



**THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK AND AFRICAN WOMEN  
STUDIES**

**Establishing the Relationship between Family Background and Problem  
Behaviour of Institutionalized Teenagers in Othaya Sub-County of Nyeri  
County, Kenya**

**By**

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**Reg. No:C50/10154/2018**

**A Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for  
the Award of Masters of Arts Degree in Criminology and Social Order of the  
University of Nairobi.**

**DECEMBER, 2023**

## DECLARATION

### Declaration by the Student

I, Juliet Nduku Sila, confirm that this research project is my original work and has not been submitted for the award of a degree or certificate in any other university.



**Signature**.....**Date**.....

**Sila Juliet Nduku**

**C50/10154/2018**

### Declaration by the Supervisor

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.



**Signature**.....**Date**.....

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## **DEDICATION**

To my loving family, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering love, support, and encouragement throughout my academic journey. You have been my pillars of strength, inspiring me to strive for excellence and persevere through the challenges.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported and encouraged me throughout my academic journey. Firstly, I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Mike Chepkong'a, for his invaluable guidance, patience, and support throughout the research process. His insightful feedback and constructive criticism have been instrumental in shaping the direction and scope of this thesis. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the faculty and staff of the Department of Sociology, Social Work and African Women Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, for their constant support and encouragement. Furthermore, I would like to thank my family and friends for their unwavering support, love, and understanding. They have been my pillars of strength throughout my academic journey.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study sought to establish the relationship between family background and problem behaviours of institutionalized teenagers in Othaya Sub-County of Nyeri County, Kenya. Its objectives were to: assess the relationship between family structure, nature and level of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers, establish the relationship between the level of parental discipline and the nature of problem behaviour by the institutionalized teenagers, and investigate the relationship between the level of deprivation of basic needs and the associated problem behaviours by the delinquent children. The study utilized the Anomie and Social Disorganization Theories. A mixed method approach was used to generate detailed information on the phenomenon under investigation. The study adopted a cross-sectional research design. The study purposively targeted one remand home (Ruring'u Remand Home) and one rehabilitation centre (Othaya Rehabilitation Centre) in Othaya sub-county of Nyeri County. Institutionalized children were the primary respondents, whereas Parents, Correctional Officers, Probation Officers and After-Care Officers were the secondary informants. Semi-structured interview schedules were used to collect data from 98 institutionalized children and 20 Key Informants. Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics for quantitative data, whereas a thematic approach was used for qualitative data. The findings revealed significant correlations between the investigated variables and delinquent behavior. Family structure exhibited a moderately weak positive correlation ( $r = 0.366$ ) with problem behavior, indicating an association between family structure and delinquency. Parental discipline showed a strong positive correlation ( $r = 0.673$ ) with problem behavior, emphasizing the influence of parental instructions and authority on the behaviour of children. Basic needs deprivation demonstrated a strong positive correlation ( $r = 0.685$ ) with problem behavior, highlighting the influence of lack of essential necessities on the development of aggression, impulsivity, and low self-esteem. The study therefore recommended interventions that address these factors, including parental role modeling, counseling services, community support, and provision of basic needs, to promote positive outcomes and reduce delinquency among at-risk youths.

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ANOVA:</b>	Analysis of Variance
<b>ASA:</b>	American Statistical Association
<b>GoK:</b>	Government of Kenya
<b>KI:</b>	Key Informant
<b>KNCRC:</b>	Kenya National Crime Research Centre
<b>NACOSTI:</b>	National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation
<b>SEM:</b>	Structural Equation Modelling
<b>SPSS:</b>	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
<b>TV:</b>	Television
<b>UN Habitat:</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UoN:</b>	University of Nairobi
<b>US:</b>	United States

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background to the Study**

The problem behaviour of delinquent adolescents has received considerable scholarship in the mainstream literature with family as one of the key predictors of misbehaviours by delinquent children. More specifically, poor and harsh parenting styles have been cited as key enablers of juvenile delinquency. For instance, Sarwar (2016) states that authoritarian parenting styles creates problematic and rebellious behaviours in children. On the contrary, authoritative parenting styles is associated with less misbehaviours in teenagers (Keijser et al., 2020). Delinquent children are therefore often associated with dysfunctional family backgrounds, low parental discipline, and glaring deprivation of basic needs, such as food, adequate shelter, love and affection, among others (Chapple & Crawford, 2019). Furthermore, this indicates that such children are not meaningfully connected with their families and the society, thus exposing them to various forms of delinquency, such as abuse of drugs and substances and stealing.

The concept of family structure refers to the compositional elements and relational dynamics within the household in which a teenager resides (Langat & Odhiambo, 2021). It is operationalized as variables encompassing parental socio-economic status, educational attainment, the arrangement of the family unit (such as single-parent or nuclear family), a history of abuse or neglect within the family, and the degree of parental involvement in the adolescent's life (Olubunmi et al., 2019). On the other hand, teenage misbehavior refers to acts of deviance and problem behaviors commonly associated with this age group (Fosten, 2021). It is exhibited through various behaviors, including but not limited to acts of aggression, substance abuse, involvement in criminal activities, self-harming actions, truancy from educational institutions, and encounters with law enforcement agencies (Mwangangi, 2019).

The structure or type of family is often intertwined with various forms of misbehaviour. For instance, modern family units are characterized by both parents working to support and provide for the needs of the children. The consequence of this lifestyle leaves children to self-socialize through peers, nannies, and social media models. This unfortunate state of affairs overlooks the fact that the family unit should be the basic context, where the child experiences and internalizes behaviour patterns that are morally acceptable in society (Fida *et al.*, 2018). Parents, therefore have a crucial role in monitoring, identifying inappropriate behaviours and mentoring their children into upright teenagers. Elsewhere, parents with low socio-economic attributes often neglect their children, which drives them into delinquency (Peverill *et al.*, 2021). For instance, 80 percent of the delinquency cases in Kenya are from street families. Majority of them having been neglected by their families and the community, they are driven into the streets. In the streets, they are recruited into gangs where they get a sense of family and belonging. Regrettably, street gangs predispose them ultimately to frequent arrests, police brutality, and prison due to various forms of antisocial behaviours and crimes, such as pickpocketing and carrying weapons for older gang members.

Globally, cases of delinquent children are on the rise. This is often occasioned by child abuse and negligence on the part of the parents (Sunil, Mehfooz, & Shreen, 2019). For instance, Juvenile Child Statistics as cited in Puzanchera and Ehrmann (2021) found that even though the number of juvenile arrests fell by 58% between 2010 and 2019 in the United States, the problem still persists in resource constraints countries, particularly those in the Global South. However, the country noted a 10% increase in the number of murder cases committed by juveniles. In South Africa, cases of juvenile delinquency are now a concern for that particular country. Notably,

statistics by Prison Insider (2021) revealed that there were 58 and 65 children who were in remand homes and sentenced respectively, while there were 3,724 and 2,058 juveniles in remand homes and sentenced in that order. In Nigeria, Bella *et al.* (2020) reported that 55.1% of the incarcerated juveniles are from single parent families with 36.2% of them with no formal education. This evidence points to the poor state of affairs, which necessitates the need to repair the relationships between the incarcerated children, the community, and the victims.

Various types of child delinquency have been associated with children including cheating, truancy, stealing, aggression, disobedience towards parents, substance abuse, and violation of the rights of other people (Mwangangi, 2019). These delinquencies often lead to a socially deviant teenager and eventually a criminal adult. Fernández-Molina and Bartolomé Gutiérrez (2020) classifies delinquency into four groups: group-supported delinquency, individual delinquency, Organized delinquency, and situational delinquency. In contrast, Moffitt *et al.* (2020) points out types of offences committed by adolescents: repeat offender and age-specific offender. Repeat offenders are those delinquent children who show early signs of misbehaviour, which persists into adulthood, whereas age specific offenders are those that exhibit delinquency at a stipulated adolescent age, but the problem behaviour does not continue beyond the specified age.

Andreou *et al.* (2018) observe that problem behaviour is partly caused by genetic behaviour and partly by inadequate parental supervision. Hence, the teenager acquires problem behaviour from his or her peers. Most of the anti-social behaviour depicted by the youth goes unreported either because the culprits are not caught or the parents decide to settle the issues among themselves. Rodriguez *et al.* (2021) reported peer influence as one of the leading predictors of delinquent behaviour. Young people who interact with peers of morally right behaviour are less likely to be



delinquent, whereas those that form relationships with peers that exhibit delinquent behaviour are predisposed to antisocial conduct.

Parenting style is associated with the level of socio-economic status, where most single parent families face financial challenges that increases their overall level of basic needs deprivation (Kim, Choi, & Kim, 2018). As a result, these teenagers or adolescents are disproportionately disadvantaged in terms of access to health, affection, and educational opportunities. This predisposes them to delinquency behaviour, leading to imprisonment. Though this relationship has been mooted in literature, the same cannot be assumed locally, since there is no study that has been conducted on the socio-economic status and problem behaviours in delinquent children. This is the gap the current study addressed. Similarly, parental discipline is often associated with teenage misbehaviour, such as abuse of drugs and substances. For instance, children experiencing harsh parenting are likely to experience mental health problems, which takes toll on the self-esteem of the children (Uddin et al., 2020). As a survival mechanism, verbally abused children are twice likely to withdraw from their parents (Rodriguez et al., 2021). This exposes them to misbehaviour since the parent(s) may not be aware of changes in behaviour. While this may be true in many cases, there is dearth of evidence locally to corroborate this assertion. This study therefore sought to delineate the association between parenting styles and level of misbehaviour by institutionalized children.

Furthermore, authoritarian parenting style is likely to breed rebellious behaviour as children develop defense mechanisms in response to their parents. Conversely, Sarwar (2016) reported that authoritarian style of parenting is effective since it reinforces the need for moderate exercise of parenting. Notably, children under the care of their maternal parents have less misbehaviour compared to those from single parent families. This could possibly be attributed to the more drug

and substance abuse and suicidal attempts. Though this may be the case in published literature, the same evidence on the interplay between family structure, parenting styles and the nature of problem behaviours by institutionalized teenagers cannot be validly concluded and generalized to the local scenario without an empirical exposition. It was in line with this knowledge lacuna that the study was conceptualized and justified.

Kenya's criminal justice system provides processes and procedures that define rehabilitation and education of children as opposed to punishment. Thus, the legal framework on juvenile delinquency in Kenya anchors on child behaviour therapy compared to sentence or conviction (Ndegwa, 2014). In Kenya, there are no criminal records against children since the focus is on the rehabilitation and re-integration of the children into the host communities after imparting them with skills so that they can live not only as law-abiding citizens upon their release, but also contribute to the general welfare of the society. Regrettably, Langat and Odhiambo (2021) found that delinquent youths are often mistreated by law enforcement officers. This often negates the role of child rehabilitation as provided in Kenya's criminal justice system. Once arrested, delinquent youths are sent to courts, where their cases take unusually long. As a consequence, children are often subjected to back-and-forth appearances in court and remand homes before their cases are determined. To avoid this cyclic nature, institutionalized delinquent youths often plead guilty to crimes to avoid harsh conditions in remand prisons.

Wambugu *et al.* (2015) revealed that most delinquent youths in Kenya are tried without legal representation nor in the presence of their parents and legal guardians. The legal framework on juvenile delinquency in Kenya is the Children and Young Persons Act (Decker & Marteach, 2017). The law provides that delinquent children under the age 18 years are institutionalized in

borstal institutions or approved schools. However, those above 14 years are occasionally committed to prisons for adult offenders (Wambugu *et al.*, 2015). Evidence by Rosalind *et al.* (2019), among others, established that although penal institutions for young offenders was meant to protect delinquent youths from punitive prisons for adults, these young offenders are often mistreated by law enforcement personnel in the form of corporal punishment and releasing them without taking them to a court of law.

The motivation to assess the state of delinquent children stemmed from dearth of evidence on the hypothesized relationship between family background and problem behaviours of delinquent children in Othaya Sub-County of Nyeri County, Kenya. Furthermore, it was important to understand how problem behaviour grows at the adolescence stage leading to serious offenses that warrant the attention of the country's justice system. While there have been attempts to elucidate the nature of parenting styles and the associated child delinquency, there is no known empirical study that has explicated how the family type, parental discipline and deprivation of the children's basic needs may potentially lead to delinquency. This is the gap that the current study was designed to address.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Family background is a key predictor of a child's behaviour. Family backgrounds with good child rearing strategies molds children into law abiding individuals, thus enabling them to participate in the societal socio-economic development. Regrettably, most of the institutionalized teenagers appear to come from families with low levels of parental discipline. This, often snowballs into socially unacceptable behaviours by the teenagers. As a consequence, majority of institutionalized children have time and again, shown traces of deprivation of basic needs, which in turn predisposes them into crimes, such as stealing and abuse of drugs and substances.

Although there are no available statistics in Othaya sub-county on juvenile delinquency, statistics in Kenya indicates that 57% of all reported crimes are committed by the youth (Kenya National Crime Research Centre, 2018). According to the UN Habitat (2011) research on Youth and Crime in Nairobi, the primary reasons for the arrests of young people involved in criminal activities are theft (45%), assault (23%), drug possession (10%), mugging (10%), and manslaughter (7%). Although the above statistics cannot be directly attributed to family background, since the studies by UN Habitat (2011) and Kenya National Crime Research Centre (2018) only focused on crime rates, whereas research (see, Chen *et al.*, 2021) has shown that family background attributes can play a significant role in the development of problem behavior in children, including criminal behavior. For instance, children who grow up in family backgrounds with authoritarian parents who exhibit low warmth and high control are more likely to develop negative behavior patterns (Elias & Noordin, 2011). In contrast, children who grow up in households with authoritative parents who show high warmth and support, along with clear rules and expectations, are more likely to develop positive behavior patterns and avoid criminal activities (Keijser *et al.*, 2020). It is possible, therefore, that the prevalence of theft, assault, drug possession, mugging, and manslaughter by young people in Kenya and by extension, the area of study may be influenced by the family background, that they were exposed to during their childhood. This study therefore sought to establish any direct linkage between family backgrounds and the criminal behavior of youthful people, especially institutionalized delinquent youths.

Evidence from the global research indicate that 80% of teenage misbehaviour emanate from street children (Fosten, 2021). This may point to the level of deprivation that poor and/or street families face. Furthermore, 67% of street fathers and 77 % mothers harshly treat their children

(Mackenbach et al., 2014). Given that there are empirical data to corroborate this information, the current study was designed to offer information on the hypothesized association between deprivation of basic needs and level of problem behaviours by delinquent children. Furthermore, negative emotional expressions, physical aggression, and coercive acts are likely to breed externalization of problems, such as disruptive behaviours. Left with limited options, these children may presumably seek comfort in socially unacceptable behaviours, such as pilferage and drug and substance abuse. Although it has not been proven locally, children from dysfunctional family backgrounds, such as violent and conflict driven families, are 17 times more likely to indulge in misbehaviour (Hsieh *et al.*, 2021). Similarly, the type of family is significantly associated with problem behaviours among teenagers. For instance, Childs *et al.* (2022) found that family structure influences juvenile delinquency, where misbehaviour in single parent families is higher by 10%. These statistics generally reinforce the thesis on the possible connection between family background and problem behaviours by delinquent children. The present study, therefore, set out to establish the interconnectedness between family types and level of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers.

However, there is evidence in the present academic literature by Moitra and Mukherjee (2010), among others, that family backgrounds with supportive parents are significantly associated with low levels of delinquency, while family backgrounds characterized by authoritarian and neglectful parents are interconnected with high delinquency levels. This appears to indicate that harsh parenting causes teenagers to engage in delinquent behaviours since the adolescents do not feel the affection of their maternal parents. Although this may be accurate elsewhere, the evidence cannot be replicated locally since there is dearth of evidence to confirm or refute it. Accordingly, this study was designed to offer an empirical perspective on the hypothesized relationship between

family backgrounds, such as neglectful and harsh parenting, to problem behaviours by delinquent teenagers. The inherent connection between family background and problem behaviour is yet to be holistically determined in Othaya sub-County. This scarcity of empirical data and information on the level and types of delinquency offered a lifeline to this study. It was therefore against this backdrop that the current study was designed to assess the nature and level of problem behaviours of delinquent children from the perspective of family backgrounds.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The study sought to answer the following research questions:

- i. What is the relationship between family structure, level and types of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers?
- ii. What is the relationship between parental discipline and the nature of problem behaviour exhibited by the institutionalized teenagers?
- iii. Does basic needs deprivation influence the associated problem behaviours by the delinquent children?

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

#### **1.4.1 General Objective**

The General objective of this study was to assess the relationship between family background and problem behaviours of institutionalized teenagers in Othaya Sub-County of Nyeri County, Kenya.

#### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To assess the relationship between family structure, nature and level of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers.

- ii. To establish the relationship between the level of parental discipline and the nature of problem behaviour by the institutionalized teenagers.
- iii. To investigate the relationship between the level of deprivation of basic needs and the associated problem behaviours by the delinquent children.

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

This research focused on institutionalized youths in a juvenile institution and remand home in Othaya Sub-County. The site of the study was selected on the basis that it has a rehabilitation school and a remand home for delinquent teenagers. This offered a unique perspective on how the two facilities were handling youths with problem behaviour. This made it possible to establish the association between family background and teenagers' misbehaviour. The findings from this study may assist the remand homes to develop a proper guide on how they can assist the parents to adopt proper parenting styles in order to reduce cases of persistent problem behaviours, that could degenerate into delinquency. It may also assist counselors in addressing issues of problem behaviour when dealing with problematic children. Furthermore, it may hopefully assist teachers, agencies and parents who also form part of child counselors to pre-empt problem behaviour before it takes root.

Additionally, the study findings may hopefully add to the body of knowledge on the nature of problem behaviours among institutionalized teenagers, since it yielded in-depth information on what can be done to increase the level of socially acceptable parenting styles. Furthermore, the findings generated useful policy inputs for designing effective programs for institutionalized teenagers, who largely rely on their dysfunctional families for help. Thus, probation officers would possibly find the results of this study useful since information on problem behaviour is likely to highlight what the society expects from the children upon their release. Thus, primary caregivers

of the children and the host communities may also understand their role in mentoring delinquent children into what they expect of them. Hopefully, correctional officers will have secondary information on what can be done to reverse problem behaviours of delinquent children. By establishing the level, types, and nature of misbehaviour, lessons may be drawn from this study in terms of interventions to reverse problem behaviour.

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

This study was limited to problem behaviours of institutionalized delinquent youths in Othaya sub-county of Nyeri County. It focused on incarcerated children as the primary respondents. Secondary respondents were drawn from the mothers of the institutionalized teenagers, since they are largely concerned with the welfare of their children together with chiefs, children, Corrections, Probation and After-Care Officers. The scope of the study encompassed family background and the level/types of misbehaviour by institutionalized teenagers, level of parenting discipline and how it was associated with delinquent behaviour, and the influence of level of deprivation of basic needs on the nature and extent of misbehaviour by delinquent teenagers.

However, the study faced a few limitations that affected the scope of the applicability of its findings. For instance, the sample size only included a specific group of institutionalized delinquent teenagers, who may not be representative of the broader population. Additionally, the nature and level of misbehavior, the level of parental discipline, and associated problem behaviors were somewhat subjective and difficult to measure objectively. Besides, the data collection methods used relied on self-reported behavior or subjective judgments by the researchers or staff. The study did not control for confounding variables that could have affected the relationships between family structure, parental discipline, deprivation of basic needs, and problem behaviors.



