

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO RELAPSE  
OF REFORMED CONVICTS IN KENYA: A CASE OF VIHIGA  
DISTRICT, VIHIGA COUNTY**

**By**

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## DECLARATION

This Research Report is my original work and has never been submitted for award of a degree at the University of Nairobi or any other university.

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This Research Report has been submitted for examination with our approval as the University Supervisors.

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## **DEDICATION**

To my wife, Lilian A. Odhiambo, daughter Michelle A. Odhiambo and son David Capis Odhiambo (Seno), who have selflessly supported my academic pursuits, suffering both their financial and emotional consequences with disarming understanding.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<b>ABE</b>	-	Adult Basic Education
<b>CBS</b>	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
<b>CSJ</b>	-	Centre for Social Justice
<b>EFUS</b>	-	European Forum for Urban Safety
<b>FGD</b>	-	Focus Group Discussion
<b>GED</b>	-	General Education Development
<b>GED</b>	-	General Equivalency Diploma
<b>GoK</b>	-	Government of Kenya
<b>KPRC</b>	-	Kenya Prison Reform Centre
<b>NARC</b>	-	National Rainbow Coalition
<b>RODI-Kenya</b>	-	Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (Kenya)
<b>US</b>	-	United States
<b>USA</b>	-	United States of America
<b>USDoJ</b>	-	United States Department of Justice

## **ABSTRACT**

Incidences of repeat offending have remained elusive amidst major efforts in transforming the societies for betterment. Correctional institutions have tried all that could be done to address notable negative behavioral characters but little remains to be observed. According to the Kenya Prison Reform Centre (KPRC), nearly two thirds of prisoners in Kenya re-offend within two years of release. However, factors that compel reformed convicts to relapse even after leaving prisons are not well understood. This study therefore examined the socio-economic factors that contribute to the relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya, with a specific view of Vihiga district. The study examined the following specific objectives: investigated how unemployment has contributed to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District, examined Education as a factor in the relapse of reformed offenders within Vihiga District, analyzed the effects of drug abuse and how it has encouraged the relapsing of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District and assessed the attitudes of the community towards the reformed convicts and its effects in their relapse within Vihiga District. The study was guided by labeling theory to help understand how labels shape human behavior. The study area was Central Maragolli location of the Vihiga district. The total population of reformed convicts in the location was unknown due to the sensitivity of the attribute under study. The reformed convicts were therefore sampled through snowballing until saturation levels were reached. Simple random sampling was also done on Central Maragoli's house hold population of 5310 and a sample of 372 drawn based on Glen Israel's formula of determining sample size. The 372 households were targeted for a community survey. For the Ex-convicts, purposive sampling technique was utilized. 12 in-depth interviews were carried out with ex-convicts. The data collected was analyzed both quantitatively as well as qualitatively. The study findings pointed out that unemployment as a component of socio-economic factor contributed greatly to the relapse of the reformed convicts; with discrimination of the convicts leading the pack at 96.3%, suspicions rate at 83.9%, lack of locally viable skills at 83.9%, low educational levels and unmet ambitions at 64.9%. Educational level as a component of socio-economic factor contributed to the relapse of the reformed convicts with over 90% of those who recidivate being at primary levels while the number diminishes as one climbs higher levels in education. None was found to have relapsed at the University level of education. Drug abuse and addiction among the reformed convicts was also established to have contributed at 92.5% of the relapsed cases of the reformed convicts. Low and negative community attitude with heightened suspicions among the community members were among key factors that greatly contribute to the relapse of the reformed convicts. They have destroyed societal fibers meant to keep communities knit together. The study therefore concluded and recommended that; early identification and nurturing of local talents and individual initiatives be enhanced to reduce the future life explosion in the unemployment phenomenon. Programs that offer bursaries and other educational support as well as prevailing upon local leadership to initiate institutions of higher learning within the District to be enhanced in order to improve education standards. There is an argent need to domesticate and effectively implement the existing policy on drug use and abuse within the District. The already locally existing programs be effectively involved in transforming the negative community attitude toward the reformed convicts which increases their chances of relapsing after rehabilitation. Amongst others, the study proposed further research on challenges facing the Rehabilitation Programs on Offenders management within the community.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study as well as objective and research question. It also looks at the significance and basic assumptions of the study. The research limitations and delimitations are also covered. The chapter also looks at the definitions of significant terms as used in the study as well as the general organization of the study.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Crime and punishment have always been part of human society. Crime is as old as the human race. This is borne out of the fact that at all times in history, societies have had taboos, customs and laws designed to contain crime. Crime is an index of lawlessness and disintegration of social order (Hall *et al*, 1978). A 1992 United Nations report states, among other things, that crime impairs the overall development of nations, undermines spiritual and material well-being, compromises human dignity and creates a climate of fear and violence, which endangers personal security and erodes the quality of life (United Nations, 1992). Comparative analysis of crime rate statistics around the world remains complicated. Different definitions of what constitutes a crime make official crime statistics undependable, for one. Still, the United Nations initiative of global crime rates tracking, the World Crime Survey offers the most realistic and reliable figures (Madsen, 2006).

Globally, with the increase incidences of unemployment, drugs related crimes as well as soaring poverty situations the world over, re-offending (or relapsing into criminality) forms a large percentage of crimes committed. Several studies have shown this. For instance, a study

conducted in Connecticut, United States in 1994 followed 16,486 prisoners for a three year period to see how many of them would end up going back to prison (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2002). Results from the study found that over 37% of offenders relapsed into criminality and sent to prison again within the first three years of their released. Of the 16,486 prisoners, about 56% of them were re-convicted of new crimes (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2002). Similarly, in 2003 in the entire United States, 68% of males and 58% of females were re-arrested and 53% and 39% respectively were re-imprisoned for having relapsed, and charged with new crimes as well (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2002).

In Scotland, 45% of released prisoners relapsed within two years of their release (BBC News, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007). A study done in 2007 on the strategies for prevention of re-offending in Grundtvig Europe, shows that fewer people commit three quarters of all crimes in certain categories. These are people who have previous conviction records (European Forum for Urban Safety, 2007).

In the United Kingdom (U.K.) studies carried out reveals that majority of inmates incarcerated had no qualifications at school, which compounded their high rate of recidivism. Half of the 75,000 inmates followed who had not gained qualifications at school and suffered from poor literacy and numeracy skills, 52% of the male inmates and 71% of the female inmates had relapsed back to imprisonment within duration of two years of their release (literacy BC, 2005). Literacy tests devised by the Basic Skills Agency found that inmates reading skills were equivalent to that of 9 to 10-year olds. The 1998 results revealed that 60% had problems with literacy and 40% Federal offenders had severe literacy problems (Lily, 1996)

Much of the renewed interest in the history of crime and punishment over the past two decades has centered on various aspects of the nineteenth century notion of a criminal class. Although re-offending was widely regarded as the defining feature of the criminal class, little research has focused on systematic investigations of either differences between re-offenders and the rest of the prison population or the nature and extent of re-offending related differences in sentence outcomes (Sarkin, 2009). The purpose of sentencing and imprisonment (when used) should be the successful re-integration of the offender hence minimal cases of re-offence. However, relapsing back into criminality still represents a considerable percentage of crime statistics the world over. Generally, offenders who are arrested and/or convicted may not receive services that could reduce the risk of relapsing. It is often argued that convicts serve sentences that are void of plan or purpose. Apart from inadequate services, many offenders end up in prison where they are exposed to further negative and destructive influences (Dugan, 2008). The latest statistics indicate that over 9 million people are being held in penal institutions globally , either as pre-trial detainees (remand prisoners) or having been convicted and sentenced yet the relapsing back to criminality rate still remains high in the global scene (Dugan, 2008).

Regionally, the last quarter of the twentieth century witnessed an escalation of violent crime in Africa (Albert, 1998). It is seemingly evident that the punitive element characterized by imprisonment constitutes the dominant perspective of conventional African penal systems. This is further supported by the notion that a person is not normally considered punished unless that person is imprisoned. While different countries have varied re-offending rates in the entire African region, it is commonly accepted that the rates could be high and that many offenders are not in prison for the first time (Kibuka, 2001). A high rate of relapse into crime after reformation has been experienced in South Africa with statistics ranging between 55% and 95% within two

years of their release. Ghana on the other hand has a recidivism rate of 60% (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2002). In Algeria, at least 43% of convicted prisoners relapse upon release. This means that one out of every two prisoners commits a crime and returns to jail shortly after being released (Algerian Ministry of Justice, 2009). According to the Uganda Media Centre in the Office of the President, the relapsing rate of convicted prisoners in the country is 28% (Uganda Media Centre, 2009).

Nationally, from independence in 1963 up to the mid 1980s, Kenya was one of the most politically stable and peaceful countries in the continent (Gimode, 2001). However, from the mid-1980s began a wave of criminal violence, which has intensified with time. This gradually became endemic throughout the country. The crime reported in the daily mass media symbolizes the problems and tensions of changes in the socio-political and economic lives of Kenyans (Gimode, 2001). While official statistics on the exact rate of the relapse or re-offending in Kenya may be lacking, certain non-governmental interest groups have been keen on monitoring the trend of relapsing in the country. Nearly two thirds of prisoners in Kenya relapse within two years of release from prison (Kenya Prison Reform Centre, 2009). Another development organization, Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI-Kenya) is working to reduce re-offending, influence rehabilitation policy and reduce poverty among reformed offenders in Kenya. According to this organization, most offenders suffer destruction through loss of social and material resources due to imprisonment and personal destruction due to interacting with worse criminals and the appalling prison conditions. Ultimately, the reformed offenders falls back into crime and the cycle continues (RODI-Kenya, 2004). According to this organization, relapse into crime after successful completion of prison terms is a problem in Kenya and needs to be adequately addressed.



At the local scene, not only have crime rates increased as indicated by Annual Crime Reports from the police and reports from both the electronic and print media, cases of repeat offenders are common in the country (RODI-Kenya, 2004). Vihiga district has in the past recorded cases of offenders who have previous criminal history (Mars Group Kenya, 2009). It is reported that many criminals in the district are walking to freedom and committing further offences due to failure of witnesses to give evidence in courts. Concern has also been raised over failure by complainants to appear in court for fear of revenge attacks by the criminals upon release. Such incidences have affected the war against crime as most of the offenders engage in repeat offences. Due to the tendency, it is reported that the rate of crime and recidivism in the district has shot up (Mars Group Kenya, 2009). As a result of the belief that personal and societal factors may not contribute much to motivations for criminal behaviour, a study of this nature will be very important to highlight the underlying issues behind the rampant relapse into criminality after massive resources having been pumped into their full reformation in different rehabilitation institutions.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

It has been reported that crime and the rate in relapse of reformed offenders in Kenya has continued to increase. According to the Legatum Institute Prosperity Index, (2010) crime and re-offending rate in Kenya has hit 34.8% mark, within the last two years. This is an alarming point that calls for an urgent action particularly by those charged with responsibilities of maintaining law and order within the country. Prior to that report, the same organization pointed out in its annual world review that Kenya was placed 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in the world with respect to citizens' feeling of safety and security. (The Legatum Institute, 2010). This report rattled the conscious of the respective government's security organs and agencies and swift action had to be sprung into

in order to save the face of the country amidst the dropping level in the international tourism market, and in the world scene. A swift action by the Kenyan cabinet has rapidly ensured an immediate securing of the Kenyan borders by the military agent's action culminating into the current ongoing wars in Somali against the illegal militia group to contain insecurity issues emanating from across the borders especially by the Al-shabaabs.

Internally factors that exacerbate crime and relapsing back into criminality especially after spending massive resources in their imprisonment and consequent rehabilitation, have their roots in social and economic related factors with deficiencies such as corruption, weak institutional framework and inadequacy of policy to address insecurity, inequality of opportunities and weak family ties.

Vihiga district has been recording one of the highest crime and re-offending rates in the country. According to Mars Group Kenya (2009), an average of 10 people is arrested for the offence of robbery with violence in different parts of the entire Vihiga County on a monthly basis amongst other anti-social activities. Yet the rate of relapse after imprisonment and re-offending still remains high compared to other districts in the province. It has been evidenced that out of 100 imprisoned and successfully completing their jail terms in custody, more than half of that number would relapse within 2 years of their release back into their previous criminal activities (RODI-Kenya, 2004). While media reports show an increasing in crime incidences, police reports almost invariably give reports of decreasing crime index, eliciting doubts on the validity of such reports.

This study therefore seeks to fill this knowledge gap in the environment of the persistent internal crime by analyzing the socio-economic challenges that contribute to crime and the

relapse of the reformed convicts within the Vihiga County while suggesting a long lasting solution to address the root cause for effective addressing of the issue.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to examine the socio-economic factors contributing to the relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya; a case of Vihiga district within the Vihiga county.

### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The study aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To examine the extent to which unemployment as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.
2. To establish the extent to which educational level as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.
3. To assess how drug abuse and addiction as a component of socio-economic factor contribute to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.
4. To assess how the community attitudes towards ex-convicts as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.

## **1.5 Research questions**

The specific research questions therefore were as follows:

1. To what extent does unemployment as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District?
2. To what extent does educational level as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District?
3. How does drug abuse and addiction as components of socio-economic factor contribute to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District?
4. How has the community attitudes and perception towards the reformed convicts as a component of socio-economic factor contributed to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District?

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

It was hoped that the findings of this study would establish the underlying social and economic issues that have constantly derailed the rehabilitation efforts in transforming the ex-convicts into becoming fruitful members of the society hence leading to their relapsing into criminality after massive resources put towards their rehabilitation. These underlying issues once pointed out, would hence inform the policy makers as they come up with legal framework and policies to guide the implementation of the policies that address issues on criminal justice. It was also hoped that the study would build on the existing body of knowledge on issues that would lead to the improvements in the criminal justice system.

## **1.7 Basic Assumptions of the Study**

It was assumed that the sample would represent the population; the data collection instrument would have validity and measure the desired constructs; the respondents would answer questions correctly and truthfully, and that there would be enough resources to enable the research be completed in time as planned.

## **1.8 Limitations of the study**

Each geographical area has its own unique socio-economic and socio-cultural confounding factors to crime and re-offending (or relapsing). Generalizations based on the findings of the study were therefore quite limiting. Other limitations included not being able to speak the local language of the research participants as well as the expected small number of respondents for the study due to sensitivity of the topic under study. This posed as a challenge as it limited generalization of the results. This was adequately addressed by use of translators from the locals as well as by increasing the sample size in order to take care of errors based on such limitations.

## **1.9 Delimitation of the study**

The study was carried out in Central Maragoli Location of the Vihiga district. This location was selected since it had recorded the highest number of criminal cases reported, compared to the other locations. It had a house hold population of 5310 (as per the 2009 National Census report). Targeted therefore were the households, the ex-convicts as well as other key informants living in the area (eg. village elders, local administrators, youth leaders among others). The study was only for purposes of an academic study and therefore only examined the Socio-economic factors contributing to the relapse of the reformed convicts. Only the ex-

convicts within Vihiga District were targeted. Categories of the ex-convicts included juveniles and adults, males and females and those who have relapsed and either re-convicted or not re-convicted in court while re-offending. The research examined issues of re-arrest, re-conviction and any form of re-offence or law-breaking. Certain factors like hereditary, personality traits as well as other psychological factors which could equally affect the study were considered out of the scope for this study hence would not be considered in this study.

#### **1.10 Definition of Significant Terms as used in the Study**

**Relapse of reformed convicts**            the tendencies of those released from prison or other rehabilitation institutions to revert back to their previous criminal activities especially after their release from such institutions.

**Educational level**                            The highest academic attainment by an individual.

**Unemployment**                              Having no gainful engagement in terms of jobs for an income by an individual for self sustainability

**Drug abuse and addiction**                The tendency of using and misusing drugs for the purpose not medically approved. Overusing the prescribed drugs in order to achieve socially undesired end.

**Community attitude and perceptions**      the general community feelings and reactions towards individuals and issues around their environment

**Reformed convicts:**                      The offenders, who have been arraigned in a court of law, charged and incarcerated either into prison or a borstal institution and successfully completed their term.

### **1.11 Organization of the Study.**

This Project research Report has been outlined into 5 chapters. Chapter one deals with the introduction of the study. A background of the problem is given, followed by a statement of the problem. The researcher then gives the purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research question and the significance of the study. The researcher also gives the basic assumptions of the study, limitations and delimitation of the study. Chapter one finally ends with definitions of significant terms as used in the study.

Chapter two covers literature review. It begins with an introduction, then prevalence of relapse among the reformed convicts, which is followed by unemployment factors contributing to relapse, education level as well as drug abuse as factors in relapse by the reformed convicts. It then highlights the attitudes and perceptions of the community on the reformed convicts as well as both the theoretical and the conceptual framework. The chapter then finally ends with a summary of the literature review.

Chapter three covers research methodology of the study. It starts by giving an explanation of research design used followed by the target population, sample size and sampling procedure that was used. It then precedes on with data collection instruments where a description of how

the instruments were piloted and checked for validity and reliability is given. The chapter goes ahead to cover data collection procedures that were used the data analysis techniques and its interpretation before finally concluding with key ethical consideration that was put in place for the study of this nature.

The chapter four covers detailed analysis of the data that was collected. It proceeds by data presentation as was gathered from the field. It then interprets its implications and finally gives a comprehensive discussion on it.

Chapter five is the final chapter in this study. It has introduction, summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations for policy action. The chapter finally concludes with highlighting contributions to the existing body of knowledge and suggestions for further research.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Relapsing in criminality or re-offending has been a long standing phenomenon in human history. This chapter details out the main themes of the literature reviewed on Socio-economic factors in relation to the relapse of the reformed convicts. Covered in this chapter include detailed discussions on the prevalence of relapse among the reformed convicts, unemployment, poverty, and drug abuse issues that do influence relapsing in crime in a great way the world over. It further reviews the attitudes and perception of the community towards the reformed convicts. The chapter then concludes with a look at both Theoretical as well as Conceptual frame works, before a quick summary of the discussions thereafter.

#### **2.2 Prevalence of Relapse among the Reformed Convicts**

There are two major sources of statistics on the frequency of crime. Official statistics are the reports of crime that come to the attention of the judicial system. Unofficial statistics are measures of crime that may or may not have been brought to the attention of the authorities. Unofficial statistics offer some indication of the amount of hidden crime (Regoli & Hewitt, 1991).

According to Petersilia (2003), few released convicts find stable jobs or develop decent family relationships and two thirds are re-arrested within three years. Over a quarter are re-arrested for new crimes within just one year (Petersilia, 2003). According to the Smith Institute, the prison population in the UK was projected to reach over 90,000 by 2010, doubling in a generation (Smith Institute Report, 2008). Approximately 70% of those given community penalties and 76%

of those sent into custody re-offend. One third of prisoners lose their home while in prison, two thirds lose their job, over one fifth face increased financial problems and more than two thirds lose contact with their family. Such factors could lead to re-offending (Smith Institute Report, 2008). According to the Centre for Social Justice (2009), up to three quarters of young offenders and two thirds of other prisoners commit a new offence within two years of release. In Scotland, eight out of ten male offenders under the age of twenty one are likely to be re-convicted within two years of serving a sentence of six months or less (McNeill & Whyte, 2007).

Relapsing back into crime cuts across both children and adults. According to a researcher at the Australian Institute of Criminology (2007), within three months of being released from jail, one in four prisoners will be re-convicted for committing another offence. Over one third of prisoners will be back in prison within two years. More than half of the children released from juvenile detention will be re-convicted within six months (Jason, 2007). The need for clearly defined dispositional criteria is best illustrated by the overview of current jailing and institutionalization practices. Lack of dispositional guidelines is an especially serious problem in light of a growing body of literature which demonstrates that institutionalization *per se* may be harmful. Of equally grave concern is the fact that institutionalization is not an effective means of rehabilitation. Generally, studies reveal that institutionalization is no longer effective in reducing recidivism than alternatives that do not involve incarceration. Further, many incarcerated offenders, particularly status offenders, do not require secure confinement (Krisberg *et al*, 1986; Schwartz, 1989).

Since independence, the Kenyan government has continued to promise its citizens protection from crime and criminal activities. Reports on crime have been made available, the primary purpose being the measurement of the prevalence of crime, particularly to know whether

crime had increased or decreased in order to inform crime control policy and practice. There is however need for measuring the distribution of crime by a variety of social, demographic and geographic characteristics. It is therefore important that the multiple indicators of crime best inform research, theory, policy and practice (Regoli & Hewitt, 1991).

In 2007, Kenya launched a National Crime Research Centre as insecurity soared in the country. The centre was launched to provide scientific findings on the causes of crime and how they can be tackled. The crime rate in Kenya rose by 51% between 1994 and 2000 (Xinhua News Agency, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007). According to the Kenya Prison Reform Centre (KPRC), a non-profit organization founded in 2001, nearly two thirds of prisoners in Kenya re-offend and relapse back into criminal behaviors within two years of release (Kenya Prison Reform Centre, 2009). Vihiga district within Vihiga County has in the past recorded higher cases of repeat offenders than other parts of Kenya as explained by the Mars Group Kenya (2009). According to this group, criminals and suspects within the region are walking to freedom due to failure by witnesses to give evidence in courts. Concern has been raised over failure by complainants to appear in court hence hampering the prosecution of cases. Police are obliged to withdraw cases due to failure by witnesses to give evidence hence affecting the war against crime and contributing to cases of re-offending (Mars Group Kenya, 2009). Serious crimes such as robbery with violence, defilement and rape among others are struck off by the courts when witnesses fail to turn up. Due to the tendency, the rate of crime and relapse into criminality in the districts has shot up. This study will therefore assess the factors that influence relapse into criminality among the reformed convicts, given the fact that prisons are meant to be correctional facilities. Through the findings of the study, proposals will be made for the strengthening of offender management systems,

better law and order as well as the adoption of relapsing prevention systems. Based on this, there should be hope of a reduction in crime rates currently witnessed.

### **2.3 Unemployment Factor in the Relapse of Reformed Convicts**

A primary cause of relapsing into crime is the greatest difficulty for reformed convicts in obtaining employment opportunities after their release from the prison. Without employment, reformed convicts are three to five times more likely to re-commit offences especially those that relate to property and offences against the person (Regoli & Hewitt, 1991)

The lack of organized transitional services often leads reformed convicts (ex-convicts) straight back into the prison system (Cnaan 2008). He evaluated the social service capacity for ex-prisoner re-entry and found that there is a strong need for inter-agency collaboration and information sharing. According to Cnaan (2008), investment in human capital for ex-offenders to obtain employment and education is essential for a successful transition back into society and for lowering the chances that an ex-offender will return to prison. According to this argument, most reformed offenders end up mainly committing further offences following the lack of appropriate measures to re-integrate them back into the society as well as the failure to economically empower them (Cnaan, 2008).

The relapsing rate among working reformed convicts in the U.S.A. is almost half that of those who are dependent on welfare or the jobless (Independent News and Media Limited, 2009). Reformed convicts' economic disposition is an important determinant in their relapsing according to this news agency. Every year in the US, about 650,000 people are released from state and federal prisons across the country. But according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than half of those released will be in some form of legal trouble within three years. Some

prisoners' advocates see a correlation between discrimination in hiring practices and relapsing rates (United States Department of Justice, 1994).

It has been noted that more than half of all people leaving prison or on probation in the US are unemployed (Anderson, 2008). The New York Department of Labour found that 83% of offenders who violated probation or parole were unemployed at that time (New York Department of Labour, Unpublished). More than half of all people leaving prison or on probation are unemployed. In a study conducted in the United States by the Justice Department, the rate at which inmates released from state prisons commit new crimes rose from 1983 to 1994, a time when the number of people in prison doubled. The report found that 67% of inmates released from state prisons in 1994 committed at least one serious new crime within three years. According to this report, there are many factors that are involved in the high rate of re-offending, among them poverty, unemployment and the abuse of drugs.

California in the US regularly ranks among the top five most recidivist state in the world (Brown *et al.*, 2007; The New York Times, 2008). A high rate of relapse in crime is problematic for individuals, communities, and the corrections system as a whole. For returning offenders, an increased likelihood of relapse generates a stigma, making jobs and housing more difficult to acquire. From a community standpoint, higher recidivism rates necessarily means higher crime rates, which drain resources and disrupt community function. Most disturbing, high rate in their relapse create a destructive cycle of “catch and release” that compromises the short- and long-term effectiveness of the entire corrections program (Brown *et al.*, 2007)

In Kenya, the mismatch that exists between the aspirations of young people and the Opportunities available to them enhance their chances to recidivate especially after release from incarceration. The majority of young Kenyans have high hopes and ambitions. However, a

demographic bulge of young people, poor macroeconomic performance, a lack of labor market opportunities, an education system that suffers from problems of access, quality, and relevance, as well as equity and a society that negates the self-expression of young people mean that many young people are unable to translate their aspirations into a productive and fulfilling future. High expectations, disappointing employment and life prospects, and marginalization among young people can fuel frustration and desperation. In response, some of these youths turn to criminal behavior, violence, substance abuse, and commercial sex work. These activities have negative repercussions on the young people themselves and contribute to growing physical insecurity for society as a whole. Once a youthful offender is out of prison and cannot get gainful employment, his chances of relapsing into criminality is greatly enhanced. (UN-HABITAT, 2007)

It can hence be concluded that an increase in property crime rates can be explained, in part, to an increases in unemployment rates.

#### **2.4 Educational Level and the Relapse of the Reformed Convicts**

Education has been defined as the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes by individuals so as to be able to fit well and live in harmony within a society (Porporino and Roinson 1992). Education and knowledge has been taken to be synonymous. However knowledge built up in a systematic way enhances ones education level. To a large extend, lack of appropriate education has been argued out as one of the contributing factors in the involvement to crime and criminal activities in general.

In the US, according to the National Center for Education and Statistics, 19% of the adult inmates' population were completely illiterate in the early 1990s and 40% were functionally illiterate (i.e. unable to write a letter explaining a billing error). Comparatively, the national

illiteracy rate for adult Americans stood at 4% with 21% of those identified, functionally illiterate (US Department of Education, 1992).

Like their juvenile counterparts, adults involved in crime are severely undereducated. Maguire and Pasore (1996) noted that over 70% of all offenders entering correctional facilities in the 1990s did not complete high school, with 46% having had some high school education and 16.4% having had no high school education at all. Similarly the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2000) reports that 13% of parolees have an education level below eighth grade whilst 45% have an education level between the ninth and eleventh grade.

In the United Kingdom (U.K.) half of the 75,000 inmates gained no qualifications at school and suffer from poor literacy and numeracy skills. 52% of male inmates and 71% of female inmates had no school qualifications. Literacy tests devised by the Basic Skills Agency found that inmates reading skills were equivalent to that of 9 to 10-year olds. The 1998 results revealed that 60% had problems with literacy and 40% Federal offenders had severe literacy problems.

In Canada federal offenders undergo standardized testing upon admission to correctional facilities to determine the grade level achieved or at which the offender functions. Educational programs are then tailored to the individual educational levels of offenders, beginning instruction at the offenders' current achievement level.

During the early 1990s it was found that the average educational level of federal offenders upon admission was grade 7.5 (Correctional Service of Canada, 1995). Similarly, Lily (1996) reported that over 60% of offenders tested below the high school level upon admission to prison. It is also reported that as many as 75% of Canadian inmates have low literacy skills, 36% of the offenders

have not completed Grade 9, and the average educational level of newly admitted offenders serving a sentence of two years or more is Grade 7 (literacy BC,2005)

Research indicates that certain carefully designed and administered programmes can improve offender behavior and reduce recidivism. According to the Federal Bureau of Prison (Herer, 1994) there is an inverse relationship between recidivism rates and education. The more education received the less likely an offender is to be rearrested or re-incarcerated.

It has been found that most offenders come from low-income, urban communities, which are the most likely to be underserved in terms of educational programmes (Petersilia, 2003). There also seem to be a strong link between low level of education and high rates of criminal activity and one of the best predictors of adult criminal behavior has been found to be involvement in the criminal justice system as a young offender (Petersilia, 2003). While literacy and poor academic performance seem not to be direct causes of criminal behavior, young offenders who have received inadequate education or who exhibit poor literacy skills are disproportionately found within the criminal justice system (OSI, 1997).

Although correctional programmes are not an all-cure, details on the four educational areas (primary, secondary, tertiary and social education) highlighted here show that offenders with higher levels of education tend to have lower recidivism rates as follows;

In the U.K's correctional institutions, primary education refers to adult basic education (ABE) or literacy programmes which focus on reading, writing and numeric skills for adult offenders who function below the fifth grades level. It was discovered that literacy skills are important in corrections-based education in several ways; reading is a way to pass the time whilst incarcerated, letters writing were a vital link with the outside world, and offenders often have to



fill in forms to make requests and some jobs require basic literacy skills to succeed in the labour market once offender leaves the institutions.

Research demonstrates that literacy programs can be active in transformation of the offenders. Newman et al. (1993) maintains that successful offender literacy programmes are learner-centered and recognize different learning styles, cultural backgrounds and multiple illiteracies.

Porporino and Roinson (1992) monitored 1736 ABE participants released from Canadian prison in 1988. Among those who completed the ABE programme (equivalent to completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the U.S), 30.1% were re-admitted to prison during the follow-up period. Recidivism was 35.5% among those who were released from prison before the ABE programme could be completed, and 41.6% among those who withdrew from the ABE programme. The researcher also reported that the effect of ABE programme participation was especially effective among higher risk offenders.

Brunner (1993) argues that the recidivism rate can be reduced by 20% or more for juveniles involved in quality reading – instruction programmes. A five-year follow-up study conducted by the Arizona Department of Adult Probation concluded that probationers who received literacy training had a significantly lower re-arrest rate (35%) than the control group (46%) (Siegel, 1997).

Secondary or general educational development (GED) programmes are primarily presented to offenders who function above the fifth grade level in the U.K. correctional Institutions and prepare offenders to obtain a high school equivalency certificate ( also referred to as a general equivalency diploma (GED).

Gerber and Fritsch (1995) conducted an assessment of 14 studies of pre-college education programmes, examining post-release recidivism. Of the seven studies that received the highest methodology score, three found no relationship between educational programmes and recidivism, and four showed inverse correlations (the more education, the lower the recidivism).

In addition to recidivism measures, Gerber and Fritsch examined four studies that investigated the relationship of educational programme participation in education as criterion variables. Three of the four studies of post-release employment found that inmates who participated in or completed prison education programmes were more likely to be employed after release. Both of the studies that examined post-release participation in education showed that inmates who participated in educational programs while imprisoned were more likely to continue that participation in the community after release.

In a study conducted during 1988 – 1994 in Australia on the impact of correctional education on recidivism, Siegel (1997) revealed that offenders who received secondary education had a re-arrest rate of 24% compared to the control group's rate of 46%.

Tertiary or higher education refers to college and university level education. Various studies conducted in the US reveal that inmates participating in higher education programmes report significantly low recidivism rates ranging from 1% to 15.5% (Bettendorf, 1996). A study conducted on degree holders leaving the Texas Department of Criminal Justice reveals that the recidivism rate was 15% compared to the general recidivism rate of 60%. A two year follow up report found that the overall recidivism rate for degree holders was 12%. Associate degree holders had a recidivism rate of 13.7%, offenders with bachelor's degrees had a rate of 5.6% and those with master's degrees did not recidivate (Tracy & Johnson, 1994)

Johnson and Smith (2003) postulate that 60% of inmates who are released from prison without receiving any additional education will recidivate. However, if an offender who is released has a high school education, the risk of returning to prison is reduced to 24%; if the offender has two years of college education, the recidivism rate drops to 10%; at four years of college education the rate drops to 5.6% and at postgraduate degree holders have no recidivism rate.

Gerber and Fritsch (1994) examined 14 studies on the effect of college education in prisons. Measurement of programme participation varied across studies, from simple measures of participation, the completion of 12 college credit hours, to the completion of a college degree. Overall, Gerber and Fritsch (1994) found that most studies (10 out of 14) report an inverse relationship between college education and recidivism. As participation in college programmes increased, recidivism rates decreased.

Social education is often referred to as life or cognitive skills training. Some programmes focus on skills needed for daily living such as hygiene, social interaction and basic financial management. Other areas that are commonly covered include personal awareness and development, crime awareness, sexuality and gender sensitivity programmes.

Another dimension is employability (interpersonal skills) which refers to a set of generic skills, attitudes and abilities considered by employers when examining potential job candidates. These skills include self-esteem, interpersonal communication, problem solving, conflict resolution, teamwork and leadership abilities (Latendresse & Cortoni, 2005). Moreover, survey results with Fortune 500 companies confirm that employers value generic employability skills above job-specific skills (Latendresse & Cortoni, 2005). The focus on teaching offenders general employability skills as opposed to job-specific skills has become increasingly important and has

been introduced in Canadian correctional employment programmes (Fabiano, LaPlante &Loza, 1996).

Generic employability skills have the advantage that they are transferable and applicable across various work environments. Job-specific skills might be important for the offender's existing institutional employment; however, many offenders will not be able to find the same employment outside the corrections setting (Latendresse & Cortoni, 2005).

Empirical data available suggests that basic community skills have had an effect on recidivism. Wilkinson (2001) in Seiter & Kadela, (2003) describes a study of inmates who were transferred to a pre-release centre and received extensive programming on how to prepare a resume, search for a job and respond to a job interview within the last six months of their sentence. Aspects such as counseling regarding reuniting with family and friends and what to expect in these relationships, how to open a bank account and apply for a credit and how to find a place to live were also included in the programme. These interventions seemed to have great impact in the lives of the reformed offenders after their incarceration as they enabled them to face life with confidence and great stability thereafter.

Gerber and Fritsch (1994) and MacKenzie (2000) report on a small group of studies that probed the effect of life skills or social education training. They found these programmes, in many respects, to be key in reducing the recidivism rate among the reformed convicts. In as much as it is difficult to evaluate compared with traditional academic or vocational education programmes, its impact is enormous among the later lives of the reformed convicts. In the first place it was found that the content of these programmes varies widely. Secondly, impact of employability skills is diverse, far and wide in content. Despite its diversity there has been an

enormous improvement in the general psychosocial dimensions of the future lives of the reformed offenders (MacKenzie, 2000)

## **2.5 Drug Abuse Causes to the Relapse of Reformed Convicts**

A drug is any substance or product that once taken in the body is capable of causing physiological and psychological changes. Drugs or substance abuse can be defined as the continuous use of a mind-altering substance for any reason other than its acceptable medical purpose (Wood *et al.* 2008).

Drugs can be grouped into illicit and licit, natural and synthetic. Most countries have legislation designed to criminalize use of illicit drugs where the use or distribution of these substances is considered a criminal offence (Nyakwana, 208).

Drug and substance abuse has continued to spread. An estimated 4.7% of the global population aged 15 to 64 (about 185 million people) reportedly use illicit drugs annually. It has had devastating effects on mankind in many parts of the world. This problem is growing especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The total cost in this region is not clear as a valid data is lacking. (Wood *et al.* 2008)

Drug abuse may have negative health effects on the body and result in social problems, physical dependence or psychological addiction. In one way or another, almost all drugs over stimulate the pleasure center of the brain, producing euphoria. That heightened sense of pleasure can be so powerful that the brain wants that feeling back, again and again. Drugs also cause increased energy, rapid heart rate and elevated blood pressure. Continued use causes rapid breathing, irritability, impulsiveness, aggression, nervousness, insomnia, weight loss, tolerance,

addiction and possible heart failure. These drugs also cause impairments in cognitive functions, which negatively affect memory and one's ability to learn (Nyakwana, 208)

The most commonly abused drugs in many sub-Sahara Africa include tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin and Khart (miraah) among others.

Alcohol intoxication often leads to a host of social problems. It has damaged the traditional value systems and negatively impacted on all facets of humanity. The breakdown in value system is reflected in increased incidences of date and gang rape, vandalism, difficult relationships and academic failures (Wood *et al.* (2008)

In Kenya, there has been a corresponding relationship between drug and rise in mass indiscipline in learning institutions; high rate of road traffic accidents; rise in family breakdowns or disruptions; increased homicides and suicides. Poor judgment and irresponsibility after intoxication have contributed to road traffic accidents, accidents in the work places, and predisposing individuals to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS from unprotected sex (Nyakwana T., (208).

Due to its addictive nature, the continued use of the drugs often leads to massive arrests and subsequent convictions of the offenders. In the event that one completes the prescribed sentence, if an immediate intervention is not immediately availed, the addiction nature will in the long run results an individual to recidivate, hence a relapse to his previous criminal activities.

There are many types of drugs commonly abused the world over with serious relapse consequences on the reformed offenders. In Africa region, Wood *et al.* (2008) highlights the following drugs as the commonly abused especially by the reformed convicts: Cannabis sativa with many street names such as *marijuana*, *bhanga*, *ganja* and many other local names yet to be

identified. Cocaine is another drug extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. Its common street names include; *snow, Crack, Lady, bazuka, crude and snow dust*. Its prolonged use can trigger paranoia. Its mode of administration by use of injection increases the HIV/AIDS infection.

Heroin is another highly addictive drug derived from morphine, which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a depressant that affects the brain's pleasure systems and relieves pain. Its other street names include; big H, black tar, brown sugar, dope and smack.

*Catha edulis* also known as miraa or Khat is another drug that has been used for a long time because of its psycho-stimulating effects. It is mostly for relaxation since it produces euphoria. It suppresses appetite, and hunger, and makes one alert, also used to facilitate communication at social events and to suppress sleep fatigue. Khat is associated with Psychosis, Hallucinations and Erectile Dysfunction in men.

Cough suppressants is another variety of suppressants sold over the counter of common colds containing dextromethorphan (DXM) as an ingredient. Other street names include Dex, Robo, Skittles, Triple C and Tussin. The effects of DXM include; confusion, dizziness, double or blurred vision, slurred speech, impaired physical co-ordination, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting rapid heartbeat, drowsiness, numbness of fingers and toes, and disorientation. DXM is also abused with other drugs or alcohol, which can increase the dangerous physical effects. Inhalants are other ordinary house hold products that are inhaled or sniffed by children to get high. There are hundreds of house hold products on the market today that can be misused as inhalants. They include nail polish remover, glue, cleaning fluids, hair spray and gasoline. Stimulants are another category. They include Methamphetamine (Meth) which is an addictive stimulant that strongly activates certain systems in the brain. Other names include Chalk, Fire,

Glass, Meth, Tweak or White Cross. It is a crystal like powdered substance that sometimes comes in large rock-like chunks and can be taken orally, injected, snorted or smoked. Prescription Drugs are ones genuinely directed by physicians. Although most people take prescription medications responsibly, there has been an increase in the non-medical use of prescription drugs leading to serious addiction, hence relapsing. The three classes of prescription drugs that are most commonly abused are; Opioids - most often prescribed to treat pain, Central nervous system (CNS) depressants mostly used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders and Stimulants - which are prescribed to treat the sleep disorder narcolepsy and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

## **2.6 Socio-Cultural Causes to Relapse of Reformed Convicts**

Administration of justice is one of the fundamental pillars of a democratic order. In recognition of this, there is need for the monitoring and analysis of crime and justice trends. The literature of restorative justice and re-offending consists largely of comparative analyses of traditional and restorative interventions and suggests small but significant differences or no differences in re-offending (Sarkin, 2009).

The modern class structure found in capitalism inhibits tendencies toward mutual helpfulness and instead fosters social irresponsibility (Leonard, 1982). This is because the egoistic tendencies of capitalism have “weakened the moral force in man which combats the inclination toward egoistic acts, and hence towards the crimes which are one form of these acts” (Bonger, 1967). According to Bonger (1967), crime and delinquency reflects the egoistic behaviour fostered by the desire to get ahead, to think only of personal needs and desires, or by “looking out for number one” (Bonger, 1967).



In anomie theory, Merton (1957) argued that in a competitive and materialistic society, in which success through legitimate avenues is attainable by relatively few individuals, those persons unable to achieve success are likely to choose deviant modes of adaptation to deal with their failure. Retreatism, as an adaptation, involves rejection of both the cultural goal of success and the approved means to achieve success. Merton suggests that moral scruples prevent the individual from choosing criminal means to achieve success as well. Cloward & Ohlin (1960) believe that it is not the constraint of the person's scruples, but rather the lack of opportunity to utilize illegitimate means in the pursuit of success (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960).

Merton (1957) concluded by explaining anomie theory as the non-functioning of norms in a society i.e. one must work to earn a living and if this is blocked by the non-functioning of the norms in the same society e.g. one's right to gainful living through the attainment of a job, then one would automatically result into crime and other deviant behaviors.

Few people would dispute that most jails are extremely old and generally deteriorated. The physical plant of the typical jail is inadequate to meet the needs of adult prisoners, if not unsafe for habitation. A former administrator in the United States Department of Justice during the early 1970's provided the following assessment: "Jails are festering sores in the criminal justice system. There are no model jails anywhere; we know, we tried to find them....Jails are, without question, brutal, filthy cesspools of crime..... institutions which serve to brutalize and embitter men" (Goldfarb, 1975). This statement means that the poor state of prisons in terms of facilities play a role in further encouraging inmates to gain more sophistication in crime commission upon release.

Being exposed to harsh conditions in prisons has a bearing on inmates' lives even after release. Apart from inadequate services, many offenders end up in prison where they are exposed to further negative and destructive influences. Imprisoning high numbers of offenders has not been demonstrated to enhance public safety or act as a deterrent to would be offenders; the evidence points in the opposite direction. A study was carried out in 1999 in Barcelona, Spain to examine the effects of custodial versus non-custodial sentences on re-offending revealed this fact. Based on this study, findings suggest that prison sanctions do not reduce re-offending or relapse back into criminality more effectively than suspended sentences; however the risk of re-offending increases when the offender is imprisoned. Although specific deterrence theory should be interpreted as the suppression effect of the first experience of imprisonment, this research is not compatible with this theory since the increase in the risk of re-offending following imprisonment applies both to offenders imprisoned for the first time, as well as to offenders with previous convictions. The results of this research are therefore compatible with labeling theory which proposes that prison is likely to lead to higher rates of re-offending hence a relapse into criminality compared to a suspended sentence.

In order to reduce the relapse into criminality, it seems reasonable enough to replace imprisonment with non-custodial sentencing: this is especially important when the offender has no previous experience of imprisonment. With high risk-offenders, the risk of re-offending increases if the penalty is imprisonment and the relapsing rate is also very high when the penalty is a suspended sentence (National Criminal Justice Service, 1999) (Data was collected from 1,418 offenders sentenced in 1998 by the criminal courts of Barcelona for an offence for which the maximum penalty was no more than three years of imprisonment). High imprisonment rates therefore contribute to the very conditions that give rise to high crime rates.

A study by Hedderman (2008) done on Britain's Titan prisons shows that sending more people to jail could result in a high rise in the proportion of criminals who relapse into criminality. Hedderman, a former senior Home Office Researcher in the USA has shown a direct relationship between the expansion of the prison population and the growth in percentage of prisoners re-convicted within two years of leaving jail. This is a major concern. According to this study, this trend has led to increase in re-offending hence a relapse as those serving shorter sentences have their lives disrupted and are forced to come into contact with more serious criminals (Hedderman, 2008). Based on Hedderman's findings, given the increase in crime rates in Kenya, it could be argued that imprisonment may not be an effective crime control tool because it could create or compound the factors that contribute to the high risk of relapse in criminality.

Imprisonment has been the standard and most widespread practice in the Kenyan criminal justice system. However, as more people are sent to jail, the proportion of those re-convicted after release goes up. This therefore suggests that sending more people to prison could result in a huge rise in the proportion of criminals who re-offend hence relapsing. Such sentiments are echoed by RODI-Kenya, a development organization which proposes rehabilitative rather than punitive measures if criminals are to be effectively dealt with. After completing their jail terms, most ex-convicts return home worse off: poorer, hardened, stigmatized, traumatized and fearing revenge and rejection by the community. Ultimately, the reformed convicts falls back into crime and the cycle continues (RODI-Kenya, 2004).

The Kenyan penal system has focused more on the punitive elements rather than rehabilitative elements of offender management. This is despite the current proposed reforms within the newly enacted constitution in 2011. With high levels of unemployment and poverty, crime is rampant in Kenya. Following too little or no rehabilitative measures for managing

criminals, a relapse into criminality is often the only option for prisoners upon release (Ngunjiri, 2006).

## **2.7 Attitudes and Perceptions of the Community towards the Reformed Convicts.**

A French sociologist Emile Durkheim claimed that crime and delinquency are an integral part of all healthy societies because they arouse community passions against the offenders and bind the rest of the people together for social support (Durkheim, 1964). Durkheim believed that crime was both normal and functional. In Durkheim's view, crime is nothing more than a consequence of the creation and application of norms. It is because some behavior is "wrong" that other behavior is deemed "right". According to social control theory, crime is the result of an absence or weakening of those social control mechanisms that ensure conformity. Without established social controls, people will simply pursue their self-interests, including the pursuit of pleasure. A strong social bond to conventional social institutions reduces the likelihood of deviation from normative expectations, while the weakening of the bond releases us from the constraints of these norms (Hirschi, 1969; Nye, 1958; Wiatrowski et. al, 1981).

Research by Smith (1986) supports the idea of differential enforcement practices across neighborhoods. Smith found that suspect's police encountered in lower-status neighborhoods ran three times the risk of arrest when compared to offenders encountered in higher-status neighborhoods. Likewise, prior record is more likely to be a more important factor when decisions are made by police officers on whom to arrest and whom not to arrest (Smith, 1986).

When a person begins to employ his deviant behavior or a role based upon it as a means of defense, attack, or adjustment to the overt and covert problems created by the consequent societal reaction to him, his deviation is secondary. Objective evidences of this change will be

found in the symbolic appurtenances of the new role, in clothes, speech, posture, and mannerisms, which in some cases heighten social visibility, and which in some cases serve as symbolic cues to professionalization (Lemert, 1951:176).

Despite the rhetoric of rehabilitating offenders, protection of the community has often been the paramount goal of judicial personnel charged with controlling threatening behavior. In “The Borderland of Criminal Justice”, Francis Allen (1964) has argued that it is “inaccurate and deceptive to describe the...court’s operation as rehabilitative or therapeutic; rather, the cases that come before it are being adjudicated primarily because the behavior in question threatens the security and well being of the community”. Indeed, the rehabilitative ideal has often led to increased severity of penal measures. For example, the indeterminate sentence tied to individualized treatment, often leads to a lengthened period of imprisonment that becomes essentially incapacitative rather than therapeutic (Allen, 1964). Police are thought to be predisposed against certain groups of people. Thus, the higher arrest rates for certain groups (for example, black people, ex-convicts and others) may reflect a police perception that these people are more criminal than others (Skolnick, 1966). Skolnick considered this possibility when he introduced the concept of “symbolic assailant” to refer to citizens’ police “view as dangerous”. Furthermore, because police officers are the ones who count crime, there is the possibility that what some count is different from what others count. In other words, whether an offence is counted as a crime or not depends in part on the officer who observes it because classifying a social event as a crime involves a subjective assessment that “something needs to be done” (Skolnick, 1966).

According to Tannenbaum (1938), name calling and stereotyping leads to isolation from the rest of the community and to association with fellows with similar labels. News of the

imminent release of inmates often sparks fears of an upsurge in crime. Nearly all prisoners are eventually released back into the community. Whether they re-enter society successfully as contributing members or unsuccessfully is a matter of public safety. Ex-convicts face many obstacles when they leave prison. Ex-convicts need social support networks which may be lacking in the community based on their (the ex-convicts') previous criminal record. Constructive relationships are important if ex-convicts are to be duly rehabilitated and re-integrated. However such relationships are always not forthcoming based on the community's negative attitude following the harm they (ex-convicts) committed that made them go to prison in the first place. Successful reception is normally difficult while the harms caused by the ex-convicts in the past remain unaddressed (Kibuka, 2001).

According to Mulama (2006), there is need for initiatives to ease the re-entry of ex-convicts into the Kenyan community. This sentiment was echoed after the government's announcement in 2006 July 13<sup>th</sup> that almost 8,000 inmates were to be freed to reduce overcrowding in jails. According to Mulama (2006), a lot of civic education needed to be done to inform the public that people who go to prisons were still members of the society.

The community is still non-receptive to ex-convicts. Vihiga district is no exception. In the event that these people are not able to settle back in the community, they commit new offences. If these people were received well into society, if they got a soft landing, maybe they would be able to do something constructive with their lives (Mulama, 2006). Official statistics indicate that there are over 50,000 inmates in the country's 92 prisons which are only supposed to house 16,000. While police in Kenya blame the courts for being too slow in trying inmates, the judiciary laments that the police are over-zealous in arresting petty offenders. This is a clear perception that the punitive element is preferred in the Kenyan society (Mulama, 2006).

Studies done in Kenya have mostly focused on crime in general. However certain groups such as RODI-Kenya and KPRC have had an interest in the lives of ex-convicts after release from prisons and other penal institutions. Their focus has been on rehabilitative rather than punitive approach to crime control and management. There is however, a knowledge gap since the root causes of crime and re-offence are not comprehensively dealt with. The literature of restorative justice and re-offending consists largely of comparative analyses of traditional and restorative interventions and suggests small but significant differences or no differences in re-offending (Sarkin, 2009).

It was envisaged that from the findings of the study, the community would be well informed on their role in the rehabilitation and subsequent re-integration of the reformed convicts to minimize their chances of re-offending, or relapsing back to their original criminal life.

## **2.8 Theoretical Framework.**

A theory is a set of concepts or constructs and the interrelations that are assumed to exist among those concepts (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). This study was formed by labeling theory. The theory originated from Chicago School of Sociology (Andersen and Taylor 2002). According to Siegel (1995), this theory was first popularized by Goerge Herman Mead, Charles Horton Cooley and W. I Thomas (1863 – 1947)

Labeling theory holds that people become criminals when significant members of the society label them as such and they accept those labels as a personal identity (Siegel, 1995). The theory stems from the work of W.I. Thomas who wrote, ‘if men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences’. A label is the assignment or attachment of a role to a person by one

or more powerful institutions in the society. When the label is applied, it sticks. It becomes difficult for the former criminal to recover from the tag. Another proponent of the theory is Edwin Lemert (1972) who shifted the focus from an individual criminal to the social process by which a person comes to be labeled as a criminal and the consequences of such labeling to the individual (as cited by Tischler, 2004). Criminals are individuals who the society chooses to label as outcasts or deviants because they have violated such social rules (Siegel and Senna, 2007). Three types of criminal behaviors have been identified. Primary is the actual violation of the law, Secondary is the behavior that results from being labeled criminal while tertiary occurs when a criminal fully accepts the role but rejects stigma (Andersen and Taylor, 2002)

Studies show that children, who do poorly in school lack educational motivation, feel alienated and are more likely to engage in criminal activities (Siegel, 1995). If such children are labeled negatively, they develop a negative attitude and can easily engage in crime. Street children in Kenya are normally viewed as a social menace and this fact can make them turn to be hardened criminals who in their later life start terrorizing communities.

Labeling theory assumes that whether good or bad, people are controlled by the reactions of others. The response of others is the most significant factor in understanding how crime is both created and sustained. Research reveals that many school drop outs especially those who have been expelled face a significant chance of entering a criminal career (Kornblum and Carolyn, 2003). Reformed offenders have been labeled by the society as a result of their previous history or behavior traits. This reinforces and determines the way they behave and acts within the societies they live in. This makes them most of times be alienated and appear as outcasts within the same communities where they were born or once live in hence appear outsiders. Due to lack of the community acceptance and not being able to get appropriate economic sustainance after



their incarceration, they slowly and surely relapse back to their criminality. For a complete rehabilitation to take place and full reformation to be realized among the ex-convicts, attitudinal change is not a choice but a necessity. Reformed convicts must view themselves as being part and parcel of the community that they live in. Positive labeling of the reformed convicts by the same community may help reduce crime drastically by ensuring that those released from the prison are effectively accommodated and helped to regain their status within the community when viewed as fully reformed individuals hence reduce the relapsing effects among the reformed convicts and keeping the community more safe, devoid of repeat offences. It is extremely difficult to shed a label once it has been acquired and the labeled person tends to behave in the expected manner (Kornblum and Carolyn, 2003).

Behavior is shaped by interactions that people engage in within a community. Rehabilitation of ex-convicts and their full reformations when enhanced will improve their well being. When they are fully accepted and positively labeled they feel encouraged and hence accepted. This, in the long run, will enhance their positive contributions within the same communities they once lived in, making the society much better through their positive transformation.

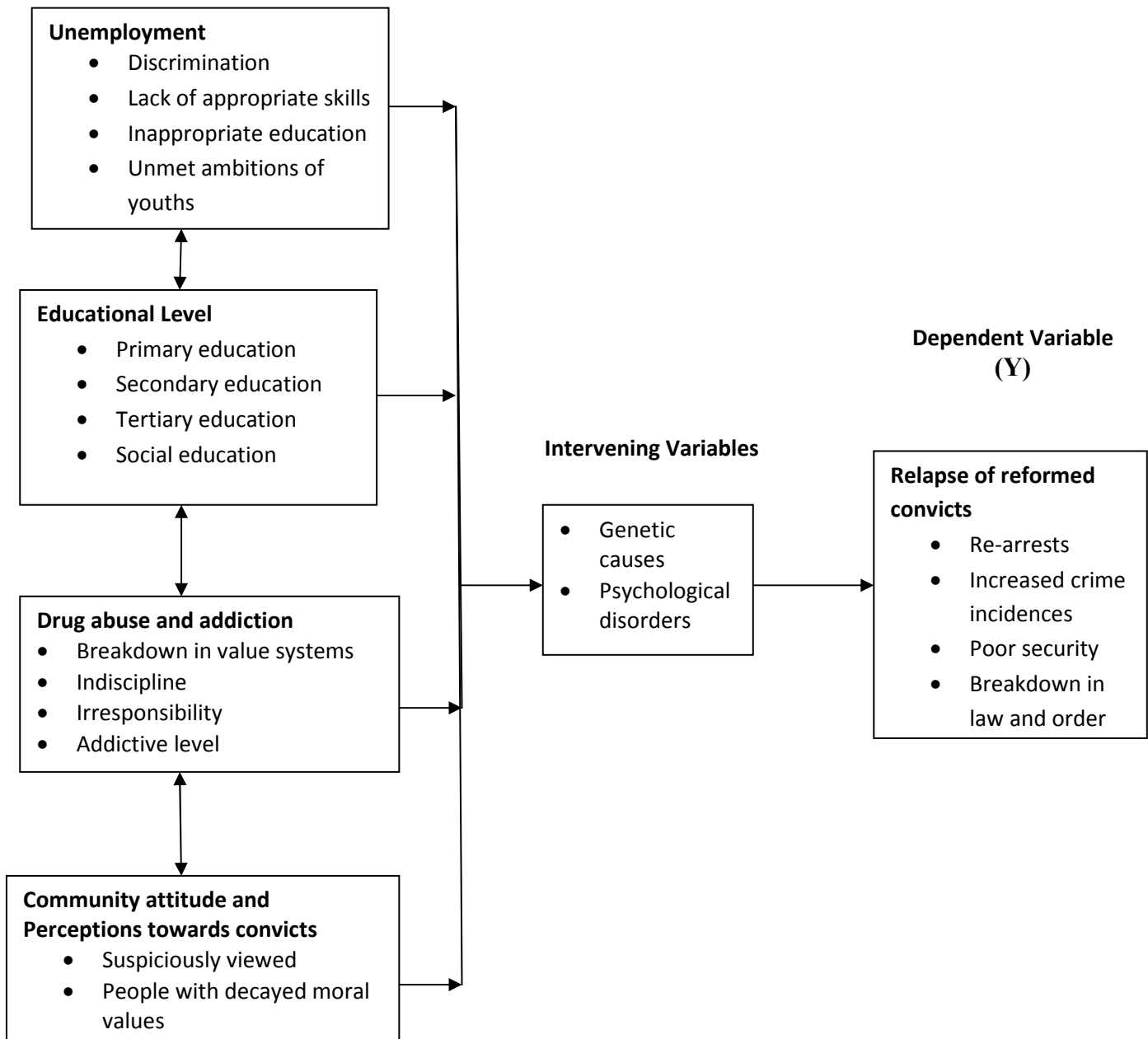
Labeling as a theory is important due to its recognition that the judgment people make about presumably criminal behavior have powerful social effects. The theory however has been criticized for failing to explain why crime occurs in the first place as it does not illuminate the causes of crime. It also does not explain why law enforcement agencies define some behavior as crime but not others. It ignores instances when labeling process may deter a person from engaging in future acts for crime and looks at a criminal as a misunderstood individual who would like to be accepted as a law abiding citizen. Labeling is also criticized as not always being

supported by empirical evidence. In some instances, people can use labels to change their behavior. For example one can be deterred from committing a crime after learning how somebody else was punished (Siegel, 1995; Kornblum and Carolyne, 2003; Tischler 2004).

## 2.9 Conceptual Framework

It was conceived that the Socio-economic factors would contribute to the relapse of the reformed convicts as displayed in figure 1.

### Independent Variables ( $X_i$ )



*Figure 1:* Conceptual framework showing the relationship between variables.

The conceptual framework above shows how Socio-economic factors that contribute to the relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya interact to contribute to the relapsing into criminality among the reformed convicts. The factors from the independent variables are at  $(X_i)$  whereas the relapsing of the reformed convicts at variable  $(Y)$

The various factors exhibited by the conceptual framework including unemployment, drug abuse and addiction, educational level as well as the negative Community attitude being exhibited towards the reformed convicts are of great concern toward their relapse.

These various factors that do contribute to the relapse of the reformed convicts into criminality also do interact and affect each other. For example, low education exhibited by lack of appropriate skills enhances unemployment of an individual reformed offender. This increases the poverty level both to the individual as well as in the family. Poverty within the society in the long run incapacitates societal development and the youths who grow up in such environment largely turn to drugs. With high addiction rate, issues of indiscipline, irresponsible behaviors among others results into the community's negative attitude towards the youths in general. They become labeled jailbirds within the society, hence even in the event that one completes his full term at the rehabilitation institutions, the continued skepticism among the community members will continue rendering him/her unemployed through segregation and discrimination hence the vicious cycle of relapse into their previous criminal tendencies.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter consists of details of the research design, target population, sample size and sample selection. The research instrument is also discussed where issues of piloting, validity and reliability is spelt out. It proceeds by highlighting the data collection procedures used as well as data analysis techniques to be used. The chapter concludes by having a look at some of the key issues on ethics which are of great concern for the study of this nature.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

A research design is the conceptual structure in which research is conducted (Kothari, 2003). This study adopted descriptive survey research design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Descriptive survey design is a method of collecting information by interviewing or administering questionnaires to a sample of individuals hence suitable for extensive research. It is an excellent vehicle for the measurement of characteristics of large population (Orodho, 2003). It maintains a high level of confidentiality. It is convenient and enables data to be collected faster, enables questions to be asked personally in an interview or impersonal through a questionnaire about things which cannot be observed easily. It also gives the study an opportunity to get accurate view of responses to issues as well as test theories on social relationship at both individual as well as group levels (Kothari, 2003). Descriptive survey is appropriate for the study because it enables the collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data.

On quantitative approach, the study used closed-ended sections of the questionnaires to collect data on socio-economic factors that contribute to the relapse in criminality from the various members of the community within the households. On the qualitative side, the study employed interviews, and open ended sections of the questionnaire to collect data on the same parameters from the ex convicts as well as the targeted key informants.

### **3.3 Target Population**

The target population for the study was 5310 households within the target location at the Central Maragoli Location of the Vihiga District, (Kenya Bureau of Statistics household census 2009).The Location was chosen for the purpose of convenient sampling and also due to the fact that it currently has the highest crime rate within the Vihiga District.

The study therefore targeted 2 different categories of respondents within the same target population; First category was members of the house hold that was sampled out for a snapshot survey on their general perceptions and attitudes towards the reformed convicts in their midst. Also to be gathered from them are issues on unemployment and drug use as factors contributing to the relapse of the reformed convicts within the district.

Second category involved locating a few ex-convicts who were later engaged to assist in getting more ex-convicts. (The exact number of ex-convicts could not be established since some were in prison while others were in the community and the sensitivity of the subject while considering their security and issues of confidentiality).

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sample Selection.**

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represent a large group from which they were selected from

(Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The sample was selected scientifically that enabled the generalization that was done.

### 3.4.1 Sample Size.

The size of the sample should neither be too small nor too large (Kothari 2007). An optimal sample was selected for this study. Kothari (2007) observes that an optimal sample is one which fulfils the requirements of efficiency, representativeness, reliability and flexibility.

The sample size for this study was 372 respondent’s households selected from the population based on the Glen Israel’s (1992) formula for determining a sample size (see appendix 2) with a precision level of 0.05

### 3.4.2 Sample Selection

The study employed both probability and non-probability methods of sampling in selecting the sampled population for the study. For the first category of the respondents, simple random sampling technique was used. The first step was to cluster the house hold population into the 4 sub-locations within the district, which included Ikumba, Chango, Emanda and Kidundu Sub-locations respectively totaling to 5310 households. The sample size of the house hold distribution per Sub-location was then based on the principle of Probability Proportional Size (PPS) i.e. sampled Sub-location total number of house hold. To allocate the sampled house hold per Sub-location, the formula below was used.

$$\left\{ \frac{\text{Number of house hold per Sub-location}}{\text{Total Number of house hold in the Sub-location}} * 372 \right\}$$

1. Ikumba Sub-location =  $(1363/5310 * 372) = 95.58 = 96$  households
2. Chango Sub-location =  $(1272/5310 * 372) = 89.11 = 89$  households
3. Kidundu Sub-location =  $(1146/5310 * 372) = 80.28 = 80$  households
4. Emanda Sub-location =  $(1529/5310 * 372) = 107.12 = 107$  households

To choose the first Sub-location with which to start the survey from among the 4 Sub-locations, the researcher used a raffle method with 4 folded papers each written a name of one the sub-locations. One raffle was picked at a time and the name revealed and written down as they were picked. The first Sub location that was picked was Ikumba, which formed the starting Sub-location for the study. It was followed by Emanda, Chango and finally Kidundu in that order.

The actual survey started by the researcher going to the approximated centre of the Ikumba Sub-location with the guidance of a resident who had good understanding of the area administrative boundaries after which the researcher spun a bottle on the ground to determine the first house hold to start the survey from. The household pointed by the head of the bottle after it settled formed the first sample and this was where the first questionnaire was administered. After this the subsequent households followed the same routine of spinning the bottle at the end of each session. In case the house hold sampled did not respond positively, as were in some limited cases, the researcher skipped that household and proceeded to the next but observing the direction that the bottle had settled on.

In the other subsequent categories, where qualitative approach was applied, the respondents were selected as follows; 20 ex-convicts were recruited through snowballing (the initial participant was chosen through convenience sampling). This was because barriers such as society's lack of tolerance for ex-convicts, social stigma, concern for issues of confidentiality and fear of exposure due to possible threats to security, make it difficult to obtain a sampling frame. It is usually impossible to make a sampling frame of the ex-convicts since some are in prison while others are in the community. Chain referral sampling was therefore preferred. The



20 ex-convicts were selected based on Kathuri & Pals (1993) argument that a sample of at least 100 for each major category and 20 to 50 for each minor sub-group is sufficient for a study.

The sample was enlarged gradually and the results analyzed as they came. The study capitalized on informal social networks to identify ex-convicts who were otherwise hard to locate. It was necessary to use snowball sampling to get more ex-convicts for the study as the target group was difficult to find due to the sensitivity of the topic under study. When the desired sample size was attained, the study was concluded for this category of the respondents. Table 3.1 summarizes the sample and sample selection

Table 3.1

*Sample size and Sample selection*

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Target Respondents</b>	<b>Sampling Procedure</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>
Category one	House hold	Random Sampling	<b>372</b>
Category two	Ex-Convicts	Snowball Sampling	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>392</b>

### **3.5 Research Instruments.**

Research instruments are the tools used to collect data (Oso & Onen, 2009). This research used a variety of research instruments to collect data. There was a semi-structured self administered or assisted questionnaire that was administered to the house holds for the community survey. The questionnaire had five sections developed on the basis of the objectives of study. Section A covered socio-demographic information of the respondent. Section B asked questions concerning unemployment in relation to relapse into criminality, while section C gathered information on issues related to education levels. Section D consisted of questions on

drug abuse and its effects on relapsing into criminality, while the last section E of the questionnaire consisted on the questions that were to gauge on the perceptions and attitude of the community on the reformed convicts.

There was also an In-depth Interview guide for the targeted Ex-convicts which had similar sections but having an opportunity for the researcher to get in-depth information. The questions followed a systematic order from unemployment, educational level, drug abuse issues as well as the general community perceptions as causes of relapsing into criminality.

### **3.5.1 Piloting of the Instrument.**

Piloting of the instrument involves pre-testing the research instrument on a small sample of respondents which can be done on a sample of at least 10 respondents who have the same characteristics for the sample to be taken (Mulusa, 1990). In piloting the instruments of this study, ten questionnaires were administered to ten respondents from the nearby Wamuluma Location for the first category of the instrument. A purposive sample was also done for the second category of the instrument where ex-convicts were involved in an in-depth interview and the findings used to refine the instrument that enable increased reliability of the instrument for the Central Maragoli Location. During the piloting of the instrument, attention was focused on the questions that made respondents uncomfortable hence the ambiguities noted were corrected and made straight forward so as to reduce the respondents fatigue during the administration of the questionnaire. The Wamuluma location was only used for the purpose of piloting the instrument and was not part of the target population during the main study.

### **3.5.2 Validity of the Instrument**

Validity is defined as the degree to which a test measures what it is supposed to measure (Mugenda and Mugenda 2008). To enhance content validity, the instruments was scrutinized and approved by three lecturers in the department of the extramural studies at the University of Nairobi, Kisumu campus. Their advice was used to make necessary corrections which ensured that the instruments measured what they were meant to measure (Mugenda & Mugenda2008).

The said questionnaires and the interview guide were also presented to the two research supervisors for their expert opinion and input on their suitability in addressing the research questions so as to help in achieving the set objectives. The questions were as well designed by use of simple language that enabled the respondents to answer them without problems.

### **3.5.3 Reliability of the Instrument.**

Reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials and it is influenced by random errors. Errors may arise from coding fatigue and biases (Mugenda & Mugenda 2008). A measure is reliable to the extent that repeated applications of it under the same condition by different researchers gives the same result (Taylor, 2008). To ensure that the instruments were reliable for the study, the researcher used a test retest technique which involved selecting ten respondents while piloting the study in the nearby Wamuluma Location and administering to them the same instrument twice in a lapse of two weeks. Both results were recorded, compared, correlated and a coefficient computed using the Spearman's Rank Correlation method. A coefficient of 0.89 was attained after correlating the two results obtained. Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) recommend that a co-efficient of 0.8 or

higher indicates a high degree of reliability on the instrument. The researcher was therefore fully convinced that the instruments were fully reliable for the study.

The formula for the Spearman's Rank correlation that was used is as shown below:

$$\mathbf{Rho} = \left\{ \frac{(6 \sum d^2)}{n(n^2-1)} \right\}$$

Where Rho = is the Coefficient

d = is the difference between two numbers in each pair of ranks

n = is the number of data pairs.

### **3.6 Data Collection Procedure**

Upon approval of the research proposal by the University of Nairobi examination panel, a research permit was applied for from the National Council for Science and Technology under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology before going to the field. An introductory letter from the University of Nairobi was also obtained as a pre-requisite for data collection. The researcher then reported at the Vihiga District Commissioner's office where, upon acceptance, the researcher proceeded to the Central Maragoli Location (the exact location of research).

With the help of 2 research assistants, who were briefed and adequately trained on data collection procedures, and ethics necessary for the study, the first category of questionnaires were administered to the randomly selected respondents within the location. The researcher made a keen follow up and checked on the accuracy of the information so collected. The

researcher then administered the second category of questionnaire to the identified ex-convicts who were engaged in the in-depth interviews. This was done by the researcher after assuring them of the confidentiality and purpose of the research to the respondents. The data so collected were then coded, and prepared for analysis. Before data entry, all the instruments were checked for their completeness and data cleaning was effectively done to enhance data quality.

### **3.7 Data Analysis Techniques**

All filled copies of the questionnaires were checked for data quality before data were analyzed. This involved editing of data. Editing ensured that the collected raw data was free from errors and omissions were detected and corrections made. Coding was done by assigning numerals to responses for the sake of classification. Classification involved arranging data in groups or classes on the basis of similarities. Tabulation of the data was made using the frequency distribution tables using SPSS computer program and analysis done. Computers not only save time but also make it possible to study a large number of variables affecting a problem simultaneously (Kothari, 2007).

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

Mugenda (2008) suggests that protecting the rights and welfare of the participants should be the major ethical obligation for all parties involved in the research study. The researcher took precautions to ensure non disclosure of research data to any third party that would use such data for their own purposes. All possible measures were taken to ensure that the respondent's names and particulars were not disclosed. A system of coding the participants' responses was established such that each completed tool could be linked to the key informers without using their actual names. Participation in the research was voluntary and subjects were informed that they could withdraw if they felt like. These facts were communicated to them prior to the start of the study.

The researcher then obtained an informed consent before the study commenced. The research findings were then shared out with the participants through meetings and other planned forums.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter takes a detailed analysis of socio-economic factors that contribute to the relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya. It also presents the collected data, interprets and discusses it. The specific socio-economic factors that were studied include; unemployment in relation to relapse, education levels, drug use and abuse as well as general community's attitudes and perception towards the reformed convicts that have direct impact on their recidivism.

The instruments return rate and demographic characteristics of the respondents are also captured in this chapter. The study employed the use of frequencies and percentages to analyze quantitative data.

#### **4.2 Questionnaire Return Rate.**

Two sets of questionnaires were used to collect the data; semi- structured self administered or assisted questionnaire, targeting the house holds that were sampled out for the study and an In-depth Interview guide which was administered to the identified Ex-convicts sampled out. The response rate as tabulated below yielded data that helped in understanding the key issues of the study. A total of 372 households was targeted but we managed to interview people from 322 households representing 86.6%. 20 ex-convicts were also targeted for an in-depth interview, although 12 was managed to be reached representing 60%. This was due to the sensitivity of the issues under survey. In total, an average of 85.2% questionnaire return rate was achieved.

The table 4.1 below summarizes response rate of the targeted respondents per each category.

Table 4.1

*Questionnaire Return Rate*

<b>Questionnaire type</b>	<b>No. Targeted</b>	<b>No. Responded</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
House Holds	372	322	86.6
Ex- convicts	20	12	60
<b>Totals</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>85.2</b>

Out of the 392 respondents targeted, 334 responded to the interview effectively hence a return rate of 85.2%. This questionnaire return rate was good for the purpose of this study since it was in line with Mugenda and Mugenda (2003). According to them, 50% questionnaire return rate is adequate for the purpose of data analysis though 60% is good. In some few house holds, young respondents were found who did not have adequate information since they were either new occupants or generally did not want to co-operate with the interviewers. Some ex-convicts felt uneasy with some personal questions hence the interview had to be tactfully terminated a midway, by allowing them to help re-direct the interviewer to other ex-convict who would provide adequate information on the same. This took cognisance of the fact that issues of confidentiality and voluntarily of information had to be observed hence the wishes of the respondents.

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

In this section the research captured some of the key background information of the respondents which were found to be of value for the purpose of this research. Some of the key information captured included; gender, age of the respondent, religious affiliation, education



level of the respondents, among others whose findings are presented in the subsequent sub-themes.

#### 4.3.1 Distribution of Respondents by Gender

The study sort to find out the proportion of gender of the reformed convicts who relapse particularly after their rehabilitation. This information was considered important as it also related with the gender from the household that would readily avail themselves for the purpose of the survey, hence providing information as per the topic in question. The result is as per shown in table 4.2

Table 4.2

*Distribution of Respondents by Gender*

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>HOUSE HOLD</b>		<b>REFORMED CONVICTS</b>	
	<b>(f)</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>(f)</b>	<b>%</b>
MALES	194	60.2	8	66.7
FEMALES	128	39.8	4	33.3
TOTAL	322	100.0	12	100.0

Table 4.2 shows that, 194 (60.2%) were male from house hold and 8 (66.7%) were male Ex-convicts while 128 (39.8%) were females from households and 4 (33.3%) female ex-convicts.

This is shows clearly that more male ex-convicts relapse in the area of survey as compared to females. At the same time, more male respondents in the households were readily available to divulge information on issues of insecurity as compared to their female counterparts. In as much as female household occupants are the ones who bear the greatest brunt of the impacts on issues concerning insecurity as posed by the relapsed convicts, they do not always

come out strongly whenever called upon to openly discuss issues on security. This was revealed by the survey as majority of the respondents who readily agreed to be interviewed were dominated by the male as opposed to female respondents.

### 4.3.2 Distribution of Respondents by Religion

Vihiga district is a cosmopolitan district with a combination of many religious orders. This section sought to find out which among the many religious orders the respondents could be affiliated to. The table below summarized what was captured from the respondents.

Table 4.3

*Distribution of Respondents by Religion*

RELIGIONS	HOUSE HOLD		REFORMED CONVICTS	
	(f)	%	(f)	(%)
CHRISTIAN	296	91.9	4	33.3
MUSLIM	15	4.7	2	16.7
ATR	2	0.6	0	0.0
NO RELIGION	0	0.0	4	33.3
OTHERS	9	2.8	2	16.7
TOTAL	322	100	12	100.0

Table 4.3 shows that, Christianity dominated with 296 (91.9%) from male households and 4(33.3%) male reformed convicts. Muslims were 15 (4.7%) male households and 2(16.7%) reformed convicts. Other religious orders accounted for only 9 (2.8%) for male households and 2 (16.7%) reformed convicts. It was also amazing that 4 (33.3%) reformed convicts do not profess to any religion.

It was evidenced that Christianity which is a combination of many small sub-denominations, dominate the region. There were also small subgroups of other religious inclinations including African Traditional Religions, though this was a small fraction. However it

was also evidenced that 4 (33.3%) of reformed convicts do not profess to any denomination in spite the domination of Christianity within the area of the survey.

It is worth noting that religious doctrines puts a lot of emphasis on good neighborliness which is an important component in containing security issues created by the dangers of reformed convicts within the region. However a good number of those who recidivate do not belong to any denomination, an issue that should be of great concern to the religious orders within the region.

#### **4.3.3 Distribution of Respondents by their Level of Education**

Education plays an important role in a society. An educated group of respondents is in a better position to articulate issues well and provide necessary and valuable information. It was in the interest of study to find out about the general educational levels of the respondents so as to be able to gauge the level of articulation of key issues of the research from the respondents. This would also enable the researcher to gauge their level of conceptualization at the local level of the community. For the reformed convicts, the research also aimed at finding out which level of education is mostly prone to recidivism. When the respondents were asked to indicate the highest levels of education they have attained, the following was the outcome as tabulated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4

*Education Levels of the Respondents*

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	HOUSE HOLD		REFORMED CONVICTS	
	(f)	%	(f)	(%)
NEVER WENT TO SCHOOL	5	1.6	3	25.0
PRIMARY	120	37.3	9	75.0
SECONDARY	98	30.4	0	0.0
TERTIARY	89	27.6	0	0.0
UNIVERSITY	10	3.1	0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.4 shows that, Primary level of education had the majority with 120 (37.3%) households and 9 (75%) reformed convicts. Those who never went to school accounted for only 5 (1.6%) households and 3 (25%) reformed convicts. None of the reformed convict had gone beyond primary level of education. For households, Secondary level was 98 (30.4%), Tertiary level was 89 (27.6%) while those attained University level at 10 (3.1%).

The education level of the house hold respondents was key to the research as it increased the credibility and confidence level of the outcome. Majority of the house hold occupants interviewed were able to articulate well the issues at their level. The research was hence contented with the sampled population considering the spread of the respondents in terms of their level of conceptualization. For the reformed convicts, it was evidenced that none of them had gone beyond Primary levels of education. This finding confirms the findings on a research carried out in the US by Porporino and Roinson (1992) which stated that 41.6% of those who recidivate were those who withdrew from ABE Program which is equivalent to Kenyan Primary level of education.

#### **4.4 Un-employment and Relapse of the Reformed Convict**

This section of the study sought to present the findings in an effort to establish the extent to which unemployment as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District under the following sub-themes; discrimination in relation to employment of the Ex-Convicts, the right skills for the jobs market, inappropriate educational levels as well as unrealistic ambitions of youth as they grow up, which precipitate their un-employability.

##### **4.4.1 Discrimination in Relation to Employment of the Ex-Convicts**

Ex convicts may be viewed negatively or otherwise by the society depending on the nature of the offence they committed and the duration of their incarceration. Under this sub-theme the researcher sought to find out from the household respondents whether it was easy or difficult for a reformed convict to get employment opportunity within the region of the survey especially after serving certain duration in custody.

The response was as captured in the table 4.5.

Table 4.5

*Ex-Convicts Easily Getting Employed In the Region*

<b>Ex-Convicts Getting Employed</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
YES	8	2.5
NO	310	96.3
DON'T KNOW	4	1.2
TOTAL	322	100

Table 4.5 shows that, 310 (96.3%) of the respondents revealed that it was not easy for the ex-convicts to get employment, while only 8 (2.5%) accepted that they can at least get employed. 4(1.2%) of the respondents didn't have idea of whether they could get employment or not. On further probing, those who accepted that they could at least get some forms of employment highlighted that those who do employ them were their fellow criminals, their cronies or those who further perpetuate criminal activities within the village. They only employ them for a purpose i.e. to continue further their own criminal interest. What came out clearly was that they can only be employed by those who know them well and for a clear purpose. These responses corroborated with those from the ex-convicts where all the 12 respondents saying none of them had secured an employment since they first got jailed.

This confirms a study conducted by Regoli and Hewitt (1991), about recidivism on crime who reported that a primary cause of relapsing into crime is the greatest difficulty for the ex-convicts in obtaining employment opportunities after their release from prison. He further explains that without employment, the reformed convicts are three to five times more likely to

relapse especially on the offences that relate to property and offences against the person (Regoli & Hewitt, 1991).

#### 4.4.2 Opportunity to Employ an Ex-Convict

Under this sub-theme respondents were further asked if given the opportunity, whether they would be willing to employ the reformed convicts if they seek for one at their homestead or premises of their operation. Their response is further captured in table 4.6.

Table 4.6

*People Given Opportunity to Employ Ex Convicts*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
YES	52	16.1
NO	270	83.9
TOTAL	322	100

Table 4.6 shows that, 270 (83.9%) said they cannot offer employment to the reformed convicts while only 52 (16.1%) agreed that they may offer employment given the opportunity.

This concludes a notion that there is a high rate of suspicion that people have on the reformed convicts that further lowers their chances of getting employment within the community after their release from the rehabilitation institutions. It is worth noting that this is no wonder the cause of their relapse since very few people would be willing to assist them start up their lives once again, through offering them any forms of employment opportunities.

This suspicious notion confirms the findings by Anderson (2008) who highlighted that more than half of those leaving prison or Probation sentences in the US do not get easily employed due to lack of confidence by the would be prospective employers.

#### 4.4.3 Lack of Appropriate Skills in Relation to Unemployment of the Ex-Convicts

For any gainful employment, right skills for the job plays key role particularly when one is faced with a situation of seeking to get one. Majority of the youths nationally are unemployed not only because of lack of jobs but having irrelevant skill for the available jobs in the market.

When the respondents were asked whether the ex-convicts they know possess any relevant skills for the jobs locally available, they responded as captured in table 4.7.

Table 4.7

##### *Skills in Relation to Employment*

<b>Possession of Skills by ex- convicts</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
YES	42	13.0
NO	270	83.9
DON'T KNOW	10	3.1
TOTAL	322	100

Table 4.7 shows that, a total of 270 (83.9%) respondents confirmed that majority of the ex-convicts they know do not possess any skills for the available jobs locally. Only 42 (13.0%) said at least they possess some local skill for the locally available jobs within the Location. 10 (3.1%) respondents didn't have ideas of their possession of skills.

This explains why in the event that the reformed convicts do not get employment, it then turns out to be rather difficult for them to settle and start up their lives again. Self employment would have been of importance particularly in an environment where none would wish to employ them. This explains why majority of them recidivates into criminal acts due to lack of employment or any other gainful engagement.



According to Cnaan (2008) most reformed offenders end up mainly committing further offences following the lack of appropriate skills which would enable them be re-integrated back into the society hence their failure to economically empower them.

#### 4.4.4 Unmet Ambitions Acceleration to Unemployment

Youths do have high ambitions in the process of their growth. Psychologists postulate that it is always healthy for youths to have ambitions for purpose of acceleration of their future desires. However in the event that these ambitions are not fully met, one would be faced with frustrations hence undesired outcome.

When the respondents were asked whether most of the desired life ambitions of the youths in their midst were fully met in the process of their developmental growth, their response were as captured in table 4.8.

**Table 4.8:**

*The Unmet Ambitions*

<b>Ambitions Getting Fulfilled</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
YES	102	31.7
NO	209	64.9
DON'T KNOW	11	3.4
TOTAL	322	100

Table 4.8 shows that, 209 (64.9%) confirmed that these ambitions are not fully met. 102 (31.7%) complied that at least most of their ambitions are met while 11 (3.4%) did not make up their mind concerning the question. This survey revealed that most of the youthful ambitions are

not met. It is also evidenced that sometimes the ambitions of the youths could be adjusted and modified as they mature up while also considering their immediate environmental factors. However to a large extent, these ambitions are not met, leading to frustrations hence the escalation of their criminal tendencies.

This finding was confirmed by a UN Habitat research (2007) which postulates that a mismatch between the aspirations of the youths and the opportunities available to them is the major cause of their chances to recidivate especially when released from incarceration. It further elaborates that

*“.... ‘The majority of young Kenyans have high hopes and ambitions. However, a demographic bulge of young people, poor macroeconomic Performance, a lack of labor market opportunities, an education system that suffers from problems of access, quality, and relevance, as well as equity and a society that negates the self-expression of young people mean that many young people are unable to translate their aspirations into a productive and fulfilling future. High expectations, disappointing employment and life prospects, and marginalization among young people can fuel frustration and desperation’”. (UN-HABITAT, 2007)*

#### **4.4.5 Consequences of the Unmet Ambitions and Relapse to Crime**

In an open ended question, when the respondents were asked to enumerate what happens in the events that the high ambitions of the youths are not met, the following were the main issues captured as their responses; they resort to criminal activities within the village, they end up idling in the villages without anything to do, creating a fertile breeding ground to criminal minded individuals, they resort to easy ways of getting income which most of times are criminal in nature, some commits suicides in the events that they can't make ends meet, and they become

prey to hooligans and greedy politicians who in most cases hire them for their individual gains  
*e.g. jeshy la mzee, mungikis, sungusungus....etc.*

#### **4.5 Educational Level and the Relapse of the Reformed Convicts**

In this section, the research intended to examine the extent to which the educational levels of the reformed convicts as a component of socio-economic factor, contributes to their relapsing into criminal tendencies. The major concerns here were their academic levels as well as other forms of appropriate educations available to them.

##### **4.5.1 Repeat Offenders Having Some Forms of Education**

Education has been defined as the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes by individuals so as to be able to fit well and live in harmony within a society. When the respondents were asked, in their own opinions, whether those who re-offend have any forms of education, their responses were as per captured in table 4.9.

Table 4.9

##### *Re-offenders and Education*

<b>Possession of Education by Re-offenders</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
YES	310	96.3%
NO	12	3.7%
TOTAL	322	100%

Table 4.9 shows that, 310 (96.3%) confirmed that they have at least attained some forms of education. Only 12 respondents representing (3.7%) said they did not possess any form of education.

Going by the background of the respondents, most the people who live within the Central Maragoli Location of the Vihiga District have at least Primary level of education. This actually gave a notion that almost all of the reformed offenders who live within this location have at least some forms of education, as a starting point. However, their levels of recidivism will greatly depends on the level where one reaches as will be highlighted in the subsequent section of the question next.

#### **4.5.2 Level of Education and the Recidivism Rate**

An education level by each individual greatly depends on a number of factors ranging from ones intellectual capacity to socio-economic abilities of each individual. People within the region of the survey have attained different levels of education.

When the respondents were asked to indicate the most possible levels of formal education the above re-offenders have attained, the findings are presented in table 4.10

Table 4. 10

*Possible Level of Education for those who Recidivate*

<b>Category</b>	<b>(f)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
PRIMARY	237	73.6
SECONDARY	82	25.5
TERTIARY	3	0.9
UNIVERSITY	0	0
Total	322	100

Table 4.10 shows that, majority of the re-offender, 237 (73.6%), had attained Primary level of education, followed by those with Secondary level, at 82 (25.5%) while those with Tertiary level of education were the minority with only 3 respondents representing 0.9%. It was evident that none of those who re-offend again after in-carceration could have attained a University level of Education. This concurred with the educational levels captured from the 12 ex-convicts captured under their demographic information which pointed none of them had gone beyond primary levels of education.

This finding concurs with the literature input reviewed on the findings of a study carried by Federal Bureau of Prisons U.K in the year 1994 which indicated that there is an inverse relationship between education and the rate of recidivism (Herer, 1994). The more one progresses in education, the lesser the chances are for him or her to recidivate or relapse into criminality.

#### **4.5.3 Other Skills Possessed by Those without Formal Education**

In a society people vary as per their levels of education. Not all possess formal type of education. For those without formal education ie primary levels of education and below, which were found to be the minority in the region of the survey, most of the respondents reported that they largely involve themselves in other forms of vocational skills.

When asked in an open ended question, which other forms of skills the reformed convicts in this cadre involve themselves in, they had the following in their responses; those without formal education or less in academic prowess do have a variety of skills, these include; vocational skills e.g. Masonry, carpentry, plumbing, among other technical/Practical skills. It was also revealed that majority are also gifted in such skills like acrobat and other forms of martial arts e.g. Karate, boxing, among others. Others are gifted in Business orientations, tailoring, and hairdressing among others. The study also revealed that for them to sustain their livelihood, majority of the reformed offenders engage themselves in such trades like boda-boda (bicycle or motorcycle) riding which of late has absorbed majority of the youths within the region of the survey.

#### **4.5.4 Forms of Education Proposed for Those without Formal Education**

In an open ended question, for those without any form of formal education, when the respondents were asked to suggest any preferred appropriate forms of education, their responses were summed up under the following suggested categories for their future betterment.

*Social Education:* This was suggested for them in an effort to enhance their development to become responsible future citizen. This would also equip them with social survival

skills and to live in harmony in an environment where they are able to relate and co-exist well with others within their society.

*A variety of appropriate Vocational skills:* This was suggested for them in an effort to enhance their Socio-economic empowerment. It will in the long run enable them enhance their future survival through an enhanced self employment ventures.

*Religious education and Ethics:* This was suggested in an effort to beef up their moral uprightness and improve their ethical standards which is important for their survival within the community.

#### **4.6 Effects of Drug Abuse and Its Contribution to the Relapse of Reformed Convicts**

Drugs are used for treatment and clinical metabolism purposes by human beings and animals. Most of the drugs which are meant for curative purposes are prescribed by doctors or physicians to cure ailments. Most people have turned to drugs for wrongful purpose especially those meant to make people feel high and temporarily a feeling of solace. Most criminals have turned to drugs for the purpose of getting false feelings which start to be a temporal one, but with time completely become addictive and heavily abused.

##### **4.6.1 Ex-convicts Involvement on Drug Use and Abuse**

Ex-convicts are believed to be in the category of the people who at times may use the drugs for wrongful purposes. When the respondents were asked whether the reformed convicts within the region do get involved in drug use and abuse, the responses were as shown in table 4.11.

Table 4.11

*Ex-convicts Involvement in Drug Use and Abuse*

<b>Ex-convicts Involvement in Drug use and Abuse</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
YES	298	92.5
NO	16	5.0
DON'T KNOW	8	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.11 shows that, only 16 (5%) said no to the question while 8 (2.5%) did not know much about it. The rest of respondents totaling to 298 (92.5%) of the people interviewed confirmed that all the ex-convicts within the village who keep on relapsing after their rehabilitation, do use and abuse drugs.

As a confirmation, when the same question was put to the ex-convicts themselves, all the 12 of them confessed that they have used drugs and all of them are still addicted to the drugs. This has also been evidenced by the large number of youths getting addicted to drugs at an early age within the region making them grow into criminals with unpredicted behaviors hence their criminal tendencies.

This finding concurred with a research outcome published by the Wood *et all* (2008) which indicated that more than 90% of reformed convicts who recidivates in the sub-Sahara Africa abuse drugs at an early age including; *marijuana, bhang, khat* among others, making the region highest in the illicit drug addicts and abusers.



#### **4.6.2 Types of the Drugs Commonly Abused**

There are many different types of drugs that do get abused by different people the world over. