

Impact of Localizing Youth Initiatives in The Ministry of Youth Centers on Reducing Crime Occurrence from the Perspective of the Ministry's Employees in Al-Karak Governorate

Dr. Ala'a Al-Majali¹, Dr. Odeh S. Murad², Dr. Marwan Masa'd Naser Abu Samhadaneh³, Dr. Suzan Naim Zahi ALShamaileh⁴

¹Associate Professor, Department of Educational and Social Sciences, Al-Balqa Applied University, Jordan, alaa.majali@bau.edu.jo

²Professor, Department of Basic and Applied Sciences, Al-Balqa Applied University, Jordan, odehmurad@bau.edu.jo

³Faculty of Arts, University: Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, Marwan2737@yahoo.com

⁴Sociology Department, College of Social Sciences, Mutah University, Jordan, suzan.a77@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study aimed to identify the impact of localizing youth initiatives in the Ministry of Youth centers on reducing crimes from the perspective of the Ministry's employees in Al-Karak governorate. The study used an analytical descriptive approach, where the researcher developed an instrument to measure the level of localizing youth initiatives and another instrument to measure the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime occurrence. The results revealed no statistically significant differences in the perceptions of the participants concerning the impact of youth initiatives in reducing crime attributed to gender and marital status. However, there were differences attributed to years of experience in favor of more experience, and to educational qualification in favor of a bachelor's degree. The study found that the level of localizing youth initiatives in the ministry of youth centers was high. Further, the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime was high.

Keywords: Crime, localization, youth initiatives, youth centers.

1. Introduction

The youth is the future of the nation, the makers of its civilization, and its buried treasure upon which a better future can be built. Therefore, paying attention to the youth and educating them well have become among the top priorities of comprehensive national developmental plans in order to bring up the youth in conditions that enable them to participate effectively in developing their communities and maintaining the unity of their nation (Al-Fa'ouri, 1985).

To this end, governments and states must aim to involve the youth in societal activities through official and non-official institutions and advocate such activities in all possible ways to encourage them to take part in all the activities that enhance their role. Indeed, non-official institutions contribute to supporting youth activities and advocate their positive ideas. The youth, in turn, perform voluntary activities by designing initiatives to develop their communities and enhance self-assertion. In other words, voluntary work within communities depends on youth efforts, where the youth do these efforts without financial payment. By doing so, the youth feel proud for serving their country and developing their community. The youth volunteers waive their payment for the sake of serving and satisfying the group (Al-Tafili, 2007).

Voluntary societal initiatives manifest the community's development and are considered a basic element for building the community and enhancing the cohesion among its members, where social cohesion is a necessity, especially in times of crises and problems. Initiatives are represented by social participation, volunteering, and direct action with the community to deal with societal issues. The most influential and democratic institutions in the community are more interactive with initiatives (Mohammad, 2020).

Initiatives are the basic component in societal participation, where several indicators manifest the community's vitality, activity, and ability to develop and respond to challenges, and the most important indicators are represented by community-derived initiatives that are effective in promoting all its classes, especially the neediest ones (Mousa, 2020).

Furthermore, initiatives contribute to making the required change in the attitudes, knowledge, behaviors, and values of the community individuals. The societal initiative programs and donations vary in type. Some initiatives focus on education, health, or development, while others are more focused on the targeted categories, especially women, children, and the elderly (Mohammad, 2022).

Since the negative behaviors witnessed currently are affected by other communities, as well as social, economic, cultural, or political factors, and are manifested in the form of crimes, countries throughout the world continue to search for methods to reduce the crime rates that affect directly or indirectly societal cohesion and development. Since crimes represent violations of healthy and socially desired behavioral patterns and result in instability in the community, crimes manifest deviance from the values, customs, and traditions prevalent in a community. Accordingly, the youth established several initiatives to deal with the issues that result in crime via the youth centers established by the Jordanian Ministry of Youth.

Study Problem and Questions

The youth are powerful entities that build communities. They are the basic pillars in the development of each community. Therefore, several communities have adopted all the possible means to develop positive behaviors among the youth in order to enhance their national affiliation and give them more opportunities to express their cognitive, technical, and intellectual capabilities. There has been more focus on the role played by societal institutions in doing so given their effectiveness in shaping individuals' attitudes either positively or negatively based on their content and the degree of commitment to their procedures and elements that enhance sustainable development and aim to protect the youth from committing delinquent behaviors.

The study problem can be determined by the following main question: What is the effect of localizing youth initiatives in the Ministry of Youth centers on reducing crime occurrence from the perspective of the ministry's employees in Al-Karak governorate? The following sub-questions are derived from this main question:

- 1- What is the level of localizing youth initiatives in the Ministry of Youth Centers from the perspective of the ministry's employees in Al-Karak governorate?
- 2- Are there statistically significant differences ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the impact of youth initiatives in reducing crime occurrence from the perspective of the Ministry of Youth's employees in Al-Karak governorate?
- 3- Are there statistically significant differences ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the perceptions of the participants concerning the effect of localizing youth initiatives in reducing crime occurrence attributed to the demographic variables?

Study Objectives

The study aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- 1- Identifying the level of localizing youth initiatives in the ministry of youth centers.
- 2- Identifying the impact of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime occurrence from the perspective of the ministry's employees in Al-Karak governorate.
- 3- Identifying the differences in the perceptions of the participants concerning the effect of localizing youth initiatives in reducing crime occurrence attributed to the demographic variables.

Study Importance

The study's importance lies in two domains:

A- Theoretical importance

1. The study will have a role in bridging the gap in the research relevant to the study topic.
2. The study will support the Arabic library with a specialized study on youth initiatives in the Ministry of Youth Centers and crime.

B- Practical importance

1. The study's practical importance lies in addressing the impact of localizing youth initiatives in the ministry of youth centers on reducing crime occurrence.
2. The study results are expected to provide specialized information about youth initiatives and crime.
3. Providing recommendations that are based on scientific results to decision-makers concerning youth centers in the Ministry of Youth and the role of these centers in developing the community and addressing some behaviors among the youth.

Study Limits

The study is limited by the following:

The human limits: the employees of the Ministry of Health.

The spatial limits: the directorate of youth in the Al-Karak governorate.

The temporal limits: the academic year 2022–2023.

Study Terms

Youth initiatives: These refer to innovative ideas that contribute to developing the community or some of its categories in any life domain, address a problem, or satisfy a need for the community by creating opportunities, employing the available resources, mobilizing abilities, and achieving the most possible advantage of them (Sa'ada, 2013).

They are procedurally defined as innovative ideas adopted by the youth in the youth centers in the Al-Karak governorate to satisfy the community's needs and address some phenomena.

Ministry of Youth centers: They are voluntary educational social institutions that help the youth build a balanced personality through practicing cultural, sporting, and social activities. These centers are professional institutions that practice social services to serve the environment, maintain it, develop youth capabilities, promote political awareness, and allow the youth to participate effectively in environmental projects and public service provided by the youth center at the local level, where those projects and services can be invested in enhancing positive behavior and reducing negative behavior among the youth. These centers are spread across various parts of the country to serve both male and female youths (Rashwan, 2009).

They are procedurally defined as the centers established by the government to develop their capabilities and enhance their talents and innovations.

Crime: It is each action that opposes the group's benefit or breaches the prevalent customs, which, in turn, entails imposing sanctions on offenders, or refers to violating the ethical standards of the group (Al-Shatheli, 2002).

It is procedurally defined as an action that is deviant from the community's customs and values and causes harm to the community's individuals and properties, either as moral or physical harm.

2. Theoretical Framework and Previous Studies

Youth Initiatives

Voluntary action is a humanitarian cooperative action that has a high positive value and civilized behavior that promotes nations and communities. It contributes to instilling good spirits in community individuals and is viewed as a sign of cooperation through which relationships are developed between people (Abdul Rahman, 2022). The basic objective of social work is

establishing a healthy community that isn't threatened by disease phenotypes or social problems, such as crime, delinquency, unemployment, illiteracy, and ignorance. Initiatives represent ideas or work plans that are set to address community issues and are converted into long-term and short-term developmental projects. Youth initiatives aim to develop self, and communities and are taught by practicing projects, where the youth take part in activities through which they use various instruments and processes to achieve the required objectives and tasks. In this vein, the youth work based on a plan to achieve certain goals; they use research and investigation approaches and learn through thinking and action within a daily-life context through which they can develop their planning, preparation, problem-solving, and innovation (Sweidan, 2020).