The study did not establish causality between the variables investigated and problem behavior in institutionalized delinquent teenagers.

### 1.7 Operationalization of Key Concepts

Concept	Key Variable	Variable Indicators
Family background	Family structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single parent family</li> <li>• Nuclear family</li> <li>• Extended family</li> <li>• Grand-parent</li> <li>• Same-sex family</li> <li>• Step- family</li> <li>• Culturally diverse family</li> </ul>
Types of misbehaviour	Forms of misbehaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stealing/Mugging</li> <li>• Robbery with Violence</li> <li>• Drug Abuse</li> <li>• Pick pocketing</li> <li>• Rude behaviour</li> <li>• Deviance</li> <li>• Aggression</li> </ul>
Parental discipline	Parent/child relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authoritative styles</li> <li>• Permissive style</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of warmth and responsiveness</li> <li>• Level of controlling the child</li> <li>• Extent of emotional support</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neglectful/uninvolved style</li> <li>• Free range style</li> <li>• Helicopter style</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of independence and freedom</li> <li>• Level of involvement and protectiveness in a child's life</li> </ul>
Deprivation of basic needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing/shelter</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Sleep</li> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Love/affection</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Clothing</li> <li>• Healthcare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of adequate housing/shelter</li> <li>• Availability of safe drinking water</li> <li>• Number of hours slept</li> <li>• Level of safe food for consumption</li> <li>• Level of gift giving, physical touch, acts of service, among others</li> <li>• Level of education as indicators by literacy level</li> <li>• Access to healthcare</li> </ul>
Delinquent/problem behaviour	Level of misbehaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequency of delinquent acts</li> <li>• Number of reports/arrests/institutionalizations</li> </ul>

# **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

## **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter reviews empirical studies that have been done in the area of parenting style and problem behaviour of delinquent children. In addition, the study reviews theories that are relevant to the objectives of the study. A conceptual framework will be adopted to draw a pictorial view of the relationship between family backgrounds and misbehavior among adolescent children.

## **2.2 Family Background and Teenage Behaviour**

There is remarkable scholarship on the interplay between family background and teenage behaviour. From the global perspective, Newman et al. (2008) assessed the association between risks behaviours associated with adolescents and parenting styles. Results of the study indicated that teenagers from authoritative backgrounds are more likely to exhibit few risk and higher protective behaviours in contrast to teenagers from non-authoritative households. Additionally, the study found that reasonable integration between conduct and parenting approach is thought to influence warmth, communication, disciplinary practices, among others, which are said to affect academic performance and psychological adjustment. Despite the findings revealed by the study, it failed to indicate key dependent indicators of misbehaviors. Furthermore, the study relied on a review of literature, while the current study used an empirical approach to reach higher internal and external validity of results.

In Ngieria, Olubunmi *et al.* (2019) delved into the connection between parenting styles and the teenagers' experiment with sex. Results of the study established that teenage test with early sex is affected by authoritarian and permissive styles of parenting, whereas authoritative form of

parenting is not associated with earlier experimentation with sex by teenagers. In addition, the study established that self-efficacy and sex education among teenagers affect their experimentation with sex. Whereas authoritative parenting practice is not significantly associated with self-efficacy and sex experimentation, authoritarian method of parenting is significantly interconnected with self-efficacy and sex experimentation. Notably, the study found that teenagers from authoritarian backgrounds in rural areas are more likely to experiment sex in contrast to those in urban setups since authoritarian style of parenting is prevalent in rural areas, whereas authoritative form of parenting is common in urban setups. Thus, there is higher self-efficacy and comprehensive sex education for urban teenagers in contrast to rural teenagers. Despite the empirical nature of the study, it failed to indicate how early sex is correlated with teen delinquency. This is the association that the current study sought to achieve.

Okorodudu (2010) delved into the hypothesized relationship between delinquency in adolescents and parenting styles. The results of the study illustrated that authoritative and authoritarian forms of parenting do not significantly predict delinquency in adolescents, while Laissez-faire parenting type does irrespective of age, location, and gender. Additionally, the study revealed that responsiveness and demandingness in parents is associated with goal-oriented and socially competent adolescents. Similarly, parenting style characterized with monitoring activities of the adolescents and exerting control translates into effective conduct by adolescents. Conversely, parenting styles that is non-responsive and uninvolved has negative outcomes on adolescent behaviour. Although the study reveals important connections between parenting styles and teenage misbehaviour, it largely applied quantitative approaches which inhibit a qualitative inquiry for in-depth analysis.

Povedano et al. (2014) conducted a study on the interplay between violence by dating teens and forms of parenting. Results of the study established that teenage relationship with the mother was significantly intertwined with dating violence and parenting styles. On the other hand, the teenagers' relationship with the father is associated with verbal-emotional dating violence. Notably, indulgent form of parenting for mothers and fathers is linked with low dating violence by teenagers. Negligent and authoritarian practices of parenting are interconnected with higher rates of dating violence by teenagers. Despite the findings of the study, there was little attempt to offer a detailed understanding on the interplay between teenage delinquency. This is the knowledge lacuna that the present study sought to establish.

In Uganda, Ndagano (2018) determined the interconnectedness between family background and child misbehaviour in Mpanga, Kabarole District. Findings illustrated that parenting styles is significantly associated with teenage misbehaviour. From the findings, it was clear that teenage misbehaviour is predicted by family background with poor parenting styles. To ameliorate this, the study recommended that parents should mold their children early in life by imparting them with moral and social basics so that they grow up as law abiding citizens. Furthermore, society (through psychologists and counselors, community leaders, among others) should sensitize young/first time parents on the best parenting styles. Some of ways in which parents can mold the behaviour of their children is through striking a balance between reinforcing and punishing behaviour. Though the study provides critical insights on the interlinkages between parenting styles and teenage misbehaviour, it largely failed to outline the association between specific parenting styles and teenage misbehaviour. This is the gap the current study sought to achieve.

Considering this status in quo, this study seeks to establish family background and the level and/or types of misbehaviour by institutionalized teenagers in order to establish whether those from broken or single parent background(s) exhibit different level of delinquency compared to those with both present biological parents. Furthermore, the study inquired whether parenting discipline was associated with delinquent behaviour. Consequently, the study explored the if deprivation of basic needs led to delinquent behaviours in teenagers.

### **2.3 Family-types and Teenager Misbehaviour**

Tisak *et al.* (2017) compared and contrasted the perceptions of adolescents and parents in the United States and China. Findings revealed that the two countries have noticeable cultural differences in terms of teenage misconduct behaviour. Notably, the U.S. has more adolescent misconduct behaviour in relation to drug use and weapon offenses. Owing to cultural differences, the study revealed that social, school, and home offenses were considered more wrong in the United States in contrast to China. Despite the empirical nature of the study, the results cannot be replicated to the local context. This is the gap that the current study sought to achieve by conducting an empirical study on the interplay between parenting approach and problem behaviour by delinquent children.

In Netherlands, Delsing *et al.* (2005) looked into the association between externalizing and internalizing misbehaviours by teenagers and perceived trust and justice relationships. Results of the research revealed that adolescents from less trustworthy and just households are likely to exhibit misbehaviour. Similarly, adolescents who were less trusted and were less just showed higher instances of problem behaviour. Importantly, the study established that the functioning of the family, such whole versus individual family, predicts the outcome of children and family characteristics. Despite the empirical focus of the study, there was little attempt to illuminate the

interconnectedness between family types and teenage misbehaviour. This is the knowledge lacuna that the current study sought to fill.

In the United Kingdom, Bonell *et al.* (2006) examined the interplay between sex experimentation by adolescents and various characteristics of the parent. Results of the study highlighted that boys and girls from single parent households were more likely to indulge in sexual activities compared to those with both biological parents. Furthermore, Boys and girls born by teenage mothers are likely to report sex. In sum, boys and girls born by lone parents and teenage mothers display higher chances of early sexual debut before age 16. Importantly, lone or teenage parents and earlier sexual debut is not associated with type of parenting. However, the study did not connect the interplay between family types and forms of misbehaviour in delinquent children. This is the knowledge lacuna that the current study sought to fill.

In South Africa, Odimegwu and Mkwanzani (2018) delved into the interlinkage between teenage misbehaviour and structure of the family on one hand and connectedness with the community. Results highlighted that teenagers from single parent families with a higher number of male relatives are more likely to get pregnant. Notably, the study revealed that teenagers from less coherent communities and divorced parents were more predisposed to teenage pregnancy. Despite the results, there was little attempt on the association between family structure and level and types of problem behaviour. This is the knowledge gap that the current study was designed to fill.

#### **2.4 Parental Discipline and Problem Behaviour by the Institutionalized Children**

In Malaysia, Elias and Noordin (2011) sought to study adolescent misbehavior problems as a result of parental influence. Results revealed that parental discipline as defined by maintaining positive relationships and parental support positively influence good conduct, while lack of parental support and inconsistency parental translated into misbehaviors problems. Furthermore,

involvement of adolescents with deviant peers leads to misbehaviour problems. Notably, family relationships that are thought to be poor lead to higher cases of problem behaviour. This is because poor role modelling by parents leads to bad habits in the children. Because of inadequate parental communication and attention, teenagers are likely to engage in delinquency. Poor parental relationships, that is, between a father and a mother, creates a disconnect in molding young people as they grow up. Though the study illustrates important connections between parental discipline and children problem behaviour, the study was largely qualitative and lacks a nuanced mechanism of indicating trends and patterns of misbehaviour. The current study used a mixed research approach to elucidate the connection between parental discipline and delinquent children.

In Hong Kong, China, Stewart (1998) delved into the misconduct behaviour by Asian and Caucasian teenagers in Hong Kong high school. Results revealed that Caucasian students indicated higher levels of misbehaviour in contrast to Asian students. This was attributed to the differences in culture, where Asian culture is thought to have higher levels of parental discipline. Notably, the study found that teenagers who gain early autonomy and are open to change show low levels of problem behaviour, whereas those that are conservative indicate higher instances of misbehaviour. Values possessed in the mothers of the teenagers were noticeable in the children's disciplinary levels. In other words, the interactions between children and their mothers are correlated with their level of discipline violation. The current study employed a mixed research approach to elucidate the connection between parental discipline and delinquent children.

In Australia, Alati *et al.* (2014) delved into the role of parental discipline, use of alcohol by parents and the associated antisocial behaviour. Findings revealed that alcohol use by teenagers was interconnected with parental discipline that was thought to be harsh. Teenagers above 13 years



living with imbibing parents were also likely to use alcohol. Thus, the level of discipline by parents as seen from their alcohol use is associated with higher risks of earlier alcohol use by teenagers. The study largely focused on health outcomes, while the current study concentrates on misbehaviour in teenagers.

Salari *et al.* (2014) conducted research on the efficacy of parent training programs for parents of teenagers in Australia. Results of the study affirmed that molding behaviour of the teenagers by parents is dependent on the level of discipline of the parent. Parents who do not train their children using the right conditioning are more likely to predispose such children to antisocial behaviour. Although the study provides important insights on the hypothesized connection between teenage delinquency and parental discipline its focus was mostly on training programs compared to the role of a parent in molding or role modelling behaviour. This is the knowledge lacuna that the current study was designed to fill.

## **2.5 Deprivation of Basic Needs and Problem Behaviour by Delinquent Children**

In Pakistan, Fatima *et al.* (2018) found that child labour is the most noticeable challenge in developing nations, where this was attributed to dilapidated socio-economic environment. Because child labour is outlawed in many jurisdictions. As a consequence, teenagers are not involved in meaningful economic activities. For this reason, they are forced into deviant behaviour as a way of numbing their frustrations. Some of the misbehaviour include bullying, theft, pilferage, pick-pocketing, among others. In contrast, the current study delved into the association between delinquent children and deprivation of their basic needs.

In Bangladesh, Asaduzzaman (2020) focused into the challenges and issues among juvenile delinquents. Findings of the study established that because children are deprived of their needs, they are forced to vent their frustrations elsewhere. Some of the things they do as a way of meeting

their needs include going to the streets. In the streets, they are engaged in a number of misdemeanors in order to overcome their challenges associated with lack of food, shelter, employment, among others. The current study deviated from the present findings by studying the interplay between child deprivation and the associated types and level of misbehaviour in teenagers.

In in China, Jiang *et al.* (2020) examined the link between low socio-economic status and teenage social behavior by focusing on the roles of empathy and social bonds. Findings of the study revealed that the connection between socio-economic status as defined through economic strain and antisocial behaviour by adolescents is mediated by social bonds, whereas the interplay between prosocial behaviour and economic strain is mediated by empathy, controlling for subjective SES, age, gender, and household registration. Juxtaposed with girls, boys exhibit less prosocial behaviour and higher levels of problem behaviour. Despite the empirical nature of the research, there was little attempt to link economic strain to parenting practices and how this is associated with delinquent children. This is the gap the present study sought to fill.

In Malaysia, Shong *et al.* (2019) delved into the interconnected nature between Malaysian juvenile offenders and poverty as seen from school failure, despondent home conditions, and association with peers who show delinquency signs. Findings of the study showed that because of poverty, teenagers were likely to show delinquent behaviour, such as crime, and other accompanying behavioural development issues. The current study took a more holistic approach in determining how child deprivation of basic needs influences parenting styles, which is correlated with delinquent children.

Chen *et al.* (2021) investigated the interplay between psychological disorders and bullying victimization and family poverty in China. Furthermore, the mediating influence of child

deprivation was tested on the relationship. Results from SEM indicated that family poverty predicted psychological distress and bullying victimization indirectly through child deprivation. In terms of sex differences, the study did not find differences in psychological disorders and bullying victimization in boys and girls as a result of child deprivation. Despite the empirical approach of the study, the study used child deprivation as a mediating variable, while the current study applied child deprivation of basic needs as an independent variable and how it was associated with misbehaviour in teenagers.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

The study applied the Anomie Theory and Social Disorganization Theory to underline important theoretical constructs that are critical in explaining juvenile delinquency.

### **2.6.1 Anomie theory**

The Anomie Theory was expounded by Robert Merton in 1940 to explain how the inability by teenagers to make themselves happy predisposes them to delinquency (Merton, 1997). The central tenet of anomie theory is that majority of young people are easily exposed to delinquency or deviant behaviour because of the inability to access certain levels of satisfaction. Since children are deprived of basic needs, such as food and shelter, they are lured into various types of crimes, such as stealing, pick-pocketing, to satisfy their needs. The Anomie Theory underlines various factors that are thought to bring about crime: abuse of drugs and substances, inequalities, and home and school environment (Messner & Rosenfeld, 2017). As a means of gratifying themselves, adolescents with delinquent behaviours are often involved in various crimes, such as theft, with the aim of accessing resources to purchase drugs and substances. Furthermore, the theory points out the place of inequalities as explained from low socio-economic status of most delinquent children (Bernburg, 2019). For instance, children from families and/or households with low

incomes are more likely to indulge in delinquent behaviours compared to those from middle and upper classes of income. Thus, the current study seeks to establish how lack of adequate resources exposes youths to delinquent behaviours.

From the viewpoint of delinquent children, Anomie Theory has been applied to study misbehavior in a more holistic manner. For instance, low standards of living exposes children to problem behaviour since deprivation of basic needs pushes them into delinquency and other forms of deviant behaviour. As a result, they are likely to numb their frustrations by indulging in drug and substance abuse. To overcome delinquent behaviours, McGregor (2022) advocates for the need to offer social and family support to teenagers who are more likely to exhibit problem behaviours. The input of the society and the schools where delinquent children attend is central to enabling them to live as productive members of the community and the entire country. Because of the circumstances they find themselves in, McGregor (2022) stated that children with problem behaviours are likely to vent their frustrations, hopelessness, and alienation in drug and substance abuse, thus the need to involve various segments of the society in their rehabilitation and eventual re-integration into their communities.

Anomie theory was relevant to the current study since it underlines key factors that are associated with misbehaviours by delinquent adolescents. Furthermore, the theory affirms how inability to achieve gratification by teenagers exposes them to delinquent behaviours. Adolescents abuse drugs and substances as a way of stifling alienation from their family members, school and society. Importantly, the theory affirms the place and role of the society and family in reinforcing or punishing behaviour since children learn from their environment. For instance, abusive parenting style may predispose children to deviant behaviours, since they learn from their immediate

authorities and parental figures. Owing to the limitations of Anomie Theory, such as overlooking group processes and social interactions, the study applies the theory of social disorganization to explain delinquency and deviant behaviours in children.

### **2.6.2 Social Disorganization Theory**

Social Disorganization Theory was expounded by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay in 1942. The key tenet of the theory is the role of the environment and society in shaping an individual's behaviour. The theory underlines various concepts that are intertwined with juvenile delinquency: dysfunctional family, socio-economic status, proximity to urban areas, population density, ethnic diversity, and residential instability (Shaw & McKay, 1942). The capability of the society to develop and maintain strong social relationships is one of the key panaceas to ameliorating misbehaviours among delinquent children. Unfortunately, most societies do not have sufficient social ties that can enable them alleviate problem behaviours.

