7.89 | 10.52 | 7.89 | 7.89 | | 28.94 | 18.42 | 13.15 | 5.26 | 38 |
| J | 5.74 | 2.87 | 1.72 | 6.32 | 9.19 | 6.32 | 14.36 | 17.24 | 18.96 | 17.24 | 174 |
| K | 8.38 | 5.67 | 5.93 | 10.83 | 11.22 | 7.87 | 9.54 | 11.87 | 12.12 | 16.51 | 775 |
| L | 6.85 | 4.03 | 3.22 | 13.30 | 7.66 | 9.67 | 10.88 | 21.37 | 7.66 | 15.32 | 248 |
| M | 13.82 | 7.09 | 15.24 | 13.82 | 13.12 | 9.92 | 9.57 | 3.19 | 7.44 | 6.73 | 282 |
| N | 16.66 | 26.66 | 7.77 | 21.11 | 14.44 | | 3.33 | | 2.22 | 7.77 | 90 |
| O | 3.09 | 4.85 | 5.51 | 5.29 | 11.03 | 4.41 | 10.81 | 12.14 | 20.97 | 21.85 | 453 |
| P | 10.52 | 15.78 | 15.78 | 31.57 | 10.52 | | 5.26 | 5.26 | 5.26 | | 19 |
| S | 5.32 | 4.73 | 6.50 | 5.32 | 13.60 | 3.55 | 11.24 | 10.05 | 21.30 | 18.34 | 169 |
| T | 8.54 | 5.33 | 6.22 | 7.11 | 14.23 | 8.36 | 10.49 | 13.87 | 11.03 | 14.75 | 562 |

In 1972 this pattern changed, but was apparent again/1973. 1974, 1975 and 1976 show a wider spread, / in and in 1977 murders were committed in seven months of the year.

Type B - Manslaughter

Table 5.1 shows clearly that, (with the exception of 1969) manslaughter did not become evident until 1973 when it formed 0.95% of all serious crimes. It is interesting to note that in the most recent statistics (1977) it formed only 0.47% of all serious crimes.

Examining Table 5.2 one sees that the highest percentages of manslaughter cases occurred in 1974 (27.27%), and that since then cases of manslaughter have fluctuated. This may be due to the use of "plea bargaining" - whereby a person who has committed a murder may decide to plead guilty to a charge of manslaughter (this case would thus be recorded as manslaughter instead of murder), rather than try to contest a murder charge (where if he is convicted he may be hanged). Some of the reasons for "plea bargaining" which has not been formalised in Kenya were outlined by Mr. K.G. Gautama, (Nairobi Times, May 21, 1978) -

"It is submitted that there are considerable advantages to be gained on both sides (prosecutor and accused), in the smooth working of such a process;

(1) the resulting compromise will probably be acceptable and advantageous to both sides; (2) the accused (and sometimes the prosecutors!) will be saved from the unnecessary and usually detrimental publicity and also the full rigours of an unwarranted trial; (3) the accused will probably be saved from judicial wrath assuming that the magistrate or trial judge has reached the conclusion that the defence case was not warranted; (4) pre-trial delays might be lessened, and this is especially advantageous to an accused in custody; (5) the Police or State Counsel might obtain a conviction to a lesser charge in a situation where their case might not succeed; (6) as a corollary, the accused might be able to plead guilty to a lesser charge and thereby be saved from a charge carrying a harsh custodial sentence".

(Gautama, "Nairobi Times", May 21, 1978)

The use of plea bargaining therefore may distort criminal statistics to some extent. Further examples of this will be dealt with later.

There is a wide span of manslaughter cases - it is not possible to identify any period of the year as having more or less cases of manslaughter. Again the reasons for this may be linked to the concept of plea bargaining.

It can be calculated that, taking 1969 as base year, cases of manslaughter have increased 300%. If however one regards 1969 as being an isolated incident (since there were no cases reported in the following

three years), and takes 1973 as the base year then no change would be recorded for the period 1973-1977.

Since 1973 there has been a dramatic increase in manslaughter cases - this may or may not be regarded as significant in the light of the information contained in the recent article on plea bargaining. However if one was to treat cases of murder and manslaughter together (in order to avoid bias of cases of plea bargaining) one would find that there was an overall increase of 550% from 1968-1977 - an indication that these types of crimes have increased dramatically.

Type C - Rape

Mention has already been made of the difficulties in dealing with statistics relating to cases of rape and it is doubtful whether any meaningful conclusions can be drawn from such statistics since it is a crime where the victim may be ashamed to report the incident to the police. Cases of rape form part of the dark figure of crime referred to by Radzinowicz and King in their book The Growth of Crime (1977).

Examining Table 5.1 we find that rape forms a very small percentage of all serious crimes - 0.94% in 1969 and in 1977 only 0.71%. However in view of the unreliability of these statistics one may surmise that

the true percentage may be fractionally higher.

Table 5.2 shows that the years 1971 and 1975 recorded the highest totals for cases of rape. One also notes that though no cases were recorded in 1968 and 1976 - which seems a rather unlikely situation in a town the size of Thika (in 1969 the population was 18,387; and at present (1977) it is estimated to be 43,000). The other possible explanation is that the three who were convicted of rape in 1975 were those primarily responsible for cases of rape; or that the conviction of these three served as a temporary deterrent for other would-be rapists.

Again, one cannot identify any period of the year as having predominantly more, or less, cases of rape - although September seems to be free of cases (the exception being one case recorded in 1975). One possible explanation for this may be (if one presumes that a certain proportion of rape cases occur in the "bush" areas) that at this time of the year the maize is harvested - thus removing the possible scene of the crime.

One finds that there has been an overall increase of 100% in the period 1969-1977 - again this may not be conclusive since it is doubtful if all cases of rape are reported.

Type D - Assault

It is true that not all cases of assault may be reported to the police since they may occur as a result of family disputes or quarrels between friends. However statistics for cases of assault are, generally speaking, much more reliable than those of rape.

Table 5.1 illustrates the proportion of assault cases which occur in a year. In 1968, for example, assault cases formed almost one-tenth of all serious crimes for that period and in 1972 it had attained nearly 14% of all serious crimes. Currently it represents slightly over one-fifth of serious crimes.

One sees from Table 5.3 that the highest number of cases of assault (18.39%) occurred in 1977 - and if one compares this with 1968 which represented only slightly over 3% of all assaults one can see that assault as a crime has dramatically increased. This is clarified by examining Table 5.3 where one observes that with the exception of 1971-1972 and 1972-1973, cases of assault have been increasing throughout the period. From 1968-1977 there has been an overall increase of over 450% - a very dramatic change.

Table 5.3:

Type "D" Assault

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 9.37 | 11.59 | 2.5 | 2.15 | 7.77 | 6.57 | 7.59 | 4.54 | 5.12 | 9.6 |
| February | 6.25 | 10.14 | 7.5 | 4.3 | 6.66 | 11.84 | 6.32 | 10.0 | 7.05 | 9.6 |
| March | 6.25 | 8.69 | 1.25 | 7.5 | 6.66 | 10.52 | 3.79 | 12.72 | 9.61 | 7.34 |
| April | 12.5 | 4.34 | 8.75 | 6.45 | 7.77 | 14.47 | 3.79 | 11.81 | 10.89 | 11.29 |
| May | 18.75 | 7.24 | 8.75 | 3.22 | 8.88 | 9.21 | 3.79 | 8.18 | 10.89 | 13.55 |
| June | 3.12 | 15.94 | 3.75 | 8.6 | 3.33 | 6.57 | 7.59 | 3.63 | 10.25 | 8.47 |
| July | 9.37 | 5.79 | 5.0 | 6.45 | 14.44 | 3.94 | 11.39 | 10.0 | 8.33 | 7.9 |
| August | 15.62 | 4.34 | 7.5 | 17.20 | 12.22 | 9.21 | 7.59 | 4.54 | 8.97 | 10.16 |
| September | 6.25 | 4.34 | 1.25 | 10.75 | 7.77 | 5.26 | 12.65 | 14.54 | 7.69 | 6.21 |
| October | 3.12 | 8.69 | 16.25 | 17.20 | 6.66 | 10.52 | 20.25 | 10.9 | 6.41 | 5.64 |
| November | 3.12 | 4.34 | 6.25 | 8.6 | 8.88 | 5.26 | 7.59 | 1.81 | 9.61 | 4.51 |
| December | 6.25 | 15.94 | 12.5 | 7.52 | 8.88 | 6.57 | 7.59 | 7.27 | 5.12 | 5.64 |
| N = | 32 | 70 | 80 | 93 | 90 | 76 | 79 | 109 | 156 | 177 |

It should be mentioned that Thika is a relatively new town and as a centre of development it is continually attracting newcomers in search of employment. Indeed it was found in the previous chapter that of those interviewed in the questionnaire only 12% were over the age of 40. Whilst the sample size was relatively small, this statistic may be used as a guide in relation to the whole population of Thika. Mention has already been made of Quetelet's theory in which he ascribes "violence, rape, burglary and robbery to the young men" (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 17). Putting these two facts together the large number of cases of assault may be reasonably explained - and if Thika continues to attract young people (as seems likely) one may expect further increases in the number of cases of assaults.

Again there seems to be no distinct pattern of distribution - assaults seem to occur at no set time of the year - one cannot select one month as having the least number of cases of assault, or another as having the most.

Type E - Other Offences Against the Person

This is rather a general classification and includes such offences as indecent assault and defiling of a girl under 14 years. It may also include pick-pocketing.

Since it is a general type of offence it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the statistics obtained. However one can see, from Table 5.1, that Type E crimes have increased from representing 0.90% of all serious crimes in 1968 to 1.38% in 1972 and in 1977 attained over 2% of all serious crimes.

And Table 5.2 shows that over a quarter (27.39%) of all Type E crimes occurred in 1977 alone.

Type F - Robbery and Stealing from the Person

As a type of crime, robbery and stealing from the person seems to be declining in importance relative to other serious crimes. In 1968, for example, it represented just over 7% of all serious crimes, whereas in 1977 it accounted for only 5%.

One possible explanation for the decline in cases of robbing a person may be that the lonely un-built up areas of Thika are gradually becoming occupied, (one-quarter of the questionnaire victims of robbing said that the crime occurred in a lonely un-built up area of Thika). In addition one may tentatively suggest that those who committed this type of crime in the past have found that other types of crime are more profitable, for example, house breaking.

If one examines the annual distribution of Type F crimes as is presented in Table 5.2, one finds that the highest proportion (17.95%) occurred in 1973, (65 cases).

However whilst this total has not been attained since, there has been an increase overall of 75%.

From Table 5.4 one can observe a fairly even distribution of Type F crimes with no month predominating.

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Type G - Breakings

This includes housebreaking and burglaries. In 1968 it accounted for almost 15% of all serious crimes and in 1977 there was only a fractional increase (16.30%). It is interesting to note though that in 1972 and 1973 and 1974 it accounted for approximately one-fifth of all serious crimes. But 1977 recorded the second highest number of cases of breakings (14.25%) - the highest being 1972 with around 14½%.

With the exception of 1973 and 1975 (which recorded decreases over the previous year), the number of breakings has been steadily increasing. The overall increase from 1968-1977 being some 158.49%!

