AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS LEADING TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

BY

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DECLARATION.

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

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DEDICATION.

This work is dedicated to my husband Patrick Omondi and my children Ken, Collins and Lynnet, for their love, support and understanding throughout the study. Also to my parents Stephen Otunge and Alice Adhiambo for their unfailing love, guidance and upbringing.
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ABBREVIATIONS.

F : Frequency.
ABSTRACT

The major purpose of this study was to investigate the socio-economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency in Nairobi, Kenya. The study was also aimed at finding out the measures that can be taken to intervene and measures that can be taken to curb the delinquency problem.

A cross-sectional survey design was used in the study. The study subjects consisted of 120 juveniles aged between 7 to 18 years drawn from the rehabilitation centers and institutions such as Getathuru, Nairobi Children’s Remand Home and Dagoretti Girls Rehabilitation Centre. Also included were 12 social workers and 3 managers from the selected rehabilitation centres. Stratified random sampling procedure was used to derive the sample. Data were collected for a period of one month using interviews and questionnaires consisting of both open and closed ended questions. Observation of the street children, children at the rehabilitation centres and admission records was used. Data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) after which descriptive statistics were presented in tables of frequency distributions and percentages.

The results indicated that Juvenile delinquency is brought about by a number of interacting variables being led by the family socio-economic status. The leading variable in the family background is the issue of broken home after which children are mostly left under the care of their poor single mothers, grandparents and other relatives who can neither adequately cater for them nor supervise and properly guide them. Other family factors such as teenage parenthood, large family size, parenting skills, parental education and maltreatment of
children equally play an important role. It was discovered that family factors such as sibling conflict and contagion effect do not have a lot of influence on juveniles’ delinquent behaviours. Other variables to be having influence were the school, peer group, neighborhoods and mass media.

The results from the study also indicate the importance of economic factors such as poverty and unemployment, which have caused financial hardship to the families concerned. This situation has led to lack of the basic needs forcing some delinquents to resort to delinquent crimes such as theft to try and obtain what they need. Prevention and treatment lie a lot with poverty eradication, creation of employment and counselling services.
CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is a worldwide phenomenon. The word delinquency is derived from the Latin word delinquere meaning "neglect" and may be interpreted in broad terms as neglect on the part of juveniles to conform to the accepted standards of behaviour in a given society (Paw, 1963). Every year thousands of juveniles (people under 18 years) are arrested for serious violent crimes (Wachira, 2000). Adults and the society at large have always been concerned about the unbecoming behavior of the youth. Perhaps this concern derives from the perception that a nation’s future rests on the development of its youth. The concern over the juvenile deviance also stems from the thought that today’s delinquent is tomorrow’s criminal if nothing is done to change the antisocial behaviour of the youth (Shoemaker, 1984). In Kenya, delinquency is reaching epidemic proportions judging from the many reports in our daily newspapers and the increasing number of street children who have continued to display a variety of antisocial behaviours.

1.1 Background to the Study

Legally, delinquent behaviour refers to any act by a minor for which he or she would be apprehended for violating the law. These acts may range from stealing and destructiveness, to sexual promiscuity and drug abuse. In psychology, delinquent behaviour includes not only legal but also lesser violations of ethics involving in the use of threats, aggression and lack of compliance to authority (Donovan and Jesser, 1984).
In America, juvenile delinquency is described as a behaviour committed by a minor child that violates a state's penal code. Some states describe it as a behaviour which people of a state believe to be a threat to public safety or hindrance to the best development of the child, and whose prohibition they have incorporated into law (Regoli and Hewitt, 2000).

In Kenya, a juvenile delinquent is "a child between the statutory juvenile court of age seven to sixteen years who commits an act which, when committed by persons beyond this statutory juvenile court age, would be punishable as a crime, or as an act injurious to other individuals or the public, that is the state or the government" (Muga, 1970).

The age limit of the children is defined differently by different societies or countries. In Kenya, a person is considered an adult when he is 18 years old and above.

The society has for a long time acted as a medium through which the socialization process takes place mainly through the family, church, school and neighborhood. Delinquency results when there is a relative absence of internalized norms and rules governing behaviour in conformity with the norms of the social system to which legal penalties are attached; a breakdown in previously established controls and or a relative absence of or conflict in social rules or techniques for enforcing such behaviour in the social groups or institutions of which the person is a member (Elliott, 1985).

Despite the social functions of the family, school church and neighborhood juvenile delinquency has been on the increase in Kenya. The burnings, killings and general violence in our schools and the society in general can testify to this (East African Standard, May 25th 1999, page 1; Daily Nation July 19th, 1999, page 3). In the major urban centres in Kenya, the
problem of street children and or street families is taking a centre stage while engaging in
delinquent acts such as theft, muggings, drug abuse and illicit sexual behaviours.

In order to put incidences of delinquent acts among young offenders in Kenya in proper
perspective, the experiences in other countries of the world will be briefly looked into. All
these countries are from different continents and this helps to show a global perspective of
juvenile delinquency. In the United States, research indicates that juvenile crime has been on
the increase. Regoli (2000) asserts that by the early 1800s, juvenile street gangsterys had
become an unwanted feature in many large cities. The habits of hanging out on street
corners, verbally abusing pedestrians and pelting citizens with rocks and snowballs were
among the least threatening behaviours. More serious crimes were acts of violent gangs of
juvenile robbers who targeted lonely pedestrians, police officers, younger adolescents and
competing ethnic populations.

The American society has continued to report even more serious juvenile crimes involving
the use of dangerous weapons such as guns, with cases of juveniles mercilessly shooting their
schoolmates, teachers and parents being on the rise. The use of hard drugs such as heroine,
cocaine and others is also on the increase in America’s inner cities with the formation of
"crack" cocaine gangs. Cases of teenage suicide are on the increase with numerous studies
outlining social, parental, and psychological factors as the underlying causes (FBI 1999).

*Daily Nation* May 17 2004 made a report of two teenagers aged 13 and 14 years who
organized and kidnapped a school bus carrying 14 year-old whose uncle was to receive
$74,000 so as to ask for the ransom. All these show the complexity of juvenile crime in
America. Lundman (1993), quoting the words of print journalist Peter Hamill written in the
1980s had this to say;
“The young mutants continue their grisly parade down the avenues of America. I have seen them in police stations. They stand accused of atrocities—the murder of old people, the destruction of children, but their faces are bland and their responses devoid of remorse. ... On the surface they appear as ordinary young people. Then you look at their eyes and you know why they are warmly with death”.

Europe too is grappling with juvenile delinquency. In Britain, juvenile delinquent acts are displayed in juvenile disrespect for authority, drug abuse and has the distinction of highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe (Hollander, 1990). Changes in society have been blamed for juvenile delinquency such as industrialization and urbanization.

The Asian continent is also experiencing incidences of delinquent acts. Daily Nation June 2 2004 carried out a story of an eleven-year old girl in Japan who slashed a female classmate to death with razor-knife. It added that while violent crimes of murder, assault and robbery, are still rare in Japan, juvenile delinquency is on the rise according to police statistics.

Closer to home, South Africa is dealing with the legacy of the Bantu education system, which was not only poorly funded, but also inferior compared to the white education system. This often led to students’ protests, strikes and destruction of property. Such undesirable behaviours continue to impact negatively in the South African society in form of premarital sex, prostitution, murders, car jacking, theft and rape among others. Young offenders have become a common phenomenon in South Africa (The Courier No. 177 October to November 1999, P17).
1.2 Statement of the Problem

Juvenile delinquency is a global problem. In America, a lot of research has been done on the subject, especially on the origin and appropriate treatment (West, 1982). Considering the alarming rate of children engaging in delinquent acts in Kenya, there is need to examine the question of delinquency in the Kenyan context. The problem of this study was therefore to find out socio-economic factors that could be leading to the increase in delinquent acts among children in Kenya while concentrating in Nairobi area.

Children constitute over 50% of Kenya’s population and the government invests a lot in their future by offering free primary education, subsidizing education in secondary schools and carrying out other programmes like rehabilitation that are meant to help them become responsible and productive members of society. However, delinquent acts among young people are on the increase and for instance, there are numerous acts of unrest and physical violence in schools reported countrywide, leading to destruction of property, maiming and even murder (East African Standard, May 25th 1999); the increasing number of children involved in theft cases that include a wide range of items ranging from farm produce, money, electronic equipment and even motor vehicle spare parts (The Standard, December 14, 1995); the increase in the abuse of all kinds of drugs, such as alcohol, tobacco, bhang, heroine, cocaine and glue mainly for those living in the streets; and involvement into more serious criminal activities such as robberies, rape, burglary, arson and murder (Daily Nation, May 13, 2004).

The current increase in juvenile delinquent acts prompted this study in order to find out the socio-economic factors that could be leading to this increase and measures that can be taken to treat and prevent delinquent cases among children. Whereas a lot of research on juvenile
delinquency has been done in countries such as America, little information is available in Kenya concerning juvenile delinquency. The study concentrated on key aspects within the socio-economic circles namely the family, school, peers, neighbourhood and community, mass media, unemployment and urbanization.

1.3 Objectives of the Study
The face of delinquency has acquired a very drastic change thus posing a big threat to the very fabric that binds society. The study sought to:

1. identify the social factors that could be responsible for the increase in delinquent acts in Kenya;
2. identify the economic factors which have influenced the rise in delinquent behaviour amongst the juveniles;
3. to investigate the nature of juvenile delinquency in Kenya while bearing in mind that juvenile acts vary all over the world, and
4. to make necessary recommendations to the relevant authorities dealing with children.

1.4 Research Questions
The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the possible social factors responsible for the increase in juvenile delinquent behaviour?
2. Which economic factors have influenced the rise in delinquent behaviour among the juveniles?
3. What type of delinquent acts do the young people engage in?
4. What measures can be taken to intervene or prevent young people from committing crime?
1.5 Significance of the Study

This study will help to provide background information to the policy makers, which will guide them in formulating and implementing policies concerning juvenile delinquency by shedding some light on the role of the family in enhancing juvenile delinquency, the findings of the study will act as a pointer towards intensifying efforts in the families where the problem stems from. The study will also help to highlight the nature and prevalence of delinquent acts among the youth in our society. The society in general may also come to a clear understanding that delinquency is an epidemic that if left unattended, will strip the youth of any sense of responsibility.

With its concentration on the social and economic changes in our society that have led to the rise in delinquent acts, the study will be of help, especially to the counsellors and school authorities who will be able to explain to the juveniles the possible areas which can cause a lot of stress in their lives and therefore gradually help in making them responsible citizens.

To the Government ministry in whose docket juvenile delinquency falls, the findings of the study will provide a variety of prevention and treatment measures that can be used to deal with juvenile delinquency.

1.6 Assumptions of the Study

The study was based on the following assumptions:-

1. A multitude of factors exist that contribute to the understanding of what leads someone to engage in delinquent behaviour, however, perhaps social and economic factors can best explain juvenile delinquency

2. The subjects would be willing and honest in talking about their delinquent acts.
3. That the samples from the selected child institutions would be representative of the total population in Nairobi.

4. The subjects from the rehabilitation institution have been involved in delinquent behaviour at some time in their lives.

5. That the rehabilitation schools and other child institutions frequently deal with child offenders and are therefore useful as respondents.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

Due to practical constraints such as limited time and finances, the research was only conducted in selected child institutions in Nairobi. The findings of the study may not truly reflect the reality of other urban centres in Kenya since Nairobi as the largest urban center has a wide diversity of people, culture and other influences like urbanization. The study was limited to finding out the social and economic factors that could be leading to the increase in juvenile delinquency while concentrating on the family, school, peers, mass media neighbourhood, poverty employment and urbanisation. Other factors like biological and inheritance were not considered. Further only children who are already in the rehabilitation centers and schools were considered without considering those within the families and normal schools and are still committing delinquent acts.

The study was concentrated mainly on the juveniles and staff of rehabilitation schools, without looking at the views of the parents since locating the parents of the affected children was not possible. Other social contexts in which delinquents are found such as the home, normal schools, the Church, youth organizations etc would have been sources of additional
data on delinquents in a more exhaustive study. Due to time frame and inadequate funds, my
wish to undertake a study of that magnitude was crippled.

1.8 Definition of the Operational Terms

(a) **Delinquent behaviour** – misconduct or misbehavior which is legally punishable or
disapproved by the society.

(b) **Juvenile delinquent** - a child who has engaged in misconduct or misbehavior which
is legally punishable or is considered by the society as a deviant behaviour.

(c) **Broken home** - refers to a family where one of the parents is not present in the
home on a permanent basis due to death, divorce or separation.

(d) **Stable family** - a family where both the parents are present on a permanent basis.

(e) **Crime** - any act of that at the time of its commission is forbidden and
punishable by the laws of the social group to which the culprit
or fellow belongs.

(f) **Delinquent gang** - a group associating the youth with identifiable leaders,
organization, and territory, where lifestyle includes a
propensity to engage in collective illegal conduct.
(g) **Truancy** - skipping school or missing school without the knowledge or consent of the parents or guardians.

(h) **Predelinquency** - an early, preliminary stage of personality development that precedes full development of the delinquent personality and identity.
CHAPTER TWO
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of some of the literature related to the study. The first section deals with the theoretical framework on which the study was based. The other sections deal with the review of research studies on socio-economic factors and delinquent behaviour.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

A multitude of factors exist that contribute to the understanding of what leads someone to engage in delinquent behaviour. The social-economic causes of juvenile delinquency encompass a wide array of theories that have been set forth to bring understanding into delinquent behaviour. It is therefore important to survey some of the theories that attempt to explain the causes of delinquent behavior.

2.1.1 Social Control Theory

- According to this theory, delinquency stems from defective social control system. This leads to inadequate socialization, which produces negative social experiences that result in low self-esteem and delinquency (Regoli and Hewitt, 2000). Control theory evolves towards the social bond and self-control as an explanation to delinquency.

According to Hirschi (1969), delinquency is something that all adolescents participate in unless obstacles are thrown in their path by a disapproving society through social bonds. This societal bond develops from attachment to other people, commitment to an organized society,
involvement in conventioneer activities and belief in common value system. The theory therefore encompasses the relationship between delinquency and family, school, religious and peer variables.

Children attached to their parents are less likely to be delinquent because their positive feelings promote acceptance of parental clues and beliefs. These children avoid delinquency because such behaviour would jeopardize that affection. Regoli (2000) puts it that, children who are strongly attached to their parents are less likely to commit delinquency because they have too much to lose. The same also applies to peers in conventional activities, which are rewarding. This has been viewed as a means of involvement in delinquency as early as Biblical times when sage counselled, “idle minds are a devil’s workshop. With regard to school attachment, Hirschi (1969), thinks that attitudes towards schooling and teachers are the important intervening variable in the relationship between IQ and delinquency. The youth with high IQ generally receive better grades than do other students. Getting better grades makes school a more enjoyable experience, so the youth with better grades like school more than their less successful peers do. Children who like school more easily accept school rules and authority and are less likely to commit delinquency. Self-control also determines whether people will become criminals. Goltfriedson and Hirschi (1990), argued that low self-control does not automatically lead to crime but to offences such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse and illicit sex. The origin of low self-control is faulty socialization, especially ineffective child-rearing. Socialization during early childhood is most important as it has the greatest long-term impact on the development of self-control. Parents who are attached to their children and supervise them closely recognize when their children are exhibiting a lack of self-control and punish deviant acts, will promote self-control in their children. Control theory therefore focuses on the socialization process; specifically on the extent to which norms have been
internalized, providing weak or strong internal controls; the degree of integration or bonding to conventional groups; and activities that determine the strength of external controls on behaviour. The central theme of the control theory is that the more satisfying the parent child relationship, the less likely the child will deviate.

2:1:2 Social Learning Theory (Albert Bandura)

Social learning theory explains delinquency as a behaviour learnt through the complex process of socialization. The social learning theory tells us that behaviour is reflective of people observing and imitating others and imagining the consequences of their own behavior. People learn criminal behavior by associating with others and imitating their behaviors (Regoli & Hewitt, 2000).

Juvenile delinquency is therefore viewed as another pattern of learned behaviour that some juveniles are taught through social interaction with the family, peer group, school and other major agents of socialization.