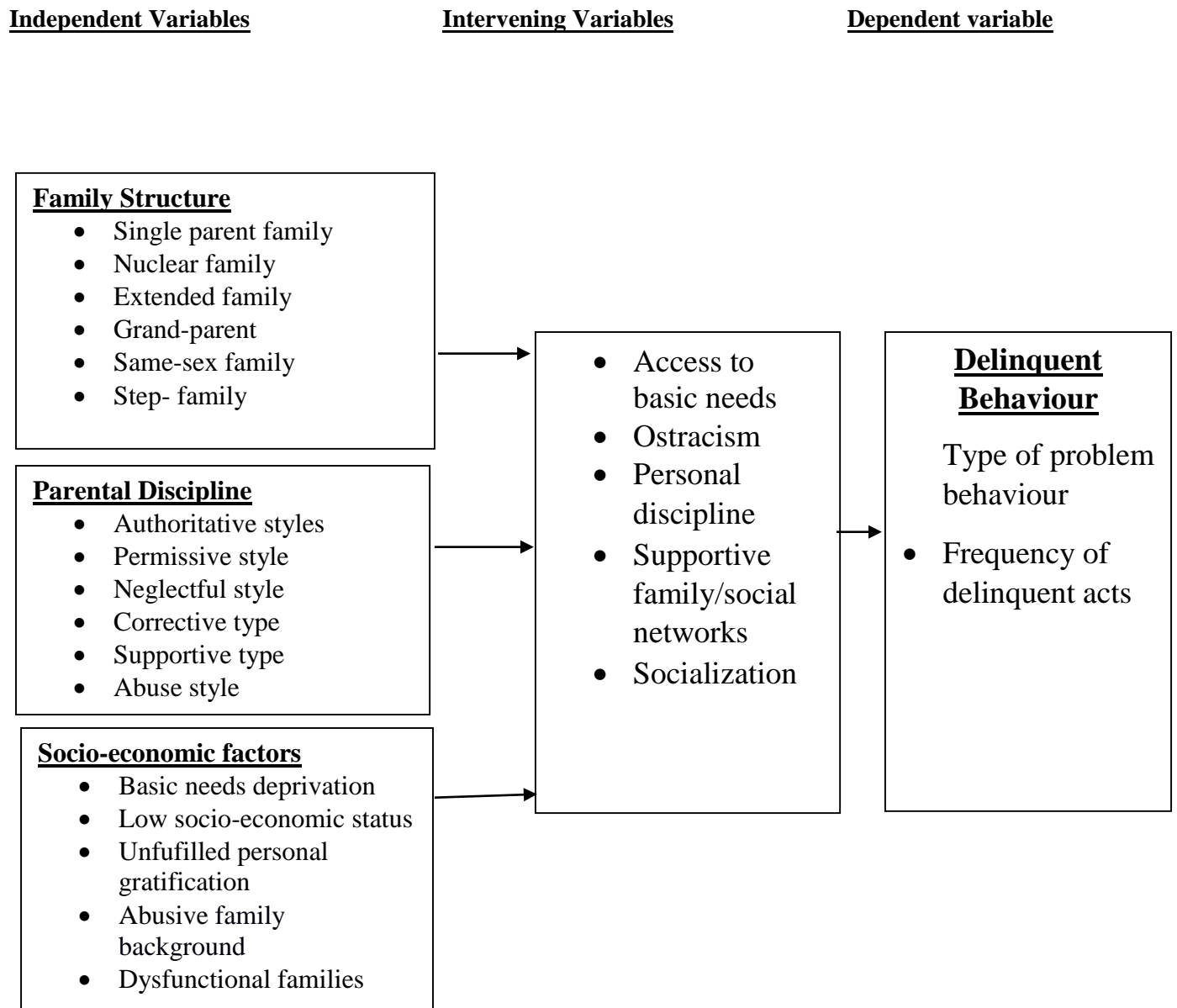
Social disorganization theory posits that the social and physical characteristics of a neighborhood or community can influence teenage misbehavior (Shaw & McKay, 1942). According to this theory, areas with high levels of social disorganization, marked by factors such as poverty, high residential turnover, limited social cohesion, and a lack of access to quality education and community resources, create an environment conducive to delinquent and problem behaviors among teenagers (Odimegwu & Mkwanaenzi, 2018). In such disadvantaged neighborhoods, adolescents may experience weakened social bonds, fewer opportunities for conventional success, and increased exposure to deviant peers and subcultures (Okorodudu, 2010). These conditions can contribute to teenage misbehavior, including acts of aggression, substance abuse, and involvement in criminal activities, as the disorganized environment may lack the social controls necessary to deter such behaviors.

Notably, family disruptions in addition to low socio-economic status is one of the contributory factors for misbehaviour in adolescent teenagers (Kubrin & Branick, 2018). Because of low socio-economic status, children are deprived of basic needs, such as food and shelter. As a consequence, such teenagers are pushed into the streets where they commit various misdemeanors, which subjects them to imprisonment. Furthermore, Bursik and Grasmick (1993) posits that economic deprivation is one of the predictors of neighborhood crimes. Messner and Rosenfeld (2017) added that because of poor parenting styles, such as abusive styles, children often indulge in crime as a way of numbing their alienation from society and loneliness. This is often accompanied by abuse of drugs and substances.

Accordingly, Social Disorganization theory was applicable to the current study, as it defines the role of society and environment in breeding teenage misbehaviour. Moreover, the theory identifies important factors that are associated with problem behaviours, such as family disruptions and low socio-economic status, in addition to what can be done to holistically build strong social relationships and ties that are sine qua non in re-integrating institutionalized children into the mainstream society. Furthermore, the Social Disorganization theory affirms the role of local institutions and networks in building resilient societies and neighborhoods that can possibly offer the missing link in policing teenagers with problem behaviours.

## 2.7 Conceptual Framework

Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework



The conceptual framework indicates the relationship between parenting styles and problem behaviour of delinquent children. Parenting styles are influenced by the socio-economic status of the parents, the type of family and level of parenting discipline. This forms the independent variables. The outcome variable is delinquent behaviour. The type of family, such as single-parent

families are thought to negatively influence the behaviour of teenagers, while whole-family structure encourages socialization, thus reinforces positive behaviour. Therefore, family structure is critical in determining the parenting styles, which in turn predicts the conduct of teenagers/adolescents.

Parental discipline is holistically tied with behavioural outcomes of teenagers. For instance, abuse and permissive styles of parenting are negatively correlated with behavioural outcomes of adolescents. Use of authoritative and supportive styles are important in reinforcing positive behaviour, whereas neglective style of parenting breeds antisocial behaviour. Similarly, deprivation of children's basic needs is leads to antisocial behaviour since such teenagers are numb their frustrations by indulging in socially unacceptable conducts, such as bullying, theft, among others. Societal ostracism, support networks, among other relatable factors are thought to mediate the relationship between parenting styles and problem behaviour of delinquent children.



## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter detailed the methodological approach that the study will adopt in data collection and analysis. Accordingly, it specifies the site of the study, research design, units of analysis and observation, target population, sampling procedure and sample size, data collection techniques, data analysis, and ethical considerations.

### **3.2 Site of the Study**

This study was carried out in Othaya sub-county of Nyeri County. The site was selected since there are one remand home (Ruring'u Remand Home) and one rehabilitation centre (Othaya Rehabilitation Centre) with an estimated total of 500 institutionalized children (Nyeri County Integrated Development plan of 2018-2022). The numbers not only enhanced the quality of data collected but also accessibility of the study subjects. These facilities house a number of institutionalized children who have been incarcerated for different delinquencies. They are drawn from different counties and even other countries. Majority of these children exhibit different types and levels of misbehaviour. Similarly, the presence of rehabilitation centres and schools suggested that there is a high likelihood of getting information from local administrators, such as Chiefs, within the study area. This is therefore an ideal site of study. The study focuses on remand homes and rehabilitation schools since they offer rehabilitation and correction programs that are critical to the re-integration of institutionalized children into the community.

The background of most institutionalized children in remand homes and rehabilitation centers is often characterized by a history of abuse, neglect, poverty, and family dysfunction. Many of these children have experienced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, and have often witnessed domestic violence. They may come from families struggling with poverty, addiction, and mental illness,

which can make it difficult for parents to provide adequate care and support. Furthermore, children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect may experience additional trauma and instability from being placed in multiple foster homes or residential facilities. These adverse childhood experiences can contribute to a range of emotional and behavioral problems, and may increase the likelihood of involvement with the criminal justice system.

Additionally, the conduct of parents or guardians can also play a significant role in the placement of children in remand homes and rehabilitation centers. Parents who engage in criminal behavior or substance abuse may expose their children to similar behaviors, increasing the risk of delinquent behavior. Moreover, parents who fail to provide adequate supervision, guidance, and discipline may contribute to their children's involvement in delinquent activities. Delinquent youths who engage in illegal behavior are often sent to these facilities as a consequence of their actions. However, it is important to note that not all institutionalized children are delinquent and that some may have been placed in these facilities for their own protection or due to family circumstances.

Correctional programs available in remand homes and rehabilitation centers may vary depending on the facility and the specific needs of the children. These programs are designed to address the emotional, behavioral, and social issues that may have contributed to the children's placement in the facility. They may include individual or group therapy, counseling, educational services, life skills training, and vocational programs. Some facilities may also offer specialized programs for children with substance abuse issues or mental health disorders. The goal of these programs is to help children develop the skills and resources needed to make positive changes in their lives and avoid future involvement in delinquent activities. However, the effectiveness of these programs can vary and depends on the quality of the program, the level of engagement and motivation of the children, and the level of support and resources available to them after leaving the facility.

### **3.3 Research Design**

This study adopted a cross-sectional research design. A cross-sectional research design is appropriate for investigating the relationship between family structure, parental discipline, deprivation of basic needs, and problem behaviors of institutionalized delinquent teenagers. This design involves collecting data using semi-structured interview schedules from a sample of participants at a single point in time, providing a snapshot of the relationships between variables. The advantage of this design was that it allows researchers to collect data on a large number of variables simultaneously, making it useful for investigating complex relationships between multiple factors (Araban *et al.*, 2020). In the case of studying institutionalized delinquent teenagers, a cross-sectional design was useful in collecting data on their family structure, the nature and level of misbehavior, the level of parental discipline, and deprivation of basic needs. Collecting data on these variables at a single point in time enabled the researcher to analyze the relationships between them and determine whether any significant associations exist.

### **3.4 Unit of Analysis and Observation**

Units of analysis refer to social units whose social characteristics are relevant to the study (Soifer, 2019). In the current study, the unit of analysis is problem behaviours of delinquent children. In contrast, the unit of observation is conceptualized as the sources of data (Busetto, Wick, & Gumbinger, 2020) namely, currently institutionalized children, parents of institutionalized children, and Corrections Officers.

### **3.5 Target Population**

Target population as that population whom a researcher wants to generalize the results of the findings (Kothari, 2004). Institutionalized children were the primary respondents as they are the ones the research seeks to study by delineating the interplay between family background and

problem behaviours of delinquent children. The choice of parents/guardians and Correctional Officers as the secondary informants was justified on the basis that they interact with institutionalized children during and after their rehabilitation process and in the course of rehabilitation activities, such as vocational training in repairs of TV and radio, tailoring, composing of music, motor mechanics, among others. Furthermore, targeting Correctional Officers, Counsellors, Probation, and After-Care Officers enhanced the value of data collected, thus enhancing the subsequent generalization of the results. As cited in Nyeri County Integrated Development plan of 2018-2022, there is one remand home and one rehabilitation centre in Othaya sub-county with an estimated 500 institutionalized children. Problem behaviors in delinquent children involves various actors namely: Correctional Officers, Probation and After-Care Officers.

### **3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

Given that it is not feasible to collect data from the entire population, a section of the target population was selected to form the sample population upon which data was drawn from. Stratified sampling technique was used to cluster the two facilities into remand home and rehabilitation centre. With the help of the correction, probation and after-care officers, the researcher identified institutionalized children with ideal characteristics for the study, such as those that ended up in remand homes and rehabilitation schools as a result of delinquent behaviour, gender, and period of institutionalization. Consequently, the study applied random sampling technique to select institutionalized children who meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria, such as those who have been institutionalized for a period exceeding one year. Similarly, Purposive sampling technique was applied to select Key Informants (Parents/guardian and Corrections Officers).

The inclusion criteria for key informants entails considering several factors to ensure that reliable and valid information is gathered. These factors include the knowledge and expertise of the

informants, their access to relevant information, their diversity of roles and perspectives, their willingness to participate in the study, and ethical considerations such as confidentiality and informed consent. By selecting informants based on these criteria, a more comprehensive understanding of the issues and challenges faced by children in remand homes and rehabilitation centers was obtained. The study aimed at soliciting data from 10 Key Informants Corrections Officers) from each of the 2 welfare institutions. Additionally, data was solicited from 10 parents of current and/or previously institutionalized children from each of the remand home and rehabilitation centre. However, the study reached a saturation point after soliciting data from 20 key informants. This is justified by Mason (2010) who stated that 20 participants are sufficient to reach a saturation point where no new information is being yielded.

Since the sampling frame is not readily available, the ideal target population for the study is 180 primary respondents adjusting for the level of precision (+-0.5) and 95% confidence level. To arrive at the correct sample size, the study will employ the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table for sample size determination. A population of 180 yields a sample size of 123 respondents, which is rounded off to 120 sample population for primary respondents. The sample size was proportionately distributed according to the population size of each group. The Total sample population for primary respondents is 120.

**Table 3.1: Primary Respondents' Sampling Frame and Size**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Target Population</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
Remand Home	120	80	66.7%
Rehabilitation School	60	40	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### **3.7 Data Collection Methods and Tools**

Interview schedules were used to collect data from institutionalized children. The use of interview schedules was selected on the basis that institutionalized youths may not have the capability to self-report items on questionnaires. Contact was established with administrators of the targeted institutions to explain the research aims and seek their consent to participate in the study. The researcher also requested their assistance in identifying potential participants for the study based on certain criteria such as age, gender, length of time spent in the institution and experience on child rehabilitation issues and programs. Once consent was granted, the researcher proceeded to recruit participants through the guidance of the administrators. Informed consent and assent forms were provided to both the administrators and the children to ensure that they are aware of the purpose and potential benefits of participating in the study. The interview schedules were structured in a manner that allows for the exploration of the children's experiences and perceptions regarding their institutionalization. The interview schedules were administered by the researcher with the assistance of the administrators to ensure that the children feel comfortable and safe throughout the interview process. The interviews were audio-recorded to facilitate accurate transcription and analysis of the data collected.

Semi-structured questionnaires were used to collect information from parents, Correctional Officers, Probation and After-Care Officers, who are considered to have in-depth information. The Semi-structured questionnaires were structured and open and close-ended in relation to the objectives of the study, implying that respondents had the freedom to provide an array of answers. It was assumed that the purposively selected Key Informants had the capability to respond to the questionnaire items owing to their expertise and experience in rehabilitation activities. The

researcher sought to collect data from 30 secondary Informants. It was anticipated that responses provided by the Key Informants would enrich data provided by the primary respondents (institutionalized youths). The methodological triangulation applied in the study enhanced internal and external validity.

### **3.8 Pre-testing**

Pre-testing of the data collection instruments (interview guide and questionnaire) was established by administering 10 Interview schedules and questionnaires and undertaking one interview to establish accuracy and aptness of data collection instruments. The pilot study offered the hindsight on the data collection procedure, which informed the basis for remodeling the study or not. The basis of the pre-test was to establish whether respondents were able to effectively respond to the questions or not. This provided basis for amending and re-phrasing the instruments in light of the pilot results. However, the results of the pre-test were not applied in the final reporting; but, served only as a preliminary study.

### **3.9 Ethical considerations**

To interview primary respondents, ethical considerations were taken seriously, where respondents below 18 years, particularly institutionalized teenagers, necessitated special attention. Letters of authorization and introduction from NACOSTI and the University of Nairobi were presented to the administrators of the remand home and the rehabilitation school so as to gain access to the institutionalized teenagers. Informed consent was sought, not only from the teenagers but also from their legal guardians or custodians. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained to protect the privacy of the participants, ensuring that sensitive information about their family backgrounds and misbehaviors would not be disclosed without their consent. Additionally, a child-friendly and non-coercive environment was established during the interviews, with questions framed in a developmentally appropriate manner, taking into account the emotional and psychological well-

being of the teenagers. Researchers were also vigilant in monitoring and reporting any signs of distress or harm, offering appropriate support if required. These ethical considerations were integral in safeguarding the rights and well-being of the underage participants in the research process.

### **3.10 Data Analysis**

In this study, SPSS version 26.0 was used to compute both descriptive (mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize and describe the basic features of the data, while inferential statistics were used to make inferences about the population based on the sample data (Mishra *et al.*, 2019). Specifically, Pearson correlation was used to establish relationships between variables in the population. Additionally, the study integrated qualitative analysis to provide further context and insight into the data. Qualitative data was analyzed using a thematic approach, where responses from open questions were organized into themes and presented along quantitative data.



# CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION

## 4.1 Introduction

This chapter entails the presentation of findings emanating from the analysis of data. Data was collected from 98 institutionalized youths who were primary respondents in addition to 30 parents/guardians, Correction, Probation, Children, and After-Care Officers. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS version 26.0 and Excel Spreadsheet. In contrast, qualitative data was analyzed using a thematic approach and data were presented along quantitative data to triangulate results. The findings of the study on the family background and problem behaviour of institutionalized children were presented using tables and figures/diagrams.

## 4.2 Response Rate

The target sample size of the study was 120 primary respondents. However, the researcher successfully collected data from 98 respondents. Table 4.1 presents results of the analyzed data.

**Table 4.1: Response Rate**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Target Sample Size</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Non-response</b>	<b>%</b>
Remand Homes	80	66	55.0	14	11.7
Rehabilitation Schools	40	32	26.7	8	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18.3</b>

Table 4.1 presents results of the response rate for the primary respondents who at the time of the study were institutionalized in Remand Homes and Rehabilitation Schools. Evidently, the combined response outcome was 98 out of 120 primary respondents (81.7% out of 100.0%). Through disaggregation of data, more than half (55.0%) of primary respondents were from

Remand Homes, whereas 26.7% were from Rehabilitation Schools. The non-response rate was 18.3%, which represent 11.7% and 6.7% from Remand Homes and Rehabilitation Schools respectively. The response rate of 81.7% as visualized in Table 4.1 is adequate for the study as outlined in the American Statistical Association (ASA) as cited in Wasserstein and Lazar (2016), which recommended a target of 75%. Therefore, the response rate of 81.7% obtained is excellent indicates a strong level of participant engagement and suggests that the collected data is likely to be representative and reliable.

### **4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

This section presents demographic information of the respondents in regard to age distribution, gender, highest level of education, religious background, period and rate of institutionalization, and types delinquency committed. Subsequent sections present findings of the data.

#### **4.3.1 Gender**

Data on the gender of the institutionalized children was sought so as to understand gender distribution of the respondents in addition to the potential gender-specific experiences, challenges, and outcomes within the institutional setting. Table 4.2 presents data on the gender distribution of the primary respondents.

**Table 4.2: Gender of the Primary Respondents**

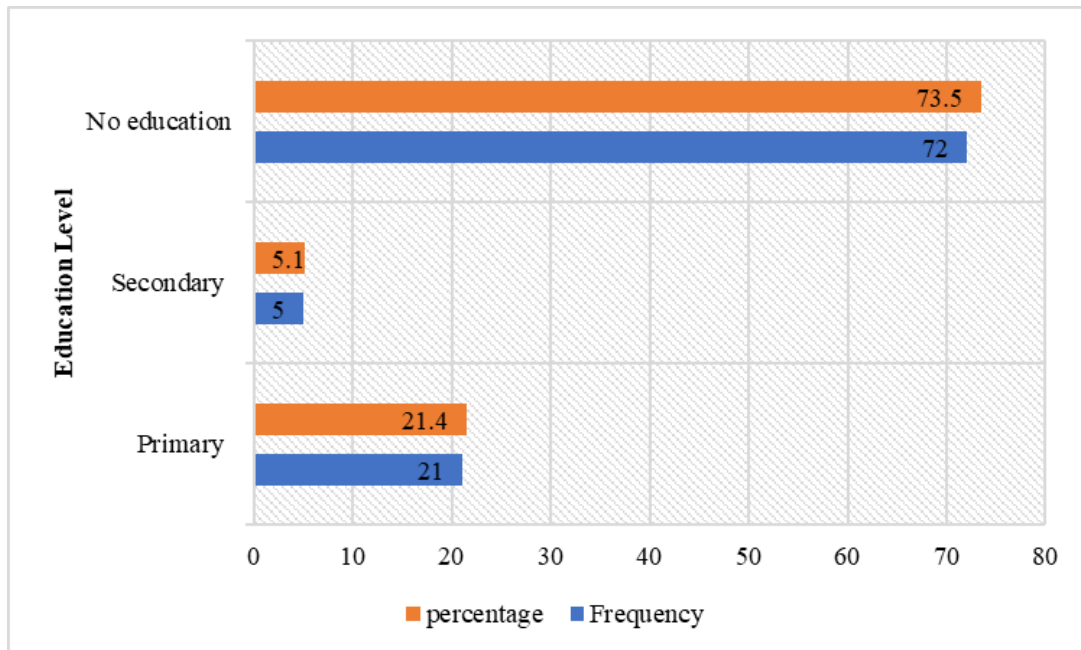
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Male	72	73.5
Female	26	26.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.2, 73.5% of the surveyed institutionalized youths were male, while 26.5% were female. The higher response rate for male institutionalized youth may be attributed to various factors. One possible reason is the higher prevalence of males within the population of institutionalized youth. In some cases, males may be more likely to engage in behavior that leads to their institutionalization, such as involvement in criminal or delinquency activities. Additionally, societal and cultural factors may play a role, as certain communities or regions may have different patterns of institutionalization for males compared to females.