Initiatives are defined as multifaceted societal investments in disadvantaged communities, where they are often performed by charitable societies in cooperation with community individuals to address community problems completely (Kubisch et al., 2011).

Youth centers provide services to the youth in the form of programs and activities to make positive changes by providing them with skills, developing their talents, solving their problems, and taking advantage of all the available resources in the community; this results in strong and good citizens who can face problems and participate in the development of their country.

Youth centers adopt a policy that aims to improve the performance and well-being of the youth as individuals and groups in order to avoid mess and lack of regulation. All the communities need behavioral patterns that can be predicted in order to ensure that the youth are committed to social regulations and rules and educate the youth to be able to do their social activities and family roles (Al-Kawari, 2013).

Importance of Youth Participation in Initiatives

Youth participation in societal programs and projects promotes their positive behavior. Also, it supports the feeling of citizenship and affiliation to the community (Benson and Saito, 2001). Youth participation has several advantages; it contributes to developing technological and scientific knowledge, promoting social development and societal change, developing positive values, and enhancing awareness among community members (Checkoway, 2003).

The importance of youth initiatives lies in making a difference in the civil life of the community, as well as developing knowledge, skills, and values among the youth and promoting quality life in the community through political and non-political processes (Zaff et al., 2015).

Crime

Crime adversely affects all the developing and developed communities. Crime threatens human security and societal stability. With the tremendous development in technology, crime is no longer restricted to a certain country, as the whole world is affected by the factors that enhance committing crimes (Al-Badaine, 2002).

From a social perspective, crime is considered a behavior that contradicts social customs in a community, where customs are viewed as controls that restrict the individual's behavior. Crime refers to the actions that cause harm to both individuals and the community. Therefore,

communities rejected crimes and enacted criminal laws that should be complied with and respected. Crime is a deviance from behavioral principles and rules that a community determines for its members (Edio, 2020). In short, we can say that crime is a negative social phenomenon that expresses a disorder in social relationships and social behaviors, where it reflects the nature of contradictions in the objective and subjective variables affecting the individual's environment and social life and determines the nature of human problems suffered by individuals and groups (Al-Hassan, 2011).

Theories Interpreting the Study Topic

Theory of Social Control

Hershey's theory on social control is amongst the most popular theories in this domain. He mentioned in his book the causes of juvenile delinquency, published in 1969. He viewed social control as the individual's compliance with the standards derived from law by getting away from deviant and criminal behaviors, such as theft, attacks, assault, and vandalism. Hershey's theory is based on the assumption that deviance is normal; therefore, compliance is the basic component that is worth explaining (Zahran, 2017).

Hershey's theory suggests that humans are born with the freedom to breach law, and people are more inclined to breach laws and do prohibited things. This implies that crime expresses a free willingness and is viewed as normal behavior. It also implies that people who commit crimes don't lack manners, but rather have different manners. Hershey suggested that people are only driven by their natural desires (Al-Wereikat, 2004).

Hershey suggested that the strength of an individual's connection with the community urges them to comply with the community's rules. He confirmed that there are basic factors for the individual's correlation with the community, where these factors help understand compliance. Hawala (2014) listed the following connecting factors:

A. Correlation: It is considered the most important factor that connects individuals with their community, where the strong correlations between an individual and his parents, friends, or institutions, such as school, social and sporting clubs are amongst the most important factors that urge people to abide by laws; in this vein, correlation with people is the most important motive of compliance and prevention of deviance.

B. Commitment: It is represented by the individual's commitment to invest his time and effort in doing a certain activity, where individuals seek to possess more knowledge, have work or trade, or participate in charitable work; therefore, when individuals think of deviant behaviors, they consider the disadvantages and consequences of that as compared to the benefits and advantages of exhibiting good behavior. Accordingly, we can see that ambition plays an important role in achieving compliance with the law.

C. Involvement: It refers to the time that the individual spends doing various activities. For example, when an individual spends more time practicing recreational activities, he may not have time to commit the deviant behavior as compared to the one who has more free time.

D. Belief: It is manifested in the individual's view concerning the justice of the community laws, which, in turn, urges him to respect those laws and ethically comply with them.

Law is important to control deviant behaviors. Hershey suggested that the law affects people's social control, where each one has to believe in the law's content and abide by it. He confirmed the degree to which individuals learn and acquire ethical values during the upbringing period in family and school. One can say that Hershey's theory on social control focuses on the community members' commitment to the group's standards derived from law.

Anomie Theory

Merton explained crime from a social perspective and refused the psychological explanations. He clarified his theory based on the social structure that consists of social system and cultural systems. Merton explained the emergence of criminal behavior based on the objectives and ambitions of each community where those objectives attract the attention of all the individuals of a community, where that community decides on the acceptable methods for achieving them. Of course, the adopted methods are related to social norms accepted by the community as the legitimate way of achieving objectives. Since the opportunities for achieving those objectives are limited as opposed to the unlimited individual ambitions, some individuals can't achieve the desired objectives based on legitimate means, and thus they try to achieve them using illegitimate methods. Therefore, the social system and cultural systems practice certain stressors on certain individuals and stimulate them to commit criminal behavior. Merton contends that when the community outweighs objectives at the expense of standards, where compliance with legitimate methods is neglected and selfishness prevails, individuals seek to achieve their personal objectives, regardless of the used methods. In this vein, the social norms that control behavior are lacking, and criminal behaviors prevail (Ibrahim, 2014).

Social Learning Theory

This theory suggests that deviance is acquired due to the individual's exposure to certain experiences and practices, as well as the failure of the social upbringing through which individuals were raised. This theory suggests that social development takes place in the same way other things are learned, that is, by observing others and imitating them. Undoubtedly, the principles of learning, such as reinforcement, punishment, extinction, generalization, and distinction, play a major role in an individual's socialization and reduce deviance. The advocates of social learning theory consider the important role played by imitation in enhancing or preventing deviance. Skinner suggested that reinforcing the child's behavior enhances the recurrence of that behavior, whereas punishing is likely to stop its occurrence in the future (Ibrahim, 2014).

Bandura and Walters suggested that reinforcement by itself isn't sufficient to demonstrate the occurrence of some behavioral patterns that appear suddenly among children. In fact, people develop their assumptions concerning the types of behavior that will lead to achieving their objectives, where accepting or not accepting those assumptions depends on the results relating to the behavior, such as reward and punishment. This means that too much deviance takes place by observing the behaviors of others and noticing the results of their actions. This theory suggests that we don't only learn previous actions, but we learn complete models of

behavior, that is, the rules that constitute the basis of a certain behavior. The concept of learning by observation is based on the assumption that human beings as social beings are affected by the attitudes, feelings, and behaviors of others, where people can learn by observing and imitating. This assumption is based on a very important educational trait if we consider learning as a social process in its basic concept (Al-Wereikat, 2004).

Al-Hosnia (2006) aimed to identify the role of social values in combating crime from the perspective of the students of Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University and the inmates of a rehabilitation center. The study sample consisted of 400 students and 400 inmates. The study used a descriptive survey approach. The results revealed that the students' perspectives were different from the inmates' perspectives concerning values, that is, the students were more concerned about social values as compared to inmates. The results revealed that the students' attitudes toward the values of honesty, neighborhood respect, work, national loyalty, and public property were high as compared to the attitudes of inmates.

Ronda (2011) aimed to identify the relationship between economic and political stressors, poverty problems, crime, health, as well as health and youth initiatives. The results revealed that the stressors and problems resulted in more reliance on voluntary societal initiatives to combat societal problems, including the initiative of safe schools.

Haidar (2014) aimed to identify the relationship between youth initiatives and social entrepreneurship in the organizations of the Jordanian civil community by uncovering the nature and objectives of the youth initiatives and the role of the youth in them based on the used methods and the issues targeted by these initiatives. The study sample consisted of 162 young individuals. The results revealed that youth initiatives enhance the role of the youth in social participation and reinforce the self-concept among the youth.

Al-Arabi (2015) aimed to identify the role of youth initiatives in developing social responsibility among the youth. The study sample consisted of 100 male and female students attending youth initiatives in the university and 30 male and female students representing the control group. The results showed that youth initiatives have a positive role in developing the four dimensions of social responsibility among the sample individuals, including subjective responsibility, religious and ethical responsibility, collective responsibility, and national responsibility. The most important causes for the emergence of youth initiatives in universities are represented by the students' desire to retrieve their role in the university and get out of political exclusion and marginalization, as well as get rid of the boredom related to university life, doing useful things, acquiring new life skills, making relationships with others, and expressing their opinions and serving the community.

Al-Khalidi (2015) aimed to identify the role of youth centers in developing social responsibility among the youth attending these centers toward themselves, their friends, families, neighborhoods, and country, and identify whether there are statistically significant differences concerning the total degree and the study domains depending on variables such as gender, age, membership period, membership type, and activities. The study sample consisted of 272 male and female youth, 20% from each youth center in the Mafraq governorate. The results revealed that the youth centers have a medium dedication toward developing social responsibility among

the youth but a high dedication to developing social responsibility toward family and country, and a medium degree toward friends and neighborhood, but a low degree toward self. The results revealed statistically significant differences in the role of youth centers in developing social responsibility depending on gender in favor of females, attributed to participation in cultural, religious, voluntary, and sporting activities. The results revealed no statistically significant differences in the role of youth centers in developing social responsibility attributed to age and membership in the administrative commission.

Carvalho (2017) aimed to propose a societal project to intervene in the urban areas that suffered from several economic and social problems in countries such as Portugal, Italy, Netherlands, and Belgium based on youth initiatives. The results confirmed the importance of holding national seminars to establish projects that guarantee the participation of youth and prepare a document about the youth policies and their perceptions about urban neighborhoods, in addition to identifying the extent to which they know the problems of their communities and their ability to affect societal projects.

Al-Darawsheh and Al-Mawajdeh (2017) aimed to identify the impact of social variables on murder crimes in the Jordanian community from the perspective of the students of Jordanian universities. The study sample consisted of 433 male and female students. The results revealed an effect of social variables on committing murder crimes in the Jordanian community. Family disintegration was in the first place, followed by the lack of religious morals, and finally, the lack of social control means. The results revealed no statistically significant differences between the mean scores for the sample individuals depending on variables such as gender, educational qualification, and job.

Al-Tarawneh (2018) aimed to identify the level of positive thinking and self-esteem among the youth attending youth initiatives and training workshops in the Al-Karak Innovative Club. The study sample consisted of 232 male and female students affiliated with the club. The results revealed that the level of positive thinking and self-esteem was high. Further, they found statistically significant differences in the level of positive thinking among the students affiliated with the club, attributed to the variable of gender in favor of females.

Al-Qahtani (2021) aimed to identify the role of social service in reducing cybercrimes. The study sample consisted of 68 faculty members from Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University. The results revealed that the sample individuals agreed on the social factors leading to committing cybercrimes (widespread anonymous hyperlinks), and agreed on the preventive roles of social service, such as spreading awareness among the community members, especially the youth and adolescents.

Mohammad (2022) aimed to determine the attitudes of the university youth toward participation in developmental initiatives and the difficulties faced by them. The study sample consisted of 371 male and female students from the higher institute of social service in Cairo during the academic year 2021–2022. The results revealed that the university youth had a highly positive attitude toward participation in developmental initiatives.

The current study drew upon previous studies for its theoretical framework and study methodology. The researcher relied on previous studies for developing the study instrument.

Nevertheless, this is the first study that addressed the impact of localizing youth initiatives in the Ministry of Youth centers on reducing crime occurrence from the perspective of the ministry's employees in the Al-Karak governorate, as none of the previous studies were conducted within the context of the Jordanian environment.

3. Study Methodology

The study used an analytical descriptive approach due to its compatibility with the study's nature and objectives. This approach clarifies the relationship between two or more variables and measures the correlation, as well as similarities and differences between them, in addition to investigating the type and size of the relationship between those variables.

Study population and sample

The study population consisted of 99 male and female employees working in the centers of the Ministry of Youth in the Al-Karak governorate, who were selected randomly centers. Table (1) shows the distribution of the participants.