Albert Bandura (1977), believes that juveniles learn their behaviours from others with whom they interact in their social environment. Delinquent behaviour may be learned from direct, face-to-face interaction or through observation of others in person or symbolically in literature, films, television programmes and music. Children learn their behaviors both positive and negative, through imitating behaviours they observe in others. Deviant behaviour is learned and acted out in response to rewards and reinforcements that are available in the individuals’ environment (Bynum & Thompson 1992). Deviant behavior is
therefore learned and performed through interaction with individuals and groups who have
the power to bestow gratification, social status and other commensurable rewards.

The major agents of socialization namely the family, peers, school and society as I had
mentioned have a lot of influence on deviant behaviour. The family influences children’s
behaviour as the first agent of socialization, the family is critical in collating desirable social
behaviour among its members especially children (Banks, 1976). For instance, where
physical violence is routinely used as a means of enforcing discipline, children are more
likely to use physical violence when faced with similar circumstances (Datta, 1984). The
home is a place where violence is often experienced for the first time in life and where
violent and non-violent behaviour is learned. The family therefore determines attitudes
towards violence by transferring values about the legitimacy of violence as a way of conflict
solution or reaching individual goals. Young people can learn violent behaviours from their
parents through imitating role models; their behaviour is suppressed or reinforced through
punishment and rewards. Therefore, young people growing up in a family with numerous
undesirable social behaviours will most likely exhibit similar behaviours.

The school also acts as a socializing agent to young people. However, schools and other
educational institutions can increase the probability of delinquent behaviour among pupils
inside and outside their institutions. Susanne(2001), puts it nicely when she notes that in
many communities, pupils experience different forms of violence at school. Violence against
things (vandalism), damaged buildings and furniture. Frequency and forms of interpersonal
violence may vary depending on age and socio-economic status. Bullying, both
psychological and physical, may be some of the avenues through which the school system
breeds potential delinquents. The influence of peer and reference groups clearly identifies the
sources of delinquent behaviour as social in nature (Bynum & Thompson, 1992).

Going beyond scientific studies, the basic postulates of the social learning theories also
appear to many “common sense” assumptions about human behaviour. The old axiom that
“birds of a feather flock together” implies that individuals’ behavior is greatly influenced by
those with whom they associate and identify with. According to Sutherland (1961) in his
study of drug and alcohol use among adolescents, primary group associations and favourable
attitudinal definitions have emerged as the key causal factors.

2:1:3 Social Disorganization Theory
The theory blames delinquency on rapid social change, which weakens community and
neighbourhood controls on children. The result is neighbourhoods characterized by high rates
of crime in which delinquent traditions flourished. Delinquency is thought to stem from a
child’s contact with a set of values supportive of criminality (Regoli & Hewitt, 2000).

According to Shaw and Mac Kay (1969), delinquents are normal adolescents who are
conforming to an alternative set of values. Therefore, low delinquency areas are
characterized by uniformity and consistency of conventional attitudes and values. High
delinquency areas are characterized by social disorganization. In high delinquency areas,
there are competing and conflicting attitudes and values. There are more adult criminals in
these areas, so there is greater likelihood that children will come into contact with a criminal
way of life. Successful criminals pass on their knowledge to juveniles who in turn teach
children who are still younger. A tradition of delinquency is thus transmitted through
successive generations through the process called cultural transmission. Sutherland’s (1971)
idea of social disorganization is that behavior is learned from interactions with others through a process of communicating with intimate groups. Children learn techniques, motivations and attitudes along with definitions favourable to the legal code. Children become delinquent because of an excess of definitions (attitudes) favouring violation of law. The socialization of neighbourhood will influence the kinds of associations a person has. Delinquency is therefore a consequence of social disorganization.

Shoemaker (1984), in his contribution to social disorganization views, delinquency as primarily the result of a breakdown of institutional and community-based controls. The individuals who live in such situations are not necessarily themselves personally disoriented; instead, they are viewed as responding "naturally" to disorganized environmental conditions. The disorganization of community-based institutions is often caused by rapid industrialization, urbanization and immigration processes, which occur primarily in urban areas.

A further concept in the social disorganization theory is highlighted by Regoli and Hewitt, (2000) that juvenile delinquency stems from female-based household, with focal concerns and sex role problems. It contends that juvenile delinquency is characterized by female-headed households where the women go through a series of husbands and lovers. This family structure alienates boys leading them to join all male peer groups. In all these male peer groups, the lower class culture is created and transmitted which revolves around six focal concerns namely trouble, toughness, smartness, excitement, fate and autonomy. Status in the group is achieved and maintained by demonstrating possession of focal concerns. The gang activities in pursuit of lower class focal concerns lead to delinquency.
Social Strain Theory

The social strain theory argues that children are inherently good people who participate in delinquency only when they are confronted by extreme pressure or stress. According to Hewitt and Regoli, (2000), confronted with a new traumatic or frustrating social situation, some people respond in a defiant and perhaps criminal manner.

Bynum and Thompson, (1992) share the same idea that retreatists respond differently, they reject both cultural goals and approved ways of achieving them. They are in a society but not for it. They become societal psychotics, pariahs, outcasts, vagrants, vagabonds, tramps, chronic drunkards and drug addicts. According to Shoemaker (1984), large numbers of people who find themselves at a disadvantage relative to legitimate economic activities are seen as being motivated to engage in illegitimate, delinquent activities. These individuals may be willing to work or otherwise be productive members of society but, because of the unavailability of employment or an opportunity to develop job skills, they turn to criminality or perhaps out of frustration with the prevailing situation or perhaps because of economic necessity.

Merton (1938), perceived social strain as a state of dissatisfaction arising from a sense of discrepancy between the aspirations of an individual and the means the person has available to realize these ambitions. Merton observed that Americans are exposed to powerful socialization processes that stress the success ethic.

Consequently, nearly everyone has internalized the culturally approved goal of “getting ahead,” that is making money, accumulating material possessions and achieving high social status based on money and occupation. We are encouraged to strive for them as society says
that we should attend school, work hard, save money, lead lives of virtue, thrift, patience and deferred gratification and intimately we hope to realize our dreams of material success. However, some people particularly among the disadvantaged lower classes unhappily realize that they will not be able to achieve those idealized goals through the legitimate means that society endorses. Under such circumstances, some persons will turn to illegitimate means to attain the culturally approved goals (Bynum & Thompson, 1992).

2:2 Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

2:2:1 Social Causes

The Family

The family is the most critical of the social institutions. The earliest and most important stages in child socialization occur within the family. The family is largely responsible for instilling in children important moral and religious values and understanding about right and wrong (Regoli and Hewitt, 2000). The family as a social institution has changed significantly during the 20th Century, and some of these changes have caused increased tension, anxiety and even violence within the family contributing in one way or another to delinquency. Some of these changes are discussed below:

Broken Homes

The term broken home refers to a family structure divided by divorce, separation or death of a spouse. Current research suggests that broken homes have contributed to delinquency (Gluek and Gluek, 1970; Bynum & Thomson 1992; and Regoli 2000). Since the family as a social institution usually serves as the primary agent of socialization, any disruption in the family institution is likely to have a negative impact upon the socialization process. Regoli and Hewitt (2000), put it that both the structural reality of single parenting as a consequence
of divorce and the very process of going through divorce produce adverse consequences for the children in the family.

According to Rutter (1971), the breaking up of a family by divorce or desertion is significantly more likely to have adverse effects on the children than is the breaking up occasioned by death of one of the parents. Children who have experienced multiple divorces are more likely to report higher levels of anxiety and depression. Sherman (1992), reiterated that added to the emotional stress occasioned by the loss of a parent is the stress caused by consequential loss of income and the deterioration in standards of childcare that may come about through a parent being unexpectedly left to cope alone. The consequences for the child are likely to be worse when the breakup occurs during the early years of greatest dependency. The emotional turmoil is likely to be long-lasting if the breakup is the result of conflict between parents and children. To sum it all, Cheline, (1991), asserted that much of the risk is likely to stem from chronic family adversities that precede, accompany and follow divorce. These changes do constitute a substantial risk indicator for delinquent behaviour. The stress produced may manifest itself in many ways, e.g. use of drugs, gang affiliation and involvement in violent crime.

Teenage Parenthood

According to Gelman (1990), nearly one million American teenagers become pregnant every year. Out of these pregnancies, 14 percent miscarry, 52 percent bear children and 72 percent out of wedlock. Of the ½ million teens who give birth, approximately 75% are first-time mothers. The same situation is quickly gaining roots in Kenya with more and more teenage girls becoming pregnant (East African Standard, April 14th 2004). According to Regoli and Hewitt (2000), teenage mothers are three-times more likely than other teenagers to drop out
of school, and they will earn less than unmarried mothers who did not have their first child until they were in their twenties. They are also likely to spend longer periods of time living in poverty. Studies carried out by Quinton & Rutter, (1988) and Quinton (1983) showed a high frequency of delinquent acts in girls with both teenage mothers and impulsive liaisons with antisocial men. These realities in turn are followed by a high rate of breakdown of the cohabital relationship together with parenting difficulties.

Children in poor, single parent families especially those headed by teenage mothers clearly face special difficulties. They are more likely to experience chronic psychological distress, to engage in health compromising behaviours (including drug and alcohol use, cigarette smoking and unprotected sex) to perform less well academically, to be expelled or suspended from school, to drop out of school, to suffer mental illness and commit suicide (Regoli & Hewitt (2000). Lack of adequate education means not being able to secure a well paying job.

Parenting Skills

Effective parenting depends on many things. The quality of parenting (as well as interactions within the family) changes as a child’s misbehaviour or delinquency increases over time. Often parents become angry and short-tempered with a child who consistently gets into trouble or disillusioned when they find that they cannot believe what the child tells them. Overtime, parent-child conflict may escalate, or the relationship between parents and child may become more distant and alienated. According to Loeber (1988), in circumstances when the child’s antisocial behaviour is directed against the parents, many parents are less able to exercise reasonable parental authority and may even abdicate parental responsibility altogether. The relationship between a parent and a child becomes more distant and alienated.
Snyder and Patterson (1987), identified two divergent disciplinary styles that characterized families with delinquent children; enmeshed and lax. Parents who practise the enmeshed style are overly indecisive in what they define as problematic behaviour. Even trivial misbehaviours by the child result in sharp parental reactions ranging from cajoling to verbal threats. However enmeshed parents fail to consistently and effectively back up these verbal reprimands with non-violent, non-physical punishment and inadvertently provide more positive consequences for deviant child behaviors. At the other extreme, parents who engage in the lax style tend to be very non inclusive in what they define as excessive or anti-social behavior. Children are in most cases left to do as they wish.

**Parental Supervision**

According to Patterson (1980), parenting needs effective parental supervision, such as establishing a set of "house rules" and clearly communicating them. House rules should cover whom the child associates with, places considered off limits, curfews and when the child should be home from school. Parents must be aware of the child's performance in school as well as school attendance, the possibility of drug or alcohol use, and the activities the child is involved in with friends. He concludes that good supervision indirectly minimizes the adolescents' contact with delinquency promoting circumstances, activities and peers. Sherman (1992), asserts that parents laxed in their supervision (for instance, allowing their children to roam the streets without a set time for return and without knowing where they were) are more likely to produce delinquents and likely to do so if they resided in areas of high delinquency rate. In addition, criminal parents have deviant standards of supervision, they have also deviant attitudes to authority that they communicate to their children. Haapasalo and Temblay (1994), examined aggressiveness in samples of more than 1000 boys in Montreal in an attempt to predict which boys would be "non-fighters". They concluded
that non-fighters appeared to be most supervised and that low levels of supervision were associated with high levels of fighting. While agreeing with them, Baines and Farrel (1992) studied a sample of 699 adolescents and their families and found that high parental support was a key factor in preventing delinquency.

**Parenting Styles**

Baumrind (1980), identified two critical aspects of parents’ behaviour towards children: parental responsiveness and parental demandingness. Responsiveness is the degree of which parents are supportive to the needs of children whereas demandingness is the extent to which parents demand age appropriate behaviour from their children. The parenting styles examined below are involved in the concept of delinquency in a number of ways according to Regoli & Hewitt (2000). Authoritarian parents place high value on obedience and conformity tending to favour more positive, absolute and forceful disciplinary measures. These parents are not responsive to their children and project little warmth and support. Verbal give and take is uncommon in authoritarian household because the authoritarian parents believe the child should accept without question the rules and standards established by parents. They tend not to encourage independent behaviour and instead, place importance on restricting a child’s autonomy. Harsh parenting style is damaging to a child’s self-esteem and prevents the process of socialization. Campbell (1996), in his study of “hard to manage” boys, showed that early punishment was associated with later conduct problems.

Indulgent parents behave in responsive accepting, benign and more passive ways in matters of discipline. They place relatively few demands on the child’s behaviour, giving the child a high degree of freedom to act as she or he wishes. Indulgent parents are more likely to believe that control is an infringement on the child’s freedom and may interfere with healthy
development. Instead of actively shaping their child's behavior, indulgent parents view themselves as resources they may or may not use. The high degree of freedom coupled with freedom to act as a child wishes makes children fail to develop self-control. This group of parents as Bynum & Thomson, (1992) observed, is that at times, in an attempt to get along with their children, they tolerate behavior that they know is wrong simply to avoid confrontation. Therefore, when parents fail to discipline their children, the burden is likely to shift to other social control agents such as school, police and the courts. Kandel and Wu (1995), in their study observed that aggressive behaviour by the child tended to make it more likely that mothers would emotionally withdraw, supervise less well, and parent more harshly.

Indifferent parents are fairly unresponsive and try to minimize the time and energy they must devote to interacting with the child or responding to the child's demands. In extreme cases, indifferent parents may be neglectful. They know little about their child's activities and whereabouts, show little interest in their child's experiences at school or in his or her friends and rarely consider the child's opinion when making decisions. Small (1995), found a strong association between lack of supervision and binge drinking by adolescents. Patterson (1982); Lazzelese & Patterson, (1990), conclude that indifferent parents fail to monitor (so that they do not know where their children are or what they are doing); their instructions are ambiguous and unclear; disciplining measures often result from their own moody state as much as from what the child has done, there is neglect of prosocial features; and their coercive style shows little responsibility to children's needs and feelings. The three examined parenting styles are therefore likely to create situations which predispose a child to delinquency.
Parental Attachment and Family Interaction

Another way parents influence behaviour of children is through emotional closeness. Presumably, children who like their parents will generally respect their wishes and stay out of trouble. Strongly attached children are more likely to have open communication with parents. Social control theorists contend that attachment to parents is a significant element of the “social bond” and is extremely important in insulating a child against delinquency (Bynum and Thomson, 1992). Hirschi (1969), indicated that children who had developed a strong social bond with their parents were more likely to feel the “psychological presence” of their family when out in the social world. He viewed “affectional identification, love and respect” as important delinquency inhibitors. Clark and Shields (1997) in their study of parental attachment and delinquency found that the youth who have problems communicating with either parents or who communicate less frequently are more likely to engage in serious forms of delinquency. Therefore, parental rejection is an important factor leading to delinquency (Simons, 1989).

Family interaction according to Bynum & Thomson (1992) include infinite possibilities and undoubtedly vary from family to family and within families, depending on which members are involved and what circumstances surround the given situation. Family violence has been shown to be even more consistently related to problematic youth. Strus.et.al (1980) indicated that violence ranging from spanking and shoving to shooting and stabbing has become a common element of social dynamics in an increasing number of American families. The situation is the same back here in Kenya judging from the many press reports like in Daily Nation 23rd Dec 1995 “11 year old turns gun on father”.

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Family violence does not only involve parents but also children abusing each other. Studies by Gil (1970); Steinmetz and Straus (1973) and Kratcoski (1982) have linked violence within the family (especially abuse by one or both parents) to juvenile misbehaviour and delinquency. The “violence begets violence theme” suggests that children who are socialized in a family environment in which violence is the norm are much more likely to present violent behaviour and to perceive violence as a viable solution to problems (Hammer and Turner, 1985). Besides the issue of physical violence, the overall relationship between parents and children appears relevant to understanding delinquency and its relationship to home environment. Abrahamsen (1960) pointed out that “homes rocked with a great deal of tension may produce a great deal of hostility and arguments which threatens family cohesiveness and could lead to delinquency”.