### 4.3.2 Level of education

The study sought data on the level of education of institutionalized children. The goal of this was to explore how different family parenting styles influence the education attainment as seen from factors such as motivation, self-discipline, academic engagement, among others. Figure 4.1 visualizes findings of the analyzed data.

**Figure 4.1: Education Level**



As illustrated in Figure 4.1, 21.4% of the surveyed institutionalized children were pursuing primary education, 5.1% were pursuing secondary education, and 73.5% had no formal education. The high percentage of institutionalized children without formal education, comprising 73.5% of the sample, suggests limited access to educational opportunities. Factors such as disrupted family environments, socio-economic disadvantages, lack of parental involvement, and potentially ineffective parenting styles may contribute to this situation.

### 4.3.3 Respondents' Age

The study sought to collect data on the age of institutionalized children so as to examine the age distribution and better understand the composition of this population. Table 4.3 presents the findings on the age distribution of institutionalized children, shedding light on the varying frequencies within different age groups.

**Table 4.3: Age Distribution**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
10-12 years	25	25.5
13-15 years	35	35.7
16-18 years	38	38.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

According to Table 4.3, a majority (25.5%) of the institutionalized children fall within the age groups of 10-12 years, with a frequency of 25. The next age group, 13-15 years, has a higher frequency of 35, indicating a larger number of children in this range. The oldest age group, 16-18 years, has the highest frequency of 38, suggesting a significant presence of children in this category. This finding highlights the noticeable representation of children in mid-adolescence within the institutionalized population. Adolescents within these age ranges are more likely

susceptible to delinquent behavior due to dysfunctional family dynamics, limited socioeconomic opportunities, exposure to high-crime neighborhoods, mental health challenges, and a lack of positive community resources, which may create an environment conducive to misbehavior. This result is in line with the Decker and Marteach (2017) who stated that family dynamics characterized by dysfunction factors converge to increase the likelihood of delinquent actions and, in turn, contribute to the institutionalization of adolescents as a consequence of their actions.

#### **4.3.4 Religious Background**

The study sought to collect data on the religious background of institutionalized youths in order to establish an understanding of the religious composition within this population. Through an examination of their religious affiliations, the study aimed to gain insights into the religious diversity and its potential influence on various aspects of their lives. Table 4.4 presents the results of the analyzed data, providing an overview of the distribution of religious backgrounds among institutionalized youths.

**Table 4.4: Religious Background**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Christian (%)</b>	<b>Muslim (%)</b>
Remand Home	66	95%	5%
Rehabilitation School	32	99%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>4%</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.4, it is evident that the majority (96%) of the institutionalized children were Christians, whereas a negligible percentage (4%) were Muslims. The results in this section appear to suggest a strong prevalence of Christian religious background among institutionalized children. Result in this section is not surprising as it agrees with evidence on juvenile delinquency. For example, a study by Baier (2014) found that Muslim adolescents were less likely to be involved

in criminal activity than Christian adolescents. Similarly, a study by O'Donnell *et al.* (2022). found that Muslim adolescents were less likely to be arrested for delinquency than Christian adolescents. This variation could be attributed to the influence of religious and cultural factors on the behavior of Muslim adolescents. Notably, the teachings, values, and norms within the Muslim faith and culture may play a role in instilling a strong sense of moral responsibility, community support, and self-discipline among Muslim adolescents. Such factors can perhaps act as protective mechanisms, guiding them away from criminal involvement and reinforcing their adherence to lawful behavior.

#### 4.3.5 Period of Institutionalization

The study sought data on the period delinquent youths have been institutionalized with a view to gaining insights into their problem behaviours. Table 4.5 presents the distribution of institutionalized children based on the period of institutionalization, disaggregated by Remand Homes and Rehabilitation Schools.

**Table 4.5: Period of Institutionalization**

Period of Institutionalization	Remand Home		Rehabilitation School	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Up to 5 years	15	22.7	5	15.6
6-10 years	25	37.9	15	46.9
11 years or longer	26	39.4	11	34.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.5, the distribution of institutionalized youths based on the period of institutionalization reveals interesting patterns. Among the children in Remand Homes, the majority (37.9%) have been institutionalized for a duration of 6-10 years, followed by 39.4% who have been in the system for 11 years or longer. The smallest percentage (22.7%) are those with a

period of up to 5 years. In Rehabilitation Schools, the trend is somewhat different, with the highest percentage (46.9%) falling under the 6-10 years category, followed by 34.4% in the 11 years or older category. The smallest percentage (15.6%) comprises those with a period of up to 5 years. These findings suggest that a significant proportion of institutionalized children have experienced relatively long periods of institutionalization. From the result, it is possible to argue that most of the delinquent children have spent longer period of institutionalization perhaps because of the juvenile justice system, which is often punitive and focused on punishment rather than rehabilitation. This can lead to children being incarcerated for longer periods of time, even if they have not committed serious crimes. This result agrees with the perspective of Wambugu *et al.* (2015) who stated that law enforcement personnel frequently subject these juvenile offenders to mistreatment, often manifesting as instances of corporal punishment without meaningfully rehabilitating them to re-join their facilities and communities at large.

#### 4.3.6 Number of Arrests

The study sought to collect data on the number of arrests that institutionalized youths had registered. This was to offer overview on the status of problem behaviour among youths in remand homes and rehabilitation schools. Table 4.6 presents results of analyzed data.

**Table 4.6: Number of Arrests**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Remand Home</b>		<b>Rehabilitation School</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
1st time	36	54.5	15	46.9	51	52.0
2nd time	19	28.8	13	40.6	32	32.7
Above 3 times	11	16.7	4	12.5	15	15.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.6 above, 54.5% of arrests occurred in Remand Homes, while 46.9% occurred in Rehabilitation Schools, contributing to an overall percentage of 52.0% of all arrests for the first time. As it relates to the second time category, 28.8% of arrests occurred in Remand Home and 40.625% in Rehabilitation School, totaling 32.7% of all arrests. For arrests above 3 times, 16.7% occurred in Remand Homes and 12.5% in Rehabilitation Schools, making up 15.3% of all arrests. Considering the total number of arrests, 66 arrests were in Remand Homes and 32 in Rehabilitation Schools, summing up to a total of 98 arrests. Notably, the data suggests that the majority of institutionalized youths in both Remand Homes and Rehabilitation Schools have either been reported/arrested/tried in court/institutionalized process two times or less. Additionally, the data implies that while a portion of institutionalized teenagers do engage in misbehavior, a substantial number of them are learning from their experiences, possibly due to interventions, guidance, or the deterrent effect of prior arrests. Conversely, the results appear to suggest that delinquent teenagers are more likely to commit other forms of misbehaviour because of their dysfunctional family backgrounds that are characterized by lack of strong social bond/ties, low parental involvement, deprivation of basic needs, among others.

#### **4.3.7 Period of Previous Institutionalization**

The study sought to investigate the duration of institutionalization among individuals who have previously been institutionalized. Understanding the length of time spent in institutional settings is crucial for gaining insights into the experiences and potential effects of such placements. Table 4.7 presents the results of the analyzed data, providing a breakdown of the duration of previous institutionalization for individuals in both Remand Homes and Rehabilitation Schools.



**Table 4.7: Period of Previous Institutionalization**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Remand Home</b>		<b>Rehabilitation School</b>	
	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 year	10	50.0	4	57.1
1-2 years	6	30.0	2	28.6
3-5 years	3	15.0	1	14.3
Above 5 years	1	5.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.7, the majority (50.0%) of the youths previously institutionalized in remand homes had a period of less than 1 year, while 30.0% were institutionalized for 1-2 years. A smaller proportion (15.0%) had a period of 3-5 years, and only 5.0% had been institutionalized for more than 5 years. In rehabilitation schools, the majority (57.1%) had a period of less than 1 year, followed by 28.6% for 1-2 years. Only a small percentage (14.3%) had a period of 3-5 years, and none reported being institutionalized for more than 5 years. These findings indicate that the duration of previous institutionalization varied among the delinquent youths, with shorter periods being more common. From the result, it is evident that shorter periods of institutionalization are high. This could be attributed to the fact that most of the delinquent youths are likely to re-offend and find their back to the institutional homes. As a result of harsh environment at home because of authoritarian parenting style and/or lack of adequate basic needs, these youths are twice likely to reported and arrested, thus finding their way back to the institutional homes. This finding agrees with the perspective of Childs *et al.* (2022) who opined that deprivation of basic needs, such as

food and love, teenagers are more likely to develop rebellious behaviour, which leads to their second, third, or even more periods of institutionalization.

#### 4.3.8 Types of Delinquency/Misbehaviour Leading to Institutionalization

The study sought data on the types of misbehaviours that led to the institutionalization of the delinquent youths. This was done so as to point out the most pertinent and recurring delinquencies.

Table 4.8 presents results of the analyzed data.

**Table 4.8: Types of Misbehaviour**

Delinquency/Misbehavior	Remand Home		Rehabilitation School	
	N	%	N	%
Stealing/Mugging	21	31.8	2	6.3
Robbery with Violence	2	3.0	0	0.0
Drug Abuse	13	19.7	17	53.1
Pickpocketing	17	25.8	1	3.1
Rude Behavior	7	10.6	7	21.9
Deviant Aggression	6	9.1	5	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As demonstrated in Table 4.8, it is evident that the types of misbehavior among the institutionalized youths vary between the remand homes and rehabilitation schools. In the remand homes, the most common misbehavior reported was stealing/mugging, accounting for 31.8% of the cases, followed by drug abuse (19.7%), pickpocketing (25.8%), and deviant aggression (9.1%). However, the frequency of robbery with violence was relatively low at 3.0%. In contrast, within the rehabilitation schools, drug abuse was the predominant misbehavior, constituting the majority at 53.1%. Rude behavior (21.9%) and deviant aggression (15.6%) were also significant issues

among the institutionalized youths. Stealing/mugging (6.3%), pickpocketing (3.1%), and robbery with violence (0.0%) had lower frequencies in this setting. These findings highlight the different patterns of misbehavior exhibited by the institutionalized youths in remand homes and rehabilitation schools. From Table 4.8, it is evident that the trends of delinquencies leading to the institutionalization of teenagers vary. This can perhaps be attributed to the different mandates of the two facilities. Notice that rehabilitation home has no single case of robbery with violence, suggesting that their scope of rehabilitation differs from that of the remand home. Notably, rehabilitation schools have a duty to provide educational and vocational training to delinquent youths, whereas remand homes serve as holding facilities for offending youths who are awaiting placement decisions or court proceedings.

After establishing misbehaviour by institutionalized youths, the researcher sought to establish the frequency of occurrence so as to understand which were the most noticeable. Part of this was to have a holistic understanding of the problem behaviours delinquent teenagers. Table 4.9 presents analysis of the collected data.

**Table 4.9: Frequency of Delinquency**

Type of misbehaviour	Low		Somewhat Low		Moderate		Somewhat High		Very High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Stealing/Mugging	12	12.2	14	14.3	19	19.4	24	24.5	29	29.6
Robbery with Violence	34	34.7	42	42.9	16	16.3	2	2.0	4	4.1
Drug Abuse	6	6.1	11	11.2	19	19.4	26	26.5	36	36.7
Pick pocketing	7	7.1	9	9.2	27	27.6	31	31.6	24	24.5
Rude behaviour	12	12.2	15	15.3	21	21.4	24	24.5	26	26.5

As demonstrated in Table 4.9, the frequency of delinquent behaviors varies across different types. Stealing/Mugging shows a gradual increase in frequency, with the highest percentage (29.6%) falling under the "Very High" category. Robbery with Violence, on the other hand, exhibits a different pattern, with the majority of respondents rating it as "Low" (34.7%) or "Somewhat Low" (42.9%), and very few indicating higher frequencies. Drug Abuse displays a more balanced distribution, with a gradual increase from "Low" to "Very High" categories. The highest percentage (36.7%) falls under the "Very High" rating. Pickpocketing also shows a similar trend, with a higher percentage (31.6%) rating it as "Very High." Rude behavior exhibits a relatively even distribution across the different frequency ratings, with no single category dominating. The percentages are fairly consistent across the "Moderate," "Somewhat High," and "Very High" ratings. From the results, it is evident that drug abuse and stealing have very frequencies, which can perhaps be attributed to the background of the delinquent youths. Notably, teenagers from low

socio-economic backgrounds may be predisposed to stealing so as to meet their basic needs, such food contrasted to those who come from high economic households. Similarly, teenagers from dysfunctional families are more likely to be predisposed to drug and substance abuse owing to inadequate parental supervision.

#### 4.3.9 Distribution of Respondents by Household Composition

The study sought to examine the distribution of respondents by household composition. This was intended to offer insights into their living arrangements and family structures of the institutionalized youths. This information was crucial in understanding the social context in which these youths exist and the potential influence it may have on their behaviour patterns. Figure 4.2 illustrates the findings of the study, presenting the frequencies and percentages of different household compositions reported by the respondents.

**Figure 4.2: Household Composition**

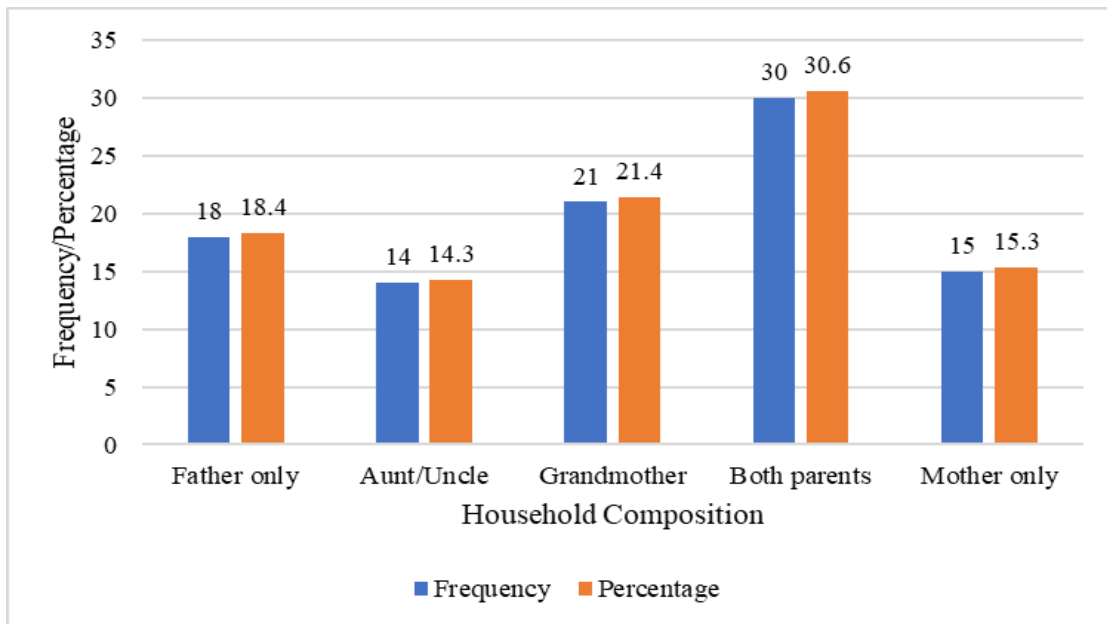


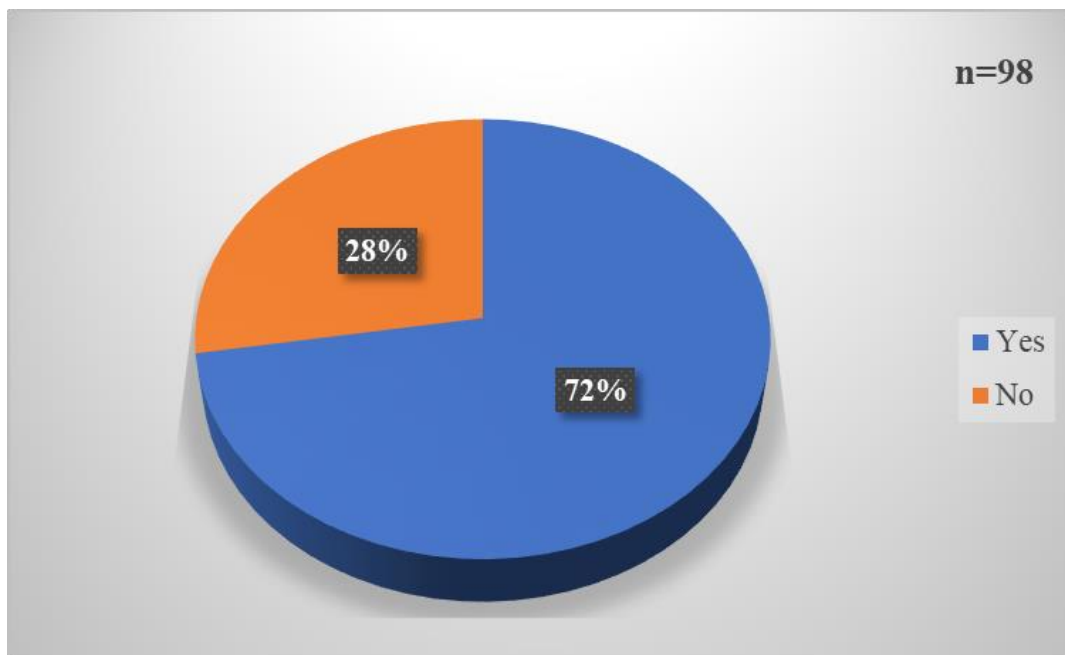
Figure 4.2 illustrates the Distribution of Respondents by Household Composition. The data reveals that among the respondents, the largest proportion (30.6%) reported living with both parents. This

is followed by living with a grandmother, which accounted for 21.4% of the respondents. The category of Father only and Aunt/Uncle had 18.4% and 14.3% respectively. The smallest proportion (15.3%) reported living with their mother only. The data on household composition reflects the diverse family structures and living arrangements among the respondents, highlighting the influence of familial relationships and support networks in the lives of institutionalized youths. Drawing from the tenets of Social Disorganization Theory, it is possible to argue that absence of biological parents is a major contributory factor to misbehaviors in children. This is because of low parental supervision as a result of absent parents, signifying that children could easily succumb to peer pressure and involve themselves in delinquency and criminal activities, such as stealing, pickpocketing, among others. This result also agrees with the perspective of Fatima *et al.* (2018) who opined that dysfunctional family background subject children to low parental guidance, thus ending up in remand homes and/or rehabilitation schools.

#### 4.3.10 Living with Different Families in Different Places

The study sought to determine whether institutionalized youths has lived with different families in different places. The question posed to the respondents was binary, that is, yes and no. Figure 4.3 visualizes analysis of the collected data.

