FACTORS INFLUENCING MORE BOYS INTO CRIME THAN GIRLS IN NYAHURURU DISTRICT, LAIKIPIA COUNTY, KENYA

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DECLARATION

“This project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university or any other award”

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DEDICATION

To my wife Anne, daughter Lavender and Son Karlmarx.
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ABSTRACT

The world is grappling with the issue of juvenile crime as millions of children are involved in crime. Studies show that 90% of juvenile crime is committed by male child offenders, which points to gender imbalance. There is need to investigate why boys are more likely to commit crimes as compared to girls. The objectives of the study were: to document the number of boys and girls involved in juvenile crime in Nyahururu district in the year 2011, to identify differences in crimes committed between boys and girls in Nyahururu district, to investigate the factors predisposing boys to crime within Nyahururu district and to suggest strategies that can reduce juvenile crime in Nyahururu district. The study focused on child offenders and their respective parents/guardians and professionals handling the former within Nyahururu district. The study was guided by the Power-Control Theory of Gender and Delinquency as propounded by Hagan (1985) and Gillis and Simpson (1987) and correlational research design. It established that there were 94 child offenders, 83 were boys and 11 girls, which meant that in every 10 child offenders, 9 are boys and only 1 is a girl. Stealing was the most common crime in Nyahururu district among both boys and girls with 23 out of 94 incidences, boys commit more offences than girls the reason was because boys have more freedom. Peer pressure and family related problems were dominant factors predisposing boys into crime. Within the family unit, lack of satisfaction of basic needs was one of the reasons that cause children to be involved in crime. Most respondents indicated that there was a link between child neglect and juvenile crime. Three quarters of child offenders had been influenced by their peers into crime and that drug abuse and prevalence in crime are synonymous. Suggested strategies to that can address the issue of juvenile crime include unconditional positive regard for children, counseling, positive role modeling and promotion of talent among children. The study has drawn some conclusions; crime is dominated by males as compared to females, stealing is the most common type of crime among both boys and girls, most of the crimes committed by girls are done within the domestic sphere while those by boys are both within the home and outside the home, there is a relationship between child neglect and juvenile crime, most child offenders come from nuclear families. Some of the recommendations from the study are; there is need for urgent intervention to save boys from crime, gender analysts need to develop different approaches for the two sexes when handling them in the juvenile justice system and also during planning of intervention measures, restructing in the socialization process within the family is necessary, it is suggested that there is need for establishment of an academic discipline in parenting studies, making basic needs more accessible is a multi-pronged strategy to prevention of juvenile crime.
OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Crime: An offence punishable by law

Girl: A female person aged between 12-18 years

Boy: A male person aged between 12-18 years
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<thead>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCI</td>
<td>Charitable Children’s Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS</td>
<td>Department of Children Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBI</td>
<td>Federal Bureau of Investigations</td>
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<tr>
<td>JJS</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice System</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITP</td>
<td>Individual Treatment Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRC</td>
<td>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations International Educational Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Education and Social Cultural Organization</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the Study

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) report (2009), modern societies generally regard crimes as offences against the public or the state, as distinguished from torts (wrongs against private parties that can give rise to a civil cause of action). Crime is a global phenomenon that afflicts most societies. The level of crime may differ from one society to another. Generally crime has been associated with adults though recently it has been observed to infiltrate young members of the population that include children. The United Nations International Educational Fund (UNICEF - 2008) report, notes that millions of children commit crimes worldwide every year, although 90% of all children who come into contact with the law are first-time offenders. From the above, it appears that the world is grappling with the issue of juvenile crime. In recent years, this concern has grown with the dramatic rise in juvenile crime in the United States of America (USA).

Giddens (1997), argues that although crime is gendered, criminological studies have traditionally ignored half of the population by including virtually nothing about women, save for sections on rape and prostitution. He argues that males and females are by nature equally inclined to commit crime but the later are more constrained than the former in virtually all aspects of life; however gender remains an important variable in relation to crime. Statistics show enormous imbalance in the ratio of boys to girls engaged in juvenile crime in most countries across the world, which could interest gender stakeholders.
According to a United Nations Education and Social Cultural Organization (UNESCO – 2007) report, in Canada, groups of boys were reported to enter into private homes (while the owners were away) and mutilate expensive furnishings, while in Argentina gangs of boys gathered in cafés or bars to insult or humiliate customers or pedestrians; after which they would wreck parked cars. Similar incidences have been reported in the Philippines. The report further indicates that almost every language in the world has a phrase labeling juvenile criminals. In England, they are referred to as ‘teddy boys’, Netherlands ‘nozem’, Sweden ‘raggare’, France ‘blousons noirs’ and South Africa ‘tsotsis’ – UNESCO (2007). These give a perception that juvenile crime is a problem many societies across the world have to contend with, therefore warranting attention in terms of unearthing the factors behind criminal activities. It is imperative that gender dimension to the issue be put into consideration when attempting to find solutions to the same.

The British Home Office report (2004) indicates that the overall number of juvenile offenders aged between 10 –17 and found guilty in court in the year 2002 were 6,700 females and 42,400 males representing 15% and 85% respectively. The report further indicates that 80% of female juvenile offenders abandon their “criminal career” within one year as compared to only 55% males. Other statistics from various parts of the world confirm that the number of boys committing crime has been consistently higher than that of girls, yet they grow up in a similar environment. According to a 1997/1998 Canadian Royal Mounted Police report, juveniles aged between 12 to 17 make up 8% of the Canadian population but accounts for 22% of all persons charged for criminal
offences. Approximately eight in ten young offenders are males and one-half of the youth caseload in court involves 16 and 17 year old juveniles.

The 2008 UNICEF report indicates that in South Africa, juvenile crime is a growing trend. In the year 2010, 30,000 South African juvenile offenders were successfully taken out of the justice system and diverted into educational and life skills programs instead of serving custodial sentence. This was in line with the provisions of the Child Bill (2000) that emphasized on mediation and reconciliation between the warring parties as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of South Africa.

In Kenya, Gategi (2008) argues that current studies reveal that crime has been on the increase in the previous ten years due to the presence of a large number of unemployed people, mostly youth who engage in crime to afford their basic needs. On distribution of crime across Kenya, comparatively Nairobi province has the highest incidences, as a result of its high population, and the prevalence of extreme poverty in the informal settlements.

The 2007/2008 annual report for Department of Children Services (DCS) shows that 3,170 juvenile cases were handled at the Nairobi Central Juvenile Court alone, 386 girls and 2,784 boys. All these children are admitted in the 9 statutory rehabilitation schools – 7 for boys and 2 for girls. The following year, a marked increase in the number of juvenile offenders was noted with 3,646 cases handled in the same court representing about 14 percent increment, 422 were girls while boys accounted for 3,224. As mentioned earlier, the number of boys committing crime has been consistently higher.
than that of girls, this report just like the others mentioned earlier have not gone further to explain why such huge disparities exist between boys and girls who engage in juvenile crime.

Records from the Nyahururu law courts Children’s Registry show that in the year 2009, 122 children committed criminal offences as compared to 145 cases in 2010 showing a percentage increment of about 14%. Though the figures are not sex disaggregated, a physical count from the children’s court register based on the first name of the juvenile offenders as a gender indicator, shows that the ratio of girls to boys is an average of 1:9, which translates to an estimated 90 per cent of juvenile criminal offences in respect to boys. The number of statutory rehabilitation schools resonates well with the ratio of boys to girls who commit juvenile crime in Kenya as well as at Nyahururu law courts respectively. Additionally, DCS 2008/2009 report shows that of the two borstal institutions meant for hardcore juvenile offenders; none is for girls, thus suggesting that the country does not expect girls to commit serious criminal offences. These are indicators that vindicate this study as the indicated ratios are gender skewed.

Scholars in the discipline of gender have nonetheless attempted to offer explanations as to why boys are more prone to crimes. Mahood (1995), argues that criminal patterns for boys and girls are different even if they share a similar environment. Giarini (1980) delves into gendered reasons why girls and boys commit crime. He mentions that rule violation by boys is a manifestation of their autonomy and separateness, while that of girls is a matter of selflessly joining in relationships. He further suggests that arrest among boys is mostly due to offences against property and use of violence, while girls...
are mostly arrested due to sexual offences and personal misdemeanor. The argument attempts to describe the gendered pattern of juvenile crime, however there is need to go beyond it and establish the factors that predispose boys to crime in comparison to girls. The challenge of this study is to identify and examine factors that influence boys into crime as compared to girls in Nyahururu district, bearing in mind gender concerns of each factor.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Juvenile crime continues to pose challenges to societies across the world. From the introduction, studies show that the number of boys engaged in crime is consistently higher than that of girls in most parts of the world. Many factors could contribute to the involvement of children into crime. However, majority of studies and reports have largely ignored gender aspects on juvenile crime but only provide figures and ratios, hence a full understanding of male vis a vis female juvenile crime remains elusive. The situation is further compounded by the fact that most authors, both locally and internationally, who present gender disaggregated data on juvenile crime in their work do not offer an explanation as to why such is the case, a problem that forms the basis of this study. In Nyahururu, the number of boys involved in juvenile crime stands at an average of 90%. The study thus sought to examine factors influencing boys into crime as compared girls in Nyahururu district, Laikipia County, Kenya.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The study sought to achieve the following objectives;

i. To document on the number of boys and girls involved in juvenile crime in Nyahururu district in the year 2011
ii. To identify the differences in crimes committed between boys and girls in Nyahururu district

iii. To investigate the factors that predispose boys into crime within Nyahururu district

iv. To suggest strategies that can reduce juvenile crime in Nyahururu district

1.3 Research Questions

The study was to respond to the following key questions:

i. What is the number of boys and girls involved in juvenile crime in Nyahururu district in the year 2011?

ii. Is there a difference between crimes committed by boys and girls in Nyahururu district?

iii. Are there factors that predispose boys to juvenile crimes in Nyahururu district?

iv. Are there strategies that can be put in place to minimize juvenile crime in Nyahururu district?