Aichorn, (1969), indicated that in homes where the youth are confronted with constant bickering and quarrelling, they often leave the home and take “refuge in the streets”. When juveniles take to the streets, their likelihood of involvement in delinquency is great.

**Maltreatment of Children/Child Abuse**

In more rigid and authoritarian families, when children violate the rules, they are punished often severely. In its more severe form, maltreatment includes physical and sexual abuse, physical neglect, lack of supervision, emotional maltreatment, educational maltreatment, moral and legal maltreatment. In response to such maltreatment, a child is likely to develop a sense of powerlessness and impotency, leading to negative and often harmful adaptations and delinquency. According to Fleisher (1995), parental brutality causes young children to suffer permanent irreversible cognitive and emotional damage. Cognitive and emotional damage suffered in early life manifests itself in adolescence when once brutalized and neglected
youngsters who were expelled from natural families and are mistreated by school teachers and administrators, join youth gangs and delinquent youth groups, commit street crimes and engage in alcohol and drug abuse.

Susane (2001), while supporting this view, indicated that young abused persons frequently exhibit poor capabilities in school. They perceive themselves as powerless and tend to blame themselves for their victimization experiences. Long-term abuse is often accompanied by depression, self-directed violence (suicide), substance abuse and psychosomatic complaints and the inability to develop intimate relationships. Abused children seem more likely than other children to respond to distress with aggression (Dodge, 1997). Either as victims or witnesses, they learn that violence is not only a "normal" component of family life, but also an acceptable way of solving conflicts.

**Large Family Size**

According to West (1982), the effects of any parental shortcomings, incompetence or neglect are likely to be exacerbated if they have more children than they can cope with properly. Indeed, the mere fact of having too many children is indicative of neglect of family planning, it also suggests possible neglect of other aspects of parental responsibilities. Under working class conditions, parents with too many children often suffer financial hardship.

This limited spending power forces parents to live in neighbourhoods with high incidence of delinquency like the slum areas of Kibera. It also restricts the supply of such aids to child’s learning and socialization as toys, reading matter and school clothes. Overburdened parents have limited opportunity to monitor their children’s activities or to exercise consistent control over misconduct. Further, lack of individual attention from parents promotes reliance on peer
groups who may exert pressure towards delinquency. The older children in a large family may be left to manage the younger ones, a situation known to be conducive to indiscipline and aggression between siblings and also to delinquents. Offord (1982) from findings of his study suggests that the risk stems from the influence of delinquent siblings (through some sort of contagion effect) rather than from qualities of parenting. He found that delinquency risk was associated more with the number of brothers in the family but not with the number of sisters.

Large numbers of children in a family of limited income often results in overcrowding in the home and this in turn may have a deleterious effect upon behaviour. West (1982), puts it that parents in overcrowded accommodation in poor tenements cannot protect or supervise their young children as they might wish. They have to let them out to roam the streets and fight their own battles among a similarly disadvantaged peer group.

Rutter (1980), attempted to more directly relate family size problems, which might lead to delinquency. He indicated “First, large family size is quite strongly associated with overcrowding and socioeconomic disadvantage. Second, there is probably less intensive interaction and less communication between the parents and children in large families because parental time has to be distributed more widely. Third, parental discipline and supervision may be more difficult when there are a lot of children to look after. Fourth, some of the children may be unwanted, and last is that, in some cases the lack of family limitations may reflect general parental qualities of inadequate foresight and planning.” The extent to which other family aspects like family size, social class and birth order are related to delinquency poses interesting prospects for future sociological research.
School Effects

School represents a major source of guidance and education of children and adolescents. The school is a location where young people acquire knowledge and many personal and social experiences. In school, children, change in their behaviour over the course of their schooling. Evidence suggests that effective schooling is characterized by strong positive leadership, high expectations of pupils, systematic monitoring of pupils progress, good opportunities for students to take responsibility and become involved in the life of the school, use of rewards and incentives, suitable involvement of parents in school activities, an academic emphasis and focus learning, and high quality purposeful learning (Mortimore, 1995). However, schools and other educational institutions can increase the probability of delinquent behaviour among pupils inside and outside their institutions through poor performance, vandalism, physical violence, school environment and formation of social cliques.

Most studies indicate that poor performance in school and delinquency are significantly related (Hawkings & Lishner, 1987). The psychological and social consequences of poor performance may be far reaching on an individual student. Schafer and Polk (1976), pointed out that educators (teachers included) often perceive a correlation between educational deficiencies and behavioural problems and therefore categorically define some youngsters as 'stupid' or 'bad'. As these children become aware of this negative evaluation, their alienation is deepened and they increase their truancy and other forms of delinquency. It is therefore very common to hear such pupils making negative comments like “teacher so and so hates me very much”. Poor performance in school is frustrating and creates poor self-concept on a child.
The youth who are unsuccessful and frustrated in school often turn to peers for their major source of approval as opposed to parents and teachers. In this peer reference group, they usually seek out and find others who share similar frustrations in school and support delinquent values and behaviour.

Of major concern is also the issue of vandalism and physical violence experienced in our schools today. Vandalism is meted out against school property mainly by burning or breaking. The report of the Presidential Committee on Student Unrest and Indiscipline in the Kenya Secondary Schools (GoK, 2000) showed for instance that between 1986 and 1991, 41.6 percent of schools in Mombasa area went on strike. This has not been an isolated case since the media reports on students striking and destroying school property has become a common phenomenon. Ideally, the school environment acts as an important socialization agent. To socialize students appropriately, the school structure has levels of authority, for instance, the administration, the staff, and the subordinate staff. Rules and regulations govern and guide the process of student socialization and school interaction. Simply trying to maintain order and discipline in schools puts the school authorities against the students. Kokosalakis (1979), notes about socialization in schools that, the individual being socialized is not simply the recipe of instruction and does not merely accept the adults preference for a certain meaning of the world, but is an active participant in negotiating the nature of that learning situation.

The determination to win, by either the students or the administration, can cause friction. The value placed on the rewards gained by winning or the pain and embarrassment faced by losing determines the level and intensity of competition. Owen, (1998) in reaction to such circumstances of interaction, students may engage in physical violence in order to make
themselves heard, especially if they consider the administration as insensitive to their felt needs, or opinions. Other than physical violence, they may also engage in other compensatory delinquency acts such as drug abuse or premarital sex as a way of getting back at the school authorities, parents and other authority figures. The authority style of the school administration is therefore crucial in preventing such delinquent acts.

Physical violence in schools is not only against school property but also school administrators, teachers and fellow students who also suffer physical assault. New levels of student brutality are evident, for instance the killing of four prefects in their cohorts in Nyeri High School (Daily Nation March 16, 1998) and the burning of 67 school boys at Kyanguli Secondary School and injuring of 19 more (Daily Nation March 26 2001). Such incidents have sparked copycat delinquent acts by other students country wide in an attempt to deal with their frustrations and contempt for the institutions. Physical and psychological bullying especially of new students often make the victimized students live in fear and approach their school days with fear and trepidation. Roberts (1988), referred to it as “peer terrorism” and indicated that it creates fear that might also lead to school dropout.

The social environment that the students find themselves in an important determining factor. In juvenile delinquent act studies were shown that the environment in which a school is situated has an impact on the school (Banks, 1976, Datta 1984, Kariuki, 1988). This is especially true if the students attending the school are from the same environment or if the school allows frequent contacts between the students and the surrounding community. Standards of behavior and attitudes towards authority found in the community will through the process of identification, be observed in the students because members of the community may become student’s role models (Bandura, 1977). This contact may affect interaction
between the students and the school authorities, when students copy behaviour that is incompatible with the school rules and regulations. This may lead to conflict that may then translate into delinquent acts.

Last, is the fact that a variety of social cliques tend to form in the school environment among the students. Yinger (1982), pointed out that the “standard high school subcultures, with their emphasis on sports, fun, and a modicum of leaning, are quite different in sociological meaning from groups oriented to truancy, petty theft, masculine, hyper aggressiveness and gang combat”. Yinger attributed the youth’s fear as part of the motivation to join deviant groups. Youth’s status and social identity are directly connected to school performance. In our Kenyan school system, it is very common to find such social cliques; some academic oriented while some are deviant acts such as drug abuse and premarital sex. They may also assert their autonomy by fighting with other students or rejecting the rules and authority of the school. Aggressive and rebellious stance is a predisposition to delinquency.

Peer Groups

One special concern in delinquent behavior is the influence of peer groups. It has long been obvious that delinquent individuals tend to have delinquent friends and that many antisocial activities are undertaken together with other people (Reiss, 1988). Supporting this fact, Sheldon and Glueck (1950), concluded that the associations with other delinquents amounted to no more than “birds of a feather flock together”.

Differential association theorists such as Sutherland and Cressey (1978) have argued that criminal behaviour is largely learned through personal interactions in the peer group. The peer group factor is stronger during the adolescence time. This is the time of life of
approximately between the ages of 10–24 years. It is a period for socialization and key time for developing a sound personality, which in this context also means non-violent personality. Siegrist (1995), indicated that adolescence is a very vulnerable period of life, which strongly interacts with self-concept, self-consciousness and self-control and makes the young people prone to different forms of risk-taking, deviant and delinquent behaviour.

The concept of risk-taking behaviour or problem behaviour which is often classified as hazardous or unhealthy include smoking, risky driving, unsafe sexual intercourse, illicit drug use, problem of alcohol drinking and also violence. Risk-taking behaviour during adolescence serves as a means to achieve social status and is part of the development process.

A key issue on how peer influence exerts its effect is also emphasized on the role of differential reinforcement (Dishion and Patterson, 1997). Delinquent peers’ reactions towards delinquency acts endorse deviant values and norms. The cost and benefits of delinquent acts are perceived differently, for some it may serve, within the social group as a source of prestige or esteem (Emler & Reichner, 1995).

Findings indicate that the effects of delinquency peers are not only mediated through peer group, attitudes but also from peer behaviour (Warrs & Stafford, 1991). There may be direct modelling of behaviour and also the implicit pressures as a result of being with peers when the group is engaging in illicit or antisocial activities such as taking drugs, vandalizing property, stealing from shops and the like. Therefore, deviant peer groups are likely to be together in situations where there are attractive opportunities for crime and situational influences may well play a part (Cohen & Felson, 1979).
In the longer terms, the peer group will play a major role in mate selection. People are likely to marry or cohabit with individuals who are part of their peer group. The likelihood of them having delinquent children according to Quinton (1993) is very high.

Perhaps also of major concern is the peer influence on delinquency in relation to the use of drugs. There is a causal link between drug use and delinquency. Alcohol use is associated with crimes of violence and sexual aggression. Other violent crimes are also committed by people acting under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.

On the whole, peer effects are greater when people are closely attached to delinquent peers, when they spend a lot of time with them, when the group overtly approves of delinquent activities and where peer group activities served to create pressures to joining antisocial behaviour Agnew, (1991).

Neighborhood / Community Impacts.

The term “community and neighborhood” refers to the physical and social environment shared by a group of people in their everyday life. Opposite to marginalized and socially disadvantaged neighborhoods, social environments with low violence rates tend to be a socially cohesive community with strong community life.

Shaw and McKay (1969), believed that delinquents are normal adolescents who are conforming to an alternative set of values. According to them, low-delinquency areas are characterized by uniformity and consistency of conventional attitudes and values. High-delinquency areas are characterized by social disorganization. In these areas, there is competing and conflicting attitudes and values. There are also adult criminals in these areas,
so there is greater likelihood that children will come into contact with a criminal way of life
as successful criminals pass on their knowledge to juveniles who in turn teach children who
are younger still.

Weakened social control contributes to social isolation and lowers the binding character of
values and role models that are particularly of importance to adolescents to adapt to non-
violent behaviour models. The conditions in the slums make it difficult for young people to
find positive role models with explicit norms against violent behaviour. A loss of social
networks and less social integration is observable promoting violent behavior which mutually
reinforces processes of urban decay leading to disruption in urban life Daily Nation, (March
29th & 30th 2004) carried out a story on criminal activities within the Kibera slums by
organized gangs. For the gang members, crime is the norm rather than the exception. The
reaction of the residents is normally to organize themselves, track down the criminals and
massacre them either by burning, stoning or use of other crude weapons. From both sides,
there is the element of serious violence carried out in the full view of the juveniles. They
learn that violence might as well serve as an avenue through which to deal with some
problems. In such areas, a tradition for the delinquency is transmitted through successive
generation and through a process called cultural transmission. For some adolescents,
delinquency becomes a full-time job or career.

Mass Media

The mass media in modern society is now viewed as having an influence on delinquent acts
by young people. This is from the way violence and brutality is shown in television

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broadcasts, videotapes and movies and from the way gender roles are presented. Additionally, the way the media deals with the subject of adolescent violence increases a negative learning process.

Research findings by Comstock, (1990) and Wartella (1995) have established a possible effect on watching TV or film violence and aggressive or antisocial behaviour. Today, a number of TV programmes such as wrestling viewed on KBC channel have a lot of impact on the way children view fighting. Of more concern are the much-publicized crimes of extreme violence centred on direct irritation (the so-called copy cat crimes). Besides, films showing the planning and execution of criminal acts such as robberies and murders have a lot of negative impact on the young people.

Apart from the televised violence shown on the screens is the issue of pornographic materials shown in the TV and films, over Internet and in many magazines. These are mainly aimed at the special interests of the huge youth market. Today, there are several magazines available in the urban streets, which are dealing with sexual topics of interest to the youth. They encourage engagement in illicit sexual behaviors by the youth. Likewise TV music programmes such as Channel O and the Beat in Nation cater for juvenile audiences, setting the pace for teen dress and hairstyles.

Television producers, writers, directors, and commercial advertisers also have recognized the large teen market and have routinely catered for its particular tastes and values. The current music programmes shows on “Channel O” and “the Beat” in Nation TV expresses a lot of free love and experimentation with drugs such as tobacco. They wear exotic makeup, perform with snakes and other animals like spiders and cover their bodies with offensive
tattoos. All these have negative impact on the youth. The exposure and modelling are good predisposition factors to juvenile delinquency.

2.2.2: Economic factors

Poverty

Poverty constitutes a risk factor for violence in most cities (Susanne 2001). Poverty according to West (1982) is associated with poor parental behaviour and particularly with poor parental supervision. The feelings of inequality poor people bear in combination with frustration, depression and insecurity causes violent behavior. To the juveniles poverty may lead to identification with a subculture of low social standards lacking ideals of conformity and respectability. Low income according to West (1982) connects with, and in a sense of stands for, a large collection of interlinked circumstances each of which may reasonably be supposed to have some influence on the development of a child’s attitude and behaviour. In relation to poverty, Miller (1958) argued that lower class values are distinctively different from those of the middle and upper class. He viewed the focal concerns of the lower class as involving trouble, toughness, smartness, excitement, fate and autonomy all of which, he contended, led to gang delinquency.

Poverty constitutes reasonably robust indications of an increased risk for delinquency (Bolger 1995). Research studies carried out by Conger (1994) summarized that economic pressure does have an effect on antisocial behaviour but the impact is indirect – it is mediated by parental depression, marital conflict and parental hostility all of which disrupt family functioning.
Unemployment

Unemployment in most of the urban areas has a negative effect especially on the youth thereby predisposing them to delinquent acts. Rutter & Madge (1976) assert that antisocial youths have a much-increased likelihood of leaving school without educational qualifications and consequently an increased proportion will end up in unskilled or semi-skilled jobs. Many unskilled jobs (such as builder’s labourers) have little job security and are liable to recurrent periods of unemployment. Unemployment is strongly associated with delinquent behaviour (Rutter, Giller & Hagell, 1998).

Unemployment experience may well make it likely for antisocial individuals to steal more often due to a desire for income and also an increase in the time and opportunities for crime, with perhaps also peer group influences deriving from an increased involvement in a similarly unemployed group of individuals. Some unemployed youth in Nairobi are lured to join robbery gangs due to the desire to earn money, and live the way they want. The culture today values material wealth over and above all other things.