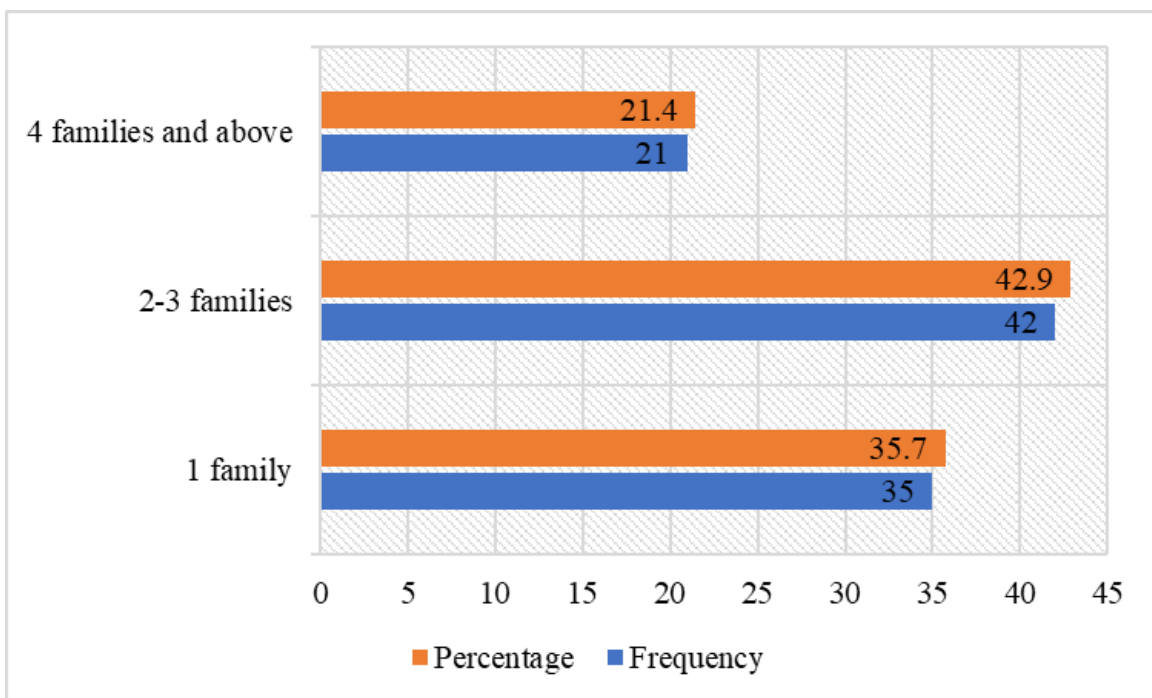
**Figure 4.3: Lived with Different Families**



As seen in Figure 4.3, it is evident that majority (72.0%) of the respondents had lived with different families and in many different places. On the other hand, 28.0% of the respondents did not have such experiences, potentially suggesting a lower likelihood of delinquent behavior among this subset. This finding highlights the potential influence of transient family arrangements and the influence they may have on youth delinquency. For example, the high percentage of respondents who reported living with different families in different places indicated a lack of stability and continuity in their living arrangements. Transient family arrangements, such as frequently changing caregivers or moving from one household to another, can disrupt a young person's sense of belonging, stability, and attachment. These disruptions may contribute to feelings of insecurity,

disconnection, and frustration, which can manifest as delinquent behaviors. The absence of a consistent and supportive family environment may lead to a greater likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors and seeking validation or acceptance from peer groups that may be involved in delinquent activities. This emphasizes the need for stable and nurturing family environments as a protective factor against youth delinquency. Those who stated Yes were required to provide information on the number of families they have lived with and where exactly. Figure 4.4 presents analysis of the collected data.

**Figure 4.4: Number of Families Lived with**



The data presented in Figure 4.4 showcases the number of families that the respondents have lived with. It is evident that the majority of the respondents (42.9%) have lived with 2-3 different families. A significant portion (35.7%) reported living with only one family, while a smaller proportion (21.4%) have lived with four or more families. This information implies that a considerable number of the respondents have experienced multiple family transitions or changes in their living arrangements. Living with multiple families can impact a young person's sense of



stability, consistency, and attachment. The frequent changes in family environments may introduce various challenges, including adapting to new dynamics, establishing new relationships, and adjusting to different rules and expectations. Such frequent disruptions in family structure can potentially contribute to feelings of instability, uncertainty, and a lack of belonging, which may increase the risk of engaging in delinquent behaviors. The higher percentage of respondents who have lived with 2-3 families suggests a relatively higher exposure to these potential challenges.

#### 4.4 Family Structure, Nature and Teenage Misbehaviours

The first objective of the study was to determine the relationship between family structure, nature and level of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers. Various questions were posed to the respondents so as to understand the interconnected nature between the structure of the family and delinquency in children.

##### 4.4.1 Family Structure/Background

Data on the structure of the family was sought from the primary respondents. This was done partly to have a holistic understanding of parent-child relationships and how it could be associated with problem behaviour by institutionalized youths. Table 10 summarizes the overall results emanating from the results of analyzed data.

**Table 4.10: Family Background**

<b>Family Structure</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single parent family	25	25.5
Nuclear family	32	32.7
Extended family	19	19.4
Grand-parent	13	13.3
Step-family	9	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 10 presents data on the family structure of the participants. The most prevalent family structure among the participants is the nuclear family, accounting for 32.7% of the total sample. This suggests that a significant portion of the participants comes from households consisting of parents and their biological or adopted children. Following closely behind is the single-parent family structure, representing 25.5% of the respondents. This indicates that a considerable

proportion of participants (25.5%) come from households headed by a single parent, which could be a mother or a father. The extended family structure is observed in 19.4% of the participants. This suggests that a notable proportion of the respondents come from households where multiple generations or relatives reside together, creating a broader support network. The grandparent family structure was reported by 13.3% of the respondents. This indicates that a considerable number of participants are living in households where grandparents play a significant role in caregiving and support. The step-family structure was observed in 9.2% of the participants. This suggests that a smaller portion of the respondents come from households where at least one parent has remarried or entered into a new partnership.

#### 4.4.2 Reasons for Bad Behaviour

Data for getting into bad behaviour was sought from the primary respondents. The question was unstructured, meaning that respondents had the discretion to provide a range of responses. For this particular question, thematic analysis was applied. Figure 4.5 visualizes results of the analyzed data.

**Figure 4.5: Reasons for Bad Behaviour**

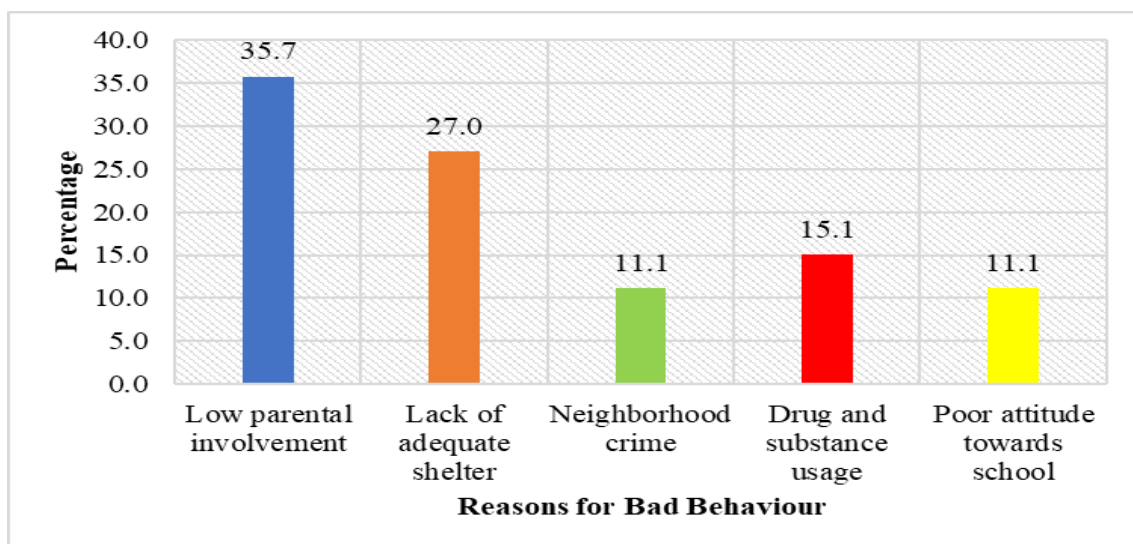


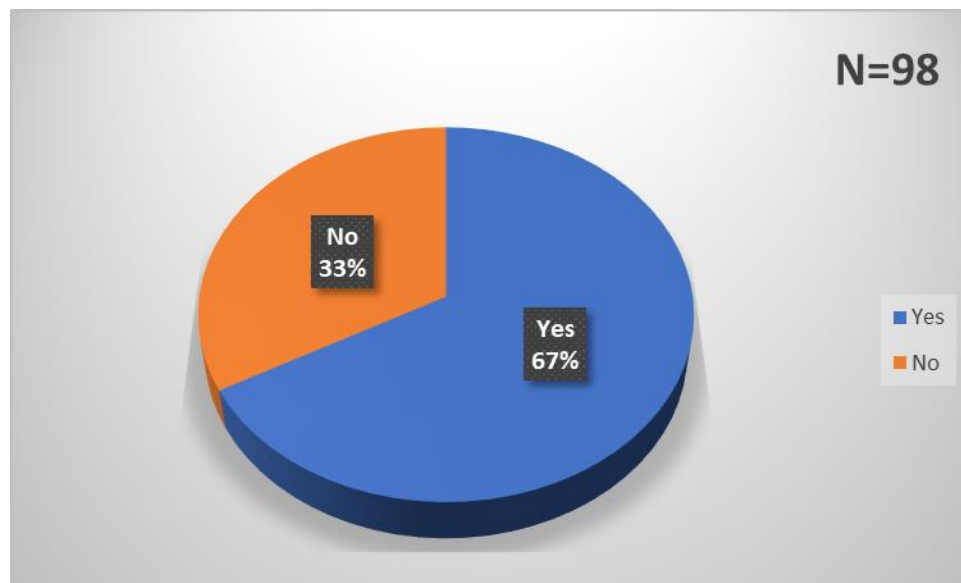
Figure 4.5 illustrates various reasons that led to the bad behavior exhibited by delinquent youths. The most prominent reason reported is low parental involvement, accounting for 35.7% of the total. This suggests that a significant number of delinquent youths experience a lack of parental guidance, support, and supervision, which may contribute to their engagement in problematic behaviors. Additionally, inadequate shelter is another substantial factor, reported by 27.0% of the respondents. This indicates that a considerable proportion of delinquent youths face unstable housing conditions or homelessness, which can increase their vulnerability to engaging in delinquent activities. Neighborhood crime is identified as a contributing factor by 11.1% of the participants. This suggests that the prevalence of criminal activities in the immediate environment plays a role in shaping delinquent behavior among youths. Notably, negative peer pressure is thought to negatively influence the conduct of the youths.

Drug and substance usage was reported as a reason for delinquency by 15.1% of the respondents. This highlights the influence of substance abuse on engaging in unlawful activities and antisocial behaviors. Notably, poor attitude towards school is identified as a factor contributing to delinquency by 11.1% of the participants. This implies that a subset of delinquent youths may exhibit disinterest or negative attitudes towards educational institutions, leading to academic difficulties and potential engagement in deviant behaviors.

#### 4.4.3 Parental Responsibility in Bad Behaviour

The study sought to determine the possible contribution of the parents in allowing problem behaviour. A binary question (yes and no) was posed to the respondents. Figure 4.6 illustrates results of the analyzed data.

**Figure 4.6: Parental Responsibility in Teenage Misbehaviour**



The data presented in Figure 4.6 reflects participant responses to a binary question, with options of 'Yes' and 'No' regarding parental contribution to problem behavior. Among the respondents, 67.3% answered 'Yes', indicating that they believe their parents have played a role in allowing or enabling their problem behavior. This suggests that a significant majority of the delinquent youths perceive their parents as having some level of responsibility or influence on their engagement in problematic behaviors. Conversely, 32.7% of the participants answered 'No', indicating that they do not attribute their problem behavior to parental contribution. This minority group may believe that external factors or personal choices are primarily responsible for their delinquent actions, rather than parental influence. To that end, the data highlights the complex dynamics between

parents and delinquent youths, with a substantial portion acknowledging the role of parents in allowing problem behavior, while others perceive different factors as contributing to their actions.

For those respondents who answered 'yes' (67.3%) when asked if parents contribute to behavior problems among delinquent youths, they were further asked to provide explanations for their perspective. Their responses shed light on various factors that appeared to focus on parental influence and its impact on problem behavior. One recurring theme supported by 45% of participants highlighted the lack of parental involvement and supervision as a contributing factor. Respondents mentioned that parents who are absent, neglectful, or fail to monitor their children's activities create an environment where youths have more freedom to engage in negative behaviors without consequences. This lack of guidance and structure can lead to a sense of rebellion and exploration of risky behaviors.

Another significant aspect that emerged from the responses was the influence of parental role modeling. Several respondents (39%) pointed out that when parents display aggressive or deviant behaviors themselves, it sets a negative example for their children. Children tend to imitate what they see, and if parents exhibit problematic behavior, it can normalize and reinforce such actions in their children's minds. The lack of consistent discipline and clear boundaries was also identified as a contributing factor by 34% of participants. Respondents mentioned that parents who fail to establish and enforce rules consistently can create confusion and a lack of understanding about acceptable behavior. Inconsistency in discipline can leave youths uncertain about the consequences of their actions, leading to further engagement in delinquency.

Additionally, emotional support and effective communication between parents and their children were cited by 21% as crucial factors. Respondents pointed out that when parents do not provide

emotional support, understanding, or a safe space for their children to express themselves, it can result in feelings of neglect or rejection. This emotional void may push youths to seek validation and fulfillment through negative means, such as engaging in risky behaviors or seeking attention in inappropriate ways. The group (32.7%) which believed that parents do not play a significant role in causing misbehaviour attributed delinquent behavior to external influences, such as peer pressure, societal factors, or individual choices made by the youths themselves. They also believed that other factors, such as genetic predispositions or personal circumstances, have a more substantial influence on behavior problems than parental influence.

#### 4.4.4 Assessing the Level of Trust from Parents/Caregivers

The study sought to establish the level of trust that parents/caregivers had for institutionalized youths. The question posed to the respondents was a 5-point Likert scale, where one indicated low trust in contrast to five which reflected high trust. Table 4.11 summarizes responses from analyzed data.

**Table 4.11: Level of Trust by Parents/Caregivers**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No Extent	19	19.4
Small Extent	21	21.4
Moderate	35	35.7
Large Extent	14	14.3
Very Large Extent	9	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As demonstrated in Table 4.11 above, the level of trust that family members had for institutionalized youths was assessed using a 5-point Likert scale. The data reveals that 19.4% of respondents reported ‘No Extent’ of trust from their family members. Similarly, 21.4% indicated

'Small Extent' of trust, while 35.7% reported a 'Moderate' level of trust. On the other hand, 14.3% of respondents stated a 'Large Extent' of trust, and 9.2% expressed a 'Very Large Extent' of trust from their family members. The lower percentages in the categories of 'Large Extent' and 'Very Large Extent' of trust suggest that a considerable portion of respondents may not have strong trust from their family members. This could be attributed the dysfunctional family backgrounds, which are characterized by weak social ties and bonds. As a result of low parental involvement, teenagers are exposed to peer influence which predisposes them to delinquent behaviors, such as stealing and pickpocketing.

This lack of trust could potentially contribute to behavior problems among the institutionalized youths. When individuals feel a lack of trust from their family members, it may lead to feelings of isolation, detachment, and a lack of support. This can create an environment where the youths may engage in negative behaviors as a way to cope or seek attention. Additionally, the lower levels of trust may indicate strained relationships and communication barriers within the family, which can further exacerbate behavior problems. In contrast, the relatively higher percentages in the categories of 'Moderate' and 'Small Extent' of trust suggest that some level of trust exists between the institutionalized youths and their family members. While not as strong as 'Large Extent' or 'Very Large Extent,' this moderate level of trust may still provide some support and guidance to the youths, potentially reducing the likelihood of severe behavior problems.



#### 4.4.5 Visitation Patterns of Institutionalized Youths

The aim of the study was to examine the visitation patterns of delinquent youths as evidenced by the persons who paid them a visit while in either remand home or rehabilitation school. Table 4.12 highlights various identities/relations of persons who visited the institutionalized youths.

**Table 4.12: Visitation Patterns of Institutionalized Youths**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Father only	14	14.3
Mother only	31	31.6
Children Officers	26	26.5
Uncle/Aunt	16	16.3
Grand Parents	11	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As demonstrated in Table 4.12, the visitation patterns of institutionalized youths vary among the different relations. The data reveals that the most common visitors are the mothers, accounting for 31.6% of the respondents. They are closely followed by the children's officers who accounted for 26.5% of the visitors. Fathers constitute 14.3% of the visitors, while uncles/aunts and grandparents have visitation rates of 16.3% and 11.2% respectively. The distribution of visitation patterns indicates that a significant proportion of the youths receive visits from their immediate family members, particularly their mothers and children's officers. The relatively infrequent visits of fathers, aunts/uncles, and grandparents may indicate a lack of commitment and support from these family members. This can potentially lead to neglect or marginalization, and may increase the risk of illegal activity among institutionalized youth. Regular visits by mothers can help them feel emotionally supported, guided and connected, reducing the chances of cheating. Similarly, the presence of child protection officers visiting young people indicates a high level of oversight and

support by authorities. This can have a positive influence on young people’s behavior as they may feel responsible for their actions and strive to effect a positive change.

Besides providing information on the profiles of the visitors, respondents were asked to highlight the frequency of the visitations. Collected data was in form of a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from rarely to very frequently. Table 4.13 summarizes the frequency of the visitations.

**Table 4.13: the Frequency of Visitations**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Rarely	8	8.2%
Occasionally	15	15.3%
Sometimes	28	28.5%
Frequently	32	32.7%
Very Frequently	15	15.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Based on the data presented in Table 4.13 above, it is evident that 8.2% reported that visitations occurred rarely, indicating infrequent visits from the specified relatives. On The other hand, 15.3% of the respondents mentioned that visitations happened occasionally, suggesting that they received visitors on a less frequent, or irregular basis. A larger proportion of the respondents, accounting for 28.5%, stated that visitations occurred sometimes. This indicates that they had visitors with a moderate level of frequency, but not on a regular basis. A significant proportion of the respondents, constituting 32.7%, reported that visitations took place frequently. This suggests that they received visitors with a high frequency, indicating regular and consistent visitations from the specified categories. Similarly, 15.3% of the respondents mentioned that visitations happened very

frequently. This implies that they had visitors with an extremely high frequency, indicating frequent and regular visitations from the specified categories.

Institutional visitation frequency can influence juvenile misconduct and delinquency in institutions. Studies (see, for example, Hsieh et al., 2021; Merton, 1997) on delinquent behaviour by teenagers have shown that regular visits by family members and loved ones can have a positive effect on the psychological health and behavior of institutionalized adolescents. When adolescents are visited frequently, they are likely to experience greater emotional support, a sense of belonging, and connection with their family and community. This improves behavior and reduces the likelihood of criminal activity. Regular visits provide families with the opportunity to remain actively involved in the lives of young people, provide guidance, set boundaries and reinforce positive values for young people. On the other hand, limited family visits or reduced family contact can cause isolation and frustration in institutionalized adolescents. Lack of regular support and family connections can lead to increased feelings of distress, violent behavior, and negative behavior.

Notably, frequent visitation by parents and caregivers signified a robust foundation of familial support and engagement. Adolescents who experienced regular visits attributed this consistent involvement to the significance their families placed on maintaining strong interpersonal bonds and active participation in their lives. The presence of parents and caregivers emerged as an essential support structure, contributing to elevated morale, an amplified sense of belonging, and an augmented connection to a stable environment. This regular interaction provided a platform for open communication, allowing adolescents to engage in discussions concerning their progress, challenges, and emotional experiences with their caregivers. These consistent interactions, in turn,

appeared to exert a positive influence on the adolescents' attitudes, behaviors, and their overall perception of their rehabilitation trajectory.

In contrast, adolescents who reported infrequent visits by parents and caregivers delineated a distinct array of circumstances. The reasons underpinning infrequent visits were multifaceted and encompassed diverse factors. Some adolescents acknowledged that external commitments, particularly demanding work schedules or substantial familial responsibilities, constrained the availability of their families for regular visits. Moreover, geographical distance, coupled with associated time and financial constraints, emerged as contributory factors to diminished visitation frequency. A subset of participants acknowledged the existence of strained relationships or unresolved conflicts with parents or caregivers as impeding visitation regularity. Additionally, a handful of adolescents acknowledged that their families lacked a comprehensive understanding of the salience of consistent visitation within a rehabilitation milieu.

When visiting institutionalized children, data revealed that most of the items brought by visitors are personal effects, such as clothing and toiletries, which contribute to the children's comfort and well-being during their stay. Additionally, visitors often bring emotional support through their presence, offering words of encouragement, and expressing care and love. In terms of the information shared during visits, visitors provide updates on the outside world, including current events and community happenings. They also share news and updates about mutual acquaintances, ensuring that the children remain connected to the larger social context. Furthermore, visitors play a crucial role in offering advice, guidance, and wisdom based on their own experiences. Their insights and suggestions help the children navigate various aspects of life and relationships. The results in this section suggest that the presence of visitors and the items they bring play a significant

role in the well-being of institutionalized children. The provision of personal effects and emotional support fosters a sense of comfort and belonging. The information shared during visits keeps the children connected to the outside world, while the guidance and advice contribute to their personal growth and development.

## 4.5 Parental Discipline and Teenage Problem Behaviour

The second objective of the study was to determine the association between the level of parental discipline and the nature of problem behaviour exhibited by the institutionalized teenagers. Questions posed to the respondents were structured and open-ended. This was intended to elicit responses beyond what was contained in the closed questions, thus enhance triangulation of results. The following sections sought to link the relationship between the discipline of the parents and the associated misbehaviour among delinquent youths.

### 4.5.1 Parental Involvement in Criminal Offenses

The study sought to investigate the potential effect of parental criminal involvement on institutionalized youths. To gain insights into this aspect, the participants were asked to share their opinions regarding whether their parent(s) or guardian have been involved in criminal activities, including being reported, arrested, tried, or convicted. Results were cross-tabulated against the children's types of delinquency. The responses obtained from the respondents are summarized in Table 4.14.

**Table 4.14: Parental Involvement in Criminal Offenses and Child's Types of Delinquency**

<b>Delinquency/Misbehavior</b>	<b>Parental Involvement: Yes</b>	<b>Parental Involvement: No</b>
Stealing/Mugging	13 (28.9%)	10 (18.9%)
Robbery with Violence	1 (2.2%)	1 (1.9%)
Drug Abuse	17 (37.8%)	12 (22.6%)
Pickpocketing	9 (20.0%)	9 (17.0%)
Rude Behavior	7 (15.6%)	7 (13.2%)
Deviant Aggression	5 (11.1%)	6 (11.3%)

Table 4.14 above presents the data regarding the cross-tabulation between parental involvement in criminal behavior and the type of delinquency exhibited by the child. For the delinquency of Stealing/Mugging, it was observed that among cases where parental involvement in criminal offenses is present, 28.9% of the adolescents were involved in stealing or mugging. In comparison, in cases where parental involvement in criminal offenses is absent, 18.9% of adolescents were engaged in similar activities. Similarly, for Robbery with Violence, the incidence is relatively low. Among cases with parental involvement, 2.2% of adolescents were found in this delinquency, while in cases without parental involvement, the percentage remained at 1.9%. Regarding Drug Abuse, the data illustrates that 37.8% of adolescents with parental involvement exhibited drug abuse, while 22.6% of those without parental involvement were involved in such behavior. In the case of Pickpocketing, the percentages indicate that 20.0% of adolescents with parental involvement engaged in this misbehavior, whereas 17.0% of those without parental involvement were involved in pickpocketing. Pertaining to Rude Behavior, the data suggests that 15.6% of adolescents with parental involvement in criminal activities displayed rude behavior, while 13.2% of adolescents without parental involvement in criminal behaviour exhibited similar behavior. Notably, it was evident that 11.1% of adolescents with parental involvement in criminal behaviour were involved in deviant aggression, and the percentage was slightly higher at 11.3% for adolescents without parental involvement in criminal behaviour.

The findings suggest that there are notable differences in the types of delinquent behaviors exhibited by adolescents based on whether parental involvement in criminal offenses is present or not. For instance, adolescents with parental involvement in criminal behaviour appear to be more likely to engage in stealing/mugging, drug abuse, and deviant aggression compared to those without such involvement. On the other hand, the involvement in robbery with violence,

pickpocketing, and rude behavior shows relatively minimal differences between the two groups. Notably, parental involvement in criminal behavior could expose adolescents to an environment where certain types of delinquency are more normalized or easily accessible (see, Elias & Noordin, 2011). It might contribute to a lack of effective guidance and role modeling, potentially leading to the adoption of negative behaviors. Conversely, for behaviors such as robbery with violence, pickpocketing, and rude behavior, the data indicates that parental involvement in criminal behaviour may not have a significant impact. These behaviors could be influenced by factors beyond parental involvement, such as peer influence, societal factors, or personal characteristics.

From the responses highlighted in Table 4.14, the study aimed to explore the extent of parental criminal behavior as reported by the respondents. Among those who responded affirmatively, Table 4.15 provides an overview of the specific offenses and their frequencies and percentages.

**Table 4.15: Offense(s) and Frequency of Parental Criminal Behavior**

<b>Yes Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Theft	12	26.7%
Drug-related	8	17.7%
Assault	5	11.1%
Fraud/deceit/trickery	7	15.6%
Did not answer	13	28.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The data in Table 4.15 above presents the specific offenses and corresponding frequencies reported by respondents regarding their parents or guardian's criminal behavior. Among those who responded 'Yes' to the question, the most commonly reported offense was theft, accounting for 26.7% of the cases. Drug-related offenses were reported in 17.7% of the cases, followed by assault, 11.1% and fraud or deceit at 15.6%. Additionally, there were other offenses that accounted for



28.9% of the cases, which were not specified in the given data. The presence of parental misbehavior may expose adolescents to an environment that normalizes and perpetuates deviant behavior and may increase the likelihood that they will engage in criminal behavior themselves.

#### 4.5.2 Level of Parental/Guardian Discipline

The study aimed at assessing the perceived level of good behavior and discipline exhibited by parents or guardians as reported by the respondents. The respondents were asked to rank their parent(s) or guardian's level of good behavior/discipline using a five-point scale, ranging from 'Can't tell' to 'Very High.' The data collected from the respondents was analyzed and summarized in Table 4.16, presenting the frequency and percentage distribution of the different levels of discipline reported.

**Table 4.16: Level of Parental/Guardian Discipline**

<b>Level of Discipline</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Can't tell	13	13.3%
Very Low	21	21.4%
Low	26	26.6%
Moderate	22	22.4%
High	10	10.2%
Very High	6	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.16, a majority of respondents (21.4%) indicated a very low level of discipline, followed by low (26.5%) and moderate (22.4%) levels. A smaller proportion of respondents reported high (10.2%) and very high (6.1%) levels of discipline. There were also some respondents (13.3%) who could not provide a definite response. The relatively high percentage of respondents ranking their parent(s) or guardian's discipline as very low or low indicates a potential

lack of effective discipline in the upbringing of the teenagers. This could be a contributing factor to the occurrence of problem behavior among the teenage population. The data highlights the importance of parental discipline in shaping the behavior of teenagers and emphasizes the need for interventions and support systems to address any deficiencies in this area.

Upon ranking the parental/guardian discipline, respondents were further asked to explain their choice of ranking. Those who selected very low discipline or behavior stated that they had experienced consistent instances of neglect, abuse, or disrespectful behavior. They witnessed or were subjected to a lack of discipline, irresponsible actions, or frequent conflicts within the family. In contrast, those who chose low argued that they perceived their parent(s) or guardian's behavior as generally negative, with occasional instances of discipline or good behavior. They observed inconsistencies in discipline, a lack of guidance, or ineffective communication within the family. Respondents who rated their parent(s) or guardian's behavior as moderate believed it to be average, neither excessively good nor bad. They noticed a moderate level of discipline, occasional positive behavior, and a reasonably stable family environment. Those who ranked the behavior as high had experienced consistent displays of discipline, guidance, and positive role modeling. They witnessed respectful communication, healthy boundaries, and supportive interactions within the family. Those who selected very high perceived their parent(s) or guardian's behavior as exemplary, characterized by discipline, consistent positive behavior, and a nurturing and supportive environment.

#### **4.5.3 Extent of Institutionalization Attribution to Family Background**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the extent to which institutionalized youths attributed their institutionalization to the nature of their family background. Respondents were asked to rate

their attribution on a scale from ‘Not at all’ to ‘Very large degree’. Table 4.17 summarizes the responses from the analyzed data, revealing perceptions and beliefs about the influence of family background on institutions.

**Table 4.17: Institutionalization Attribution to Family Background**

<b>Parenting style</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Authoritative styles-warmth and support	98	2.1
Permissive style-lack of structure and rules	98	4.0
Neglectful/uninvolved style-completely absent or uninvolved in the child’s life	98	4.6
Free range-minimal guidance from the parent	98	4.2
Helicopter style- over-involvement and constant supervision	98	3.2

As illustrated in Table 4.17, it is evident that the respondents perceived the authoritative style as having the lowest mean rating of 2.1, suggesting that they attributed institutionalization to a relatively lower extent to this parenting style characterized by warmth and support. On the other hand, the permissive style received the mean rating of 4.0, indicating a stronger attribution of institutionalization to the lack of structure and rules associated with this parenting style. The neglectful/uninvolved style, free range style, and helicopter style also received relatively high mean ratings of 4.6, 4.2, and 3.2, respectively, implying that respondents perceived these parenting styles as contributing to a larger extent to their institutionalization. Evidence in this section signify that respondents associate parenting styles characterized by lack of structure, uninvolved behavior, minimal supervision, and over-involvement more closely with family background and the nature of institutionalization.

After respondents had ranked their institutionalization in relation to their family background, they were asked to provide further details to their choices. Qualitative data established that respondents

who attributed their institutionalization to a small extent or no extent often cited experiencing warmth and support from authoritative parenting styles. They highlighted that their parents or guardians provided a nurturing environment with clear rules and guidance. On the other hand, those who selected options indicating higher attribution of institutionalization mentioned factors such as the lack of structure and rules (permissive style), complete absence or uninvolved parenting (neglectful/uninvolved style), minimal guidance (free range style), or over-involvement and constant supervision (helicopter style). These respondents opined that these parenting styles negatively influence their behavior and contributed to their institutionalization. The findings suggest that the nature of parental discipline and involvement play a significant role in shaping the behavior and outcomes of institutionalized youths.

#### **4.5.4 Influence of Parental Actions and Behavior on Institutionalization**

The study aimed at investigating the perceived influence of parent(s) or guardian(s) actions or behavior on the institutionalization of individuals. Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they attributed their institutionalization to their parent(s) or guardian(s) on a five-point scale ranging from ‘No extent’ to ‘Very large extent.’ Table 4.18 presents the responses of the participants.

**Table 4.18: Parental Actions and Behavior on Institutionalization**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No extent	5	5.1%
Small extent	10	10.2%
Moderate	25	25.5%
Large extent	35	35.7%
Very large extent	23	23.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As seen in Table 4.18 above, it is evident that 5.1% of the respondents indicated ‘no extent’ in attributing their institutionalization to their parents or guardians’ conduct or behavior. Similarly, 10.2% of the respondents stated a ‘small extent’ of attribution. On the other hand, a significant proportion of respondents expressed higher levels of attribution. 25.5% of them reported a ‘moderate’ extent of attribution, while 35.7% attributed their institutionalization to a ‘large extent.’ Additionally, 23.5% of respondents attributed a ‘very large extent’ to their parents or guardians’ actions or behavior. These results suggest that a substantial number of individuals perceive a considerable connection between their institutionalization and the actions or behavior of their parent(s) or guardian(s). The higher frequencies in the ‘large extent’ and ‘very large extent’ categories indicate a stronger belief in the influence of parental actions or behavior on their institutionalization.

In the respondents’ explanations for attributing their caregivers’ actions or behavior to their institutionalization, several key factors emerged. Some participants pointed to their parents engaging in criminal activities, such as stealing or other illegal behaviors. This association suggests that the involvement of parents in criminal behavior may have directly contributed to their institutionalization, either through legal consequences or the destabilizing effects of such activities on family life. Notably, negligence emerged as another significant factor mentioned by the respondents. The lack of proper care, attention, and supervision from parents or guardians can create an environment that increases the likelihood of institutionalization. Negligence may manifest as a failure to provide a stable home, meet basic needs, or ensure the safety and well-being of the child. This lack of responsible parental involvement can have serious consequences on a child's development, leading to their placement in institutional settings.

Moreover, the absence of a father figure was highlighted as a contributing factor to institutionalization. The lack of a positive male role model within the family structure may result in a loss of guidance, support, and discipline that children need for healthy development. The absence of a father figure may create a void in the child's life, potentially leading to behavioral issues, vulnerability to negative influences, and a higher risk of institutionalization. Furthermore, drug and substance abuse within the family context emerged as a concerning factor. Parents or guardians struggling with addiction can be unable to provide a stable and nurturing environment for their children. The detrimental effects of substance abuse can disrupt family dynamics, compromise the well-being of the child, and contribute to the circumstances that lead to institutionalization. Other reasons mentioned in the transcripts include parents frequently coming home late, which may indicate a lack of parental presence and supervision, and instances of child abuse, where the child is subjected to harmful treatment within the family environment.

#### 4.5.5 Mother's Age at Birth and its Relation to Institutionalization of Delinquent Youth

The study sought to establish the age of the delinquent youths' mothers at birth. This was intended to offer glimpses into the hypothesized association between adolescent mothers and problem behaviours of their children. Table 4.19 summarizes results of the analyzed data.

**Table 4.19: Association between Mother's Age at Birth and Misbehaviour by Delinquent Youths**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 18 years	23	23.5
18 years - 24 years	29	29.6
25 years - 30 years	17	17.3
31 years or older	16	16.3
Do not know	13	13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From Table 4.19, it can be observed that 23.5% of the respondents reported that their mothers were below 18 years old when they gave birth to them. Additionally, 29.6% indicated that their mothers were between 18 and 24 years old at the time of their birth. Furthermore, 17.3% mentioned that their mothers were between 25 and 30 years old, while 16.3% stated that their mothers were 31 years or older. Interestingly, 13.3% of the respondents were unsure about their mother's age at birth. The data reveals a notable proportion of respondents whose mothers were relatively young when they gave birth, with 23.5% being below 18 years old. This could indicate a higher likelihood of inadequate parental guidance and support, which might contribute to the development of misbehavior among these youths.

When exploring the question, 'Did she personally raise you? If not, who did it and up to what age?' insightful findings emerged regarding the upbringing of delinquent youths and its potential

connection to their misbehavior. The data revealed that a significant number of respondents reported being primarily raised by their mothers (64.0%), suggesting the influential role of maternal caregivers in their lives. However, it is worth noting that a notable proportion of respondents indicated that they were not raised by their biological mothers (36.0%), presenting an alternative caregiving dynamic. Instead, these individuals reported being raised by various individuals, such as fathers, grandmothers, aunts/uncles, grandparents, or stepmothers.

This diversity in caregiving arrangements highlights the complex family structures and support systems that can influence the upbringing of delinquent youths. The fact that some respondents were raised by individuals other than their mothers suggests that the absence or limited presence of a maternal figure may have played a role in their upbringing. This absence could potentially impact the development of a nurturing and stable environment, which is essential for fostering positive behavior and emotional well-being.

Additionally, the reported transition from maternal care to alternative caregivers occurred at varying ages, with the median age falling between 13 and 17 years. This transition period can be critical in shaping a young person's behavior and sense of identity. It may coincide with the onset of adolescence, a stage marked by significant changes and challenges. The change in primary caregivers during this formative period could potentially influence a delinquent youth's behavior, as it may disrupt established routines, support systems, and emotional bonds.

#### **4.6 Deprivation of Basic Needs and Teenage Problem Behaviour**

The third objective of the study was to delineate the association between deprivation of basic needs and the nature of teenage problem behaviour. To achieve this objective, structured and unstructured questions were posed to the respondents. Sub-sections under section 4.6 present results that aimed at linking basic needs deprivation and delinquency in youths.



#### 4.6.1 Lack of Resources at Home

The study sought to establish whether institutionalized youths lacked any basic needs while at home, such as food, and how it exacerbated misbehaviour by institutionalized children. The question posed to the respondents was binary with a ‘yes’ and a ‘no’. Table 4.20 summarizes findings from the data.

**Table 4.20: Deprivation of Basic Needs at Home**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	73	74.5
No	25	25.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.20 above, a significant majority (74.5%) of the institutionalized youths, reported experiencing a lack of basic needs at home. This includes aspects such as shelter and clothing, indicating a state of deprivation. This finding suggests that there was a notable deficiency in meeting essential needs within their households. The experience of lacking basic needs can lead to increased stress, anxiety, and emotional instability among children. When children consistently face scarcity or uncertainty in meeting their fundamental needs, it can create feelings of insecurity and vulnerability. This can manifest in various behavioral issues, including aggression, impulsivity, difficulty concentrating, and low self-esteem. The stress of deprivation may also contribute to the development of maladaptive coping mechanisms, such as substance abuse or delinquency, as children seek ways to alleviate their distress or fulfill their unmet needs.

Among those who stated that they lacked basic needs at home, respondents specified various aspects of deprivation including insufficient food or hunger, inadequate access to clean water, unstable or inadequate housing conditions, lack of appropriate clothing, limited or no access to

healthcare services, and inadequate educational resources. The deprivation of basic needs is thought to contribute to delinquency; For instance, lack of essential resources such as food, water, and stable housing can create a sense of insecurity and desperation, leading individuals to engage in illegal activities to fulfill their basic needs. Hunger and inadequate nutrition can also impact cognitive and emotional development, potentially impairing impulse control and decision-making skills, which are essential in avoiding delinquent behavior. Moreover, limited access to healthcare and educational resources can hinder personal growth and development, reducing opportunities for positive social engagement and increasing the likelihood of involvement in delinquent activities. The cumulative effect of these deprivations can contribute to a sense of frustration, hopelessness, and disconnection from societal norms, increasing the risk of engaging in delinquency as a means of survival or expression of discontent.