1.4 Research Premises/Assumptions

The study was based on the following guiding assumptions:

i. Many boys and girls were involved criminal offences in Nyahururu district in the year 2011

ii. Juvenile crimes committed by boys and girls in Nyahururu district are different

iii. There are factors that predispose more boys than girls into crime in Nyahururu district

iv. There are strategies that can reduce juvenile crime in Nyahururu district
1.5 Significance of the Study

The study could help to provide important information that will bring on board gender concerns to policy makers and agencies dealing with issues of juvenile crime. The children rehabilitation institutions and the law enforcement agencies could also benefit during effecting of arrest and drafting of charge sheets which will be informed by gender concerns related to the crime in question for instance if the crime is gender specific or gender neutral. This study will also be an added academic resource especially to students in related academic disciplines.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study focuses on male child offenders from Nyahururu district who had been convicted at the Nyahururu law courts for charges of a criminal nature in the year 2011. The period was suitable since a total of 83 male child offenders were convicted and also these were the most recent available records on child offenders. The study was conducted at Nyahururu law courts, which is strategic since it serves the entire Nyahururu and other neighboring districts as its catchment area, further it has two children’s courts. The study targeted child offenders aged above 12 but below 18 years, as this is the age of criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders according to section 14 of the Penal Code of Kenya.

The study investigated factors influencing boys into crime as compared to girls within Nyahururu district, Laikipia County, Kenya. The study limited itself to boys who had been convicted in court and had served or were serving non-custodial rehabilitation. However, it left out boys who had committed criminal offences but were not arrested and those who had been convicted and sent for institutional rehabilitation. Therefore,
generalization of the findings of the study should be done with caution since not all juvenile offenders were arrested and arraigned in court. In addition, some juvenile offenders were serving custodial rehabilitation in various statutory rehabilitation institutions across the country, none of which is in the study area therefore accessing them could have been challenging to the study.
CHAPTER TWO
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the authored documents on gender and juvenile crime. The focus is mainly on factors influencing boys into crime as compared to girls. The literature review has been organized according to the following sub topics: differences in crimes committed between boys and girls, factors that predispose boys into crime with reference to the family, peer groups and drug abuse; the role of social workers and other professionals in handling juvenile crime offenders with a focus on children’s magistrates, children’s officers, police officers and probation officers, strategies that can reduce juvenile crime among boys as well as the theoretical framework and conceptual framework of the study.

2.1 Differences in Crimes Committed Between Boys and Girls

Holmes (2009) argues that we live in a world which is organized around the idea that women and men are different; have different needs, desires and capabilities, where gender is seen as a social construct. From this opinion, gender predispositions could be a contributing factor towards the large number of male children finding themselves in conflict with the law. Since their social experiences are different, there is a likelihood juvenile crimes tend to be different for each gender. Structural functionalists such as Talcot Persons (1902-1979) argue that gender roles should be viewed as complimenting each other as one sex is assigned the opposite roles of the other sex, which to him is functional. The study has a varying opinion since this thinking does not appreciate how each gender role is valued or rewarded within the society, therefore societal stability...
due to complementarity of gender roles may not be beneficial to one sex depending on cultural dictates.

Mahood (1995) argues that having a female body may not necessarily lead an individual to behave in a certain way, its only behaviors that are characterized as either masculine or feminine. Social learning theorists echo Mahood's opinion since they believe that children are encouraged to behave according to their gender since they are rewarded for behaving appropriately. The study agrees with these arguments since gender differences are viewed as an illusion that is created during interaction with each other, the script of gender roles and expectations is learnt and played on socio-economic, cultural, political and religious platforms. This kind of social arrangement may lead to differences in the crimes committed between boys and girls.

Cain (1989) notes that feminist research on girls has revealed that double-standards have continually been applied with regard to monitoring girls' and boys' behaviors – with the former being subjected to scrutiny and social regulation in a way that the later have not. From the above, it appears different ways in which boys and girls are raised as well as the societal expectation upon them, boys' criminal behavior seem to be accommodated more easily than that of girls. Socialization of boys as well as the expectation of society puts a lot of pressure upon them to succeed in providing for their families in adulthood. If they fail to provide lawfully, they may resort to crime – which is a gendered predisposing factor.
2.2 Factors that Predispose Boys into Crime

The study proposed to primarily investigate three factors that could be responsible for the gender disparities in juvenile crime statistics between boys and girls but at the same time allowing the study to come up with other factors that have not been envisaged. The proposed factors include the family, peer groups and drug abuse.

a) The Family

The family, in its various types and being a primary agent of socialization is an important institution to consider when looking at gender disparities in juvenile crime, as it could be a key contributor to the same or the reverse could be true. Giarini (1980) and Wachira (2002) argue that children who perceive their parents unfavorably are more likely to fall in crime. It happens when parents are poor or are unable to meet the needs of their children, which reflects on the economic means of the family. On the other hand, this opinion could be challenged by scholars with varying viewpoints or even forthright people who grew up in poor or broken families. Freud (1856-1939) argues the most common element that contributes to criminal behavior among children is faulty identification by a child with her/his parents. He argues that the improperly socialized child may develop a personality disturbance that causes her/him to direct antisocial impulses inward or outward. The child who directs outward becomes a criminal, and the one who directs inward becomes a neurotic. The study agrees with Freud's argument that the kind of relationship which develops between a child and the parent is an important determinant of its later character. However, Freud does not differentiate the gender of the children involved in crime, a concern that this study proposed to address.
Rogeli and Hewitt (2000) argue that generally, delinquency among children is synonymous with female headed households due to sex role problems (social inquiry reports in the child criminal files at the Nyahururu law courts vindicate this assertion). The study observes that the foregoing authors have attempted to blame juvenile crime on female headed households, in itself a gender issue that can be subjected to debate.

Taylor et al. (2002) argue that studies have shown firstborn children are less likely to be criminals and that large families are likely to produce criminal children. This study observes that, the mentioned studies by Taylor et al. were not gender specific as their conclusions did not explain what difference will be seen if the firstborn child was either a boy or a girl. Further, the findings did not explain the gender ratios of boys to girls in the mentioned large families whose children's propensity to commit crime is high. The study observes that parenting is a key component in a child's growth and development and an important determinant of a child's character or behavior.

b) Peer Groups

Peers, much like family, shape the behaviors and beliefs of those they associate with. Warr and Stafford (1991) argue that delinquency theorists agree that both peers and family play a crucial role in the socialization of an individual. Affiliating to a deviant group with family and friends could influence the internalization of norms of an individual. (ibid) Expressed attitudes and actual behaviors are the two mediums by which peers influence one another, with actual behaviors maintaining greater influence. This study is of the view that the influence of peer group as a contributing aspect
towards juvenile crime cannot be underestimated and is a significant factor of analysis when examining the issue of juvenile crime.

Yablonksy (2000), points out three types of groups: social groups, mobs or crowds and near groups. These three groups are placed on a continuum of group organization with social groups on the higher side in organization and mobs and crowds on the other end. Mobs and crowds are unplanned gatherings of people for some event that has little or no permanence, and involve minimum interaction. Gangs are peer groups and some gang members refer to themselves as family. Jankowski (1991) indicated that gangs are distinctly a male occurrence and females serve no role rather than as property and for sex. However, Taylor (1993) gives a contrary opinion to Jankowski arguing that females are just as capable as males at being ruthless if their life opportunities are threatened.

The study indicates that females have moved beyond the status quo of gender repression and further agrees with Taylors’ opinion since in many urban places in Kenya, female gangs have been reported to harass both male and female patrons in entertainment sports. Further incidences of girls instigating unrest in schools and causing extensive damage to property have been reported. It is then imperative to examine peer groups as a factor that could be linked to gendered juvenile crime.

c) Drug Abuse

Yablonsky (2000) argues that there is a wide belief among the general population worldwide that drug abuse causes crimes. The main argument is that drug addicts may
not be in gainful employment due to their condition. The study observes that drugs cost money and many of the addicts could rely on crime to afford drugs and to earn a living. (ibid) Upon taking drugs, individuals lose their emotional control and tend to easily engage in violence and criminality. Besides, most drugs in question are classified as illegal and their use is a violation of the law and as such these individuals are absorbed in the criminal justice system. It appears that a society with a high number of drug abusers is likely to witness high rates of crime. This study proposes to investigate drug abuse as a factor that could explain why more boys are involved in crime.

2.3 The Role of Social Workers in Handling Child Offenders

Roberts (1997) suggests that social workers play an important role in the juvenile justice system. At the intake of a case, they direct court officials to a variety of social services programs that are available to the child offender. They also assist the court in investigation of circumstances surrounding the offence by way of preparing social inquiry reports that provide the court with valuable information about the child including analysis of the child’s family situation, peer relationships, neighborhood environment, school performance and the apparent moral character of the child.

In the courtroom social workers testify as witnesses in court hearings and clarify information contained in social inquiry reports as well as availability and/or lack of particular social services that a child offender could benefit from. Lastly social workers are involved in the aftercare services where they journey with the child offender through the prescribed rehabilitation process or treatment plan while at the same time
submitting regular progress reports about each case. The following is a brief highlight of the role of each professional group working with juvenile offenders.

a) Children's Magistrates:

They are those who have undergone child care and protection course and gazetted to handle children's matters albeit not exclusively since they handle other court matters. According to the litigants' charter of the judiciary (2010) it is one of the three arms of the government established under the constitution of Kenya. Its mandate is the fair, efficient and timely administration of justice through the courts system. According to the charter, the courts serve as independent, accessible, responsive forum for the just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and protect all rights and liberties guaranteed by the constitution. The children's magistrate together with the social workers process children's court matters through consultations and the magistrate issues appropriate court orders on the matter after a hearing.

b) Children's Officers:

They are officers serving under the DCS and their main work is to safeguard the rights and welfare of all children in Kenya through implementation of relevant policies, coordination, supervision and delivery of services. Their work is provided for under the Children Act (2001). According to DCS service charter, they are the focal point in coordinating all children matters in their assigned areas. They receive cases pertaining to children's welfare from members of the public, rescue children from abusive situations or those in need of care and protection, they summon parents and hold child
welfare discussions with parent/s who have neglected their children by ensuring the best interest of the children is safeguarded in accordance with the Children Act (2001). They represent children in court (and other fora), investigate each case and present reports to court in the best interest of the child. They are also involved in regulating all Charitable Children's Institutions (CCIs) within their areas.

c) Police officers:

Since the issue of juvenile crime is a security concern, police officers are critical players in the juvenile justice system, in this case officers particularly serving at the children/gender desk in each police station. According to the Kenya police service charter (2009) they provide police services by upholding the rule of law, creating and maintaining strong community partnerships. Some of their core functions include; maintenance of law and order, preservation of peace, protection of life and property, detection and prevention of crime, apprehension of offenders, enforcement of all laws and regulations with which it has been charged. They provide the above mentioned services to child offenders but most importantly provide security to the child offenders while being transported to designated places as ordered by the court for instance rehabilitation schools or borstal institutions. They also have custody of child offenders at the police cells (remand) as the offender's matters proceeds in court.

d) Probation Officers:

Probation services is a department in the office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs. According to the probation officers customer service charter (2010) the
officers deal with supervision and rehabilitation of offenders serving non-custodial sentences in the community. They provide a number of social inquiry reports to the courts including: Pre-bail reports, probation officers reports as well as victim impact assessment reports to help the magistrates to decide on cases. The department is also involved in crime prevention activities through sensitization meetings with the publics. Additionally, supervision of offenders serving non-custodial sentences is done in relation to those serving probation orders, community service orders, those released on license from penal institutions and after care services. Moreover, they prepare pre-release reports to penal discharge boards, for sentence review of offenders, guidance and counseling, empowerment of offenders through issuance of free working tools to skilled reformed offenders, resettlement and reintegration of ex-offenders among others. All these are geared towards rehabilitation of offenders. According to the Children Act sec 191, child offenders are liable to be on probation under the provisions of the Probation Act if they are aged between 15 to 18.

These professionals are a critical component when examining the issue of juvenile crime since they are trained and work in juvenile justice system. Their views are important in helping the study understand juvenile crime in general, factors predisposing boys into crime as compared to girls as well as help in identifying strategies that could lead to reduction of juvenile crime.

2.4 Strategies that can Reduce Juvenile Crime

Taylor et al. (2002) sighting Beccaria (1738-1794), argues that people are naturally hedonistic, that is, they always maximize on pleasure and minimize on pain by
performing acts that are pleasurable and avoiding acts that are painful. Consequently if crime is pleasurable people will continue to commit it. Therefore punishment fit for each crime should be made for purposes of deterrence. The role of society should be to increase the risk and decrease the benefit of crime. The study observes that his argument vindicates the role of courts and other structures for conflict resolution in the society. It also supports the existence of correctional facilities for instance prisons for adult offenders and rehabilitation schools for juveniles. Beccaria emphasizes the concept of ‘punishment fit for each crime’ however in the Kenyan context, courts have generally been perceived to pass harsh sentences on petty crimes as opposed to grand crimes, therefore, in practice, going against Beccaria’s proposal.

To strategize on how to deal with the issue of child offenders requires knowledge on factors in the individual, the family, social settings, and community that influence the development of juvenile crime, types of offenses committed by young people and also the types of interventions that can most efficiently and effectively prevent juvenile offences in the first instance or prevent its recurrence. The study further suggests that there is need for increased community awareness on the issue of juvenile crime prevention and the necessary structures for the same set up. Children should to be protected or rescued from socially dysfunctional environments.

Mahood (1995) argues that compulsory education for children is a pinnaele to raising respectful hardworking and religious people. However the author’s argument fails to go beyond education. Importance of other societal structures could help in solving the issue of juvenile crime due to its multi-causal nature. She further argues that women are seen as natural caretakers of renegade boys and girls. (ibid) the influence of women upon
boys is significant as they are mother figures. She proposes that women are better placed to rehabilitation of boys. The study suggests that this argument could be right in respect of the sanctity of the mother figure, however other scholars have argued that lack of a father figure in the family is a prelude to juvenile crime.

Given the higher number of boys committing crimes especially in Nyahururu district, Taylor et al. (2002) argue that in order to destruct boys from crime, sports and youth clubs could be created so that youths are constantly engaged in productive activities. Clubs such as boy scouts that reinforce national values (self reliance, loyalty, discipline and hygiene) and good citizenship could be supported. As for girls, the solution is quite opposite; Taylor et al. suggest that girl’s sexuality is seen as a danger to herself if not well handled. Finally they suggest that work fit for girls and boys should be created rather than girls and boys fit for work.

From the foregoing argument, the opinion of the study is that girls’ sexuality has been overemphasized, however the study acknowledges the centrality of how girls handle their sexuality since issues of early/unwanted pregnancies, venereal diseases and abortion – and the effects from each thereafter for instance interruption of education - are largely anchored on how sexuality among girls is handled. Respectability of girls largely lies in self control, discipline and chastity. The suggestion that boys should be involved in outdoor games and clubs should be gender neutral and not a preserve for boys only. There is need to come up with gender disaggregated interventions that are specifically targeted at child offenders with a view of reducing the number of boys engaged in crime which hitherto, is worrying.
2.5 Theoretical Framework

The study is guided by the Power-Control Theory of Gender and Delinquency also known as the Power-Control Theory. The theory was originally posited by Hagan (1985) and further developed by Gillis and Simpson (1987). It holds that the gender distribution of delinquency is caused by stratification of gender relations within the family. The theory seeks to explain gender disparities in the rates of delinquency by attributing them to the level of social and parental control practiced. The Patriarchal and Egalitarian families have been used to explain the tenets of the theory.

Hagan’s power-control theory proposes that delinquency must be explained in terms of power relations between the two sexes. The theory states that the family model reproduces its power relations in the workforce. Theorists use this phenomenon to explain why females have lower delinquency rates than males. The tenet will guide the study in establishing gender disparities in terms of the factors behind the high number of boys committing juvenile crime as compared to girls within Nyahururu district.

The theory holds, in the past, many households were paternalistic: the mother stayed at home taking care of the children while the father worked outside the home. Thus, boys were more likely to be delinquent than girls because the boys were taught to be risk takers and were given more freedom while girls were strictly controlled by their mothers. Parents tended to be relatively tolerant of the trouble-making behavior of their sons. This meant teenage boys were freer to deviate than girls. Mothers were seen to be more controlling over their daughters than their sons, who were granted greater freedom as they were prepared for the traditional male role symbolized by their fathers.
The theory further posits that daughters were socialized into the *cult of domesticity* under the close supervision of their mothers, preparing them for life oriented towards domestic labor; while sons were encouraged and allowed to "experiment" and take risks. Daughters in this scenario were closely monitored so that participation in deviant or delinquent activity was unlikely. This tenet will guide the study in investigating the differences in juvenile crime among boys and girls as well as the family of child offenders. The tenet will further help the study to understand the issue of drug abuse and peer groups since boys are allowed greater freedom and are encouraged to go out door and “experiment”.

However with the shift from paternalistic to egalitarian families, Hagan predicted that delinquency rates among males and females shall be similar. The girls in egalitarian families will be taught to be risk-takers since their mothers will also be part of the workforce. Therefore, female delinquency is expected to increase in egalitarian families and female headed families. The egalitarian family is characterized by little difference between the mother's and father's work roles, so that responsibility for child rearing is shared. Here children of neither sex will receive close supervision as compared to females in the paternalistic family. Middle class aspirations and values will dominate, i.e. mobility, success, autonomy and risk taking for both sexes. Sisters’ deviance will mirror brothers’ deviance. Children from both sexes will be encouraged to experiment with risk taking. This tenet will guide the study in identifying strategies that would help in addressing the issue of juvenile crime.
2.6 Conceptual Framework

Various reports and studies in chapter one have shown gender disparities in juvenile crime, with more boys involved in crime, thus capturing it as a global phenomenon. There are factors that are presumed to influence boys into crime; family, peer groups and drug abuse have been identified. The complex interaction of these factors reinforce each other and are assumed to have an influence on the propensity of boys to commit crime. The study assumes that juvenile crime heralds gender disparities with boys holding dubious statistical record for the same. The result could be; insecurity, truancy, loss of property and ruined life opportunities for child offenders.

These needs to be addressed through various intervention measures and strategies for instance; appropriate punishment for crime, access to social services such as education and youth clubs, role models and spiritual guidance among others. If intervention measures are implemented effectively, the expectation outcomes could be reduce juvenile crime among boys, families devoid of child offenders, boys equipped with appropriate life skills and strengthened juvenile justice processes among others.
Boys and Girls involved in Crime

Factors Influencing level of Juvenile Crime: Family, peer pressure and drug abuse

More Boys than Girls in Juvenile Crime

Consequences of Crimes Committed by Boys: Insecurity, truancy, loss of property, ruined future life

Redressing Strategies: Punishment fit for each crime, prevention of drug abuse, access to education, role modeling, spiritual guidance for boys

Expected Outcomes: Reduced juvenile crime among boys, functional families, boys equipped with appropriate life skills, strengthened juvenile justice system

Expected Impact: Reduced crime among boys, reduced adult crime and more effective crime prevention measures

Figure 2.1: Redressing Juvenile Crime among Boys
CHAPTER THREE

STUDY METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology the study followed. Correlational Research Design guided the study. The study area was Nyahururu district and the study population has been provided as well as the sampling techniques. Interview guides were used to collect data through face to face interviews. Validity and reliability of the study, data collection, analysis and management as well as ethical issues are also provided.

3.1 The Study Design

The study employed the Correlational Research Design. This design was suitable since it steered the study to show the relationship between juvenile crime and the gender of a child. It weighed one variable against the other without any manipulation. It also allowed for utilization of interview guides for data collection on factors influencing boys into juvenile crime as compared to girls within Nyahururu district.

3.2 Study Area

The study was done in Nyahururu district, Laikipia County, Kenya. Nyahururu town has a total of 32,291 people, with 15,594 males and 16,697 females. Nyahururu district has a population of 134,509. Of these 65,876 are male while 68,633 are female according records available at the District Development Office. Further the report indicates that there are 40,650 boys and 39,751 girls in the district. The people are mostly peasant farmers, it has also a high population of squatters living in Marmanet area that is characterized by high poverty levels which could be a push factor for juvenile crime. It specifically focused on male child offenders who had committed
crime and had pleaded before the Nyahururu law courts. The area was selected since the law courts serve a wide catchment area comprising 11 police stations. It also has two children’s courts as well as three other courts. This made it easy to access information hence it was convenient for the study.

3.3 Target Population

The study population comprised all child offenders arraigned at Nyahururu law courts in the year 2011. However, their parents and professionals working within the juvenile justice system in Nyahururu district also participated in the study. The target population were child offenders aged between 12 and 18, which is the age of criminal liability among children according to section 14 of the Kenyan Penal code. There were three clusters of respondents.

The first cluster was that of child offenders whose matter had appeared before Nyahururu law court and were serving non-custodial rehabilitation. The second cluster was parent(s)/guardian(s) to child offenders while the final cluster was professionals handling juvenile criminal matters in court who included; magistrates, police officers based at the children’s desk in Nyahururu police station, probation officers and children’s officers. The professionals were key informants.

3.4 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

Cluster sampling technique was used in the study. It had identified three clusters of respondents namely; child offenders convicted at the Nyahururu law courts, their parents/guardians and professionals working in the juvenile justice system within
Nyahururu district. In the cluster of child offenders, they were 83 males in the year 2011. The study sampled 21, representing approximately 25% of this population as shown in table 3.1. Information about child offenders was obtained from the Children’s Registry at the Nyahururu law courts. The sample was sufficient for purposes of collecting adequate data to meet the objectives of the study and also to represent ample views of child offenders. Purposive sampling was then used to identify respondents according to the distribution of child offenders per each type of crime committed.

The second cluster involved parents/guardians to child offenders. Snowball sampling technique was used to identify these respondents, each child assisted in identifying his respective parent/guardian for purposes of participating in the study. Fourteen parents out of a possible 42 (assuming each child offender has both parents) were interviewed, which is exactly one third of the population. Five were mothers, 6 fathers and 3 guardians as shown in table 3.1.

The third cluster comprised four groups of professionals handling child offenders as mentioned in the study population. The study interviewed 15 out of an estimated 27 professionals representing about 55%. These involved 2 magistrates out of 2 – both male, 5 police officers out of 9 who are handling children matters both at the children’s desk in Nyahururu police station as well as prosecutors serving in the children’s court – 3 female and 2 male.

The study also interviewed 4 Children’s Officers out of 7 – 1 male and 3 female, and another 4 Probation Officers out of 9, 2 male and 2 female. The study had targeted about 50% of each group of professionals since they could provide in-depth information
to the study owing to their work experience. Among Magistrates, the study interviewed 100% since they were only two. In this cluster, purposive sampling technique was used to identify the respondents. Table 3.1 shows the summary of the study sample.

Table 3.1: Summary of sampling procedure and sample size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent Category</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male child offenders</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents/Guardians</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 Study Instruments

Both primary and secondary data was generated and utilized in the study. Primary data was generated using three interview guides for each cluster of respondents (see appendix A, B and C). Interview guides were customized to suit each of the three categories of respondents identified in the study population since the respondent characteristics and literacy levels were different for each cluster. Questions were organized conveniently according to study objectives for ease of data analysis.

In most cases all respondents were subjected to similar questions except for a few questions that were unique to each cluster as well as the demographic characteristics of each. The key informants were only asked question based in their professional experiences in dealing with juvenile crime. Use of interview guides gave focus to the
required data as the interviewer clarified unclear questions to the respondents. Secondary data was generated from relevant files and other documents of each child at Nyahururu law court (children's registry). This was used to establish frequencies on juvenile crimes by gender and also types of crimes committed as well as the frequency per crime in the year 2011, which was important in obtaining information necessary to answer the first objective of the study.

3.6 Validity and Reliability

The study established validity and reliability of data by pre-testing the study instruments in a pilot study conducted at the Nakuru children's court to the three clusters of respondents identified in the study population. During the exercise, it was discovered that a few questions in the interview guides had not been well framed. They could not solicit appropriate feedback in meeting the objectives of the study for instance the question: “Do you think lack of satisfaction of a child’s basic needs leads to juvenile crime?” was rephrased to: “Is there a relationship between child neglect and juvenile crime?” The questions were rephrased so as to solicit relevant information. Also during the pilot study, it was realized the space allocated for feedback per question was either less or more in some cases. Adjustments were made appropriately. Conducting a pilot study at Nakuru was feasible due to its nearness to Nyahururu and also to avoid respondent fatigue.

3.7 Data Collection Procedures

Data was collected using interview guides/schedules administered to respondents by the research assistants. The records for each child offender was obtained from the registry after sampling had been done, after which the child offender was traced, consent sought
from the parents and an interview conducted. Respective parents were interviewed shortly after. In a few cases children, who are serving probation and supervision rehabilitation were intercepted as they attended supervision sessions. The study identified itself and also explained its purpose (to seeking informed consent) before proceeding with the interview.

After interviewing the child offenders on supervision, parents were traced through snowball sampling technique and interviewed on a face to face basis. Informed consent was sought during introductory remarks and also the parents were explained to on the interview with their child. Among the professionals, an appointment was booked via telephone communication, the respondents were visited in their offices, the purpose of the study was explained and the interview conducted. Clarification of questions to the officers was done in case some questions were not clear. Each interview guide had an introductory paragraph at the top that identified the student and the purpose of the study. Face to face interview was the preferred method of data collection since it minimized on non-response and allowed seeking for in-depth information.

3.8 Data Analysis

The interview guides were collected and grouped according to each respondent cluster. Data was analyzed by obtaining tabulated frequencies per question using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) frequency tool. Cross tabulation for related questions was also done to determine the relationship between independent and dependent variables therein. The frequencies were converted into tables, graphs and pie charts as a method of data presentation. The analyzed data was presented as descriptive narratives supported by frequency tables, graphs and pie charts per research objective.
3.9 Ethical Considerations and Data Management

Authority to conduct the study was obtained from the Department of Gender and Development studies at Kenyatta University and permission sought from the Nyahururu law courts. The study sought informed consent from the respondents and confidentiality of the information given was assured. The study adhered to scientific conduct in data collection and analysis in terms of avoiding plagiarism and presenting data as was sourced in the field. The interview guides were been kept safely for future reference and cross checking.
CHAPTER FOUR

FACTORS INFLUENCING MORE BOYS INTO CRIME THAN GIRLS IN NYAHURURU DISTRICT, LAIKIPIA COUNTY, KENYA

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study, which have been discussed under the following sub-topics; demographic characteristics of respondents, distribution of juvenile crime in Nyahururu district in the year 2011, differences in crimes committed between boys and girls in Nyahururu district, factors that predispose boys into crime in Nyahururu district, strategies that can reduce juvenile crime among boys in Nyahururu district.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Child Offenders and Parents

The demographic characteristics of two categories of respondents have been discussed, namely child offenders and their parents. Child offenders were the primary target of this study, however parents gave supporting information that was useful in making comparisons about opinions. The characteristics have been used to analyze relationships of certain variables in the study, for instance the relationship between juvenile crime and the education level of the parents to child offenders.

4.1.1 Demographic Characteristics of Child Offenders

The study interviewed 21 child offenders. Their demographic characteristics have been presented in the following manner; age, level of education, number of siblings, birth position, family type and parent's occupation.
a) Age of child offenders

The study divided child offenders into two age sets, between 12-15 years (47.6 %) and 16-18 (52.4%). Given that the children had already committed criminal offences before the study was conducted, it is evident that older children committed more offences than the younger ones, which could be a prelude to larger numbers of male adult offenders in future since it appears the more the years a child has, the more they are prone to crime. The ages of the children at the time they committed the offences were approximately one year younger since they committed offences in 2011 and the interviews were conducted in 2012.

b) Level of education of child offenders

Figure 4.1 shows that 33.3% were attending primary school, 19% in secondary schools while 47.6% had dropped out of school at primary level.

![Bar chart showing level of education of child offenders]

**Figure 4.1: Level of education of child offenders**

Children not attending school seem to be more inclined towards committing crime as they constituted almost half of child offenders interviewed. This could be as a result of having a lot of free time on their hands or the reason that made them to drop out of school for instance extreme poverty or difficult character.
c) Number of siblings to child offenders

Child offenders were found to have come from varying family sizes, 14% had 1-3 siblings, 48% between 4-6 and 33% between 7-10. Only one child offender (5%) was from a family with more than 10 children as shown in figure 4.2.

![Figure 4.2: Number of siblings to the child offenders](image)

Taylor et al. (2002), observe that children from large families are more likely to fall into crime. However the findings show that almost half of the child offenders were from families that had between 4-6 siblings, which falls within the medium-range family. It can also be concluded that families with few children had less children committing offences (14.3%) within Nyahururu district, which partly agrees with Taylor's (2002) argument that children from small families are less likely to fall into crime. It is discernible that competition for family wealth including non material resources such as craving for attention among children is stiffer in large families.

d) Position of birth of child offenders

The study found that 23.8% were first-borns, 57.1% middle children, while only 19% were last-borns. The results appear to suggest that middle children commit more
offences than first and last-borns. However it can also be pointed out that the first and last birth positions are mutually exclusive (there can only be one child in these birth positions) while the middle birth position could have more than one child hence the likelihood of coming across more middle children as offenders. Taylor (ibid) argue that first born children are less likely to fall in to crime. The study established that last born children were less likely to commit criminal offences, which partly contradicts Taylor's assertion. However in most traditional family settings, last born children are given more attention from parents, which tends to affect their character.

e) Types of family of child offenders

Figure 4.3 demonstrates (47.6%) of child offenders were from nuclear families, 9.5% from extended families or were orphans, 33.3% from single parent families – (23.8% and 9.5% single mothers and fathers respectively). Single parenthood was by choice (5) while a few (2) were separated from their spouses.

![Figure 4.3: Types of family of child offenders](image)

Rogeli and Hewitt (2000) argue that children from single-mother families are more prone to criminality - The above results seem to vindicate their argument within the
context of single parenthood but not on the general prevalence of juvenile crime; for instance, almost half (46.7%) of child offenders were from nuclear families. From the findings, it can be concluded that most child offenders come from nuclear families.

f) Occupation of Parents to child offenders

The study sought to determine if there was a relationship between juvenile crime and parent’s occupation. It was observed that 19% were businesspersons, 23.8% farmers, 42.9% casual workers, 4.8% jobless while 9.5% gave no response as seen in table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Parent’s occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business person</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobless</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results show that children whose parents are casual workers are more likely to commit criminal offences, a fact linked to economic vulnerability of the family. Giarini (1980) and Wachira (2002), observe that children who perceive their parents unfavorably due to poverty, are more likely to fall in to crime. Parents involved in casual jobs may not get enough/regular income to sustain their families or even time to spend with their children.

In as much as children whose parents are doing casual jobs were more predisposed to crime as shown in table 4.1, tracing them for the interview was difficult, hence a lower representation in the actual sample as compared to farmers who could easily be traced either at home or on their farms.
4.1.2 Demographic Characteristics for Parents/Guardians of Child Offenders

The study interviewed 14 parents to child offenders, five mothers, six fathers and three guardians. The demographic characteristics considered were; age of parent, marital status, level of education and economic status. On the whole, 35.7% were mothers, 42.9% fathers and 21.4% guardians. More male parents were interviewed than females. This can be attributed to easy access to male parents since in many cases they are de-facto spokespersons for their families, an indication of the gendered power relations within the family structure.

a) Age of parents/guardians

Table 4.2 demonstrates that 28.6% were aged 31-40, 42.9% between 41-50 and 14.3% each between 51-60 or above 60 respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4.2: Age of parent/guardians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid 31-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in table 4.2, it was established that children whose parents are aged between 41-50 years are more prone to crime. Children belonging to parents of this age are more likely to be adolescents struggling with ‘identity crises’ hence their predisposition to behavior problems – Erick Erickson (1979) argues that adolescent children experiment with a variety of behaviors and activities as they transit to adult roles in what he called re-establishment of roles.
b) Marital status of parents

More than three quarters of parents (78.6%) were married while only 21.4% were single. This data only represents the parents who were actually interviewed (a sample) and not all the parents to child offenders. Thus, whereas Rogeli and Hewitt (2000) argue that generally, delinquency among children is synonymous with female-headed households, the findings of the study contradicted this view since 78.6% of child offenders were from families whose parents were married to each other and presumably the father serving as the head. This challenges the notion that children from single parent families are more prone to crime.

c) Level of education of parents/guardians

The study findings revealed that 21.4% never attended school while a similar percentage attained college education, 28.6% attained primary and secondary school education respectively as shown in figure 4.4.

![Figure 4.4: Level of education of parents/guardians](image)

The study observes that there seems to be no relationship between the parent’s level of education and a child’s propensity to commit crime. Child offenders belonging to parents with a college education faired similar to those with no formal education (21%).
each. Parents with primary and secondary school education represented (29%) each as seen in figure 4.4, meaning there is no relationship between the child’s propensity to commit crime and the parent’s level of education. However the scope of this work was not committed to this concept, thus making it an item for further research.

d) Range of income of parents/guardians

Rogeli and Hewitt (2000) argue that low family income is one of the driving factors for juvenile crime. Notably, majority of the parents to child offenders had low incomes, 35.7% earn less than Ksh. 5,000 per month, 21.4% between Ksh. 5,001-10,000, 28.6% Ksh. 10,001-20,000, while only 14.3% earn Ksh. 20,001-40,000 as shown in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Range of income per month (Ksh.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range of Income</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,001-10,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,001-20,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,001-40,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the findings, it is apparent that a child is more likely to commit crime if s/he comes from a family with low income, however also child offenders from families with average income (Ksh. 10,001-20,000) were the second largest group of child offenders. This partly confirms Rogeli and Hewitt’s (2000) argument that children from families with low income are likely to fall in to crime.
each. Parents with primary and secondary school education represented (29%) each as seen in figure 4.4, meaning there is no relationship between the child’s propensity to commit crime and the parent’s level of education. However the scope of this work was not committed to this concept, thus making it an item for further research.

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<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,001-10,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,001-20,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,001-40,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4.2 The Number of Child Offenders in Nyahururu District in the Year 2011

The study established that there were 94 juvenile offenders convicted for various offences in the year 2011 at Nyahururu law courts. These were the most recent complete annual records by the time this data was collected as per the study work plan on appendix D.

The study established that out of the 94 child offenders, 83 were boys and 11 girls, which translates to about 88% boys and 12% girls. In every 10 child offenders in Nyahururu district, 9 are boys and only 1 is a girl. Similar ratios of child offenders have been observed world over as has been cited in the background to this study. Data on distribution of crime among boys and girls in Nyahururu in the year under review is presented in figure 4.5.

![Figure 4.5: Distribution of Juvenile Crime among boys and girls in Nyahururu District in the Year 2011](image-url)
Stealing was the most common crime in Nyahururu district in 23 out of 94 incidences. A larger proportion of girls were also implicated in stealing (4 out of 11). House breaking was second most committed crime with 16 reported incidences. Notably, all child offenders who engaged in house breaking were boys. This vindicates Mahood’s (1995) argument that arrest among boys is mostly due to offences against property and use of violence.

Fourteen boys were involved in sexual offences, which demonstrates that sexual offences among children is almost exclusively a male domain. Seven children were arrested while in possession of forest produce; 5 boys and 2 girls. This could mean girls were arrested with the forest produce in form of firewood that could be used for preparation of meals within the family while boys could have aimed at selling the firewood to get money. An incident of attempted abortion was reported. The study notes attempted abortion is a gender specific crime that can only be committed by girls. However boys can be accomplices to the crime, but nevertheless this study did not come across such. Out of a total of 18 different types of crimes, girls were involved in only 6 (33.3%) while boys committed the rest (66.6%). It means certain crimes are a male phenomenon. This implies that although most of the crimes were not gender specific, most of them are exclusively perceived as male only, thus crime is directly linked to men as shown in figure 4.5.

It is imperative to note that out of 83 male child offenders, the study sampled 21. Distribution of crimes committed by the 21 was as follows; stealing 28.6%, robbery 4.8%, defilement and burglary 9.5% each while drug related and other crimes rather
than the mentioned ones accounted for 23.8%. Stealing was the most common type of crime among both boys and girls.

Dysfunctional families were cited by child offenders as a major reason (33.3%) as to why they were involved in crime while none of the parents thought so. More than a third of the parents (35.7%) cited drug abuse among children as the main reason why they engage in crime, while only 9.5% of child offenders shared a similar opinion. Parents seem to have strong sentiments on the relationship between juvenile crime and drug abuse among children. Each party appears to be having dissimilar explanation for juvenile crime, thus blame game is apparent. The family is the natural setting for child upbringing and if does not function well, children are bound to be affected.
4.3 Differences in Crimes Committed By Boys as Compared to Girls in Nyahururu District

This section presents an analysis of differences in crimes committed by boys as compared to girls in Nyahururu district in terms of the prevalence, reasons thereof, types of crime boys and girls engage in and reasons thereof among others.

The study sought to find out the opinion of child offenders, parents and professionals on the ratio of crimes between boys and girls. All (100%) agreed that boys commit more offences than girls. This finding vindicated the study as was envisaged in the conceptual framework and in the Power-Control Theory posited by Hagan et al. (1985), that boys are more prone to crime than girls. Considering the fact that a majority of crimes are not gender specific and both girls and boys are exposed to similar factors that predispose one to crime, then it can be concluded that crime is a male phenomenon.

However it is of essence to consider Gidden’s (1997) argument that although crime is gendered, criminological studies have traditionally ignored half of the population by including virtually nothing about women, save for sections on rape and prostitution. He further argues that males and females are by nature equally inclined to criminal acts but the latter are more constrained than former in virtually all aspects of life. The study findings support this view. Mahood (1995) and Giarini (1980) argue that criminal patterns for boys and girls are different even if both share similar environments and authority. The farther argue that violation of rules by boys is a manifestation of their autonomy and separateness, while that by girls is a matter of selflessly building relationships.
a) Factors that predispose boys to crime

Each cluster of respondents gave varying explanations as to why boys commit more crimes than girls. Most child offenders (38.1%) thought that boys have more freedom as compared to girls while a smaller proportion (9.5%) noted that boys are cleverer and physically stronger.

These responses are laden with gender stereotyping common in the society; which implies that boys are better than girls even in knowledge. Knowledge is a function of the mind and once acquired could be similar in all human beings. Some responses are gendered social facts for instance “boys have more freedom”, a concept that lies in the way males are socialized in paternalistic societies. This observation was propounded in the theory that guided the study - Hagan (1985). Boys are “physically stronger” could be linked to male physiology; however this could be contested since some women are stronger than some men.

Similarly, a majority of parents and professionals (42.9% and 53.3% respectively) thought that freedom enjoyed by boys increase their chances towards criminality since parental control is minimal. The study observes that freedom among boys is granted by parents, who acknowledged this argument despite the fact that it is cited as a core reason as to why boys are involved in crime. One way of solving the problem of juvenile crime among boys could be to reduce/regulate the freedom they enjoy. Parents (21.4%) and professionals (33.3%) observed that boys are marginalized, that is marginalization in this context mean lack of parental supervision. A majority of gender
stakeholders have not been keen on this perspective, hitherto it is mostly girls and women who are considered as marginalized. This opinion is unorthodox to the conventional view by gender activists.

b) Crimes associated with both male and female child offenders

The study sought to understand the differences in types of crimes committed between boys and girls hence it posed mutually exclusive questions per gender and the reasons thereof. It established that two thirds (66.7%) of boys could be prone to stealing, whereas only 28.6% of respondents had a similar opinion over girls. Notably the propensity of girls to steal ties with their vulnerability towards committing sexually related offences. This was also confirmed by the responses obtained from parents and professionals.

Taylor et al. (2002) suggest that girl’s sexuality is seen as a danger to themselves if not well handled. The study acknowledges the centrality of how girls handle their sexuality since issues of early/unwanted pregnancies, venereal diseases, abortion and the effects thereafter for instance interruption of education - are largely anchored on how sexuality among girls is handled. Respectability of girls largely lies in self control, discipline and chastity. It is not surprising that frequently committed crimes by girls are linked to their sexuality given that it is male child offenders who gave these responses.

c) Underlying reasons why crimes are gendered among child offenders

The study sought to find out the different reasons that could push boys or girls into crime. Child offenders were of the opinion that they commit crime to get money (42.9%) while 14.3% gave taking risks as an answer. Similarly, the desire for money
among girls 21.4%, however it was explained that purchase of cosmetics was the push factor. The reason why fewer girls are linked to crime was due to spending most of their time at home. The responses raised gendered perceptions; for instance “boys are risk takers”, “men should entertain themselves” and “men should have money”. There is nothing biological about the aforementioned responses but the study discerned that these could be part of the push factors that predispose boys into crime as compared to girls.

Tenets of the theory that guided the study have supported some of these findings. Hagan (1985) posited that daughters are socialized into the cult of domesticity under close supervision of their mothers, preparing them for lives oriented towards domestic labor; while sons are encouraged and allowed to "experiment" and take risks. The response that girls appear innocent but can commit crimes agrees with Giddens (1997) who argues that although crime is gendered, criminological studies have traditionally ignored half of the population by including virtually nothing about women, save for sections on rape and prostitution.
4.4 Factors Predisposing More Boys into Crime in Nyahururu District

This section discusses factors predisposing more boys into crime in Nyahururu district in the following order: the family, peer pressure and drug abuse. From the study, it emerged that peer pressure and family related problems were dominant (38.1% each), whereas disobedience (4.8%) emerged from the field during data collection.

4.4.1: The Family

Considering that family is a critical component in nurturing and socializing children, the study regarded the family as an important factor that could predispose more boys into crime in Nyahururu district. The study sought to unravel issues within the family that could be linked to gender and crime albeit not exhaustively as discussed below.

a) Child neglect

Lack of satisfaction of basic needs was one of the reasons why children are involved in crime or a precursor to juvenile crime since there are neglected/destitute children who do not engage in criminal activities. Over 90% of respondents agreed that there was a link between child neglect and juvenile crime. Two thirds (66.6%) of the child offenders said parents were not fully providing for their needs while the rest are cared for as shown in figure 4.6.
Further, 47.6% of child offenders opined that parents had totally neglected them and that they would resort to crime for purposes of daily subsistence. Child neglect predisposes children to juvenile crime as they would largely commit crimes while trying to seek basic needs; making crime inevitable. A third of the respondents felt that lack of parental guidance for neglected children would lead to crime. Children are largely incapable of taking care of their needs and depend upon adults for care and protection.

Giarini (1980) and Wachira (2002) argue that children who perceive their parents unfavorably are more likely to fall in to crime. This happens when parents fail to be good role models or are unable to meet the basic needs of their children, which reflects the economic means of the family. Since child neglect occurs within the family, it is a critical component to consider as an issue in juvenile crime. It is deductible that there is a relationship between child neglect and juvenile crime. Therefore, the study was able to discern that if the issue of child neglect is not addressed, levels of juvenile crime will either increase or at least be sustained.
The study observes that the care a child receives within the family becomes an important parameter in determining his/her predisposition to criminal activities. Similarly, almost two thirds of the parents (64.3%) felt that a child could be involved in crime to obtain his/her daily subsistence, where as 35.7% gave lack of parental guidance/supervision. Professionals agreed as much.

b) Lack of parental supervision of children

Parental supervision of children is an important issue within the family context as it helps to nurture the character of a child. Factoring the issues of gender on one hand and freedom enjoyed by boys on the other, all respondents unanimously agreed that girls receive closer parental supervision than boys within the family. Since it appears apparent that girls are more closely supervised, it was anchored on the fact that they should grow up into responsible women. The findings also suggested that girls are more loved by parents (33.3%) and are protected because they are prone to sexual abuse (19%) as seen in figure 4.7.

![Figure 4.7: Reasons why girls receive closer parental supervision](image)
Given that these sentiments came from boys, they could be laden with gender biases and stereotypes that are aimed at retaining the status quo (male dominance) enjoyed by men, for instance boys believe that “girls should grow up into responsible women” and ignore the fact that child needs to grow up into responsible adults. Responsibility is not a preserve for girls but all in the society. A third of the child offenders felt that girls are more loved/valued by parents; giving an impression that boys are discriminated against within the family; a fact that defeats the patriarchal ideology of male preference and adoration in Africa.

Boys also appear to protect females within their sphere while at the same time pose a threat to those unknown to them hence “girls need to be protected/can be defiled/are more vulnerable” are synonymous. The vulnerability appeared to be euphemism for protection against sexual violence. Hitherto, sexual violence (which is largely perpetrated by men) is a contentious issue that is characterized by stiff penalties provided for in the Sexual Offences Act. From the above, the study concludes, the low level of crime among girls can be attributed to closer parental supervision.

4.4.2: Negative Peer Pressure

The findings established that 76.2% of the child offenders had been influenced by their peers into crime, making it an important factor for the study to pay keen interest as shown in figure 4.8.
Out of the 76.2% child offenders who agreed they had yielded to negative peer pressure before committing crime, 38.1% opined that peers are role models while a similar percentage gave no explanation.

Since half of the child offenders could not link crime with negative peer pressure, it gave an impression that they were oblivious of the negative influence of modeling upon their friends; as such, counseling on peer pressure could help children acquire a sense of self realization/ be conscious of themselves or adopt positive aspects of behavior from friends.

A majority of child offenders (76.2%) were willing to avoid friends who can influence them negatively, 23.8% could not avoid such friends. The latter becomes a target for peer counseling. Similarly, it can be argued that girls go through peer pressure although it could be different from that of boys for instance on issues of fashion and beauty.

Warr and Stafford (1991) argue that delinquency theorists agree that both peers and family play a crucial role in the socialization of an individual, therefore affiliating to a deviant group could influence the internalization of norms in an individual. The
preceding argument also presumes that there are also positive gangs for instance religious youth groups or sporting clubs. From the findings it appears that boys are prone to more negative peer pressure than girls. Professionals were certain negative peer pressure was a factor that influences boys into juvenile crime as 100% responded in the affirmative. They are skilled people who have experience in handling children’s matters, their opinion could be prescriptive to juvenile crime.

4.4.3: Influence of Drug Abuse

Drug abuse and prevalence in crime are synonymous. The study established that 52.4% of child offenders had consumed drugs prior to committing the offence while 47.6% denied. Yablonsky (2000) argues there is a wide belief among the general population worldwide that drug abuse causes crimes. The main argument is that drug addicts may not be in gainful employment due to their condition. If influence of drug abuse causes crime, which the study has established as a male phenomenon, it is deductable that there are more males addicted to drugs than female although lately there appears to be a growing trend in drug abuse among females as they spend more time outdoors as compared to the domestic sphere. Therefore a multi-pronged approach needs to be mooted with special consideration to specific gender issues afflicting each sex in relation to drug abuse.

The study observes that drugs cost money and many of the addicts could rely on crime for money to buy drugs and also earn a living. Yablonsky (2000) observes that upon taking drugs, individuals lose their emotional control and tend to easily engage in violence and criminality.
All professionals thought there is a close relationship between drug abuse and juvenile crime. Impaired judgment due to drug abuse was cited as a major (60%) reason bolstering the relation between drug abuse and juvenile crime, it may also mean children were not aware they were committing crime. On the whole, a similar opinion was rendered by the parents (85.7%) with the rest arguing that drug consumption in itself is a crime.
4.5 Strategies that Can Reduce Juvenile Crime among Boys in Nyahururu District

The study came up with strategies on reduction of juvenile crime among boys in Nyahururu district. Taylor et al. (2002) argue in order to deconstruct boys from crime, sports and youth clubs could be created so that youths are constantly engaged in productive activities. Clubs such as boy scouts which reinforce national values (self reliance, loyalty, discipline and hygiene) and good citizenship could be supported.

The study established that educating children was an essential strategy in prevention of juvenile crime (40%). Mahood (1995) argues that compulsory education for children is a pinnacle to raising respectful hardworking and religious people. Other suggested strategies were spiritual guidance (26.7%), role modeling (20%) and punishment (13.3%). Taylor et al. (2002) sighting Beccaria (1738-1794) argue that people are naturally hedonistic, that is, they always maximize on pleasure and minimize on pain by performing acts that are pleasurable and avoid those that are painful. Consequently, if crime is pleasurable people will continue to commit crime. Therefore, punishment fit for each crime should be made for purposes of deterrence. The role of society should be to increase the risk and decrease the benefit of crime.

Parents (50%) strongly felt that children’s spiritual form could help in making them avoid engaging in criminal activities with a similar percentage blaming poor parenting for the increased levels of juvenile crime. The Wisconsin State Legislative Study Committee on Faith-Based Approaches to Crime Prevention and Justice (1999) noted
that relatively more religious communities, in contrast to secular communities, have less crime. This study was conducted in 193 metropolitan areas within the state.

Parents have an important role to play in reducing juvenile crime. Freud (1856-1939), argued that the most common element that contributes to criminal behavior among children was faulty identification by a child with her/his parents. The improperly socialized child could develop a personality disturbance that causes her/him to direct antisocial impulses inward or outward. The child who directs them outward becomes a criminal, and the child who directs them inward becomes a neurotic.

Furthermore, respondents suggested several alternative strategies in prevention of juvenile crime which included unconditional positive regard for child offenders, counseling, positive role modeling and promotion of talent among children. Counseling appeared to be the most preferred at 23.8%, the preference for other alternative strategies faired similarly. The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan Report (2008) in a study conducted at University of Chicago crime lab on group counseling succeeded in creating a sizable decline in crime arrests among youth by 44%.

Unconditional acceptance of child offenders was preferred, this is akin to embracing impunity; and may not help in tackling juvenile crime. Among these crime prevention strategies there are those that may work well for boys while others for girls; therefore may be applied with gendered responsiveness in mind. On the other hand, parents
strongly felt training on parenting should be embraced so that they would be in a better position to understand their children.

According to Chamberlain and Reid (1998) parental training essentially aims at teaching parents how to use adequate discipline techniques, balanced supervision and control, and how to set clear and consistent limits for children and youth who tend to disobey rules. It uses a structured approach, mainly designed to improve family relations and to help parents use appropriate child-rearing techniques. Additionally, parental training adopts a multidimensional approach that combines parental training, youth training and family dynamic improvement. Family therapy programs essentially aim to improve communication and interaction between parents and children and enrich parental practices to better resolve problems that arise.

Parents also suggested that idling among children in general should be controlled whether at home or at school. Counseling is an important tool in creating self-awareness among child offenders; however it is incumbent upon parents to take initiative in guiding their children. This feedback was also confirmed by responses received from professionals, with an increased insistence on counseling and parental training at 40% and 46.7% respectively.

Most importantly professionals suggested that the cost of living is high and should be addressed. The cost of living affect boys and girls differently whereas boys may get involved in crime to bridge the gap, girls may use their sexuality to attain the same –
which has far reaching ramifications for instance teenage pregnancy. Making basic needs more accessible is a multi-pronged strategy since parents will be able to provide all the basic needs for their children therefore criminal tendencies among the children may reduce. The need to train prospective parents on parenting has also been emphasized by the professionals.

Most of child offenders observed that involvement in crime will ruin their lives in future (42.9%) while the rest felt the community will have to deal with the issues of insecurity, truancy and loss of property. It emerged that child offenders were aware that engaging in crime could affect their lives negatively in future. The study should have gone further to inquire on how their lives would be ruined which could largely allude to prison sentences and even death through mob-justice by members of the public. More than a third of the parents and professionals agreed as much at 35.7% and 46.7% respectively. In this regard, child offenders (33.3%) think they will not like to live in a society where crime is rampant and that strategies need to be developed for its mitigation and effective prevention measures need to be put in place. Notably, about a third of parents had a similar opinion. A crime free society may not be feasible if parents abscond their responsibility towards the children. It appears professionals have realized the magnitude of this problem and posit that crime must be prevented effectively (60%). In conclusion, the study observes that the suggested strategies require the good will of the society so as to realize reduced crime among child offenders. Also gender specific approaches should inform the implementation of the strategies since the study has established that boys and girls commit different types of crimes for varying reasons.
CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter gives the summary of key findings the study established. The findings are discussed in the order of the study objectives. Also, several conclusions have been drawn from the study findings and summarized per objective. Additionally the study has made recommendations and also suggested a few areas for further research.

5.1 Summary of the Findings

The first objective of the study was to document the number of boys and girls involved in juvenile crime in Nyahururu district in the year 2011. It established that there were 94 child offenders, 83 were boys and 11 girls, meaning in every 10 child offenders, 9 are boys and only 1 is a girl. Similar ratios of child offenders have been observed world over as has been cited in the background to this study. Stealing was the most common crime in Nyahururu district among boys and girls with a larger proportion of girls implicated in stealing according to records at Nyahururu law courts. Out of 83 male child offenders, the study interviewed 21.

The second objective of the study was to identify the differences in crimes committed between boys and girls in Nyahururu district. It was unanimously established that boys commit more offences than girls; the reason was boys have more freedom as compared to girls while a smaller proportion explained that boys are cleverer and physically stronger. It was established that boys would commit crimes to get money to entertain themselves while girls did so to get money to buy cosmetics. Similarly a majority of parents and professionals thought freedom enjoyed by boys increases their chances
towards criminality since parental control on them is minimal. In line with the theory that guided the study, it was confirmed that girls spend most of their free time in the domestic sphere hence the fewer number involved in crime in comparison to boys.

The third study objective was to investigate the factors that predispose boys into crime within Nyahururu district. It emerged that peer pressure and family related problems were dominant factors predisposing boys into crime. Within the family unit, lack of satisfaction of basic needs was a reason that caused children to be involved in crime. Most respondents agreed there was a link between child neglect and juvenile crime. Also parental supervision of children was an important issue within the family context. The study established that girls are more closely supervised than boys, which was also interpreted to mean boys are marginalized since parents do not care about them with boys further arguing that girls are more loved and valued within the family. The study additionally established that boys tend to protect females within their sphere while at the same time posing a threat to those not known to them.

Peer pressure was the second factor the study focused on. It established that three quarters of child offenders had been influenced by their peers into crime. A large percentage of the children were unable to explain why their peers influenced them in to crime, it gave an impression that they were oblivious of negative peer pressure. However, most of them were willing to avoid friends who influence them negatively, with a few insisting that peers were role models.

The third factor the study considered was drug abuse. Drug abuse and prevalence in crime are synonymous. All professionals thought there is a close relationship between
drug abuse and juvenile crime. Half of the child offenders had consumed drugs prior to committing the offence. The explanation was that drugs impair judgment, abuse of some drugs is criminal and resources to obtain drugs may be acquired through crime.

The fourth objective the study considered was to suggest strategies that can reduce juvenile crime in Nyahururu district. In terms of strategies which can address the issue of juvenile crime, child offenders suggested that unconditional positive regard for child offenders, counseling, positive role modeling and promotion of talent among children were paramount. Counseling child offenders was the most preferred strategy. On the other hand parents strongly felt training on parenting should be embraced so that parents could understand their children better. They also suggested that idling among children was to be controlled whether at home or at school. Child offenders felt they would not like to live in a society where crime is rampant therefore, effective crime prevention measures need to be put in place. The study also inquired if child offenders understood the consequences of crime, a majority of respondents felt involvement in crime will ruin their lives in future while some felt crime will force the community to deal with the issues of insecurity, truancy and loss of property.

5.2 Conclusions

From the findings, the study has drawn several conclusions. In line with the first study objective which focused on the number of boys and girls involved in crime in Nyahururu district in 2011, it has been confirmed that more boys are involved in juvenile crime than girls and that stealing is the most common type of crime among both boys and girls.
The second study objective focused on identifying differences in crimes committed between boys and girls in Nyahururu district. It can be concluded that boys and girls commit different types of crime and also have different reasons for doing so. Most crimes committed by girls are done within the domestic sphere while those by boys are both within the home as well as outside. Also that the propensity for girls to commit crime is anchored on how they handle their sexuality while that of boys is on conforming to masculine gender stereotypes.

The third study objective investigated factors predisposing boys into crime in Nyahururu district. Three key factors namely: family, negative peer pressure and influence of drug abuse were investigated. Within the family, it was concluded that there is a relationship between child neglect and juvenile crime. Also that children living in families with fewer siblings are less likely to commit crime. Further, the findings suggest that middle children commit more offences than first and last-borns and that most child offenders come from nuclear families. Findings showed children whose parents are casual workers are more likely to commit criminal offences, a fact linked to economic vulnerability of the family. Children whose parents are aged between 41-50 years are more prone to crime. The study observed that there seems to be no relationship between the parent’s level of education and a child’s propensity to commit crime.

Negative peer pressure was strongly linked to juvenile crime since a majority of child offenders attributed negative peer pressure to their involvement in crime, however many were willing to change. The study concluded that drug abuse and prevalence in juvenile
crime are synonymous since a larger proportion of child offenders had consumed drugs and both parents and professionals shared a similar opinion.

5.3 Recommendations

a) Due to a higher number of boys involved in juvenile crime there is need for urgent intervention to rescue them from crime. Policy makers should come up with ways in which the boy child will be rescued from crime which may involve civic education through media campaign and community barazas.

b) Since there are differences between boys and girls in types as well as reason/motivation to commit crime, gender analysts need to develop different approaches for the two sexes in the juvenile justice system and also during planning of intervention measures. Professionals handling child offenders could be part of the taskforce to develop gender specific intervention measures to juvenile crime.

c) The family is at the core of the discussion on juvenile crime, parents should restructure the socialization process to socialize boys and girls in a gender neutral manner; which could address some of the factors pushing boys into crime. The theory guiding the study had referred to egalitarian family where the socialization of boys should mirror that of girls to dissolve the socialization imbalance between the two.

d) There is need for scholars to come up with an exclusive academic course in parenting studies where every person who goes to school can be exposed to some theoretical frameworks on various styles of parenting and how to solve issues that emerge between parents and children. Studies in child growth and
development could underpin this discipline so that parents understand manifestation of various developmental stages of child growth. Most of the child offenders felt their parents had failed in taking responsibility and that is why they committed crime. The same reason if reversed, was advanced as a solution to prevention of juvenile crime. Counseling is seen as a better way of handling child offenders as opposed to various forms of punishment.

e) The government should come up with ways in which basic needs are more accessible to the citizens as a multi-pronged strategy to prevention of juvenile crime. The study found out most children would commit crimes for purposes of subsistence especially if neglected by parents. This sentiment was supported by the fact that most parents to child offenders were casual workers. It means at times the parents may go without a job therefore, constraining their capacity to provide for the children.

5.4 Areas for further research

The study proposes the following as areas of further research:

a) A similar study should be conducted to target girls in the same study area so as to draw comparisons from both genders

b) The issue of ruined future life (as a consequence of crime) is ambiguous and needs to be studied separately for the meaning to be understood from the children’s perspective.
c) Study the relationship between the parents' level of education and the propensity for a child to commit crime since the study found out there is none yet the level of education and economic status of a person could be related.
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APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILD OFFENDERS

My name is Wenslaus Musindayi, a Masters student at the Department of Gender and Development at Kenyatta University undertaking my academic project in the area of juvenile crime. I request you to participate in this study. The data gathered shall be used for academic purpose only and treated with confidentiality. Your participation is voluntary. Kindly respond to the questions by ticking in the bracket as appropriate; also give additional information in the spaces provided.

SECTION A: RESPONDENT DETAILS

1. Age: 12-15 years [ ] 16-18 years [ ]

2. Level of school: Primary [ ] Secondary [ ] School dropout [ ] Others (specify)

3. Number of siblings: Boys ............ Girls ............. Total ............... 

4. Birth position: First child [ ] Middle child [ ] Last child [ ]

5. Type of family: Nuclear [ ] Extended [ ] Single parent [ ] Polygamous [ ] If single parent, specify: Mother [ ] father [ ] Orphan [ ]


SECTION B: FACTORS PREDISPOSING BOYS INTO JUVENILE CRIME

7. The charge: Stealing [ ] Defilement [ ] Burglary [ ] Robbery [ ] Others (specify)

8. What were the reasons why you committed the offence? Hunger [ ] Peer influence [ ] Drug abuse [ ] Family problems [ ]-(specify) 

9. a) Between boys and girls, whom do you think commits more juvenile offences? Boys [ ] Girls [ ]

b) Kindly give reasons for your opinion

10. What factors do you think influence boys in committing juvenile offences than girls? Family problems [ ] Peer pressure [ ] Drug abuse [ ] Others (specify)

.................................................................
11. a) What types of crimes do boys commit frequently? Stealing [ ]
    Defilement [ ] Burglary [ ] Robbery [ ] Others (specify)...
b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback...