Industrialization and urbanization

Industrialization has set in motion the processes necessary for modern juvenile delinquency. All over the world, people have gone from agriculture to machine based labour-intensive production (Susane, 2001). People have migrated from the rural areas to the cities to find work and this has led to urbanization. With large urban areas like Nairobi, Kisumu, Nakuru and others created, the workplace is now separated from home and increasing numbers of parents are getting occupied outside for most parts of the day. There is very little for the youth to do, especially when schools are not in session and they become increasingly unsupervised. Without proper supervision and guidance from the parents, the youth turn to
their peer groups from which a number of delinquent acts such as smoking, drug taking and premarital sex become common and are learnt.

Urban culture is also characterized by “modern lifestyle” which is spreading. It is predominantly and rapidly transferred and internalized by young people in cities and involves among other things having a carefree attitude towards things like premarital sex and rebellion towards any form of authority. According to Susane (2001), cities pose stress for the individual adolescent identity process arousing feelings of anonymity, narrow self-interest and fear.

Urbanization has brought with it the creation of slum dwellings where those with limited finances live. The slums are characterized with overcrowding of people and houses, accommodation is also limited. Further they have also been characterized with a culture of violence and delinquent habits which are continually being transmitted to the younger generation.
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Fig. 1 A conceptual framework of the socio-economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency in Nairobi, Kenya.

[Diagram showing interrelationships between various factors]

Juvenile Delinquency
- Theft, Robberies, Rape, Drug abuse, arson, shoplifting, destruction of property, Drug peddling, premarital sex, Drunkenness, Vagrancy, Buying, receiving and possessing stolen property

Peer group
- delinquent friends
- Adolescent

The School
- Vandalism & physical violence
- Social environment
- Social cliques

The family
- Broken homes – Large family size
- Teenage mothers
- Parenting skills
- Parental supervision
- Parenting styles
- Parental attachment
- Maltreatment of children

Neighborhood & Community
- Presence/absence of criminal gangs
- Loose of social ties

-Mass Media
- Violent T.V programs, film and movies
- Pornographic magazines
- Musical presentation

Economic factor
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Industrialization

Fig 1. Shows the interrelationship between various factors that contribute to the increase in juvenile delinquency.

Juveniles are considered as the future of the society. During early adolescence period, there is the search for identity and the erosion of traditional values that leave the juvenile vulnerable to influences from the mass media and the neighborhood environment. The
family too, being a prime socializer has a big influence on the juveniles especially due to the varied child rearing practices and role modeling (Ezewu, 1993).

The school has influences that could originate from poor performance and therefore lack of interest in education, witnessing of physical violence in the school environment, vandalism and formation of social cliques that could act as social avenues through which juvenile acts are imitated.

From the peers, juveniles learn a variety of delinquent acts or engage in delinquent acts to earn social approval. Within the wider community, it all depends on what the community perceives to be antisocial and also the loosening of social bonds in our society. The media expose the juveniles to a number of destructive influences, which they are left to model. Economic factors such as unemployment, poverty urbanization and industrialization are also contributing factors.

2.3 Summary of Literature Review
The studies reviewed showed that the variables for the study were pertinent to the question of juvenile delinquency, and therefore need to be investigated in the Kenyan context. It has been seen that family background, the school, peers, society and mass media all play a part in influencing juvenile delinquency. Also noted are the economic factors such as unemployment, poverty, urbanization and industrialization.
CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The study was a cross-sectional survey research aimed at finding out the socio-economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency in Nairobi- Kenya. In this study, opinions and views concerning juvenile delinquency were solicited from samples made up of juveniles, social workers and management staff within the selected rehabilitation centers. A questionnaire survey procedure was used as detailed in Phillips (1995).

3.1 Location of the Study

The study was carried out within Nairobi area. Nairobi city is a metropolitan city of three million people and it is Kenya's socio-economic and political capital. It comprises people from different cultures, ethnic groups, races, social and economic classes and faiths. It has a high number of incidences of urban crime, a fact associated with large cities (Kombo, 1998). The difficult economic times countrywide over the years coupled with increased industrialization has led to a lot of migration from the rural areas to Nairobi in search of jobs and better life. Unemployment and the frustrations it creates can lead to many delinquent acts such as theft, robbery with violence, drug peddling, drunkenness and prostitution. It is possible that the magnitude of delinquent acts is bigger in Nairobi than in other urban centers countrywide.
Nairobi has several rehabilitation schools and centers for delinquent children. The government runs some while others are run by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's). Rehabilitation centers exhibit behaviours commonly found in the general population of Nairobi namely theft, robbery with violence, drug abuse and peddling arson and prostitution.

Nairobi's centrality and cosmopolitan nature make it suitable for a representative study of delinquent acts because it offers a variety of opinions on possible factors leading to the increase in delinquent behaviours due to the diversity of the population. Similarly, the fact that urban centers worldwide are generally associated with a higher prevalence of undesirable social behaviours, made Nairobi area a good location for this study (Shorter, 1991). Nairobi also has a high number of radios, television and print mass media establishments. Cheap video viewing places are available all over in the estates and can be afforded by even children. In the streets, magazines are available with the street vendors. The mass media has been associated with negative influences on young people's behaviour (Kombo, 1998). The Ministry of Home Affairs Headquarters is located in Nairobi. This helped to make access to official information quicker and more reliable because the researcher was able to solicit the information on her own.

The Provincial headquarters of the Children's Department also came in handy as a source for official information on incidences of delinquent acts in Nairobi area.

3.2 Sampling Design
This study investigated the social and economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency in Nairobi, Kenya. Rehabilitation centers within Nairobi Province are divided into Government
and Non-Governmental rehabilitation institutions. To get a representative sample from these categories of schools, the sampling technique which was used was stratified random sampling. This technique according to Mugenda & Mugenda (1999) “is to achieve desired representation from various subgroups in the population”. Cochran, (1977) says that systematic random sampling involves dividing the population into a number of non-overlapping sub-populations, or strata and then sampling separately from the different strata. Stratified random sampling was suitable for this study because the rehabilitation centers in Nairobi vary by sex and size.
Variables

In the study, the independent variables were:

Family background in terms of cohesiveness and management practices. This was measured by asking the juveniles about the social-economic status and conditions in the family, family make-up, occupational and educational levels.

The school effects were measured in terms of truancy and poor performances leading to dropout and subsequent delinquency, influence from friends in the school and attitude towards teachers was also considered.

The peer group influence was determined if the juveniles do associate with delinquent friends and the type of delinquent acts their friends engaged in.

The culture and attitude of the community determines what is considered a delinquent act. Likewise living in a community of delinquent acts influences juveniles. The juveniles were asked to state where they have spent most of their lives.

Mass media was measured while considering the programme juveniles watch and magazines they read.

Economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, urbanization and industrialization were measured by examining the occupation, education levels and areas of residence of the juveniles.
The dependent variable in the study was juvenile delinquent behaviour. For the purpose of this study, delinquent behaviours considered were many such as stealing, rape, drug abuse, assault, robbery, arson, fighting, truancy at school, indiscipline towards parents and many more.

3.3 Population and Sample

The population for the study comprised juveniles within the rehabilitation schools whose ages would vary from 7 to 18 years. The juveniles were randomly selected on the basis of their ability to understand, communicate either in English or Kiswahili and being able to write, and volunteer information. Altogether a total of 120 juveniles, 12 social workers and 3 managers from the selected rehabilitation centers within Nairobi participated in the study as indicated in the table below:

Table 1. Sample distribution of the respondents from the selected rehabilitation centres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected rehabilitation centers</th>
<th>Juvenile number</th>
<th>Social workers number</th>
<th>Managers number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getathuru Rehabilitation &amp; Reception Centre</td>
<td>40 Male, N/A Female</td>
<td>2 Male, 2 Female</td>
<td>1 Male, N/A Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi Children’s Remand Home</td>
<td>20 Male, 20 Female</td>
<td>1 Male, 3 Female</td>
<td>1 Male, N/A Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dagoretti Children’s Home</td>
<td>N/A Male, 40 Female</td>
<td>2 Male, 2 Female</td>
<td>1 Male, N/A Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong> Male, <strong>12</strong> Female</td>
<td><strong>3</strong> Male, <strong>12</strong> Female</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As long as their rehabilitation centre had been selected for study, the social workers, and managers from the given centres formed part of the sample. The research was conducted on the basis of a research permit from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The researcher first visited the selected rehabilitation schools to take the permission letter and
also introduce herself. The social workers were selected randomly based on their willingness to participate.

3.4 Data collection and Research Instruments

The following research instruments were used in data collection:

1. Interview schedule for juveniles.

   All the sampled juveniles were interviewed and questionnaires personally filled by the researcher. The questionnaire was open-ended or closed, in order to elicit the widest possible range of responses on socio-economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency in Nairobi.

2. Interview schedules for managers and social workers.

   Managers and social workers are responsible for the day-to-day running of the rehabilitation centers and were therefore vital respondents for this study. The researcher used unstructured (open-ended) interviews with them in order to solicit as much data as possible on the causes of juvenile delinquency.

3. Observation schedule for records of admission and files on family background and general juveniles’ behaviour within the institution was also done.

3.5 Records

Records from the Ministry of Home Affairs were used in order to select rehabilitation centers for the sample. Admission registers were also examined from types of delinquent acts recorded, family background and the kind of rehabilitation. Also to see the kind of rehabilitative measures recommended by the children courts was also examined.
3.6 Pilot study

To ensure the reliability and validity of the research instrument, the researcher conducted a pilot study. The main purpose of the pilot study was to ensure that the instruments have no ambiguity and that the subjects understood the questions fully. Any shortcomings in the grammar used in the instruments were corrected before the instruments were used for the actual study.

3.7 Data Analysis

After collection of the filled questionnaires, the questions were coded and prepared for computer analysis. The SPSS package was used to analyse the data. Similar responses were assembled in order to find out the number of juveniles who gave similar responses and what the responses were. The number of similar responses out of the sum total of juvenile respondents were noted and converted into percentages. The percentages were then tabulated. Basic descriptive statistics, mainly percentages were used to highlight factors that could be leading to an increase in juvenile delinquency.

The managers and social workers were interviewed individually. The various responses were grouped based on their similarity. Percentages of similar responses and percentages of respondents making similar responses were made. The totals were included in a table.

Observation

Using a prepared observation schedule, the researcher noted the presence or absence of delinquent acts among juveniles especially in the streets before they are taken to the rehabilitation centers.
School records

School records were checked. Data concerning types of delinquent acts, names of the juveniles and their family background were tallied. The data were used in the final report to reveal on the socio-economic factors that lead to juvenile delinquency by comparing data collected through the questionnaire and interviews.
CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the result of the investigation carried out. The concern of the research was to find out the Socio-economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency in Nairobi, Kenya. The data were collected from three Government rehabilitation centers in Nairobi and focus on the following areas:

a) The social factors responsible for the increase in delinquent behaviour.

b) The economic factors which have influenced the rise in delinquent behavior.

c) The type of delinquent acts that young people engage in.

d) Measures that can be taken to intervene or prevent young people from offending.

The findings are present in one section, A. This section deals with answers to the major issues.

4.1 Results

This chapter presents the results according to the research question that guided the study. The research question one states that: What are the possible social factors responsible for the increase in juvenile delinquent behaviour? This question sought the family background, school effects, peer group influence, mass media and community neighbourhood.
### 4.1.1 The Family

The information on the family is presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Responses on broken homes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family factors</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life status of the parents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only one parent alive</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both parents alive</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No parents alive</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Which parent is alive</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother and father alive</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother only alive</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father only alive</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of them alive</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Previous custodian of the juvenile</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother only</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother and father</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father and stepmother</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aunty</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother and stepfather</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father only</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncle</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F = Frequency

According to the information in Table 2, it can be observed that the majority of the juveniles' had only one parent alive, whereas a few of them but of significant number (12%) were orphans. Majority of them (Juveniles) were under the custody of their mothers only before
being committed to the rehabilitation schools. Those who were under the care of both parents were equally many (34.2%) and the least being those who were being taken care of by their brothers and sisters.

The study sought to find out the reasons why the children are living with one parent. The reasons are given in Table 3 below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons given</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorce of parents</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of father</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of mother</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separation of parents</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works away from home</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My parents never married</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was arrested</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the evidence in Table 3 above it can be seen that majority of juveniles' were living with one parent because of divorce as compared to those whose parents never married or were arrested. Death accounted for a large percentage of single parenthood with cumulative total of 42%.

According to the literature review, a large family size and a large number of brothers have been thought to be having an influence of delinquent behaviour. The juveniles were asked to state how many brothers and sisters they have, their responses are presented in Table 4 and figure 2 below.
Table 4. Responses on the family size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of children</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only child</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two children</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three children</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four children</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five children</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six children</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven children</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight children</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine children</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten children</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of brothers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of brothers</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No brother</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One brother</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two brothers</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three brothers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four brothers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five brothers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six brothers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven and above brothers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of sisters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of sisters</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No sister</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One sister</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two sisters</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three sisters</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four sisters</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five sisters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six sisters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven sisters and above</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 2. Responses from social workers on the size of family that most delinquent children came from

Information in Table 4 above shows that most delinquent children came from a family of four children (25.0%). Those who came from large families of five and above children accounted for 45% whereas families with only children formed just 5.7%. The social workers according to figure two were of the opinion that most delinquents came from a family of between two-three children. There is almost a uniform distribution on the number of delinquent children with brothers and sisters, one, two and three brothers and sisters.
The respondents were asked their birth position to determine if being a firstborn, middleborn or lastborn has any influence on delinquent behaviour. The responses are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Responses on birth position of the Juveniles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position of birth</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-born</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle-born</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last-borns</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information in Table 5 shows that there is almost a uniform distribution between delinquent children who are middleborns and those who are firstborns. Lastborns accounted for a slightly lower percentage (24.6%).

The juveniles were asked the ages of their parents to determine if the issue of teenage parenthood would have contributed to their delinquent behaviour. The responses are presented in Table 6.
Table 6. Responses on the Juveniles' Parents' age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age brackets</th>
<th>Mother</th>
<th>Father</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 30 years</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 - 40 years</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 - 50 years</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - 60 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 60 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the evidence contained in Table 6, it can be seen that the age of parents of the juveniles appeared on a normal trend with most mothers being between 31-40 (53.3%) and fathers 41-50 (44%). However there is also a remarkable percentage of teenage mothers (29%) and an absence of very old parents.

The academic levels of the parents were sought to determine their possible role in fostering delinquent behaviour. The responses are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Responses on the academic qualifications of the juveniles' parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic level</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>53.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The responses contained in Table 7 show that most parents of the delinquent juveniles had attained the basic level of education as compared to a very small percentage (4.3%) that had attained university education. The parents who had not received any education were also significant at about (11%) of all the respondents.
Maltreatment or child abuse is a family factor which has also been linked to the rise in delinquent behaviour. The respondents were therefore asked questions regarding punishments in order to determine the effects of maltreatment or child abuse.

Table 8. Responses on maltreatment/child abuse and parenting skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses on punishment</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Punishment by parent/guardian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>93.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of punishment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few times</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many times</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very many times</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of punishment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal abuse</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe beatings</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>59.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being denied food</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being sent away from here</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being tied with a rope for long</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step father's sexual harassment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table above, it can be observed that nearly all the delinquent children (93.3%) had received some form of punishment at home quite frequently with cumulative percentage of 54.3%. Severe beatings (60%) is the most common type of punishment as compared to being sent away from home, tied with a rope and sexual harassment. Verbal abuse was also a bit common (21%) compared to being denied food (13%).
Table 9. Responses on parental supervision, family attachment and family interaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental supervision and attachment factors</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whom they confide in when having a problem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents/uncle/aunt</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobody</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brothers and sisters</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other person (guardians)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust received from parents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the times</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few times</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental supervision i.e. concern over time of return</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very much concerned</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>43.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardly concerned</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes concerned</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not concerned at all</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude towards their custodians</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very bad</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibling conflict i.e. fighting at home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>60.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the evidence contained in Table 9, it can be observed that a third of the juveniles confided in their mothers when having personal problems, followed by friends (20.8%) while very few confided in their brothers, or sisters. It is also observed that the level of trust they receive from their parents or guardians is significant. A large number of the juveniles (70%) did not receive adequate trust from their parents/ guardians. More than a third of the guardians shows a lot of concern especially on time, the juvenile comes back home, but cumulatively, 61.7% do not show the much-needed concern. Out of this total percentage, a
significant 17.5% have never been shown any concern at all, they can come in or go out as they wish.

The juveniles have a nearly uniform feeling about their custodians, with those who view them as being good accounting for 47.9% whereas those who thought of them as being bad, 47.1%. The lowest percentage was for those who were undecided.

Sibling conflict is not serious with a large percentage (60.8%) responding that they never fight as compared to only to only 3.3% who reported to be always fighting with their brothers and sisters.

4.1.2 School effects
Schools and other educational institutions can also increase the probability of delinquent behaviour among pupils inside and outside the schools. Table 10 shows the effects of the school with particular regard to truancy and reasons for dropping out of school.
Table 10. Responses on the effects of the School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School attendance</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a week</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrice a week</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four times a week</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The whole week</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for leaving school</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of school fees and uniform</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My friends had left school</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor performance</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harsh teachers</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table 10 above, it can be seen that more than a half of the delinquent children did not attend school regularly, thus attesting to a very high level of truancy. Those who were regular in attendance were quite many (33.7%). Among the reasons leading to school dropout were lack of school fees and uniform (32.3%) followed by influence from friends (26.0%). Harsh teachers (9.8%) was least of the factors although not very far from poor performance (21.9%)

4.1.3 Peer group influence

Peer group influence has also been of special concern in delinquent behaviour, since delinquent individuals tend to have delinquent friends. Table 11 shows responses on peer group influences.
Table 11: Responses on the peer group influence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Per group factors</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If their friends have joined the centers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presence of delinquent acts among friends</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of friends in the centres</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One friend</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two friends</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three friends</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four friends</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very many friends</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six friends</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight friends</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Behaviours of friends they didn’t like</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing/theft</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abusing each other</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having premarital sex</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking drugs</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running away from school</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being rude to their parents and teachers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roaming at night</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking alcohol</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jealousy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homosexuality</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going to the discos</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backbiting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begging</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From table 11 above, the following can be observed that:

More than a third of the delinquent children have friends who have joined rehabilitation centers although not necessarily where they are at the moment.
Quite a large number (86.5%) accepted that there are behaviours their friends used to engage in which they didn’t like as opposed to only 13.4% who didn’t see any such behaviour.

Many of the juveniles 35.5% at least had a friend who had come to the rehabilitation school. A small percentage (9.7%) had very many friends whom they could not even count who had been to the rehabilitation centres.

Further, it can also be observed that the most common delinquent behaviour among the juveniles is fighting (59.0%). Stealing, theft, abusing each other, engaging in premarital sex and drug abuse are equally common. The least common of the behaviours being begging, prostitution and backbiting.

4.1.4 Neighbourhood/Community influence
The neighbourhood in which a child is bought up is thought to be having some influence on his/her behaviour due to cultural transmission from generation to generation. Table 12 below shows the influence of neighbourhood and the estates where the juveniles had resided before going to the rehabilitation centres.
Table 12: Responses on the influence of neighbourhood and slum areas where the juveniles had resided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses from social workers on</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contribution of neighbourhood to delinquency</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Influence of neighbourhood</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living within the slum areas</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance of criminal acts in a community</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with criminal parents and relatives</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estates where some juveniles had stayed</strong></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kibera</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Githurai</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangemi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathare Valley</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dagoretti</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bondeni Nakuru</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayole</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawangware</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngara</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial area</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huruma</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukuru kwa Njenga</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shauri Moyo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbotela</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dandora</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kariobangi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mlango Kubwa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majengo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyalenda Kisumu</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pand pieri Kisumu</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likoni Mombasa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitimini Nakuru</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korogocho</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other slum estates in Nairobi</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other slum estates outside Nairobi</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table 12 above, all the social workers unanimously (100%) accepted neighborhood influence as a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency. Neighborhood influence in their opinion contributes through living within the slum areas (50%), followed by acceptance of criminal acts among members of community (33.3%) and the least being living with criminal parents or relatives (16.7%) from the table it is also observed that almost three quarters of the
juveniles had resided in the known slum estates in Kenya. Kibera led within Nairobi with 10% of the cases whereas other estates such as Baba Dogo Ruaraka accounted for accumulative total of 11.2%. other slum estates outsid Nairobi accounted for 7.5%.

4.1.5 Mass media influence

According to the literature review, the mass media has been identified to be one of the factors contributing to the juveniles’ delinquent behaviour depending on the programs they air. Table 13 shows the role of mass media in the rise of delinquent behaviour according to the social workers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influence of mass media</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles who used to watch TV while at home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles who normally watch TV at the center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>97.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whether Television viewing leads to delinquency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of mass media in delinquent behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airing of unsuitable programme to under age children</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>58.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure of children to bad behaviour which they imitate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unbecoming dance styles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showing of violent films and programmes like wrestling</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposes them to the use of drugs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily news headlines on violent crimes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From table 13 above, it can be observed that majority of the juveniles had been exposed to television viewing while at home, whereas at the rehabilitation center almost all the juveniles are interested in television viewing. The results from the social workers show that (83.3%)
are of the opinion that television viewing influences the rise in delinquent behaviour mainly through airing of unsuitable programmes to underage children (58.3%), followed by exposure to bad behaviour which is 33.3% and the least being making headlines with violent crime reports (8.3%).

The juveniles were asked to name the programs they like watching. Their responses are presented in Table 14 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smackdown/Wrestling</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>42.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Beat</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>41.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamje</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel O</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigerian movies</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vioja Mahakamani</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitimbi</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartoons</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camilla</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuna Nuru Gizani</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maua</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendeam</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional songs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rambo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purpose of assessing the influence of mass media on the juveniles' behaviours, they were asked to name a few programmes they like watching. As can be observed in table 14 above, wrestling (42.6%), the beat (41%) and Lamje (35.2%) emerged as the most populous
programmes as compared to others such as Le Revancha, The Stomp, Touched by an Angel, Penzi Hatari, Generations and others which accounted for 0.8% each with accumulative total of 7.2%.

4.2 Research question two: Which economic factors have influenced the rise in delinquent behaviour among the juveniles?

This question was answered in two parts namely; poverty and unemployment then urbanization.

4.2.1 Poverty and unemployment

Table 15. Responses from Juveniles on employment status of the parents and social workers on the type of family that most delinquent children come from.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment status of the parent</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None of them is employed</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both are employed</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father only employed</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother only employed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncle/aunty/grandparents</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My guardian</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of family most delinquents come from</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately poor families</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>54.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor families</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well to do families</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from table 15 show that a large percent of the juvenile parents are unemployed (28.1%). Cases of only one parent being in employment accounted for a larger percentage of (36.8%). Other relatives who were also the custodians of the juveniles accounted for accumulative total of (12.3%). The social workers were of the opinion that most delinquent
children come from moderately poor families 53.5% as compared to 9.1% that came from well-to-do families.

Table 16. Responses on the occupations of the juveniles’ parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fathers’ Occupations</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Mother Occupations</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drivers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>House wife</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marker traders</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>Farmer (small scale)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>Market trader</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jua kali artisans</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>Maize roaster</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Sells flowers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Super market</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factory worker</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Police woman</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetenary officers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Teacher of primary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security officers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Teacher secondary</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policeman</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street hawkers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Housekeeper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary teacher</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Saloonist</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal dealer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Bar maid</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya power</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Bookshop attendant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarry worker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio technician</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County councilor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results from Table 16 show that most fathers of the delinquent children were in informal employment such as market trading, farming, jua kali, street hawking and others. Those who had formal employment formed a small percentage. Those in formal employment don’t have well-paid and stable jobs. Drivers top the list (15.1%), followed by market traders (13.2%), farmers (11.3%) and jua kali artisans also (1.3%). The results showed that other occupations accounted for accumulative (9.5%).
According to the results most mothers were housewives (2.4%), small-scale farmers (20.3%) and market traders (19%) as opposed to a small percentage of teachers, nurses and saloonists.

Table 17 shows the problems the juveniles faced while at home which could have led them to engage in delinquent behaviours.

Table 17 Responses from the juveniles and social workers on the juveniles' problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problems</th>
<th>Juveniles</th>
<th>Social workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of parental love and affection</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>68.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of clothing</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate food</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of school fees and uniform</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of efficient supervision</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess money from rich parents</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over strictness amongst rich</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The juveniles were asked the problems they normally faced while at home. Majority faced lack of love and affection (68%) compared to 72 (66.7%) that faced the problem of clothes and 59% food shortage. From the feelings of social workers, the biggest problem for delinquent children while at home is lack of food (90%) while the least of the problems is over strictness amongst the rich families (98.3%).
4.2.2 Urbanization.

Urbanization has been thought to be linked to delinquent behaviour through the development of slum areas where delinquent behaviour appears to be the norm due to lack of employment. Living in the urban areas has also been linked to the involvement in delinquent behaviour depending in the estate where a child resides. Slum estates are characterized by a number of factors such as overcrowding and poor housing which predisposes a child to delinquency.

The issue of urbanization was tackled by asking the juveniles if they had stayed in any urban center in Kenya, 103(87.3%) responded positively to have stayed in an urban center in Kenya compared to 15 (12.7%) who had not. Table 18 shows the urban areas and estates where the juveniles had stayed before.
Table 18. Responses from the juveniles on the urban areas where they have stayed and the estates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban centers</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Estates</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>Kibera</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nakuru</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Githurai</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyahururu</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Kangemi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mombasa</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Mathare valley</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisumu</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Dagoretti</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisii</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Bondeni</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garissa</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Kayole</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kakamega</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Kawangware</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitale</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Ngara</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyeri</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Industrial area</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kericho</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Huruma</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanyuki</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Mukuru Njenga</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siaya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Shauri moyo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirinyaga</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Mbotela</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embu</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Dandora</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maua</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Kariobangi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vihiga</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Mlango kubwa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thika</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Majengo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makindu</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Nyalenda</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naivasha</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Pandpieri</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilifi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Likoni</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makueni</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Mitimingi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luanda</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Others estates</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table 18, it can be observed that of all the juveniles who had resided in the urban centers of Kenya, majority (53.7%) had resided in Nairobi, followed by Nakuru, Nyahururu, Kisumu, Kisii and Mombasa with the same number of juveniles. From the table still it can be
cited that more than three-quarter of the juveniles had resided in the major slum areas in Kenya such as Kibera, Githurai, Kangemi, Mathare Valley, Nyalenda and others.

Table 19 gives a summary of the responses from the social workers and managers on the factors that lead to juvenile delinquent behaviour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Social workers</th>
<th>Managers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty and unemployment</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital conflicts leading to divorce</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>91.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass media</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single motherhood</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance of criminal acts amongst members of a community</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer group or peer pressure</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in the slum areas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanization</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescence</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphanage</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of proper guidance and counselling</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of stepfathers and mothers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination against children</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of proper socialization</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School effects</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting skills i.e. being too strict</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of good role models</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of education/school dropouts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic factor i.e. inheritance of criminal traits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing i.e. living in single rooms</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence from table 19 on the opinions of social workers and managers shows that the leading factors responsible for juvenile delinquency are poverty and unemployment (100%), followed by marital conflicts and divorce (96%), mass media and single motherhood. The least rated factors are genetics/inheritance, faulty socialization and effects from school.
4.3 Research question three: What type of delinquent acts do young people engage in?

This research question was answered by asking the juveniles why they were committed to the rehabilitation schools and why other children also come. The managers and social workers were asked to list the delinquent acts that the rehabilitatee get involved in before being brought to the rehabilitation schools.

Table 19. Responses from the juveniles, social workers and managers on the type of delinquent acts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delinquent acts</th>
<th>Responses from</th>
<th>Juveniles</th>
<th>Social workers</th>
<th>Managers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft/burglary/ house breaking</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loitering/being idle and disorderly</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhang smoking/selling/peddling</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampering with public property e.g. telephone lines/booths/ and rails</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard drugs e.g. heroine trafficking and taking also glue and spirits</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>58.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial sex work/prostitution</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodily assault</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defilement of girls</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being drunk and disorderly</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder/manslaughter</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of stolen property</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery with violence</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unnatural offence/sodomy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being in Kenya illegally</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begging on the street</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohabitating (child marriage)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse at home</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling alcohol without license</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted suicide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being in possession of fake currency</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoning school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiscipline towards parents</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malicious damage to private property</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of firearms illegally</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating disturbance/public nuisance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beastiality</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trespass</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to Table 20 above, it can be observed that theft and theft-related cases are the most common criminal offences committed by the juveniles before being committed to the rehabilitation schools with accumulative total of 43%. Other respondents concur with the social workers (83.3%) and the managers (100%). Loitering followed second and then bhang, smoking selling and peddling. Sexual offences such as prostitution, defilement, rape and sodomy accounted for a small but significant percentage of (9.2%), of notable concern are offences against public property such as telephone booths, lines and raise as 5.8%. Offences related to hard drugs accounted for only 5% but were widely quoted by other respondents like social workers and managers. Other list common offence reported by only one of the respondents at the time of the study were being in Kenya illegally, being in possession of fake currency, attempted suicide and child marriage. Amongst the offences listed by the social workers and managers and not found with any rehabilitatee are bestiality, gambling, illegal possession of firearms, abortion, trespass etc.

To further assess the nature of juvenile delinquency the juveniles were asked to give some of the reasons why other children also came to the rehabilitation centres. The results are shown in Table 21
Table 21 Responses on why other children came to the rehabilitation centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delinquent</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theft and robbery</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoning school</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loitering/vagrancy</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs taking and selling</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape and defilement</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting/indecent assault</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care and protection</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiscipline towards parents, teachers and elders</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft and robbery</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 Research question four: what measures can be taken to intervene or prevent young people from offending.

For the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of guidance and counselling services at the rehabilitation centers, the managers were asked to list the categories of their staff. The following were listed; children/welfare officers, house mistresses, watchmen cooks, primary school teachers, clerical officers, farm instructors, typists, paralegal officers and subordinate staff of notable concern was the absence of a trained counsellor.

Table 22 below shows some of the methods used at the rehabilitation centres to rehabilitate the juvenile offenders. Suggestions for other methods also necessary but not possible at the centres were also given.
Table 22: Responses from the social workers on how they rehabilitate the juveniles and other ways outside their centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods of rehabilitation</th>
<th>Authorities</th>
<th>Social workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Ways of rehabilitation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling</td>
<td>2 66.7</td>
<td>12 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing spiritual guidance</td>
<td>2 66.7</td>
<td>4 33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational programmes/literacy</td>
<td>2 66.7</td>
<td>3 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration/socialization</td>
<td>1 33.3</td>
<td>2 16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making them busy throughout</td>
<td>1 33.3</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing them with basic needs</td>
<td>1 33.3</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>3 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character training</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>3 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement in social activities</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>2 16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Para legalism</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>1 8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Other possible methods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty eradication</td>
<td>6 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aftercare services</td>
<td>3 25.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental guidance and counselling</td>
<td>2 16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening units in normal schools</td>
<td>2 16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing homes basic needs</td>
<td>2 16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better parentage</td>
<td>1 8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revival of youth and village training</td>
<td>2 16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Censoring the mass media</td>
<td>1 8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-integration</td>
<td>1 8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff to be role models</td>
<td>1 8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach them cleanliness i.e. body</td>
<td>1 8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement in social activities</td>
<td>1 8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observation from table 22 above shows counselling (social workers, 66.7%; managers, 100%) to be the most common method used in rehabilitation, followed by spiritual guidance and provision of educational programmes. Para-legalism is lowest in that list (8.3%) and is only found at the Nairobi children’s remand home.

Amongst other measures needed but not found at the rehabilitation centers, the social workers felt that poverty eradication (50%) is the most necessary measure, followed by aftercare services (25%) once the juveniles have been discharged from the rehabilitation
schools. Measures suggested by a small percentage are that the staff to be role models, reintegration and censoring the mass media each accounting for 8.3%.

Rehabilitation process has not been fully successful due to a number of drawbacks. The social workers cited a number of such drawbacks. Their responses are presented in table 23.

Table 23: Responses on problems faced at the rehabilitate the delinquent children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses by the social workers problems</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of enough personal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of adequate staff training</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escapism/ some run away</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrogance of the juveniles</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of insufficient knowledge on the family background</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finances</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebellion from the juveniles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of proper counselling guidelines and literature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time for individual counseling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of materials/basic needs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of interest on the part of juveniles and some staff</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcrowding making it difficult to attend to each case</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixing up various categories of juveniles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some learn new delinquent attitudes or behaviours</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening up – tend to hide their insight</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to Table 23, it can be observed that the major difficulties faced in rehabilitation of the offenders are lack of enough personnel and adequate training coupled with escapism and arrogance on the part of the juveniles. Minor problems are opening up, mixing up various categories of children and overcrowding.
To assess the effectiveness of guidance and counselling at the rehabilitation centres, the social workers were asked a number of questions related to guidance and counselling. The results are presented in Table 24.

Table 24: Responses on guidance and counseling services at the rehabilitation centers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses from the social workers</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Availability of guidance and counseling services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who counsels them</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social workers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The head of the center</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pastor teachers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The teacher</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The nurse</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How they are counseled on</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a group</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both individual and group</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they are counseled on</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate behaviour</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to relate to each other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug abuse</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career and vocational issues</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The findings from the table above show the availability of what can be termed as guidance and counselling services. Three-quarters of the respondents reported on the availability of guidance and counselling services compared to a quarter of the respondents who disputed the availability of such services. The respondents reported that most of the counselling services offered were by the social workers (100%), followed by the head of the institution (50%), pastors and teachers each accounting for 33.3%. The Non-Governmental Organizations are least involved (8.3%). It can also be observed that individual counselling is the most common
(83.3%) method of counseling reported as compared to group counselling which was only reported by 41.7% of the respondents. Priority is mostly given to appropriate behaviour (83.3%), followed by how to relate to each other and drug abuse (66.7%). Counselling on issues related to the family has been given the least priority (8.3%).
CHAPTER FIVE
DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

5.0 Introduction
In this chapter, the major findings of the study are discussed and interpreted and also explanations given for possible socio-economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency. The discussion of the findings of this research are centered around the major research questions directing the study, starting with research question one as follows:

5.1 Research Question 1: What are the possible social factors responsible for the increase in juvenile delinquent behaviours?
This research question was broken down into family background, school effects, peer group influence, neighborhoods/community influence and mass media.

5.1.1 Family Background
The family background is further looked at in four aspects namely broken homes, teenage parental supervision and attachment, Maltreatment or child abuse and large family size.

Broken Homes
The results showed that a large proportion (59.2%) of the delinquent juveniles did not have both their parents, and from this figure a further (12.5%) are orphans. Divorce accounted for the largest percentage (32.4%) for this situation followed by deaths of either parent (Table 2). Home breakup could have influenced the rise in delinquent acts amongst the juveniles affected due to emotional stress caused by the loss of a parent. This is further compounded
by the stress caused by consequential loss of income and the deterioration in standards of childcare that come about through a parent being unexpectedly left to cope alone.

In cases of divorce and separation, family discord and disharmony due to marital conflicts causes children to develop negative attitudes. A breach in the family is crucial, because it is likely to deal the greatest emotional blow to a child’s conception of the solitudine and reality of the parental team and to disrupt his general sense of security as well as the family stability. The findings in this study are consistent with others where Regoli and Hewitt (2000) found that broken homes contributed to juvenile delinquency.

After family breakup, most of the juveniles were left under the care of their mothers; only 36 (30%) and other relatives as indicated in Table 2. The single mothers, most of whom lacked a reasonable way of catering for their children’s basic needs like food and clothing, make children to be influenced to delinquent acts such as theft and running away to the streets. Children left with their grandparents after a family breakup lacked adequate supervision due to loss of vitality and vigor that come with old age. This is further aggravated by the pampering attitude of most grandparents towards their grandchildren. Lack of efficient supervision is a predisposition factor to juvenile. Both the social workers (75%) and managers (100%) of the rehabilitation centers unanimously singled out single motherhood as one of the major causes of juvenile delinquency Table 19). Similar studies in Kenya (GoK and UNICEF, 1992) have observed that majority of the poor, widowed or divorced women work for very long hours, thus lacking time to counsel their children; some single mothers care little about their children (especially teenage boys) due to lack of full control over them. Consequently, the boys may then leave home and join the street gangs. In the due course, he becomes influenced by the other street boys and street life and finally becomes delinquent.
These findings concur with that of Bank et al. (1983) in Oregon study that found that the proximal risk for the children of single mothers skimmed from ineffective discipline and poor monitoring.

The study had revealed that a number of juveniles (51.8%) had also stayed with their stepparents. Some stepparents for instance the mothers do display active jealousy and hostility especially when possessed with the offsprings of their own. Such anomalous relationships when realized by the juveniles could have made some of them to run away from home to the streets in the urban areas where they became delinquent. Some stepfathers apart from regular beatings and hostility go ahead to sexually abuse the girls.

**Teenage parenthood**

The fact that (29%) of the juveniles were children of their mothers below 30 years of age shows that at the time of their birth, the mothers were below 18 years. This could be an indicator of rampant premarital sex amongst the youth today followed by teenage pregnancies. Such mothers normally lack the adequate parenting skills and income to cater for their children’s basic needs thus predisposing them to delinquent behaviours such as theft. Further, teenage mothers are likely to drop out of school and this means earning less in future, inadequate to take care of the children. Amongst the respondents, 36.4% were firstborns, which could have been a further indicator of teenage motherhood. The findings concur with studies by Maynard (1997) and Kolvin et al., 1990 who found that teenage parenthood is associated with a host of risk factors including parenting difficulties, curtailment of education, poverty and lack of support from a partner.
This study had also revealed that majority of the parents had only attained the basic level of education. This may mean that the uneducated parents did not take keen interest in the education of their children and lacked further educational inspirations for their children. This could have contributed to school dropouts, which are a further influential factor towards delinquency. The juveniles who had dropped out of school could have resorted to delinquency due to idleness and joining social cliques whose behaviours are antisocial.

Parental supervision and attachment

Efficient parental supervision has been noted to be one effective way of minimizing juvenile delinquent behaviours, (Patterson 1980). The findings of the study showed that even though 43.3% of the respondents had received what appeared to be adequate parental supervision, 56.7% of the juveniles lacked adequate parental supervision. Out of this, a 17.5% reported that their custodians/parents did not care at all about the time they arrived back home.

Inadequate supervision, for instance, allowed children to roam the streets and neighborhood without knowing where they were or what they were doing more likely produced delinquents from the underprivileged sections of the community. This finding is in agreement with that of Haapasalo and Temblay (1949) that examined aggressiveness in 1000 boys in Montreal and concluded that low levels of supervision were associated with high levels of fighting. Small, (1995) found a strong association between lack of supervision and binge drinking by adolescents.

Family attachment and interaction was answered by asking the respondents who they confide in when having a problem, whether they receive any trust from their parents, attitude towards their custodians and the presence of sibling conflict (Appendix A question 21). The results
from the study showed that majority of the juveniles confided in their mothers or fathers. This could have been over trivial issues because if they had confided in their parents with serious psychological issues, the problems would have been addressed and delinquency averted. If no strong parental attachment exists loss of approval carries no great threat, so alienated children feel free to go their own way in defiance of the wishes of their elders.

Trust from the parents and guardians towards the juveniles was notably lacking. Table 8 showed the presence of inadequate trust towards the juveniles possibly due to their delinquent acts. The juveniles could have interpreted it as a sign of parental rejection that has been shown (Simons, et al., 1989) to be an important factor leading to delinquency. Sibling conflict according to the findings was notably missing; with more than half of the respondents (60.8%) reporting not to have been engaged in any physical fighting's within their families. This is possibly due to the long hours they spend outside the home. The presence of sibling conflict is a sign of loose family ties. Findings from this study agree with the social control theory (Hirschi, 1969) that bonding to individuals and to their society serves to constrain people from engaging in antisocial behaviour by fostering the development of commitment to shared values and of concern for others.

**Maltreatment/child abuse**

With regard to maltreatment, the results showed that a large proportion (99.3%) of the study population had received some form of punishment from their custodian’s. The frequency of punishment was high with a cumulative percentage (56.7%) of the juveniles reporting to have received punishment, many times. Several beatings were the most reported form of punishment, a practice that can be attributed to harsh parenting style.
Excessive punishment imposed by a parent may call forth some challenging counterstroke, either by swift or open retaliation, as in physical assault or instant flight from home, or by devious ways and hidden mental processes, as in reactions more indirect, like theft, embezzlement or a dissolute life of drugs. The findings are similar to Simons et al (1995) that parental violence on their children was part of a general antisocial trait.

Chronic exposure to violence, hostility and coercive styles of interaction may also foster an acceptance of these styles as acceptable means of dealing with problems. The fact that 59% of the respondents when asked some behaviours they didn’t like in their friends singled out fighting supports this. This finding is in agreement with others (Widom, 1997; Boswell, 1996) whose follow-up studies have shown the substantial increase in emotional, social and behavioural problems in children who have experienced serious physical or sexual abuse. These abused children seem more likely than other children to respond to distress with aggression while learning that aggressive behaviours pay off.

**Family size**

The results of the study showed that majority of the delinquent children (25%) had come from a family consisting of four children. The number was even higher (46%) for those coming from families of six and above children. This large family size may be due to the reluctance of the mothers to practise modern family planning methods. The fact that most parents had large numbers of children meant suffering from financial hardship. Limited spending power forced most parents to live in neighbourhoods with high incidences of delinquency such as the slum areas. A similar finding was noted by Rutter & Giller (1983) that being reared in a family with at least four children without adequate income is a significant risk factor for delinquency. Kiunjuri (1985) in a study of delinquency in Nairobi
had put the family size at 8 – 11 children. This reduction in the family size is possible due to
the acceptance and the use of modern family planning methods. Parents who are
overburdened with responsibilities have limited opportunity to monitor their children’s
activities or to exercise consistent control over misconduct. This lack of individual attention
from parents may have promised reliance on peer group who may have exerted pressures
towards delinquency. Lack of parental love and affection at home was reported by (68.1%)
of the respondents. The findings had also revealed the presence of a small percentage (5.7)\%
of the only children amongst the respondents, which is the smallest family size. Only
children are supposed to be less vulnerable to delinquency on account of closer supervision
and protection, by parents, but their presence here could also have meant vulnerability
through ‘spoiling’ or through the boys’ needs to combat maternal possessiveness and assert
masculine independence. While juvenile delinquency has also been blamed on the influence
of delinquent siblings, the study had found that only 15.3% of the juveniles had a brother or
sister who had joined the rehabilitation centers before or at the present, thus leaving room
more to peer influence. This finding is in contrast with Offord’s (1982) that the risk of
delinquency stems, from the influence of delinquent siblings (through some sort of contagion
effect) rather than from qualities of parenting.

5.1.2 School Effect

The fact that 74.2% of the juveniles had started on formal schooling before being committed
to the rehabilitation centers showed a desire by most parents to have their children get the
much needed education. Findings from the study had shown however, that majority of the
juveniles (59.7%) had attended school irregularly, with 51.7% of them reporting to have been
attending school only once a week. This truancy level is very high and may be blamed on bad
company in the slum areas as well as lack of efficient supervision by the parents. Truancy predisposes to delinquency due to the influence from bad friends. Twenty-six percent of the juveniles had cited their reason for leaving school to the fact that their friends had also left school. This finding concurs with numerous studies, which have shown that truancy constitutes a substantial risk factor for delinquency (Graham & Bowling, 1995 and Robin & Robertson, 1996).

Amongst the reasons given for dropping out of school by the respondents were lack of school fees and uniform (32.3%), influence from friends (26%) poor performance (21.9%) and harsh teachers (19.8%). In this study, while lack of school fees and uniform may be associated with poverty, there is also failure by the parents to plan for their families.

Dropping out of school due to harshness of teachers may be a sign of discipline problems on the part of the juveniles concerned. Although Kenya has introduced free primary education (FPE) to alleviate school dropouts due to problem of school fees and uniform, its effects are yet to be felt, and majority of the delinquent children had long dropped out of school and started indulging in delinquent acts by the time it was introduced.

Poor performance in school is frustrating and creates poor self-concept on a child. The youth who are unsuccessful and frustrated in school often turn to peers for their major source of approval as opposed to parents and teachers. Such peer-groups are often dominated by other low achieving children and are very supportive of delinquent values and behaviors. This finding concurs with most such studies that poor performance and delinquency are significantly related, for instance Hawkings & Lishner (1997). A more recent study of this nature by Maughan et al. (1996) found that children with severe reading difficulties were
much more likely than other children to truant and that the increased risk for antisocial behaviours in adolescence arise mainly via that truancy.

It is worth noting that 53.4% of the them had only attained primary level of education. This may mean that the educated parents took keen interest in the education of their children with good supervision thus preventing them from delinquent acts. All empirical studies have found consistent and strong relationship between material education and all measures of childcare. For example, the educated mothers took a more active role in the education and stimulation of their children than the less educated mothers (Ware, 1982). Similarly, results accrue including improved family care and higher educational aspirations for their children. Low parental education can therefore, be taken as a predisposing factor to juvenile delinquency.

5.1.3 Peer Group Influence

The findings of the research reveled that peer influence is one other important factor which could have led most rehabilitatee to become delinquent. More than two thirds of the rehabilitees were aged between eleven to fifteen years while a further 11% percent were aged between sixteen to eighteen years. Most of them were therefore falling in the early adolescence, and middle adolescence stage of life peer influences have most impact during the adolescence a fact also observed by Thornberry and Krohn, 1997. Being in the adolescence period, the juveniles could have also succumbed to peer pressure to involve themselves in delinquent activities. A third of the delinquents reported to be having friends who are currently in the rehabilitation schools or had joined before. Therefore, there may
have been direct modelling of behaviour and also implicit or antisocial activities such as taking drugs, vandalizing property, stealing from shops among other vices.

The fact that the adolescence period is characterized by peer pressure, low self-esteem and the else of drugs to enhance one’s physical and mental power could have explained the wide use of drugs amongst the juveniles. Amongst the behaviour the juveniles did not like in their friends was drug taking (Table 10). Fighting was reported by (59.0%) of the juveniles as one of the behaviours they did not like in their friends, a delinquent behaviour associated more with the onset of adolescence period. A similar study by Wachira (2001) on antisocial behaviours among secondary school students in Nairobi had also found that during adolescence, violence was used as a “logical” way of demonstrating power.

The delinquent acts which juveniles committed could have also served as a source of prestige or esteem within an antisocial peer group thus encouraging them more. Delinquent acts had also involved violation of sex matters. About 26% of the juveniles had reported that they did not like the premarital sexual involvements of their friends. Other sexual delinquent acts reported were homosexuality and prostitution. During the adolescence period, there is often the desire to experiment on sexual activities, a behaviour overtly approved by other peers. In overall, the findings from this study are consistent in shelving substantial peer group effects and are in agreement with other studies such as Agnew,(1991) who concluded that, on the whole, peer effects were greater when people were closely attached to delinquent peers, when they spent a lot of time with them, when the group was overtly approving of delinquent activities, and where peer group activities served to create pressure to join delinquent behaviours.
5.1.4 Neighbourhood/Community Influence

The results of the study showed that majority of the juveniles had resided in the major urban areas of Kenya prior to their being committed to the rehabilitation centers. Nairobi had led followed by Nakuru, Kisumu, Mombasa and others. Two-thirds of the sample population had resided in the slum areas before. These under privileged sections of the community are especially likely to develop a subculture supportive of delinquency. The fact that two-thirds of the juveniles had resided in the renown slum areas of Kenya such as Kibera, Mathare and others could have influenced them to delinquent acts in these areas since there are adult criminals and a greater likelihood that children often come into contact with criminal ways of life which they model and later become part of.

In these slum neighborhoods, behaviour condemned as antisocial by the rest of the society are tolerated and even admired when committed against strangers, the police and others who represent more privileged classes. The slum areas of Nairobi, have often served as a battlefield between the police and residents whenever the latter attempts to flush out criminals, arrest drug dealers and dealers of illicit brew. Such behaviours and attitudes have made the juveniles to accept violence and aggression as a normal way of life. These findings are in agreement with the social disorganization theory where for example Shaw and Mac Kay (1969) had observed that high delinquency areas are characterized by violation of rules and norms and are supportive of delinquent acts.

5.1.5 Mass Media

The mass media was reported by more than three quarters of the social workers as having a lot of influence on juvenile delinquent acts. Majority of the juveniles, (72.5%) had reported on having been watching television while at home despite coming from poor families that
may not afford to buy television. This could be due to the fact that in the slum areas where most of them had resided, there are cheap video places with an entry fee as low as five shillings for children. A further 97.5% watch television at the rehabilitation centers where it is provided as one of the ways of entertaining the juveniles.

The social workers were of the opinion that airing of unsuitable programmes to the underage children presented the major influence possibly due to modeling by the juveniles. According to Table 13, wrestling emerged to be the most favourite programme amongst the juveniles. The wrestling programme survives on extolling the goodness of being able to obliterate opponents using dirty tactics and raw physical power. Having watched such, the juveniles always wished to try that on their fellow children. Viewing of violence may also have played a contributory role in fostering aggressive behaviour due to the fact that the violence viewed is of a kind that is close to real life and that which is recorded, a fact true with wrestling. The juveniles often perceive some wrestlers as heroes and would like to be like them. This finding concurs with that of Lundman (1993) who also found that physical violence content in the Western electronic media, leads to an increase in societal physical violence.

Daily reporting of violence in all forms of Mass media especially television and radios has made violence acts seem common and normal. Again, this regular viewing of violence by the juveniles may have served to desensitize them to violence so that it becomes more acceptable as a way of behaving, a fact supported by Penrod, (1987).

Other programmes equally popular such as the beat, and Channel “0” are characterized by sexually suggestive dance styles. The use of scantily dressed and sexually provocative
females can be cited as a possible causal factor to premarital sex. A similar study by Wachira (2001) had established that the pornographic content in the mass media and sexually provocative programmes on television, had introduced the students to the subject of sex and also encouraged the breakdown of moral values and taboos prohibiting sex. Advertising had have also played a central role in introducing and popularizing the use of legal drugs like some types of alcohol and tobacco amongst the juveniles due to modelling. These findings are consistent with other studies that have shown a positive correlation between advertising and increased drug use abuse, Derksen and Strasburger (1996)

5.2 Research question two: Which economic factors, have influenced the rise in delinquent behaviour amongst juveniles?

This research question was broken into poverty and employment on one hand or the other.

5.2.1 Poverty and unemployment

The results of Table 14 shows high unemployment factors amongst the juveniles parents. Lack of employment is an indicator of poor economic status and poverty. The juveniles are also faced with unemployment problem since most of them are underage and also have not attained even the basic education needed to secure a job.

For the parents who are employed, majority is in self-employment and very few in formal employments that are also not well paying. Unemployment means lack of income and hence inability of the parents to provide for their children’s basic needs like food and clothing. Fifty-nine and 66% of the juveniles cited their major problems at home as being lack of food and clothing respectively. The social workers and managers had also supported this fact as per Table 18. Poverty could have also been contributed to by the many cases of deaths of
fathers, divorces and separations leaving the unemployed mothers responsible for the families without adequate income for securing of basic needs such as food and clothing. This could have forced most delinquents to either get involved in theft, or move to the streets where they learn more delinquent acts such as assault, selling of drugs, theft purse snatching and others. This finding is in agreement with recent studies by Bolger, Sampson and Hauls (1995) which showed an association between poverty and juvenile delinquent behaviour.

Economic pressure could have also contributed indirectly to juvenile delinquency when it is mediated by parental depression, marital conflicts and parental hostility. All these as have been observed earlier under family background are predisposing factors to juvenile delinquency. This study is similar to that of Kulan, (1990) who after examining the influence of economic pressure on delinquency, had come up with similar results.

The number of parents who are market traders formed a noticeable percentage see (Table 15). These parents mostly buy the vegetables and fruits from the Nairobi wholesale market (Marikiti) to sell at a profit in the slums. They are away from home most hours of the day and leave their children unattended and without adequate food. The children wonder all over the residential areas looking for food and feel neglected. This state of affairs has increased the chances of children becoming delinquent. It is a poor child-rearing practice, which was similarly observed by Bolger et al. 1995 as leading to delinquency.

Poverty also could have affected children’s participation in schooling due to lack of school fees and uniform. Dropping out of school could have led them to delinquency due to idleness and association with delinquent friends who had also dropped out of school.
Mwangi (1980) had similarly come to a conclusion that because of poverty, the parents do not encourage their children to go to school and this makes small children to leave school whenever a desire arises, a situation that further predisposes them to delinquency.

5.2.2 Urbanization

The results from the study showed that 87.3% of the delinquent juveniles had stayed in the urban areas of Kenya, with more than two thirds of that population having lived in the slum areas. This research finding differs with that of Muga (1973) who had put the figure at 40%. This difference can be attributed to high rates of rural-urban migration, which has recently characterized most cities all over the world.

The slum areas are characterized by overcrowded accommodation, unwanted social encounters, lack of safety and lack of privacy. All ages and both sexes are huddled together within one stifling room with the consequence that decency is difficult, delicacy impossible and premature acquaintance with conjugal relations are all but unavoidable. Juvenile delinquent behaviours such as child defilement and prostitution can be attributed to such living conditions. A study by Chege (2000) on commercial sex workers in Kibera, Nairobi had made similar observation that some young girls got interested in prostitution after observing it from their mothers.

Overcrowding by large families creates a situation where the older children feel uncomfortable and out of place. Where they cannot bear the intolerable situations any longer, they leave home and enter the world of delinquents in town. Once the parents and children are separated, the parent child relationship deteriorates and it becomes impossible
for parents to control their children. Lack of control leads to involvement in delinquent behaviours.

Parental supervision in such areas is inadequate or near impossible as the parents cannot protect and supervise their young children as they wish. They have to tell them out to roam the streets and fight their own battles among a similarly disadvantaged peer group. While agreeing with this finding, Clifford and Shaw (1942) in their study of high delinquency areas in Chicago had made similar observations that poverty ridden areas as of the cities tend to produce social disorganization which in turn produces delinquency. A more recent study by Susaane (2001) on adolescent violence in selected Asian cities had made a similar observation.

5.3 Research question three: What type of delinquent act do young people engage in?

This research question was tackled under one section only. The findings from the study showed that young people tend to commit more of certain types of offences than they do others. From table 19, it can be observed that much of the juvenile offences in Kenya are of theft and theft-related cases. It is fair to conclude that it is a universal finding (Netherlands – Junger Tas & Block, 1988; Sweden – Wilkstom, 1990; England and Wales. Home office, 1996; United Stated – Synder et al, 1995). Theft and theft-related cases rated high due to poverty causing the juveniles to be deprived of basic needs such as food and clothing. The situation is mostly brought by the low economic status of their parents.

Violent crimes such as robbery with violence and bodily assault form a very small proportion of known offending by the juveniles in Kenya. Violent crimes can be attributed to physical aggression in some juveniles and internalizing of violence means as a way of dealing with
problems. There were no known cases of violent crimes involving the use of guns amongst the same population although it had been mentioned by 7.3% of the social workers. This finding is in contrast with countries like United States (Synder et al, 1995) where between 1984 and 1994 incidences involving the use of guns had tripled. This fact can be attributed to early availability of guns in the United States.

The proportion of sexual offences although much lower than for other offences was nevertheless a sufficiently high percentage to warrant serious attention. Sexual offences can be attributed to antisocial tendencies and also overcrowding and the lack, of privacy in the slum areas that make decency difficult. The children get acquitted prematurely with conjugal relations. The mass media is also a contributory factor. The study found that sex offences particularly where there is violence assault were committed by the male juveniles accounting for 3.4%. Female sexual offences were mainly of commercial sex work or prostitution due to the need for money. Some could have also learnt the behaviour from their peers or relatives. However, the small percentage of sexual offences could have also been due to the embarrassment and stigma associated with them and therefore the unwillingness of the juveniles to openly admit to them.

Juvenile homicide and murder according to the study although low has been witnessed in Kenya especially in our educational institutions (Daily Nation March 2001) Murder and manslaughter may be blamed on disturbed (often abusive) family backgrounds and also a wide range of personal problems. Studies in the United States have again showed very high figures (Synder et al 1996) due to the availability of guns.
Drug use and abuse accounted for a large percentage (Table 19) of the delinquent acts. Taking of drugs could have been due to a deviant lifestyle in which antisocial behaviour is part of the ethos and provides some of the excitement as with the street children. The use of drugs could have also been due to the establishment of a peer group culture that fosters its use.

With regard to particular drugs, bhang was widely used because of its cheap nature and availability. Taking and peddling of hard drugs such as heroine and cocaine accounted for a small percentage of the offences due to their expensive costs. Peddling of drugs is attributed to the need for money, mainly to finance drug addiction habits. The use of glue is mostly confined to the street children as a form of recreation and relieving stress, and moreover, it is very cheap and they can easily afford it. This finding conforms to that of Wachira (2001) which had identified the use of drugs as one of the antisocial behaviours amongst the adolescents in Nairobi. Alcohol related offences involved disorderly conduct amongst the males due to an aggressive lifestyle and selling of alcohol without licence amongst the females, a situation which as before can be attributed to family risk factors such as poverty, modelling from parents and relatives affects both the sexes.

The study also revealed that a noticeable percentage of delinquent children were also convicted of offences which are non criminal but risky “behaviour” (Indiscipline, beyond control of parents and authorities, loitering with immoral intentions, idleness/begging and truancy) Loitering and idleness which formed the bulk of this category of offences is mostly associated with former street children. Being in the streets is a predisposition factor to delinquent acts such as theft, robbery with violence, tobacco and bhang smoking, sniffing of glue, premarital sex, snatching of various items like purses watches and mobile phones.
More rare offences such as gambling are concerned more with the age of the offender rather than the act itself. Being in Kenya illegally could have been committed by a child of a refugee who has not yet obtained the necessary official documents.

In agreement with other studies (Netherlands-Jungen-Tas and Block, 1988; Wikstrum, 1990) observation of official admission records found a clear imbalance in offending by male juveniles and female juveniles. Male juveniles accounted for a larger proportion of violence, burglary and drug offending than female juveniles. Females accounted for a relatively higher propositions of less serious offences.

5.4 Research question four: What measures can be taken to intervene or prevent young people from offending?

All the managers and social workers being aware of the harmful effects on the increase in juvenile delinquency have instituted ways of dealing with it. The respondents were also asked to give their ideas on how juvenile delinquency could be minimized. The results are shown in Table 20.

5.4.1 Measures taken as suggested by managers and social workers.

The social workers and managers were asked how they normally rehabilitate, their response according to Table 20, included the following:

First, nearly all the respondents noted that effective counseling not only enabled the juveniles to realize the dangers of delinquent acts, but also motivated them to behave appropriately, understand the underlying causes of their problems and therefore seek ways of
dealing with them, and also helped those already in serious delinquent acts. This method agrees with that of similar a study where Bynum and Thomson, (1992) suggested on individual and group counseling. Second, spiritual nourishment as used in the rehabilitation centers is aimed at making the delinquent juveniles understand issues of morality and thereby change on their immoral behaviors. This service is provided by the pastor who comes once a week.

Third is educational programmes of literacy have also been noted as one-way of helping the juveniles deal with delinquency problem. This is due to the fact that effective schooling enables the juveniles to acquire the much-needed knowledge in life, have high expectations and learn the acceptable standards of moral behaviour. The teachers provide education.

Socialization or integration has been noted as one way of helping the juveniles who had not been properly socialized to develop positive emotional feelings towards others and the social unit in which they live. Making the juveniles busy is aimed at alleviating the problem of idleness that has been known to be a good avenue through which immoral acts are planned and executed. Providing the basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter is aimed at making available what the juveniles had lacked at home and what could have led them to flee from home.

Discipline and character training are aimed at trying to change the chronically antisocial habits and attitudes and therefore to alter future behavior. Involving the juveniles in social activities such as sports and farm work not only helps the juveniles to socialize and recreate, it also helps to keep away idleness'. Other methods not possible to provide at the centers but were felt by the respondents to be important in long term alleviation of juvenile
delinquency are reduction of societal risk factors such as poverty and unemployment could go along way in alleviating the delinquency problem as poverty eradication will help in the provision of basic needs at home. Also necessary is parental guidance and counseling which can help alleviate delinquency by helping the parents to understand themselves and their children. This could in turn help them to focus on effective monitoring of children’s behaviour, prosocial fostering, well-focused discipline and a good social problem solving. This suggestion agrees with similar findings (Dishion & Chamberlain 1993) that it can lead to a reduction in juvenile delinquent behaviour. The respondents also felt that after care services are necessary and aims exclusively at behavioural control in residential settings once the juveniles go back to their families and communities, so as to make sure that the offenders do not fall back to the same habits or tendencies.

Lastly is the revival of the youth and village training centres will equip the youths with the necessary vocational skills, which they can apply later on in life to earn a living. Despite the fact that the rehabilitation centers staff are putting a lot of efforts aimed at rehabilitating the juveniles, they cited a number of problems, which bar them from fully realizing their goals. Lack of enough personnel and adequate staff training were cited by the respondents as some of the major problems to the rehabilitation process. They felt that there were no enough personnel to attend to the juveniles as required. Another critical issue was training of staff which can enable them to tackle the various issues as they come. Running away upon arrival means that the staff do not get to attend to the juvenile, therefore he leaves the center as he/she had arrived. Arrogance was cited by 16.7% of the respondents as an indicator of flawed personality within the individual children.
Lack of knowledge on the family background and the fact that some juveniles hide their insight means that the staff cannot get to the root cause of the problem and address it effectively. Lack of proper counseling guidelines, literature and time was expressed by the social workers since they feel inadequate in giving an informed advice when faced with a delinquency problem.

5.5 Conclusions

The study established that juvenile delinquency is caused by a multitude of interacting factors. However, despite the fact that there is no single cause, family socio-economic status play a very vital role. The causes identified during the study included the following:-

5.5.1 Social Factors

Family Background:

The study has established that family background is an important factor in determining whether a child becomes delinquent or not. The leading family factor emerged to be the issue of broken homes. This is where either both or one parent has died or deserted home and therefore it is being run by a single parent. The absence of both or one parent has left most children under inadequate care and guidance. The single mothers most of whom the children have been left with are overloaded from both work and child rearing, they face financial strain and are socially isolated. This situation has cause a lot of stress, anxiety and depression in children who have resorted to delinquent behaviours.

The other family factor, which emerged, was teenage motherhood and lack of adequate education for the juveniles’ parents. The teenage mothers lack parental skills and the finances to adequately cater for their children. The low levels of education of the parents
were not enabled them to have well-paying jobs with which they can adequately provide for the needs of their children. This low level of education has also made them to have low educational aspirations for their children.

The study further established that most juveniles lacked adequate supervision from home and have low family attachment. This situation has led most of them to engage in delinquent acts by leaning more on their delinquent peers. Most of those parents did not know whom their children walk with, whom they spent the day with and cared little about the time of arrival back home still under the family background.

Maltreatment and child abuse was established to be a common practice among families of most delinquent children. Frequent severe beatings has made the children to be aggressive and internalize the culture of violence as a way of dealing with their problems.

The study further established that a large family size of four children and above led most children to lack adequate basic needs and supervision from parents. Some resorted to going to the urban streets where they quickly got incorporated into delinquent acts.

School effects

The study also established that most children had dropped out of school due to lack of school fees and uniform a situation brought about by poverty. Poor academic performance and classroom conduct problems also created lack of academic competence. The lack of academic competence likely led to feeling of alienation, worthlessness and low self esteem consequently. Truancy was adopted as a way of dealing with school-related failures. It led most of them to become delinquent.
Peer group influence

Peer group influence played an equally important role. The delinquents, some of whom belonged to social cliques engaged in delinquent behaviours together, continually influenced each other and approved of delinquent acts. Inadequate parental supervision and loose family ties made reliance on peers an alternative.

Neighbourhood/community

The study also established that residing in the slum areas influenced the juveniles to delinquent behaviour. Through cultural interaction and socialization the juveniles learnt of lawlessness and immorality as is the norm in the slum areas. These society-wide factors mean that delinquency cannot be dealt with in isolation.

Mass media

The study further established that the mass media do have an influence on the juveniles especially in relation to violence and immorality.

5.5.2 Economic factors

The study found that most of the parents being jobless are likely to be poor and are therefore unable to support their children and provide them with the necessary education, food, clothing and shelter. These conditions have had adverse effects on the children and predisposed them to delinquent acts. The parents who are employed and earning very low wages are also not in a position to adequately supply the needs of their children. Earning of low wages has made them reside in the slums which has had negative impacts on the behaviour of their children.
5.5.3 Measures being taken to intervene and prevent delinquency

The study has also established that measures currently being used to rehabilitate the juveniles offenders have not been very successful due to problems like understaffing, inadequate staff training, lack of finances lack of interest, arrogance and rebellion from the juveniles. These problems need to be addressed for the programmes to be effective and achieve their objectives.

5.6 Recommendations

On the basis of research findings, the following recommendations are deemed necessary:

First, the Ministry of Home Affairs should embark on vigorous efforts on staff retraining at the rehabilitation schools if they have to be more helpful. Deployment of more well-trained staff to the centers should be considered. Expansion of existing programmes should also be done.

Second, the fact that counselling has been used as one of the important ways of rehabilitating the offenders is commendable, the staff in general should be trained on basic counselling skills and a trained counselor be posted to the institutions to oversee counselling services. The departments of guidance and counselling should be strengthened.

Third, most of the factors contributing to the prevalence of juvenile delinquency can be traced back to their families. Therefore there is need for the government, churches and non-governmental organizations to focus more on family counselling and parenting skills.
Fourthly, community counseling should also be done. The communities need to be educated to realize that what happens with the community affects the children because they copy the behaviours they see acted in the society. Physical violence should be strongly condemned and its dangers highlighted.

Fifthly, empowerment of women should be made a priority so that single mothers who are heads of households and others who care for children are able to support their families. They should be supported to start income-generating activities that would enable them cater for the needs of their families particularly children. In connection to this, the government should embark on serious steps aimed at job creation and poverty eradication to give its citizens better living standard.

Sixthly, in the formal schooling systems, the government should ensure that children who begin to display possible predelinquent behaviour in school such as truancy; aggressive acts towards the teachers and other pupils or vandalism should be given special attention. This attention should take the form of counselling, casework, special teaching within the regular classes or separation into classes with other troubled and misbehaving youngsters.

Finally, the mass media should be censored on the programmes aired. Programmes which are not suitable for underage children should not be aired in their full view.
5.7 Suggestions for further research

The study concentrated only in Nairobi and within three government rehabilitation centers. Further research should be done in other urban centers countrywide so as to have a wide variety of information that could be used as a basis from which to fight juvenile delinquency.

Also, a comparative study on the juvenile delinquency among the poor and rich should be carried out. The study should highlight the factors responsible and help minimize delinquency from both sectors of the social strata.


*Daily Nation*, July 19th, 1999, page 3

*Daily Nation*, March 26th, 2001, page 1


Sunday Nation, July 2nd 2000


“Two rand per child per day”. The Courier No. 177. October – November 1999, P.17.


APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

STUDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Student,

This questionnaire is an attempt to establish the social and economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency. The questions have been prepared to help in understanding and helping delinquent children. From what you know, answer the questions as truthful as possible. Do not write your name anywhere on the paper so that nobody gets to know who has said what hence the information you give remains confidential/secret.

1. Institution.
2. State your gender
   a) Boy
   b) Girl.
3. Age
   a) 0-5 years
   b) 6-10 years
   c) 11-15 years
   d) 16-18 years
4. How many brothers and sisters do you have?
   a) Brothers
   b) Sisters
   c) I am the only child
5. What is your birth position?
   a) Firstborn
   b) Middleborn (state exactly)
   c) Lastborn
6. Do you have any brothers or sisters who have come here before?
   a) Yes
   b) No
7. Are both your parents present?
8. If no, who is present
   a) Mother
   b) Father

9. Whom were you living with before you came here?
   a) Mother
   b) Father
   c) Stepfather or stepmother
   d) Both of them
   e) Mother and father
   f) Uncle/aunty/grandmother/grandfather. (Specify)
   g) Any other (Specify)

10. If you are living with one parent, what happened to the other one?
    a) Separated
    b) Divorced
    c) Was arrested
    d) Works away from home
    e) My parents never married

11. Approximately, how old is your mother?
    a) 21-30 years
    b) 31-40 years
    c) 41-50 years
    d) Above 60 years

12. Approximately, how old is your father?
    a) 21-30 years
    b) 31-40 years
    c) 41-50 years
    d) Above 60 years

13. Are your parents / guardian employed?
    a) Both are employed
    b) Father only
    c) Mother only
d) None of them
e) My uncle/aunty/grandmother/grandfather
f) My guardian

14. What is the occupation of your:
   a) Father
   b) Mother
   c) Uncle/aunty/grandmother/grandfather
   d) Guardian.

15. What are the academic qualifications of your parents?
   a) Primary
   b) Secondary
   c) University
   d) None

16. Have you ever been punished by your father / mother / grandparent / aunty / uncle or guardian?
   a) Yes
   b) No

17. If yes, how often?
   a) Once
   b) Few times
   c) Many times
   d) Very many times

18. What type of punishment do you always receive?
   a) Verbal abuse
   b) Severe beatings
   c) Being denied food
   d) Being sent away from home
   e) Any other. (Specify)

19. If you have a problem whom do you normally confide in?
   a) Father
   b) Mother
   c) My grandmother/uncle/aunty/grandfather
   d) Friends
20. Does your father / mother / grandparents / aunty / uncles / guardian trust you?
   a) All the times
   b) Few times
   c) Never

21. Do you ever fight at home with your brothers and sisters?
   a) Always
   b) Sometimes
   c) Never

22. Does your father / mother / grandparents / aunty / uncles / guardian care about the time
    you reach home?
   a) Very much
   b) Hardly
   c) Sometimes
   d) Not at all

23. What can you say about the person / people you were living with before coming here?
   a) Very good
   b) Good
   c) Bad
   d) Very bad
   e) Undecided

24. Do you normally face the following problems while at home?
   a) Love and affection from parents
   b) Clothing
   c) Food
   d) Any other

25. Have you ever stayed in any town in Kenya?
   a) Yes
   b) No

26. If yes, which one?
27. And in which estate?
28. Which primary school did you attend before coming here?
29. How many times did you use to go to school in a week?
   a) Once
   b) Twice
   c) Three times
   d) Four times
   e) The whole week

30. What made you leave the school?
   a) Harsh teachers
   b) Poor performance
   c) Lack of school fees and uniform
   d) My friends had left school

31. Has any of your friends ever come to this place?
   a) Yes
   b) No

32. If yes, how many of them?

33. Are there some behaviours your friends used to engage in which you didn’t like?
   a) Yes
   b) No

34. If yes, name some of them?
   a)
   b)
   c)

35. Were you used to watching television while at home?
   a) Yes
   b) No

36. Here at the center, do you normally like watching TV?
   a) Yes
   b) No

37. If yes, name three programmes you like watching.
   a)
   b)
38. When did you join this centre?
39. Why do other children also come here?
   a)
   b)
   c)
40. Do you feel changed ever since you came here?
   a) Yes
   b) No
41. If yes, how?
42. What do you intend to do in future?
APPENDIX B

AUTHORITIES (MANAGERS) QUESTIONNAIRES

1. Name of institution.

2. When was the school / centre established?

3. What is the criterion used for admission?

4. What was the original capacity of the center / school when it was established?

5. What is the total number of students in the school / centre presently?

6. What are the objectives of this centre?

7. How many support staff do you have in your school / centre?

8. Specify the category of staff you have here at the centre?
    a)
    b)
    c)
    d)
    e)
    f)
9. What categories of children do you have here in your institution?
   a) 
   b) 
   c) 

10. Do you have any children who have been in conflict with the law?
    a) Yes
    b) No

11. If yes, can you please state the crimes / offences the children commit before being brought here?
    a) 
    b) 
    c) 
    d) 
    e) 
    f) 
    g) 
    h) 

12. From your experience, are there some conflicts between the old and newly admitted students?
    a) Yes
    b) No

13. If yes, what are the main areas of conflict?

14. Is there some kind of influence the old students have on the new ones and vise versa?
    a) Yes
    b) No
15. If yes, what kind of influence do they have on each other?
   a) 
   b) 
   c) 
   d) 

16. In your opinion, do you think the family is a contributory factor to juvenile delinquency?
   a) Yes
   b) No

17. If yes, during the last one year, among the children you have admitted, majority come from what kind of families?
   a) Single mothers
   b) Single fathers
   c) Both parents
   d) Stepmother / stepfather
   e) Grandmother / grandfather
   f) Uncles / aunties
   g) Any other (Specify)

18. What other reasons do you think contribute to juvenile delinquency?
   a) 
   b) 
   c) 
   d) 
   e) 

19. How do you normally try to rehabilitate these students?
   a) 
   b) 
   c) 
   d)
20. How do you rate your success?

21. What else do you think should be done to help these students so that they keep out of trouble in the future?
   a)
   b)
   c)
   d)

22. While the children are here, do their parents visit them?
   a) Yes
   b) No

23. Do they talk to their children and the staff here?
   a) Yes
   b) No

24. Is there any assistance they provide in rehabilitating their children?
   a) Yes
   b) No

25. What kind of assistance do they provide?
   a)
   b)
   c)
APPENDIX C

SOCIAL WORKERS QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name of institution.

2. State your gender (Tick appropriately)
   a. Male
   b. Female

3. Which area do you work within this institution?

4. What are your qualifications?
   a) Certificate
   b) Diploma
   c) Degree
   d) Any other (Specify)
   e) None

5. How long have you worked here?
   a) 0-5 years
   b) 5-10 years
   c) 10-15 years
   d) 15-20 years
   e) Above 20 years.

6. From your records on admissions, do you have children who are here because of being involved in criminal acts?
   a) Yes
   b) No

7. Name the type of offences they commit before being brought here.
   a)
   b)
   c)
   d)
   e)
8. From your experience do you think family background contributes to child crime?
   a) Yes
   b) No

9. From what type of household do most delinquents come from?
   a. Single mothers
   b. Single fathers
   c. Both parents
   d. No parents
   e. Stepfathers / mothers

10. What is the common family size that the children come from?
    a. One child
    b. 2-3 children
    c. 4-5 children
    d. 6 and above children

11. In your opinion, do you think poverty and unemployment can contribute to a child
    becoming delinquent?
    a. Yes
    b. No

12. From what type of family status do most delinquent children come from?
    a. Very poor families
    b. Moderately poor families
    c. Average families
    d. Well-to-do families

13. When you have delinquent children from well to do families, what problems do they
    normally face while at home?
    a. Lack of parental love and affection
    b. Lack of efficient supervision
c. Over strictness
d. Too much money given to children
e. Any other (Specify)

14. Amongst the poor families, what do you think make their children to become delinquent?
   a. Inadequate food
   b. Lack of clothing
   c. Lack of school fees and uniform
   d. Any other (Specify)

15. From your experience with delinquent children, do you think relationship within the family also contributes to a child becoming delinquent?
   a. Yes
   b. No

16. If yes, what type of family relationships do you think contribute to a child becoming delinquent?
   a. Marital conflicts
   b. Sibling conflicts
   c. Sexual abuse
   d. Discrimination against the children
   e. Harsh disciplinary measures e.g. being given a heavy punishment
   f. Maltreatment like severe beatings

17. Do you think the neighbourhood from which a child comes can influence him /her to become a delinquent?
   a. Yes
   b. No

18. Which of the following aspects within the neighbourhood can influence a child to engage in criminal acts? (Tick the appropriate ones)
   a. Living within the slum areas
   b. Living with criminal parents and relatives
   c. Acceptance of criminal acts amongst members of a community

19. Do you think mass media is a contributory factor to juvenile delinquency?
   a. Yes
   b. No
20. If yes, give a few reasons why you think the mass media has also contributed to the rise in delinquent acts among children.
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 
   e. 

21. When you study the delinquents here, what do you consider are the other factors apart from the family, mass media, neighborhood and poverty that lead to the problem of delinquency?
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 

22. Do you offer counselling to these children while they are here?
   a. Yes
   b. No

23. If yes, who counsels them?
   a. We, social workers
   b. A counselor
   c. The head of the centre
   d. The pastor
   e. The nurse
   f. Any other (Name the person)

24. How do they counsel them?
   a. Individually
   b. In a group

25. Which problems are they counselled on?
   a. Appropriate behaviour
   b. Family
   c. Drug abuse
d. Career and vocational issues  
e. How to relate with each other  
f. Any other  

26. What measures apart from counselling do you take to ensure that delinquents develop into good responsible citizens?  
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  

27. After rehabilitation, do you see any behaviour change in these children?  
   a. Yes  
   b. No  

28. If yes, how do you rate your success?  
   a. Poor  
   b. Average  
   c. Above average  
   d. Very good  

29. What problems do you experience while trying to rehabilitate the children?  
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  

30. What else do you think can provide a solution to delinquency problem other than rehabilitating them in a centre like this?  
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  
   d.  

31. Specify the area that you think ought to be given the higher priority and why.
APPENDIX D

OBSERVATION SCHEDULE

Observation involved the following:

1. The rehabilitation centres' records in order to see the kind of delinquent acts recorded, the family background and the type of court sentence meted out.

2. Juveniles' behaviour within the rehabilitation centres e.g. how they relate to each other and the authority figures.

3. Observation of street children to see some of the delinquent acts they engage in.

Observation checklist

(a) Family background

1. Single Parenthood. ( )

2. Marital conflict. ( )

3. Chronic history of offences ( )

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4. Financial or accommodation problems.  (   )
5. Financial or accommodation problems.  (   )
6. Abusive father  (   )
7. Abusive mother  (   )
8. Conflict within the family  (   )
9. Number of siblings.  (   )
10. Education levels of the parents.  (   )

(b) Behaviour within the rehabilitation centres

1. Attentive to directions/advice  (   )
2. Obedient to directions  (   )
3. Bullying new arrivals  (   )
4. Defies authority  (   )
5. Hot tempered  (   )
6. Often quarreling with others  (   )
7. Inciting others  (   )
8. Assaulting or fighting others.  (   )
9. Using abusive language.  (   )

(c) Behaviour of street children.

1. Smoking cigarettes or bhang  (   )
2. Sniffing glue  (   )
3. Beating the other young street children.  (   )
4. Purse snatching

5. Pick pocketing leading to arrest

6. Snatching of mobiles, watches and other valuable items.

7. General disorderliness and misconduct.
Dear Sir Madam,

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION:

I write to introduce Ms. Jacynther A. Otunge who is a Postgraduate Student of this University. She is registered for M.Ed. degree programme in the Department of Psychology.

Ms. Otunge intends to conduct research for a project entitled, "An Investigation into the Socio-Economic Factors Leading to Juvenile Delinquency in Nairobi, Kenya" as a partial fulfillment of the requirement of her degree programme.

Any assistance given to her will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

J.K. LANGAT
FOR: AG. DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL

C.C. Registrar (Academic)
Ag. Dean, GS - to see on file
Dean. School of Education & Human Resource Development.
Chairman, Educational Psychology Dept.

JKL:eww
Jacynter A. otunge
Kenyatta University
P.O BOX 43844
NAIROBI

Dear Madam

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORISATION

Please refer to your application for authority to conduct research on "An Investigation into the Socio-economic factors leading to delinquency in Nairobi, Kenya."

This is to inform you that you have been authorized to conduct research in Nairobi Province for a period ending 30th September, 2004. You are advised to report to the PC and the PDE Nairobi before embarking on your research project.

Upon completion of your research project, you are expected to submit two copies of your research findings to this office.

Yours faithfully

B.O ADEWA
FOR PERMANENT SECRETARY

Cc

The Provincial Commissioner
Nairobi

The Provincial Director of Education
Nairobi