

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME IN BUNGOMA  
COUNTY, 2014 TO 2018**

**BY**

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**DECLARATION**

I declare that this project is my original work and has not been presented in any other university for consideration of any certification.

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Supervisor

This research project was submitted for examination with my approval as the university supervisor.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my parents for their wise decision of taking me to school. It is also dedicated to my wife and Children and the entire home community.

## ABSTRACT

The Annual Police Report of 2015 ranked Bungoma 6th out of 47 counties in reported crime incidents. Despite the County's initiatives, crime continues to be committed by youth in Bungoma County. The County has about 467,171 youth (KNBS, 2019), of which approximately 40% left schooling with about 25% of them engaging in informal employment such as *boda boda* riders. Reduced crime will encourage and attract investor's confidence in various sector of the economy as no business is willing to loss its investment to crimes. The specific objectives were; to establish how unemployment among the youth influences them to commit crime in Bungoma County, to investigate the influence of poverty on crime in Bungoma County and to examine the influence of population growth among the youth to crime in Bungoma County. Both qualitative and Quantitative were used. Descriptive research design was utilized to present and analyze data. Questionnaires were administered to the sampled youths. Cluster sampling to get locations from each sub County while the youths were randomly sampled. Results from study indicated that more unemployed youths tend to get involved in crime compared to the ones in the informal and formal employment at a frequency of 7.496 for employed youths and 69.62 for unemployed youths. Additionally, based on indicators of poverty; household assets, access to standard infrastructure and level of education, the higher the poverty level, the more likely the youths were involved in crime at 1% significance level of the probit model. High youth population growth also showed high crime prevalence at 1% significance level of the probit model. Youth unemployment, poverty and youth population growth showed high positive association with crime. The study recommended that; to reduce the effect unemployment then, polices should be aimed at creating more employment opportunities besides improving the prospects of workers. Secondly, there should be policies to advocate for reduction of population among the youths in urban areas, family size, residential mobility as well as the numbers of unwanted children. However it was noted that individual behavior cannot be predicted by analysis at the macro level. People's behavior and attitude is usually unforeseen and difficult to predict any at time.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

COVID	Coronavirus Disease
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDT	Global Terrorism Database
ILO	International Labour Office
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
NACOSTI	National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation
SPSS	Statistical Package Social Sciences
UNICEF	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund
WYR	World Youth Report



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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

Crime is outlawed acts passed through legislations and commitment of such acts attracts punishment (Denis, Francis & Julien, 2017). Siegel (2016) define crime as breach of rules that warrant dispensation of penalties by a governing authority. Crime is broadly categorized into two: serious (felony) and minor (misdemeanor) and each induce different penalties such as caution, fine, probation or imprisonment (Wincup, Wahidin, Hayward & Hale, 2015). Despite the punishment, people worldwide continuously obligate crime (Jones, 2016). Crime undermines socio-economic development and creates fear and misery among citizens. Crimes also affect investors' confidence and Kenya Recovery Strategy for Employment (2013-2018) reiterates that addressing increasing crime rates is a requirement for economic growth (Republic of Kenya, 2018). The lack of a sustainable income among the youth is forcing about 30% of youth to commit crime. Involvement of youth in crime is an escalating global problem. Denis, Francis & Julien (2017) observes that 60% of crime in the world is committed by youth.

Globally, several studies have established that several factors influence young persons to obligate crime. Some factors such as poverty, unemployment, cultural factors, accessibility to guns, level of education, high population and lack of punitive punishment influence youths to obligate crime (UN, 2018). In the Australia, Denis, Francis and Julien (2017) observes that between 2000 and 2010, the crime committed by youth increased from 10 to 15% and they associated this with unemployment which had also rose from 8.9 to 12.5% in the same period. In North America, McClearn, & Johnson (2015) observed that about 45% of youth who committed crime were influenced by possession of guns and lack of punitive punishment at that level of education. Additionally, Ogidefa (2016) observes that the leading factors pressurizing youths to be involved in crime in America society include media influence, the influence of family life, rampant drug and alcohol abuse, ease in accessing weapons and lack of punitive punishment for youth offenders.

Similarly, in South Africa, Trevor and Emeka (2014) established that between 2005 and 2010, youth crime in Cato Manor area increased from 19 to 31% and they associated this

with unemployment, poverty and urbanization. In Cameroon, Nwankwo (2016) found out that there is high crime rate among youths in informal settlements of Douala which is attributed to non-prosecution of offenders, level of education, population growth and unemployment. In Tanzania, Simon (2015) observes that between 2000 and 2010, the population of youth in Zanzibar increased by 10% and during the same period, youth crime increased by 4%. He concluded that the increased in population pressurized youth to compete for the available scarce resources which resulted in some employing criminal tactics to reach to the resource. The dwindling fish products from the Indian Ocean made some youth to steal from fishermen. According to Michael (2017), 45% of youth in Jinja, Uganda commit crime as a consequent of the prevailing poverty levels which are very high. Poverty compels them to commit petty crimes such as stealing food stuffs and break-ins.

In his study, Sifuna (2018) indicates that unemployment has resulted in crime among the youth. Family and community has failed to decipher acceptable values and norms and hence without employment they turn to crime to satisfy their needs. Since the traditional methods of combating crime had broken down, violence among the youth continues to be witnessed. Schools and family have ceased to function as the backbone for impacting acceptable social behavior, a situation that has forced majority of youth drawn from Nairobi area to opt for an easier life such as being members of some criminal gangs in the streets. This gang lifestyle is acceptable due to its immediate financial returns and it has become the major agent to social youths as well as being a strong network for establishing friendship amongst themselves. UNCEF (2015) found that youth in informal settlements of Kibera, Nairobi is left by their parents/guardians to take care of themselves in violent prone surrounding. In coping with these surroundings, they exhibit criminal behaviors.

Bungoma County is found in western parts of Kenya. It lies between longitudes 34° 20' East and 35° 15' East. It also lies between latitudes 0° 28' North and 1° 30' North. Bungoma as a County covers an area of approximately 3032.4 km<sup>2</sup> and in the North-East, it borders Trans-Nzoia County, East and South-East Kakamega County, West and South-West Busia and North-West is Uganda. Bungoma County has approximately 10 Million people as per 2009 census. The main economic activity is agriculture with about 60% of the population being engaged in maize farming, 20% in sugarcane and 10% in dairy farming. The major companies providing employment are Rai Paper, Nzoia sugar, several supermarkets and the County government.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to National Police Annual Reports, Bungoma County has recorded an increase in the number of crime as follows: 2150 in 2014, 2852 in 2015, 2422 in 2016 and 2662 in 2017. Out of these crimes, about 65% are committed by youth. The Annual Police Report of 2015 ranked Bungoma 6th out of 47 counties in reported crime incidents (National Crime and Research Centre, 2017). To address this increasing rate in crime, Bungoma County Security Committee has enhanced security patrols; set put more police stations and camps ostensibly to minimize crime committed by youth in the County. Similarly, the County Government of Bungoma has employed about 300 County enforcement officers to assist the police to crack down on youth who attempt to commit crime. Despite these initiatives, crime continues to be committed by youth in Bungoma County. The County is characterized by limited employment opportunities as major companies such as Rai Paper and Nzoia Sugar have scaled down their operations as from 2014, an issue that lead to massive layoffs. Additionally, the County has about 467,171 youth (KNBS Report, 2019), of which approximately 40% left schooling with about 25% of them engaging in informal employment such as *boda boda* riders. The youth population is also estimated to grow at 20% as per World Youth Report (2014). Similarly, the County has been recording a reduction in maize production due to armyworm infestations since 2014.

Youth population in any country is the machinery for development and economic growth. Youth are at their prime age and are highly energized and productive and contributes a big percentage of workforces. For the attainment of the Kenya government's four big agenda namely investment in manufacturing, affordable housing, food security and universal health besides the general economic growth of between 5.5 and 5.9% of the Gross Domestic Product in line with vision 2030, then the youth must be involved and crime rate has to be scaled down to encourage investment in the County and country at large. Reduced crime encourage and attract investor's confidence in various sector of the economy as no business is willing to loss its investment to crimes such as theft, malicious damage or even bombings. Despite the above mentioned benefits associated with reduced crime rate, it is evidenced by slowed economic growth in Bungoma County despite efforts by stakeholders to improve its economy. From the above mentioned benefits of reduced crime, the study seeks to find out the extent to which youth unemployment, poverty and population growth influences crime in rural areas. With high crime rate investors shy away, business hours reduce to day time only, developed property may be vandalized and fewer youths be there to work as majority will be

engaged in crime. Whereas some studies have been done in the country on youth and crime, such studies have focused on urban areas. There is no empirical evidence on youth from rural settings despite the dynamics of such areas such as early marriages that subject the youth to responsibilities which may compel them to use all means to meet these responsibilities. Understanding factors that influence crime could be what is required to spur economic growth as well as address the missing gap of rural settings about the youth. It is against this backdrop that the study examines factors that influence youths to commit crime in Bungoma County.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The research was guided by the following questions:

- i. How does unemployment influence youths into crime in Bungoma County?
- ii. In what ways has poverty influenced youth into crime in Bungoma County?
- iii. To what extent does youth population growth influence crime in Bungoma County?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The overall objective was to scrutinize the factors influencing youth into crime in Bungoma County between 2014 and 2018. However, the specific ones included:

- i. To establish how unemployment among the youth influences them into crime in Bungoma County
- ii. To investigate the influence of poverty on crime in Bungoma County
- iii. To examine the influence of population growth among the youth to crime in Bungoma County

### **1.5 Justification of the Study**

#### **1.5.1 Academic Justification**

There is a general consensus amongst scholars that unemployment, poverty and population growth is among the factors that influence youth to commit crime. Existing studies on the above factors have focused on urban setting whose social economic dynamics are different from the rural area. For instance, unemployment in rural areas is fundamentally conceived as not having a source of livelihood and poses fundamental challenges to the individual. However, in rural areas, when one continues to live with their family and is provided for, the notion of unemployment does not exert the same pressure to commit crime for survival. Moreover, the form of crime committed by individual in the rural areas cannot be assumed to be the same. There has been a general assumption on the applicability of theories of crime in



both urban and rural areas. The continued use of existing theories without due consideration of the cultural settings is likely to continue omitting the contribution of rural youth in crime. This study therefore seeks to widen scholarly analysis by exposing rural youth situations and crime.

### **1.5.2 Policy Justification**

Severally policies have been developed in the country in an attempt to minimise crime committed by youth. For instance, the 2018 Kenyan government's Big Four agenda projects targeting Manufacturing, Affordable Housing, Food security and Universal Healthcare was to ensure that youth will be absorbed in employment position created. Similarly, the *Kazi Kwa Vijana* that was mooted in 2008 was meant to ensure that youth are involved in employment especially in road construction and other infrastructural projects. The government envisages creating employment for the youth will ultimately reduce the rate of crime. Besides the above ventures, the government also embarked on yearly employment of over 10,000 youths into National Police Service as from 2015 ostensibly to deter any youth interested in committing crime. The Bungoma Security Committee has further established several police stations and camps to further deter offenders. Similarly, Bungoma County government has also employed over 300 youths as reinforcement officers so as to compliment the police in provision of security in the County. This notwithstanding, crime continues to rise in Bungoma County. The above policies are idle for urban settings. The study therefore provided policy makers with insights on the cultural significance as well as rural settings in curbing crime. The study will assist policy makers to develop specific policies for specific areas in addressing crime given the differences in socio-economic and cultural factors in the society.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

Bungoma County is one of the rural counties in Kenya and was ranked 6th out of 47 counties in reported crime incidents by the Annual Police Report of 2017. Bungoma was the first County among rural counties to record such crime incidences in the country. The period between 2014 and 2018 was identified because it recorded a spike in crime rates as per police records increasing from 2150 in 2014, 2852 in 2015, 2422 in 2016 and 2662 in 2017. Additionally, the 2014 to 2017 period was characterized by closure or scaling down of operations of major companies such as Pan Paper and Nzoia Sugar that were major economic stronghold for a majority of the population.

The researcher experienced several challenges in collecting data. These challenges are herein illustrated. There was limited cooperation among youths to participate in the study because they wanted to be paid in exchange of information and their time. This was mitigated by the researcher explaining to them that he was a student and the youth were selected through the assistance of clerks at chiefs' offices, whom they highly regarded and respected. Additionally, the vastness of the targeted youth population also posed as a challenge. It was however mitigated by the researcher seeking the help of research assistants to administer a self-scoring questionnaire. The questionnaires were easy to fill and this helped the researcher to reach out to as many respondents as possible within a limited period due to curfew imposed as a result of COVID-19 control measures. The curfew as a limitation was overcome by the researcher starting very early in the morning to be within the curfew hours. Lastly, the sensitivity of the research posed a challenge. The County government leadership during the 2017 elections promised to create employment for youths, and hence the research especially on unemployed was perceived by the leadership as out to undermine and discredit it during the 2022 elections. However, this was mitigated by the researcher obtaining the requisite research permission as well as giving assurance to the leadership that the research was purely for academic purposes only.

### **1.7 Definitions of Terms**

**Crime:** - Denis, Francis & Julien, 2017 define crime as outlawed acts passed through legislations and commitment of such acts attracts punishment. In the study, crime is any misbehavior that has the capacity to attract some punishment. The punishment can come from the government or any member of the society ostensibly to correct the deviant behavior.