Table 5.4:

Type "F" - Robbing a Person

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 12.5 | 14.28 | 14.28 | | 6.15 | 8.57 | 4.44 | 13.33 | 7.14 | 19.04 |
| February | | | 28.57 | 8.33 | 4.61 | 22.85 | 4.44 | 4.44 | 14.28 | 7.14 |
| March | 12.5 | | | 8.33 | | 17.14 | 6.66 | 8.88 | 8.92 | 11.9 |
| April | 8.33 | | | 2.77 | 4.61 | 5.71 | 6.66 | 17.77 | 8.92 | 9.52 |
| May | 20.83 | 14.28 | | 19.44 | 20.0 | 8.57 | 8.88 | 11.11 | 7.14 | 4.76 |
| June | | 14.28 | | | 13.84 | | 2.22 | | 8.92 | 2.38 |
| July | 16.66 | | | 2.77 | 9.23 | | 13.33 | 4.44 | 8.92 | 9.52 |
| August | 8.33 | | 14.28 | 16.66 | 9.23 | 8.57 | 13.33 | 6.66 | 8.92 | 4.76 |
| September | 16.66 | | | 13.88 | 9.23 | 5.71 | 17.77 | 8.88 | 3.57 | 2.38 |
| October | 4.16 | 14.28 | 14.28 | 2.77 | 9.23 | 11.42 | 11.11 | 6.66 | 5.35 | 11.9 |
| November | | 14.28 | 28.57 | 13.88 | 7.69 | 5.71 | 2.22 | 4.44 | 5.35 | 11.9 |
| December | | 28.57 | | 11.11 | 6.15 | 5.71 | 8.88 | 13.33 | 12.5 | 4.76 |
| N = | 24 | 7 | 7 | 36 | 55 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 56 | 42 |

Table 5.5:

Type "G" - Breakings

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 18.88 | 8.77 | 9.83 | 2.24 | 4.28 | 3.06 | 4.58 | 9.09 | 8.33 | 9.48 |
| February | 5.66 | 8.77 | 19.67 | 3.37 | 7.85 | 5.1 | 8.25 | 5.68 | 7.57 | 8.02 |
| March | 3.77 | 10.52 | 1.63 | 1.12 | 9.28 | 12.24 | 10.09 | 6.81 | 4.54 | 8.75 |
| April | 13.2 | 10.52 | 13.11 | 3.37 | 7.85 | 7.14 | 8.25 | 5.68 | 8.33 | 4.37 |
| May | 9.43 | 7.01 | 6.55 | 6.74 | 5.0 | 4.08 | 4.58 | 9.09 | 13.63 | 10.21 |
| June | 7.54 | 1.75 | 8.19 | 2.24 | 12.14 | 9.18 | 7.33 | 5.68 | 6.81 | 3.64 |
| July | 3.77 | 12.28 | 9.83 | 10.11 | 10.0 | 7.14 | 7.33 | 14.77 | 13.63 | 9.48 |
| August | 11.32 | 12.28 | 3.27 | 16.85 | 10.71 | 14.28 | 3.66 | 9.09 | 9.84 | 11.67 |
| September | 7.54 | 1.75 | 1.63 | 19.1 | 7.85 | 14.28 | 9.17 | 9.09 | 8.33 | 13.13 |
| October | 9.43 | 3.5 | 8.19 | 15.73 | 10.71 | 6.12 | 15.59 | 12.5 | 2.27 | 10.21 |
| November | 3.77 | 8.77 | 6.55 | 7.86 | 9.28 | 7.14 | 11.0 | 5.68 | 3.78 | 7.29 |
| December | 5.66 | 10.52 | 11.47 | 11.23 | 5.0 | 10.2 | 9.17 | 6.81 | 12.87 | 3.64 |
| N = | 53 | 55 | 61 | 89 | 140 | 98 | 108 | 88 | 132 | 137 |

Quetelet's theory may also prove useful in the context of breakings. He believed that such crimes as house breaking and burglaries were committed by young people, and, as noted above, Thika seems to have a large proportion of people who belong to this category. Thus, an increase in the number of breakings, according to Quetelet's theory, is quite feasible. As a result of the increase in population and general development of Thika there has of course been a rise in the number of opportunities presented to burglars, (increase in the number of factories and houses). (Radzinowicz and King, 1977).

There seems to be no pattern to the distribution of this type of crime - it appears to occur throughout the year.

Type H - Cattle Theft

From Table 5.1 it can be immediately seen that cattle theft accounts for only a tiny fraction of the serious crimes - and in 1968, 1969 and 1971 there were no cases reported.

However, examining the statistics given in Table 5.2, one finds that almost 78% of all Type H crimes have occurred in the last three years (1975-1977).

Emerging from Table 5.2 is the fact that 67.80% of all thefts in this category have occurred within the last four years (1974-1977).

Whilst Type J may be in the same position as it was (in proportion to other crimes) in 1968, it has in fact increased 200% overall (Table 5.6). Table 5.6 also shows a widespread distribution with no month predominating.

Type K - Other Thefts

Table 5.1 shows that in relation to the total number of serious crimes Type K has declined - in 1968 it represented almost one-fifth of all serious crimes whereas in 1977 it accounted for just over 15%.

However, one sees from Table 5.2 that 1977 accounted for the highest percentage of Type K crimes - with 16½%. And Table 5.2 shows that with the exception of 1969 and 1973, other thefts have been steadily increasing. There has been in fact an overall increase (1968-1977) of almost 97%.

Table 5.7 shows no month appears to be free of this crime but at the same time no month predominates.

Table 5.6:

Type "J" - Theft Over 400/- K. shs.

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 |
|-----------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 10.0 | | 33.33 | | | 18.18 | 4.0 | 13.33 | 12.12 | 3.33 |
| February | 20.0 | 20.0 | | 9.09 | | 9.09 | | 16.66 | 6.06 | 6.66 |
| March | 20.0 | | 33.33 | 9.09 | 6.25 | 27.27 | 12.0 | | 9.09 | 10.0 |
| April | 10.0 | | | | | | 8.0 | | 3.03 | 13.33 |
| May | | 40.0 | | 9.09 | 6.25 | 9.09 | 20.0 | 3.33 | 6.06 | 6.66 |
| June | 10.0 | | | | 25.0 | | 4.0 | 3.33 | 6.06 | 13.33 |
| July | 10.0 | | | 27.27 | 6.25 | | 12.0 | 30.0 | 6.06 | 10.0 |
| August | | | | 27.27 | 12.5 | 9.09 | 4.0 | 13.33 | | 10.0 |
| September | | | | 9.09 | 12.5 | 9.09 | 12.0 | 6.66 | 12.12 | 10.0 |
| October | | 20.0 | 33.33 | 9.09 | 6.25 | | 4.0 | | 12.12 | 10.0 |
| November | 10.0 | | | | 18.75 | 9.09 | 4.0 | 6.66 | 3.03 | 3.33 |
| December | 10.0 | 20.0 | | | 6.25 | 9.09 | 16.0 | 6.66 | 24.24 | 3.33 |
| N = | 10 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 11 | 25 | 30 | 33 | 30 |

Table 5.7:

Type "K" - Other Thefts

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 |
|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | 6.15 | 9.52 | | 2.38 | 11.49 | 3.33 | 14.86 | 16.3 | 3.19 | 7.81 |
| February | 10.76 | 9.52 | 10.86 | 5.95 | 8.04 | 3.33 | 12.16 | 13.04 | 4.25 | 3.12 |
| March | 13.84 | 7.14 | 8.69 | 3.57 | 6.89 | 3.33 | 9.45 | 3.26 | 10.63 | 10.93 |
| April | 7.69 | 4.76 | 8.69 | 4.76 | 11.49 | 11.66 | 6.75 | 9.78 | 11.7 | 6.25 |
| May | 12.3 | 9.52 | 8.69 | 13.09 | 9.19 | 15.0 | 12.16 | 11.95 | 11.7 | 7.03 |
| June | 10.76 | 7.14 | 15.21 | 10.71 | 12.64 | 3.33 | 5.4 | 4.34 | 3.19 | 5.46 |
| July | 6.15 | 9.52 | 4.34 | 4.76 | 12.64 | 11.66 | 10.81 | 9.78 | 7.44 | 9.37 |
| August | 3.07 | 9.52 | 6.52 | 10.71 | 5.74 | 15.0 | 6.75 | 7.6 | 20.21 | 10.15 |
| September | 3.07 | 11.9 | 17.39 | 9.52 | 5.74 | 5.0 | 4.05 | 5.43 | 4.25 | 8.59 |
| October | 9.23 | 7.14 | 6.52 | 10.71 | 5.74 | 6.66 | 10.81 | 4.34 | 10.63 | 7.81 |
| November | 6.15 | 9.52 | 6.52 | 8.33 | 6.89 | 8.33 | 6.75 | 5.43 | 6.38 | 9.37 |
| December | 10.76 | 9.52 | 6.52 | 15.47 | 3.44 | 15.0 | | 8.69 | 6.38 | 14.06 |
| N = | 65 | 44 | 46 | 84 | 87 | 61 | 72 | 92 | 94 | 128 |

Type L - Theft from a Motor Vehicle

In spite of slight fluctuations, theft from motor vehicles seems to account for not more than 6% of all serious crimes (the only exception being 1971-1975 where the range was $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ %). In 1968 it represented about 5% and in 1977 $4\frac{1}{2}$ %.

Looking at the distribution of Type L crimes one finds that actually over one-fifth occurred in 1975 and over 15% in 1977. Thefts from motor vehicles are definitely on the increase, although how much, it is difficult to say since the figures fluctuate over the period. However, taking the period overall one finds an increase of almost 124%.

Type M - Theft of Bicycle

As a type of crime, theft of bicycles is definitely decreasing. In 1968 it accounted for nearly 12% of all serious crimes whereas in 1977 it had fallen to just over 2%. If one puts this decrease alongside other crimes involving theft, for example, breakings, theft over 400/- K.shs., other thefts, one finds that criminals appear to be turning to types of theft which offer a greater profit - this may to some extent account for the decline in bicycle thefts in Thika.

Type N - Theft of Produce

Theft of produce has also decreased in importance - in 1968 it represented 4½% but in 1977 it accounted for less than one per cent of all serious crimes. And in 1973 and 1975 no cases were recorded.

Type O - Theft by Servant

This type of crime as a percentage of all serious crimes, seems to be increasing - in 1968 it accounted for just over 4% while in 1977 it represented almost 12%.

A further indication of the rise in importance of this type of crime is the fact that of all cases of theft by servant around 43% have occurred within the last two years (1976-1977).

Table 5.8 illustrates clearly the dramatic rise in theft by servant crimes. 1968-1977 shows an increase of over 607%. The increase in these cases may be due to a number of factors which centre around the fact that Thika is becoming more and more industrialized. Workers in factories, for example, may not feel "loyalty" to their employers since they work mainly 'with machines and as such are relatively isolated from the manager or owner of the factory; in addition living in an urban area

Table 5.8:

Type "O" - Theft by Servant

| | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | | 9.09 | 12.0 | 12.5 | 2.0 | | 1.92 | 1.81 | 5.26 | 4.04 |
| February | 14.28 | 13.63 | | 8.33 | 10.0 | 15.0 | 11.53 | 7.27 | 5.26 | 7.07 |
| March | 14.28 | | 4.0 | 8.33 | 2.0 | 10.0 | 7.69 | 18.18 | 9.47 | 9.09 |
| April | | 9.09 | 8.0 | 8.33 | | 15.0 | 9.61 | 7.27 | 9.47 | 9.09 |
| May | 14.28 | 18.18 | 16.0 | | 16.0 | 10.0 | 1.92 | 7.27 | 5.26 | 11.11 |
| June | 7.14 | 31.81 | 8.0 | 16.66 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 1.92 | 5.45 | 6.31 | 6.06 |
| July | 14.28 | 13.63 | 12.0 | 8.33 | 12.0 | | 9.61 | 3.63 | 6.31 | 8.08 |
| August | 7.14 | | 8.0 | | 14.0 | | 5.76 | 3.63 | 7.36 | 13.13 |
| September | 7.14 | 4.54 | | 12.5 | 8.0 | 15.0 | 15.38 | 10.9 | 11.57 | 9.09 |
| October | 21.42 | | 4.0 | 12.5 | 8.0 | 5.0 | 9.61 | 3.63 | 5.26 | 12.12 |
| November | | | 4.0 | 4.16 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 13.46 | 7.27 | 13.68 | 6.06 |
| December | | | 24.0 | 8.33 | 10.0 | 5.0 | 11.53 | 12.72 | 14.73 | 5.05 |
| N = | 14 | 22 | 25 | 24 | 50 | 20 | 49 | 55 | 95 | 99 |

in close proximity to Nairobi they may be presented with new values and concepts as suggested by Merton; they may be encouraged to become materialistic and experience a sense of relative poverty as described by Quetelet; finally in a factory they are presented with the opportunity to steal. Theft by servant also includes cases where a person such as an ayah (usually a girl or woman who works in an employed person's house and looks after his/her children) steals from her employer. Again this may be attributed to lack of a sense of loyalty, a desire for material things and of course the opportunity to obtain them.

