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## THEORY INTEGRATION STUDY: HATAY “TOGETHER WE ARE SAFE” CRIME PREVENTION PROJECT

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### Abstract

This research presents a new model that integrates various crime theories to explain rising crime and delinquency rates. The study then compares the effects of activities designed under this model with those of traditional law enforcement. These effects were evaluated through an experimental method involving both experimental and control groups. The sample included 5500 citizens living in Hatay Büyükşehir and Qatar-2 Temporary Accommodation Centers. A quasi-experimental design with control groups was used, featuring semi-structured interviews conducted before and after the intervention. In the experimental area, activities based on the new model were actively implemented. In contrast, the control group area continued using traditional law enforcement methods. Results showed greater behavioral and cognitive changes in the experimental group compared to the control group. Finally, a crime prevention strategy was proposed for urban areas affected by crime, based on the newly developed integrated model.

**Keywords:** Crime, delinquency, crime prevention, theory integration, crime theory, crime analysis.

## TEORİ ENTEGRASYONU ÇALIŞMASI: HATAY BİRLİKTE GÜVENDEYİZ PROJESİ

### Özet

*Bu çalışmada; öncelikle suç ve suçluluk oranlarının artışını izah etmek için farklı suç teorilerinin entegrasyonu ile yeni bir model oluşturulmuştur. Daha sonra yeni model bağlamında hazırlanan etkinliklerin, geleneksel kolluk faaliyetlerine kıyasla, fail ve vatandaşların düşünce ve davranışlarını değiştirmeleri üzerindeki etkileri incelenmiştir. Bu etkinin değerlendirilmesi için deney ve kontrol gruplarını içeren deneysel yöntem kullanılmıştır. Araştırmanın örneklemini Hatay Büyükşehir Geçici Konaklama Merkezi ve Katar 2 Geçici Konaklama Merkezi'nde ikamet eden toplam 5500 vatandaş oluşturmaktadır. Araştırmada önce ve sonra yapılan yarı yapılandırılmış görüşmelerin kullanıldığı kontrol gruplu yarı deneysel desen uygulanmıştır. Deney grubunun ikamet ettiği yerde yeni model bağlamında hazırlanan faaliyetlerin etkin olarak kullanıldığı bir anlayışla, kontrol grubunun ikamet ettiği yerde ise geleneksel kolluk yöntemleriyle etkinlikler uygulanmıştır. Araştırmanın sonucunda, yeni model bağlamında hazırlanan faaliyetlerin etkin olarak kullanıldığı yerde yaşayan deney grubundaki davranış ve düşünce değişikliklerinin, geleneksel kolluk faaliyetlerinin yürütüldüğü yerdeki kontrol grubuna göre daha yüksek olduğu saptanmıştır. Araştırmanın sonuç bölümünde, yeni entegre modelden hareket ederek kentlerin suç ve suçluluk problemi yaşanan bölgelerinde kullanılabilecek bir suç önleme metodolojisi hazırlanmıştır.*

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Suç, suçluluk, suç önleme, teori entegrasyonu, suç teorisi, suç analizi.

## Introduction

The issue of security remains one of the most significant social problems today, as it has in the past. The post-World War II era has resulted in crime and the fear of crime becoming an integral part of individuals' daily lives. The increase in crimes, the emergence of new types<sup>1</sup> of crimes, and the decrease in the age of offenders compel public authorities to develop new crime prevention policies.

Crime prevention is defined as "a pattern of attitudes and behaviors aimed at positively influencing the quality of life in society and creating environments where crime cannot occur, thereby enhancing perceptions of safety and reducing crime threats" (Cusson, 2000:390). In this context, Sherman (1997: 2) defines crime prevention as "any type of practice that has been proven to reduce crime." However, this definition contains ambiguities in defining the target audience of crime prevention. Brantingham and Faust (1976: 551-556) addressed this issue by utilizing the public health model, classifying crime prevention into primary (for society), secondary (for at-risk offenders), and tertiary (for convicted offenders) prevention.

The concept of crime prevention is as old as human history. Although the concept has emerged relatively recently, many crime prevention approaches and techniques used today are adaptations of past practices. In this context, the history of crime prevention can be examined under different periods such as crime prevention in the primitive era, the medieval period, the classical school approach, the positivist perspective, and new paradigms in crime prevention (Polat, 2014: 11).

Following the earthquake disaster in Hatay, an increase in crime and delinquency rates was observed in certain areas of the city. Factors such as population mobility, poverty, cultural complexity, and urban changes have led to certain social disintegrations (Mayer, 2023; Tapia, Ochoa, & Cundiff, 2024; Figueiredo Alves da Silva, 2022). These factors, resulting from social disorder, reduce individuals' commitment to "social values," lead to social control deficits, and push individuals toward crime (Shaw and McKay, 1942: 383-384).

Additionally, following the earthquake disaster, opportunities facilitating crime, weakening victims, and neutralizing protective factors increased in the city. This situation aligns with Cohen and Felson's (1979: 589) idea that three criteria are necessary for crime to occur: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of protective factors. An ideal environment for criminal opportunities to arise has been created (Zhang, Leidner, Cao, & Liu, 2022; Aizenkot, 2022).

Furthermore, the physical changes in the environment after the earthquake weakened territorial defense and encouraged criminal activities. The situational crime prevention approach, introduced by Oscar Newman in 1972, plays a crucial role in this regard (Reynald & Elffers, 2009). Newman (1972: 3) defines the concept of defensible space as "a model aimed at preventing crime by creating a self-protecting social fabric in urban living spaces."

Unaddressed deviant behaviors in rapidly developing areas of the city have also led to a rapid increase in crime and delinquency (Drakulich & Pereira, 2023; Weisburd, Uding, Hinkle, Kuen, & Elffers, 2024). Seemingly minor uncivil behaviors have escalated over time, becoming the root cause of security deterioration (Goldstein, 1990: 22). Wilson and Kelling's (1982: 29-38) "Broken Windows Theory" asserts that untended broken windows send a signal that order and tranquility no longer exist in a neighborhood, fostering the growth of more severe criminal activities.

The adverse conditions following the earthquake disaster also affected children and youth in the city. Some children residing in temporary living centers were observed to have developed a subculture with their own values (Nader & Robinson, 2023; Mears & Stafford, 2024; Homer, Fisher,

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<sup>1</sup> In this study, all the rules specified in the 'Higher Education Institutions Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Directive' were followed. None of the actions specified in the second section of the directive, 'Actions Contrary to Scientific Research and Publication Ethic', were carried out.

& Mowen, 2020). This situation results from the weakening of social bonds between individuals and society (Hirschi, 1969:17-26).

These developments have made the implementation of socially oriented crime prevention programs in the city necessary. Indeed, successful crime prevention projects effectively reduce crime and delinquency (Polat, 2014: 208-209). A comprehensive evaluation of numerous crime prevention programs conducted in the United States between 1997 and 2002 by Sherman and colleagues (2003: 116-141) provided significant findings in this regard.

However, explaining the multifaceted and complex nature of crime and delinquency solely through a single theoretical perspective does not seem feasible. Given the complexity of the issue, integrating variables from different theories to create more explanatory and comprehensive integrated theories appears beneficial. Within the scope of this research, the side-by-side integration method was adopted in the context of combining theoretical propositions (Bernard and Snipes, 1996: 307-308; Akers and Jennings, 2009: 323-332; Albanese, 2014: 1). In this integration, while the dependent variable remained the same, overlapping concepts were retained, and other variables were excluded from the model (Thornberry, 1989: 31-45; Be rnard and Snipes, 1996: 341-348).

Within this framework, variables from the Social Disorganization Theory, Social Bond Theory, Defensible Space Theory, Routine Activities Theory, and Broken Windows Theory were compared in Table-1 to identify overlapping variables.

**Table-1 Comparison table of variables based on different theories**

THEORIES	A1, A2	B1, B2	C1, C2	D1	E1	F1, F2	G1
<b>Social Disorganization Theory</b>	Weak friendships, insufficiently supervised adolescent groups	Social isolation					Disorganized environment
<b>Routine Activity Theory</b>			Absence of guardian, suitable target	Motivated offenders			
<b>Social Bond Theory</b>		Alienation and isolation			Distance from societal goals	Lack of commitment, distrust in social norms and values	
<b>Broken Windows Theory</b>		Alienation and apathy					Disorganized environment
<b>Defensible Space Theory</b>		Lack of territoriality	Weak transition control, weak natural surveillance, weak personal supervision				Disorganized environment

Subsequently, the explanatory variables of each theory were combined as follows.

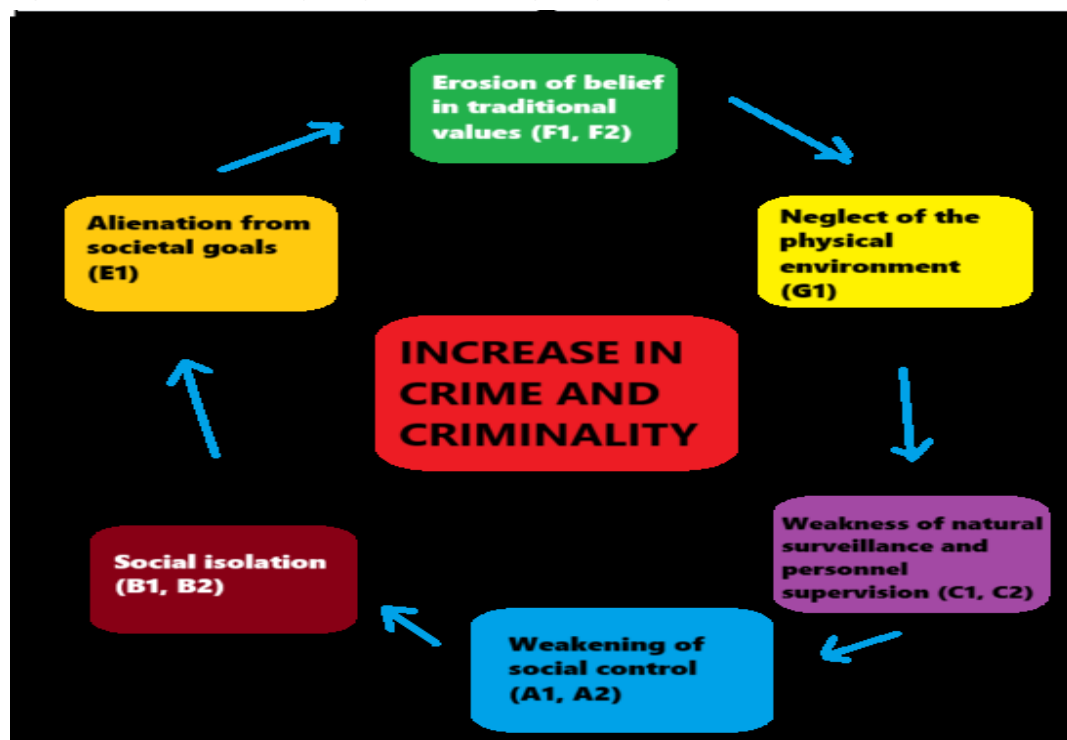
Integrated Theory =  $G1 + C1 + C2 + A1 + B1 + B2 + E1 + F1 + F2$

In this context, it is proposed that the occurrence of crime and criminal behavior in the region may be the result of the interaction among overlapping variables drawn from five distinct criminological theories. The variables of the proposed integrated theoretical model are outlined below:

- The variable of *neglected or poorly maintained space*, which is common to the Defensible Space Theory, Social Disorganization Theory and Broken Windows Theory (G1);
- The variables of *weak natural surveillance* and *limited formal supervision*, shared by the Defensible Space Theory and the Broken Windows Theory (C1, C2);
- The *erosion of social control*, as emphasized in Social Disorganization Theory (A1);
- The variable of *social isolation*, overlapping across Defensible Space Theory, Social Bond Theory, Social Disorganization Theory and Broken Windows Theory (B1, B2);
- *Alienation from shared societal goals*, within the framework of Social Bond Theory (E1);
- *Declining belief in conventional norms and values*, also within the framework of Social Bond Theory (F1, F2).

Thus, a broader-based model, as presented in Figure-1, was attempted to be constructed.

**Figure-1- Crime and Delinquency Model in Temporary Living Centers**



To promote the expansion of crime prevention research, the purpose of this study is to compare the effectiveness of activities prepared within the framework of the "Crime and Delinquency Model in Temporary Living Centers" with traditional law enforcement activities in terms of their impact on changing the behaviors of offenders and citizens. The research is limited

to 5500 residents living in the Büyükdalyan Temporary Living Center (3000) and the Qatar-2 Temporary Living Center (2500) located in the Antakya district of Hatay.

The sub-problems of the study are as follows:

1. Is there a significant difference between the final interview evaluations of the experimental group living in the project-implemented area and the control group living in the area where traditional law enforcement activities were used?
2. Is there a significant difference between the pre-interview and post-interview evaluations of the experimental group living in the project-implemented area?
3. Is there a significant difference between the pre-interview and post-interview evaluations of the control group living in the area where traditional law enforcement methods were used?

For the first sub-problem, the hypothesis is that the final interview evaluations of the experimental group will be significantly higher than those of the control group. For the second and third sub-problems, the hypotheses suggest that the final interview evaluations will be significantly higher than the pre-interview evaluations in both the experimental and control groups; however, the difference is expected to be greater in the experimental group.

### **Methods**

This study employed a quasi-experimental design with control groups, based on pre-interview and post-interview assessments. One group was designated as the experimental group, while the other served as the control group. Subsequently, a pre-interview was conducted to understand the emotions and thoughts of the participants in both groups regarding the subject matter. As shown in Table 2, traditional law enforcement activities were conducted in the area where the control group resided, whereas activities planned within the framework of the developed model were implemented in the area where the experimental group lived. At the end of the implementation, a post-interview was conducted with both groups.

**Table 2. Research Design**

Pre-interview	Implementation	Post-interview
Control Group	Traditional law enforcement practices	Control Group
Experimental Group	Activities conducted within the framework of integrated criminology	Experimental Group

### **Study group**

This study was conducted in 2024 with a diverse group of individuals of different ages and genders residing in the Büyükdalyan and Qatar-2 Temporary Living Centers in the Antakya district of Hatay. The analyses were carried out using data obtained from a total of 50 residents, with 25 participants in the control group and 25 in the experimental group. The control group consisted of 12 women and 13 men, while the experimental group comprised 13 women and 12 men.

### ***Limitations***

Due to various field-related and practical constraints, data from only 50 participants were included in the final analysis. The research was conducted in a region affected by a major earthquake in 2023. Within this context, many potential participants declined to participate, became unable to allocate time or could not be recontacted during the data collection phase. Furthermore, the data collection process was carried out by a single researcher with limited resources who was concurrently responsible for fulfilling other professional duties. Consequently, the current analysis is based on data obtained from a subset of 50 participants whose responses were complete, reliable, and met the inclusion criteria of the study. Despite the reduced sample size, attention was paid to preserving the validity and reliability of the findings by ensuring the quality and appropriateness of the data included in the analysis.

### ***Data Collection Instruments***

This study was structured as qualitative research. A semi-structured interview protocol was employed to collect data from residents of the Büyükdalyan and Qatar-2 Temporary Living Centers. The semi-structured interview technique was used to maintain standardization and obtain comparable results. The reason for using the interview method was to access individuals' internal experiences and to understand events from their perspectives (Patton, 1987). Additionally, the interview technique was preferred because it allows uncovering personal and hidden aspects (Kvale, 1996). As Mason (1996) argues, if researchers aim to explore people's knowledge, concepts, opinions, experiences, interactions, interpretations, and emotions regarding social reality, the best and perhaps only way to reach them is through interviews. This approach ensures that individuals' experiences are understood more accurately through their own words, interpretations, and explanations.

Both the pre-interviews and post-interviews were conducted with the same individuals. The reason for using a control group in the study was to identify the changes occurring in the experimental group by making comparisons.

The interview contains 15 questions covering various aspects, such as residents' thoughts on city security, the security status of the Temporary Living Center, fear of theft, levels of fear during the day and night, concerns for family safety, experiences as crime victims, most disturbing incidents, perceptions of the environment, satisfaction with public services, expectations, and demands.

The same questions were asked in both pre-interviews and post-interviews. According to Tanrıöğen (2009: 39), in experimental and control group studies, all variables should be kept constant, and only the intervention applied to the experimental group should create the difference. In this regard, asking the same questions ensured that the second round of interviews examined whether there were changes in misconceptions, thoughts, or knowledge. Providing the same topics to both groups ensures control of key variables; otherwise, research results may vary, making hypothesis testing unreliable (Ekiz, 2003: 101).

The interview form used in this study consisted of open-ended questions prepared by the researcher. Since all the questions in the interview form were open-ended, the validity and reliability of the interview process were evaluated in terms of the suitability of the questions for the sample group defined above.

Following a literature review, the interview form was submitted for expert evaluation. In this context, the content and face validity of the interview form (Hovardaoglu, 2000) were reviewed with input from faculty members from Hatay Mustafa Kemal University's Faculty of Communication and Education, as well as senior officials from the Hatay Provincial Police Department.

After consulting experts and making necessary revisions, a preliminary application of the interview form was conducted with 20 randomly selected residents from the Büyükdalyan and Qatar-2 Temporary Living Centers to assess the clarity of the questions.

Necessary modifications were then made to the interview questions, and the final interviews were conducted. The interviews lasted between 45 to 120 minutes. During the interviews, the residents' information and opinions were documented.

Both groups underwent a pre-interview process to determine baseline conditions before the intervention. In the next phase, the intervention was applied to the experimental group, while no intervention was conducted for the control group. Finally, measurements related to the dependent variable were obtained from both groups.

#### **Data Analysis**

The data obtained from residents using the semi-structured interview technique in this study are qualitative. Due to the limited number of interviews, instead of using content analysis techniques, direct quotations were used to present the findings to the reader. The steps followed in the analysis process are as follows:

- During the analysis process, all interview data were read, and meaning clusters and themes related to residents' perceptions of crime, fear of crime, environmental perceptions, satisfaction with public services, and participation in activities were identified.
- The meaning clusters obtained were reduced by grouping similar ones together.
- The final categories were created by extracting relevant elements from the text.

To determine the consistency and accuracy of the researcher's categorization of meaning clusters and themes within predefined categories, "coding reliability" was assessed (Miles & Huberman, 1994). A subset of the research data was coded twice, with a one-week interval, by the researcher to evaluate self-consistency. The coding reliability coefficient was found to be ".95."

#### **Implementation**

The activities planned within the framework of the variables of the newly integrated theoretical model were implemented in both the experimental and control groups' Temporary Living Centers under the direction of the researcher, in collaboration with the following project partners from March 1 to April 30, 2024:

- Hatay Provincial Police Department (Coordinator)
- Hatay Provincial Directorate of National Education
- Hatay Provincial Directorate of Health
- Hatay Provincial Disaster and Emergency Directorate
- Hatay Provincial Directorate of Labor and Employment Agency
- Hatay Provincial Mufti's Office
- Hatay Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services
- Hatay Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports
- Mustafa Kemal University Faculty of Communication
- Antakya Municipality
- Yeşilay Hatay Branch
- Kızılay Hatay Branch
- Toroslar EDAŞ

The procedural steps followed during the research included obtaining official approval from the Governor's Office for project implementation. A launch meeting with project partners was held to commence the project. Seminars and workshops were conducted at the university. Data collected through different techniques were analyzed for crime assessment. Crime prevention objectives were determined, and theories suitable for crime prevention were selected. Subsequently, prevention objectives were defined, and types of prevention were chosen. Authorities responsible for executing prevention activities were identified, and tasks were distributed accordingly.

Following this, activities were prepared and implemented based on the variables of the integrated theory, as presented in Table-3. At the end of the project, the activities carried out were evaluated. Problems encountered, challenges faced, and proposed solutions were examined. Finally, a project outcome report was drafted.

Table-3 lists the crime prevention and intervention activities implemented within the scope of the project, inspired by the researcher's knowledge, experience, and successful practices found in the literature.

**Table-3 Crime prevention and combat activities implemented within the scope of the project according to variable type**

Type of Change	Crime Prevention and Combating Activities Implemented Within the Scope of the Project
<b>Neglect of the Physical Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning of waste</li> <li>- Removal of unnecessary items</li> <li>- Repair of damaged fences</li> <li>- Repair of damaged parks</li> <li>- Removal of damaged and abandoned containers</li> <li>- Ensuring orderly parking of vehicles</li> <li>- Elimination of hazardous and risky conditions (Preventing access to electrical transformers, identifying open manholes, repairing iron bars and railings that may cause injuries, etc.)</li> <li>- Removal of illegally added annexes and structures</li> </ul>
<b>Weakness of Natural Surveillance and Personnel Supervision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening target hardening measures (Measures to prevent theft)</li> <li>- Increasing police visibility (Implementation of motorized, vehicular, and foot patrols)</li> <li>- Raising citizen awareness (Informing citizens about reporting and intervention)</li> <li>- Activating full performance of surveillance through cameras</li> <li>- Encouraging the use of alarm systems</li> <li>- Informing and educating individuals on personal safety measures</li> <li>- Enhancing street lighting</li> <li>- Access control measures (Establishing checkpoints for 24/7 entry supervision)</li> <li>- Implementing single-point entry-exit control</li> <li>- Using informational signs and warnings</li> <li>- Reducing blind spots</li> </ul>
<b>Weakening of Social Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities to strengthen neighborhood relations (Events such as "WE MEET TODAY" for women, educational activities, visits)</li> <li>- Weekly "Peace Meetings" with shopkeepers</li> <li>- Information and awareness activities (Visits, distribution of brochures, opening of stands, use of suggestion and complaint boxes)</li> <li>- Informing the public about environmental responsibility in Friday sermons by the TDP police unit</li> <li>- Organizing educational activities</li> <li>- Organizing charity bazaars</li> <li>- Raising awareness to combat antisocial and aggressive behaviors</li> <li>- Strengthening police tracking, control, and intervention mechanisms</li> </ul>



Social Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization of public education course activities</li> <li>- Identification of children who do not attend school and development of solutions</li> <li>- Identification and referral of children requiring social service monitoring</li> <li>- Prevention of the formation of antisocial peer groups</li> <li>- Referral of substance users to relevant healthcare units</li> <li>- Identification of individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and those in need of care, and addressing their issues</li> <li>- Providing food and hygiene material assistance to those in need</li> <li>- Establishing communication with unemployed individuals (Referral, support)</li> <li>- Conducting employment-oriented activities in collaboration with İŞKUR (Posters, meetings, courses, referrals)</li> <li>- Cooperation with the Red Crescent Society (Food, material assistance, blood donation, meal distribution, etc.)</li> <li>- Organization of activities on significant days and weeks</li> <li>- Visiting crime victims and providing psychological support</li> <li>- Organizing activities to combat drug and stimulant substance use (Awareness and education programs for individuals over the age of 20, monitoring and control of suspicious individuals)</li> <li>- Organizing activities to combat domestic violence (Data collection, household visits, awareness and education activities, promotion of the KADES application, self-defense training for women)</li> </ul>
Alienation from Societal Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parental education programs (Stress coping techniques, family communication, anger management, effective communication, conflict resolution skills, decision-making skills courses)</li> <li>- Role modeling of TDP police officers for children and youth</li> <li>- Mentorship for students with low academic achievement</li> <li>- Organization of sports and artistic activities and rewarding successful children</li> <li>- Establishment of sports areas and activity spaces</li> <li>- Encouraging participation in public education courses</li> </ul>
Erosion of Belief in Traditional Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of communication and awareness stands to remind norms and values</li> <li>- Emphasis in Friday sermons on rule compliance, tolerance, charity, and community engagement</li> <li>- Organization of activities for children and youth in public spaces (Badminton, dart tournaments, music events, awareness and education activities)</li> <li>- Conducting educational activities (Information sessions, gift distribution, competitions)</li> <li>- Collaboration with the Green Crescent Society on issues of addiction and harmful habits</li> <li>- Preparation and display of posters, brochures, and panels</li> </ul>

These activities were implemented for two months in the Büyükdalyan Temporary Living Center, where the experimental group resided, while routine law enforcement activities such as patrolling, responding to incidents, and apprehensions continued in the Qatar-2 Temporary Living Center, where the control group resided.

**Findings**

To determine whether there was a significant difference between the pre-interview evaluations of the residents in the control and experimental groups before the activities commenced, the results of the analysis are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4 - Pre-Interview Analysis of Experimental and Control Groups**

Main Categories	Experimental Group - Male Individuals	Experimental Group - Female Individuals	Control Group - Male Individuals	Control Group - Female Individuals
Feeling Safe at Home	Feels safe	Sometimes feels safe	Feels safe	Sometimes feels safe
Feeling Safe on the Street	Sometimes does not feel safe	Sometimes does not feel safe	Feels safe	Sometimes does not feel safe
Fear of Theft	Present	Present	Present	Present
Fear of Experiencing Violence	Risk present	Risk present	Risk present	Risk present
Fear of Damage to Vehicle/Belongings	Risk present	Risk present	Risk present	Risk present
Adequate Support for Crime Victimization	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Social Support for At-Risk Groups	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Activities for Children	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Children Exhibiting Deviant Behavior	Some children	Children from fragmented families, children who do not attend school	Some children	Children from fragmented families, children who do not attend school
Neighborhood Relations	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
Prevalence of Uncivil Behavior	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Adequacy of Social Facilities	Insufficient	Insufficient	Insufficient	Insufficient
Environmental Order	Damaged, broken, deteriorated	Damaged, broken, deteriorated	Damaged, broken, deteriorated	Damaged, broken, deteriorated
Presence of Illegal Activities in the Environment	Some individuals engaged in illegal activities are present	Some individuals engaged in illegal activities are present	Some individuals engaged in illegal activities are present	Some individuals engaged in illegal activities are present

Lighting	Weak in some areas	Weak in some areas	Weak in some areas	Weak in some areas
Camera Surveillance	Damaged	Not functioning	Not functioning	Not functioning
Satisfaction with Public Services (Education, Social Services, Housing, Health, etc.)	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Public Awareness Activities	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Public Education Courses	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Unemployment Status	Widespread	Widespread	Widespread	Widespread
Participation in NGO Activities	Very rare	Very rare	Very rare	Very rare
Participation in Institutional Activities	No participation	Sometimes	No participation	Sometimes

Participants in both the experimental and control groups exhibited concerns regarding security, especially women displayed greater sensitivity to these issues. These concerns reflect the adverse effects associated with poverty, cultural complexity, and urban transformations following the February 6, 2023 earthquake. Additionally, the weakening of victims/targets and the removal of protective elements have emboldened potential offenders and increased crime opportunities. Negative opinions expressed about certain children stem from their lack of school attendance and the development of a subculture with distinct value systems in the container city. The Büyükdalyan Temporary Living Center, being the first established container settlement, contains various physical environmental challenges that contribute to disorder. Lastly, participants reported that uncivil behaviors, when left unaddressed, have become a fundamental factor in the decline of security in the field.

To determine whether there was a significant difference between the post-interview evaluations of residents in the control and experimental groups after the activities, the results of the analysis are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5 - Post-Interview Analysis of Experimental and Control Groups**

