

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE RISE IN INSECURITY IN GUDELE PAYAM IN JUBA,
SOUTH SUDAN**

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Master of Arts Degree in Security Management of Egerton University**

EGERTON UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2025

DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Declaration

This thesis is my original work and to the best of my knowledge, has not been presented for the award of a degree in any other university.

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Recommendation

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to the Almighty God for the gift of life, His unwavering love and protection, and for providing me with the opportunity, ability, and grace to successfully complete this thesis.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the factors influencing the rise of insecurity in Gudele Payam, Juba City, South Sudan. Gudele Payam has experienced increasing crime levels, threatening residents' safety and social stability, yet prior research on South Sudan's security lacks specific analysis of localized drivers, particularly economic and socio-cultural factors in this post-conflict, peri-urban context. This study sought to identify and map insecurity incidents, examine the economic and socio-cultural factors driving their increase, and evaluate residents' coping mechanisms in Gudele Payam amid rising threats. The study was conducted in Gudele Payam's quarter councils selected for their size, mix of formal and informal structures, and high insecurity rates. The research was guided by the broken windows theory, viewing the environment as key to social cohesion and control. Stratified random and purposive sampling selected participants, with data collected via interviews due to low literacy levels. Quantitative data were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software to generate descriptive statistics, including frequency tables illustrating factors driving insecurity. Findings showed Gudele Payam faced high incidents of theft (55%), robbery (52%), assault (43%), and drug-related insecurities (38%), with hotspots mapped in dense, poorly lit areas. Economic factors like unemployment (72%), poverty (68%), and informal markets (61%) significantly contributed to insecurity. Socio-cultural factors, including breakdown of traditional values (59%), influx of non-natives (53%), and weak community cohesion (47%), also fueled the rise. Coping mechanisms included vigilante groups (41%) and religious/traditional authorities (32%), though 27% felt helpless. Conclusions are: (1) varied insecurity types and hotspots demand targeted policing; (2) economic hardship drives crime, needing job creation; (3) socio-cultural fragmentation worsens insecurity, requiring cohesion efforts; and (4) limited coping strategies highlight the need for enhanced security support. The study provided a comprehensive understanding of insecurity factors in Gudele Payam, informing targeted strategies to reduce it and enhance safety. Recommendations included community-based prevention programs, economic opportunities, strengthened social cohesion, and improved local security capacity, contributing to residents' well-being.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATION	ii
COPYRIGHT	iii
DEDICATION.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
ABSTRACT.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xii
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3 Broad Objectives.....	4
1.3.1 Specific Objectives	4
1.4 Research Questions	4
1.5 Justification of the Study	4
1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study.....	5
1.7 Definition of Terms.....	6
CHAPTER TWO	7
LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1 Introduction.....	7
2.2 Empirical Literature	7
2.2.1 Types and Incidences of Insecurity.....	7
2.2.2 Economic Factors and Insecurity.....	9
2.2.3 Socio-Cultural Factors and Insecurity in Cities	11
2.2.4 Coping Mechanisms and Strategies for Reducing Insecurity	13
2.3 Theoretical Framework.....	14
2.3.1 Broken Windows Theory	15
2.3.2 Routine Activity Theory	15
2.3.3 Social Disorganization Theory	16
2.4 Conceptual Framework.....	16
CHAPTER THREE	19
METHODOLOGY	19

3.1	Introduction.....	19
3.2	Research Design.....	19
3.3	Study Area	19
3.4	Unit of Analysis	20
3.5	Study Population.....	20
3.6	Sample Size and Sampling Procedures.....	20
3.7	Data Collection Procedures and Instruments.....	21
3.8	Reliability.....	22
3.9	Validity	22
3.10	Methods of Data Analysis.....	23
3.11	Ethical Considerations	24
CHAPTER FOUR.....		25
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.....		25
4.1	Introduction.....	25
4.2	Response Rate.....	25
4.3	Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents	25
4.3.1	Age of Respondents	26
4.3.2	Gender of the Respondents	26
4.3.3	Level of Education.....	27
4.3.4	Marital Status	28
4.3.5	Most Vulnerable Time	28
4.3.6	Most Insecure Day of the Week.....	29
4.3.7	Safety Levels in Gudele Payam	29
4.3.8	Witnessed or Been a Victim of any Insecurity Incidence.....	30
4.4	Types and Incidences of Insecurity in Gudele Payam	30
4.5	Economic Factors Influencing Insecurity in Gudele Payam.....	33
4.6	Socio-Cultural Factors that Promotes the Increase of Insecurity in Gudele Payam	45
4.7	Coping Mechanisms and Recommended Security Strategies in Gudele Payam	50
CHAPTER FIVE		55
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS.....		57
5.1	Introduction.....	57
5.2	Summary of Findings.....	57
5.3	Conclusions.....	58
5.3.1	Empirical Conclusion.....	58

5.3.2	Theoretical Conclusion	58
5.4	Recommendations.....	59
5.4.1	Recommendations for Improvement.....	60
5.4.2	Areas for Further Studies	60
REFERENCES.....		61
Appendix I: Structured Questionnaire		64
Appendix II: Key Informant Interview Guide		71
Appendix III: Graduate School Letter of Clearance		72
Appendix IV: Research Permit		73

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Respondents to be Selected	21
Table 2: Response Rate of Issued Questionnaires	25
Table 3: Age of the Respondents	26
Table 4: Gender of the Respondents	26
Table 5: Level of Education.....	27
Table 6: Marital Status of the Respondents	28
Table 7: Most Vulnerable Time	28
Table 8: Most Insecure Day of the Week	29
Table 9: Safety Levels in Gudele.....	29
Table 10: Witnessed or Been a Victim of Any Insecurity Incidence	30
Table 11: Types and Incidences of Insecurity	30
Table 12: Respondents Insights on Types and Incidences of Insecurity	31
Table 13: Drivers of Insecurity	38
Table 14: Economic Factors Influencing Insecurity in Gudele Payam	38
Table 15: Socio-Cultural Factors that Promotes the Increase of Insecurity	45
Table 16: Coping Mechanisms	50
Table 17: Coping Mechanisms of Residents Amid Increased Insecurity and Recommend Appropriate Strategies	51

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework	18
Figure 2: Gudele Payam.....	19

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

IDPs:	Internally Displaced People
SSNBS:	South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Insecurity poses a significant obstacle to development worldwide, with urban and peri-urban areas bearing the brunt of rising crime and violence due to rapid urbanization, economic disparities, and governance challenges. This section provides the background to the study by tracing the phenomenon of insecurity from a global perspective, through its manifestations across Africa, to its specific dynamics in South Sudan and Gudele Payam, Juba. By situating Gudele Payam's security challenges within broader continental and national trends, the study aims to illuminate the multifaceted factors driving insecurity in this peri-urban context. It also identifies critical knowledge gaps that this research seeks to address, offering a foundation for understanding and tackling insecurity in Gudele Payam.

Insecurity forms one of the critical issues in the world, especially in the rapidly urbanizing communities, where fast demographic transformation is unprecedented in the ability of governance and infrastructures to keep pace. According to UN-Habitat (2013), crime in urban areas became a burning issue that changed the security scenario in both North and South over the last two decades. More than 1 billion people around the world live in slums or informal settlements where there is a weak security system coupled with strong socio-economic inequality that fuel theft, robbery and violence (World Bank, 2006). Such a worldwide trend highlights one of the pillars of insecurity, which is environmental mismanagement, poverty, and social exclusion and thus enabling regional and local contextual patterns to be identified by scholars.

The African continent is facing a particularly harsh security problem which is increased by the soaring urbanization rate, fragility of the post conflict environment, and deep-rooted socio-economic problems. Occupancy in urban centres is expected to rise to 1.3 billion people in the continent by the year 2050 (UN-Habitat, 2013) and large cities become centres of crime and violence. In sub-Saharan Africa, a theme is that the lack of insecurity continues to undermine development efforts: the African Union (2019) estimates that a loss of productivity and humanitarian spending on violent crime and conflict-related incidents costs the region more than 120 billion dollars each year. Empirical evidence in African capitals depicts similar trend. In Nairobi, informal settlements are said to be facing robbery of up to 40 percent yearly (Wanjiru et al., 2020), and Lagos has to deal with gang violence because of unemployment and poor urban planning (Olawale & Alao, 2007). The city of

Johannesburg demonstrates rather high rates of property crimes as well, because the cases of burglaries are more than 50 % in low-income communities (Krivov & Peterson, 2016).

Descriptions of the origins of such insecurity problems used commonly in etiological explanation include the legacies of colonialism, corruption within the institutions of the state, and the tendencies of proliferation of small arms after conflicts, as expressed by LaFree (1998). Indeed, post-conflict countries like Liberia and Sierra Leone, among others, have to struggle with violence in urban areas which can be blamed on failure to disarm effectively and the high rate of unemployment amongst the youth (McLean & Fraser, 2009). It is also environmentally conducive to risk: now illuminated streets and no organized settlements correspond to the Broken Windows Theory (Kelling & Wilson, 1982). The combination of the poverty rate of 41% of the population with a rapid pace of urban development combined with the lack of governance leads to an unstable security situation across the continent, with the illustration of South Sudan and Juba (World Bank, 2020).

South Sudan exemplifies Africa's insecurity crisis, intensified by its post-independence civil war (2013–2018) and economic collapse. Despite the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement, insecurity persists, with UNDP (2019) noting that civilians rank security among their top needs. The conflict displaced 4.5 million externally and 2 million internally (South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2019), swelling urban centres like Juba. Nationally, insecurity incidents doubled from 86,164 in 2011 to 172,381 in 2019 (JICA Situational Report, 2019) reflecting weakened state capacity to deliver services, 1.5 million people live in areas with severe security constraints (SSNBS, 2019). Public distrust in security forces, often implicated in crimes, further complicates stabilization (UNMISS, 2020). This national context mirrors continental trends of post-conflict fragility and urban strain but lacks detailed analysis of localized drivers.

Gudele Payam, the largest administrative unit in Juba County, embodies South Sudan's insecurity challenges within a peri-urban setting. Home to a mix of formal and informal settlements, approximately 50% of its residents live below the poverty line (South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics, 2018). South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS, 2019) data indicate a 30% rise in reported crimes such as theft, robbery, and assault from 2017 to 2019, outpacing Juba's average. Hotspots like Gudele Market and riverine outskirts are particularly vulnerable due to poor lighting, dense populations, and limited police presence. This escalation has driven business relocations to safer areas like Gurei Payam (SSNBS, 2018) threatening economic and social stability. Gudele Payam thus reflects Africa's broader urban insecurity crisis, intensified by South Sudan's post-conflict dynamics.

While insecurity is a documented concern across Africa and South Sudan, significant knowledge gaps persist regarding its specific drivers in peri-urban settings like Gudele Payam. Globally, studies (Davis, 2006; UN-Habitat, 2013) link urban crime to poverty and poor planning, yet few explore how these factors interact with post-conflict socio-cultural disruptions, such as ethnic tensions or the erosion of traditional structures, prevalent in South Sudan (Jok, 2007). Regionally, research on African cities (Wanjiru et al., 2020) often focuses on general trends rather than localized mapping of insecurity incidents. In South Sudan, existing literature (SSNBS, 2019; UNDP, 2019) addresses national insecurity but lacks granular analysis of Juba's Payams, particularly Gudele, where rapid urbanization and conflict legacies converge uniquely.

This study addresses these gaps by: (1) identifying and mapping specific types of insecurity in Gudele Payam, beyond broad national statistics; (2) examining economic factors (e.g., unemployment, poverty) and socio-cultural influences (e.g., traditional structure breakdown) in a post-conflict peri-urban context; and (3) assessing residents' coping mechanisms to inform targeted interventions. Grounded in the South Sudan Vision 2040's security pillar and Article 184 of the 2011 Constitution, which guarantees citizens' right to safety, this research seeks to fill the void in localized, evidence-based security analysis, contributing to both academic understanding and practical policy solutions for Gudele Payam and similar African settings.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Insecurity in Gudele Payam in Juba, South Sudan has increased tremendously and this is a serious threat to the security and well-being of the people. In spite of the measures undertaken by security agencies and local administration, the region still has a high rate of theft, armed robbery and other criminal activities. This persistent insecurity has interfered with the normalcy of life, hindered economic development, and undermined the trust of people in the police. The underlying causes of this insecurity are still not well understood. Factors like unemployment, poverty, poor education, poor law enforcement and availability of small arms could be contributing factors. But unless there is a comprehensive and methodical examination of these factors, it would be difficult to develop effective strategies that would help restore peace and stability in the region. This study examined the major causes that have contributed to the increase of insecurity in Gudele Payam. The study provides practical guidelines to policymakers, community leaders, and security agencies in

their efforts to establish a safe environment to all residents by identifying the root causes and examining the dynamics of the situation.

1.3 Broad Objective

The broad objective of the study was to investigate the factors influencing the increase of insecurity in Gudele payam in Juba, South Sudan.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

This study is guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To identify the types and map out incidences of insecurity in Gudele Payam.
- ii. To determine economic factors influencing the rise in insecurity in Gudele Payam.
- iii. To determine socio-cultural factors that promotes the rise of insecurity in Gudele Payam.
- iv. To assess the coping mechanisms of residents amid increased insecurity and recommend appropriate strategies for reducing insecurity and improving safety in Gudele Payam.

1.4 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following questions:

- i. What are the types of insecurity and where do incidences occur in Gudele Payam?
- ii. What economic factors influence the increase in insecurity in Gudele Payam?
- iii. What socio-cultural factors promote the increase of insecurity in Gudele Payam?
- iv. How do residents cope with insecurity and what strategies can be used to reduce insecurity and improve safety in Gudele Payam?

1.5 Justification of the Study

Security is a fundamental requirement for sustainable development and improved quality of life globally. The South Sudan Vision 2040 identifies security as key to national competitiveness, yet Gudele Payam, Juba, faces rising insecurity, with a 30% crime increase from 2017–2019 (SSNPS, 2019), threatening residents and stability. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) supports civilian protection and SSNPS training, but its 17,000 personnel focus on national conflict, not local crime. The African Union pushes

accountability, advocating ceasefires in 2025 and the stalled Hybrid Court (AU, 2018), yet neglects peri-urban insecurity. The Government of South Sudan, via the 2018 peace deal, deploys SSNPS adding only 10% more police in Gudele and unifies forces, but fails to address local dynamics.

This study investigates factors escalating insecurity in Gudele Payam beyond poverty and conflict, as highlighted in South Sudan's Humanitarian Needs Overview (2019). Republic of South Sudan Constitution, 2011, Art. 159 mandates security planning, yet data on Gudele's specific challenges is scarce. By examining these factors, the study aims to inform policies enhancing safety, supporting South Sudan's development goals and residents' well-being.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study was conducted in the quarter councils of Gudele Payam. The different structural forms of the two areas were studied to help analyse the relationship between their physical character and the occurrence of insecurity. The study investigates the factors influencing the rise in insecurity in Gudele Payam, Juba, South Sudan, focusing on identifying the types and mapping the incidences of insecurity, determining the economic and socio-cultural factors contributing to its increase, and assessing the coping mechanisms employed by residents to address these security challenges.

The most significant limitation likely to be encountered by the researcher was the high rate of illiteracy amongst the general population in the targeted areas, which may affect data collection. The researcher expects to overcome this by designing a simple tool of data collection and giving a proper explanation on the relevance of the interview schedule and importance to the communities. Furthermore, local languages were used to help in enhancing response. The researcher also obtained a letter of authorization from the quarter councils heads and village headmen to conduct the study.

Insecurity is likely to be an impediment to the study. However, this was overcome by ensuring that data collection is done at times when there is less insecurity. Furthermore, support of local security apparatus was solicited. A research assistant was hired from the locality for ease of data collection and to reduce security concerns.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Economic factors: refer to the conditions and influences related to the financial well-being of individuals and communities (Miller, 2017).

Insecurity: refers to a state of vulnerability or uncertainty characterized by the lack of safety and stability in various aspects of life, leading to feelings of apprehension and fear (Johnson & Smith, 2010).

Insecurity strategies: involve a range of measures and interventions aimed at addressing and mitigating security challenges within a community (Anderson & Williams, 2021).

Household: is defined as a collection of individuals, whether connected by kinship or not, who reside together and collectively manage the preparation of meals and the procurement of essential resources for daily living within a shared dwelling.

Payam: refers to an administrative division or sub-district within a county. It is part of the administrative structure used in the country for local governance.

Quarter council: typically refers to a local community council or governing body that represents and manages the affairs of a specific quarter or neighbourhood within a town or city.

Socio-cultural factors: encompass the social and cultural elements that shape human behaviour and interactions within a community (Jones et al., 2018).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews relevant literature related to the study globally and locally. It also covers the theoretical frameworks and presents the conceptual framework that guides the study. While much of the literature reviewed is current, it often lacks detailed focus on the specific factors and incidences of insecurity in Gudele Payam, a gap this study aims to address by providing localized insights into this peri-urban context.

2.2 Empirical Literature

This section covers empirical literature relating to the specific objectives. Despite the range of studies available, there is insufficient attention to the unique dynamics of insecurity in Gudele Payam, which this research seeks to explore and clarify.

2.2.1 Types and Incidences of Insecurity

Understanding the nature and prevalence of insecurity is essential for addressing its root causes and impacts, particularly in contexts like Gudele Payam, Juba. This section reviews existing literature on the incidences and types of incidences of insecurity, focusing on crimes against persons and property, to provide a comparative basis for the study's investigation into Gudele Payam's security challenges. It synthesizes global and regional studies to highlight patterns of insecurity, such as assault, robbery, and vandalism, and their socio-economic and environmental correlates. By examining these trends, the section establishes a foundation for identifying how insecurity manifests in Gudele Payam, aligning with the study's objective to map and categorize local incidents within a broader empirical context. However, the literature rarely addresses peri-urban settings like Gudele Payam, leaving a gap in understanding local insecurity patterns that this study intends to fill.

2.2.1.1 Insecurity Against Persons

Insecurity to persons encompasses numerous cases of violent intimidation, which are intimidation, assault, rape, murder, violent robberies, and hijacking (Smith et al., 2023). These violent acts may lead to great injuries, including serious injuries as well as death. Although they both have a potential of causing physical damage, the reasons of committing such crimes may vary dramatically. To take examples, homicide, rape, and aggravated assault are mainly motivated by the desire to cause physical injuries to someone, and other crimes,

like those of robbery, are also motivated by being willing to deprive the victims of their property by using force (Johnson & Miller, 2023).

Recent studies point out that low income groups are more vulnerable when it comes to personal insecurity especially attacks, rapes and violent robberies. Davis et al. (2024) notice that a number of these crimes are usually compounded by environmental weaknesses, including excessive population living standards and a lack of basic infrastructure. All these signal an increased level of exposure to crime by the low-income neighbourhoods residents as opposed to those in the high-income neighbourhoods, which are usually less exposed to such violence (Taylor & Roberts, 2023). The Broken Windows Theory (Kelling & Wilson, 1982) is a theory which holds that one can get an indication of neglect in such an environment by the strong appearance of disorder which may lead to more crime and is such a lens which informs the thinking in this study on insecurity in informal settlements of Gudele Payam.

Hijacking as a given form of individual insecurity targets mostly the people residing in cities and urban areas and who are generally economically well off. According to research, conducted by White and Thompson (2022), ransom offers the main incentive to engage in hijacking, with predators thinking that richer people are more likely to pay and grant them high ransom. This form of crime is not prevalent among the low-income people since they do not have the money to pay a high ransom often (Brown & Lee, 2023). It is significant to note that the implication of low level of education but not illiteracy on susceptibility to such crimes in low income neighbourhoods is yet to be fully addressed and the current research on the vulnerability of Gudele Payam will fill this gap.

2.2.1.2 Insecurity Against Property

Insecurity in properties is a complex phenomenon, which targets diverse populations in terms of socio-economic parameters. The modern research provides a more sophisticated typology of these threats as well as finds priority research directions. An example is Zhang et al. (2021) who look at the location of insecurity of property in the low and high income neighbourhoods. They found out that the rich neighbourhoods succumb to more complex crimes like burglary and theft but the poor neighbourhoods are faced with high instances of vandalism and destruction of property which can be attributed to lack of economic advantage and poor infrastructure. Such trend stresses the urgency of security securities that can be adjusted to specific vulnerabilities of definite layers of the economic stratum. Another concentration area is vandalism; it was revealed that not only does it lead to an increase in the

cost of maintenance, but also, vandalism in a similar manner discourages investment resulting in a fall in the value of property and community safety (Wilson & Low 2019). This stream of thought underlines the need to have elaborate interventions that are intended to reduce vandalism- this is a critical element in dealing with property insecurity.

Impact of built environment on property and personal security has taken a forefront in the centre stage. Williams et al. (2022) outline the following urban design characteristics (e.g. bad visibility and few social places) as their possible contribution to an increase in property insecurity, and Smith (2023) shows that some areas with greater interaction are exposed to much less property crime because of greater surveillance. All these studies focus on the need to incorporate environmental and social factors in urban planning in case the aim is to have property insecurity managed. In urbanism, the insecurity is under the weight of the localised factors, and the article by Ahmed and Khan (2023) considers densely settled informal settlers in Dhaka; according to the evidence, the relative economic inequality and the high-level unemployment rates are central factors that are associated with a greater level of insecurity. Their report highlights the need of context specific research, as well as interventions specific to address the unique needs of such environments.

Brown and Green (2023) re-examine Moser ecological model of property insecurity, and they also differentiate structural predisposing factors and trigger risk-related factors. They have revised their model to include the modern socio-economic trends and development of polices and this has resulted in a more detailed typology of the factors that contribute towards insecurity. However, the relevance of this evidence to the case of Gudele Payam, which is a post-conflict and a peri-urban place, has not been studied that much. The current study, thus, builds on the current research to expose the ecological factors that affect the security of property in this African setting.

2.2.2 Economic Factors and Insecurity

Economic reasons are also a major cause of insecurity in the urban centres. As per the recent literature, poverty, unemployment and economic inequality are economic factors that contribute to the promotion of insecurity in urban centres (UNDP, 2019; SSNBS, 2019). Although the role of economic factors like poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality in contributing to insecurity in urban centres across the world has been recognized in the recent literature, there is a significant gap in contextual and specific analysis of their contribution in the unique peri-urban and post-conflict environment of Gudele Payam in Juba, South Sudan.

Poverty, which is commonly seen as the driving force of crime in urban areas, is a severe problem in Gudele Payam, with a significant share of the population living in poverty, according to the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics (SSNBS, 2019). This high poverty level, coupled with high urbanization and poor infrastructure that is common in most peri-urban regions, probably increases the rate of crimes like theft and robbery that are the common problems in urban centres that experience similar economic pressure. Nevertheless, the available literature, such as UNDP (2019), mostly provides aggregated national or regional economic statistics, which do not explain how poverty, in particular, leads to insecurity in Gudele Payam, either by causing desperation-related theft, limited access to education, or increased competition over scarce resources, including water and housing, all of which are identified as problems in similar informal settlements.

Unemployment, another pivotal economic factor cited in the literature, presents a significant concern in Gudele Payam due to the scarcity of formal employment opportunities within South Sudan's post-conflict economy, where industrial collapse and persistent instability have impacted the population, particularly the youth demographic (SSNBS, 2019). Although unemployment is linked to insecurity in broader urban studies (Ahmed & Khan, 2023), the literature does not provide a localized examination of its correlation with specific insecurity trends in Gudele Payam, such as violent robberies or property crimes, which are often observed in economically strained urban environments. The potential for unemployed individuals, especially youth, to engage in criminal activities as a means of subsistence possibly within informal economies such as petty trading remains unaddressed, leaving a void in understanding its contribution to Gudele Payam's insecurity profile. Economic inequality, the third factor, is evident in the juxtaposition of formal and informal settlements within Gudele Payam, creating disparities that may engender social tension or crimes such as vandalism and burglary. However, SSNBS (2019) study focus primarily on national economic disparities, without providing a detailed analysis of how these inequalities intensify insecurity at the Payam level especially within the context of rapid population growth and displacement typical of peri-urban areas

The literature's inadequacy in addressing these economic factors within Gudele Payam's specific context is a notable limitation, given its designation as a significant peri-urban area in Juba with pronounced insecurity challenges. General studies fail to disaggregate data to the local level or explore the interplay of poverty, unemployment, and inequality with the Payam's post-conflict recovery and informal settlement characteristics. For instance, while Becker's (1968) economic theory of crime posits that individuals assess the costs and

benefits of criminal behaviour, often driven by economic deprivation, its application to Gudele Payam where traditional livelihoods have been disrupted by conflict remains unexamined. Questions persist regarding how poverty influences theft rates, whether unemployment drives youth toward violent crime, and how inequality fosters tension in settlement disparities, yet these remain unanswered in the literature. This study seeks to address these substantial knowledge gaps by investigating the specific influence of economic factors poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality on the rise of insecurity in Gudele Payam, aiming to provide a comprehensive, localized analysis that bridges the disconnect between broad urban economic theories and the distinct economic realities of this peri-urban, post-conflict community.

2.2.3 Socio-Cultural Factors and Insecurity in Cities

Several socio-cultural factors promote insecurity in urban centres. Recent literature has identified social cultural factors such as community norms and social cohesion as key drivers of insecurity in urban centres (Ahmed & Khan, 2023; Taylor & Roberts, 2023). However, recent literature provides insufficient insight into how these socio-cultural factors including community norms, social cohesion, and the additional dimension of ethnic tensions arising from rapid migration contribute to insecurity within the specific socio-cultural environment of Gudele Payam in Juba, South Sudan, a community characterized by its post-conflict legacy, rapid urbanization, and demographic diversity.

The community norms, previously mentioned by Taylor and Roberts (2023) as the important factors that influence insecurity in the urban centres, might take different forms in Gudele Payam due to the history of conflict and displacement, normalizing the behaviours of retaliation or violence as the methods of addressing the conflict or shortage of resources that are typical in the post-conflict environments. These norms may translate to high rates of assaults and violent robberies as has been the case in other such urban settings, but the literature has not addressed this relationship in detail instead focusing on the more generic urban setting in general as opposed to the specific socio-cultural development within a peri-urban setting such as Gudele Payam where the traditional way of life is mixed with urbanizing forces.

Another important aspect raised in the literature is social cohesion that should be examined further in the context of Gudele Payam. According to Taylor and Roberts (2023), reduced social cohesion within the urban centres contributes to insecurity due to the loss of trust and collaboration among the locals, which is likely to be worse in Gudele Payam due to

the high population growth rate and multi ethnicity (SSNBS, 2019). The combination of both formal and informal settlements in the area indicates a disjointed community where economic gaps and displacement can only exacerbate social ties further, increasing vandalism and theft rates, as it has been observed in similar urban contexts. Nevertheless, the literature fails to explore the role of such social fragmentation in the development of such trends of insecurity or whether the displacement of people affects community networks and forms vulnerabilities, which criminals use. The study by Ahmed and Khan (2023) focuses on the topic of social cohesion in informal settlements but does not apply the analysis to the post-conflict, peri-urban context of Gudele Payam, thus causing the underdevelopment of this aspect.

The socio-cultural effects of rapid migration as one of the characteristics of the demographic situation in Gudele Payam as identified by SSNBS (2019) add even more complexity, which has not yet been properly covered in the literature. Migration has increased ethnic diversity within the Gudele Payam and it may result in tensions or intergroup conflicts, especially in a resource-constrained setting where the competition over housing, water, or informal work is high, a typical issue in peri-urban places. This plurality can lead to increased insecurity which might be in the form of assault or damage of property due to the past ethnic tensions in South Sudan. Nevertheless, the literature, including the study by Ahmed and Khan (2023) addresses migration in other urban environments (Dhaka) without paying attention to the post-conflict environment in Gudele Payam, where such tensions may increase insecurity. The literature is also silent on the interaction of migration and the norms of the community and social cohesion either when newcomers interfere with the established social frameworks or when they increase mistrust thus leaving a major gap regarding this interaction in Gudele Payam.

The limited scope of the literature is a significant knowledge gap since it has not given a detailed, localized study on how socio-cultural factors fuel insecurity in Gudele Payam even though insecurity is a major challenge that it faces, and it is a place with a high degree of socio-cultural complexity. The current study will attempt to fill these wide gaps by examining the role of these socio-cultural issues in Gudele Payam in the light of how these issues of community norms, social cohesion, and tensions related to migration contribute to insecurity in Gudele Payam with the aim of providing a detailed picture of the social dynamics in the region that the existing literature does not provide, thereby contributing to the body of knowledge on the role of socio-cultural factors in insecurity in a post-conflict, peri-urban setting.

2.2.4 Coping Mechanisms and Strategies for Reducing Insecurity

Various coping mechanisms and strategies have been employed to reduce insecurity in urban centres. Recent literature highlights coping mechanisms and strategies such as community policing and surveillance as key measures of reducing insecurity in urban centres (Johnson & Miller, 2023; Thompson & White, 2022). However, recent literature provides inadequate examination of how these coping mechanisms and strategies specifically community policing and surveillance can be effectively applied or adapted to mitigate insecurity within the informal settlement context of Gudele Payam in Juba, South Sudan, where formal security infrastructure is notably limited.

Community policing, which Thompson and White (2022) recommend as a successful strategy in urban centres, assumes the existence of organized community initiatives and the trust of security institutions, which is limited in Gudele Payam because of the informal settlement system and the post-conflict history of institutional distrust that dominates such areas. The literature fails to evaluate the practicality of community policing in this environment where the resources like training, funding, or communication networks are not limited and does not address how the perception of the security forces by the residents may impede the process in the regions with high crime rates.

Surveillance, which Johnson and Miller (2023) promote as a crime deterrence tool by means of street lights or cameras, presupposes the existence of infrastructure that is lacking in the informal settlements of Gudele Payam, where the lack of basic facilities is not uncommon (SSNBS, 2019). The literature does not address how surveillance can be applied in a place with irregular power supply, unsealed roads, and high-density housing characteristic of informal settlements, or whether other forms of surveillance like community-based monitoring would arise, and thus its relevance to the context of Gudele Payam remains unknown. Theft and vandalism are also prominent issues in the comparable peri-urban settings, but the literature fails to assess how surveillance can be used to address these particular crimes in such circumstances. Moreover, the literature does not mention other coping strategies that could be employed by the residents of Gudele Payam, including the use of traditional leaders or informal neighbourhood watch, which could be important in a place where formal policing is scarce. Johnson and Miller (2023) and Thompson and White (2022) that dwell on formal urban interventions do not provide these strategies.

The literature's failure to address these coping mechanisms in Gudele Payam's specific informal, post-conflict setting constitutes a significant knowledge gap, particularly given the Payam's pronounced insecurity challenges and unique conditions, such as frequent

theft and violence in resource-scarce areas. The applicability and effectiveness of community policing, surveillance, and resident-led strategies in mitigating these security issues remain undocumented, as does the identification of barriers to their implementation in a resource-constrained environment. This study seeks to address this critical deficiency by examining the relevance and effectiveness of these coping mechanisms and strategies in Gudele Payam, aiming to provide a detailed, localized analysis that contributes context-specific solutions absent from the current literature, thereby enhancing strategies for reducing insecurity in a peri-urban, post-conflict community.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Newman (2012) advanced a theoretical framework that connects insecurity to the physical design of urban environments, arguing that poor planning and modern construction techniques have eroded traditional social control networks. He identified four essential components of defensible space design that can enhance security in residential areas. First, territoriality involves the subdivision of buildings and open spaces into clearly defined zones that promote a sense of ownership among residents and deter unauthorized access. Second, surveillance refers to the strategic design of buildings and public spaces to facilitate natural observation and monitoring of activities, thereby discouraging criminal behaviour. Third, image emphasizes the importance of constructing housing that reflects care and maintenance, thereby avoiding social stigma and fostering community pride. Lastly, environment relates to situating public housing projects adjacent to safe and stable zones, ensuring that the broader context supports security and community cohesion. Together, these design principles provide a comprehensive approach to reducing urban insecurity through environmental planning.

Oscar Newman investigated defensible space which states that access to an area should be restricted to legal users. Jeffery's work on insecurity prevention through environmental design (CPTED) investigated a manual support to defensible space theory and he takes it a step further by the manipulating of the physical environment to influence behaviour to deter insecurity (Jeffery, 2017). Clarke proposed the situational insecurity prevention theory, which integrates both approaches and incorporates management and design interventions to reduce insecurity (Jeffery, 2017). The theory develops social and economic strategies to achieve a sustainable environment. These theories have been developed separately from each other. The environmental criminology theory by Jeffery resembles to a great extent the insecurity prevention through environmental design theory. It is also inspired by Lynch's (2014) urban design concepts and zonal ecology theory.

The subcultural perspective suggests that the concentration of relatively large numbers of individuals within micro-social units fosters the creation and expansion of deviant subcultures. Urbanization, through the complementary processes of structural differentiation and value diffusion, promotes social support for a multiplicity of behavioural choices. Further, it engenders greater tolerance for non-conformity among the more conventional members of the community. As a consequence, the more populous urban areas are expected to experience more criminal activity than less populous ones.

2.3.1 Broken Windows Theory

The Broken Windows Theory is a theory that Wilson and Kelling (1982) suggested, according to which, signs of disorder, including broken windows, graffiti, or trash, may trigger a breakdown in the social order of the neighbourhood and the rise of crime. According to the theory, unchecked minor forms of disorder lead to such an environment that is favourable to more serious forms of crimes. When there is the aspect of visible neglect, the offenders are alerted that crime is acceptable and hence the risk of more serious crimes in the future is high. This theory can be used to explain the increased insecurity in Gudele Payam since it highlights the influence of environmental degradation on the development of criminal behaviour. Shoddy infrastructure, inadequate street lighting, and open disarray, also creates an image of lawlessness, thus increasing the area to crime. Failure to take active steps in dealing with minor crimes like vandalism and loitering can be translated to more serious crimes like robbery and assault, since people will see the area to be free and open to crime.

In spite of being relevant, the Broken Windows Theory has certain limitations. A key complaint is that it pays more attention to physical disorder and neglects more fundamental socio-economic problems of poverty, unemployment, and poor governance. Structural inequalities that build economic desperation are not the only factors that cause crime because disorder is also an important factor. Additionally, strong policing of low-level crimes on grounds of this theory can be over-policing of the marginalized populations, which increases the conflict between citizens and the police. Such selectivity in policing measures may cause discrimination and undermining of trust between the community and the authority and eventually weaken the crime prevention initiatives.

2.3.2 Routine Activity Theory

According to the Routine Activity Theory advanced by Felson and Cohen (1979), the convergence of three elements in space and time which are; a motivated offender, a suitable

target, and a lack of a capable guardian, leads to crime. This theory is in contrast with the theories that lay stress on social causes of crime because this theory is concerned with the effects of the day-to-day activities on crime patterns. It implies that crime rates can be changed by modifying daily activities, urbanization and economic activities, which may influence the availability of appropriate targets and guardianship.

This theory is applicable in the context of Gudele Payam in explaining the opportunities that causes crime through routine activities, including the market, social activities and night life. Places that have a lot of foot traffic but less security like markets, bus stations and dark streets are hot spots to criminals. These high-risk areas are not under surveillance and policing, thus the probability of occurrence of crimes like pick pocketing, mugging and burglary. Moreover, the theory clarifies the reasons why insecurity is normally focused on some places and at some times like at night or when people are busy attending community events and the security is low.

Although this theory is useful in explaining the patterns of crime and even giving information on how to prevent crime, it has its own shortcomings. It is one of the significant weaknesses because it fails to tackle the socio-economic backgrounds that develop motivated offenders. It presupposes that crime is simply a consequence of opportunity instead of looking deeper into the structure of the world like poverty, unemployment, and social inequality. In Gudele Payam, poverty and the absence of jobs are also a major factor contributing to the drive of people to crime. Therefore, though the Routine Activity Theory is an effective theory that gives a framework of the circumstances that allow crimes to happen, it does not explain the real causes of an individual becoming an offender altogether.

2.3.3 Social Disorganization Theory

The first two theories are limited, and thus the Social Disorganization Theory provides a broader perspective to understand the problem of insecurity in Gudele Payam. Shaw and McKay (1942) developed this theory and it presupposes that the collapse of social institutions due to such factors as poverty, ethnic diversity, and residential instability leads to high crime rates. The theory holds that poor social cohesion and low collective efficacy within communities means less informal social controls and these results in a culture of crime.

This theory is particularly relevant when it comes to explaining insecurity in Gudele Payam where economic issues, high rate of urbanization and displacement due to conflict have rendered the traditional social structures weak. The low employment rates, disparity in

the incomes, and the lack of access to the education are also playing a role in the undermining of the community bonds and trust. With such an environment, individuals may be forced to commit crime as a means of survival and the absence of good community leadership and policing is also a factor.

Unlike the Broken Windows Theory and Routine Activity Theory which focus on the environmental and situational factors that contribute to crime, the Social Disorganization Theory shifts the focus to the macro-socio-economic and structural forces that contribute to insecurity. Poor governance, lack of investment in the development of communities and poor policing also offer grounds on which crime can flourish.

This paper incorporates the Social Disorganization Theory that insecurity is not merely an outcome of the environmental disorder or routine activity but it is an offshoot of socio-economic conditions. These underlying factors should be addressed so as to come up with appropriate measures to curb crime and improve on security within the community. The theory indicates that community based interventions, investment in education, economic empowerment and enhancement of social institutions can be very instrumental in preventing crimes. Although Broken Windows Theory and Routine Activity Theory offer useful information regarding the nature of crime and its prevention, they lack the information about the structural problems that contribute to the continuation of crime in communities such as Gudele Payam. Thus, with the implementation of the Social Disorganization Theory, the solution of the problem of insecurity can be more thorough and comprehensive in its view, considering both short-term and long-term solutions to the problem of community security.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

This study is guided by the following conceptual framework which shows envisaged relationship between the independent variables (factors) and dependent variable (insecurity). The conceptual framework illustrates the dynamic interaction between key variables influencing the rise of insecurity in Gudele Payam. It comprises three main components: economic factors, socio-cultural factors, and the types and incidences of insecurity culminating in the dependent variable, which is the overall level of insecurity. Economic factors such as unemployment, poverty, and inadequate public security services are central drivers that create conditions conducive to crime. These conditions are especially pronounced in informal settlements, where lack of job opportunities and weak institutional presence push vulnerable populations toward survival-based criminal behavior. Simultaneously, types and incidences of insecurity are categorized into two domains: insecurity against persons (such as

assault, robbery, and violence) and insecurity against property (such as theft, burglary, and vandalism). These manifestations serve as direct indicators of the security status within the community.

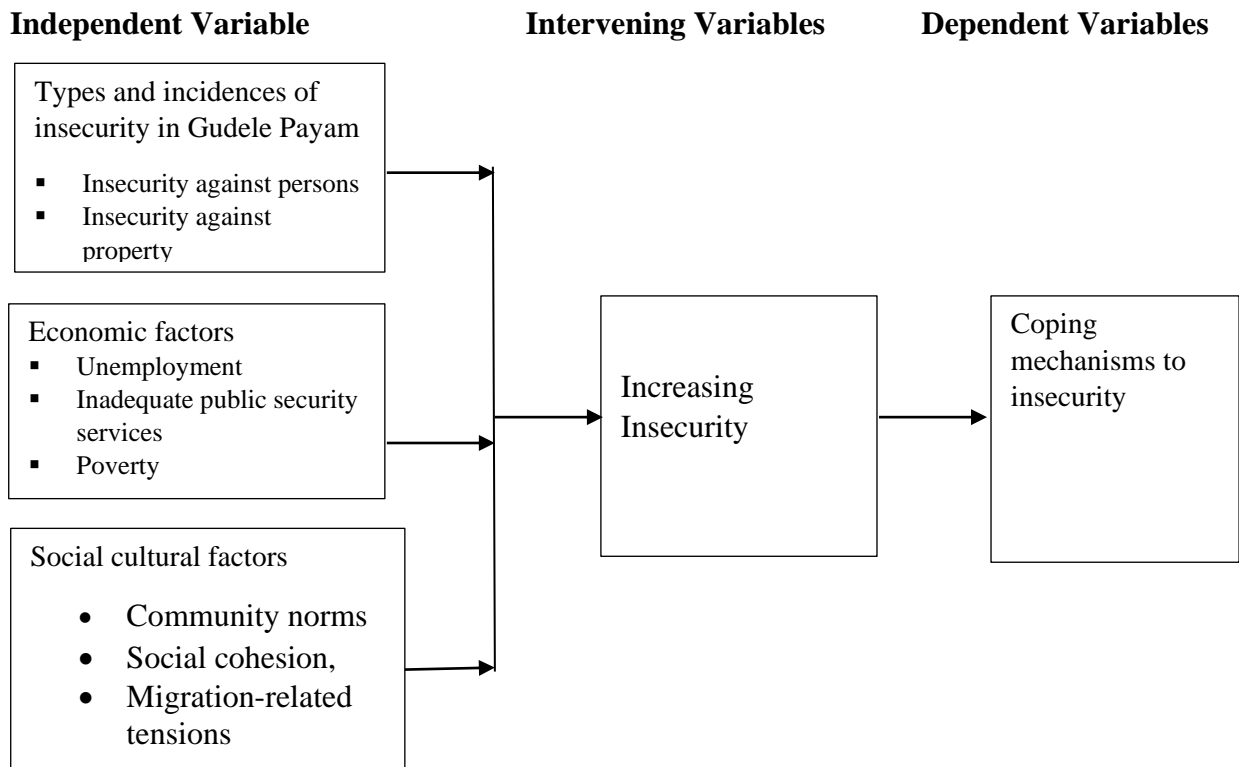


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Socio-cultural factors—including community norms, levels of social cohesion, and migration-related tensions—introduce a critical social dimension to the framework. The weakening of traditional structures, loss of communal trust, and rising ethnic diversity in a post-conflict setting such as Gudele Payam contribute significantly to the erosion of informal social controls. These factors influence how communities perceive and respond to insecurity. Acting through intervening variables such as public security presence and coping strategies (e.g., local vigilance groups or traditional authorities), both economic and socio-cultural factors shape the form and extent of insecurity experienced. The framework underscores that insecurity in Gudele Payam is not driven by a single factor but rather emerges from an interwoven set of conditions. It thus provides a structured foundation for empirical investigation, helping to identify causal pathways and inform practical, context-specific policy interventions.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter described the methods that were used in the study. It explained the research design, the study population, sampling method and procedures, data collection procedures and instruments, data analysis, reporting and ethical issues.

3.2 Research Design

This study used descriptive survey design primarily. Descriptive surveys attempt to describe and explain why certain situations exist. The results allow researchers to examine the interrelationships among variables and to draw explanatory inferences. In this study, the researcher seeks to understand the factors influencing the increase of insecurity in Gudele payam in Juba, South Sudan. The quantitative survey was supported by qualitative design intended to provide complementary perspectives on factors that promote insecurity.

3.3 Study Location

This study was conducted in the quarter councils of Gudele Payam. The different structural forms of the area (formal & informal structures/dwellings) were studied to help analyse the relationship between their physical character and the occurrence of insecurity. The study was carried out in Gudele Payam, Juba South Sudan. About fifty percent of the inhabitants of Gudele live below the poverty line. This Payam is chosen because it is the largest in Juba and is differentiated with both formal and informal structures being present as well as experiencing the highest incidence of insecurity as recorded by the security apparatus in Juba.

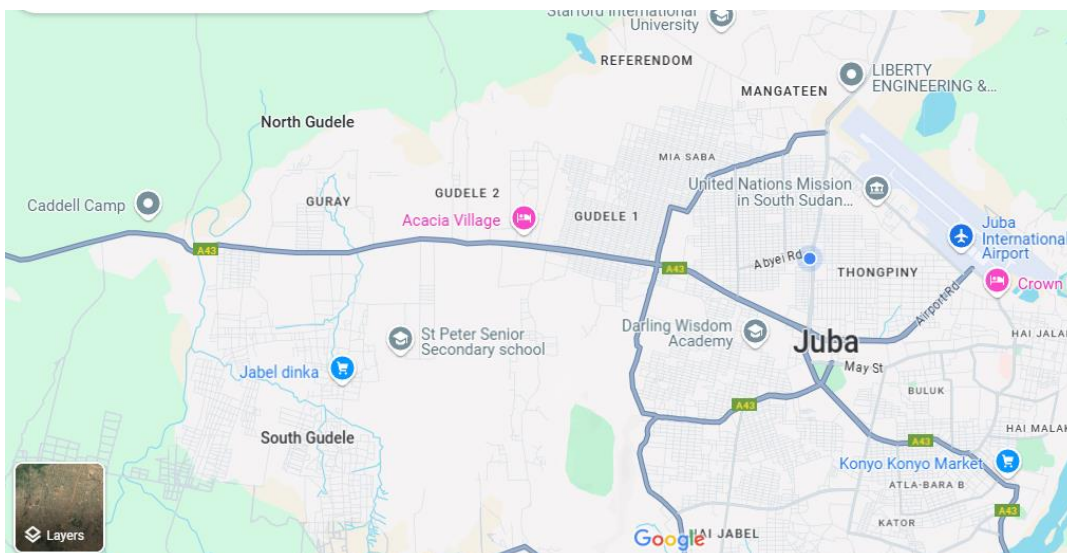


Figure 2: Gudele Payam

3.4 Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis was household heads resident in Gudele Payam.

3.5 Study Population

Population according to (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2008) refers to any group of institutions, people or objects that have common characteristics. According to Creswell (2014), a study population encompasses the entire groups of individuals, objects, items, cases, articles, or things with common characteristics existing in space at a particular point of time. The target population for the study was residents of Gudele Payam within the different quarter councils.

3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

The study utilized a combination of stratified random sampling and purposive sampling techniques to select a total sample size of 250 respondents from Gudele Payam. Gudele Payam was purposively chosen due to its high population and elevated insecurity incidences within Juba County. The population was stratified into five quarter councils as shown in Table 1; Gudele One, Gudele Two, Guebtala, Lorato, and Mia Saba to ensure geographic representation (Donald & Pamela, 2006). From each of these five councils, 50 respondents were purposively selected; comprising local chiefs, youth leaders, women leaders, religious leaders, and household heads, all identified as key informants with substantial knowledge of insecurity in Gudele Payam. This yielded a total sample of 250, deemed sufficient based on Kothari's (2000) guideline of a minimum 30% sample for small populations, adapted to the practical constraints of this peri-urban, post-conflict context.

The allocation of an equal number of 50 respondents per quarter council was a deliberate methodological choice, not an assumption of identical population sizes across the councils. In a practical proportionate selection setting, the samples will always vary with population size; however, this study did not employ proportionate sampling due to two key factors. First, reliable, current population data for each council were unavailable, a common challenge in post-conflict South Sudan, making proportional allocation impractical. Second, the purposive sampling approach prioritized the inclusion of informants with specific expertise and diverse roles over numerical proportionality to population.

Thus, while the councils' populations likely differ due to varying settlement patterns and demographic densities the equal sample size ensured consistent representation of critical perspectives across all sections, facilitating a balanced analysis of insecurity factors and

coping mechanisms. This method does not imply coincidental equal populations but reflects a strategic focus on qualitative depth and uniformity, acknowledging that proportionate sampling would typically adjust for such variations if data permitted. Additional purposive sampling included officials from humanitarian organizations and local authorities to supplement the dataset with expert insights.

Table 1:
Distribution of Respondents by Area

Quarter	No. of Respondents
Gudele A	50
Gudele B	50
Gurei	50
Munuki Block A	50
Munuki Block B	50
Total	250

3.7 Data Collection Procedures and Instruments

Structured questionnaires were used to conduct a survey on a representative sample in Gudele Payam. These questionnaires based on a comprehensive literature review and consultations with experts were designed to investigate economic and socio-cultural causes of insecurity. The survey was given to the sampled respondents so that the community is well represented. Also, the official records and reports of the South Sudan National Police Service were used to give quantitative data on the nature and occurrence of insecurity.

Key stakeholders, community leaders, and residents were interviewed in-depth to obtain subtle information on the socio-cultural dynamics affecting insecurity. These qualitative interactions were guided by an interview schedule, which was aimed at discussing personal experiences, perceptions, and coping strategies. Individual interviews were complemented by focus group discussions, which encouraged a group discussion of similar experiences. Moreover, the participant observations were implemented to grasp the contextual details, and the open-ended survey questions were added to enable the participants to represent their views in their own words.

In the quantitative part, the structured questionnaire was pre-tested to make it clear and relevant. The questionnaire contained closed ended questions with Likert scales to gauge

perceptions and experiences with regard to insecurity. Was categorized and analysed systematically in terms of insecurity records and reports. The qualitative data collection tools were semi-structured interview schedules and open-ended survey questions. The interview schedule was structured in a way that would make the participants narrate stories and expound on their views about insecurity in Gudele Payam. These tools were discussed by specialists in the field and improved according to the feedback of pilot testing.

3.8 Reliability

Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) define reliability as the part of variance that can be attributed to actual measurement of a variable which measures the consistency of research instrument across time. It is a measure of how an instrument will give the same result when repeated trials are done. Reliability of this study was achieved through the issuance of questionnaires to the respondents, collection and assessment of their consistency. These questionnaires were again administered two weeks later to the same group in order to check that there is no variance in the answers of the same group, and this was confirmed by the fact that the answers given by the sampled participants were stable.

Before the actual data collection, a pilot test was done so as to improve the design of the instrument and determine its reliability. This initial step was conducted by giving the questionnaires to a sample of 20 respondents who were well versed with the dynamics of insecurity, and these respondents were selected in peri-urban locations in Juba County but not in the five quarter councils of Gudele Payam. Results of this pilot were used to make changes to make the instrument more clear and relevant and to achieve the robustness of the instrument prior to its use with the final sample size of 250 respondents in the 16 quarter councils of Gudele Payam. This step proved the reliability of the questionnaire in the sense that it allowed a consistent measuring of the factors that affect insecurity in the target population of the study.

3.9 Validity

Validity is a term used to describe how well a research instrument measures what it is supposed to measure. In order to have the instruments applied in this study namely, questionnaires, interview schedules and observation guides have validity, special validation procedures were employed. The content validity was determined by subjecting the instruments to panel of experts in the field of security studies and research methodology at Egerton University. These professionals checked the items to ensure that they are relevant to

the purpose of the study: to establish types and incidences of insecurity, economic and socio-cultural factors, and coping mechanisms in Gudele Payam. According to their comments, irrelevant or ambiguous questions were modified or dropped in order to increase relevance and specificity.

Pilot test was done on 20 respondents in the peri-urban zones of the Juba County not found in the five quarter councils of Gudele Payam before the actual data collection started. This pre-test was to determine the clarity, comprehensibility and the suitability of the instruments and whether they reflected the intended constructs. The analysis of the responses of the pilot was performed to detect inconsistencies or ambiguities and the required changes were performed to the wording and structure of the tools. In the main study, the triangulation method was used when the data obtained in questionnaires were cross-checked with the results of the interviews and observations, which enhanced the strength of the instruments to gauge the phenomena in the study adequately. These are the steps of expert review, pilot testing, and triangulation, which all combined, allowed the research instruments to effectively measure the variables that affected insecurity in Gudele Payam, according to both the conceptual and the operational framework of the study.

3.10 Methods of Data Analysis

The analysis of data in this study, which was meant to determine the factors that contributed to the increase of insecurity in Gudele Payam, entailed the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 28) and computer spreadsheet. Qualitative and quantitative data were combined in order to offer a detailed analysis of the topic of the research.

Quantitative data were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The information was coded in order to identify it, and then be categorized. The data was described and outlined using frequencies as descriptive statistics. Frequency Tables were provided to get a clear image of the distribution of the responses. Cross-tabulation was also used in such a way that the relationship between variables could be established and a clear picture of the contributing factors could be got as far as insecurity is concerned. Thematic analysis was chosen as the critical method of interpretation of qualitative research data received on the basis of interviews and questionnaires. The responses were categorized into similar themes and the number of times that each theme occurred was tallied. This qualitative indicator will identify the trends and meanings of the stories and give an elaborate account of the socio-cultural and economic reasons behind insecurity in Gudele Payam.

The use of both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis can be attributed to the fact that the multidimensional factors affecting insecurity in Gudele Payam require an in-depth investigation. Quantitative analysis ensures objective measurement and statistical summaries and enables generalization to a larger population. The plan enabled the examination of economic as well as socio-cultural causes of insecurity. In its turn, qualitative analysis allows the better understanding of the personal experiences and perceptions that give the idea about the socio-cultural peculiarities of insecurity. Thematic analysis was used to bring out the trends and the meaning of the qualitative data which led to the further understanding of the socio-cultural fabric and how the economic factors contributed to the growth of insecurity.

In combining the two methods of analysis, this study presents a comprehensive picture of the forces that affect insecurity in Gudele Payam. The complementary character of quantitative and qualitative data increased the depth and breadth of knowledge, which provided a strong comprehension of the subject of the research. Such comprehensive strategy was set to guide specific interventions, policies and future research efforts towards tackling the increase in insecurity in Gudele Payam.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The ethical issues in this study included taking of research permits, informed consent, voluntary participation, confidentiality, and source attribution to prevent plagiarism. The researcher has requested permission of the Ministry of Higher Education and Security Organs in the Republic of South Sudan; he also presented an introductory letter of Egerton University, Kenya. Participants were presumed to give their consent, and they were free to take part in the research voluntarily and withdraw at any moment. The privacy of the data of the participants was guaranteed and the personal identifying information was anonymized. It used proper citation to recognise sources and avoid plagiarism. These ethical issues ensured that the research preserved the rights of the participants, integrity, and privacy of the participants and their well-being.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research findings derived from the data collected and analysed during the study. Both primary and secondary data were gathered. Descriptive statistics were employed for data analysis, and the analysed data is illustrated using charts and tables.

4.2 Response Rate

In the process of data collection, the study issued structured questionnaires. The response rate of the issued questionnaires was 237 out of 250. The response rate recorded 94.8% as presented in the Table 2.

Table 2:
Response Rate of Issued Questionnaires

	Response rate	Percentage %
Responses	237	94.8%
Non-responses	13	5.2%
Total	250	100.0%

Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) highlighted that a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting of the target population. The results shown below indicate that the response rate was adequate to be representative of the target population. Despite the high response rate of 94.8%, the 5.2% non-response rate was primarily due to participant availability issues, including displacement, security challenges in post-conflict South Sudan, language and literacy barriers, and occasional loss or misplacement of questionnaires.

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The study examined how demographic factors such as gender, education, age, marital status, and personal experiences with insecurity affected respondents understanding of factors driving insecurity in Gudele Payam, Juba.

4.3.1 Age of Respondents

The study sought to establish the age distribution of respondents to understand the demographic factors influencing community safety and security perceptions. The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:
Age of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
<= 25	33	13.9%
26 - 33	104	43.9%
34 - 40	34	14.3%
41 - 48	39	16.5%
49+	27	11.4%
Total	237	100.0%

Table 3 reveal that age group 26 to 33 years accounts for the highest number of respondents (43.9%) This is followed by age group age categories 41 to 48 years (16.5%), 34 to 40 (14.3%) below 25 years (13.9%) and over 49 years (11.4%) respectively. This diverse age range highlights the varied perspectives within the community, with a notable concentration of young to middle-aged adults, whose experiences and priorities are crucial for understanding and addressing community safety concerns.

4.3.2 Gender of the Respondents

The study also examined gender of respondents. It was found that the majority (64.6%) of the respondents were male, while 35.4% are female as shown in Table 4.

Table 4:
Gender of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Male	153	64.6%
Female	84	35.4%
Total	237	100.0%

This indicates a male-dominated character of the study population, which can affect the general perceptions and experience of insecurity presented in the study. It is important to know the gender composition because males and females may have varying experiences and issues with security matters. This information will assist in making sure that the analysis takes into account gender specific views, which is critical in coming up with effective and comprehensive strategies to deal with insecurity in the community.

4.3.3 Level of Education

In this study, the researchers analysed the educational background of 237 respondents to explore factors influencing insecurity. The results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5:

Level of Education

	Frequency	Percentage
No Formal Education	21	8.9%
Primary Education	48	20.3%
Secondary Education	82	34.6%
Diploma/Certificate	47	19.8%
Bachelor's Degree	30	12.7%
Postgraduate	9	3.8%
Total	237	100.0%

The table above shows that the largest proportion of the respondents (34.6%) had secondary education. This was followed by people who had primary education (20.3%) and those who had diploma or certificate qualifications (19.8%). Moreover, a large percentage (8.9) indicated that they had no formal education, 12.7 had a bachelor degree and 3.8 had postgraduate qualifications. This educational distribution depicts a community with a diverse level of education including those with little access to formal education. The diversity in the education levels underscores the need to tailor communication and interventions on insecurity to suit the needs of all groups of the population.

4.3.4 Marital Status

The study explored the marital status of the respondents and found the distribution in Table 6.

Table 6:
Marital Status of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Single	61	25.7%
Married	138	58.2%
Separated	38	16.0%
Total	237	100.0%

Table 6 reveals that 25.7% were single, 58.2% were married, and 16.0% were separated. These findings provide insights into the demographic makeup of the population and suggest potential correlations between marital status and perceptions of security and community dynamics, contributing to a deeper understanding of factors influencing insecurity in the area.

4.3.5 Most Vulnerable Time

The study examined perceptions of vulnerability to insecurity at different times of day. The results are as presented in Table 7.

Table 7:
Most Vulnerable Time

	Frequency	Percent
Midday	17	7.2%
Evening	17	7.2%
Night	203	85.7%
Total	237	100.0%

The findings indicate that the majority of respondents, 85.7%, identified night-time as the period when they feel most vulnerable to insecurity. In contrast, only 7.2% of respondents cited midday and another 7.2% mentioned the evening as times of heightened vulnerability.

These results highlight a predominant perception within the community regarding security risks associated particularly with night time hours in Gudele Payam.

4.3.6 Most Insecure Day of the Week

In exploring perceptions of insecurity among respondents, the study scrutinized which day of the week was perceived as most insecure. The findings presented in Table 8 revealed a notable consensus among the community, with Saturday emerging as the day of greatest concern, identified by 67.5% of respondents. In contrast, Thursday and Friday were identified by 16.5% and 16.0% of respondents, respectively, as days of heightened insecurity.

Table 8:

Most Insecure Day of the Week

	Frequency	Percent
Thursday	39	16.5%
Friday	38	16.0%
Saturday	160	67.5%
Total	237	100.0%

These results illuminate a nuanced understanding of community perceptions regarding security dynamics across different days of the week in Gudele Payam.

4.3.7 Safety Levels in Gudele Payam

The study results as shown in Table 9 indicate that there was a wide variance in the responses of the respondents as to the level of safety in the area with 51.5% of the respondents considering the area unsafe and 16.0% considering it very unsafe. In the meantime, 23.2% were neutral and 9.3% said the area was safe.

Table 9:

Safety Levels in Gudele

	Frequency	Percent
Safe	22	9.3%
Neutral	55	23.2%
Unsafe	122	51.5%
Very Unsafe	38	16.0%

Total	237	100.0%
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These findings indicate varied perceptions of security in the society with a majority of the respondents expressing a feeling of insecurity. The perception differences indicate the multifaceted character of security dynamics in Gudele Payam, which implies the necessity of specific interventions to support the community and improve its security on a larger scale.

4.3.8 Witnessed or Been a Victim of Any Insecurity Incidence

The study also sought to establish the incidence of witnessing or being a victim of insecurity incidence among the respondents. The results are shown in Table 10. Of the 237 people surveyed, 51.5% (122) said they had experienced such incidents, and 48.5% (115) said they had not.

Table 10:

Witnessed or Been a Victim of any Insecurity Incidence

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	122	51.5%
No	115	48.5%
Total	237	100.0%

These results gave an understanding of the incidence of insecurity experiences in the community, which gave a view of the safety and security perceptions concerning the level of insecurity. These experiences are essential in understanding the wider factors that have contributed to the increase in insecurity in Gudele Payam.

4.4 Types and Incidences of Insecurity in Gudele Payam

The first objective of the study was to identify the types and map out incidences of insecurity in Gudele Payam. As shown in the results in Table 11, different forms of insecurity are reported in Gudele Payam. According to a survey on the residents, 60% of them have reported thefts or burglary within the last one year with 45% of residents having lost at the point of the gun. Also, 30% of them mentioned occurrence of assault, and 20% of them referred to domestic violence. There were 10% and 15% of respondents who reported kidnappings and carjacking respectively. Of note, 70% of the respondents pointed out that the

levels of insecurity have been on a rise in the last three years, especially the violent insecurities.

Table 11:
Types and Incidences of Insecurity

Type of Insecurity	Frequency	Percentage
Theft/Burglary	142	60.0%
Armed Robbery	107	45.0%
Assault	71	30.0%
Domestic Violence	47	20.0%
Kidnapping	24	10.0%
Carjacking	36	15.0%
Increase in Insecurity Levels	166	70.0%

The survey also established that there are three areas in Gudele Payam whereby insecurity is very high; Gudele market, the bus park and the outskirts along the river. These were the most hit regions when it came to theft, robbery and assault. Specifically, Gudele market alone accounted to 40% of the reported thefts and the bus park accounted to 35% of the reported assaults. The outskirts of the river were found to have higher cases of carjacking and kidnappings where 60% of the cases were recorded.

The survey was intended to measure the level of awareness, participation, and satisfaction with the local security measures, which were a great source of information on the existing sentiments and issues regarding safety and prevention of insecurity in the area. Table 12 results of the study indicated that the respondents tended to be very aware of certain forms of insecurity that exist in Gudele Payam. The mean score was 4.05 and the standard deviation was 0.88 with most of the participants reporting that they agreed with the fact that they were familiar with problems like theft, violence and vandalism. This observation highlights a strong awareness of the different security issues that resident's experience, which is a fundamental perception that can be used to design specific interventions and community safety programs.

The participants also gave information on their capability to determine the areas in Gudele Payam where insecurity cases are often reported or witnessed. The average of 3.72 and the standard deviation of 0.91 imply that the confidence in identifying these hotspots is

moderate. Such perception plays a critical role in the prioritization of resources and application of effective measures by the local authorities and community leaders to solve the security issues in the particular geographical locations. Another interesting feature of the survey was the participation of the community in reporting cases of insecurity to the local authorities. The respondents strongly agreed that the community plays an active role in reporting such incidents with a mean score of 4.01 and a standard deviation of 0.61. This degree of involvement shows a cooperative effort in addressing security issues and the need to have community-police partnerships and proactive reporting systems in improving the security of people.

The respondents indicated that they were neutral in terms of the level of their awareness of the current security situation in Gudele Payam, recent incidences and trends. The standard deviation of 0.88 and the mean score of 3.67 show that the respondents feel that there is need to improve communication or information sharing on security matters. This observation explains the importance of good and clear communication of local authorities to make sure that residents are informed and engaged in the process of mitigating security threats.

Mixed perceptions existed on the comprehensiveness of the available documentation and mapping of insecurity incidents in Gudele Payam. The respondents disagreed on the effectiveness of data collection and analysis in understanding the security landscape with a mean of 3.70 and standard deviation of 0.60. This is an indication of the possibility of enhancing the data management procedures and employing technology to make information related to security more precise and accessible to make decisions.

The local authorities were rated by the respondents to have an average knowledge of some forms of insecurity that bedevil Gudele Payam with a mean score of 3.81 and a higher standard deviation of 1.25. Such discrepancy shows varying perceptions about the effectiveness of authorities in dealing with and preventing insecurity. It emphasizes the necessity of continuous training, resources and community outreach activities to increase local capacity to effectively address security challenges.

The findings of the present study provide valuable data that can be applied to policy and practice in order to enhance the security and community resilience in Gudele Payam. Having the information about the way communities feel and understand the insecurity, policymakers will be able to develop certain interventions that would assist in resolving specific security problems, make the population more confident in the police, and make sure that the residents and the authorities collaborate. The enhancement of the community policing

strategies, the development of the communication channels, and the investment in the technology to process the data can contribute to the establishment of the safer and more secure environment to all residents.

Table 12:
Respondents Insights on Types and Incidences of Insecurity

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I am familiar with the specific types of insecurity, such as theft, violence, or vandalism, prevalent in Gudele Payam.	237	4.05	0.88
I can easily identify areas within Gudele Payam where instances of insecurity are more frequently reported or observed.	237	3.72	0.91
The community actively engages in reporting incidences of insecurity to local authorities	237	4.01	0.61
I feel well-informed about the current security situation in Gudele Payam, including recent incidents and trends in different types of insecurity.	237	3.67	0.88
The existing documentation and mapping of insecurity incidents in Gudele Payam are comprehensive and facilitate a clear understanding of the security landscape.	237	3.70	0.60
Local authorities demonstrate a thorough understanding of the specific types of insecurity affecting Gudele Payam, enabling effective response and preventive measures.	237	3.81	1.25

Gudele market is highly populated and poorly lit, a haven of thieves and pick pockets. The bus park is a major transportation hub, and as such, it is highly frequented by people, and robbers always exploit the situation by taking advantage of the crowd and the availability of travellers with valuables. The surroundings around the river are not well guarded by security personnel and this makes it a favourable area to commit crimes like carjacking and kidnapping. Some of the notable cases are a high profile armed robbery in a local store in Gudele Market where goods valued in thousands of dollars were stolen and a series of assaults in the Bus Park that left several people injured. Also, carjacking in the outskirts close to the river has been reported severally, and it has been violent and life threatening.

Certain areas within the Gudele Payam are particularly susceptible to insecurity and this has been attributed to poor lighting, absence of police and the large number of people. The market area and the Bus Park are not well secured and are normally crowded and therefore it is difficult to control and curb crimes in these areas. In addition, the economic disparity in these areas also contributes to high levels of insecurity because individuals who are facing economic challenges are able to commit crimes. Community participation in reporting and responding to the cases of insecurity in Gudele Payam is negative and positive. Though there are efforts to report insecurities to the authorities, it is not done without fear because people fear being attacked or they lack confidence in the police. Community initiatives such as the neighbourhood watch groups have been implemented; the success of which is limited by the resources and the scale of the problem. The solution to the insecurity issues in Gudele Payam lies in the increased community-police cooperation and the increased trust towards law enforcement.

The insecurity experienced in Gudele Payam is of various forms such as theft, burglary, armed robbery, assault, domestic violence, kidnapping, and carjacking. Theft and burglary is also very common and this occurs in residential and commercial premises. Most residents have complained of regular break-ins and theft, which happen both in the day and at night. A local resident said, "We have been burglarized three times this year alone and the burglars took all the valuables." Another major concern is armed robbery which usually implies the use of weapons and causes great financial losses and traumas to the victims. One of the other interviewees said, armed robbers attacked my shop and stole all the money and merchandise. It was frightening."

The prevalent cases of insecurity experienced by residents are house breakages, street muggings, physical violence, and domestic violence. Break-ins are also very common and most residents complain that their homes are targeted, more so in less secure places. Robberies in the streets are also prevalent as muggings are done in dark streets and market places. Physical attacks are usually related to conflicts or opportunistic insecurities, whereas family conflicts and violence are important problems, which influence the relationships within the family and the trust in the community. According to one community leader, domestic violence is a silent issue in the community and most victims are suffering in silence.

Some parts of Gudele Payam are more insecure such as Gudele Market, Bus Park and the outskirts along the river. An example of such a market is Gudele Market where theft is common because of the large population and poor lighting. One of the shop owners in Gudele Market said, "The market is congested and has poor lighting that thieves can easily work

without detection." Attacks and robberies are common at the Bus Park due to the large number of travellers, and the inability to provide proper security. The periphery around the river has a high rate of carjacking and kidnappings as a result of ineffectiveness of the police and isolation. These are the most susceptible areas because of a number of factors that include poor lighting, insufficient police presence and high population density.

Other Specific incidents reported include a high profile armed robbery in a local shop in Gudele Market where goods worth thousands of dollars were stolen and a series of assaults in the Bus Park that left several people injured. There is also the issue of carjacking that has been reported severally in the outskirts along the river and it is normally accompanied by violence and threats to life. A taxi driver informed me, carjacking are on the rise especially along the river. One cannot drive there at night." These incidents indicate the various types of insecurity that individuals in Gudele Payam and the most vulnerable to such insecurities in the region.

It was also found out that robbery was one of the most common types of insecurity in Gudele Payam. The result is in line with the previous study on robbery as a significant issue in the urban centres of South Sudan. To illustrate, Deng (2018) indicated that robbery is among the prevalent insecurities in Juba, which is driven by financial challenges and poor policing. High incidence of robbery in Gudele Payam can be attributed to a number of factors. People are forced to take part in robbery in order to earn a living due to unemployment and economic poverty. Moreover, there is lack of good policing and a feeling of lawlessness, which enables such insecurities to flourish. The role played by economic instability and poor governance in the emergence of criminal activities like robbery was also mentioned in a comparative study on urban insecurity in South Sudan conducted by Lacher (2012).

Gang violence is another significant type of insecurity identified in the study. Presence of youth gangs which commit various types of crimes is also a factor that contributes to the insecurity in the region. Gang violence in South Sudan is also an issue that has been noted in other studies such as the study by Jok (2011) which indicated that gang violence has adverse impact on the safety and social cohesion of the community. The lack of opportunities among the youth and the social-economic conditions of the people can be linked to the occurrence of gang violence in Gudele Payam. The youth are frustrated by unemployment and poverty and hence join gangs as a means of gaining social status and economic benefits. This finding is supported by Wietzke (2015) who found out that youth unemployment is strongly related to gang membership in the urban South Sudan.

The research also indicated high rate of burglary in Gudele Payam. Burglary does not only cause loss of property but also causes fear and insecurity to the residents. This finding is in line with those of a study conducted by Schomerus and Allen (2010) which identified high rates of burglary in Juba and explained it by the socio-economic problems of the urban population. Burglary is a common phenomenon in Gudele Payam and it can be attributed to economic desperation and ineffective law enforcement. A lot of residents are in economically vulnerable situations, which makes them both perpetrators and victims of burglary. In the study of Bakke, & Rickard (2023) on urban insecurity in post-conflict environment, similar trends were identified, with economic deprivation leading to people engaging in property insecurity such as burglary.

The research indicated that the incidences of insecurity particularly robbery, gang violence and burglary are more frequent at late hours and during weekends. This pattern in the incidence of insecurity is quite critical to the dynamics of insecurity in Gudele Payam. The trend of insecurities that occur mostly at late hours and weekends is in tandem with the theories of criminology that show that the rate of insecurity is high at times when there is less social control and supervision. This can be observed by a study that was carried out by Deng and Ngetich (2024) which stated that insecurities such as robbery and burglary are more prone to occur during night time and weekends due to low police presence and low vigilance by individuals. The high rate of insecurities during late hours and weekends can be blamed on the low visibility and surveillance during those times. The criminals take advantage of the darkness and the fact that people are not alert or socializing. This is backed up by a research carried out by Felson and Boba (2010) that says insecurity is more probable to occur when there are fewer able guardians and when there exist suitable targets.

The paper also established some hotspots in Gudele Payam where cases of insecurity occur more often. Such hotspots are usually places with poor infrastructure, no street lights, and the place is densely populated. Such spatial distribution of insecurity is in line with the results of a study by Weisburd (2015) who emphasized that insecurity is prone to be concentrated in certain locations that have favourable conditions to support criminal activities. The environmental conditions that will enable the criminal activities can be considered as the concentration of the insecurities in some hotspots. Inadequate infrastructure like poor street lights and bad roads provides criminals with a chance to do their business with little chance of being caught. The environmental criminology theory supports this observation by arguing that the physical environment is very instrumental in the development of criminal behaviour (Brantingham & Brantingham, 1981).

The comparative analysis with the past studies shows that the forms and rates of insecurity in Gudele Payam are not extraordinary but are applicable to the general trends in other urban regions of South Sudan and other post-conflict settings. The same cases of robbery, gang violence, and burglary in cities affected by conflict and economically unstable have been reported by researchers such as Small Arms Survey (2012) and Justino (2012). The consistency of these findings with previous studies underscores the institutional nature of insecurity in post-conflict cities. Economic deprivation, bad governance and social disintegration are the common reasons behind insecurity in such settings. This highlights the need to have holistic and contextualized interventions that focus on the causes of insecurity rather than treating the symptoms. The findings of this study have significant policy and practice implications in the management of insecurity in Gudele Payam. The intervention must be multi-dimensional and must include economic development, social cohesion and more law enforcement.

The only way to restore trust and develop a feeling of shared responsibility in regard to security is to encourage community involvement and social cohesion. Community-based programs such as neighbourhood watch and inter-ethnic dialogue can enhance social capital and collaboration among residents. The research undertaken by Putnam (2000) supports this strategy since it emphasized the significance of social capital in enhancing safety within the community. Social cohesion should be reinforced with the eradication of the ethnic and social tensions that cause fragmentation. The restoration of trust and cooperation can be achieved by implementing the programs that promote inter-ethnic communication and community involvement. A study by Varshney (2002) on ethnic conflict and civic life highlighted the importance of inter-ethnic interaction in preventing violence and promoting social peace.

It is important to increase law enforcement capacity and upgrade the urban infrastructure to discourage crime. This is in terms of the presence of more police, better street lights and the maintenance of road networks. Research conducted by other scholars like Durlauf and Nagin (2011) has revealed that insecurity rates can be substantially reduced through visible and effective law enforcement coupled with improvements in the design of the environment. Law enforcement should be done through establishing trust between the police and the community. This trust can be improved through community policing programs, in which the police officers collaborate with the residents to solve security issues. Also, enhancing the urban infrastructure will minimize the chances of insecurity and boost the safety of the people. A research conducted by Welsh and Farrington (2009) on the prevention

of situational insecurity revealed that the improvement of environmental design like the use of street lights and CCTV cameras is effective in reducing insecurity in the urban centers.

The types and incidences of insecurity in Gudele Payam have been discussed and these are indicative of the interplay of economic, socio-cultural, and infrastructural factors that have led to the security challenges in the region. These results are in line with the earlier studies on the issue of urban insecurity in post-conflict environments, which highlights the importance of holistic and context-sensitive interventions. Through economic growth, social cohesion, and improved law enforcement, the underlying causes of insecurity can be eliminated to establish a safer and more secure environment in which the people of Gudele Payam can live.

4.5 Economic Factors Influencing Insecurity in Gudele Payam

In Gudele Payam, the impact of economic factors on insecurity is evident through both quantitative data and personal experiences shared by residents. The economic factors that promote insecurity are presented in Table 13.

Table 13:

Drivers of Insecurity

Driver of Insecurity	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	161	68%
Considering or Engaging in Illegal Activities	107	45%
Belief in Job Availability Reducing Insecurity	142	60%
Households Experiencing Theft/Burglary	123	52%
Higher Insecurity Incidence in Poorer Neighbourhoods	71	30%

According to Table 13, a great proportion (68%) of the respondents cited unemployment as the major cause of enhanced insecurity in the region. This observation is corroborated by other findings that explore deeper the cause and consequences of unemployment in Gudele Payam. Lack of economic opportunities is one of the major causes of unemployment in Gudele Payam. Similar to most of South Sudan, Gudele Payam is afflicted by poor economic development. The conflict and instability has discouraged investment and destabilized local business hence there is shortage of employment

opportunities. The lack of major commercial and industrial operations also makes the situation worse and many residents in the area have no good jobs to do.

Besides the economic factors, poor education and skills of the people are also a key factor in the high unemployment rates. Educational institutions have been seriously affected by the conflict leading to poor literacy levels and poorly prepared workforce that is not well suited to skilled employment. Most of the residents do not have the required education and vocational training to enable them to compete in the job market.

The long war has also left many homeless, livelihoods interrupted and infrastructure destroyed which increases the problem of unemployment. With the chaos that people have to face as they seek to rebuild their lives, it becomes even harder to secure employment. This has resulted in a high number of the population being unemployed or underemployed.

The rate of unemployment in Gudele Payam is very high and it is estimated that more than 70% of the working population is unemployed or underemployed. This rate of unemployment justifies the idea that absence of jobs is a major cause of this wave of insecurity in the region. When the percentage of the population out of jobs is so high, there are not many opportunities left to keep people alive, especially young people, so the number of people involved in criminal activities grows.

The youth is especially in a bad situation, where the unemployment rate is above 80%. This is the most vulnerable group since they have low opportunities of education and employment. According to the survey findings, 45% of the unemployed youth in Gudele Payam had confessed to thinking or doing illegal activities to earn a living. The rate of youth unemployment is high and this is strongly linked to the increase in insecurity since idle and disenfranchised youths are more likely to be lured into criminal activities.

In addition, 60% of the population sampled articulated that improved employment opportunities would significantly lower the rate of insecurity. This feeling brings out the understanding of the community about the connection between employment and security. Most of the residents feel that the insecurity issue in the region will be greatly reduced by generating more employment opportunities and enhancing access to education and vocational training.

In a bid to resolve these problems, the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are trying to offer vocational training and employment opportunities. Nonetheless, such efforts are usually underfunded and they are characterized with a lot of challenges such as insecurity and absence of infrastructure. These programs require more support and investment in order to succeed. The results show that unemployment, especially

among the young people is a major cause of heightened insecurity in Gudele Payam. The best way of dealing with this problem is by economic development, education, and specific employment programs to enhance security and stability in the region.