Table 5.8 shows no distinct distribution regarding monthly totals for this type of crime - it appears to occur throughout the year.

Type P - Receiving or Handling Stolen Property

An examination of Table 5.1 shows that in 1968 this crime represented just over half per cent of all serious crimes and in 1977 no cases were reported. And looking at Table 5.2 one sees that there is a similar trend - the period 1972-1977 only accounts for about 15% of all the cases.

However, whilst these statistics may represent what is happening in Thika, it is doubtful whether they are true reflections of the situation, since a person

would normally prefer to be convicted of theft than of handling or receiving stolen property. Mr. K.G. Gautama cites the handling or receiving of stolen goods as an example of where a person may engage in plea bargaining:

"In such a situation (assuming the guilt of the accused) it would make good sense for him to plead guilty to a charge of theft (which carries a maximum sentence of three years imprisonment and where a custodial sentence is not binding upon the Court) as opposed to handling which carries a mandatory sentence of seven years together with five years police supervision at the end of the sentence".

(Gautama, "Nairobi Times", May 21, 1978)

Type S - Other Offences Against Property

This includes the damaging of property as well as arson. It accounts for only a small percentage of all serious crimes - in 1968 it represented slightly more than 2½% and in 1977 just over 3½%.

Of all cases reported of this type of crime around 60% have occurred during the last four years (1974-1977). Table 5.2 illustrates this trend more clearly. 1972 and 1976 have proved to be peak years for this crime but there is only a slight decrease of about 14% from 1976-1977 so the tendency of violence towards property may continue. In fact, there has been an overall increase (1968-1977) of almost 255%. It was found that this crime may occur at any time of the year.

Violent Crimes Against the Person and Crimes Against Property

It can be calculated from Table 5.1 that in 1968 violent crimes against the person (Types A-F) accounted for slightly more than 18% of all serious crimes, and crimes against property totalled just over 81%. In 1977 there is a change of trend--with violent crimes against the person now accounting for around 30% of all serious crimes and crimes against property recording about 69% of all serious crimes. Crimes against property whilst falling in their representation of all serious crimes, have actually increased 1,795.5% over the period 1968-1977 - whilst the population of Thika has increased 134.24% over the same period. This proves H_4 - that the rate of property offences increase with the degree of urbanization. From the research it was also found that the rate of increase in crime (serious crimes) for the period 1968-1977 is 10.8% while Thika's population has increased 11.1% - showing that the population has been increasing at a higher rate than the crime rate (reported crimes). These findings therefore disprove H_2 - that crime in Thika has been relatively increasing during the period, although it must be remembered that a number of crimes are not reported to the police.

Violent Crimes Against the Person

It has already been noted above that violent crimes against the person seem to be increasing their proportionate share of all serious crimes. When one examines violent crimes against the person per se one finds that assault is the chief contributor in both 1968 and 1977 - in 1968 it accounted for about 52% of all violent crimes against the person. In 1977 its share was just over 68%.

Crimes Against Property

In 1968 "other thefts" (that is, less than 400/- K.shs.) accounted for nearly 24% of all crimes against property; breakings, almost 20%; and theft by servant 5%. By 1977 "other thefts" account for about 22% while breakings amount to 23½% and theft by servant is now accounting for 17% of all crimes against property.

What emerges from this analysis is that cases of assault, robbing a person, breakings, theft over 400/- K.shs., other thefts and theft by servant are currently accounting for most of Thika's crimes (almost 73%). These crimes will therefore be discussed in more detail in the following chapter and the author will try to ascertain the age and sex of those committing these types of crimes. In addition murder and manslaughter will also be dealt with.

CHAPTER SIX

CHARACTERISTICS OF ACCUSED PERSONS

In this chapter the characteristics of age, sex and occupations of the accused persons in Thika during the period 1968-1977 will be discussed with a view to ascertaining which sex group is committing most crimes; which age group is dominant; and the main occupations pursued by the accused persons. The time at which crimes were committed will also be examined and a comparison will be made with the findings from the questionnaire.

Mention has already been made of the growing predominance of certain types of crimes in Thika during the period 1968-1977. These crimes - assault, robbing a person, breakings, theft over 400/- K.shs., other thefts, theft by servant, and in addition, murder and manslaughter, will therefore be examined for the years 1971, 1974 and 1977 in order to try to establish which age and sex groups are responsible for the commitment of these crimes. According to Quetelet crimes such as assault, rape, burglary and robbery are committed by young men; petty thefts by boys; and fraud and minor sex offences by old men. It was found that this theory applied to the questionnaire data of victims' responses. One must now determine how applicable it is to crime in Thika in the period 1968-1977. Does Quetelet's argument

hold true, that is, that -

"the propensity to crime must be at its maximum at the age when strength and passion have reached their height, yet when reason has not acquired sufficient control to master their combined influence". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 17)

For the purpose of this study Quetelet's category of young men will be considered as being aged 20-35 years.

Tables 6.1 and 6.2 illustrate the patterns regarding age and sex to be found amongst the accused persons in Thika during the period 1968-1977.

Table 6.1 shows that in the case of men, for example, the age group 20-35 years contains the largest proportion of accused males. This confirms the earlier findings from the questionnaire data and H_6 - which states that the majority of crimes are committed by people between the ages of 20-35 years. It is however difficult to assess the whole situation since slightly more than one-fifth (359) are classified simply as "adult". Women also appear to commit more crimes when aged 20-35 years which would seem to contradict Radzinowicz and King's theory that crime amongst women is most apparent before and after the child rearing stage (Radzinowicz and King, 1977). However to reach any conclusion on the matter one would need to know the ages of the 34 women who were classified simply as "adults".

Table 6.1:

Male and Female Age Differentials in Crime

| Age Groups | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Male | Under 20 years | 13 (5.93%) | 69 (17.03%) | 43 (10.76%) | 93 (11.93%) |
| | 20-35 years | 3 (1.36%) | 195 (48.14%) | 271 (69.48%) | 492 (63.15%) |
| | Over 35 years | 1 (0.45%) | 21 (5.18%) | 65 (16.66%) | 67 (8.60%) |
| | Adults* | 202 (92.23%) | 120 (29.62%) | 11 (2.82%) | 127 (16.30%) |
| Males sub total | | 219 | 405 | 390 | 779 |
| Female | Under 20 years | 1 (5.55%) | 12 (33.33%) | 5 (21.73%) | 16 (23.88%) |
| | 20-35 years | 0 | 17 (47.22%) | 12 (52.17%) | 40 (59.70%) |
| | Over 35 years | 0 | 0 | 4 (17.39%) | 3 (4.47%) |
| | Adults* | 17 (94.44%) | 7 (19.44%) | 2 (8.69%) | 8 (11.94%) |
| Females sub total | | 18 | 36 | 23 | 67 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977

* Age was unspecified - described simply as 'adult'

Table 6.2: The Characteristic of Sex in Crime

| | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Male | 92.40% | 91.83% | 94.43% | 91.12% |
| Female | 7.59% | 8.16% | 5.56% | 8.87% |
| N = | 237 | 441 | 413 | 744 |

Table 6.2 illustrates male predominance in the field of crime - as yet it appears that women in Thika are poorly represented in this area - accounting for only 7½% of crimes in 1968 and almost 9% in 1977. It would seem, as Radzinowicz and King find in their book The Growth of Crime that women are still "the second sex in terms of crime" (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 17). This finding proves H_5 - that men have committed relatively more crimes than women.

Tables 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 summarise the relationship between age, sex and the more important types of crimes in Thika during the years 1971, 1974 and 1977. In 1971 it can be observed that almost 77% of the cases of assault were committed by males aged 20-35 years, and the same group accounted for about 72% of the cases of robbery and stealing from a person. They also committed 56% of the breakings (the remaining 44% were committed by males under 20 years). Men over 35 years were responsible for the cases reported of theft over 400/- K.shs. while males

Table 6.3:

Age, Sex and Commitment of Different Crimes 1971

| Age | Sex | Type of Crime Committed in 1971 | | | | | | | | | N |
|----------------------|--------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| | | Murder | Man- slau- ghter | Ass- ault | Robb- ing a per- son | Break- ings | Theft over 400/- k.shs. | Other thefts | Theft by serv- ant | Other crimes | |
| Under 20 years | Male | | | 18.8% | 4.3% | 10.1% | | 26.0% | | 40.5% | 69 |
| | Female | | | | | | | 8.3% | | 91.6% | 12 |
| 20 - 35 years | Male | | | 30.7% | 6.6% | 4.6% | | 14.8% | 6.1% | 36.9% | 195 |
| | Female | | | | | | | | | 100.0% | 17 |
| Over 35 years | Male | | | 23.8% | 9.5% | | 9.5% | 19.0% | 14.2% | 23.8% | 21 |
| | Female | | | | | | | | | - | - |
| Totals | | - | - | 78 | 18 | 16 | 2 | 52 | 15 | 133 | 314 |

Notes

Murder - 1 female was classed as adult

Assault - 31 males were classed as adults

" 2 females were classed as adults

Robbing a Person - 19 males were classed as adults

Theft over 400/- K.shs. - 3 males were classed as adults

Other Thefts - 18 males were classed as adults

Theft by Servant - 10 males were classed as adults

Total number of "Adults" for all Crimes - 219 (202 male, 17 female)

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Register, 1971.

Table 6.4:

Age, Sex and Commitment of Different Crimes 1974

| Age | Sex | Murder | Man- slaughter | Ass- ault | Robb- ing a per- son | Break- ings | Theft over 400/- K.shs. | Other thefts | Theft by serv- ant | Other crimes | N |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Under 20 years | Male | | | 16.2% | 6.9% | 4.6% | | 25.5% | 2.3% | 44.1% | 43 |
| | Female | | | 20.0% | | | | 20.0% | 40.0% | 20.0% | 5 |
| 20 - 35 years | Male | 1.4% | 1.4% | 18.8% | 6.6% | 11.0% | 4.0% | 9.9% | 11.8% | 34.6% | 271 |
| | Female | | | 33.3% | | | | 16.6% | 16.6% | 33.3% | 12 |
| Over 35 years | Male | | 3.0% | 16.9% | 6.1% | 9.2% | 3.0% | 18.4% | 21.5% | 21.5% | 65 |
| | Female | | | 25.0% | 25.0% | | | 25.0% | | 25.0% | 4 |
| Totals | | 4 | 6 | 75 | 26 | 38 | 13 | 54 | 51 | 133 | 400 |

Notes

Murder - 2 males classified as adults

Assault - 1 male classified as adult

Breakings - 1 female classified as adult

Theft over 400/- K.shs. - 3 males classified as adults

Other thefts - 1 female classified as adult

Theft by Servant - 1 male classified as adult

Total number of "Adults" for all crimes - 13 (11 males - 2 females)

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Register, 1974.

Table 6.5

| Age | Sex | Type of Crime Committed in 1977 | | | | | | | | | N |
|----------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----|
| | | Murder | Man-slaughter | Assault | Robbing a person | Breaking | Theft over 400/- K.shs. | Other thefts | Theft by servant | Other crimes | |
| Under 20 years | Male | 1.0% | | 13.8% | 1.0% | 15.9% | 2.1% | 37.2% | 8.5% | 20.2% | 94 |
| | Female | 6.2% | | 6.2% | | 6.2% | | 12.5% | 12.5% | 56.2% | 16 |
| 20 - 35 years | Male | 0.2% | 0.2% | 25.0% | 5.2% | 9.5% | 1.8% | 14.8% | 12.1% | 30.8% | 492 |
| | Female | 2.5% | | 25.0% | | | 5.0% | 7.5% | 7.5% | 52.5% | 40 |
| Over 35 years | Male | | | 31.8% | 4.5% | 16.6% | | 15.1% | | 33.3% | 66 |
| | Female | | | 33.3% | | | | | | 66.6% | 3 |
| Totals | | 4 | 1 | 159 | 30 | 72 | 13 | 123 | 73 | 225 | 771 |

Notes: Manslaughter - 2 males classified as adults
 Assault - 23 males classified as adults
 " - 2 females classified as adults
 Robbing a Person - 10 males classified as adults
 Breakings - 20 males classified as adults
 Theft Over 400/- K.shs. - 6 males classified as adults
 Other thefts - 15 males classified as adults
 " - 1 female classified as adult
 Theft by servant - 23 males classified as adults
 " - 1 female classified as adult
 Total number of "Adults" for all Crimes - 135 (127 males, 8 females)
 Source: Compiled from Thika Police Register, 1977.

under 20 accounted for 35% of other thefts and those males aged 20-35 years were responsible for 56%. Theft by servant was again dominated by males aged 20-35 (80%). Indeed this category constituted 62% of all the accused, while those under 20 made up 22% and males over 35-7%. Women accounted for 9% of all the accused persons.

In 1974 all the cases of murder were committed by men aged 20-35 - they also were responsible for two-thirds of the cases of manslaughter. Assault was also dominated by this group (68%) as was robbing a person (69%). And 79% of all breakings were committed by them. There were no cases of women being involved in cases of breakings. Males 20-35 years were also responsible for 84% of the thefts over 400/- K.shs.. Whilst males 20-35 were primarily responsible for other thefts (50%), males under 20 accounted for about one-fifth of the cases. And cases of theft by servant were committed by males aged 20-35 (63%) and over 35 (27%). In summary males aged 20-35 committed 68% of all the crimes, while those over 35 were responsible for 16% and the under 20 group, 11%. Women accounted for only 5% of all crimes.

The figures for murder in 1977 show a fairly even distribution between males and females under 20, and those aged 20-35 years. Assault is again dominated by males 20-35 (77%), but it is interesting to note that over 6% of the cases were committed by women aged 20-35 years. Males aged 20-35 were responsible for nearly 87%

of cases of robbing and 65% of breakings; males under 20 accounted for one-fifth of breakings. And 70% of thefts over 400/- K.shs. were committed by males aged 20-35 years. Women aged 20-35 and males under 20 each constituted 15%. Other thefts were committed by males 20-35 (59%) and under 20 (28%). Theft by servant in 1977 was dominated by males aged 20-35 (82%). And nearly 64% of all serious crimes were committed by this group, while 12% were committed by males under 20 years and 8½% by males over 35. The proportion of women involved in crime remained small (7½%).

What emerges from this analysis is that young boys (that is, those under 20 years) seem to be mostly involved in petty theft (other thefts), assault and more recently, breakings. Those young men aged 20-35 seem to be dominant in each of the eight crimes - they form the largest proportion of all accused persons. Males over 35 years are not highly represented but appear to commit a number of different types of crime rather than any particular one.

It would appear from the above findings that Quetelet's division of criminals according to age is fairly applicable to Thika in the period 1968-1977. Quetelet's theory that young boys commit petty thefts is true - in this study it was found that males under 20 engage in petty thefts. Other thefts represented one-quarter

of all the crimes this age group engaged in in 1968, and it now (1977) represents about 37% of all their criminal activity. In addition it was found that young men (aged 20-35) are primarily responsible for cases of assault, robbing, breakings, theft over 400/- K.shs., other thefts and theft by servant - thus giving support to Quetelet's concept which ascribes - "violence, rape and burglary to the young men". (Radzinowicz and King, 1977, p. 17). As was mentioned earlier it is not possible to examine cases of rape with any degree of confidence since it belongs to the dark figures of criminal statistics - many cases go unreported due to a feeling of shame on the part of the victim. It is therefore not possible to test Quetelet's theory in this respect. No specific relationship was found between old men (those over 35 years) and particular crime types.

The Occupation of the Accused Person

From the police registers for the years 1968, 1971, 1974 and 1977 it was possible to obtain the occupation of the accused person at the time of arrest in 1,243 cases out of a total of 1,778 accused persons.

Since it is not possible to ascertain the occupation of the 535 whose occupation was not stated, the total 1,243 will be used as the grand total (1968-1977) and the following sub-totals will be used:

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 1968 | 161 (237) |
| 1971 | 377 (408) |
| 1974 | 170 (391) |
| 1977 | 535 (742) |

Table 6.6 illustrates the major occupations pursued by the accused persons in the years 1968, 1971, 1974 and 1977. It is apparent from this table that labourers form a sizeable proportion of the accused persons (with a peak of almost 30% of accuseds' occupations in 1971) - but currently account for about 10% of occupations. It is interesting to note that machine operators also occupy around 10% of occupations in 1977 - although like labourers their share in the total numbers seems to be declining slightly. Clerks appear to constitute a small but constant category (about 2½% in 1969 and 3% in 1977).

It appears from Table 6.6 that certain occupations are tending to be more represented than others - that is, some are increasing their share of the total. Examples of this are students (nearly 2% in 1968; 3½% in 1974; and almost 7% in 1977), watchmen (slightly more than 1% in 1968; almost 6% in 1977), turn boys (about 2% in 1968; and just over 3% in 1977), mechanics (around 1% in 1968; and slightly more than 3% in 1977), and barmen/barmaids (about ½% in 1968; and 2½%, 1977).

Table 6.6: Occupations of the Accused Persons,
Thika, 1968-1977

| Occupation of Accused Person | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Labourer | 20.49% | 29.44% | 18.82% | 9.90% |
| Student | 1.86% | 2.91% | 3.52% | 6.91% |
| Clerk/Junior Clerical Officer | 2.48% | 2.38% | 2.94% | 2.99% |
| Watchman | 1.24% | 1.06% | 8.23% | 5.98% |
| Turn Boy | 1.86% | 2.91% | 2.35% | 3.55% |
| Mechanic | 1.24% | 1.06% | 3.52% | 3.17% |
| Barman/Barmaid | 0.62% | 0.26% | 1.76% | 2.61% |
| Machine Operator | - | 4.24% | 17.05% | 9.90% |
| Businessman | - | 4.24% | 4.70% | 5.42% |
| Driver | - | 2.65% | 6.47% | 5.42% |
| Unemployed | 71.42% | 26.79% | 5.88% | 24.48% |
| N = | 161 | 377 | 170 | 535 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers,
1968, 1971, 1974, 1977

It is not really possible to draw any conclusions from the figures of those who were unemployed since the original data appears to be erratic - and of the 535 whose occupations were not stated, it may be expected that a proportion were unemployed. But one can find some support for H_1 - that there is a high correlation between unemployment and commitment of crimes during the period 1968-1977, although it is difficult to establish just how high the correlation is.

It was found that the category of labourers recorded an overall increase (1968-1977) of just over 60% - whilst that of students attained an even more dramatic rise of 1,133%. Watchmen also recorded a steep rise from 2 persons (1968) to 32 (1977) - producing a rise of 1,500%. And barmen/barmaids achieved an increase overall of 1,300% whilst the category of mechanic attained 750%.

These figures are interesting since although by no means conclusive (since 535 occupations are unrecorded), they may be indicative of future trends.

Having examined the demographic characteristics of the accused persons, it is now necessary to look at the time at which the crime was committed - to see whether the data from the police registers corresponds with that from the survey.

Tables 6.7 and 6.8 deal with the time at which the crime was committed. Table 6.7 - with its large numbers of crimes (400) with unspecified or unknown times, and its wide classification of "day" (88) and "night" (287) proves rather inconclusive. From it, however it is perhaps apparent that the twelve hour period - 12 noon-12 midnight is the timewhen the majority of crimes occur. And if the unknown or unspecified times (numbers) of crimes are omitted this concept becomes even clearer.

Table 6.8 shows that slightly more crimes occur at night (a margin of 2%) - but the large number of unspecified or unknown times again prevents a firm conclusion.

It would seem from the above findings and those of Chapter Four that the two important time periods with regard to criminal activity are (1) 12 noon-6 p.m.; (2) 6 p.m.-12 midnight.

Table 6.7:

| Time Crime was Committed | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (1) 6.a.m. - 12 noon | 47 (14.55%) | 84 (14.38%) | 67 (17.49%) | 171 (16.89%) |
| (2) 12 noon - 6 p.m. | 55 (17.02%) | 107 (18.32%) | 104 (27.15%) | 213 (21.04%) |
| (3) 6 p.m. - 12 midnight | 59 (18.26%) | 144 (24.65%) | 38 (9.92%) | 226 (22.33%) |
| (4) 12 midnight - 6 a.m. | 9 (2.78%) | 39 (6.67%) | 59 (15.40%) | 105 (10.37%) |
| (5) During the day | 9 (2.78%) | 50 (8.56%) | 6 (1.56%) | 23 (2.27%) |
| (6) During the night | 34 (10.52%) | 87 (14.89%) | 29 (7.57%) | 137 (13.53%) |
| (7) Time unspecified/ unknown | 110 (34.05%) | 73 (12.50%) | 80 (20.88%) | 137 (13.53%) |
| Totals | 323 | 584 | 383 | 1012 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977.

Table 6.8:

| Time Crime was Committed | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Day | 34.36% | 41.26% | 46.21% | 40.21% |
| Night | 31.57% | 46.23% | 32.89% | 46.24% |
| Unspecified/unknown | 34.05% | 12.50% | 20.88% | 13.53% |
| N = | 323 | 584 | 383 | 1012 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977

CHAPTER SEVEN

APPLICATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL ZONE CONCEPT TO THIKA

Having analysed the data collected in the research, the author will now apply the ecological zone concept as Schmid did in his study 'Urban Crime Areas': Part II (Schmid, 1960, pp. 655-678), to see if ecological zones of activity may be identified in Thika. In order to accomplish this the questionnaire data will be utilised to establish areas where crimes are committed. In addition the data from the police registers regarding cases of breakings and theft by servant will also be used. The same source will be used to establish the areas of residence of the accused persons.

Table 7.1 shows the areas where different crimes occurred and it is possible to see that the town centre and Majengo are the two areas where the crime rate is high. It can also be observed that Garissa Road Estate is an area which figures highly in breakings.

On Map 7.1 the areas where crimes have occurred have been plotted to show the distribution for different types of crimes in 1977. These are based on the figures in Table 7.1. In addition the premises (business and residential) which suffered from breakings, and theft by servant in 1977 have also been shown.

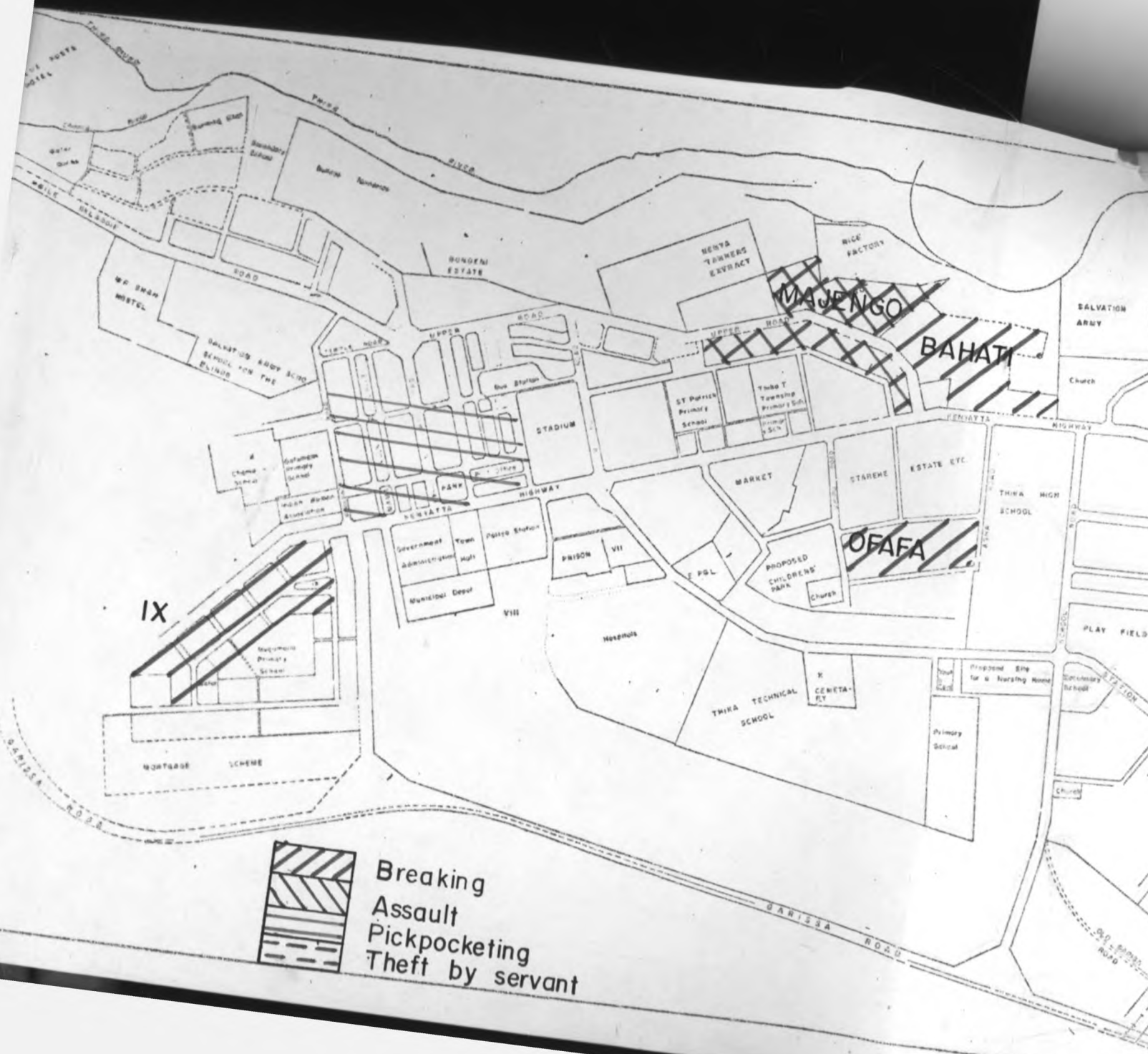
Table 7.1: Areas Where Crimes Were Committed


| Area | <u>Crimes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | Totals | |
|----------------------|---------------|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|--------|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | |
| Starehe | | | | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | 4 |
| Haile Selassie | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Section IX | | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Blue Posts | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Ofafa | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 6 |
| Bendor | | | | | | 3 | | 1 | | | | | 4 |
| Garissa Rd. | | | | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | 9 |
| Pilot | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 2 |
| Mortgage | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 |
| Bahati | | | | | | 5 | | | | 1 | | | 6 |
| Majengo | | | | | 6 | 3 | | | | 1 | | | 10 |
| Market | | 2 | | 3 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 8 |
| Kiangombe | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Kiandutu | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | 5 |
| C.U. | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Jamhuri | | | | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | 4 |
| Town centre | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 6 | | | 1 | | | 12 |
| Lonely, un-built up | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Industrial | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Other's house | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Other housing estate | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Section 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 42 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 1 | | 90 |

Key

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - Knocked by car which did not stop | 7 - Pickpocketing |
| 2 - Defrauding | 8 - Theft from garden |
| 3 - Murder attempt | 9 - Theft from motor vehicle |
| 4 - Shoplifting | 10 - Robbing |
| 5 - Assault | 11 - Theft by servant |
| 6 - Breaking | |

Compiled from data from author's questionnaire, 1978




 Breaking
 Assault
 Pickpocketing
 Theft by servant

MAP OF



THIKA SHOWING THE AREAS WHERE CRIMES OCCUR

Table 7.2 summarises the significant victims of breakings for the four years studied (1868, 1971, 1974 and 1977). And Table 7.3 shows the corresponding significant figures for cases of theft by servant. It can be seen that Section IX, Ofafa, Bahati and Garissa Road Estates and Majengo are all currently figuring in recorded cases of breakings (1977), whilst the industrial area - in particular, Thika Cloth Mills, features strongly in reported cases of theft by servant.

Areas of Residence of Accused Persons

Tables 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 show the areas of residence of the accused persons. There are however a number of cases where the accused person's place of residence is classified simply as "Thika" (96) - thus not indicating a specific location for the purpose of analysis. These cases therefore have not been included for statistical calculation.

What is perhaps immediately apparent from Table 7.4 is that in 1968 the housing estates and places outside Thika were fairly equally represented (each accounting for about 31%). But in 1977 the housing estates account for only 11½% whilst places outside Thika account for about 74%. It may be tentatively concluded from this that a sizeable number of the crimes committed in Thika are committed by non-residents. Table 7.7 shows the numbers involved who come from places such as Murang'a, Kiambu, Kakamega and Machakos.

Table 7.2: Principle Victims of Breakings, Thika, 1968-1977

| | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Ofafa | | 5.66% | | 15.55% |
| Majengo | | 3.77% | 3.22% | 11.11% |
| Section IX | 11.11% | | 1.61% | 17.77% |
| Starehe | | 1.88% | | 6.66% |
| Toray Mills | 5.55% | 3.77% | 6.45% | |
| United Textile Industry | | 9.43% | 6.45% | |
| Kenya Cannery | 5.55% | 5.66% | 8.06% | 2.22% |
| Acif Ltd. | | | 4.83% | 2.22% |
| Nath Bros. | | 7.54% | | |
| Hospital | | 1.88% | 8.06% | 2.22% |
| Bahati | | 3.77% | 4.83% | 13.33% |
| Kiandutu | | | 8.06% | 4.44% |
| Pilot | | | 1.61% | 8.88% |
| Thika Cloth Mills | | | 3.22% | |
| Y.M.C.A. | | | 4.83% | |
| Industrial Area | | | | 4.44% |
| Garissa Rentals | | | | 4.44% |
| C.U. Estate | | | | 2.22% |
| Makongeni | | | | 4.44% |
| T.M.C. | 5.55% | 5.66% | 4.83% | 11.10% |
| Bulleys | 11.11% | 3.77% | 3.22% | 4.44% |
| African Market | | 7.54% | 3.22% | 2.22% |
| N = | 18 | 53 | 62 | 45 |

Note

In 1968 - total of 38 breakings - 20 unspecified locations

In 1971 - total of 75 breakings - 22 unspecified locations

In 1974 - total of 98 breakings - 26 unspecified locations

In 1977 - total of 124 breakings - 79 unspecified locations

Table 7.3: Theft by Servant

| Principle Victims | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| United Textile Industry | 1 | | 7 | 2 |
| Nath Bros. | 1 | | 1 | |
| Mongo Bar and Restaurant | 1 | | | 1 |
| Kenya Cannery | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Toray Mills | | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Securicor | | 2 | | |
| Bulleys | | 1 | 1 | |
| Mowlem Construction | | 1 | 1 | |
| Shah Vershi Devshi Ltd. | | 2 | | 4 |
| Thika Cloth Mills | | | 10 | 21 |
| Acif Ltd. | | | 2 | 1 |
| Munene Industries | | | 2 | |
| Gatitu Petrol Station | | | 1 | |
| Metal Box | | | 1 | |
| Gatwanyaga Estate | | | | 3 |
| Post Office | | | | 1 |
| Section IX | | | | 1 |
| Bendor | | | | 1 |
| Keme Factory | | | | 1 |
| Vershi Devshi Petrol Station | | | | 1 |
| N = | 11 | 21 | 43 | 59 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977.

Table 7.4: Areas of Residence of Accused Persons
Thika, 1968-1977

| Area of Residence | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Centre of Thika | 17 (7.17%) | 27 (6.61%) | 13 (3.32%) | 20 (2.69%) |
| Area around Market | 10 (4.21%) | 4 (1.68%) | 6 (1.53%) | 6 (0.80%) |
| Estates (housing) | 74 (31.22%) | 62 (15.19%) | 59 (15.08%) | 86 (11.59%) |
| Industrial area/ periphery | 21 (8.86%) | 46 (11.27%) | 38 (9.71%) | 45 (6.06%) |
| Places outside Thika | 75 (31.64%) | 259 (63.48%) | 262 (67.00%) | 552 (74.39%) |
| Thika (general- unspecified) | 40 (16.87%) | 10 (2.45%) | 13 (3.32%) | 33 (4.44%) |
| N = | 237 | 408 | 391 | 742 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977.

Tables 7.5 and 7.6 show that Majengo is still the main area of residence of the accused persons (although it appears to be declining in importance). Kiandutu is now also an area of some significance as is Ofafa to a lesser extent. It will be noted that these findings correspond with those of Chapter Four. The data from Tables 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 appears on Map II.

The findings thus confirm H_3 - that persons living in low income estates (i.e. who are classified by Thika Town Planning Department as having a monthly income of less than 1,200/- K.shs.) in Thika, have committed relatively more conventional crimes (for example, robbery from a person, theft of property, house breaking), than persons living in high income estates, (i.e. persons with a monthly income in excess of 1,200/- K.shs.). Indeed one finds that the medium and high income estates (Bendor; Hailie Selassie; Section IX; Mortgage Section IX; Garissa Road Estate; Ziwani; Kimathi), are scarcely represented (Table 7.6).

Table 7.5: Areas of Residence of Accused Persons(ii) Housing Estates as a percentage of all areas of residence of accused persons

| Estate | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ofafa | 4 (1.68%) | 3 (0.73%) | 4 (1.02%) | 10 (1.34%) |
| Majengo | 61 (25.73%) | 37 (9.04%) | 38 (9.74%) | 29 (3.91%) |
| Jamhuri | 2 (0.84%) | 1 (0.24%) | 1 (0.25%) | 2 (0.26%) |
| Section IX | | | 1 (0.25%) | |
| Starehe | 6 (2.54%) | 9 (2.20%) | | 1 (0.13%) |
| Magogeni | | | 1 (0.25%) | |
| Karuia Club | 1 (0.42%) | | | |
| Bahati "Biafra" | | 7 (1.71%) | 4 (1.02%) | 5 (0.67%) |
| Pilot | | | | 5 (0.67%) |
| Kiandutu | | 4 (0.97%) | 7 (1.79%) | 30 (4.04%) |
| Kimathi | | | | |
| Kiangombe | | | 3 (0.76%) | 4 (0.53%) |
| N = | 237 | 409 | 390 | 741 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977.

Table 7.6: Areas of Residence of Accused Persons(iii) Distribution of Accused Persons in the Housing Estates, as areas of Residence

| Estate | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Ofafa | 4 (5.40%) | 3 (4.83%) | 4 (5.79%) | 10 (11.62%) |
| Majengo | 61 (82.43%) | 37 (59.67%) | 38 (55.07%) | 29 (33.72%) |
| Jamhuri | 2 (2.70%) | 1 (1.61%) | 1 (1.44%) | 2 (2.32%) |
| Section IX | | | 1 (1.44%) | |
| Starehe | 6 (8.10%) | 9 (14.51%) | | 1 (1.16%) |
| Magogeni | | | 1 (1.44%) | |
| Karuia Club | 1 (1.35%) | | | |
| Bahati "Biafra" | | 7 (11.29%) | 4 (5.79%) | 5 (5.81%) |
| Pilot | | | | 5 (5.81%) |
| Kiandutu | | 4 (6.45%) | 7 (10.14%) | 30 (34.88%) |
| Kimathi | | 1 (1.61%) | | |
| Kiangombe | | | 3 (4.34%) | 4 (4.65%) |
| N = | 74 | 62 | 69 | 86 |

Source: Compiled from Thika Police Registers, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977.



MAP OF THIKA SHOWING THE MAIN AREAS OF RESIDENCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

Area where accused persons come from.

| Plot No. | Area | Area (Sqr. Mts.) | Area (Acres) | Area (Sqr. Yds.) | Area (Sqr. Fms.) | Area (Sqr. Ins.) |
|----------|------|------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 18 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 19 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 24 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 28 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 29 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 30 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 31 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 32 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 33 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 34 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 35 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 36 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 37 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 38 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 39 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 40 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 41 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 42 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 43 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 44 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 45 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 46 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 47 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 48 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 49 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 50 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Table 7.7: Areas of Residence of Accused Persons

(iv) Outside Thika (Principal Areas)

| Area | 1968 | 1971 | 1974 | 1977 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Munyu Sisal | 3 (4.00%) | 1 (0.38%) | 11 (4.19%) | 14 (2.53%) |
| Kandara | 2 (2.66%) | 17 (6.56%) | 9 (3.43%) | 12 (2.17%) |
| Mangu | 6 (8.00%) | | 15 (5.72%) | 13 (2.35%) |
| Murang'a | 21 (28.00%) | 17 (97.45%) | 121 (46.18%) | 178 (32.24%) |
| Kiambu | 13 (17.33%) | 40 (15.44%) | 38 (14.50%) | 64 (11.59%) |
| Kakamega | | 4 (1.54%) | 3 (1.14%) | 41 (7.42%) |
| Nyeri | 2 (2.66%) | 6 (2.31%) | 7 (2.67%) | 38 (6.88%) |
| Machakos | 1 (1.33%) | 21 (8.10%) | 9 (3.43%) | 42 (7.60%) |
| N = | 75 | 259 | 262 | 552 |

CHAPTER EIGHT

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study was to examine the crime rate in Thika to see if there had been a relative increase in crime and to find out which crimes are predominant, also to examine the areas where crimes are committed and in addition the areas where the accused persons come from. The author also sought to identify certain factors which influence the crime rate in Thika.

From the research it has been found that the rate of increase in crimes for the period 1968-1977 is 10.8% while Thika's population has increased at 11.1% - showing that the population has been increasing at a higher rate than the crime rate. This finding therefore disproves H_2 - that crime in Thika has been relatively increasing - although it should be noted that a number of crimes are not reported to the police. It is also difficult to predict future trends since at present about 30% of the population are unemployed and whilst industries such as Booth, Unisack and Kensara will be opening factories in Thika in the future one can expect Thika will act even more as a magnet for rural-urban migrants. It was also seen from the data that assault, breakings and theft by servant are on the increase. And it was found that H_4 was valid, that is, that the rates of property offences increase with the degree of urbanization.

It was possible to conclude from the data gathered in the questionnaire and from the police registers, that the majority of all crimes are committed by males aged 20-35 years, thus proving H_5 and H_6 - that men have committed relatively more crimes than women; and the majority of crimes are committed by people between the ages of 20-35 years. Quetelet's theory linking age to different types of crime was found to be valid with regard to criminals in Thika. The occupations of the accused were frequently labourers, machine operators and unemployed, but students are gaining in importance. And from the police registers H_1 which stated that there is a high correlation between unemployment and commitment of crimes during the period 1968-1977 was tentatively proved.

In addition to the influence of demographic factors, it was found from the questionnaire data and the police registers that time is an important factor in the commitment of crimes. It was concluded that the majority of all crimes occur in the 12 hour period from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

The information gathered from the questionnaire regarding the area where the accused persons live, was confirmed by the data obtained from the police registers - that is - that persons living in low income estates (i.e. who are classified by Thika Town Planning Department as having a monthly income of less than 1,200/- K.shs.), in

Thika, have committed relatively more conventional crimes (for example, robbery from a person, theft of property, housebreaking), than persons living in high income estates (i.e. persons with a monthly income in excess of 1,200/- K.shs.) - H₃. Finally it was also found that a large number of accused persons came from areas outside Thika. This conclusion is exemplified in the recent shooting (27th June, 1978) of a criminal at Kangemi. According to "The Nation" (June 28th, 1978) a criminal, (based at Kangemi, Nairobi), in March 1978 - "robbed Thika Standard Bank of 330,000/- K.shs. in a stolen car". ("The Nation", June 28th, 1978).

Having outlined the major findings of the research the author will now make a number of recommendations, based on these findings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It would seem that the town centre, Majengo and Kiandutu need more police foot patrols - in order to protect property in these areas and deter criminals who may be resident there.

The area known as Garissa Road Estate (comprising Garissa rentals, Credit Union houses and Makongeni) also needs more patrolling as does the adjacent industrial area. Plans are underway to build a new police station in this area - the author hopes that these plans be finalized

and put into operation as soon as is viable.

Since Bendor estate and the area around Blue Posts Hotel is relatively isolated from the town (where the present police station is located), it would seem reasonable to suggest that a small police outpost be set up in the region of Bendor - Blue Posts with transport available to serve this area.

The future development of Thika might also be planned along the following lines. The design of houses and relationship between neighbours is extremely important if one is to deter housebreakers. The author would therefore suggest that houses built along the lines of those at Jamhuri and Starehe estates (see Figure 8.1) might prove effective in this matter, and for those renting one room in a block of houses, the design of Makongeni seems fairly break-in proof (see Figure 8.2), although this design does not prevent day time breakings since the communal gate is only locked at night. It might prove worthwhile therefore for the council to allocate one room to a resident watchman who is employed by the council to lock the gate at night and be vigilant during the hours of daylight. Residents in a block could be provided with their own keys to the communal gate.

A community centre in a heavily populated area (as Garissa Road Estate is becoming) would bring neighbours into closer contact with each other and hopefully

FIG. 8.1 HOUSE DESIGN BASED ON THE TYPE IN
JAMHURI AND STAREHE ESTATES, THIKA

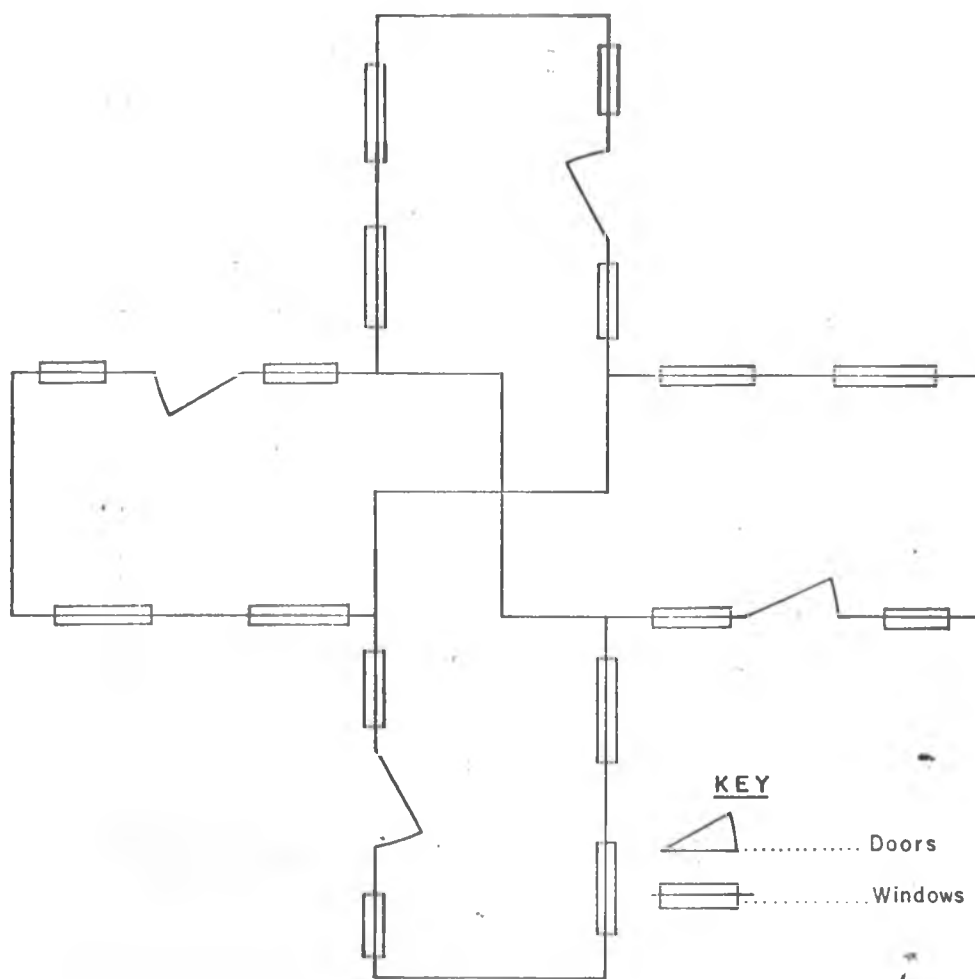
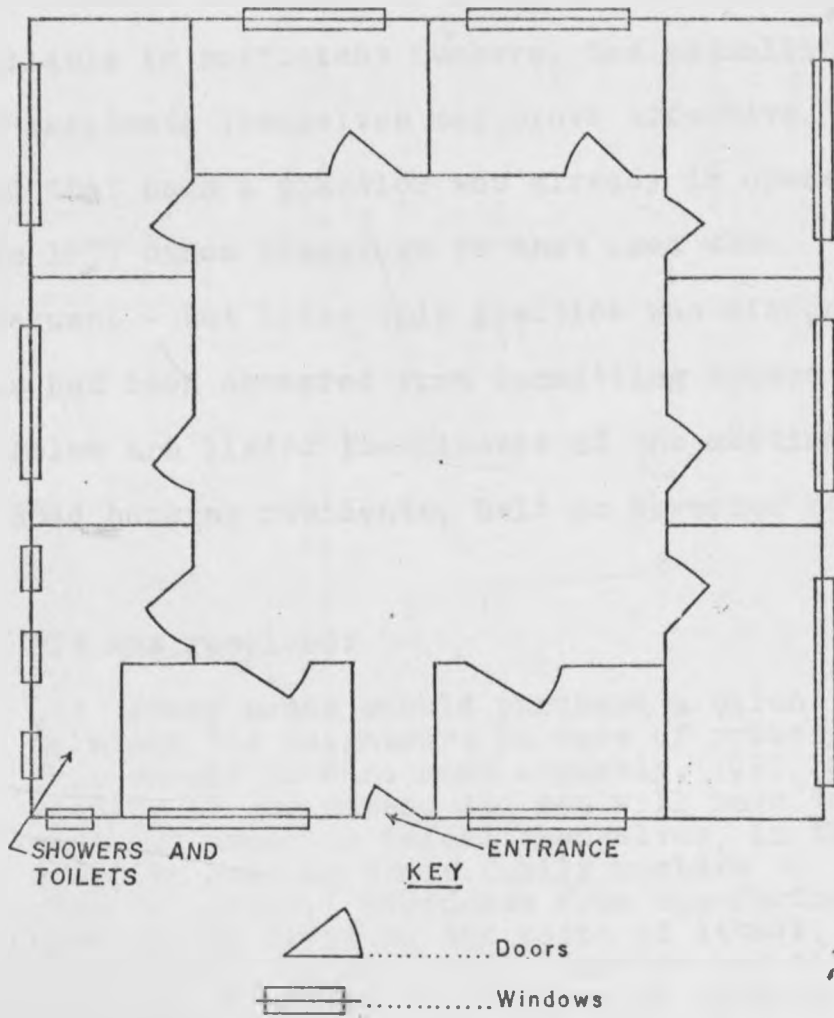


FIG. 8.2 HOUSING COMPLEX BASED ON HOUSE TYPES
OF MAKONGENI ESTATE , GARISSA ROAD THIKA



would induce more co-operation. At present there is only one community centre in Thika, situated between Ofafa, Jamhuri and Starehe estates.

In the higher income estates such as Bendor, Mortgage and Section IX the employment of communal guards may prove a deterrent to would be criminals. However, where co-operation between residents is possible and the police are not available in sufficient numbers, the patrolling of the area by residents themselves may prove effective. The author found that such a practice was already in operation in Bendor in 1977 since breakings in that area were becoming frequent - but later this practice was discontinued as criminals had been deterred from committing crimes in the area. Below are listed the minutes of the meeting of the Bendor Road housing residents, held on November 24, 1977 -

"It was resolved:

- (1) Every house should purchase a siren to alarm the neighbours in case of robbery. This should be done most urgently.
- (2) On hearing of the siren, the men will have to come out armed to defend themselves, in the meantime leaving their family members to ring up others. Residents from the furthest ends should drive to the point of attack, surrounding the area while someone has to drive to the Thika Police Station seeking for assistance of policeman with track dog.
- (3) From midnight the residents should discourage their employees from loitering around the houses or else they will be arrested and taken for questioning. All the employees should be given an original copy of the evidence of their employment specifying the following: (a) Full name of the employee. (b) Identity card number. (c) Name of the employer. (d) House number. (e) Full

....signature of the employer. (4) Should a resident notice suspicious gathering around, he should take immediate action. (5) It is most advisable to keep dog inside the house as well as making reinforcements on the doors where necessary. (6) With immediate effect we shall have two patrols guarding the area at a time. Roster for execution is herewith enclosed. (7) Officials representing companies should make use of their good offices to appeal to the authorities concerned regarding their security at our estate in Thika. (8) While on patrol ensure you carry the following: (a) Torch. (b) Siren. (c) Patrol book. (d) Something to defend. Indications of presence of robbers; (a) Disconnection of telephone. (b) Continuous barking of dogs. (c) Presence of unauthorized people around the houses or at the kiosk taking local beer "CHANGAA"."

(Minutes of Bendor Road Housing Residents meeting, 24th September, 1977).

The ideas adopted by the residents at Bendor apparently proved quite effective and might be used to the benefit of other areas with the same problems.

Finally the author believes that a study of this type could be more effective if those recording the details of the accused person in the police registers could be more accurate in their descriptions of age, place of residence and occupation of accused person. And also if a different classification for the 30 crimes classified as "T" could be used one could gain more information regarding the less serious types of crimes committed in Thika.

It is likely that as Thika continues to expand as an industrial centre more jobs will be created to cater

for the existing population of unemployed (about 12,000) - thus hopefully reducing Thika's present potential criminal population. However as more jobs are created more people will come to Thika in search of these jobs, so introducing a new potential for crime. It is thus hard to eliminate the type of criminal who turns to crime because he has no other means of supporting himself. Limiting the growth potential of Thika might have a negative effect on Thika's growth as a whole (i.e. industrially). Perhaps a possible solution is to encourage the growth of the informal sector. At present only small scale industries are being positively encouraged.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE: RESIDENTS OF THIKA

1. Research Assistant
2. Date
3. Location (housing estate, market, town centre)
.....
4. Time started
5. Time finished
6. Name of respondent
7. Sex of respondent: (1) Male (2) Female....
8. Age of respondent:
(1) 15-20 yrs..... (2) 20-25 yrs. ... (3) 25-30 yrs...
(4) 30-40 yrs (5) over 40 yrs.....
9. Married/single/divorced
10. Education of respondent.
(1) No formal education (2) primary school ..
(3) Secondary school (4) Beyond secondary ...
11. Were you born in Thika? Yes No.
12. If yes, when were you born?
(1) before 1950..... (2) 1950-1960..... (3) 1960-1965.....
13. How long have you lived in Thika?
(1) under 6 months.... (2) 6 months to 1 year
(3) 1 year-2 years (4) 2-5 years....
(5) 5-10 years (6) 10-15 years
(7) over 15 years
14. Where do you work?
(1) In Thika.... (2) outside Thika
(3) Unemployed (4) Housewife

15. Have you ever been a victim of a crime/crimes while living in Thika?

Yes No

16. If yes, what kind(s) of crime?

16. 1. Theft by own employee(s).....
 2. Theft from house by strangers
 3. Pick-pocketing....
 4. Theft of motor vehicle
 5. Theft from motor vehicle
 6. Shop lifting
 7. Defrauding....
 8. Robbing a person....
 9. Murder attempt.....
 10. Assault
 11. Rape/assault (indecent)
 12. Kidnapping including baby snatching....
 13. Rent evasion by tenants ...
 14. Arson
 15. Wilful destruction of your property other than arson
 16. Other (please specify)

17.a. How many times have you suffered theft by your own employee(s)?

- (1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times....
 (4) More than three times

(b) How many times have you had thefts from your house by strangers?

- (1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times....
 (4) More than three times

(c) How many times have you been pick-pocketed?

- (1) Once (2) Twice..... (3) Three times.....
 (4) More than three times.....

(d) How many times have you had your motor vehicle(s) stolen?

- (1) Once..... (2) Twice.... (3) Three times
 (4) More than three times

(e) How many times have you had thefts from your motor vehicle(s)?

- (1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times
 (4) More than three times

- (f) How many times have you had your shop subjected to shop lifting?
(1) Once..... (2) Twice (3) Three times.....
(4) More than three times
- (g) How many times have you been defrauded?
(1) Once..... (2) Twice..... (3) Three times....
(4) More than three times
- (h) How many times have you been robbed?
(1) Once..... (2) Twice (3) Three times
(4) More than three times
:
- (i) How many times have you been the victim of murder attempts?
(1) Once (2) Twice (3) three times.....
(4) More than three times
- (j) How many times have you been assaulted?
(1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times
(4) More than three times.....
- (k) How many times have you been the victim of attempted rape/indecent assault?
(1) Once..... (2) Twice..... (3) Three times
- (l) How many times have you/your family been victims of kidnap attempts?
(1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times....
(4) more than three times....
- (m) How many times have tenants refused to pay you rent?
(1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times..
(4) More than three times....
- (n) How many times have people set fire to your property?
(1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times....
(4) More than three times

- (o) How many times have people wilfully destroyed your property, other than arson?
(1) Once (2) Twice.... (3) Three times....
(4) More than three times
- (p) How many times have you suffered the other crimes you have specified in Q. 16?
(1) Once (2) Twice (3) Three times...
(4) More than three times.....

18. At what times were more of these crimes committed against you?

- (a) Theft by your own employee(s)?
(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon..(2) 12-6 pm. ... (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight... (4) 12-6 a.m. ... (5) Do not know....
- (b) Theft from house by strangers?
(1) 6 a.m.- 12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m.... (3) 6 p.m. -
12 midnight ... (4) 12-6 a.m.... (5) Do not know ...
- (c) Theft by pickpockets?
(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 pm... (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight... (4) 12-6 a.m. ... (5) Do not know
- (d) Theft of motor vehicle(s)?
(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m. (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight ...(4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know
- (e) Theft from motor vehicle(s)?
(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon ... (2) 12-6 p.m. (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight .. (4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know ...
- (f) Shop-lifting?
(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m. (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight ... (4) 12-6 a.m.... (5) Do not know....
- (g) Defrauding?
(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon... (2) 12-6 p.m. (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight... (4) 12-6 a.m.... (5) Do not know....

(h) Robbing a person?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m..... (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight ... (4) 12-6 a.m. (5) Do not know...

(i) Murder attempts?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m..... (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight... (4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know..

(j) Assaults?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m..... (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight... (4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know..

(k) Rapes/indecent assaults?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m.....(3) 6 p.m. -
12 midnight...(4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know...

(l) Kidnapping and baby snatching?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m..... (3) 6 p.m.-
12 midnight.. (4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know...

(m) Arson?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m... (3) 6 p.m. -
12 midnight... (4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know...

(n) Destruction of property other than arson

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m...(3) 6 p.m. -
12 midnight .. (4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know...

(o) Other specified crimes?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon (2) 12-6 p.m. (3) 6 p.m. -
12 midnight.. (4) 12-6 a.m..... (5) Do not know..

19. Where were more of the crime(s) committed?

(a) Theft from house by strangers.

(1) very high income housing estates, viz. Bendor,
Chania... (state the estate)

(2) high income housing estates, viz. Section IX,
mortgage scheme... (state estate)

(3) medium income housing estate, viz., Kimathi,
Section IX, Garissa Road, Ziwani (state estate)

(4) low income housing estate, viz. Bahati, Majengo, Garissa Road, Kiandutu, Kiangombe, Starehe, Ofafa, TUDC -Jamhuri etc. (state)

(5) Other (please specify)

(b) Pick-pocketing

(1) at a bus stop.... (2) within a bus or matatu...

(3) within the market (4) within the streets.

(5) within bar... (6) within shop (7) within the housing estates... (8) other(specify).....

(c) Theft of motor vehicle.

(1) from housing estate... (2) from the town centre...

(3) from the market ... (4) from the factory compound.... (5) other (please specify)

(d) Theft from motor vehicle.

(1) in the housing estate. (2) in the town centre...

(3) in the market ... (4) in the industrial area..

(5) other (please specify)

(e) Shop-lifting

(1) in the town centre... (2) in the market...

(3) in the housing estates (kiosks).....

(4) other (please specify)

(f) Defrauding

(1) in bars... (2) in housing estate (home etc.) ..

(3) at place of work e.g. bank... (4) other (please specify)

(g) Being robbed

(1) in town (2) in the housing estates...

(3) lonely un-built up areas....(4) other (please specify)

(h) Murder attempts

(1) in own house... (2) in other's' house...

(3) in town centre... (4) at place of work

(5) lonely un-built up areas..(6) other (please specify)...

(i) Assault

- (1) In own house (2) in other's house
- (3) in town centre.. (4) At place of work..
- (5) other (please specify)

(j) Rape/indecent assault

- (1) in own house... (2) in other's house...
- (3) in lonely un-built up area..(4)in town
(specify where in town).. (5) other (please
specify) ...

