

SUMMARY

This research is an exploratory and descriptive study based on juvenile's perceptions with regard to shop theft. Secondary data sources were consulted to supplement the empirical data collected by means of a comprehensive questionnaire. Five hundred learners from grades 10, 11 and 12 in Mabopane were selected for the completion of the questionnaires. Shop theft was further elucidated by the application of criminological theories to explain research findings by highlighting their relationship with shop theft.

Main research findings established that there are significant statistical differences with regard to the learner gender, age and grade as far as their views on shop theft were concerned.

Recommendations based on the findings include teaching Criminology at secondary schools, the development of an anti shop theft youth oriented crime prevention program, shop theft educational and awareness programmes, and shoplifter offender prevention programs.

Key terms:

Adjudication of shop theft; Criminology; Crime prevention; Shop theft; Modus operandi of shop thieves; Shop theft classification; Causes of shop theft; Explaining shop theft; Research shop theft; Juvenile perceptions on shop theft

OPSOMMING

Hierdie verkennende en beskrywende navorsing handel oor jeugdige se persepsies aangaande winkeldiefstal. Die empiriese data wat deur middel van 'n omvattende vraelys ingesamel is, is ondersteun met sekondêre databronne. Vyfhonderd leerders van grade 10, 11 en 12 van Mabopane is geselekteer om die vraelys te voltooi. Die verskynsel is verder belig deur aandag te gee aan die toepassing van kriminologiese teorieë vir die verklaring van winkeldiefstal.

Die navorsing het bevind dat daar statisties betekenisvolle verskille bestaan ten opsigte van geslag, ouderdom en graad in terme van die jeugdige se standpunte oor winkeldiefstal.

Die aanbevelings wat op die bevindinge gebaseer is sluit in dat Kriminologie by sekondêre skole onderrig moet word, en dat die volgende programme vir die voorkoming van winkeldiefstal deur jeugdige geloods moet word: winkeldiefstal voorkomingsprogram vir jeugdige, winkeldiefstal bewusmakings- en opvoedkundige program asook 'n program wat gerig is op winkeldiefstal voorkoming.