**Population Growth:** - Adebayo (2013) defines population growth as the increase in the number of individuals. In this study, population growth will mean rise in demographics of a given people in a specific area.

**Poverty:** - According to Nwigbo and Imoh-Ita (2016), poverty is a state or condition of lack of financial resources and essentials for a minimum living. In this study, poverty would mean absence or limited access to food, clothing, shelter, water, schooling among other social amenities.

**Unemployment:** - National Council of Population and Development (2017) refers unemployment to individuals who are employable and seeking a job but are unable to find a job. In this study, unemployment could mean absence of a consistent job to cater for daily needs.

**Youth:** - United Nations defines a youth as a person between the ages of 15 and 24 years. In this study, a youth is an individual aged between 18 and 35 years.

### **1.8 Chapter Outline**

The study was organized in five chapters. Chapter one constituted; Background, Statement of the Problem, Research Questions, Objectives, Justification, Scope, Limitations and Definition of terms. Chapter two reviewed the existing literature in three thematic areas of: Contribution of youth unemployment to crime; Contribution of poverty to crime; Contribution of youth population growth; and Summary as well as Identification of gaps in knowledge in the reviewed literature. It also contains Theoretical framework and Hypotheses of the study.

Chapter Three deals with Research Design and Methodology comprises of Study Location, Source of data, Targeted Population and Techniques of Sampling. Similarly, the chapter has Calculation of Sample Size, Reliability, Validity and procedures of collecting data. Chapter four dealt with Data analysis, presentation and discussion of results while Chapter five gives the Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

The chapter critically reviews very relevant literature in a thematic way as per the study. It also delves in identifying gaps in literature which the study fills. It is also organized in four sections and the first examined youth unemployment and crime, the second section dealt with poverty and crime. The third section examined population growth and crime while the fourth section showed how the gaps that the study intended to fill.

#### 2.2 Contribution of Youth Unemployment to Crime

Several studies have been done to establish existence of any nexus between youth unemployment and crime. One of such studies was conducted by Carvalho (2015) in Australia to establish the effects of unemployment rates on crime. In Australia, youth is aged between 15 and 24. The study was a desk research and data was obtained from Australian Bureau of Statistics between 2007 and 2014. The study established that youth unemployed doubled since mid-2008 to 2014 with 300,000 youth (about a third of the entire population) being unemployed. Unemployment among the youth is averagely 13.5% and is double the rate of unemployment among the adults that is averagely 6.75. Two thirds of youths have no formal education (non-graduates). However, 360,000 non-graduate Australian youth were not put in the unemployed category as they were passive when searching for employment. The study shows that teenagers aged 15-19 were non-graduates due to failure to attain Year 12 and majority of them were involved in crime. Those between 20 and 24 were solidly grown, and though were (non-graduates) rarely involved in crime. The study has youth age bracket as being 15 and 24, unlike the current one whose youth is between 18 and 35 years.

Adebayo (2013) in his attempts to establish the nexus between unemployment among the youth and crime between 2000 and 2009 in Nigeria relied on secondary sources such as works of previous scholars, newspapers, journals, documents from the government as well as information from magazines. In his study however, he established that crime committed by unemployed young persons increased from 13.1% in 2000 to 19.4% in 2009. The study defined a youth as a person between 15 and 24 years and that these youths had unemployment rate of approximately 41.6%. Those aged between 25 and 44 years had a rate of 17% of unemployment. Moreover, the study found out that youths who had attained only

primary level of education had an unemployment rate of close to 14.8%. Secondary school leavers had 23.8% while tertiary leavers had 21.3% unemployed rates. Youth who had never stepped in primary school had 21% while those who stepped in primary school but did not get certification as they dropped out had a 22.3% of unemployment rate. All this translates to about 95% of Nigerian youth being with minimal source of a livelihood. The study established that growth of demographics among youth have failed to improve the economy of Nigeria, a situation that has fueled unrests as youth engage in crime. The study used secondary sources of data unlike the current study which used primary sources of data.

Simon (2013) sampled 177 unemployed youths drawn from Arusha-Urban and Kinondoni districts within cities of Arusha and Dar es Salaam respectively. Questionnaires and Focused Group Discussions (FGD) were used to collect data to determine the nexus between unemployment among the youth and crime. Approximately 53% were graduates and 47% non-graduates of the sampled youths. It was established that approximately 34% of the unemployed graduates were from Kinondoni district while 19% were from the district of Arusha-Urban. It was further established that 30% of the graduate youth had never been employed despite having graduated more than five years. About 70% of the graduate jobless youth spends their time drinking alcohol in bars, a precursor of crime. The prolonged unemployment situations among the youths could therefore be drivers for them to commit crime in Dar es Salaam city. Whereas the study was conducted in urban towns, the current study was conducted in a rural County of Bungoma which has peculiar settings such as early marriages and in some places there is lack of social places such as bars.

Michael (2015) carried out a study in Kampala, Uganda through Focus Group Discussion involving seven graduate youth who were unemployed. The study established that majority of the youth were blaming themselves for being unemployed despite graduating. All the seven youths revealed that they dislike work that is manual related due to laziness. The study observed that the youths lacked motivation, ambition, vision and self-drive towards work. However, the youths were choosy on the type of job they wanted to be engaged in as they all preferred white collar ones which were office related but not manual ones. Additionally, the study established that all the youths were interested in getting quick money and thus engaged in crime and betting in sports. Moreover, the youths have an attitude that their needs will be catered for by either their parents or guardians. The study further established that even if youths acquired the skills needed as well as conducive environment being in place to create

jobs, unemployment among the youth will continue to persist. This is attributed to poor attitude that youths have especially the culture of getting rich quickly. This study had a sample of only seven youth through FGD as a way of gaining data.

Kwamboka (2016) sampled 240 youths in Bomachoge District, Kenya and she wanted to establish the relationship between level of education and crime. The study revealed that 80% of youths who have graduated with entrepreneurship courses were more likely to start businesses and hence unlikely to engage in crime. The study found that majority (76.9%) had secondary education while about 11.6% had acquired entrepreneurship training from university, college or from technical and vocational institutions. 53.8% of the respondents were those whose group members had in addition to formal education skills/knowledge/training in business while 46.2% had none of its members with additional business skills/knowledge/training. This may be because majority of the youth groups had members with secondary education where entrepreneurship education is not taught. The study relied heavily on graduates especially those who have taken entrepreneurship as a unit while studying. The current study involved all graduate youths in all fields not necessarily those whom had taken entrepreneurship.

### **2.3 Contribution of Poverty to Crime**

According to Champagne (2013) who carried out a longitudinal study between 2000 and 2010 in Detroit city within United States, he established that the main cause of crime was poverty. The poverty rate of the city was about 40.9% being the highest in all cities in the US. He observed that low income, substandard housing, attainment of minimal education; unemployment and limited opportunities for market were features of poverty. He concluded that poverty causes social distress as persons who are impoverished have a higher probability in engaging in outlawed businesses, abuse drugs thus cause violent crimes such as kidnappings, rape, killings, muggings, carjacking among other forms of crime. For instance, rape was high in 2009 while violent crime increased by 10% between 2000 and 2010. Similarly, murder increased by 41% in the same period under review. However, funding towards the judicial system had decline during the same period. He concluded that whereas reduced funding could explain an increase in crime, he maintains that the decline could not further explain the continued high percentages of crime and he associated this high percentage with poverty.

Similarly, in Australia, Carvalho (2015) carried out a study in Australia and while using secondary data he found out that two thirds of the youth could not afford formal education (not graduates) and unemployment was averagely 13.5% thus double the rate of unemployment among the adults that was averagely 6.75. He established that – poverty levels made youth to lack formal education – and thus a significant influence on crime involvement and crime rates in the country.

Such findings were corroborated by the findings of Trevor and Emeka (2014) who sought to determine the impact of poverty to the crime committed in South Africa. In their study conducted in the urban area of Cato Manor Policing within Kwazulu-Natal state of South Africa involving a sample of 114 youth, Trevor and Emeka (2014) revealed that 67.5% of respondents were from poor backgrounds during the time of their arrest. They noted that this poor backgrounds coupled with parental upbringing and association (friendship) of the youth were major factors contributing to crime. The researchers' findings indicated there was insignificant difference between youths with at least high school qualification at 51.1% compared to youths with only primary school qualification standing at 48.9%. Researchers relied on socialization theory which emphasizes that the way children are brought has a direct impact on the type of behavior they will exhibit in future. The current study however relied on Strain theory that emphasizes that stressors and/or strains in any given society like un-attainment of a certain level of education due to expulsion or other causes forces people to commit crime.

In a related development in Abuja city within Nigeria, a research by Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) was carried out a research on youths and crime. The researchers used secondary data from drawn from National Bureau of Nigerian Statistics. The study revealed that youths had a population of about 80 million which was approximately 60% of the entire population of the city. Additionally, about 64 million youths were unemployed while approximately 1.6 million ones were under employed. Similarly, the data showed that youths from poor backgrounds and who had only attained secondary school were the largest at about 60%. The study further established that approximately 40% of the rate of poverty was among youths dwelling in urban cities who were aged between twenty and twenty-four years. The poverty rate of about 31% was for youths aged between 15 and 19 years. The study was conducted in urban area of Nigeria and heavily relied on secondary data unlike the current one that shall be within the rural settings of Bungoma County within Kenya using primary sources of data collection.

Studies conducted in Kenya have also supported the association between poverty and youth crime. A study conducted by Omboto, Ondiek, Odera and Ayugi (2013) to establish the nexus between poverty and crime, they sampled 55 male inmates from Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Centre. 31 inmates were 17 years while 24 were between 18 and 21. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data. The study established that at least 70% of the inmates were from poor background based on what they own, the form of offence committed and where they lived. Some young persons revealed that they run away from their rural home to look for means of a livelihood in Nairobi where they engage in begging along the streets due to absence of basic needs. In the streets, they are involved in petty crimes by committing crimes as stealing foodstuffs or properties with street value of less than five hundred shillings. About 85% of the offenders were from slums such as Mukuru Kwa Njenga, Mathare and Kibera and they were bare footed, an indicator of poverty.

Similarly, Maithya (2011) sampled 10 youths suffering from High Independence condition and have been convicted at Kamiti Maximum prison. He wanted to establish whether poverty is related to crime committed. He established that youths from poor background were unable to attend school as their parents/guardians also did not see the need of going to school at the expense of looking for alternative means to acquire food and other basic necessities. Two youth (about 20%) were convicted for selling illegal drugs and perceived their crimes as an easy way of making money and maintained that they would go back to the same activities after they were released from jail as they could not afford and have no other sources to earn a living. One (about 10%) with primary school level education was convicted for sexual assault. He perceived crime as desirable for satisfying his sexual needs.

The inmates who were from poor backgrounds with primary level education plus vocational training were 3 (30%) They were all convicted of theft and/or handling stolen goods. They perceived their crimes as necessary for achieving what they could not achieve otherwise. Inmates with vocational training through apprenticeship were 2 (20%) out of 10 (100%). Both were accused of sexual assault. They perceived their crime as desirable for satisfying their sexual needs. They also perceived crime as a means of punishing women whom they admired yet reject their request for intimate friendship. One inmate (10%) had secondary school level education plus vocational training and was convicted for running business without license. He said that he did not know his crime was serious to warrant conviction. He also thought the law would not be applied on him as he was H.I. The inmate with secondary



school level education plus professional training at college (10%) was convicted for handling fire arms without permit. He perceived his crime as an easy way of earning extra income. The current study had a sample of 180 youths unlike this one that had a sample of 10.

#### **2.4 Youth Population Growth and Crime**

Shannon (2014) studied the relationship between population growth and terrorism in Washington, DC, United States of America. They relied on secondary data obtained from Global Terrorism Database. The study sought to establish any linkage between youth population growth and terrorism by sampling 1235 youths between 2000 and 2009. The database contains incidences of terrorism acts from all over the world irrespective of whether a terror group has claimed responsibility or not. The findings indicated that a youth population growth rate of about 1% had a corresponding decrease of about 0.006% in terrorism acts. About 80% of the areas that had experienced a rise in youth population had also experienced a rise in economic ventures. Additionally, the more stable a country is, it has a corresponding lesser terrorism acts irrespective of the increasing demographics of youths. The study above studied heavily on secondary data and majorly focused on only one form of crime which is terrorism. The current study used primary sources of data encompassing all other forms of crime.

Viswanath (2015) observed that India was among the top countries with the largest population in the world and it is number 10 in terms of the crimes committed. In 2013, about 860,237 crime cases were reported and all were committed by youth in urban dwellings. About 376264 cases related to theft of property. He avers that a 10% decline in population in India led to a 9.2% decline in crime rates especially those associated with property theft. He carried out a study in Uttar Pradesh state that had a population of at least 60 million people. He established that the high population especially within a particular family caused a strain in meeting basic requirement. This forced some family to share the limited resource they have, a situation that compelled some family to take their children in underfunded schools or others fail to attend to schooling due to limited resources. He further established that the higher the population in a family it had a corresponding effect on their ability to commit crime. About 45% of youth who committed crime in the state came from families that they were at least 10 children. 30% came from families that ranged between six and ten while 8% came from families that they were at most five children. He concluded that as long as the family size is

large, it become difficult for parents or guardians to monitor individual deviant behavior thus leading to crime.

Data from Africa also support the view that population growth leads to different types of crimes. Ademola and Olajubutu (2009), who looked at the influence of youth population in urban cities of Nigeria, observed that an increase in youth population promoted social vices such as crime related to robbery, kidnappings, petty theft, prostitution, engaging in forms of political thuggery as well as destitution among others. According to Cleen Foundation Crime Report of 2010, records from the crime unit of the Nigerian Police between 2005 and 2009 indicated that about 16925 suspects of robbery of whom about 80% were youth were arrested. Youths in Nigeria were engaging in criminal enterprises such as kidnappings to seek ransoms. The practice has gained popularity among majority of the Nigerian youths due to its lucrative nature especially in populated urban slums of Nigeria (Obaro, 2012).

Studies conducted in Kenya have also shown that growing population among the youth had an effect on types of crime, including stealing, political violence, gang violence, robbery, kidnapping, and terrorism, among others. Musindayi (2013) sampled 83 male youth offenders from Nyahururu district, Laikipi County who had been convicted at the Nyahururu law courts for charges of a criminal nature in the year 2011. The study was seeking to establish the different reasons pushing boys or girls into crime and as established that the offenders commit crime to get money due to high number of youth seeking employment at the expense of available vacancies.

This illustrated that most youths tend to engage in stealing as a crime. In a study conducted by Biko (2012) on the effects of population growth rates among the youths within Kibera slums of Nairobi and crime, he established that a 10% population growth had occasioned a corresponding rise of 12% in crime rates within the slum. The study attributed this to idleness among the youth coupled with minimal opportunities for them to gain meaningful and sustainable source of income. The high population had occasioned limited job opportunities as they scramble for the limited ones. The population was growing without a commensurate rise in employment opportunities. These conditions inflicting youths are being capitalized on by politicians especially during electioneering periods to administer caning and attacks against opponents. Whereas the study sampled only 83 offenders, the proposed study which sampled 180 youths.

## **2.5 Summary and Knowledge Gap**

The above reviewed literatures demonstrated that several factors influence youth to commit crime. However, the reviewed literature focused on youths within urban dwellings which had specific socio-economic, cultural and political factors; hence the involvement of youth in crime is in relation to such factors. For instance, within such urban dwellings, youths are forced to engage in an income generating activity ostensibly to meet basic needs namely shelter, clothing, food as well as payment for auxiliary services such as electricity, water and rent among others. The financial demands are high in urban dwellings. Moreover, they are exposed to ever declining cultural practises besides greater political influence and expose to the new dynamics of life.

The above factors are different from rural settings such as in Bungoma County. The literature above did not put into consideration the socio-economic backgrounds of such dwellings. Most youth in such rural areas have limited opportunities to access better schooling, limited exposure due to absence of internet and other media platforms. Additionally, the cultural way of life in rural areas greatly influences them how they behave as family and tribal ties greatly guides behaviour. Rural settings have unique characteristics such as absence of electricity and if there is, then blackouts are rampant. Darkness therefore is unique as it may influence and motivate youth to commit crime. Moreover, the overall unavailability of social amenities such as poor road networks, limited transportation methods, playgrounds for youth and lack of organizational capacity of youth to engage in income generating activities further possess a unique environment that these youths are exposed to unlike their urban counterparts. These knowledge gap in literature was what the current study intended to fill.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

The study adapted a theory proposed in 1992 by Robert Agnew. The General Strain Theory stipulates that some stressors and/or strains compel individuals to commit crime. The major assumption is that when people are faced with some strains, the strains will ignite some retrogressive emotional responses such as anger and some forms of frustrations. These retrogressive emotions will create correctional pressure that compels them to act and crime is the potential response. The theory also assumes that strains increases crime. That the more a person continues to be faced with strains or stressors, the more likely he/she will commit crimes. The theory continues to argue that people engage in crime ostensibly to run away from issues related to strain or to seek some revenge attacks against the main source or cause of the strain, or lighten up some negative emotions. This could be demonstrated especially

when people experience persistent unemployment may be compelled to engage in stealing or selling of drugs ostensibly to earn a living. Additionally, stressed people may seek revenge towards the person whom they perceive fired or retrenched them. Similarly, stressed individuals take prohibited drugs so as to attract goodness within inner selves. However, the core of the theory is very simplistic emphasizing that only stressors or strains compels one to be upset and therefore responds with some delinquencies that may attract some punishments from law enforcers (Agnew, 2001).

Nevertheless, the theory's weakness is that not all people resort to criminality when faced with strains or stressors. Different people respond differently when strains come their way. Some strains such as unemployment or population growth may compel some individuals to embark on alternative sources of income rather than crime. The theory therefore may generate inaccurate information. However, lack of opportunities has been factor contributing to individuals' participation in crime. According to Agnew (1992), group differences such as age, education, gender, employment status among others could play a critical role in necessitating some strains frequently encountered by some individuals. The strain theory in this study will be appropriate as there are strains in the environment in which youth find themselves in. These strains include demographic factors that have resulted to increased job market supply hence making income sources scarce. School strain such as being suspended from school, dropping out from school due to expulsion or lack of school fees including failing in the final exams thereby unable to proceed to high education opportunities.

The theory is relevant to the study because youths are exposed to several challenges that could act as strains/stressors and hence compel them to commit crime. Some challenges such as absence of a meal, early marriages, poor infrastructural development, and unwelcoming /unconducive environment among others often acts as strains or stressors. The school system on itself is a strain due to the pressure from both teachers and parents to excel in national examinations and the situation is further compounded by unemployment even after going through such thorough learning process in schools. Additionally, the pressure from parents that after schooling, a youth should be responsible and cater for his/her needs such as purchase of clothing, soap among other basic requirements are other forms of strains or stressors. To overcome all these challenges, some youth could resort to crime such as pick pocketing, break-ins, stealing among other crimes ostensibly to meet some of the above mentioned strains/stressors.

## **2.7 Hypotheses of the Study**

The following hypotheses guided the study:

***H<sub>01</sub>***: There is no contribution of youth unemployment to crime.

***H<sub>02</sub>***: There is no contribution of poverty to crime.

***H<sub>03</sub>***: There is no link between youth population growth and crime.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

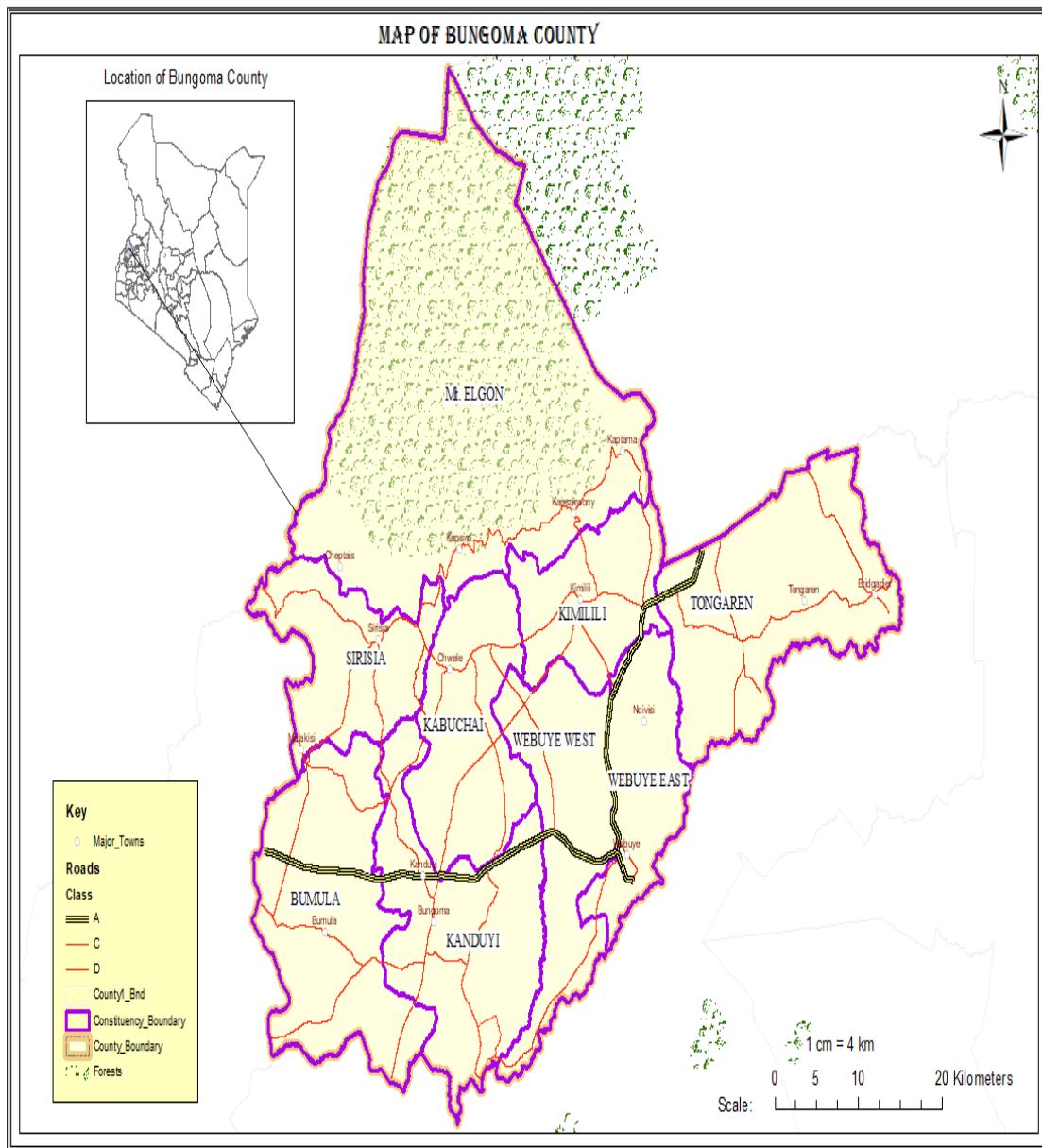
#### **3.1 Introduction**

The chapter describes the area of study including the map of the study area (Bungoma County). The chapter also covers sampling techniques, types of data as well as data collection techniques. Data validation and reliability is also briefly discussed. The section ends with specific frameworks of data analysis based on the specific objectives of the study.

#### **3.2 Proposed Study Site**

Bungoma County is part of the western regions of the Republic of Kenya and lies at longitude 34° 20' East and 35° 15' East. It also lies between latitude 0° 28' North and 1° 30' North. Bungoma County covers approximately 3032.4 km<sup>2</sup> and in the North-East, it borders Trans-Nzoia County, East and South-East Kakamega County, West and South-West Busia and North-West it borders the Republic of Uganda. Bungoma County was identified as the study site since it had been recording an increase in the number of crime since 2015 as per police abstract recorded. The researcher assumed that the increase in crime could be attributed to youth unemployment, population growth and poverty levels. This study aimed at investigating the extent of how these factors influence youths into committing crime in Bungoma County.

**Figure 3.1: Map of Study area**



Source: Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya, 2013

### 3.3 Source of Data

Data was collected through primary means. The study combined aspects of qualitative and quantitative methodologies where information was obtained from a sampled key informants and youths. Questionnaires were administered to youths to collect quantitative data and questionnaires as a method was chosen because the population is relatively large and averagely literate. Additionally, questionnaires are manageable and friendly when it comes to time. The questionnaire contained questions that were both closed and open ended.

Qualitative data on the other hand was collected from Key informants who were interviewed through the use of interview guide. Interview guide was used ostensibly to prevent the probability of losing important information that could be easily lost. The guide also ensured that all forms of crimes among the youths were collected from key stakeholders. The key informants included businessmen, community policing leaders, chiefs and police in Bungoma County and its constituent sub-counties. The study employed a descriptive research design because the design explains and describes the way things are on the ground. The design also allows observation of two or more variables at the same time it is easy to use.

### **3.4 Target Population**

The targeted population comprised of youths who account for 467,171 (KNBS Report,2009), businessmen totaling to 9, community policing leaders accounting to 9, OCSs totaling to 9 as well as location chiefs all drawn from Bungoma County.

### **3.5 Sampling Technique**

The study used non-probability and probability sampling techniques. Non-probability technique includes cluster and purposive sampling techniques while probability sampling technique includes simple random sampling. In the study, the nine sub counties within Bungoma County were considered and since each sub-County has four locations, two locations in each sub-County were clustered together. Cluster method was used because the sample was homogenous externally but heterogeneous internally. The locations acted as geographical as well as ethnic demarcations, with each having distinct socio-economic and cultural characteristics. As such, cluster method ensured that each ethnic community with its unique socio-economic features were considered in the study to ensure that the Bukusu, Tachoni, Sabaot, Kikuyu and Iteso communities participated in the study. Quarto sampling was used to select the youth from the clusters. Quarto sampling was used because it gives room to decide on the number of youth to be used in each cluster and as such the cluster with higher youth population will have higher sample of youth. Thereafter, the study employed a simple random sampling technique to select youth who were then involved in the survey. The simple sampling technique guaranteed equal chance to each participant ostensibly to eliminate any forms of biases. Exclusion and inclusion criteria were used to select youth. As such, only those aged between 18 and 40 were considered and they lacked a consistent form of income.

For Key Informants, a purposive sampling technique was employed to select the sample for an in-depth interview. Purposive sampling technique enabled the researcher to ensure that the



selected informants had the necessary knowledge and understanding on the study thematic area to help the researcher to expand as well as validate the qualitative data. Determination of Key informants selected depended on their working experience within the study site and interest to take part in the study.