(k) Kidnapping or baby snatching

- (1) from hospital... (2) housing estate
- (3) from town centre... (4) from the market ...
- (5) from school.... (6) lonely un-built up areas...
- (7) other (please specify)

(l) Arson

- (1) from housing estate... (2) within the town centre..
- (3) within the market ... (4) within the industrial
area... (5) other (please specify) ...

(m) Other wilful destruction of property

- (1) within housing estate... (2) within the town
centre.. (3) within the market
- (4) within the industrial area.... (5) other
(please specify) ...

(2) Among the following crimes committed against you,
what number of criminals were involved?

(a) Theft of property from house

- (1) one person... (2) 2-3 people... (3) more than
3.... (4) do not know

(b) Attempted murder

- (1) one.... (2) 2-3 people.... (3) more than 3...
- (4) do not know.....

- (c) Assault
 - (1) one person... (2) 2-3 people... (3) more than 3...
 - (4) do not know...
- (d) Rape/indecent assault
 - (1) one person.... (2) 2-3 people... (3) more than 3... (4) do not know....
- (e) Robbing a person
 - (1) one person.... (2) 2-3 people.... (3) more than 3..... (4) do not know
- (21) For the following cases: were the criminals male or female?
 - (a) Theft of property from house
 - (1) male... (2) female... (3) Both male and female...
 - (4) do not know....
 - (b) Attempted murder
 - (1) male (2) female.... (3) both male and female.... (4) do not know.....
 - (c) Assault
 - (1) male (2) female (3) both male and female...
 - (4) do not know....
 - (d) Rape/indecent assault
 - (1) male.... (2) female.... (3) both male and female...
 - (4) do not know.
 - (e) Robbing a person
 - (1) male.... (2) female.... (3) both male and female.... (4) do not know....
- (22) How well did you know the people committing the crime?
 - (a) Theft from house by strangers
 - (1) very well... (2) seen them once or twice...
 - (3) not at all.... (4) did not see who committed crime...

- (b) Attempted Murder
 - (1) very well... (2) seen them once or twice...
 - (3) not at all.... (4) did not see who committed the crime.....
- (c) Assault
 - (1) very well..(2) seen them once or twice...
 - (3) not at all... (4) did not see who committed the crime...
- (d) Rape/indecent assault
 - (1) very well.... (2) seen them once or twice..
 - (3) not at all.... (4) did not see who committed the crime...
- (e) Robbing a person
 - (1) very well.... (2) seen them once or twice...
 - (3) not at all... (4) did not see who committed the crime
- (23) What age group would you say the people committing the following crimes against you fell in?
 - (a) Theft from house
 - (1) under 20... (2) 20-35... (3) over 35...
 - (4) do not know....
 - (b) Attempted murder
 - (1) under 20.. (2) 20-35... (3)over 35...
 - (4) do not know...
 - (c) Assault
 - (1) under 20... 20-35... (3) over 35...
 - (4) do not know...
 - (d) Rape/indecent, assault
 - (1) under 20.. (2) 20-35... (3) over 35...
 - (4) do not know...

- (e) Robbing a person
 (1) under 20... (2) 20-35... (3) over 35...
 (4) do not know...
- (24) When you first came to live in Thika, which of the following crimes do you think were common?
 (1) defrauding..(2) murder..(3) theft by servant..
 (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from houses by strangers... (8) arson.. (9) destruction of property other than arson... (10) pickpocketing...
 (11) shop-lifting... (12) theft from motor vehicle...
 (13) theft of vehicles... (14) rent evasion...
 (15) kidnapping or baby snatching.. (16) selling drugs illegally... (17) taking bhang etc...
 (18) brewing and selling illicit brews like changaa.. (19) prostitution... (2) robbery from premises like banks...
- (25) In general would you say the crime rate has risen or fallen during your stay in Thika?
 (1) risen... (2) fallen... (3) remained at the same level... (4) do not know....
- (26) Which of the following crimes would you say have been on the increase?
 (1) defrauding... (2) murder... (3) theft by servant...
 (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers.. (8) arson... (9) destruction of property other than arson... (10) pickpocketing
 (11) shoplifting.. (12) theft from vehicles...
 (13) theft of vehicles... (14) rent evasion....
 (15) kidnapping or baby snatching... (16) selling drugs illegally... (17) taking bhang etc...
 (18) brewing and selling illicit brews e.g. changaa...
 (19) prostitution.. (20) robbery from premises like banks...

- (27) Which of the following crimes in Thika would you associate more with men?
- (1) defrauding... (2) murder... (3) theft by servant..
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 - (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers... (8) arson...
 - (9) destruction of property other than arson..
 - (10) pickpocketing... (11) shop-lifting.. (12) theft from vehicles... (13) theft of vehicles...
 - (14) rent evasion.. (15) kidnapping or baby snatching... (16) selling drugs illegally...
 - (17) taking bhang etc... (18) brewing illicit brews like changaa... (19) robbery from premises like banks ... (20) selling changaa etc...
- (28) Which of the following crimes in Thika would you associate more with women?
- (1) defrauding... (2) murder .. (3) theft by servant..
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 - (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers.. (8) arson...
 - (9) destruction of property other than arson..
 - (10) pickpocketing.. (11) shop-lifting. (12) theft from vehicles.. (13) theft of vehicles...
 - (14) rent evasion.. (15) kidnapping or baby snatching... (16) selling drugs illegally...
 - (17) taking bhang etc. . (18) brewing illicit brews like changaa.. (19) robbery from premises like banks... (20) selling changaa etc...
- (29) Do you think that the age of criminals can be linked to specific types of crime?
- (1) yes... (2) no ... (3) undecided...

- (30) If yes, which of the following crimes would you associate with men under 20 years? / more
- (1) defrauding... (2) murder... (3) theft by servant...
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 - (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers.. (8) arson... (9) destruction of property other than arson... (10) pick-pocketing..
 - (11) shop-lifting... (12) theft from vehicles...
 - (13) theft of vehicles... (14) rent evasion...
 - (15) kidnapping or baby snatching.. (16) selling drugs illegally.. (17) taking bhang etc...
 - (18) brewing illicit brews,.. (19) selling illicit brews.. (20) robbing premises like banks...
- (31) Which would you associate more with men 20-35 years?
- (1) defrauding. . (2) murder.. (3) theft by servant...
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault... (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers.. (8) arson.. (9) destruction of property other than arson... (10) pick-pocketing...
 - (11) shop-lifting.. (12) theft from vehicles...
 - (13) theft of vehicles... (14) rent evasion...
 - (15) kidnapping or baby snatching.. (16) selling drugs illegally... (17) taking bhang etc...
 - (18) brewing illicit brews... (19) selling illicit brews... (20) robbing premises like banks...
- (32) Which would you associate more with men over 35?
- (1) defrauding... (2) murder... (3) theft by servant...
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault... (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers. . (8) arson... (9) destruction of property other than arson.. (10) pick-pocketing...
 - (11) shop-lifting... (12) theft from vehicles...
 - (13) theft of vehicles.. (14) rent evasion...
 - (15) kidnapping or baby snatching.. (16) selling drugs illegally... (17) taking bhang etc...
 - (18) brewing illicit brews.. (19) selling illicit brews... (20) robbing premises like banks.

- (33) Which crimes would you associate more with women under 20?
- (a) defrauding... (2) murder... (3) theft by servant...
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 - (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers. (8) arson... (9) destruction of property other than arson... (10) pick-pocketing...
 - (11) shop-lifting.. (12) theft from vehicles...
 - (13) theft of vehicles... (14) rent evasion...
 - (15) kidnapping or baby snatching.. (16) selling drugs illegally... (17) taking bhang etc...
 - (18) brewing illicit brews:. (19) selling illicit brews... (20) robbing premises like banks
 - (21) prostitution...
- (34) Which would you associate more with women 20-35 years?
- (1) defrauding... (2) murder... (3) theft by servant..
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 - (6) robbing people.. (7) theft of property from house by strangers... (8) arson.. (9) destruction of property other than arson.... (10) pick-pocketing... (11) shop-lifting... (12) theft from vehicles... (13) theft of vehicles...
 - (14) rent evasion... (15) kidnapping or baby snatching..
 - (16) selling drugs illegally... (17) taking bhang etc... (18) brewing illicit brews.. (19) selling illicit brews.. (20) robbing premises like banks... (21) prostitution...
- (35) Which would you associate more with women over 35?
- (1) defrauding... (2) murder... (3) theft by servant..
 - (4) assault... (5) rape/indecent assault...
 - (6) robbing people... (7) theft of property from house by strangers.. (8) arson.. (9) destruction of property other than arson... (10) pick-pocketing..
 - (11) shop-lifting... (12) theft from vehicles.. (13) theft of vehicles... (14) rent evasion.. (15) kidnapping or baby snatching.. (16) selling drugs illegally..

(17) taking bhang etc.. (18) brewing illicit brews..
 (19) selling illicit brews.. (20) robbing premises
 like banks... (21) prostitution.....

(36) Do you think there are a large number of youths aged
 say 10-20 years, who commit crimes in Thika?

(1) Yes..... (2) No (3) No idea

(37) If yes, what reasons would you give for this kind
 of behaviour?

(1) boredom (need for "excitement")

(2) lack of recreation facilities... (3) lack of jobs...

(4) necessity e.g. "stealing to survive".. (5) sense
 of relative poverty... (6) other reasons.....

(38) At what time(s) would you say the majority of crimes
 are committed?

(1) 6 a.m.-12 noon.. (2) 12 noon-6 p.m.... (3) 6 p.m.-
 12 midnight... (4) 12 midnight-6 a.m... (5) No idea..

Why do you think the crimes so committed are done at
 time(s) you have indicated?

.....

(39) What suggestion(s) would you make in order to reduce
 crime in the town centre?

(1) more day police foot patrols...(2) more night
 police foot patrols... (3) more day police car

patrols... (4) more night police car patrols..

(5) more severe punishments to criminals.. (6) build
 another police station.. (7) employ guards and
 night watchmen.. (8) provide more employment
 opportunities.. (9) other measures

(40) What suggestion(s) would you make in order to reduce
 crime in your housing estate?

(1) more day police foot patrols... (2) more night
 police foot patrols... (3) more day police car

patrols... (4) more night police car patrols...

(5) more severe punishments to criminals.. (6) build
 another police station... (7) employ guards and
 night watchmen... (8) provide more employment
 opportunities.. (9) other measures

- (41) What measures are you taking as a community in your estate to help prevent crime?
- (1) employment of watchmen (nights)
 - (2) employment of day guards... (3) houseowners patrol in shifts.. (4) nothing.... (5) other measures.....
- (42) Where in Thika would you say most of the criminals live?
- (1) in the town centre..... (2) Kiandutu and Kiangombe... (3) Bahati estate.. (4) Pilot... (5) Garissa Road Estate.... (6) Ofafa, Starehe, Jamhuri estates... (7) Majengo estate... (8) other
- (43) Do you think there are criminals who come to Thika from other areas specifically to commit crime here?
- (1) Yes... (2) No... (3) No idea....
- (44) If yes, from where do you think such criminals come from?
- (1). (2)..... (3).....
- (45) How would you rate the state of prostitution in Thika?
- (1) very serious.... (2) serious... (3) not serious...
- (46) If serious or very serious, what factor(s) do you think account for this?
-
- (47) Suppose there was a plan to put up another police station, where would you locate it?
- (1) industrial area... (2) town centre... (3) Garissa Road Estate... (4) Bendor Estate... (5) Kimathi Estate... (6) Next to the railway station... (7) Kiandutu... (8) Kiangombe... (9) other area...
- (48) What reason(s) would you advance for your choice of location?
-

Thank you very much for your cooperation.