#### 4.6.2 Extent of Basic Need Deprivation

The study sought information on the extent of basic need scarcity from institutionalized children. The goal of this was to examine and establish the interconnectedness between extent of deprivation of basic needs and the inherent problem behavior. Table 4.21 summarizes results of the analyzed data.

**Table 4.21: Extent of Basic Need Deprivation**

<b>Basic need</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Housing/shelter	98	3.6
Healthcare	98	4.1
Water	98	3.2
Sleep	98	2.9
Food	98	4.6
Love/affection	98	4.0
Education	98	3.9
Clothing	98	4.0
<b>Average</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.8</b>

As demonstrated in Table 4.21 above, the findings indicate that food deprivation had the highest mean score of 4.6, suggesting a very large extent of lacking. This is followed by healthcare (mean score of 4.1), education (mean score of 3.9), and clothing (mean score of 4.0), all indicating a large extent of deprivation. Housing/shelter, water, love/affection, and education were rated as moderately deprived, with mean scores ranging from 2.9 to 3.6. Basic need deprivations have been widely recognized to create a challenging environment that can impair healthy development and increase the likelihood of delinquent behaviors as a means of survival or compensation.

### 4.6.3 Contribution of Basic Needs Deprivation to Institutionalization

The study sought to delineate the contribution of basic needs deprivation to institutionalization of delinquent children. Table 4.22 provides an overview of the results that were collected on a 5-point Likert scale.

**Table 4.22: Contribution of Basic Needs Deprivation to Institutionalization**

<b>Extent of Contribution</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
No extent	6	6.1%
Small extent	8	8.2%
Moderate extent	15	15.3%
Large extent	40	40.8%
Very large extent	29	29.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As illustrated in Table 4.22, data reveals that a substantial proportion of respondents reported experiencing a large extent and a very large extent (71.4%) of basic needs deprivation, contributing significantly to their institutionalization. This suggests a strong link between the lack of essential necessities and the risk of being placed in institutional care. On the other hand, a smaller percentage of respondents indicated no extent (6.1%) or small extent (8.2%) of basic needs deprivation, suggesting a comparatively lower impact on their institutionalization.

After providing their responses on the extent of basic needs deprivation contributing to their institutionalization, respondents were further asked to explain their choices. To get comprehensive information, key informants, Correctional Officers, Probation, After-Care Officers, Parent/Guardian were asked to elucidate how basic need deprivation drives teenagers into delinquency. The qualitative data obtained from the transcripts shed light on the reasons behind their selected extent on the Likert scale. Notably, the lack of essential necessities pushed some

individuals towards engaging in criminal activities as an alternative means to fulfill their needs. This included resorting to stealing or involvement in drug abuse as a way to cope with their frustrations and difficulties. Additionally, the absence of parents or guardians resulted in a lack of supervision and guidance, leaving the individuals vulnerable to negative influences and potential involvement in delinquent behaviors. Moreover, the lack of financial resources for school fees meant that these youths spent more time at home, increasing their exposure to risky behaviors and potentially associating with deviant peers. An informant had the following to say:

*“From my experience, inadequate parental involvement can lead to insufficient supervision, exposing adolescents to delinquency. When parents don't meet their children's basic needs, it drives some to street life and criminal activities. This often results in their placement in institutional care for rehabilitation and safety.”* K.I. 01 2023)

From the above verbatim emphasizes the crucial role of parental involvement and the provision of basic needs in shaping the lives of vulnerable teenagers. Inadequate parental involvement can result in a lack of supervision, making these adolescents susceptible to delinquent behavior influenced by peer pressure and negative influences. When parents fail to meet their children's basic needs, such as food, shelter, and support, these teenagers might be driven to seek alternative means of survival, including engaging in street life and criminal activities. This path not only exposes them to dangerous situations but also increases their susceptibility to peer pressure and negative influences that can push them further into delinquency. The quote underscores how the absence of essential parental support can contribute to a cycle of vulnerability, risky behavior, and potential involvement with the juvenile justice system. The result in the quote is in line with the perspective of Chen *et al.* (2021) who stated that low socio-economic status of the parents in addition to their inadequate parental involvement exposes teenagers to negative peer influence,

such as substance abuse and stealing, either as a way of numbing their frustrations or for survival. These activities are thought to increase their likelihood of being placed in remand homes waiting for court process and eventually taken to rehabilitation schools.

As a result of low family incomes, key informants noted that most of the girls/women placed in institutional care often reported lack of access to adequate sanitary towels. This unmet need compelled some girls to resort to stealing in order to meet their menstrual hygiene requirements. Moreover, the absence of adequate shelter led to homelessness for some respondents, forcing them to live on the streets and exposing them to further risks and engagement in delinquent activities. In the streets, teenagers have no jobs or access to basic necessities, such as food and clothing, which forces to seek for alternative means of survival. They steal and pickpocket as a way of survival and/or they are recruited into criminal gangs in order to have a sense of belonging or even protect themselves while in the streets, either from law enforcement personnel or from other street gangs. As a result, they are more likely to be reported, arrested, tried through the criminal justice system and eventually placed in institutional care. A Probation Officer had the following to say:

*“Having interacted with street children, it’s evident that street life exposes them to a harsh reality where survival often requires engaging in criminal activities. These children find themselves vulnerable to both law enforcement and other street gangs. Without proper shelter, food, or family support, they often resort to petty theft, begging, or even drug peddling to make ends meet. Unfortunately, this desperation draws them into the crosshairs of criminal elements, who exploit their vulnerability and recruit them into illegal activities. Law enforcement encounters become frequent as they try to navigate this dangerous environment, and the cycle of criminality becomes difficult to break.” K.I. 06, 2023)*

The above excerpt underscores a complex issue rooted in a combination of inadequate parenting, deprivation, and the challenges of street life. It highlights how street children, due to a lack of proper parental support and basic necessities, often find themselves compelled to engage in criminal activities for survival. The verbatim portrays the vulnerability of these children, caught

between law enforcement and other street gangs, as they struggle to navigate the harsh realities of street life. The root of this problem can be traced back to parenting styles and the deprived background in which these children originate. The inability of parents to provide essential resources such as shelter, food, and emotional support creates a vacuum that street life may fill. Deprived of a stable environment and proper care, these children are forced to fend for themselves in a harsh urban environment.

The verbatim highlights how inadequate parenting, which stems from their own disadvantaged circumstances, contributes to the children's exposure to criminal activities. This result resonates with the perspective of Fosten (2021) who affirmed that the desperation of street and/or homeless children to survive drives them to participate in petty theft, begging, and drug-related activities. This can be seen as a manifestation of the absence of authoritative guidance and positive role modeling that would otherwise deter them from such actions. As a result, these children become ensnared in a vicious cycle. The lack of proper parental support sets the stage for their involvement in criminal activities, exposing them to both law enforcement and exploitative street gangs. The absence of a nurturing home environment drives them to the streets, where they seek survival through dangerous means.

Contrary to the participants who reported a large and very large extent of basic needs deprivation, those who stated small or no extent (14.3%) acknowledged that while their parents failed to provide for their needs, they received alternative support from extended family members, such as uncles, aunties, and grandparents. This additional assistance partially mitigated the impact of the deprivation and provided them with some degree of support and stability. This result is in line with the views of Langat and Odhiambo (2021) who argued that the social support given by most

societies and non-governmental organizations has contributed to a reduction of delinquencies by offering social alternatives to teenagers vulnerable to criminal activities.

#### 4.6.4 Coping Mechanism

The study sought to establish the coping mechanism that respondents took advantage in order to survive with the inadequacy or unavailability of each of the basic needs. The question posed to the respondents and key informants was open-ended, signifying that qualitative data was solicited. Upon attaining the saturation point, collected data was thematically analyzed. Emerging coping mechanisms were visualized in Figure 4.7.

**Figure 4.7: Coping Mechanisms**

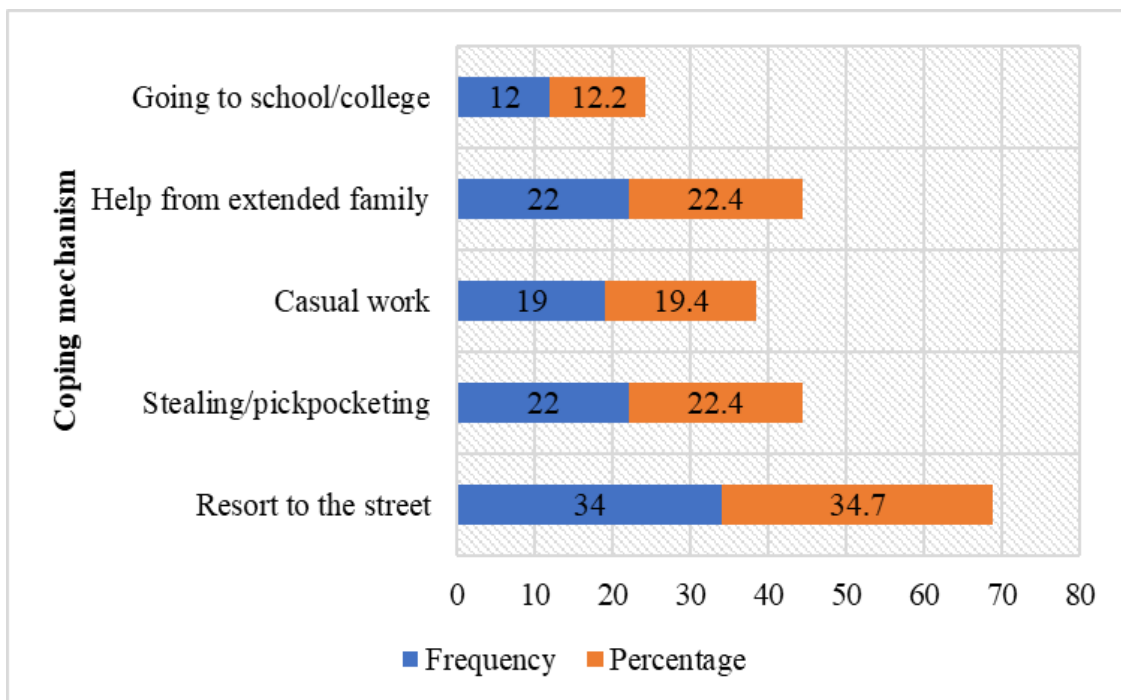


Figure 4.7 above visualizes coping mechanisms that were derived from the qualitative data analysis, reflecting the diverse ways in which individuals adapt to and cope with the basic inadequacies and needs. Among the coping mechanisms reported, 'Resort to the street' was the most frequently mentioned, with 34 respondents (34.7%) indicating that they turned to street-



related activities as a means of survival. This finding suggests that for a significant portion of the participants, the street environment provides opportunities for resource acquisition or support networks to navigate their challenging circumstances. Stealing/pickpocketing emerged as another prominent coping mechanism, with 22 respondents (22.4%) acknowledging engaging in such activities. This coping strategy highlights the desperation and resort to illegal means in an attempt to fulfill their basic needs. Casual work and seeking help from extended family were mentioned by 19 participants each, accounting for 19.4% of the occurrences. This implies that a considerable number of respondents sought temporary employment, such as picking/harvesting coffee or relied on assistance from their extended family members to cope with the inadequacy of basic needs.

Notably, going to school/college was reported by 12 key informants (12.2%), suggesting that education could be a pathway to resilience and improved circumstances, despite the challenges they face. This is not surprising given that other coping means are not entirely sustainable in the long-term. Key informants stated that the community has government and mission schools offering free primary education that needy children can take advantage of. Although most delinquent children do not consider education as a worthwhile option, Probation and After-care Officers were adamant that teenagers from deprived backgrounds ought to take advantage of free education as a positive distraction from involvement in criminal activities, such as stealing. In this view, a key informant has the following to say:

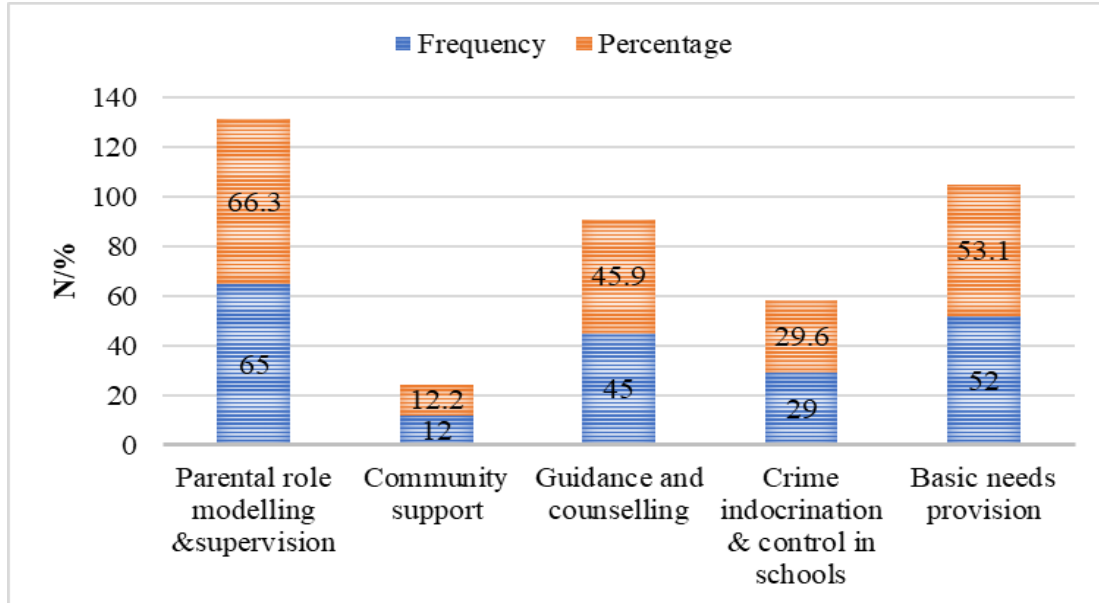
*“Empowering teenagers from deprived backgrounds with educational opportunities, whether through formal schooling, technical education, or vocational training, offers them a powerful tool to overcome day-to-day frustrations stemming from inadequate basic needs. Education not only equips them with essential skills but also fosters a sense of hope and purpose.”* K.I. 11, 2023)

The above verbatim underscores the transformative potential of education as a highly effective coping mechanism for teenagers facing the challenges of low socio-economic backgrounds. It emphasizes that rather than succumbing to negative alternatives, such as resorting to the streets or engaging in casual work, pursuing education, whether in traditional schooling, technical training, or vocational programs, offers a holistic solution to the day-to-day frustrations arising from the lack of basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter. The same sentiments were underlined by Jiang *et al.*, (2020) who stated that education empowers vulnerable youths through skills and renewed purpose. It breaks the cycle of deprivation by presenting a positive alternative to negative choices, fostering long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes. Education instills hope, providing opportunities for advancement that ultimately lead to improved well-being and brighter futures.

#### **4.6.5 Suggestions for Averting the Challenge of Teenage Misbehavior**

Through a qualitative inquiry, the study sought to establish from key informants, possible ways that can be leveraged to avert challenges associated with teenage delinquency. Results from analyzed data was analyzed using a thematic approach. To give meaning to the results, data was visualized in Figure 4.8.

**Figure 4.8: Averting Misbehaviour**



As illustrated in Figure 4.8 above, a majority of participants (66.3%) emphasized the importance of parental role modeling and supervision. This indicates that parents' behavior and active involvement in their children's lives play a crucial role in shaping their behavior and preventing misbehavior. Another significant suggestion, mentioned by 45.9% of informants, was the provision of guidance and counseling services. This stresses the need for professional support and guidance to help teenagers navigate challenges, develop coping mechanisms, and make positive choices. Informants also acknowledged the role of the community, with 12.2% expressing the importance of community support. This suggests that creating a supportive environment within the community can contribute to reducing teenage misbehavior by offering positive role models, mentorship, and recreational activities.

Further to the above, 29.6% of informants emphasized the need for crime indoctrination and control within schools. This suggests that implementing disciplinary measures and fostering a safe and structured school environment can deter delinquent behavior among teenagers. Notably,

53.1% of informants highlighted the significance of meeting basic needs, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education, as a preventive measure against misbehavior. Ensuring that teenagers have access to their fundamental needs can contribute to their overall well-being and reduce the likelihood of engaging in delinquent behaviors. It is the view of this study that the basic needs of the children should be met and parents should strive to conduct themselves as role models since family is the basic unit of society. This means that community support and crime indoctrination controls, alone, cannot reduce delinquency. Thus, it is important for families to live to what is expected of them, that is, basic units of socialization for norms, values, interpersonal relationships, and behaviours. In this view, a key informant had the following to say:

*“Understanding the family's crucial role as the primary unit of socialization highlights the significance of parents in instilling positive behavior in their children. Parents are not only responsible for fulfilling their children’s needs but also for nurturing their emotional and moral development. By fostering an environment of care, guidance, and good values within the family, parents establish the foundation for responsible behavior. This proactive approach should be prioritized before seeking reinforcement from the community or schools.”* K.I. 15, 2023)

The above quote underscores the pivotal role of families as the primary agents of socialization, emphasizing the critical responsibility of parents in nurturing positive behavior in their children. It highlights that parents not only fulfill the basic needs of their children but also play a central role in fostering emotional well-being and moral character. Through the creation of a supportive and values-driven environment within the family, parents lay the essential groundwork for the development of responsible behavior. The quote further emphasizes that this initial cultivation of proper conduct within the family unit is paramount. It asserts that the effectiveness of other

mechanisms for averting misbehavior, such as community support, guidance and counseling, and crime prevention initiatives, hinges on the foundation established during early upbringing. This finding agrees with Moitra and Mukherjee (2010) who affirmed that a strong code of conduct instilled at an early age within the family serves as the bedrock upon which other external influences build. Similar sentiments were shared by Bernburg (2019) who stated that while community, school, and other interventions can play a supporting role in averting misbehaviours by teenagers, they can only be truly effective when the core values and behavior patterns have been ingrained at the family level. This perspective underscores the lasting impact of family upbringing in shaping the character of individuals and sets the tone for a harmonious and well-adjusted society.

Notably, results in this section also details the importance of guidance and counseling, along with psychosocial support, as a crucial step in averting teenage misbehavior. This indicates the recognition that teenagers require not only guidance, but also emotional and social support to navigate challenges and develop healthy coping mechanisms. Furthermore, in relation to parental role modeling and supervision, the need for parents to spend more quality time with their children was underscored. This underlines the significance of parental presence and active involvement in the lives of their children, rather than relying solely on grandparents or other family members for caregiving. It is crucial for parents to be present to provide guidance, set positive examples, and establish strong connections with their children. Additionally, respondents emphasized the need for parents to avoid socially unacceptable behavior, particularly drug and substance abuse. Children often learn from their parents, who serve as their primary role models. Demonstration of responsible and morally upright behavior can enable parents to positively influence their children's attitudes, values, and choices.

#### 4.7 Pearson Correlation

Pearson correlation analysis was applied to examine the relationships between family background, parental discipline deprivation of basic needs and the associated problem behaviours by the delinquent children. Table 4.23 summarizes the strength and direction of the relationship between the predictor variables and outcome variable.