### 3.6 Sample Size Calculation

The sample size was determined by a formula advanced by Nassiuma (2000) for a finite population.

$$n = \frac{NC^2}{C^2 + (N - 1)e^2} \dots\dots\dots (3.1)$$

Where; n = sample size,

N=Target Population

c = Coefficient of variance (30%)

e= Error Term (5%)

The sample size of the study was computed using the study target population of 467,171.

Therefore;

$$n = \frac{(467,171) \times (0.3^2)}{[(0.3)^2 + 467170(0.05)^2]}$$

$$= 180$$

### 3.7 Reliability and Validity of Instruments

Ogula (1998) defines reliability as the degree to which an instrument produces consistent results (same results) each and every time it is administered on the same persons. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), whenever an instrument produces the same score after administering two or three tests to the same subjects, then the instrument is highly reliable. The time of administration of the tests could vary but as long as the results are the same, then the instrument is reliable. However, the time of administration should not be too long such as over two or three years. The questionnaires were pre-tested to enhance their reliability. Internal consistency technique was determined reliability of the questionnaire where a single administration was given to 20 youths. After two days, the same test was given to the same 20 youths and the results were compared.

Validity on the other hand is the degree to which an instrument actually measures what it was supposed to measure. According to Ogula (1998) there are several validities namely Content, Predictive and Construct. The study employed content validity. Face validity was achieved after the instrument had been presented to research experts within the Political Science Department for scrutiny and advice. After the experts gave a congruence that the instrument was really measuring what it was designed to do, the instrument was assumed to be valid. The experts' advice, recommendations and suggestions was strictly adhered to so as to enhance the validity of the instrument as well as adherence to research procedures.

### **3.8 Data Collection Procedures**

First, a letter from the University introducing the researcher was obtained before the researcher attempts to obtain the research permits from National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation NACOSTI. Additionally, the rationale of the study was vividly explained to the sampled respondents before administration of the instrument. Once the required documentations had been obtained by the researcher, the researcher then distributed the instrument to the sampled youth. Similarly, an interview was also conducted on the selected key informants. The researcher endeavored to ensure that the instrument was filled by the youths; it was collected for validation as well as for editing, coding and encoding purposes.

### **3.9 Data Analysis and Model Specification**

Once data had been collected, it was validated before editing and coding. During validation process, the instruments; questionnaire and interview guide was subjected to checks to determine if an acceptable and accurate sample was used in reference to the issued instruments. Completeness was checked such that questionnaires that were below 50% complete were to be discarded. After validation, the step that followed was editing. During editing, the instrument was thoroughly scrutinized to determine; omissions and errors if any, responses that were inadequate, responses that were illegible, and responses that were irrelevant. Thereafter, the responses were grouped into two namely accurate responses and questionable responses. The instruments that had 60% responses that were questionable were put on a different sheet.

The data was quantitatively and qualitatively analyzed depending on the research questions at hand. According to Nachmias and Nachmias (2003), in a quantitative analysis, the first procedure is to summarize as well as describe data descriptively. Therefore, descriptive statistics was heavily relied on to give a clear picture of quantitative data. The results in form



$\alpha$ - is a vector of coefficients to be estimated, and  $\varepsilon_i$  is the error term assumed to be distributed normally with a mean of zero and a variance  $\sigma^2$

The variable  $Z_i$  takes the value of 1 if the marginal utility the  $i^{\text{th}}$  youth gets from participating in crime is greater than zero, and zero otherwise. So we have:

$$Z_i^* = \alpha W_i + v_i \dots \dots \dots 3.3$$

Where:

$Z_i^*$ - is the latent level of utility the youth gets from participating in crime (i.e., crime participation,  $v_i \sim N(0,1)$  and,

$$Z_i = 1, \text{ if } Z_i^* > 0 \dots \dots \dots 3.4$$

$$Z_i = 0, \text{ if } Z_i^* < 0 \dots \dots \dots 3.5$$

Variables used to specify equation (3.2) are described in table 3.1



**F** is latent (unobserved or underlying) variable.

**e<sub>j</sub>** is measurement error for **Y<sub>j</sub>**

The common factor can be represented as a linear combination of observed variables as per equation 2.

$$F_i = W_{i1}q_1 + W_{i2}q_2 + \dots + W_{ik}q_k \dots \dots \dots 3.7$$

Where:

**F<sub>i</sub>** is estimates of *i*<sup>th</sup> factor

**W<sub>i</sub>** is the weight or factor score coefficient

**q<sub>i</sub>** is the variable loading of each factor

The four steps followed in factor analysis included firstly, computation of the correlation matrix to determine if factor analysis was appropriately done using Bartlett's test of sphericity. Secondly, extraction of factors using principal components analysis method, thirdly factor rotation done using Varimax rotation method which encourages detection of factors each of which is related to few variables and discourages detection of factors influencing all variables. Finally calculation of factor scores using Bartlett's approach which indicates how each "hidden" factor is associated with the "observable" variables used in the analysis.

The latent variables (**F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>...F<sub>k</sub>**) were identified in terms of number and named based on the category of observable variables loading heavily onto each latent variable. The independent variables used in the study were described in table 3.2 as follows.

**Table 3.2: Variable Description for Factor Analysis**

Variable	Description
Rating on youth population	A continuous variable that took a value of between 1-5 depending on the respondent's own rating if increase in youth population has led to increase in crime in Bungoma County
Rating on crime committed by youths	A continuous variable that took a value of between 1-5 depending on the respondent's own rating if most of the crime reported are usually committed by youths
Rating on youth unemployment	A continuous variable that took a value of between 1-5 depending on the respondent's own rating if largest proportion of youths are not employed and opt to participate in crime
Rating on effectiveness of crime laws	A continuous variable that took a value of between 1-5 depending on the respondent's own rating if there is ineffective crime laws in Kenya
Rating on satisfaction level prosecution of crime suspect	A continuous variable that took a value of between 1-5 depending on the respondent's own rating if person reported to have committed crime are not prosecuted and jailed
Rating on satisfaction level on government support	A continuous variable that took a value of between 1-5 depending on the respondent's own rating if Bungoma County Government has sufficient measures to curb crime in Bungoma

### **3.10 Logistical and Ethical Considerations**

An authorization letter was first sought by the researcher from the University. Thereafter, a permit to okay the research was sought from NACOSTI as well as from Bungoma County Security Committee. The researcher visited the sub-counties and got graduate and non-graduate youth in the area to set a suitable time and day for collection of data.

Due to the increasing new trends intentionally with regards to human as well as animals' rights, ethics in this research was highly upheld. Saunders, Leis and Thornhill (2007) aver that participants should first be explained and be given all the necessary information on how the data will be used as well as be enlightened on their rights. The participants should be free and willingly give information without any form of coercion. The researcher should get the

consent from the participant. The purpose as well as confidentiality of the must be provided to the respondents before the research commences and the consent was obtained after the respondents had signed consent letter.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on data analysis, presentation and discussion which have been discussed under the study objectives. The areas discussed are how unemployment among the youth influences them to obligate crime, how poverty influence crime in Bungoma County and an examination on how youth population growth influence crime in Bungoma County.

#### 4.2 Response Return Rate

The study established the response return rate given that it is the return rate that always determines the quality of data collected as well as significance of the study findings to the existing population. The response return rate was presented in table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Sample Population and Response Rate**

Sub-County	Dispatched	Returned	Percentage (%)
Mt. Elgon	20	20	100.00
Sirisia	20	20	100.00
Kimilili	20	20	100.00
Kabuchai	20	20	100.00
Bumula	20	20	75.00
Kanduyi	20	20	100.00
Webuye East	20	20	100.00
Webuye West	20	20	100.00
Tongaren	20	20	100.00
Total	180	180	100%

Source: Field research, 2020

Results from table 4.1 revealed that there was 100% return rate and was used for further analysis. This showed that the instruments were all collected from the respondents after they were through with them and therefore the quality of the results obtained was of the required standard. The targeted population in each Sub-County comprised of 16 youths, 1 businessperson, 1 community policing leader, 1 OCS and 1 location chief.

The 100% response return rate was achieved due to frequent follow up on confirmation and reconfirmation of interviews, rescheduling where cancellations were made as well as

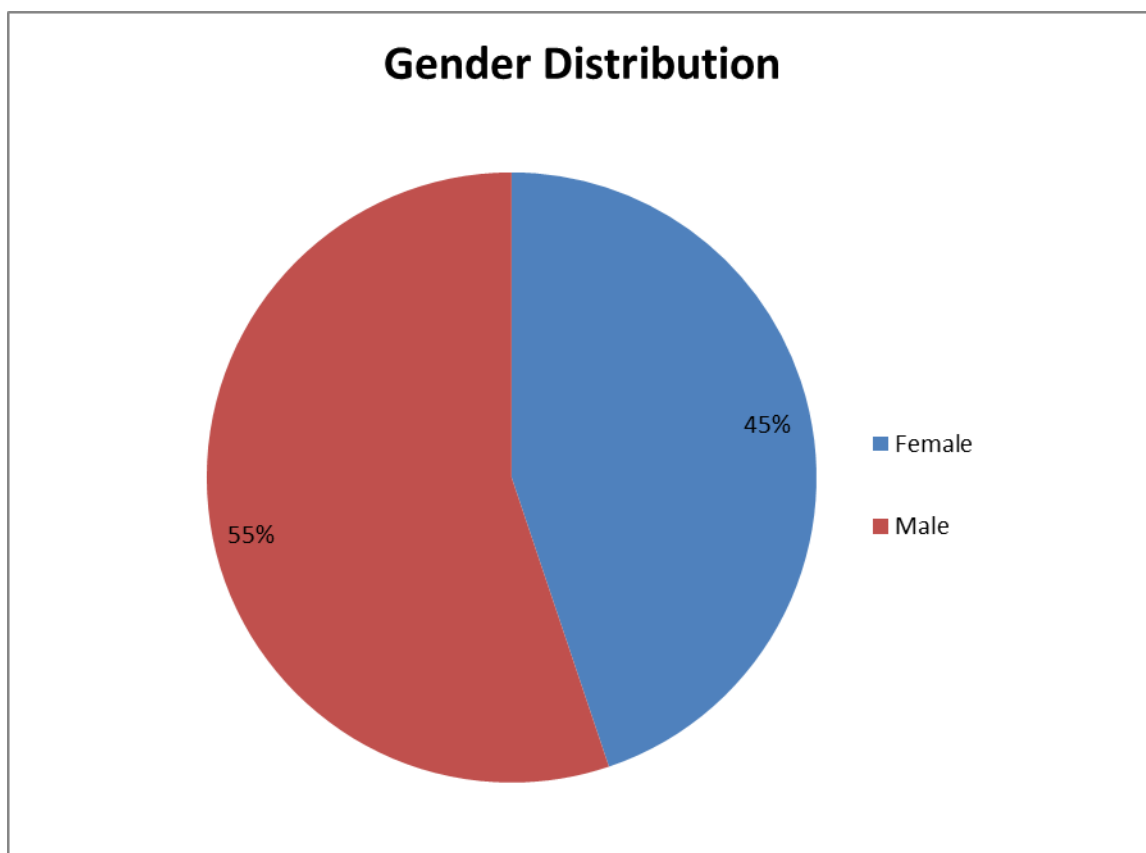
substitutions where possible. Additionally, field assistants further ensured that the targeted number of youth to participate in the researcher was obtained.

### 4.3 Explanatory Analysis

The study determined the demographic description of respondents as it assisted the researcher categorize the findings based on demographic details.

#### 4.3.1 Gender of the Respondents

Figure 4.1 Gender of Respondents



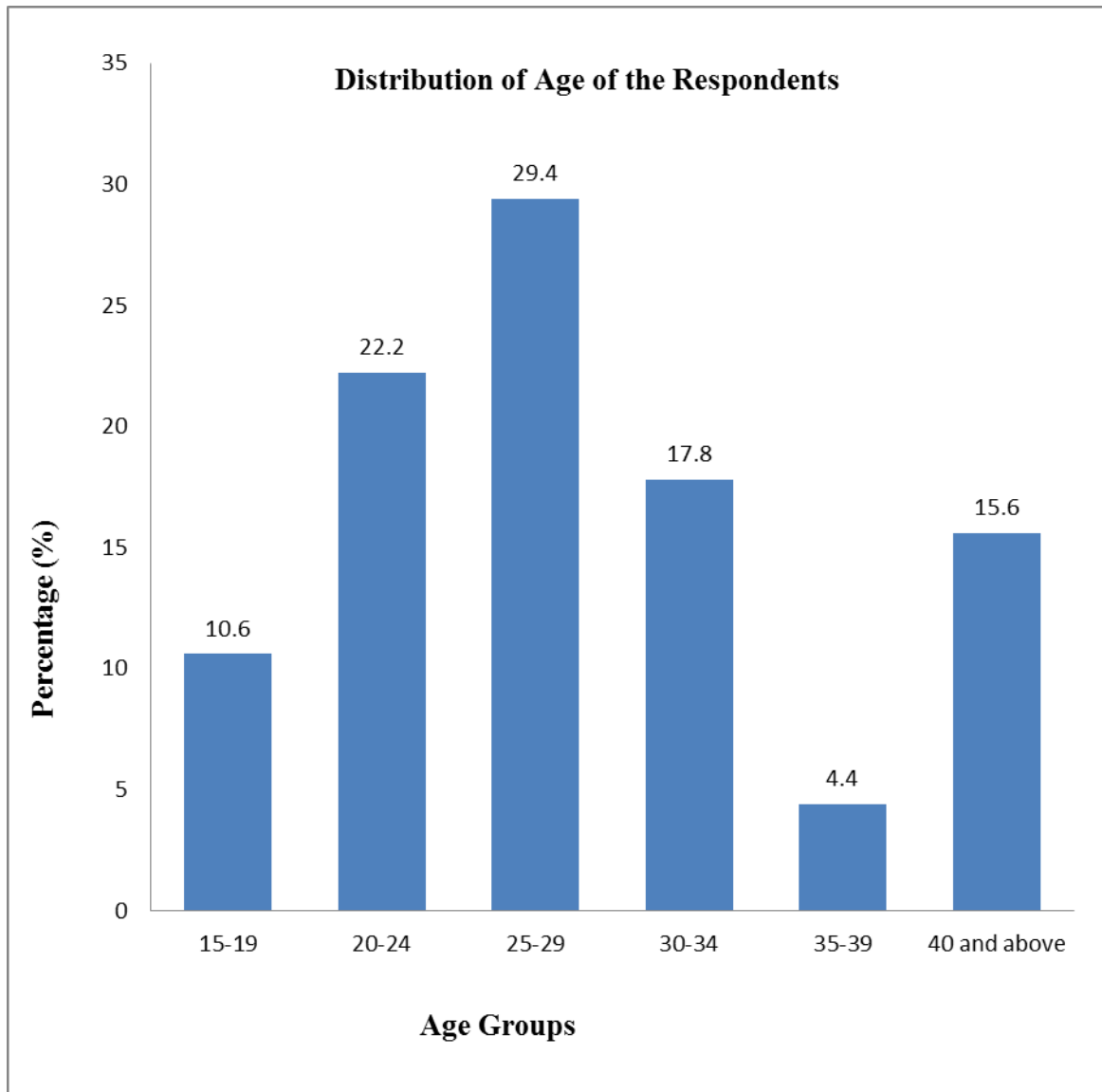
Source: Field research, 2020

From figure 4.1, majority 99 (55%) of the respondents were male while 81 (45%) on the other hand were female. From the findings, it showed that there were more male than female respondents. The third gender rule was however observed and thus the gender of respondents was fairly representative.

### 4.3.2 Age of the Respondents

The age of respondents was analyzed and tabulated as shown in figure 4.2.

**Figure 4.2 Age of Respondents**



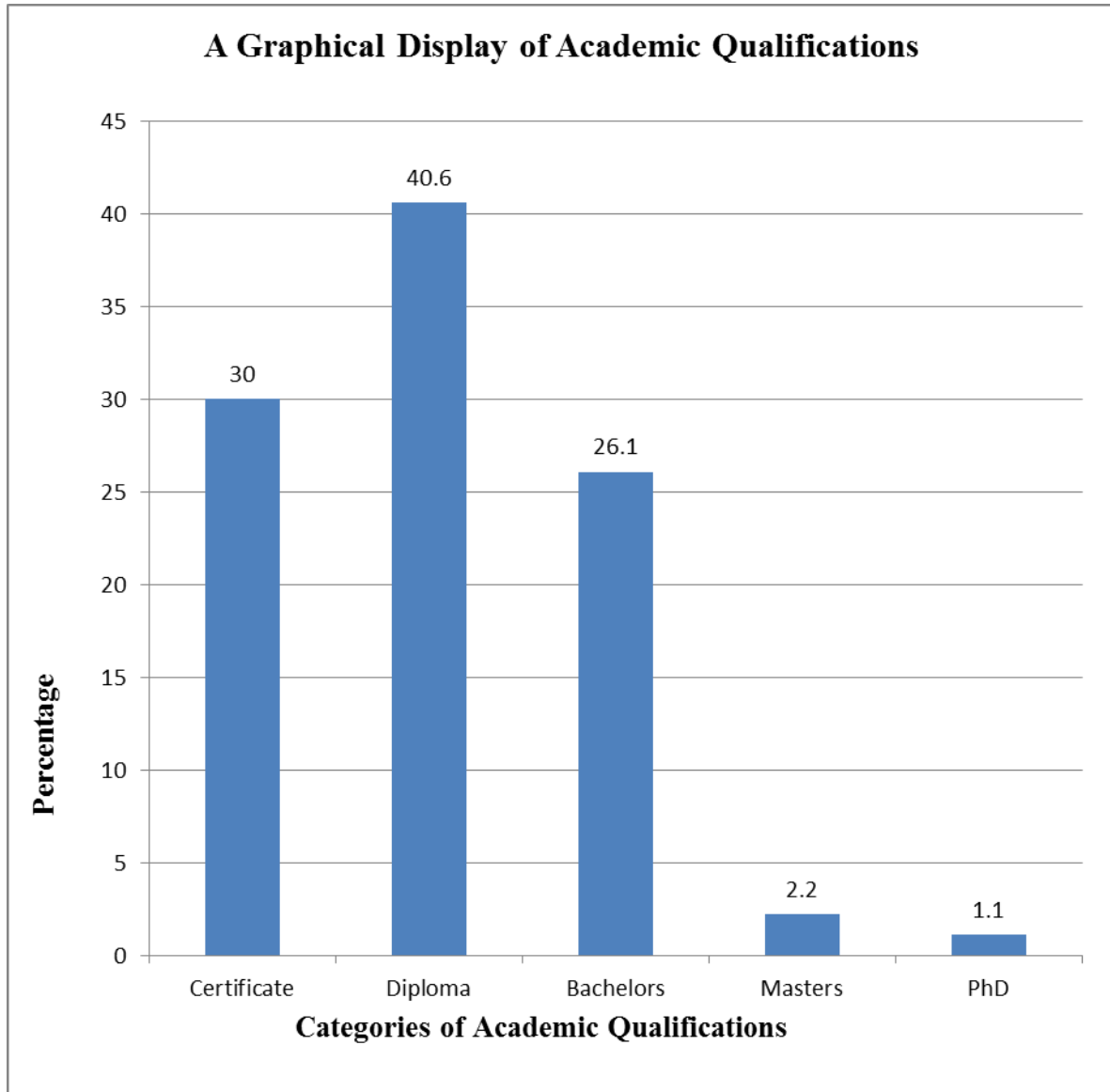
Source: Field research, 2020

From figure 4.2, majority of respondents (29.4%), were aged 25 to 29 years. Further, only 15.6% of the respondents were above 40 years. The findings as depicted in figure 4.2 showed that over 85% of the respondents were mainly the youths who were the target group of this research and were likely to be informed on how unemployment among the youth influences them to obligate crime, how poverty influence crime in Bungoma County and on how population growth among the youth influence crime in Bungoma County.

### 4.3.3 Highest Qualification of the Respondents

The academic qualification of respondents is a key demographic variable in analysis and for exploratory analysis. Academic qualification is an influence factor to crime and therefore it was analyzed and the results are as shown in figure 4.3.

**Figure 4.3 Distribution of Respondents by Academic Qualification**



Source: Field research, 2020

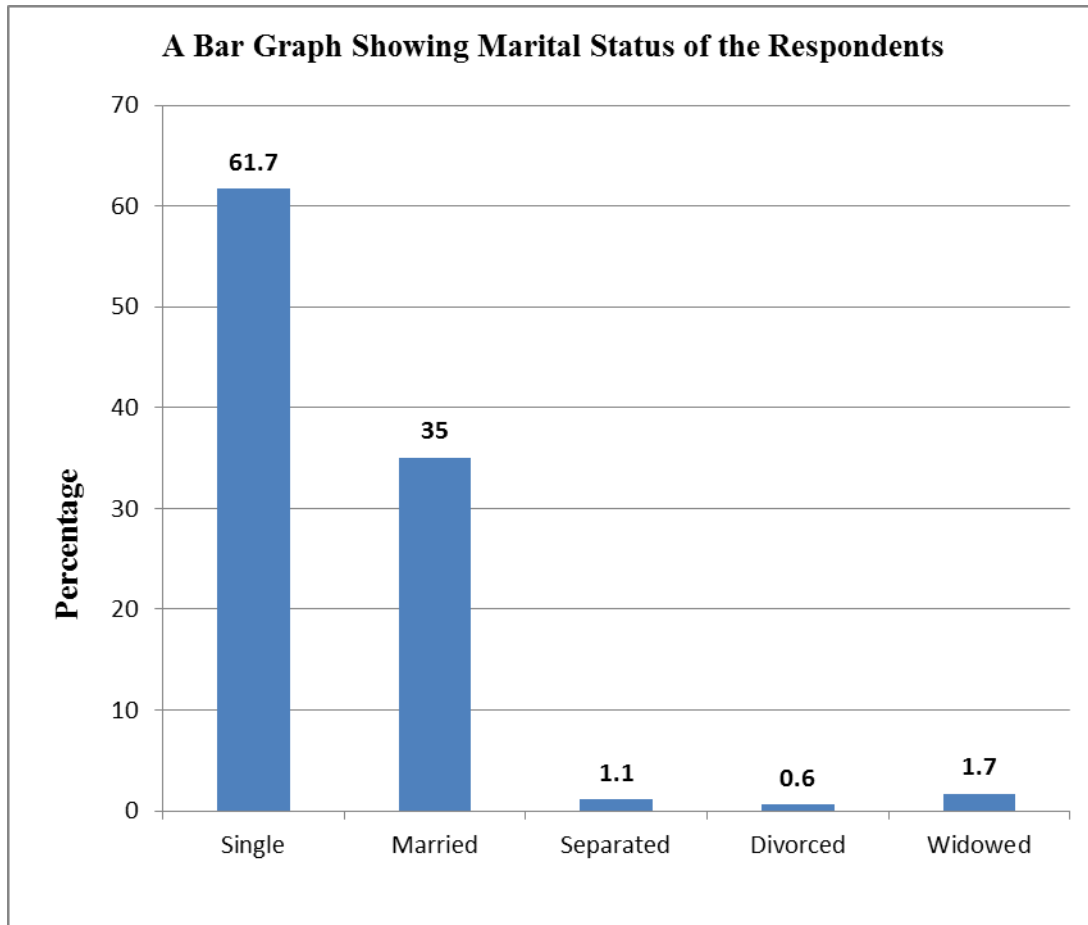
The statistics in figure 4.3 showed that majority of the respondent 40.6% had diploma qualification. The findings show that the respondents in the study area had good academic qualification and therefore were more likely to give informed opinion on how unemployment, poverty and population growth influence crime in Bungoma County. Further, this study

results show that majority had gone past the secondary education level which is the basic level and therefore improved their chances of gainful employment and self-employment.

#### 4.3.4 Categories of Marital Status

The respondents' marital status was analyzed and the findings were displayed in a bar graph as shown in figure 4.4.

**Figure 4.4 Distribution of Respondents Marital Status**



Source: Field Research, 2020

Results from figure 4.4 indicated that 61.7% of the respondents were single. This was consistent with the target group who were mainly the youths. However, only 35% of all the respondents were married.

### 4.3.5 Distribution of Employment Status and Type of Employment

**Table 4.2 Employment Status and Type of Employment**

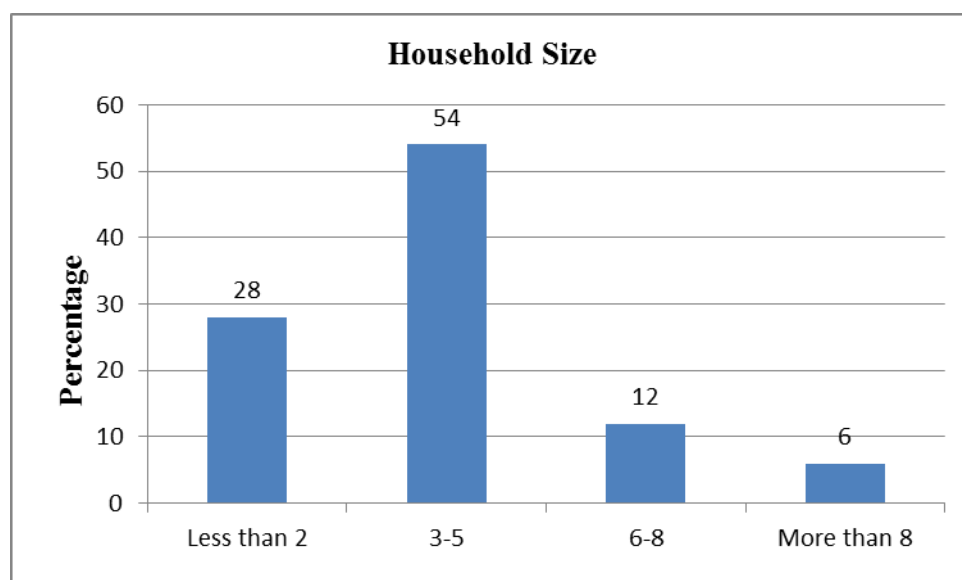
		Employed	Unemployed
Type of Employment	Formal	39 (21.7%)	0
	Informal	44 (24.4%)	97 (53.9%)
Total		83	97

**Source: Field research, 2020**

Table 4.2 illustrates that most of the respondents 97 (53.9%), were unemployed while 24.4% were in informal employment and those who were in formal employment were only 21.7%. This high number of unemployed is attributable to the fact many factors among high economic living, political factors and corruption among others.