Moreover, 52% of the households indicated that they had been robbed or burgled within the last one year, and they associated such events with financial distress. Statistics also indicate that the higher the poverty level in a neighbourhood, the more likely it is to experience criminal activities by 30% more than the economically stable neighbourhoods. Such statistics highlight the importance of the economic instability in creating an environment that is conducive to insecurity. Lack of economic opportunities is directly proportional to heightened insecurity. These figures show the urgency of economic interventions to solve the causes of insecurity in the community.

The study findings in Table 14 established that the respondents were strongly convinced that economic opportunities such as access to jobs are a key determinant of the level of security in Gudele Payam. The average score was 4.51 with a standard deviation of 0.99 and majority of the respondents concurred that job opportunities were significant to guarantee security. This means that the increase of employment rates can be a determining factor in the overall improvement of the security situation in the region as a stable job can deter people to commit crimes due to the necessity to earn money.

The respondents also highlighted the importance of unemployment in crimes and insecurity in Gudele Payam. The mean of 4.42 and a standard deviation of 0.49 indicates that there is a high degree of concurrence among the respondents that the current rate of unemployment is a factor that contributes to an increase in the rate of criminal activities. The finding justifies the significance of certain interventions to address unemployment as one of the means of reducing the levels of insecurity and improving security in the society. The respondents were concerned with the insufficiency of the security services available in the society like the law enforcement and insecurity prevention and the negative impact it has on the economy. The respondents agreed that the low security services in the country aggravate economic instability and insecurity with a mean score of 4.24 and a standard deviation of 0.43. That is why the availability of good law enforcement and insecurity prevention measures are the most important in establishing a safe and economically stable environment.

Poverty was one of the economic factors that were identified to have led to the rise of insecurity in Gudele Payam. The standard deviation of 0.43 and mean score of 4.76 show that there is a high agreement among the respondents that the more the vulnerable communities are exposed to poverty the more the likelihood of security problems. This finding underscores

the importance of poverty alleviation programs and social safety nets in reducing vulnerability and enhancing community security. The respondents agreed that appropriate job opportunities and economic development initiatives can be an effective way of reducing insecurity in Gudele Payam. The mean of 4.58 and standard deviation of 0.49 shows that there is strong belief that economic development can assist in curbing security challenges. It means that it is a need to have detailed economic policies that promote the generation of jobs and sustainable development to enhance security.

The low investment in social and economic infrastructure was also considered as one of the reasons that contributed to the increase in the levels of unemployment, poverty and insecurity. The respondents concurred that inadequate investment in infrastructure enhances economic and security problems with a mean score of 4.13 and a standard deviation of 1.06. This shows the importance of infrastructure development in order to stabilize the economy and reduce insecurity. The findings of this study are practical and can be applied to make policy and practice to enhance security and economic resilience in Gudele Payam. Having this understanding of the economic causes of insecurity, policymakers can develop certain interventions to address specific economic problems, increase the trust of the residents in the police and collaboration between the residents and the authorities. Such measures as job creation programs, poverty alleviation programs and infrastructure development can assist in making a safer and more economically viable environment to all the citizens.

Table 14:
Economic Factors Influencing Insecurity in Gudele Payam

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Economic opportunities, such as job availability, play a significant role in the level of security in Gudele Payam.	237	4.51	0.99
The current level of unemployment in Gudele Payam contributes to an increase in criminal activities and insecurity.	237	4.42	0.49
Insufficient public security services, including law enforcement and insecurity prevention, negatively impact the economic stability of Gudele Payam, leading to heightened insecurity	237	4.24	0.43
Poverty is a key economic factor influencing the rise in insecurity in Gudele Payam, with vulnerable communities facing higher security	237	4.76	0.43

risks

Adequate job opportunities and economic development initiatives can significantly contribute to reducing insecurity in Gudele Payam. 237 4.58 0.49

The lack of investment in social and economic infrastructure in Gudele Payam contributes to increased levels of unemployment, poverty, and ultimately, insecurity. 237 4.13 1.06

The respondents have come out with many personal experiences that indicate the relationship that exists between economic factors and insecurity. According to one of the locals, there are a lot of unemployed youth in the community who cannot sustain themselves. This drives some of them into crime to survive. This was also resonated by a community leader who stated, unemployment is a key cause of insecurity here. In absence of jobs, citizens, particularly the young people, turn to stealing, robbing among other criminal activities to survive." These are the personal testimonies of how desperate many people become because of the economic hardships and how this causes a rise in criminal behaviour.

Poverty and other economic issues also overlap to provide an environment that is favourable to insecurity. One of the community elders said, poverty is all over and when the people are unable to get basic needs, they become desperate. The rates of insecurity increase due to desperation as individuals struggle to survive at all costs." This desperation usually leads to increased theft and burglary especially in the poorer neighbourhoods. The economic pressure does not only push people towards insecurity but also destroys the social fabric of the community, which makes it more difficult to preserve safety and security.

Poor public security services also contribute to the insecurity in Gudele Payam that is economic-based. One of the local business owners said, the police are overworked and cannot be able to respond to incidents fast. This ineffective law enforcement encourages criminals. The lack of police and the slow response time implies that insecurities are not punished and this promotes more crimes. This deficiency in the provision of security services in the society forms a vicious cycle whereby, the more insecure a society is, the more the security services are demanded, and the available system is incapable of meeting this demand.

In addition, community safety and insecurity are influenced by socio-cultural norms and values in Gudele Payam. The underreporting is caused by traditional gender norms and stigma on some insecurity like domestic violence. One of the interviewees said, "Most women fail to report domestic violence due to the fact that it is perceived as a family secret."

This enables the perpetrators to go on with their behaviour without any check. The fear of reporting insecurities because of the socio-cultural pressures implies that most cases of insecurity are not reported, which further encourages the issue. On the whole, the combination of economic instability and cultural reasons plays a major role in enhancing insecurity in Gudele Payam.

The rates of unemployment were found to be one of the greatest factors causing insecurity in Gudele Payam. This observation concurs with numerous researches that have established that unemployment and insecurity are closely related. To illustrate, a study by Fajnzylber and Loayza (2002) revealed that high unemployment is related to high robbery and violent insecurity. The relationship between unemployment and insecurity can be addressed in economic and social terms. Economically, the people who lack a legitimate job to perform can turn to insecurity as a means of livelihood. Unemployment can also lead to deviant behaviour as a result of frustration, loss of self-esteem and social exclusion socially. This is in accordance with the strain theory by Merton (1938) that pressure to achieve success in the society without employing legitimate means motivates individuals into committing crime.

Poverty was also another economic factor that led to insecurity in Gudele Payam. The other studies, such as the one by Bourguignon (2001), support the results of the study, and he points out the connection between poverty and increased levels of insecurity. Poverty worsens the vulnerability and desperation and causes people to indulge in insecurities to earn a living. Poverty and its effect on insecurity can be discussed in terms of several theoretical frameworks. Social disorganization theory developed by Shaw and McKay (1942) supposes that poor neighbourhoods lack social structures capable of maintaining order and preventing insecurity. The lack of resources and social support systems in the poor neighbourhoods in Gudele Payam is a conducive environment that promotes criminal activities. In addition, the routine activity theory developed by Cohen and Felson (1979) suggests that poverty limits access to safe living conditions, which increases the likelihood of a person becoming a victim.

Another issue that was brought up as a contributing factor to insecurity was economic inequality. The disparity between the wealthy and the poor leads to social strains and anger that can lead to insecurity. This observation is in line with the findings of Wilkinson and Pickett (2009) which postulates that the greater the economic inequality, the greater the degree of violence and insecurity. Relative deprivation among the less privileged is also as a result of economic inequality, and this makes them feel unjust and angry. This is supported

by the relative deprivation theory which states that perceived inequality in wealth and opportunities can lead to social unrest and criminal behaviour. The social inequalities in Gudele Payam are also stoked by the visible gap between the different classes of the economy which also contributes to the presence of insecurity.

Economic reasons of insecurity are also worth being discussed to reach stability in the long-term perspective. This includes job creation, vocational training and promotion of small business to provide alternative income to the residents. The literature has reported the effectiveness of these efforts as Stewart (2015) has shown that economic empowerment interventions are highly effective in reducing the level of insecurity in post-conflict settings. The interventions in the economy must be localized and must be carried out in active participation of the local stakeholders. People will be discouraged to engage in crimes by economic opportunities and it will result in social stability. As a study by Blattman and Annan (2016) on post-conflict economic programs in Liberia showed, the beneficial influence of job creation on decreasing youth involvement in insecurity was determined.

The discussion of the economic and socio-cultural factors influencing insecurity in Gudele Payam indicates how the two factors interrelate in the establishment of the security situation in the area. The findings are consistent with the available literature on the subject of urban insecurity in post-conflict settings, which highlights the significance of using multifaceted and context-specific interventions. Economic development, social cohesion and better governance can address the root causes of insecurity and therefore result in a safer and more secure environment to the people of Gudele Payam.

The literature has discussed economic factors and insecurity and it is well documented. To give an example, it has been established that areas that experience high levels of unemployment and poverty have high levels of insecurity (Blau & Blau, 1982). This is due to the fact that economic hardship can lead to frustration and hopelessness that can consequently increase the probability of committing crimes. The findings of the research are consistent with the strain theory that states that, individuals who are economically strained may turn to insecurity as an alternative means of achieving their goals (Merton, 1938). The study is also in line with the social disorganization theory based on which economic deprivation leads to the breakdown of social institutions, such as family, school and community organizations, which normally regulate behaviour and maintain social order (Shaw & McKay, 1942). Economic opportunities are also not available in Gudele Payam and this has compromised these social institutions resulting in increased insecurity.

4.6 Socio-Cultural Factors that Promote the Increase of Insecurity in Gudele Payam

This study found that 55% of respondents attribute the overall insecurity in their community to socio-cultural norms. Additionally, 42% of women reported experiencing gender-based violence, attributing this issue to entrenched cultural practices and norms. These statistics underscore the pervasive impact of socio-cultural factors on community safety and security. Another survey highlighted that 60% of residents perceive the breakdown of traditional social structures as a key factor contributing to increased insecurity. This sentiment is particularly pronounced among older residents, with 70% of those aged 50 and above expressing concern over the diminishing role of elders and traditional leaders in maintaining community cohesion and safety. The quantitative findings underscore a clear correlation between socio-cultural dynamics and the heightened sense of insecurity prevalent in Gudele Payam.

The descriptive statistics presented in this study provide a comprehensive overview of respondent's perceptions regarding the socio-cultural factors that influence the level of insecurity in Gudele Payam, Juba, South Sudan. Understanding these factors is critical for developing holistic strategies to enhance community safety and resilience. The mean scores and standard deviations reflect the level of agreement or disagreement among 237 respondents on various socio-cultural aspects related to insecurity.

The study explored the impact of socio-cultural norms and values on community safety in Gudele Payam as shown in Table 15. The mean score of 3.4895 and a standard deviation of 0.90 suggest that respondents were relatively neutral about the positive contribution of socio-cultural norms to community safety. While some participants may believe that traditional values help reduce the likelihood of insecurity, the moderate mean score indicates that there is no strong consensus on this issue. This ambivalence might stem from varying perceptions of how effectively these norms are upheld or the extent to which they influence behaviour in the community.

The correlation of destabilization of traditional social systems with the augmentation of insecurity in Gudele Payam was indicated by the respondents. The overall average as 3.69 and the standard deviation as 1.16 shows that there is a moderate agreement about this statement, but the relatively high value of the standard deviation shows that there is much fluctuation about the opinions. The finding highlights the significance of the traditional social systems to order and community cohesion. The impairment of these structures or their disintegration may prompt greater levels of social fragmentation and hence increase the level

of insecurity. It underlines the necessity of measures which can reinforce or renew conventional social relationships and networks of society.

The effect of culturally oriented gender practices and norms on the incidence and impression of insecurity was also studied. The respondents gave a mean score of 3.54 with a standard deviation of 0.63 and answered that the practices have a significant effect on the dynamics of security in Gudele Payam. Expectations, along with gender impact can define people in terms of being vulnerable to insecurity and violent acts; it also defines the relationship with the law enforcement officers and justice systems. This observation further points out the necessity of gender-sensitive strategies when dealing with insecurity; where both men and women feel secure and empowered in their own society.

Community cohesion and social trust levels were found to be a make it or break it in the insecurity issues in Gudele Payam. The standard deviation of 0.87 and a mean of 3.59 imply that most respondents felt the major reasons to believe that insecurity could be prevented by good social ties and high levels of trust in the community. A high level of social cohesion leads to the support gained by each other and collaboration, so it is simple to recognize any possible danger and cope with it. On the other hand, distrust and in cohesion may obstruct the collaboration process and negatively affect the ability to establish efficient security.

During the interviews, the respondents shared their opinions on how the cultural attitude towards law enforcement and the idea of justice systems influences the efficiency of the security measures. The standard deviation of 0.84 and the mean score of 3.74 means that there is moderate to strong opinion that these attitudes have a considerable impact on security outcomes in Gudele Payam. The ability of communities to cooperate with law-enforcement activities, as well as the readiness to communicate insecurities and the legitimacy of the justice processes as a whole, may be influenced by cultural views of the law enforcement. Good behaviour towards the law enforcers is likely to create co-operation and understanding that can increase security, whereas bad behaviour can sabotage the security process and result into insecurity.

Increasing awareness and educating the community on socio-cultural factors was regarded as one of the possible methods of diminishing insecurity. A respondent moderately agreed that to counter security challenges awareness and education can be enhanced with a mean score of 3.79 and standard deviation of 1.03. This observation brings emphases on knowledgeable and active communities in making the environment safer. Raising awareness of the importance of socio-cultural factors influencing security and the necessity to take

proactive actions, educational activities may enable residents to initiate efforts, contribute to neighbour-to-neighbour activities, and cooperate with officials.

The results of this research can be considered meaningful contributions to policy and practice to promote the security and community resilience of the population of Gudele Payam. Through the insight into socio-cultural determinants of insecurity, policy formers can create culturally specific interventions to identify ways of handling the identified socio-cultural issues, boosting the trust in police among the population, and promoting mutual action of locals and government. The creation of a safer and better connected community can be mediated through such initiatives as community policing, community policing programming, and education campaigns, gender-sensitive in nature.

Table 15:

Socio-cultural Factors that Promote the Increase of Insecurity

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Socio-cultural norms and values in Gudele Payam positively contribute to community safety and reduce the likelihood of insecurity.	237	3.49	0.90
There is a strong correlation between the breakdown of traditional social structures and the increase in insecurity within Gudele Payam.	237	3.70	1.16
Gender-based cultural practices and norms significantly influence the occurrence and perception of insecurity in Gudele Payam.	237	3.54	0.63
The level of community cohesion and social trust plays a crucial role in either mitigating or exacerbating insecurity issues in Gudele Payam.	237	3.59	0.87
Cultural attitudes towards law enforcement and justice systems impact the effectiveness of security measures in Gudele Payam.	237	3.74	0.84
The promotion of community awareness and education about socio-cultural factors can contribute to reducing insecurity in Gudele Payam.	237	3.80	1.03

The social-cultural aspects that have been found to increase insecurity were given their first-hand accounts and observations by the residents. One of the elders of the community regretted that the elders of the community were once instrumental or critical in settling of disputes as well as maintaining the norms of the society. Today, they have become less powerful, and this results in the increase of conflicts and the disregard of conventional

norms." This dealing by traditional leadership has created a vacuum in the running of local communities hence leading to unhinged stress levels thus leading to a sense of insecurity. To a great extent, gender-based cultural practices affecting the frequency and experience of insecurity in Gudele Payam. One of the interviewees pointed out that women are frequently marginalized and afraid to report a violence case due to social stigmatization as well as the fear of retaliation. The unwillingly to speak out is a continuation of the silence and impunity." These traditional gender roles and gender-based expectations deny women access to justice and sources of support in addition to perpetuating the culture of developing and accepting gender-based violence as a norm, and it's under-reporting.

The stigma attached to the reportage of insecurities like the issue of domestic violence only makes it harder to deal with insecurity. One of the residents said, many women live in silence fearing to dishonour their families or be shunned by the society should she raise her voice against the abuse. This cultural nature to evade confronting sensitive subjects is a barrier to successful interventions and it lowers the accountability that criminal perpetrators can move about freely acting with impunity and thus causing insecurity. In addition, the traditional social structures have been weakened by erosion and as such, this has compromised the power of the community to control conflicts effectively and to impose order. Another resident stated, ""People in such a society have lost the sense of guidance and knowing how to resolve conflicts without hurting each other because there are no powerful leaders and community values supported by the elders." This social disintegration has presented loopholes that criminals take advantage of thereby worsening the insecurity in Gudele Payam.

The compounding effect that is demonstrated by the interplay of social-cultural elements and the breakdown of traditional social structure also plays a large role towards the current insecurity in Gudele Payam. To take care of these challenges, a complex solution should be considered in terms of gender equality and empowerment of community leaders, as well as the introduction of a culture of responsibility and observance of human rights. A major socio-cultural factor that was identified to cause insecurity was ethnic tensions. The results of the study are consistent with the findings of other studies conducted in the past, like the one by Jok (2007) who brings to the foreground the role played by ethnic conflicts in encouraging the use of violence in South Sudan. The Gudele Payam ethnic conflicts are historically based and are also partly based on resource seeking. Political manipulation and inefficient conflict resolution systems increase these strains. This theory that was presented by Tajfel and Turner (1979) is the social identity theory which describes how in-group

favouritism and out-group hostility can be caused by people and these two outcomes can make people engage in conflict and violence as a result of their identification with their ethnic group. At the Gudele Payam level, the division among ethnic groups undermines the social picture and leads to the general lack of safety.

Disintegration of the conventional social structure was the other socio-cultural factor that was determined to be important in the study. This is consistent with the past research findings as indicated by Deng (1995), about the compromise of traditional authority and social norms in South Sudan as a result of the long-lasting conflict and displacement. Decline of the traditional social forms frees the community ties, and destroys the mechanisms of social control. According to the social disorganization theory, community networks and social institutions play a very important role in promoting order and deterring insecurity. In Gudele Payam, the upheavals in these traditional rudiments create a vacuum which in most cases is occupied by the criminals. This is aggravated by the lack of respected leaders within the community and time-tested ways of solving disputes.

Urbanization was not left behind as one of the major contributing factors towards insecurity. The uncontrolled and hasty urbanization in Juba has resulted in congestion, poor housing, and inefficient public facilities that have contributed to the increase in the level of insecurity. Such a result can be explained by such works as the one by Davis (2006) who describes the problem of urbanization in the developing countries. Urbanization is not all that bad. Although it is a propellant to economic development, it also causes social upheavals and higher insecurity when dealt with carelessly. According to the urbanization theory developed by Wirth (1938), urban life is impersonal and transitory and thus leads to the loosening of the social bond and invites deviant behaviour. In Gudele payam, population pressure on urban facilities and social amenities after the influx of people has created situations conducive to crimes.

Social cohesion and community involvement are the key concepts to restoring the trust and developing collective ownership of security. Social capital and collaboration can be increased by community based initiatives like neighbourhood watch programmes and inter-ethnic discussion. This strategy is backed by the results of a research conducted by Putnam (2000) that pointed out the advantage of using social capital in boosting community security. In order to consolidate social cohesion, it is necessary to deal with the ethnic and social tensions that actually result into fragmentation. That can be rebuilt with efforts that encourage inter-ethnic dialogue and the involvement of community members. According to a study

conducted by Varshney (2002) on ethnic conflict and civic life, inter-ethnic interactions were of great value in violence deterrence and in harmony in the society.

Improved governance and institutional capacity is important in the efforts of dealing with the socio-cultural drivers of insecurity. This involves enhancing structures of local government, introducing a system of transparency and accountability, and developing efficient conflict solving patterns. Observations in literature by other scholars including Ostrom (1990) have revealed that powerful and answerable institutions are the much needed ingredient to have a social order and a reduced form of insecurity. Good governance involves the participation of the local residents and local leaders. It is important to establish trust between the people and the government organisations in order to have effective service delivery and effective conflict resolution. An examination of community-based natural resource management carried out by Ostrom (1990) has revealed that inclusive/participatory governance structures yield greater results in respect to social stability and natural resource management.

4.7 Coping Mechanisms and Recommended Security Strategies in Gudele Payam

As indicated in the Table 16, a significant 68% of respondents in Gudele Payam have reported establishment of neighbourhood watch groups or safety committees due to increased insecurity. Such community-based programs are aimed at enhancing security through heightened vigilance and coordinated actions to deal with suspicious activities. Formation of such groups has been very useful in curbing minor insecurities and improving the general feeling of security among residents. Also, 55% of residents have adopted personal security strategies including installation of security cameras, strengthening of doors and windows and avoiding dark places at night. Such proactive measures are an indication of a community-wide initiative to curb insecurity by taking pragmatic steps.

In addition, 42% of survey respondents reported that they were engaged in communication networks to share information on suspicious occurrences and share safety tips. This qualitative method does not only enhance the unity of the community but also enables people to take the initiative in the protection of their homes and neighbourhoods. One of the local business owners emphasized, "We have been able to keep each other alert and keep in touch with each other through our communication network. It is about the unity of the community and taking care of each other in hard moments.

Table 16:

Coping Mechanisms

Category	Percentage
Neighbourhood Watch Groups	68%
Personal Security Measures	55%
Communication Networks	42%

The study analysed the effectiveness of the current coping mechanisms of the individuals residing in Gudele Payam in dealing with the issue of increased insecurity as indicated in Table 17. The standard deviation of 0.96 and the mean of 2.79 indicates that the respondents are mostly disagreeing or neutral with the effectiveness of these coping mechanisms. This means that many residents may be having the view that their current strategies are not sufficient or are not very effective in addressing the security challenges that they face. The mean score is quite low and this indicates that there is necessity to have better and more effective coping strategies so that the community can be more resilient to insecurity.

The community based programs such as the neighbourhood watch programmes or the safety committees were identified to have a significant role in enhancing security and safety in Gudele Payam. The respondents were in moderate agreement that such initiatives are essential in improving security with a mean score of 3.70 and standard deviation of 0.85. This observation demonstrates the importance of grassroots efforts in the creation of a safer community environment. Community-based initiatives can access local knowledge, create community-based action and create a sense of ownership in the citizens, and therefore are an essential component of a comprehensive approach to security.

The availability of adequate awareness and education campaigns on the security issues has influenced positively on the ability of the residents to address the increased insecurity in Gudele Payam. The average of 4.07 and the standard deviation of 0.50 indicate that the respondents are in high agreement that these campaigns have been useful. It shows that well-designed awareness and education programs can significantly enhance the knowledge of the residents regarding the security threats and allow them to take proactive measures. Effective communication and education activities can be used to build community resilience by providing residents with knowledge and tools to address security challenges.

The presence of social support and cohesion among the residents is one of the factors that contribute to effective coping mechanisms and resilience to insecurity challenges. The average of 3.41 and standard deviation of 0.65 show that the respondents are moderately in agreement concerning the value of social support and cohesion. This fact shows that strong social networks and community ties are essential in fostering resilience at the community level. Mutual support, community problem-solving and coordinated responses to security threats, and communal problem-solving and coordinated responses to security threats might be facilitated by social cohesion and thus a significant part of effective coping mechanisms.

The people of Gudele Payam participate in the proposal and implementation of safety measures to reduce insecurity. The respondents highly agreed that community involvement in safety strategies is prevalent with a mean score of 4.21 and a standard deviation of 0.67. This level of agreement is very high and it shows the proactive nature of the residents in addressing security issues. Proactive involvement establishes a cooperative safety culture in which residents and authorities work together to identify and implement effective action. This is the community engagement that is critical in the development of sustainable security improvements.

The community is already attempting to cope, but it is clear that additional external support is needed, such as governmental actions or NGO interventions, to enhance coping efforts and enhance safety in Gudele Payam. The standard deviation of 0.55 and the mean of 4.20 indicate that the respondents are in high agreement that the external support is necessary. This finding means that community-based programs are necessary, but they must be supplemented by broader structural interventions. Government and NGO support can be utilized to provide resources, experience and policy to address systemic security challenges and enhance community resilience.

These research findings can be applied to give valuable information that can be used to influence policy and practice to enhance security and community resilience in Gudele Payam. By understanding the existing coping mechanisms of the residents and the gaps that should be addressed, the policymakers will be able to develop certain interventions that will address specific security concerns, increase the trust of the population in the police, and establish a relationship between the residents and the police. The following recommendations provide a comprehensive solution to the security and resilience of Gudele Payam.

Table 17:

Coping Mechanisms of Residents Amid Increased Insecurity and Recommend Appropriate Strategies

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Residents in Gudele Payam have effective coping mechanisms in place to deal with the challenges posed by increased insecurity	237	2.79	0.96
Community-led initiatives, such as neighbourhood watch programs or safety committees, play a significant role in enhancing security and safety in Gudele Payam.	237	3.70	0.85
Adequate awareness and education campaigns on security issues have positively influenced residents' ability to cope with increased insecurity in Gudele Payam.	237	4.07	0.50
The level of social support and cohesion among residents contributes to effective coping mechanisms and resilience in the face of insecurity challenges.	237	3.41	0.66
Residents actively participate in suggesting and implementing strategies to improve safety and reduce insecurity in Gudele Payam.	237	4.22	0.68
There is a need for additional external support, such as government interventions or NGO initiatives, to strengthen coping mechanisms and enhance safety in Gudele Payam	237	4.20	0.55

The neighbourhood watch programs and safety committees are very crucial in improving security and safety in Gudele Payam. The residents also take part in the patrolling of their neighbourhoods and immediate reporting of any suspicious activities to the local law enforcement agencies. Such active community participation also prevents criminal activities, as well as creates a feeling of shared responsibility among the locals. One of the interviewees pointed out, our safety committee periodically meets to review the emerging security threats and liaise with police authorities. Such cooperation has helped us to deal with the problems quickly and avoid any possible escalations."

Personal safety has been enhanced by residents in the form of installation of security cameras, strengthening doors and windows and avoidance of dark places at night. Such personal undertakings coupled with the community based initiatives help in having a holistic

approach towards reducing insecurity. Nevertheless, issues like lack of resources and uneven police responsiveness still remain the hindrances to proper security. Going into the future, there is a need to emphasize the development of community-based initiatives, enhance the law enforcement capacity, and establish strong relations between the residents and local government. The strategies play a very important role in ensuring that insecurity is dealt with sustainably and that a safe environment is sustained within Gudele Payam.

Inhabitants of Gudele Payam have come up with different coping strategies in order to cope with the escalated insecurity levels. These are self-organization in the community, the change in the daily routine, informal security, and psychological resilience. Community self-organization is one of the major coping mechanisms. Informal neighbourhood watches and community patrols have been created by residents to observe and react to security threats. This kind of communal law enforcement plays a vital role in localities where the official law enforcement is weak. The success of community self-organization is in line with the social capital theory that focuses on the importance of community networks and collective action in the promotion of social order and security. In a research conducted by Putnam (2000), it is noted that robust community ties and trust between residents can offset poor formal institutions. But the effective and sustainable nature of such efforts is influenced by the cohesion of a community, and the availability of resources.

The civilians have also changed their daily activities in order to reduce the exposure to the possible risks. This involves shunning some regions at certain times of the day particularly at night and exercising caution when on the road. These behavioural changes are not uncommon when one is in high risk areas and this is in line with the routine activity theory study done by Felson and Boba (2010) which indicates that people make changes in their routines to ensure that they are not likely to be victimized. Although the change in daily activities may be a suitable short-term coping strategy, it is usually associated with the loss of quality of life and restricted mobility. The permanent use of such measures may result in the increase of anxiety and stress levels among residents, which is why the use of more sustainable security solutions has to be considered.

The other coping mechanism is the use of informal security arrangements, which involves hiring of private guards or making an agreement with local vigilante groups. These set ups offer a second security line particularly in regions where there is little police representation. Employment of informal security systems is an indication of distrust on formal law enforcement organizations. Research by Meagher (2012) on informal security in African cities indicates that although such a system can bring with it short-term security

gains, it can also lead to a loss of authority and a lack of legitimacy of formal institutions. In addition, it is prone to abuse and exploitation by vigilante groups and hence it may worsen insecurity.

Residents are also psychologically resilient and are able to deal with stress and trauma of living in a high risk setting. This encompasses building the mental strength, using social support systems, and participating in community activities that create a sense of normality and solidarity. Mental health and well-being is essential to deal with constant threats and this is possible when there is psychological resilience. Resilience in the face of trauma Bonanno (2004) conducted a study that indicated the role of social support and community participation in creating resilience. The resilience however may be destroyed by the constant exposure to insecurity and therefore the root causes of insecurity should be tackled.

There should be reinforcement of community-based security initiatives like neighbourhood watch programs and community policing. This involves equipping and training the community members to increase their ability to prevent and deal with security threats. Community based security programs need to be institutionalized and incorporated into the general security structure by the local authorities. Research on community-based resource management by Ostrom (1990) indicates that greater effectiveness and sustainability of community initiatives may be achieved by formal recognition and support. Moreover, the coordination and trust between community groups and law enforcement agencies can be enhanced by the creation of effective communication lines.

Insecurity must be solved by improving the performance and presence of the police force. This is associated with additional police officers, adequate training and equipping and corruption and misconduct. The government should invest in capacity building interventions within the police force which should be on community policing, human rights and anti-corruption. A research carried out by Durlauf and Nagin (2011) on the theory of deterrence shows that visible and effective law enforcement is required to reduce the levels of insecurity. Furthermore, collaboration and performance can also be enhanced by trust-building programs between the police and the community, such as regular community meetings and feedback systems.

The socio-economic aspect is the cause of insecurity and this will have to be addressed in the long-term to ensure stability. This will entail the establishment of jobs, increase in access to education and health and reduction of economic inequality. The development programs should be founded on the requirements of Gudele Payam and they should involve the local stakeholders in the development process. Based on the research

conducted by Blattman and Annan (2016) on post-conflict economic programs, the targeted interventions can be used to reduce insecurity and enhance social cohesion. In addition, alternative livelihoods and reduction of reliance on informal security can be provided through entrepreneurship and small business development programs.

The well-being of residents is a factor of mental health and resilience. This includes providing mental health services, creating safe community places, and promoting activities that promote social help and solidarity. The non-governmental organizations and the government should collaborate in the direction of the delivery of mental health support programs like the counselling services and community-based mental health programs. A study by Bonanno (2004) on resilience shows that it is possible to employ such programs to help individuals cope with the psychological impacts of insecurity and trauma. In addition, it is possible to promote community events, such as cultural events and sports, which can strengthen the social bond and enhance resilience. The findings of the research are in line with the concept of collective efficacy, which is a common belief in the community that it can achieve common goals and social control (Sampson et al., 1997). In Gudele Payam, the self-organization efforts of the community have collective efficacy, but it is constrained by lack of support and resources.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the key findings of this study on the factors that have led to the development of insecurity in Gudele Payam, the conclusions and recommendations of the study based on the findings. In this chapter, the research findings are summarized into practical conclusions and recommendations are given on how to improve security and safety in Gudele Payam. It begins with a summary of conclusions based on research objectives. The chapter concludes with policy-relevant recommendations to policy-makers, community leaders, and security agencies to deal with the identified security problems and suggests future research directions to further discuss the dynamics of insecurity in such contexts.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The research aimed at investigating the causes that have contributed to the increase in insecurity in Gudele Payam located in Juba, South Sudan. It was especially focused on the role of socio-economic factors, unemployment among youth, the presence of illegal weapons, and the contribution of community policing to the development of the security situation in the region.

The results indicated that the key causes of insecurity in Gudele Payam are high unemployment rates among the youth, absence of educational and economic opportunities, and the spread of small arms among civilians. Many participants mentioned the absence of structured jobs among the youth as one of the key factors that lead to the involvement in criminal activities. In addition, the research also indicated that proliferation of illegal firearms in the society has also led to violence which has assumed the shape of armed robbery, assault and deadly confrontations. The paper also noted that the porous borders and the poor implementation strategies are key factors that enable entry of these weapons.

The findings on the community policing show that although the community members are involved in enhancing security, the strategies are not effectively used and utilized. This has not been effective because there is no trust between the residents and the security agencies, lack of resources and poor coordination. In addition, socio-economic inequalities, particularly poverty and lack of access to basic amenities are mentioned as the root causes of insecurity. This condition causes frustration and despair among the youths who may turn to crime as a survival strategy.

The research paper believes that the issue of insecurity in Gudele Payam is complex and much intertwined with economic, social, and institutional issues. These issues need a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach involving government officials, community leaders, law enforcement, and civil society organizations.

5.3 Conclusions

The conclusions section provides the key conclusions of the research findings, depending on the particular research questions or objectives of the research. This section combines the knowledge of the findings with the available literature to give a complete picture of the security dynamics in Gudele Payam.

5.3.1 Empirical Conclusions

The study found that insecurity in Gudele Payam manifests in multiple forms, with the most prevalent being theft (60%), armed robbery (45%), assault (30%), and domestic violence (20%). These incidents have been rising over the past three years, with 70% of respondents confirming a perceived increase in insecurity. High-crime areas were identified as Gudele Market, the Bus Park, and the riverine outskirts, all of which lack basic security infrastructure such as lighting, surveillance, and consistent police patrols. This suggests that insecurity is both frequent and spatially concentrated, requiring place-based interventions.

The study concluded that economic deprivation is a major catalyst of insecurity in Gudele Payam. Respondents overwhelmingly cited unemployment (72%) and poverty (68%) as key drivers. The proliferation of informal markets (reported by 61%) also plays a role by creating loosely regulated economic zones where illegal activities such as drug trade and stolen goods markets flourish. These economic hardships, particularly among youth and internally displaced persons, push vulnerable individuals toward criminal behaviour as a coping mechanism, underscoring the direct link between economic exclusion and rising insecurity.

The research revealed that socio-cultural fragmentation significantly contributes to the rise in insecurity. The breakdown of traditional norms and communal accountability (59%), the influx of migrants and non-native groups (53%), and weak community cohesion (47%) has eroded traditional conflict resolution and social control structures. Many residents indicated that ethnic divisions and lack of trust among neighbours have created an environment where crimes often go unreported and unpunished. The weakening of communal

values and the absence of effective leadership at the local level have further aggravated social tensions, making communities more susceptible to crime.

The study concluded that coping strategies employed by residents are largely informal and often inadequate. Vigilante groups (41%) and religious/traditional leaders (32%) have taken on security roles in the absence of reliable police presence. However, 27% of respondents admitted feeling helpless, with no coping mechanism available to them. This points to a gap in institutional response and a lack of trust in formal security forces. The limited reach of government-led initiatives and the absence of community-police partnerships exacerbate the community's vulnerability to crime. These findings underline the need for enhanced local security capacity and support mechanisms that empower residents to participate in safeguarding their neighbourhoods.

5.3.2 Theoretical Conclusions

The findings on the socio-cultural factors are consistent with the conflict theory which suggests that social inequalities and power struggles between different groups can lead to conflict and insecurity (Dahrendorf, 1959). In Gudele Payam, the ethnicity and resource rivalry has created a mistrustful and hostile environment that has caused further insecurity. The study also resonates with the cultural theory of insecurity because it states that cultural beliefs and practices can influence criminal behaviour (Wolfgang & Ferracuti, 1967). The findings of the research on the character and occurrence of insecurity incidences are in line with the routine activity theory which states that insecurity is bound to happen when a motivated offender, a target of opportunity, and the lack of a capable guardian converge in time and space (Cohen & Felson, 1979). This theory emphasizes the need to improve guardianship through the presence of police and community vigilance in hotspots as determined in the study.

5.4 Recommendations

The recommendations section provides actionable suggestions for improving security in Gudele Payam based on the research findings. It also highlights areas for further research to address limitations and gaps identified in the current study.

5.4.1 Recommendations for Improvement

The following measures address insecurity in Gudele Payam, aligned with the study's objectives of identifying insecurity types and incidences, determining economic and socio-cultural factors, and assessing coping mechanisms:

- i. Deploy police patrols in high-crime zones like Gudele One to curb theft and robbery.
- ii. Launch youth employment programs to reduce economic drivers of insecurity.
- iii. Install street lighting in dark areas to prevent night-time crimes.
- iv. Train community watch groups to strengthen local coping efforts.

5.4.2 Areas for Further Studies

Given the study's scope and limitations, further investigation is proposed in the following focused areas:

- i. Conduct a comparative analysis of insecurity trends across Juba County payams to identify shared factors.
- ii. Examine the impact of ethnic diversity on insecurity in Gudele Payam through targeted case studies.

These specific inquiries aim to clarify regional insecurity patterns and cultural influences, enhancing the precision of future interventions.

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Appendix I: Structured Questionnaire

MASTERS THESIS RESEARCH INTERVIEW SCHEDULE ON FACTORS INFLUENCING THE RISE IN INSECURITY IN GUDELE PAYAM IN JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

My name is John Manut Wol and I am currently studying for master in security management at the Department of Peace, Security and Social Studies, Egerton University.

I am concluding research assessing the **factors influencing the rise in insecurity in Gudele Payam in Juba**. The questionnaire consists of (28) questions and took no longer than 20 minutes to complete. All responses were kept anonymous and no one was Identifiable in the research.

Please tick the box provided to show your consent to be part of the research

1. Age.....
2. Gender of the respondents?
Male [] Female []
3. Indicate your highest level of education
Primary [] Secondary [] Post graduate [] Undergraduate []
No education []
4. Marital Status?
Single [] Married [] Separated [] Divorced []
5. What time of day do you feel most vulnerable to insecurity in Gudele Payam?
Early Morning [] Midday [] Evening [] Night []
6. Specify the days of the week that insecurity often occur
Monday [] Tuesday [] Wednesday [] Thursday [] Friday
Saturday [] Sunday []

7. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very safe" and 5 being "Very Unsafe," how would you rate the overall safety and security in Gudele Payam?

1 Very safe | 2 Safe | 3 Neutral | 4 Unsafe | 5 Very Unsafe

8. Have you personally witnessed or been a victim of any incidence of insecurity in Gudele Payam?

Yes No

PART B: TYPES AND INCIDENCES OF INSECURITY

9. List insecurities that that people experience in your neighbourhood?

10. Indicate the insecurities that you or a member of your family has experienced

11. Indicate/name three places where insecurity is highest

.....

.....

Why is insecurity high in these areas.....

12. In this section, we seek your response to identify the types and map out incidences of insecurity in Gudele Payam, Juba County. On a scale of 1-5, kindly indicate your level of agreement to each of the following statements, where 5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neutral, 2- disagree, 1=strongly disagree.

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
I am familiar with the specific types of insecurity, such as theft, violence, or vandalism, prevalent in Gudele Payam.					
I can easily identify areas within Gudele Payam where instances of insecurity are more frequently reported or observed.					

The community actively engages in reporting incidences of insecurity to local authorities					
I feel well-informed about the current security situation in Gudele Payam, including recent incidents and trends in different types of insecurity.					
The existing documentation and mapping of insecurity incidents in Gudele Payam are comprehensive and facilitate a clear understanding of the security landscape.					
Local authorities demonstrate a thorough understanding of the specific types of insecurity affecting Gudele Payam, enabling effective response and preventive measures.					

13. List the insecurities that are common in your area that you are aware of and their locations

Insecurity	Location

14. Describe any specific incidents of insecurity that you are aware of in Gudele Payam?

15. In your opinion, are there any areas within Gudele Payam that are particularly vulnerable to certain types of insecurity? If so, please elaborate on the reasons for this vulnerability and any patterns you have observed.

16. How do you perceive the community's role in reporting and addressing incidences of insecurity in Gudele Payam?

PART C: ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING THE INCREASE IN INSECURITY

17. In this section, we seek your response on economic factors influencing the increase in insecurity in Gudele Payam, Juba County. On a scale of 1-5, kindly indicate your level of agreement to each of the following statements, where 5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neutral, 2- disagree, 1=strongly disagree.

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
Economic opportunities, such as job availability, play a significant role in the level of security in Gudele Payam.					
The current level of unemployment in Gudele Payam contributes to an increase in criminal activities and insecurity.					
Insufficient public security services, including law enforcement and insecurity prevention, negatively impact the economic stability of Gudele Payam, leading to heightened insecurity.					
Poverty is a key economic factor influencing the rise in insecurity in Gudele Payam, with vulnerable communities facing higher security risks.					
Adequate job opportunities and economic development initiatives can significantly contribute to reducing insecurity in Gudele Payam. The lack of investment in social and economic infrastructure in Gudele Payam contributes to increased levels of unemployment, poverty, and ultimately, insecurity.					

18. Can you share any personal experiences or observations regarding how economic opportunities, such as job availability or the lack thereof, have impacted the overall sense of security in Gudele Payam?

19. In your view, how does the current level of unemployment contribute to criminal activities and insecurity in Gudele Payam?

20. From your perspective, how do economic challenges, such as poverty intersect to create an environment conducive to insecurity in Gudele Payam?

PART D: SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS THAT PROMOTES THE INCREASE OF INSECURITY

21. In this section, we seek your response on socio-cultural factors that promote the increase of insecurity in Gudele Payam. , Juba County. On a scale of 1-5, kindly indicate your level of agreement to each of the following statements, where 5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neutral, 2- disagree, 1=strongly disagree.

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
Socio-cultural norms and values in Gudele Payam positively contribute to community safety and reduce the likelihood of insecurity.					
There is a strong correlation between the breakdown of traditional social structures and the increase in insecurity within Gudele Payam.					
Gender-based cultural practices and norms significantly influence the occurrence and perception of insecurity in Gudele Payam.					
The level of community cohesion and social trust plays a crucial role in either mitigating or exacerbating insecurity issues in Gudele Payam.					
Cultural attitudes towards law enforcement and justice systems impact the effectiveness of security measures in Gudele Payam.					

The promotion of community awareness and education about socio-cultural factors can contribute to reducing insecurity in Gudele Payam.					
--	--	--	--	--	--

22. Describe any specific socio-cultural norms or values within Gudele Payam that you believe contribute positively or negatively to the overall sense of security?

Positively: _____

Negatively: _____

23. How has the breakdown of traditional social structures led to increase in insecurity within Gudele Payam?

24. How do gender-based cultural practices and norms impact the occurrence and perception of insecurity in Gudele Payam?

PART E: COPING MECHANISMS OF RESIDENTS AMID INCREASED INSECURITY AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE STRATEGIES

25. In this section, we seek your response to assess the coping mechanisms of residents amid increased insecurity and recommend appropriate strategies for reducing insecurity and improving safety in Gudele Payam, Juba County. On a scale of 1-5, kindly indicate your level of agreement to each of the following statements, where 5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neutral, 2- disagree, 1=strongly disagree.

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
Residents in Gudele Payam have effective coping mechanisms in place to deal with the challenges posed by increased insecurity.					
Community-led initiatives, such as neighbourhood watch programs or safety committees, play a significant role in enhancing security and safety in Gudele Payam.					

Adequate awareness and education campaigns on security issues have positively influenced residents' ability to cope with increased insecurity in Gudele Payam.					
The level of social support and cohesion among residents contributes to effective coping mechanisms and resilience in the face of insecurity challenges.					
Residents actively participate in suggesting and implementing strategies to improve safety and reduce insecurity in Gudele Payam.					
There is a need for additional external support, such as government interventions or NGO initiatives, to strengthen coping mechanisms and enhance safety in Gudele Payam.					

26. Can you describe any specific coping mechanisms or initiatives that you or your community has adopted in response to increased insecurity in Gudele Payam?

27. In your opinion, how has community-led involvement, such as neighbourhood watch programs or safety committees, contributed to enhancing security and safety within Gudele Payam?

28. Describe any other mechanisms that residents use to cope with insecurity in the area

The End

Appendix II: Key Informant Interview Guide

1. List and elaborate on the various types of insecurity prevalent in Gudele Payam?
2. In your experience, what are the common incidences of insecurity reported by residents in Gudele Payam?
3. Which areas of Gudele Payam experience insecurity most and why
4. Indicate economic factors that contribute to increase in insecurity and elaborate how the ways in which they promote insecurity
5. Inadequate public security services have been mentioned as a factor. Can you elaborate on how this inadequacy influences the security situation?
6. Can you discuss socio-cultural norms and values in Gudele Payam and their impact on community safety and insecurity?
7. How has the breakdown of traditional social structures influenced the increase in insecurity within Gudele Payam?
8. In your view, how do gender-based cultural practices and norms significantly influence the occurrence and perception of insecurity?
9. From your perspective, what coping mechanisms have you observed among residents in response to increased insecurity?
10. How do community-led initiatives, such as neighbourhood watch programs, contribute to enhancing security and safety in Gudele Payam?
11. In your opinion, what role do awareness and education campaigns on security issues play in residents' ability to cope with increased insecurity?
12. How effective do you think the current policing and security measures are in Gudele Payam?
13. Describe community-led initiatives or success stories in addressing insecurity that you would like to highlight?

Appendix III: Graduate School Letter of Clearance

EGERTON

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254-51-2217877
254-51-2217631
Dir. line/Fax: 254-51-2217847
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UNIVERSITY

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www.egerton.ac.ke

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, GRADUATE SCHOOL

AME21/19009/17

Ref:.....

7th June, 2024

Date:.....

The Directorate of Training and External Relations
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
JUBA

Dear Sir,

RE: MR. JOHN MANUT WOL REG. NO. AME21/19009/17

This is to introduce and confirm to you that the above named student is in the Department of Peace, Security & Social Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Egerton University.

He is a bona-fide registered M.A. student in this University. His research topic is **“Factor Influencing the Rise in Insecurity in Gudele Payam in Juba South Sudan.”**

He is at the stage of collecting field data. Please issue him with a research permit to enable him undertake the studies.

Your kind assistance to him will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. George M. Ogendi
DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES

GMO/mm

“Transforming Lives Through Quality Education”

Appendix IV: Research Permit

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
Ministry of Higher Education, Science & Technology
Directorate of Training & External Relations



No. RSS/MoHEST/DT&ER/DGO/J

Date: 30th /05/2024

To whom it may Concern

Subject: Recommendation Letter for Data Collection

This is to certify that **Mr. John Manut Wol** is a South Sudanese by Nationality and a Researcher (Scholar) Pursing his Degree of Master in Peace, Security and Social Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Egerton University in the Republic of Kenya.

Mr. John Manut Wol Research Topic is Factor Influencing the rise of Insecurity in Gudele Areas Juba Municipal Council Central Equatoria State, Republic of South Sudan

Hence, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology will highly appreciate any assistance rendered to him to accomplish his research mission of data collection.

Accept our highest regard appreciations.


Assist. Prof. Thuch Lam Liem

Director General of Training and External Relations
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology

South Sudan, Juba

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CC: File