Table 1. Distribution of participants according to the demographic variables

Variable	Category	Number	Percentage
Gender	Male	57	57.58%
	Female	42	42.42%
Experience	< 5 years	25	25.25%
	5-10 years	26	26.27%
	10-15 years	24	24.24%
	> 15 years	24	24.24%
Marital status	Single	50	50.51%
	Married	41	41.41%
	Divorced	6	6.06%
	Widow	2	2.02%
Educational qualification	Secondary certificate or less	43	43.44%
	Diploma	24	24.24%
	Bachelor	24	24.24%
	Higher studies	8	8.08%
Total		99	100%

Study Instruments

First study instrument: Localizing youth initiatives

To achieve the objectives of the study, a questionnaire was developed to collect the study data after reviewing several previous studies related to the study topic. The final version of the youth initiatives localization instrument included the following main parts:

First part: It includes variables related to the demographic characteristics of the study participants.

Second part: It consisted of 13 items to measure the level of localizing youth initiatives.

The standard of judging the results of the instrument of localizing youth initiatives is shown in Table (2).

Table 2. Standard of judging the results of the instrument of localizing youth initiatives

Level	Test rating scale			Item rating scale		
	From		To	From		To
Low	10	-	23.3	1.00	-	2.33
Medium	23.4	-	36.6	2.34	-	3.66
High	36.7	-	50	3.67	-	5.00

Validity of Study Instrument

The instrument for measuring localizing of youth initiatives was verified based on the stages of development of the instrument. The primary version of the questionnaire was introduced to several arbitrators specialized in sociology to know their opinion concerning the wording of items and identifying the degree to which the items match with the domain in which they were mentioned, verify the items' ability to measure the purpose for which they were cited, and verify the suitability of rating the response to the items. Based on the arbitrators' agreement (80%), several items were added, and others were modified.

Reliability of Study Instrument

The reliability of the study instrument was verified by using the Cronbach alpha coefficient in order to calculate the internal reliability of the instrument based on the values of internal correlation between the items. After applying the instrument to the pilot sample that consisted of 30 male and female employees, the following reliability coefficients were obtained, as shown in Table (3).

Table 3. Values of reliability coefficients (Cronbach alpha) for the domains of localizing youth initiatives instrument

Domains	Number of items	Cronbach alpha coefficient
Localizing youth initiatives	13	0.887

Second instrument: impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, a questionnaire was developed to collect the study data after reviewing a number of previous studies related to the study topic. The final version of the instrument for measuring the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime included the following main parts:

First part: It included variables related to the demographic characteristics of the study sample individuals

Second part: It consisted of 15 items to measure the level of the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime.

The standard of judging the results of the instrument measuring the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime is shown in Table (4)

Table 4. Standard of judging the results of the instrument measuring the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime

Level	Test rating scale			Item rating scale		
	From		To	From		To
Low	15	-	34.95	1.00	-	2.33
Medium	35	-	54.9	2.34	-	3.66
High	55	-	75	3.67	-	5.00

Validity of Study Instrument

The instrument measuring the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime was verified based on the stages of development of the instrument. The primary version of the questionnaire was introduced to a number of arbitrators specialized in sociology, to know their opinion concerning the wording of items and identifying the degree to which the items match with the domain in which they were mentioned, verify the items' ability to measure the purpose for which they were cited, and verify the suitability of rating the response to the items. Based on the arbitrators' agreement (80%), a number of items were added, and others were modified.

Reliability of Study Instrument

The reliability of the instrument measuring the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime was verified by using the Cronbach alpha coefficient in order to calculate the internal reliability of the instrument based on the values of internal correlation between the items. After applying the instrument to the pilot sample of 30 male and female employees, the following reliability coefficients were obtained, as shown in Table (5).

Table 5. Values of reliability coefficients (Cronbach alpha) for the domains of the impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime's instrument

Domains	Number of items	Cronbach alpha coefficient
The impact of youth initiatives on reducing crime	15	0.875

4. Study Results and Discussion

First question: What is the level of localizing of youth initiatives in the Ministry of Youth centers from the perspective of the ministry's employees in the Al-Karak governorate?

In order to answer this question, the researcher calculated the means of the responses of the employees of the Ministry of Youth in Al-Karak governorate to the items of the scale of localizing youth initiatives in the Ministry of Youth centers; the mean was 3.807, with a standard deviation of 0.672. According to the 3-point rating scale, this average mean represents a high degree of opinion.