Main Categories	Experimental Group - Male Individuals	Experimental Group - Female Individuals	Control Group - Male Individuals	Control Group - Female Individuals
Feeling Safe at Home	Feels safe	Feels safe	Feels safe	Sometimes does not feel safe
Feeling Safe on the Street	Feels safe	Feels safe	Feels safe	Sometimes does not feel safe
Fear of Theft	Not present	Not present	Present	Present
Fear of Experiencing Violence	No risk	No risk	Risk present	Risk present
Fear of Damage to Vehicle/Belongings	No risk	No risk	Risk present	Risk present
Adequate Support for Crime Victimization	Sufficient	Sufficient	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Social Support for At-Risk Groups	Sufficient	Sufficient	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Activities for Children	Sufficient	Sufficient	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Children Exhibiting Deviant Behavior	Not present	Not present	Some children	Children from fragmented families, children who do not attend school
Neighborhood Relations	Strengthened	Strengthened	Weak	Weak
Prevalence of Uncivil Behavior	Not present	Not present	Very common	Very common
Adequacy of Social Facilities	Being improved	Being improved	Insufficient	Insufficient
Environmental Order	Orderly	Orderly	Damaged, broken, deteriorated	Damaged, broken, deteriorated
Presence of Illegal Activities in the Environment	Not present	Not present	Some individuals engaged in illegal activities are present	Some individuals engaged in illegal activities are present
Lighting	Strong	Strong	Weak in some areas	Weak in some areas
Camera Surveillance	Effective	Effective	Not functioning	Not functioning
Satisfaction with Public Services (Education, Social Services, Housing, Health, etc.)	Sufficient	Sufficient	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Public Awareness Activities	Sufficient	Sufficient	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Public Education Courses	Sufficient	Sufficient	Limited intervention	Limited intervention
Unemployment Status	Improving	Improving	Widespread	Widespread
Participation in NGO Activities	Active participation	Active participation	Very rare	Very rare
Participation in Institutional Activities	Active participation	Active participation	No participation	Sometimes

In Table 5, the study aimed to answer the following questions: "Is there a significant difference between the pre-interview and post-interview evaluations of the experimental group residing in the area where project activities were conducted?" and "Is there a significant difference

between the pre-interview and post-interview evaluations of the control group residing in the area where traditional law enforcement methods were applied?" According to Table 5, the experimental group exhibited an increase in crime fear reduction, participation in public activities, collaboration level, and satisfaction with public services. Meanwhile, the control group's pre-interview and post-interview evaluations remained relatively similar.

### Discussion and Conclusion

The findings from the study, which examined the effectiveness and efficiency of the crime prevention and intervention project developed using integrated criminological theories, are as follows: Analyzing responses from both experimental and control group participants in the final interview form under the "sense of security" category, it can be stated that the security concerns of the experimental group participants were alleviated. However, no significant change was observed in the initial perceptions of the control group. In this regard, the present study appears to align with findings from the *Community Policing – Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS)* initiative, which has been implemented in Chicago since 1993. In that program, stronger ties between the police and the community were established, and a heightened sense of safety among residents was reported (Skogan, 2006).

In the category of satisfaction with services for crime victims, individuals at risk and children, it was found that the opinions of the experimental group participants changed positively by the end of the project. In contrast, the perception of insufficient services persisted in the control group. The findings of this study also correspond with those reported in the *Operation Ceasefire – Boston (USA)* program, where coordinated efforts between local community leaders and social service agencies led to a significant reduction in youth violence and firearm-related incidents. Additionally, improved services for crime victims and an increased perception of safety among community members were documented (Braga et al., 2001).

Regarding neighborhood relations, the experimental group participants indicated that their relationships had strengthened following the project, whereas the control group participants continued to hold negative views on this matter. Similarly, the results are consistent with those of the *Neighborhood Watch – Netherlands (Leiden, Utrecht, Rotterdam)* initiative which reported reductions in fear of crime and perceptions of disorder, along with increased feelings of neighborhood attachment and safety (Van der Land & Doff, 2010).

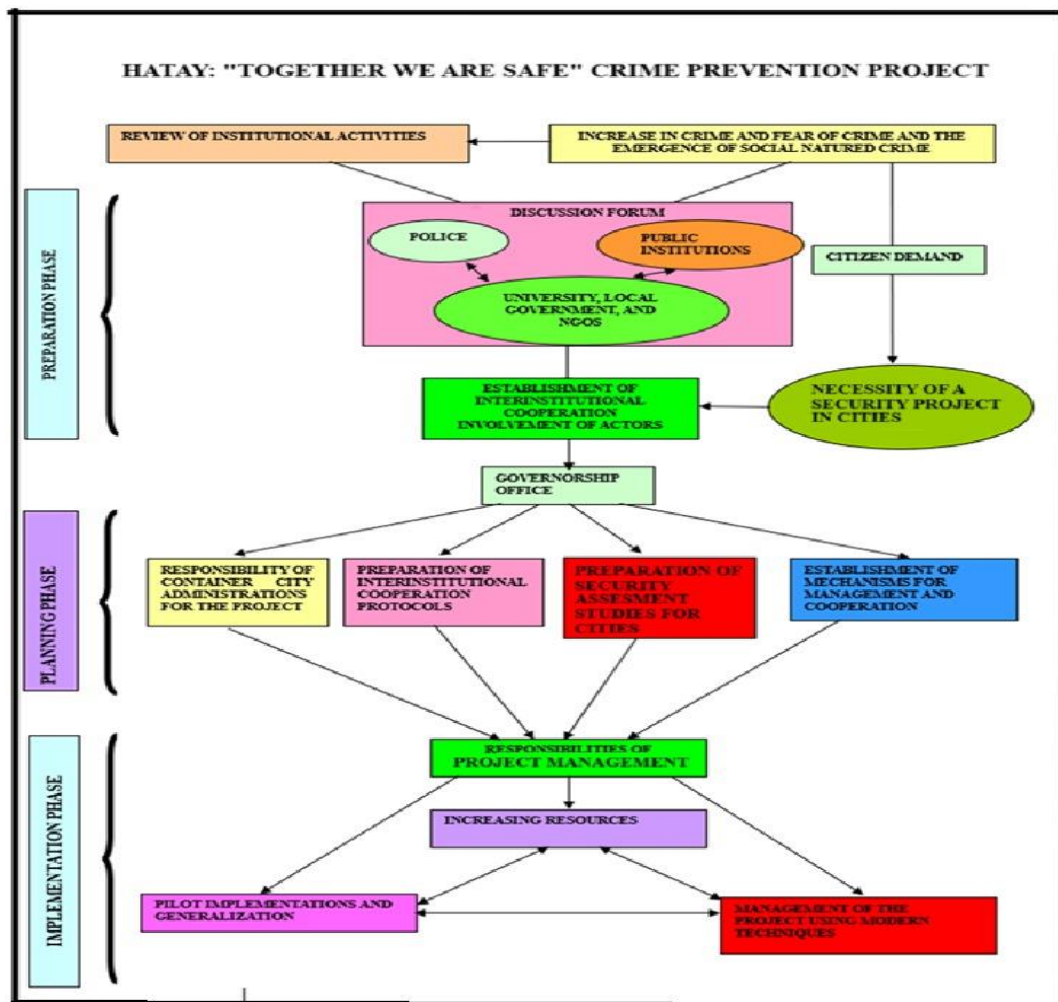
Regarding environmental order, the experimental group reported that order was re-established, while no significant change was observed in the control group. In terms of satisfaction with institutional activities and participation, the experimental group found the conducted activities sufficient, whereas the control group's initial perceptions remained unchanged. In the same vein, Cozens et al. (2005), in their *Design Against Crime – London, UK* study, described crime prevention interventions at the neighborhood level, including environmental modifications (e.g., improved lighting, CCTV installation) and active community participation. The outcomes of that intervention included reduced fear of crime, increased public space usage, and enhanced community engagement in the targeted areas. In this respect, the findings of the *Design Against Crime – London* study are in line with those of the Hatay "Together We Are Safe" Crime Prevention Project.

As a result of the Hatay "Together We Are Safe" Crime Prevention Project, residents reported feeling safe; they expressed satisfaction with the services provided to children, crime victims, and individuals at risk. Residents believed that neighborhood relations had improved and observed that the environment was orderly. In addition, residents positively changed their perceptions regarding satisfaction with institutional activities and participation in such activities. In this respect, it can be concluded that the project was both effective and efficient.

Furthermore, the project was observed to be effective and efficient in relation to several indicators: crime and delinquency rates, the number of emergency (112) calls, the level of cooperation with the community, the degree of institutional communication and coordination, and the production of more appropriate solutions to local problems through collaborative efforts.

The pilot study conducted in the Büyükdalyan Temporary Living Center in Antakya district, Hatay province, demonstrated that a multidimensional and holistic approach is effective in the delivery of security services. Therefore, it is believed that generalizing the "Together We Are Safe Crime Prevention Project Methodology," which involves the participation of citizens, public institutions, NGOs, universities, and local governments, will be beneficial in combating crime and delinquency. As seen in the "Together We Are Safe Crime Prevention Methodology" model presented in Figure 2, the project generalization process consists of the preparation phase, planning phase, and implementation phase.

**Figure 2: Hatay “Together We Are Safe” Crime Prevention Project Methodology Model**



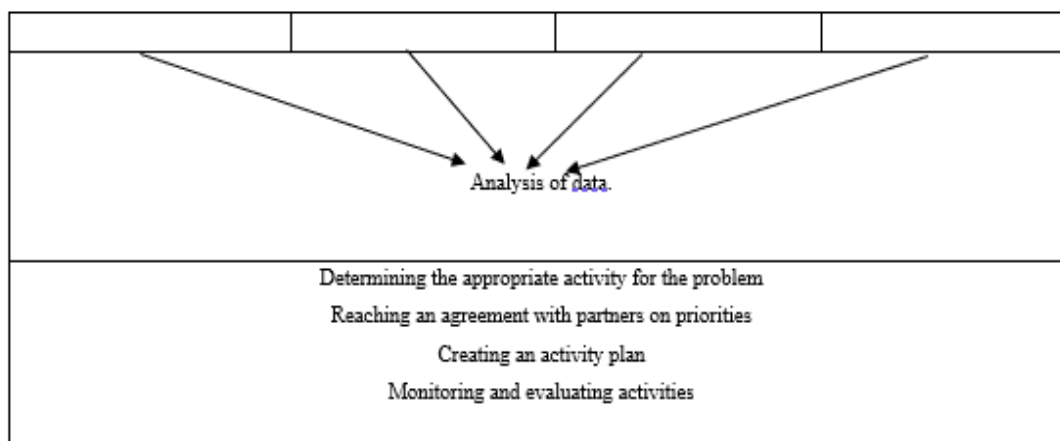
- The generalization of the project in the preparation phase involves integrating concerns about insecurity and social-dimension crime prevention paradigms as a priority into the

administrative agenda. Furthermore, it aims to establish an understanding that promotes inter-institutional cooperation and ensures the participation of all actors in social-dimension crime prevention programs.

- The planning phase includes administrative tasks and actions related to the generalization of the project. In this context, the generalization of the project first requires the formation of project management teams at the provincial/district level, composed of different institutions. It also involves establishing a protocol-based cooperation framework among all relevant actors, diagnosing the problem, and conducting spatial security assessment studies (as presented in Table-6) to guide the activities to be implemented while ensuring the collection of reliable and valid data. Additionally, mechanisms must be created to facilitate the effective participation of all actors in activities, as well as monitoring and evaluation processes

**Table-6: Spatial Security Assessment Study Scheme**

CRIME ANALYSIS	FEAR OF CRIME ANALYSIS	SOCIAL NATURED PROBLEMS	SPATIAL RISKS AND HAZARDS
Crime Statistics (1-year period)	Review of Petitions	Students with absenteeism, non-attendance, suspension, low academic performance, and those involved in bullying.	Identification of points with a risk of traffic accidents.
Resolved cases.	Minutes of the public peace meeting with citizens.	Disabled, elderly, dependent, and individuals suffering from poverty and deprivation.	Lighting, blind spots.
Unsolved cases.	Minutes of the meeting with the container city administration.	Peer groups experiencing adaptation problems.	Camera system.
112 emergency call numbers and types.	Tendency towards uncivil behavior and its types.	Broken families.	Condition of fences.
Structure of crime by type (committed during the day and night).	Begging, intrusive solicitation.	Study on unemployed individuals, relationship between adaptation problems and unemployment.	Condition of laundries, parks, and social facilities.
Information on children driven to crime.	Disruptive gatherings.	Children under social service supervision.	Open manhole pits.
Misdemeanor statistics.		Number of residents.	Electrical installations and transformers.
Information on crime victims (especially repeat victims).		Population mobility.	Harmful sharp, piercing, and crushing building parts, objects, or tools.
Characteristics of suspects.		Parents' level of control over their children.	
Damaged public containers, objects, and materials.		Level of social, sports, and artistic activities.	



The implementation phase encompasses the responsibilities of "Project Management" in the generalization of the project. This phase envisions pilot applications, the expansion of the project, the enhancement of resources allocated to the project, and its management using modern techniques. In this regard, the initial step in project execution involves implementing the previously piloted project within a specific timeframe and geographic area. A six-month implementation period is considered appropriate.

However, due to limited resources, it is not feasible to apply the project citywide. Therefore, areas can be classified based on the severity of security issues, the socio-demographic characteristics of residents, and the city's heterogeneous population structure into:

- Areas requiring urgent intervention (Type A),
- Areas requiring moderate intervention (Type B),
- Areas not requiring intervention (Type C).

This classification ensures the optimal utilization of resources. It is advisable to fully implement the project in Type A areas, maintain oversight in Type B areas, and conduct monitoring in Type C areas. This approach will help overcome obstacles related to resource constraints.

Efforts to prevent crime will continue to grow over time. The effectiveness of these efforts depends on scientific assessments, coordination among institutions and actors, and a willingness to adapt. Successful prevention programs will emerge only through continuous research and necessary modifications. This study is expected to provide a new and diverse perspective for academic, political, and public stakeholders.

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### **Introduction:**

In recent years, the rise in crime and delinquency rates, particularly in areas experiencing intense social and economic stress, has underscored the limitations of conventional crime prevention strategies. Traditional law enforcement approaches, while necessary, have often failed to produce sustainable behavioral and cognitive changes in communities heavily affected by crime. This study addresses this gap by proposing and testing a new model that integrates key elements from multiple criminological theories. The primary aim is to better understand and respond to the complex nature of crime and delinquency in vulnerable populations, such as those residing in temporary accommodation centers following large-scale disasters.

The proposed model is based on the integration of Social Disorganization Theory, Social Bond Theory, Defensible Space Theory, Routine Activities Theory, and Broken Windows Theory. It emphasizes the need for a multi-dimensional strategy that not only addresses criminal behavior through law enforcement but also engages community members through educational, psychological, and social activities. In this context, this study investigates whether activities designed within the framework of the new integrated model are more effective than conventional security measures in changing attitudes and behaviors related to crime.

### **Methodology:**

A quasi-experimental research design was employed to test the effectiveness of the proposed model. The study was conducted in two temporary accommodation centers located in Hatay: the Büyükdalyan Temporary Accommodation Center and the Qatar-2 Temporary Accommodation Center. These centers house individuals and families displaced by recent socio-environmental crises and are characterized by high population density, limited resources, and increased vulnerability to crime.

The sample consisted of a total of 5,500 citizens, divided into experimental and control groups. In the area designated as the experimental group (Büyükdalyan Center), a series of activities rooted in the new integrated crime prevention model were implemented over a defined period. These activities included educational seminars, community engagement programs, conflict resolution workshops, and structured recreational events designed to reduce idle time and increase pro-social behavior.

In the control group area (Qatar-2 Center), traditional law enforcement measures continued to be applied without the addition of new intervention strategies. Data were collected from both groups through semi-structured interviews conducted before and after the intervention period. This allowed for a comparative analysis of cognitive and behavioral changes, particularly in relation to perceptions of crime, trust in law enforcement, and individual behavioral patterns.

### **Findings:**

The results of the study reveal that the new model produced significantly more positive outcomes in the experimental group compared to the control group. Participants in the experimental group

demonstrated notable improvements in several key areas: a reduction in fear of crime, increased cooperation with law enforcement officers, greater involvement in community activities, and a shift toward more constructive conflict resolution approaches. These changes were less pronounced or absent in the control group.

Moreover, the experimental group showed higher levels of awareness regarding the social and environmental factors contributing to crime. The integrated activities appeared to foster a stronger sense of community and individual responsibility, leading to more sustainable behavioral changes. This suggests that when individuals are provided with structured opportunities for engagement, learning, and participation, they are more likely to reject criminal behavior and support collective efforts to enhance community safety.

The control group, on the other hand, continued to exhibit patterns typically associated with environments of insecurity and instability, such as low trust in authorities, reluctance to report crimes, and limited participation in communal initiatives. This contrast highlights the limitations of conventional crime control methods that rely heavily on deterrence and reactive measures without addressing underlying social dynamics.

#### **Discussion and Conclusion:**

Based on these findings, the study concludes that the integration of multiple criminological theories into a unified intervention model can provide a more comprehensive and effective approach to crime prevention, particularly in high-risk environments like temporary accommodation centers. The new model’s emphasis on proactive, participatory, and educational strategies contributes to deeper and longer-lasting changes in both individual behavior and community dynamics.

A significant implication of this study is the potential applicability of this integrated crime prevention model in other urban contexts facing similar challenges. Cities struggling with crime, marginalization, and post-disaster recovery may benefit from adopting a more holistic and community-centered approach to safety and security. Future research should focus on adapting the model to different demographic and cultural settings, as well as evaluating its long-term impact on crime rates and community resilience.

This study represents an important step toward rethinking crime prevention in ways that empower communities and foster sustainable social change. The findings reinforce the value of interdisciplinary approaches and the critical role of local context in shaping effective public safety interventions.