**Table 4.23: Pearson Correlation**

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Family Structure	Pearson Correlation	1	.549**	.596**	.366**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	98	98	98	98
Parental Discipline	Pearson Correlation	.549**	1	.577**	.673**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	98	98	98	98
Basic Needs Deprivation	Pearson Correlation	.596**	.577**	1	.685**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
	N	98	98	98	98
Problem Behaviour	Pearson Correlation	.366**	.673**	.685**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	98	98	98	98

**\*\*.** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The analysis revealed important findings regarding the relationship between predictor variables and the dependent variable (Problem Behaviour by delinquent children). Notably, family structure demonstrated a moderately weak positive correlation ( $r = 0.366^{**}$ ) with problem behaviour by delinquent teenagers, signifying that problem behaviour by delinquent teenagers is associated with family structure. The correlation was statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ), further supporting the validity of the relationship. Additionally, parental discipline exhibited a strong positive correlation ( $r = 0.673^{**}$ ) with problem behaviour by delinquent teenagers, indicating that the instructions and authority of parents tend to be associated with the level of misbehaviour of children. This

correlation was also statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). Similarly, basic needs deprivation showed a strong positive correlation ( $r = 0.685^{**}$ ) with problem behaviour, highlighting the significance of meeting the needs of the youths so as to eliminate and/or reduce misbehaviour. The correlation was statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). These findings emphasize the importance of family structure, parental discipline and availability of basic needs as mechanisms for regulating the behaviours of delinquent children.

# **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **5.1 Introduction**

This concluding chapter provides a summary of the research findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The general objective of the study was to assess the relationship between parenting styles and problem behaviours of institutionalized delinquent youths in Othaya Sub-County of Nyeri County, Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to assess the relationship between: family structure, nature and level of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers, the level of parental discipline and the nature of problem behaviour exhibited by the institutionalized teenagers, and the level of deprivation of basic needs and the associated problem behaviours by the delinquent children.

## **5.2 Summary of Findings**

This section provides a summary of the results of the study. The summary was presented in line with the objectives of the study.

### **5.2.1 Family Background and Teenager Misbehaviour**

The study's first objective was to investigate the correlation between family structure and the extent of misbehavior exhibited by teenagers. The findings indicated that the most prevalent family structure was nuclear families, followed by single-parent households, extended families, grandparent-led families, and step-families. Additionally, the study delved into the underlying causes of problematic behavior among delinquent adolescents. It identified factors such as low parental engagement, insufficient housing, neighborhood crime, substance abuse, and negative attitudes toward school as significant contributors to delinquency. The research underscored the



influential role of parents in shaping their children's behavioral issues, with many delinquent youths acknowledging their parents' responsibility or impact. The study emphasized that inadequate parental involvement and supervision, negative role modeling, inconsistent discipline, and a lack of emotional support and communication were key elements contributing to delinquency.

The study also examined the level of trust from family members and visitation patterns of institutionalized youths. The findings suggested that trust levels varied, with a moderate level of trust existing between the youths and their family members. Mothers and children's officers were the most frequent visitors, while fathers, aunts/uncles, and grandparents visited less frequently. The frequency of visits and the items brought by visitors were found to have a significant influence on the well-being and behavior of institutionalized youths. Regular visits and emotional support from family members were associated with positive outcomes, while limited family contact and support were linked to increased distress and negative behavior. Overall, the study emphasized the importance of family dynamics, parental involvement, and supportive visitation patterns in shaping teenage behavior. Notably, family structure demonstrated a moderately weak positive correlation ( $r = 0.366^{**}$ ) with problem behaviour by delinquent teenagers, signifying that problem behaviour by delinquent teenagers was associated with family structure.

### **5.2.2 Parental Discipline and Problem Behaviour by Institutionalized Children**

The study's second objective was to explore the connection between parental discipline and the nature of problem behavior demonstrated by institutionalized teenagers. The results revealed that a considerable number of respondents believed their parents or guardians were engaged in criminal activities, including theft, drug-related issues, assault, and fraud. The research also examined the

level of parental discipline and found that most respondents perceived their parents or guardians as having low levels of discipline. Institutionalized youths attributed their placement to family background factors such as lack of structure, neglectful parenting, minimal guidance, and excessive involvement. They also attributed their institutionalization to the actions and behavior of their parents or guardians, with a significant portion viewing them as having a considerable influence. The analysis of mothers' age at childbirth indicated a notable proportion of young mothers, suggesting potential inadequate guidance and support that might contribute to delinquent behavior among the youths. The study discovered a robust positive correlation ( $r = 0.673^{**}$ ) between parental discipline and problem behavior among delinquent teenagers, indicating that parental instructions and authority tend to relate to the level of misconduct displayed by children.

### **5.2.3 Deprivation of Basic Needs and Problem Behaviour by Delinquent Children**

The study's third objective was to explore the relationship between the absence of basic needs and the nature of problem behavior among teenagers. Analysis of the collected data revealed that a substantial majority of institutionalized youths encountered deprivation of fundamental necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing at home. This deprivation generated feelings of insecurity and vulnerability, which in turn resulted in various behavioral challenges including aggression, impulsiveness, difficulty focusing, and diminished self-esteem. The lack of basic needs emerged as a significant contributor to institutionalization, with a notable connection between deprivation and placement in institutional care. Adolescents adopted coping strategies such as turning to the streets, engaging in theft, pursuing temporary employment, and relying on extended family.

The study proposed several recommendations to address teenage misbehavior, including positive parental role modeling and supervision, access to counseling services, community support, crime prevention measures in schools, and addressing basic needs to enhance overall well-being and

reduce delinquency. Furthermore, the research emphasized the critical role of parents' presence, active participation, and the avoidance of socially unacceptable behaviors in positively shaping children's attitudes, values, and decisions. Notably, there was a robust positive correlation ( $r = 0.685^{**}$ ) between the deprivation of basic needs and problem behavior.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The study concludes that there is a robust and statistically significant relationship between family type/structure and problem behavior among delinquent children ( $P < .05$ ). Furthermore, it underscores the significant contribution of basic needs deprivation to the institutionalization of delinquent children, unveiling its association with a spectrum of behavioral issues and maladaptive coping mechanisms. Additionally, the research identifies a noteworthy association between parental discipline and problem behavior among institutionalized teenagers ( $P < .05$ ), as well as a significant link between parental involvement in criminal activities, low levels of discipline, and problematic behavior in this population. Moreover, the study underscores the critical connection between deprivation of basic needs and teenage problem behavior, elucidating how institutionalized youths' lack of essential necessities fosters behavioral issues and heightened vulnerability. The findings emphasize the pivotal role played by parental presence, active involvement, and avoidance of socially unacceptable behavior in shaping children's attitudes and choices, underscoring the multifaceted nature of the relationship between family dynamics, basic needs fulfillment, and delinquency.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made in light of the results and conclusions:

- i. It is recommended that Probation and After-Care Officers to provide targeted support to different types delinquent teenagers based on their individual family

structures/background. For single-parent families, interventions may focus on enhancing parental skills, offering support networks, and providing resources to alleviate the challenges faced by single parents. In extended families, host communities of delinquent children should promote effective communication and conflict resolution skills so as to help maintain harmonious relationships. Furthermore, Probation and After-Care Officers and host communities should offer educational programs aimed at promoting positive parenting practices and fostering healthy family dynamics should be implemented for all family types. This may help in changing attitudes of the teenagers with misbehaviours to live as law-abiding citizens.

- ii. It is crucial for Probation and After-Care Officers to provide parents and/or caregivers with the necessary tools and support to implement effective discipline strategies. Parenting education programs can be implemented to enhance parents/caregivers' understanding of discipline techniques that are both firm and nurturing. Additionally, offering counseling services to parents and/or caregivers can help them develop appropriate disciplinary approaches tailored to their child's needs upon release from institutional care. It is also important to address underlying factors contributing to low levels of parental discipline, such as parental involvement and inconsistent rule-setting
- iii. The study recommends that the basic needs of teenagers should be met by parents and/or caregivers, including access to food, shelter, and clothing. Collaborative efforts between government agencies, community organizations, and schools should be made to ensure that teenagers have access to social welfare programs, affordable housing, and adequate nutrition. Additionally, providing counseling services that address the emotional and

psychological consequences of deprivation can help teenagers cope with the challenges they face.

### **5.5 Areas for Further Research**

The study recommends for further research involving other factors associated with problem behaviour since the current research only studied three predictor variables. Notably, the study only focused on institutional care facilities at Othaya sub-county of Nyeri county, signifying that there is need for further research in other counties that have different ways of life and belief system. For instance, there should be a study in a Muslim dominated county to establish whether teenage delinquency differs across religions as noted in this study. Further research should be conducted to delineate the establish of institutional care in rehabilitating teenagers since majority of the studies appear to focus on the efficacy of custodial rehabilitation for adult convicts.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: Letter of Introduction

**Sila Juliet Nduku**

Dear Sir/Madam

**Subject: Masters Research Data Collection**

I am a Masters student at the University of Nairobi, conducting research on “*Parenting Styles and the Associated Problem Behaviours by Institutionalized Delinquent Youths in Othaya sub-county of Nyeri County in Kenya.*”. It is anticipated that this research will help to assess the nature and level of problem behaviours by delinquent youths and how family structure, parental discipline, and deprivation of basic needs is interconnected with institutionalized youths. This will assist administrators of juvenile correction institutions to understand the dynamics of institutionalized delinquent youths and what can be done to rehabilitate them. In a humble way, I appeal to you to fill the questionnaire in the way you judge the statements under each questionnaire item. The answers you provide will be used only for academic purpose. The answers you provide will be handled with strict confidentiality. Not even the researcher will know the identity of the respondents since questionnaires will be given random codes.

Thank you for taking time to participate in the study. Your input is appreciated. The findings if the study will be disseminated to you should you need them.

Yours Faithfully,

**Sila, Juliet Nduku**

**APPENDIX II: Interview Schedule for the Primary Respondents (Institutionalized children)**

**SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**1. Gender**

Male [ ] Female [ ]

**2. Level of education**

Primary [ ] Secondary [ ] No education [ ]

**3. Age**

.....

**4. Ethnic background**

.....

**5. Religious background**

.....

**6. Period of institutionalization presently**

Years..... Months.....

**7. How many times have you been reported/arrested/tried in court/institutionalized previously?**

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**8. a. If previously institutionalized, for how long?**

.....

**b. Where were you institutionalized?**

.....

**9. Which delinquency or misbehaviour (s) that led to your present institutionalization?**

Stealing/Mugging [ ] Robbery with Violence [ ] Drug Abuse [ ] Pick pocketing [ ] Rude behaviour [ ] Deviance Aggression [ ]

If other(s)? explain .....

10. How frequently will you rate the above misbehaviours? (where 1-low, 2-somewhat low, 3-moderate, 4-somewhat high, 5-very high)

Type of misbehaviour	1	2	3	4	5
Stealing/Mugging					
Robbery with Violence					
Drug Abuse					
Pick pocketing					
Rude behaviour					
Other (Specify and rank) .....					

11. While at home, whom do you live with?

.....

12. Have you lived with different families in different places

Yes [ ] No [ ]

13. If yes, how many families and where, exactly?

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.....  
.....

## SECTION B: FAMILY STRUCTURE, NATURE AND LEVEL OF TEENAGE

### MISBEHAVIOURS

Section B seeks information on the relationship between family structure, nature and level of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers.

#### 1. Family structure/background:

Which one of the following family structures is similar to yours?

Single parent family [ ] Nuclear family [ ] Extended family [ ] Grand-parent [ ] Same-sex family [ ] Step- family [ ] Racially diverse [ ] Culturally diverse [ ]

Other (Specify)

.....

.....

.....

2. How many times have you been accused of the following misbehaviours?

Type of misbehaviour	Number of times
Stealing/Mugging	
Robbery with Violence	
Drug Abuse	
Pick pocketing	
Rude behaviour	
Other (Specify and rank) .....	

3. Why did you get into bad behaviour? Explain.

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4. a.) Are your parents/guardian responsible in any way for your bad behaviour?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

Explain.

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b.) If yes, to what extent?

5. To what extent do your family members trust you?

No extent [ ] small extent [ ] moderate [ ] large extent [ ] very large extent [ ]

6. Who visits you while here and how frequently?

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7. What do they bring, or tell you when he/she/they visit you?

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**SECTION C: PARENTAL DISCIPLINE AND NATURE OF TEENAGE PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR**

Section C seeks information on the relationship between the level of parental discipline and the nature of problem behaviour exhibited by the institutionalized teenagers.

8. In your opinion, has any of your parent(s) or guardian been reported/arrested/tried or convicted for a criminal offense

Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, for what offense(s) and how many times

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9. How do you rank your parent(s) or guardian's level of good behaviour/discipline?

Cant tell [ ] Very Low [ ] Low Moderate [ ] High [ ] Very High [ ]

10. Why? Explain your choice of ranking above

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11. To what extent do you attribute your institutionalization to the nature of your family background?

1-No extent 2-small extent 3-moderate 4- large extent 5-very large extent

<b>Parenting style</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Authoritative styles-warmth and support					
Permissive style-lack of structure and rules					
Neglectful/uninvolved style-completely absent or uninvolved in the child's life					
Free range-minimal guidance from the parent					
Helicopter style- over-involvement and constant supervision					
Other (Specify and rank) .....					

12. Explain each of your choices above

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13. To what extent do you attribute your parent(s) or guardian(s) action(s) or behaviour for your institutionalization?

No extent [ ] small extent [ ] moderate [ ] large extent [ ] very large extent [ ]



14. How exactly are they/he/she to blame for your institutionalization? Explain.

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15. In what ways does the level of behavior of your parent(s) or legal guardian contribute to you ending up in juvenile correction institution?

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16. How old was your mother when she gave birth to you? Did she personally raise you? If not, who did it and up to what age?

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**SECTION D: DEPRIVATION OF BASIC NEEDS NATURE OF TEENAGE PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR**

Section D seeks information on the relationship between the level of deprivation of basic needs and the associated problem behaviours by the delinquent children.

17. Did you lack anything while at home?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

18. If yes, what exactly? specify

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19. If you lacked any of the listed basic needs, tick and show the extent of your need?

1-No extent 2-small extent 3-moderate 4- large extent 5-very large extent

<b>Basic need</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Housing/shelter					
Healthcare					
Water					
Sleep					
Food					
Love/affection					
Education					
Clothing					
Other (Specify and rank) .....					

20. To what extent did your basic needs deprivation contribute to your institutionalization?

No extent [ ] small extent [ ] moderate [ ] large extent [ ] very large extent [ ] Can't tell [ ]

21. Explain your choice above.

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22. While at home, how did you cope with the inadequacy or unavailability of each of the indicated needs?

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23. In your opinion, what can be done to avert the challenge of teenage misbehaviour?  
Give several suggestions.

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**APPENDIX III: Interview Schedule for Secondary Informants (Correctional Officers and Parents/Guardians).**

**PART A: INFORMANT' S PERSONAL PROFILE**

**1. Gender**

Male [ ] Female [ ]

**2. Social role**

Correctional Officers [ ] Probation [ ] After-Care Officers [ ] Parent/Guardian [ ]

**3. Years served in the juvenile correction institution? If other specify**

Years ..... Months .....

**4. If in employment, for how long?**

Years ..... Months .....

**5. Level of education**

Secondary school leavers [ ]

College/Diploma graduate [ ]

Bachelor's graduate [ ]

Post Graduate [ ]

**Parent/Guardian Information**

**6. What is your occupation**

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**7. Residential area**

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**8. Age**

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**9. Relationship with institutionalized child?**

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**10. Family problem experienced**

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**11. Why was your child/grandchild/niece/nephew referred to a juvenile correctional facility?**

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**SECTION B: FAMILY STRUCTURE, NATURE AND LEVEL OF TEENAGE**

**MISBEHAVIOURS**

Section B seeks information on the relationship between family structure, nature and level of misbehaviour by the respective teenagers.

**1. Family structure/background of parent(s)/guardian:**

Single parent family [ ] Nuclear family [ ] Extended family [ ] Grand-parent [ ] Same-sex family [ ] Step- family [ ] Racially diverse [ ] Culturally diverse [ ]

Other (Specify) .....

**2. How many times has your child/grandchild/niece/nephew been accused of the following misbehaviours?**

Type of misbehaviour	Number of times
Stealing/Mugging	
Robbery with Violence	
Drug Abuse	
Pick pocketing	
Rude behaviour	
Others (Specify) .....	

3. a.) Why do institutionalized and/or previously institutionalized teenagers get into bad behaviour? Prioritize the responses.

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4. Are parents/guardian responsible in any way for teenagers' bad behaviour?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

b.) If Yes or No, Explain.

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5. a.) Who visits institutionalized and/or previously institutionalized teenagers while in rehabilitation centres or remand homes?

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b.) How frequent are their visits (Rank them) 1-Never; 2-Rarely; 3-Sometimes; 4-Often; 5-very often

Who visits from 5a.	1	2	3	4	5

6. When visiting institutionalized and/or previously institutionalized teenagers, what do you bring to them or tell them when you visit?

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**SECTION C: PARENTAL DISCIPLINE AND NATURE OF TEENAGE PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR**

Section C seeks information on the relationship between the level of parental discipline and the nature of problem behaviour exhibited by the institutionalized teenagers.

7. Do you know of any parent(s) or guardian(s) who has been reported/arrested/tried or convicted for a criminal offense

Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, what offense and how many times

.....

8. How do you rank parent(s) or guardian's level of good behaviour/discipline?

Very Low [ ] Low Moderate [ ] High [ ] Very High [ ] Can't tell [ ]

9. Explain your choice of ranking

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10. To what extent do you attribute the following to your teenagers' institutionalization?

1-No extent 2-small extent 3-moderate 4- large extent 5-very large extent

<b>Parenting style</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Authoritative styles-warmth and support					
Permissive style-lack of structure and rules					
Neglectful/uninvolved style-completely absent or uninvolved in the child's life					
Free range-minimal guidance from the parent					
Helicopter style- over-involvement and constant supervision					
Others (Specify) .....					



11. Explain each of your choices above

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12. To what extent do you attribute children's institutionalization/misbehaviour to poor parenting?

No extent  small extent  moderate  large extent  very large extent  can't tell

13. a.) Are parent(s) or guardian is to blame in any way for teenagers' institutionalization?

Yes  No

b.) if No or Yes, explain.

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14. In what ways do the behavior of parent(s) or legal guardian contribute to the institutionalized of the teenagers?

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**SECTION D: DEPRIVATION OF BASIC NEEDS NATURE OF TEENAGE PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR**

Section D seeks information on the relationship between the level of deprivation of basic needs and the associated problem behaviours by the delinquent children.

15. Do delinquent teenagers lack anything while at home?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

16. If yes, what do they lack? Explain.

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17. If they lack any of the listed basic needs, tick and show the extent of their need?

1-No extent 2-small extent 3-moderate 4- large extent 5-very large extent

<b>Basic need</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Housing/shelter					
Healthcare					
Water					
Sleep					
Food					
Love/affection					
Education					
Clothing					
Other (Specify and rank) .....					

18. To what extent does basic needs deprivation contribute to teenager's institutionalization?

No extent [ ] small extent [ ] moderate [ ] large extent [ ] very large extent [ ] cant tell [ ]

19. Explain your choices above.

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20. While at home, how do institutionalized or previously institutionalized teenagers cope with the inadequacy or unavailability of each of the indicated needs?

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21. In your opinion, what can be done to avert the challenge of teenage misbehaviour?

Give several suggestions.

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