This could be attributed to the fact that the youth initiatives in the youth centers in the Al-Karak governorate are based on the needs of the local community; therefore, the youth find more opportunities to help those surrounding them, and even nurture the desire to help others in the community. Also, the youth participating in youth initiatives have higher self-esteem, and this finding was confirmed by Al-Tarawneh (2018), who found that positive thinking and self-esteem are higher among those participating in youth initiatives. This finding is also in agreement

with Mohammad (2022), who found a positive attitude among university youth toward participating in youth initiatives.

Second question: Are there statistically significant differences ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the opinions of the Ministry of Youth's employees in Al-Karak governorate regarding youth initiatives and their impact on reducing crime?

In order to answer this question, the researcher calculated the means of the responses of the employees of the Ministry of Youth in the Al-Karak governorate to the items of the scale of the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime; the mean was 3.985, with a standard deviation of 0.563. According to the 3-point rating scale, this average mean represents a high degree of opinions of the participants.

This could be attributed to the assumption that the youth participating in initiatives hold more social responsibility, which, in turn, enhances their effectiveness in educating the community individuals about crime and its adverse effects on the community and various life domains. This finding was confirmed by Al-Arabi (2015), who claimed that youth initiatives have a positive role in developing social responsibility since these initiatives instill the trait of affiliation in the minds of volunteers, which, in turn, reduces crime rates. Also, conferences and seminars held by the youth ministers have a prominent role in developing people's awareness concerning the prevention of crime. Al-Qahtani (2021) found that their study participants agreed on the preventive roles of social service in reducing electronic crimes, including spreading awareness among community members, especially youth and adolescents.

Third question: Are there statistically significant differences ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the perceptions of the participants concerning the effect of localizing youth initiatives in reducing crime occurrence depending on demographic variables?

In order to answer this question, the researcher calculated the means for the responses of the employees of the Ministry of Youth in the Al-Karak governorate to the items of the scale of the youth initiatives on reducing crime, according to demographic variables, as follows:

First, gender: the means were calculated for males and females, as presented in Table (6).

Table 6. Means and standard deviations for the effect of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on gender

Gender	Mean	Number	SD
Male	3.9567	57	.53888
Female	4.0222	42	.59949
Total	3.9845	99	.56334

We can see that the mean of females (4.02) was higher than that of males (3.957). In order to investigate the significance of differences, a t-test for independent samples was calculated, as presented in Table (7).

Table 7. T-test to investigate the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on gender

t-test value	Degree of freedom	Sig. Level
0.57	97	0.56

Based on the t-test, we can see that the differences in the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on gender weren't statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$). This means that males' perspectives differed from that of the females. This can be attributed to the fact that both males and females live in similar conditions since they belong to the same community, and are affected by the same social and economic circumstances.

Second, experience: the means were calculated according to the employees' experience, as presented in Table (8).

Table 8. Means and standard deviations for the effect of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on experience

Experience	Mean	Number	SD
< 5 years	3.8000	25	.60031
5–10 years	3.9026	26	.50429
10–15 years	3.9694	24	.59498
> 15 years	4.2806	24	.45767
Total	3.9845	99	.56334

We can see that the mean varied based on experience. In order to investigate the significance of differences, an analysis of variance was calculated, as presented in Table (9).

Table 9. One-way analysis of variance to investigate the differences in the effect of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on experience

Source of variance	Total square	Degree of freedom	Mean square	F-value	Sig. level
Intergroup	3.135	3	1.045	3.549	.017
Intra-group	27.966	95	.294		
Total	31.101	98			

Based on the variance analysis, we can see that the differences in the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on experience were statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$). This means that the males' perspectives from those of the females. This can be explained by the fact that both males and females live in similar conditions since they belong to the same community, and are affected by the same social and economic circumstances. In order to determine the differences favorability, post comparisons were performed using the Scheffee' test, as shown in Table (10).

Table 10. Post comparisons using Scheffee' test/ experience

Experience	< 5 years	5–10 years	10–15 years	> 15 years
Less than 5 years	-	-.10256	-.16944	-.48056*
5–10 years	.928	-	-.06688	-.37799
10–15 years	.755	.979	-	-.31111
More than 15 years	.027	.116	.274	-

Based on post comparisons using the Scheffee' test, we can see that the differences in the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on experience were in favor of >15 years. However, there were no differences between medium experience and low or high experience. This means that the males' perspectives differ from that of females. This is because those with more years of experience have more knowledge of the repercussions of crime and contribute to raising awareness among community members regarding the same. Furthermore, those with more experience are often older and have more effect on community members.

Third, marital status: the means were calculated according to the employees' marital status, as illustrated in Table (11).

Table 11. Means and standard deviations for the effect of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on marital status

Marital status	Mean	Number	SD
Single	3.9013	50	.55439
Married	4.1187	41	.57514
Divorced	3.8889	6	.52437
Widow	3.6000	2	.00000
Total	3.9845	99	.56334

We can see that the mean varied based on marital status. In order to investigate the significance of differences, an analysis of variance was calculated, as illustrated in Table (12).

Table 12. One-way analysis of variance: differences in the effect of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime depending on marital status

Source of variance	Total square	Degree of freedom	Mean square	f-value	Sig. level
Intergroup	1.435	3	.478	1.532	.211
Intra-group	29.666	95	.312		
Total	31.101	98			

Based on the analysis of variance, we can see that the differences in the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime in terms of marital status weren't statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$). This means that the perspectives of the employees of the youth centers in Al-Karak governorate concerning the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime didn't change based on marital status.

Fourth, educational qualification: the means were calculated according to the employees' educational qualification, as illustrated in Table (13).

Table 13. Means and standard deviations for the effect of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime according to the variable of educational qualification

Educational qualification	Mean	Number	SD
Secondary certificate or less	3.8326	43	.52501
Diploma	3.9583	24	.57611
Bachelor	4.2167	24	.56850
Higher studies	4.1833	8	.51239
Total	3.9845	99	.56334

We can see that the mean varied based on educational qualifications. In order to investigate the significance of differences, an analysis of variance was calculated, the results of which are presented in Table (14).

Table 14. One-way analysis of variance: differences in the effect of localizing youth initiatives on reducing crime according to the variable of educational qualification

Source of variance	Total square	Degree of freedom	Mean square	f-value	Sig. level
Intergroup	2.619	3	.873	2.912	.038
Intra-group	28.482	95	.300		
Total	31.101	98			

Based on variance analysis, we can see that the differences in the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime according to the variable of educational qualification were statistically significant

at ($\alpha = 0.05$). This means that the perspectives of the employees of the youth centers in the Al-Karak governorate concerning the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime according to educational qualification. In order to determine the differences favorability, post comparisons were performed using the least significance difference (LSD) test, as shown in Table (15).

Table 15. Post comparisons using LSD test / educational qualification

Educational qualification	Secondary certificate or less	Diploma	Bachelor	Higher studies
Secondary certificate or less	-	-.12578	-.38411	-.35078
Diploma	0.370	-	-.25833	-.22500
Bachelor	0.007	0.105	-	.03333
Higher studies	0.099	0.317	0.882	-

Based on post comparisons using the LSD test, we can see that the differences in the effect of youth initiatives on reducing crime were in favor of a bachelor's degree as compared to a secondary certificate or less experience. However, there were no differences related to higher studies or diplomas. This finding can be attributed to the belief that higher education provides an individual with more knowledge and cultural values, which helps them contribute to raising awareness among community members concerning the negative effects of crime. Also, those holding a bachelor's degree are exposed to knowledge and concepts that help them combat crimes, as they are taught about it as part of the curricula that deal with community issues and through the effect of their teachers and colleagues at university.

5. CONCLUSION

In light of the study's findings, which revealed a high level of localization of youth initiatives in youth centers, which resulted in a decrease in crime rates in society, their participation in these initiatives and service to their community increases their social responsibility and active role in raising awareness and educating community members. All of this resulted in a boost in their self-esteem and influence over their friends, which led to these young people becoming involved in the implementation of these projects, keeping them away from bad company and therefore reducing crime and community cohesion. The more these initiatives are localized in youth centers, the more young people will participate in them, lowering the unemployment rate and keeping young people busy in matters that benefit their communities, as well as increasing their self-esteem and sense of community.

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