### 4.3.6 Household Size

**Figure 4.5 Graphical display of household size**



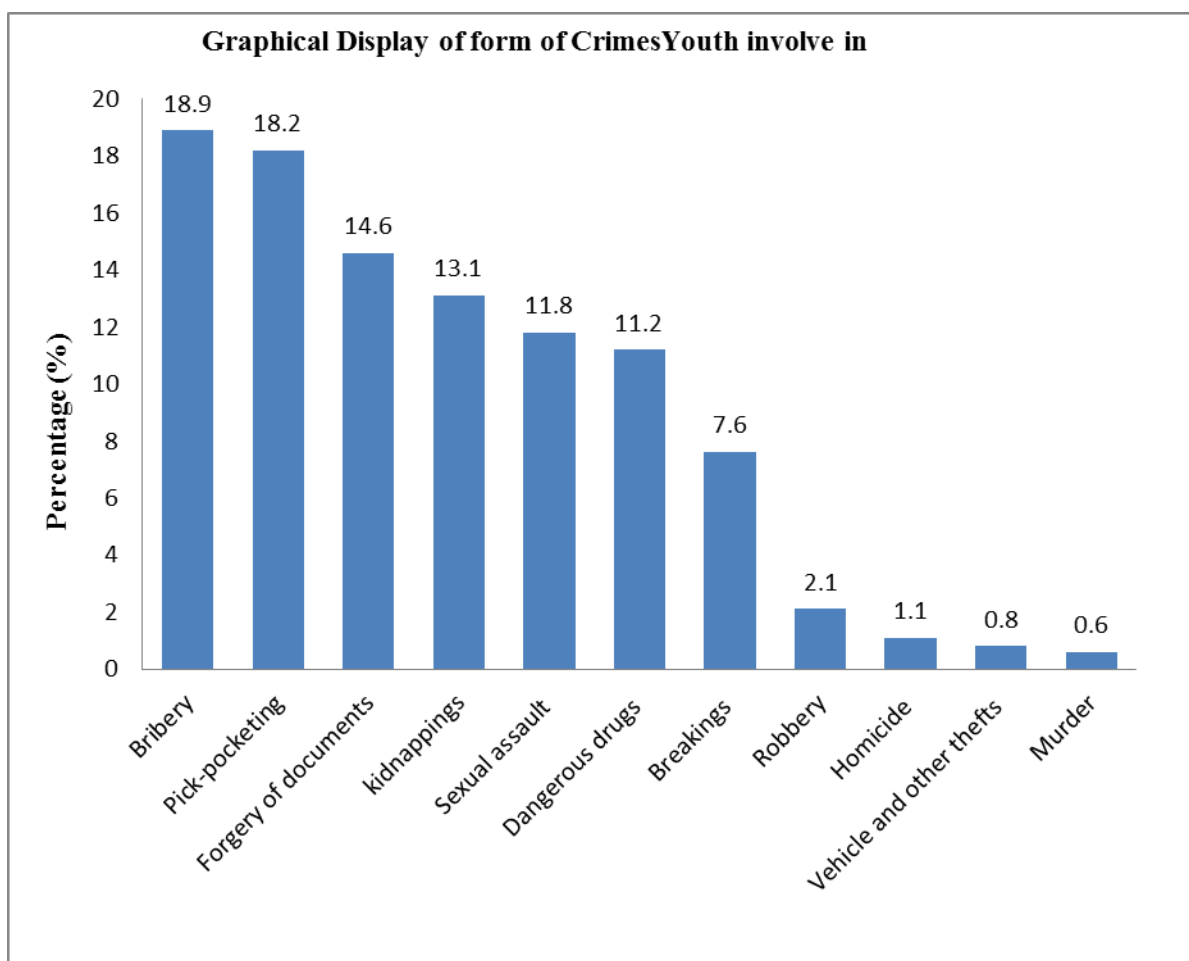
Source: Field research, 2020

In terms of the household size, 54% of the households had 3-5 persons, 12% had 6-8 persons and 28% had less than 2 persons as shown in Figure 4.5. According to the World Bank (2008), it avers that having household with many members always results in negative effect on daily adult consumption. This reaffirms that large households are more likely and more

prone to be poor. This implies that a larger household would more likely lead to youth engaging in criminal activities. However, this may also be influenced by other factors including the level of education that is attained by the head of that household. According to the World Bank's (2008) Kenya Poverty and Inequality Assessment, the largest observation of the household size was 3 and above. This is in line with the study results that shows that majority of the respondents were from such households.

#### 4.3.7 Types and Forms of Criminal Activities Youth Engage In

Figure 4.6: Distribution of Criminal Activities youth have engaged



Source: Field research, 2020

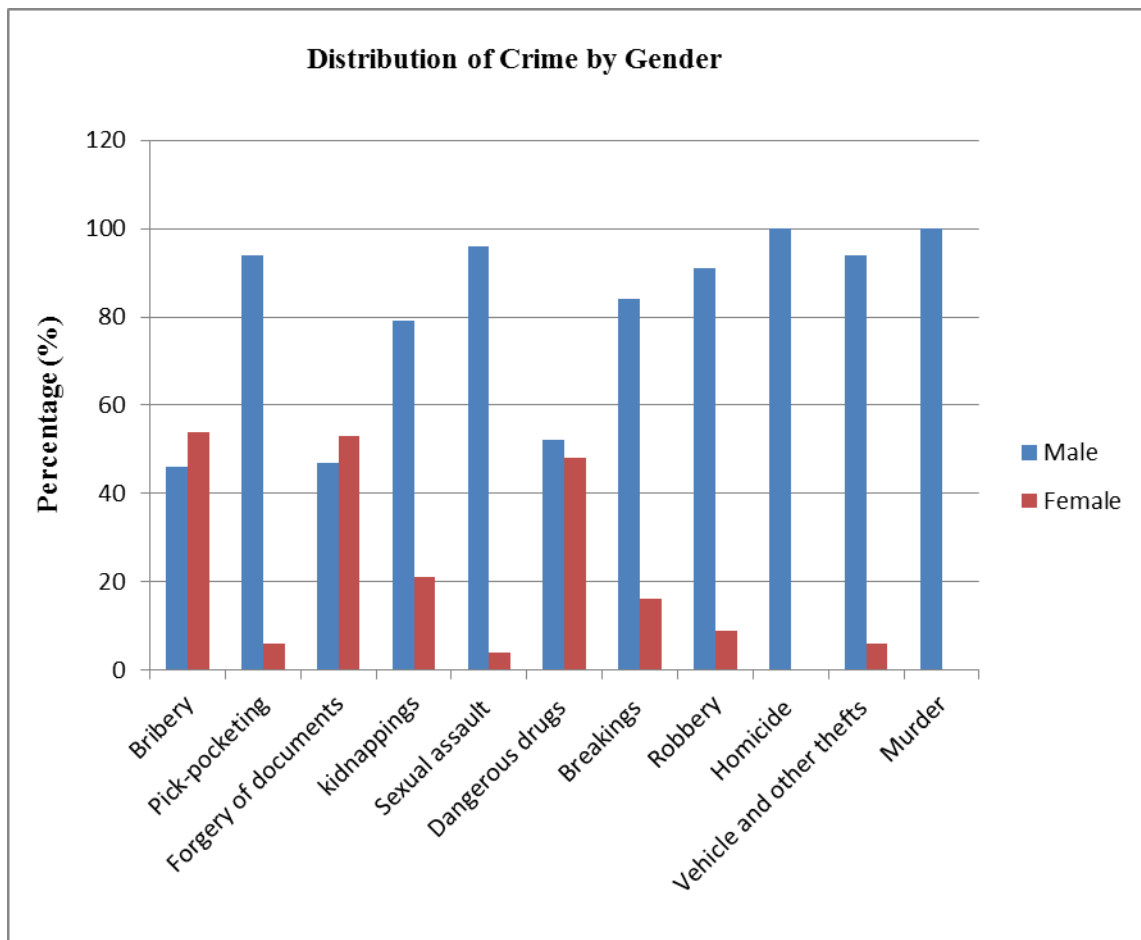
In order to establish the types and forms of crimes that youth engage in, the study asked the youth on whether they have ever participated in any crime. The results indicated that 42% have participated in crime while 58% had not participated in any form of crime. Regarding the type of crime committed by youth, 18.9% had participated in bribery, 18.2% had been

involved in pick pocketing, 11.2% indicated had participated in selling and usage of dangerous drugs and 0.6% had participated in murder as depicted in figure 4.6

#### 4.3.8 Gender Difference on Criminal Activities

A further exploration on gender difference in crime involvement was done and the results are displayed graphically in figure 4.7

**Figure 4.7: Gender Difference on Criminal Activities**



Source: Field research, 2020

The study found that there was a significant difference between genders in committing crime. The male youth were more involved in committing a crime than their female counterparts and in some crime none of the female indicated having engaged in crime. According to the strain theory (Agnew, 1990) argues that there are gender difference in crime. This scholar explained that the males are more likely and more prone to engage in

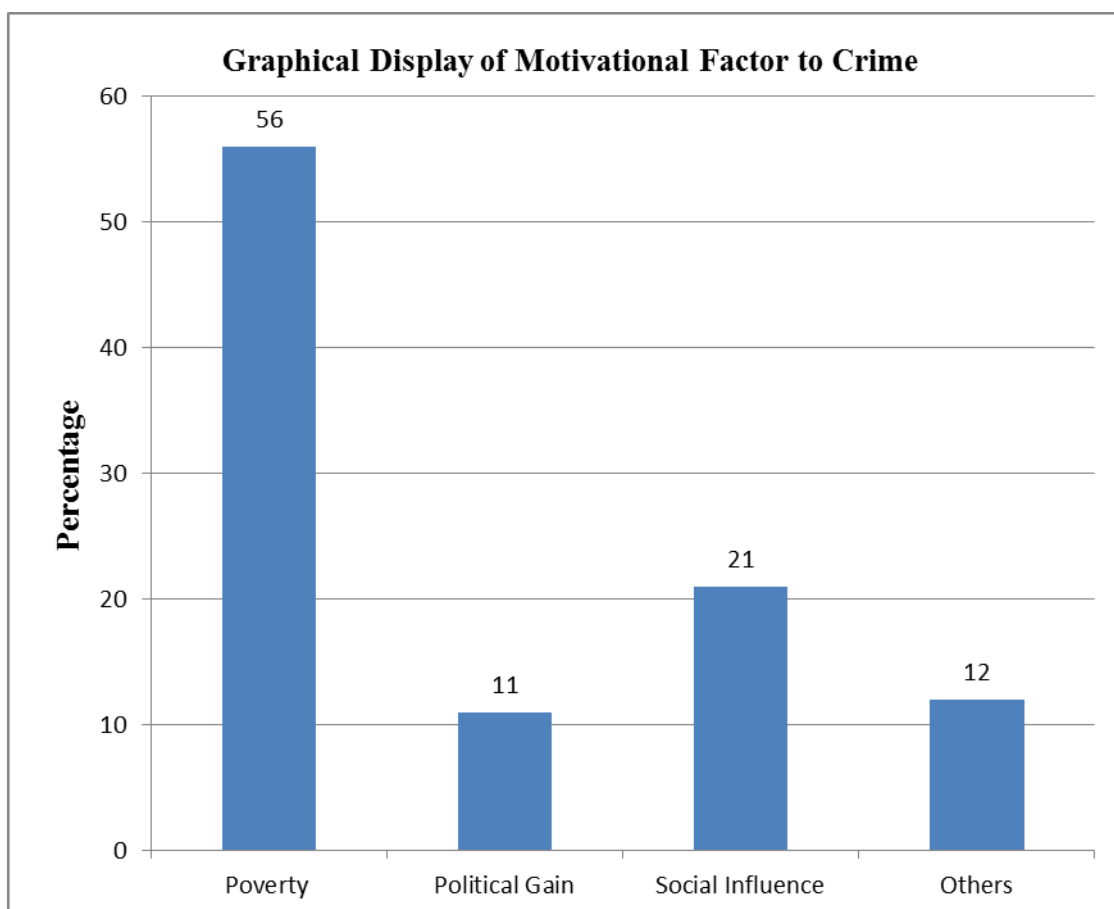


crime than their female counterparts largely because: males are subjected to severe strains or stressors than their females counterparts; males are also subjected to several forms of strains than females and the strains that male are faced with are highly conducive to crime; males further have different emotional response to strain and are more likely to respond to anger or engage in crime than their female counterparts.

#### 4.3.9 Motivational Factor to Participate in Criminal Activities

The current study was also interested in identifying the motivational factor for youths to participate in crime. The results are as shown in figure 4.8

**Figure 4.8: Motivational Factor to Participate in Crime**



Source: Field research, 2020

The results from data collection revealed that most of these crimes were committed due to the need for money. Majority of the respondents were not employed and parents could not afford to support the youths other than provide shelter and food. The findings showed that there was need to statistically if there was an existing association between unemployment, poverty and population growth and crime.

#### 4.3.10 Rate of Youth Involvement in Crime

In relation to rate of youth involvement in committing crime, 43.5 % indicated that it had increased, 14.3 % however indicated that it had reduced, 31.1 % of the respondents indicated that crime had remained the same and 11.1 % did not know as shown in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Response of youth Involvement in Crime.**

Rate of youth Involvement in Crime	Frequency	Percentage
Increased	78	43.5
Decreased	26	14.3
Remained the same	56	31.1
I do not know	20	11.2
Total	180	100

Source: Field research, 2020

#### 4.4 Test of Association Between Unemployment and Crime

**Table 4.4: Test of Hypothesis using Chi-square**

			Ever involved in Crime		Total	p-value
			No	Yes		
Employment	Formal	Count	34	5	39	.008
		Expected Count	29.0	12.0	41.0	
	Informal	Count	31	13	44	
		Expected Count	47.9	4.1	52.0	
	Unemployed	Count	81	16	97	
		Expected Count	33.1	24.9	58.0	

Source: Field research, 2020

Results from table 4.4 indicated that there was strong association between unemployment and crime. The null hypothesis that stated; *there is no association between unemployment and crime*, was thus rejected, testing at 5% significance level since the test had a p-value of 0.008.

#### 4.4.1 Odd Ratio Test

Odds ratio test was employed to determine the degree by which one was likely to be involved in crime. The test was done at 5% level of significance where the wald test confirmed unemployment variable was significant.

The respondents who were in informal employment were 7.496 times more likely to involve themselves in crime than respondents who were formally employed. Similarly, the unemployed youths were 69.662 times more likely to involve themselves in committing crime than respondents who were formally employed. Setting respondents who were informally employed to be the reference group (ref), the formally employed respondents were 0.133 times less likely to participate in crime than the respondents who were in informal employment while the unemployed respondents were 9.293 more likely to participate in crime than the respondents who were in informal employment.

**Table 4.5: Odd Ratio Test**

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Employment	Formal	Ref	Ref	Ref	ref	ref	Ref
	Informal	2.014	.843	5.707	1	.457	7.496
	Unemployed	4.244	.461	84.603	1	.000*	69.662
Employment	Informal	Ref	Ref	Ref	ref	ref	Ref
	Formal	0.032	.161	3.7541	1	.082	.133
	Unemployed	2.229	.723	9.508	1	.000*	9.293

Source: Field research, 2020

Number of Obs =180, - = Reference group, Exp (B) computed from Step Wise logistic regression analysis. \* Significant association at  $p < .05$ . Exp (B)  $< 1$ =negative association. Exp (B)  $> 1$ =positive association.

Finding from the study are consistent with the results of Fadaei and Green (2002), who concluded that a decline in unemployment rates often results in a decline in crime rate and vice versa. In their study they discovered that youths who have no income or those who earn less often have a greater appeal and are more likely to engage in crimes than those with steady income given that they have more to lose when caught engaging in crime. They further reported that youths who were unemployed were prone to engaging in crime than those who were not and they were more likely to face imprisonment than those with stable employment. They further observed that joblessness was an integral determinant of the overall crimes rate.

The results of this study was also in-line with the study of Witte and Tauchen (1994), who found that youths who were engaged in formal employment were less likely to be involved in crimes than their counterparts who were jobless. They reported that youths are attracted to illegal activities if the relative return of engaging in crime is by far much higher than decline in income with unemployment. Brenner (2009), in his study established a statistically positive association between crime and unemployment. He concluded that if a youth is unable to sustain a good living standard due to joblessness, then the youth is likely to engage in criminal activities to earn a livelihood. He further established that unemployment was the singularly responsible for criminality among the youth. According to Weinberg (2010), unemployment is often due to inaccessibility to some form of income, a situation that exposes most youth criminal tendencies ostensibly to earn a livelihood.

Concurring with economics crime theory, Becker 2012 observes that crime is a form of employment and it is an alternative activity to obtain economic benefits. Given that work and crime are all activities, then there exists some return on work (wage) and return on crime (theft). According to the simple model of economics of crime, youth decide to commit crime if and only if the expected returns from criminal proceeds and the costs associated with crime are by far much higher than the expected returns from work. Consequently, if there is no work, people tend to look more for other sources of income. Majority of economists tend to believe that joblessness is related with offence because a reduction in expected utilities of genuine work often decreases the chances of illegal work. Therefore, from the results of this study, the impact of unemployment on crime is positive and thus the higher unemployment occasion more youths to willingly engage in criminal activities.

#### **4.5 Test of Association Between Poverty and Crime**

A probit model was used to analyze association between poverty and crime. To achieve this, various indicators of poverty were included in the model to test by what level did poverty influence youth participation in crime. Results of the probit are as shown in table 4.6. The chi square value of 62 with a P-value of 0.000 means that the model was significantly better than model without predictors. The results showed that value of household assets, access to standard infrastructure and level of education had statistically significant and positive association on crime at 1% significance level, while age, gender and environmental factors had statistically significant and positive association on crime at 5% significance level. For interpretation of how much these indicators of poverty, were associated with crime, then marginal effects were computed and incorporated in table 4.6.

**Table 4.6: Probit and Marginal Effect Output of Analysis of Association Between Poverty and Crime**

Variable	Coefficient	Z	P>[Z]	Marginal effect (dy/dx)	P[z]
Household size	0.078	2.98	0.003	0.031	0.093
Age	0.011	2.41	0.016	0.004	0.016**
Gender of respondent	0.158	0.158	0.279	0.063	0.027**
Education level	0.073	3.04	0.002	0.029	0.002***
Value of household assets	0.385	1.78	0.075	0.215	0.000***
Health and Nutrition	0.062	2.02	0.043	0.025	0.311
Environment	0.212	1.37	0.172	0.084	0.047**
Economic activities	0.0014	0.11	0.913	0.0005	0.118
Infrastructure	0.381	2.71	0.007	0.150	0.007***

Source: Field research, 2020

Number of observation= 543, LR chi2(9)=62, Prob>chi2=0.000, Pseudo R<sup>2</sup>= 0.824, Log likelihood =-345.37 .\*\*\* and \*\* indicate statistical significance at 1%,and 5% respectively.

Marginal effects which were generated were incorporated in table 4.6. From the table, the computed marginal effects at the means for household assets, access to standard infrastructure, level of education, age, gender and environmental factors 0.215, 0.150, 0.029, 0.004, 0.063 and 0.084 respectively. This implies that if each of the mentioned variables increased by a certain function, then probability of participating in crime would also increase by the same function multiplied by the marginal effects value. As observed, the probability of participating in crime was positively associated and statistically in line with almost all indicators of poverty.

The finding of the study is in sync with those of Kelly (2012), who found a statistical positive result in his study between poverty and criminality. He reported that most youth resort to committing crime if and only if the costs associated with crime are by far much lower than benefits gained. Those who are poor are prone and thus have a greater opportunity of engaging in crime than the entire population. He further observed that youths who have been staying in high crime rates often shifts to areas that have less or no incidences of crime whenever they became economically and financially stable. In addition, it was observed that young persons that stay in poverty frequently engage in forms of violence acts of violence

due to conditions they have been subjected to and the conditions may include and not limited to distressed and unpleasant neighborhood, poor housing conditions and disrupted and/or challenged family backgrounds. Conditions such as this ordinarily depict poverty. In addition, World Bank 2008, observed that poverty is a state of being lacking the basic needs of shelter, clothing and food as well as absence of medical attention in the event of sickness and lack of proper schooling resulting in illiteracy. Moreover, poor people are often excluded from power as well as being excluded from any form of consultation and thus feel they are unworthy. They do not air their views and thus resolve in participating in crime.

These results were consistent with the conclusions made by Fajnzylber et al, 2009 in their study where they observed that poverty had a strong association between poverty and crime. In support of their conclusion they reported that prevalence of criminality in any given area often discourages investments, thus creation of employment is curtailed leading to high poverty levels. Secondly, high crimes areas are conducive because there is a ready market for the stolen goods and services, or the place is idea for criminals to hide with little or no detention from authorities or the high crime areas offer an opportunity for criminals to plan well so as to perfectly execute their evil plans. Thirdly, youth who are highly predisposed to crime often have unobservable traits including indiscipline thus rendering them less employable, a situation that render them poor even if they didn't engage in crime.

According to Carlen 2013, poverty situations alone does not necessarily lead to criminality, however, the desire to acquire and have something is what pushes youths to engage in crime. The processes and mechanisms where poverty has an impact on crime is often detected in the frequency in which youth living in poverty engage in criminality and how this poverty could spontaneous precipitate crime. Additionally, Parker (2008) maintains that crime is the only alternative to youth who have no other economic means of survival to sustain a livelihood. Therefore great deprivation of economic wants often produces emotional situations that escalate into violent crime.

#### **4.6 Test of Association Between Population Growth in Youth and Crime**

The principal factor analysis method was relied on to extract the factors. In total, two factors were extracted and Kaiser Test was then relied on to retain factors having eigen values of 1 and above. Factor analysis results are as shown in table 4.6. The validity of the variables was put into test using Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's test of sphericity. The KMO

value was 0.689 and thus greater than 0.5 indicating that data used was appropriate for the employment of factor analysis method. The Bartlett's value was 942.863 indicating that variables were not correlated at 99% confidence level. From the results therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The same table shows factor loading (Correlation coefficients) for the factors on each variable. The closer the loadings to -1 or +1, the higher the correlation. In the output, the values which were not greater than 0.3 were omitted.

From the output, rating on youth's population, crimes committed by youths, unemployed youth and law enforcement officers loaded heavily on factor 1. Rating on ineffective crime laws, prosecution of crime suspects and government support loaded heavily on factor 2. Factors were named population growth and factor 2 was named judicial support.

**Table 4.7: Factor Rotation Output**

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy			0.689
Bartlett's test of sphericity	Approx. chi- square		942.863
	Df		6
	Sig.		0.000
Variable	Factor	Factor	Uniqueness
	1	2	
Youths population	0.9390	-	0.0454
Crimes Committed by youths	0.9661	-	0.0323
Unemployed youth	0.9906	-	0.0034
Law enforcement officers	0.9329	-	0.1281
Ineffective Crime laws	-	0.8702	0.1595
Prosecution of crime suspects	-	0.9812	0.0246
Government support	-	0.9853	0.0155

Source: Field research, 2020

#### 4.6.1 Cronbach's $\alpha$ Test for observed variables

The key output in this test was the "scale reliability coefficient" – which is Cronbach's  $\alpha$ . The coefficient range of  $\alpha$  is  $-\infty$  to 1. The more positive the number, the more the set of items being tested were correlated with one latent factor. The rule of thumb was that this coefficient should be at least 0.50. Tables 4.8 and 4.9 show results of Cronbach's  $\alpha$  Test for each factor.

Population growth factor had a Cronbach's  $\alpha$  test score of 0.9584 as shown in table 4.7 which was greater than 0.5 as recommended by (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). This proved existence of strong correlation between youth population growth and crime as rated by respondents.

**Table 4.8: Population Growth Factor Cronbach Test Output**

Item	Observations	Sign	Alpha
Youths population	180	+	0.9909
Crimes Committed by youths	180	+	0.9200
Unemployed youth	180	+	0.9167
Law enforcement officers	180	+	0.9389
Test scale			0.9584

Source: Field research, 2020

Judicial Support on crime factor as observed in table 4.9 had a Cronbach's  $\alpha$  test score of 0.3894 which was less than 0.5. This suggested there was very weak correlation on crime and judicial support as rated by respondents.

**Table 4.9: Judicial Support on Crime Factor Cronbach Test Output**

Item	Observations	Sign	Alpha
Ineffective Crime laws	273	+	0.0812
Prosecution of crime suspects	273	+	0.0737
Government support	273	+	0.7848
Test scale			0.3894

Source: Field research, 2020

The results of the outputs above are evidence of existence of strong positive association between population growth and crime. According to Lunden 2014, he revealed that population growth is positively associated with crime. Clark and Wenninger (2010), while using a self-report delinquency measure also reached a similar conclusion and they added that populous urban centres and cities have higher number of police: population ratio and thus the higher the crime rates reflects the higher activities of police in these populous places. Additionally, they also observed existence of under-reporting of many offences especially in smaller communities. It was evidence that population growth especially in urban areas necessitates rural-urban migrations and the existence of these youths in large numbers in cities is a root cause of crime. Additionally, populous urban centres attract youths who are



prone to crime. This is in support of the conclusion of this study that population growth is associated with crime.

Alkire and et al (2016), in their case of Ethiopia, annual urban population growth stands at 3.75 % while that of annual rural population growth is 1.75% which is the negative consequence of uncontrolled over urbanization and high migration rate from rural to urban. As a result, there is widespread high crime rate and youth unemployment in the urban centers due to population growth. They reported that crime costs the society its life, property and person and hence, it is essential to explain the nexus between the high crime rate and population growth.

Accordingly to Blau (2011), in his study of the effect of population growth on economic status of Senegal, he reported that the size of the population cultivates several social interactions such as criminality as it reduces the physical distances while simultaneously increasing the number of potential associates. However, given that opportunity assumption remains silent then it can be deduced that population growth is more likely to lead to an increase in integrative and conflictive interactions. In support of the positive correlation between population growth and crime, Fischer and Simmel (2009), while using sub-cultural perspective analysis observed that existence of many youths within the same uncondusive environment often creates and expands deviant behavior among those youths. Through urbanization, there is rapid acquisition of different behaviour and through peer influence, some of the acquired behavior could be deviant in nature. Further, population growth creates an intolerance environment that promotes no-conformity of conventional rules and as a consequence, most populous urban centres and cities often experience greater crime incidences unlike the less populous cities and urban centres.

## **4.7 Discussion**

### **4.7.1 Unemployment and Crime**

According to study findings, 21.7% were in formal employment, 24.4% were in informal employment while 53.9% were unemployed. This suggests that the rate of unemployment in Bungoma County remains high and thus youth are predisposed to crime. From the findings, 45% were female while 55% were male implying that male are more likely to commit crime than their female counterparts. Similarly, of the employed youth, majority (24.4%) are in informal employment which is largely insecure and jobs can easily be lost. In terms of age distribution, majority of the youth (29.4%) were between 25 and 29 years further suggesting

that youth in this age bracket are more likely to be involved in crime. Moreover, male in the age bracket of 25 and 29 years are more likely to be involved in crime their female counterpart. Majority of the youth (40.6%) had acquired diploma certificate and hence they have gone past basic level of education. It therefore implies that they have chances of getting gainful employment or self-employment. The finding from chi-square has a p-value of 0.008 at 5% significance level indicating a strong association between unemployment and crime and thus the null hypothesis that stated: there is no association between unemployment and crime was rejected. Additionally, from Odds ratio test, youths who were in informal employment were 7.496 times more likely to involve themselves in crime than their counterpart who were formally employed. Similarly, the unemployed youths were 69.662 times more likely to involve themselves in committing crime than respondents who were formally employed.

#### **4.7.2 Poverty and Crime**

According to the study findings, most crimes (60%) are likely to be committed by youth due to the need of money. Majority of the youth (56%) maintain that the major motivation of their involvement in crime is poverty. Majority of the youth (18.9%) are more likely to be involved in bribery and about (18.2%) be involved in pick-pocketing. This implies that majority of the youth (37.1%) are more likely to engage in criminal activities that have immediate returns of money. Very few youth (0.6) are involved in vehicle theft or crimes that take long to get money. Majority of the respondents were unemployed and parents could not afford to support the youth rather than provide food and shelter, implying that they had to look for means of meeting their needs and crime could be one of the means.

From probit's test of association, the findings showed that value of household assets, access to standard infrastructure and level of education had statistically significant and positive association on crime at 1% significance level, while age, gender and environmental factors had statistically significant and positive association on crime at 5% significance level. Further, the computed marginal effects for household assets, access to standard infrastructure, level of education, age, gender and environmental factors were 0.215, 0.150, 0.029, 0.004, 0.063 and 0.084 respectively. This implies that if each of the mentioned variables increased by a certain function, then probability of participating in crime would also increase by the same function multiplied by the marginal effects value. Therefore, the probability of participating in crime was positively associated and statistically in line with almost all indicators of poverty.

### **4.7.3 Youth Population Growth and Crime**

According to the study findings, majority of the youth (54%) were from a household of between 3 and 5 while those from household less than 2 were 28%, implying that youths who came from families where they were many in that family were twice more likely to be involved in crime. This could also mean that when many youth interact, some form of socialization takes place and involvement of crime could not be ruled out. The population growth factor had a Cronbach's  $\alpha$  test score of 0.9584 which is greater than 0.5. Since the scale reliability coefficient always ranges of  $\alpha$  is  $-\infty$  to 1 and the more positive the number, the more the set of items being tested were correlated with one. This means that there is existence of strong correlation between youth population growth and crime and thus the null hypothesis was rejected.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion and recommendations as per the study objectives. The summary outlines the key findings that were established while conclusion gives meaning of the established objectives. Recommendations are in three folds namely; policy action, academic research and immediate action that should be done.

#### **5.2 Summary**

The study findings indicate that male youths were more likely to be involved in crime than their female counterparts. Similarly, the strain of meeting daily expenses obligated the youths to commit crime. However, majority of the youth who have gone past secondary school education level that is at least a Diploma were more likely to be involved in crime. Youth from families where they were many and also from the environments where they were overcrowded were more likely to be involved in crime.

#### **5.3 Conclusion**

##### **5.3.1 Unemployment**

The findings showed that unemployment has a positive effect on crime. Other independent variables household size, age, gender, education level, value of household assets, health and nutrition, environmental factor, economic activities and infrastructure among others were considered and they all generated a positive relationship with crime. From the findings therefore fighting unemployment may help to drastically reduce crime rates more specifically unemployment among the youths. It is evidence that unemployment especially among the youth has often resulted in high crime rates. From the analyzed results in the fore mentioned, it suggests that there are other variables apart from unemployment, poverty and population growth that could be responsible for increase in crime rates.

##### **5.3.2 Poverty**

Poverty is also another main cause behind the commission of crimes and hence poverty alleviation programmes should also take the issue of crime into consideration. The findings showed that poverty has a positive effect on crime. Other independent variables including affordability of food, quality of homestead, availability of water, types of sources of income,

infrastructural developments in the study areas were considered and they all generated a positive relationship with crime. From the findings therefore fighting poverty may help to drastically reduce crime rates more specifically among the youths. It is evidence that poverty among the youth has often resulted in high crime rates.

### **5.3.3 Population Growth**

The findings also showed that youth population growth has a positive effect on crime. From the findings therefore controlling population growths may help to drastically reduce crime rates among the youths. It is evidence that youth populations has often resulted in high crime rates due to increased socialization. Independent variables such as decrease in population growth in urban areas, family size, and unwanted number of children as well as residential mobility had a strong and powerful relationship to criminality. And thus a decline in population growth may drastically lower crime rates. However it must also be noted that individual behavior cannot be predicted by analysis at the macro level. People's behavior and attitude is usually unforeseen and difficult to predict at any given time as it is a personal decision to participate in crime.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

### **5.4.1 Short Term**

To curb the continued spike in crime due to unemployment, poverty and youth population growth, then rehabilitation and support package for youth should be broadened to incorporate youth from poor backgrounds who are often prone to engaging in crime. Additionally, an enabling environment should be created to allow and attract investments so as to create employment opportunities for youths who are honest, capable and willing to work. Similarly, the policies should also aid in improving the terms and conditions of service of those already in employment.

### **5.4.2 Middle Term**

Since majority of the youth had acquired higher level of educations, I recommend a research on contribution of graduate youth both employed and unemployed to crime. This will further provide knowledge on what motivates youths who are graduates to engage in criminality.

### **5.4.3 Long Term**

Majority of the youths had at least a diploma certificate and were in informal sector of employment that is largely insecure and hence policies should be developed to secure the

informal sectors of the economy, build their capacity through provisions of economic stimulus packages to boost the sector. Additionally, a holistic policy to minimize crime should be developed. Isolated effort of the criminal justice machinery to prevent crime would not address the issue of crime effectively. Rather the general public, government agencies, Youth and Women Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau and civic societies should be involve in the criminal justice system. There should be synergy between industries and the institute so that the offenders would get employment opportunity upon their release. This would help the offenders to reintegrate with the society easily.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOUTH

I am a student at the University of Nairobi pursuing a master's degree program; I am conducting a research study on “**Factors Influencing Youth to Commit Crime in Bungoma County, Kenya**”. I humbly request that you fill in the necessary information from the raised questions in this questionnaire.

#### Instructions

- I. Do not write your name on the questionnaire
- II. The information you give will be treated as confidential as possible and will be used for the research purposes only
- III. Please respond to all the questions by ticking (  ) in the space provided appropriately

#### Section 1. Demographic Information

1. Gender: Male (  ) Female (  )
2. Highest level of education reached: Primary (  ) Secondary (  ) Tertiary (  )
3. Indicate the tertiary level attained:  
Certificate (  ) Diploma (  ) Degree (  ) Masters (  ) PhD (  )
4. Age group: 15-20 years (  ) 21-25 years (  ) 26-30 years (  ) 31-35 years (  )
5. Marital Status: Single (  ) Married (  ) Separated (  ) Divorced (  ) widowed (  )
6. Religion: Christianity (  ) Muslim (  ) others (specify) (  )....
7. Family type: Nuclear (  ) Extended (  )
8. How many are you in your family.....

#### SECTION TWO

##### PART 2A: Association of Employment and Crime

9. Which of the following best describes your employment status?

Unemployed (  ) Employed (  )

If employed, state whether formal or informal employment .....

If informal, state the nature of work.....

10. If unemployed how do you take care of these needs

.....

.....  
 .....  
 11. In the past 5 years, have you participated in any form of criminal activities? No ( )  
 Yes ( )

If yes, which of this form of criminal activities have you participated in?

Form of Crime	You can tick more than 1
Bribery	
Pick-pocketing	
Forgery of documents	
kidnappings	
Sexual assault	
Dangerous drugs	
Breakings	
Robbery	
Homicide	
Vehicle and other thefts	
Murder	

12. Which of the following in your opinion motivates the youth to participate in crime?  
 (A) Financial gains (B) Poverty (C) Political gains (D) Social gains

Please explain your answers

.....  
 .....  
 .....

13. Over the past 2 years, how would you consider change in crime rate

Statement	Please tick appropriately
Crime has increased	
Crime has decreased	
Crime has remained the same	
I do not know	

**PART 2B: Association of Poverty and Crime**

S/No	Question	Option/Response		
Self-assessment				
B1	Does poverty make one to be involved in crime?	Yes		
		No		
B2	Over the last 5 year, do you think that poverty in Bungoma has been increasing, decreasing or remaining the same?	Increasing		
		Decreasing		
		Remaining the same		
		Don't know		
B3	Are you dependent or independent	Yes		
		No		
B4	If independent, how many people dependent on you?			
Health and Nutrition				
B5	Have there been any shortage of food more than 1 month during the past 12 months	Yes		
		No		
B6	Does your household have access to clean drinking water?	Yes		
		No		
B7	In the event of sickness, do you always receive modern medical treatment from a doctor, nurse or a midwife?	Never		
		sometimes		
		ye, always		
Wealth				
B8	What is the quality of your homestead	Below standard		
		Standard		
		Above Standard		
B9	What assets do you own in your homestead		Number	Value
		Sofa Set		
		Tractor		
		Pickup		
		Lorry		
		Cellular Phone		
		Car		

		Bicycle		
		Radio		
		TV		
		others (specify)		
		Total		
Environment				
B10	How clean is your town /village	Very clean		
		Clean		
		Dirty		
		Very dirty		
B11	What is the quality of water in the nearest river, water spring or borehole	Poor		
		Reasonable		
		Good		
Economic				
B12	How many source of income do you have	One		
		More than one		
B13	Do you consider your source of income as stable	Yes		
		No		
B14	Which of the following is your source of income	Crop Income		
		Livestock Income		
		Commercial business		
		Small scale business		
		Informal employment		
		Formal employment salary		
		Pensions		
		Remittances		
		Others (specify)----- -----		
B15	On average, how much do you earn from each of these sources per year ( Kshs)	Source		Ksh
		Crop Income		
		Livestock Income		

		Commercial business	
		Small scale business	
		Informal employment	
		Formal employment salary	
		Pensions	
		Remittances	
		Others (specify)----- -----	
		Total	
B16	What is average household income per month in Ksh		
Infrastructure and services			
B17	How difficult is it to get to the nearest health facility	Very difficult	
		Difficult	
		Easy	
B18	In what conditions are the roads and bridges in your area	There are none	
		In bad state	
		In good state	
B19	Can you get spiritual services appropriate to your beliefs or religion	Ye	
		No	
B20	Are there any sport facilities or other places suitable for recreation in your area?	Ye	
		No	

14. In your opinion which cultural factors influence youth participation in crime.....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

15. Is there a link between youth population growth and crime in Bungoma County?.....

.....

.....  
 .....  
**PART 2C: Youth Population Growth and Crime**

Indicate your opinion by ticking (√) the appropriate initial in the blank spaces provided:

Strongly agree (SA), agree (A), not sure (NS), disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD)

	Statement	SD	D	NS	A	SA
C1	Increase in youth population has led to increase in crime in Bungoma County					
C2	Most of the crime reported are usually committed by youths					
C3	Largest proportion of youths are not employed and opt to participate in crime					
C4	Increase in number of law enforcement officers will reduce crime incidences in Bungoma					
C5	There is ineffective crime laws in Kenya					
C6	Person reported to have committed crime are not prosecuted and jailed					
C7	Bungoma County Government has sufficient measures to curb crime in Bungoma					

KINDLY INDICATE ITEMS THAT WERE NOT CLEAR, WORDS YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OR WHAT YOU FEEL ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE. THANK YOU.

## APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

I am a student pursuing master's degree program at the University of Nairobi; the research topic is "**Youth Involvement in Crime in Bungoma County, Kenya**".

1. On average, how many youths are unemployed in this area? (male—and female---)
2. What do they do to earn a living?
3. Averagely, how many engage in crime to bridge the unemployment gap?
4. What type of crimes is committed by male?
5. What type of crimes is committed by female?
6. What measures have been put in place in deal with unemployment
7. Are these unemployment measures followed by the youth?
8. What measures have been put in place to contain crime?
9. How successful are these measures?
10. What challenge is being faced in prosecuting some this crime?
11. How families can afford three meals in a day?
12. What is the most common type of housing in this sub-County?
13. Are there cases of some families lacking sufficient clothing?



### APPENDIX 3: TIME FRAME PLAN

Time Activity	Jan 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Jan 2020	Apr 2020	Sept 2020
Writing of the Proposal						
Presentation of the proposal						
Correcting the Proposal						
Proposal Submission						
Collection of Data						
Analysis of Data						
Writing of the Final Report						
Final Report Submission						

#### **APPENDIX 4: THE RESEARCH BUDGET**

No.	DISCRIPTION	COST (Kshs.)
1.	Subsistence and Travel	35,000
2.	Bundles for internet	21,000
3.	Type setting and printing	30,000
4.	Proposal photocopies	5,500
5.	Logistics in Data collection	15,000
6.	Tools for Data analysis	20,000
7.	Miscellaneous	30,000
<b>GRAND COSTS</b>		<b>152, 000</b>

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