12. a) What type of crimes do girls commit frequently? Stealing [ ]
    Defilement [ ] Burglary [ ] Robbery [ ] Other (specify)...
b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback...

13. Do your parents fully provide for your daily needs? Yes [ ] No [ ].
    If no, which of your needs have been neglected? Food [ ] Clothing [ ]
    Education [ ] Shelter [ ] Medication [ ] Companionship [ ] Others (specify)...

14. a) Is there a relationship between child neglect and juvenile crime? Yes [ ] No [ ]
b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback...

15. a) Between girls and boys, who is closely monitored by parents? Boys [ ]
    Girls [ ]
b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback...

16. a) Do you think your friends influenced you into committing this offence? Yes [ ]
    No [ ]
b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback...

17. Would you be willing to avoid friends who influence you negatively? Yes [ ]
    No [ ]

18. Have you ever consumed any drugs in your life? Yes [ ] No [ ]
19. What are the consequences of juvenile crimes committed by boys? Insecurity [ ] Truancy [ ] Loss of property [ ] Ruined future life [ ] Others (specify) 

20. Which strategies are used to prevent boys from engaging in juvenile crime? Punishment [ ] Control of drug abuse [ ] Education for boys [ ] Role modeling [ ] Spiritual guidance [ ] Others (specify) 

21. Which new strategies do you think could be employed in order to prevent juvenile crime? ........................................................................................................................................ 

22. In relation to juvenile crime, what kind of society would you like to see in future? Crime free society [ ] Reduced adult crime [ ] Effective crime prevention measures [ ] Others (specify) ........................................................................................................................................ 

23. Kindly give us any other opinion about juvenile crime ........................................................................................................................................ 

THE END, THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY
APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN OF CHILD OFFENDERS

My name is Wenslaus Musindayi, Agala a Masters student at the Department of Gender and Development at Kenyatta University undertaking my academic project in the area of juvenile crime. I request you to participate in this study. The data gathered shall be used for academic purpose only and treated with confidentiality. Your participation is voluntary. Kindly respond to the questions by ticking in the bracket as appropriate; also give additional information in the spaces provided.

SECTION A: RESPONDENT DETAILS

1. Parental status: Mother [ ] Father [ ] Guardian [ ] Other (specify) .........................
2. Age: 20-30 [ ] 31-40 [ ] 41-50 [ ] 51-60 [ ] Above 60 [ ]
3. Marital status: Married [ ] Single [ ] Others (specify) .........................
4. Level of education: Informal [ ] Primary [ ] Secondary [ ] College [ ]
5. Employment sector: Formal [ ] Business [ ] Farming [ ] Others (specify) ..............
6. Range of income per month in (Ksh.): Below 5,000 [ ] 5001-10,000 [ ] 10,001-20,000 [ ] 20,001-40,000 [ ] Above 40,000 [ ]

SECTION B: FACTORS PREDISPOSING BOYS INTO JUVENILE CRIME

7. What do you think are the reasons why your son committed the offence? Hunger [ ] Peer influence [ ] Drug abuse [ ] Family problems [ ]-(specify nature of family problem) ......................... Others (specify) .........................
8. a) Between boys and girls, whom do you think commits more juvenile offences? Boys [ ] Girls [ ].
   b) Kindly give reasons for your opinion..............................................................

9. a) What types of crimes do boys commit frequently? Stealing [ ] Defilement [ ] Burglary [ ] Robbery [ ] Others (specify) .........................
   b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback.............................................................
10. a) What type of crimes do girls commit frequently? Stealing [ ] Defilement [ ] Burglary [ ] Robbery [ ] Others (specify) [ ]
   b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback.

11. a) Is there a relationship between child neglect and juvenile crime? Yes [ ] No [ ]
   b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback.

12. a) Between girls and boys, who is closely monitored by parents? Boys [ ] Girls [ ]
   b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback.

13. Has your son ever consumed any drugs in his life? Yes [ ] No [ ] Not Sure [ ]

14. a) Do you think drug abuse could lead to juvenile crime? Yes [ ] No [ ] Not sure [ ]
   b) In which ways?

15. What are the consequences of juvenile crimes committed by boys? Insecurity [ ] Truancy [ ] Loss of property [ ] Ruined future life [ ] Others (specify) [ ]
16. Which strategies are used to prevent boys from engaging in juvenile crime?  
Punishment [ ] Control of drug abuse [ ] Education for boys [ ] Role modeling [ ] Spiritual guidance [ ]  
Others (specify)  

17. Which are the gaps in prevention of juvenile crime?  

18. Which new strategies do you think could be employed in order to prevent juvenile crime?  

19. In relation to juvenile crime, what kind of society would you like to see in future?  
Crime free society [ ] Reduced adult crime [ ] Effective crime prevention measures [ ] Others (specify)  

20. Kindly give us any other opinion you hold about juvenile crime  

THE END, THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY
APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

My name is Wenslaus Musindayi, Agala a Masters student at the Department of Gender and Development at Kenyatta University undertaking my academic project in the area of juvenile crime. I request you to participate in this study. The data gathered shall be used for academic purpose only and treated with confidentiality. Your participation is voluntary. Kindly respond to the questions by ticking in the bracket as appropriate; also give additional information in the spaces provided.

SECTION A: RESPONDENT DETAILS

1. Department: Judiciary [ ] The police [ ] Probation [ ] Children’s [ ]
2. Sex: Male [ ] Female [ ]
3. Years in service: 0-5 [ ] 6-10 [ ] 11-15 [ ] 16-20 [ ] Over 21 [ ]

SECTION B: FACTORS PREDISPOSING BOYS INTO JUVENILE CRIME

4. As an officer in the juvenile justice system, what do you think are reasons why children commit criminal offences...

5. a) Between boys and girls, whom do you think commits more juvenile offences? Boys [ ] Girls [ ].
   b) Kindly give reasons for your opinion...

6. From your experience, which are the most common crimes boys engage in? Stealing [ ]
   Defilement [ ] Burglary [ ] Robbery [ ] Other (specify)...

7. What do you think are the reasons why boys engage in juvenile crime? Hunger [ ]
   Peer influence [ ] Drug abuse [ ] Family problems [ ]
   Other (specify)...


8. a) Which are the most common crimes girls engage in? Stealing [ ] Burglary [ ] Defilement [ ] Robbery [ ] Other (specify)

b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback

9. What do you think are the reasons why girls engage in juvenile crime? Hunger [ ] Peer influence [ ] Drug abuse [ ] Family problems [ ] Other (specify)

10. a) Is there a relationship between child neglect and juvenile crime? Yes [ ] No [ ]

b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback

11. a) Between girls and boys, who is closely monitored by parents? Boys [ ] Girls [ ]

b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback

12. a) Do you think peers pressure influences boys into committing juvenile offences? Yes [ ] No [ ]

b) Kindly give reasons for your feedback

13. a) Do you think drug abuse could lead to juvenile crime? Yes [ ] No [ ]

b) In which ways?

14. What are the consequences of juvenile crimes committed by boys? Insecurity [ ] Truancy [ ] Loss of property [ ] Ruined future life [ ] Others (specify)
15. Which strategies are used to prevent boys from engaging in juvenile crime?
   - Punishment
   - Control of drug abuse
   - Education for boys
   - Role modeling
   - Spiritual guidance
   Others (specify)

16. From your experience, which are the gaps in prevention of juvenile crimes?

17. Which new strategies do you think could be employed in order to prevent juvenile crime?

18. In relation to juvenile crime, what kind of society would you like to see? Crime free society
   - Reduced adult crime
   - Effective crime prevention measures
   Others (specify)

19. Kindly give us any other opinion about juvenile crime that you may hold.

THE END, THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY
APPENDIX: D
RESEARCH WORKPLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT/ACTIVITY</th>
<th>WHEN/ DURATION</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>HOW/STRATEGY</th>
<th>ASSUMPTIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Desktop research</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Reading related materials to focus the research problem</td>
<td>Relevant reading materials will be available from various sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Writing the research proposal</td>
<td>April 2012</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Compiling and writing the manuscript, typing, and printing</td>
<td>There will be no intervening factors to cause a delay of the work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Submission of the research proposal</td>
<td>September 2012</td>
<td>Student/ Supervisors</td>
<td>Handing over the research proposal for supervision</td>
<td>The supervisors will review the proposal and give their recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Data collection and data cleaning</td>
<td>September 2012</td>
<td>Student/ Research Assistants</td>
<td>Serve the questionnaires to the targeted respondents in Nyahururu</td>
<td>The respondents will be supportive in terms of their role in the study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Data entry, analysis and interpretation</td>
<td>October 2012</td>
<td>Student/ research assistants</td>
<td>Manual data analysis or manual analysis in its absence</td>
<td>The student will maintain high academic standards during data interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Report writing and submission</td>
<td>December 2012</td>
<td>Student/ Supervisors</td>
<td>Typing and printing of research findings and supervision</td>
<td>The findings will be credible.</td>
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### APPENDIX: E

#### RESEARCH BUDGET

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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>BUDGET ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>UNIT COST (Kshs.)</th>
<th>TOTALS (Kshs.)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>Stationary</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<td>External library fee</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>2. Research</td>
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<td>2. Writing the research proposal</td>
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<td>4. Induction of research assistants and allowance</td>
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<td>5. Data collection and data cleaning</td>
<td>Allowances for assistants</td>
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<td>Out of pocket allowance</td>
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<td>Traveling expenses</td>
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<td>6. Data entry, analysis and interpretation</td>
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<td>7. Report writing and submission</td>
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<td>8. Defense of the study</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9. Miscellaneous Contingencies</strong></td>
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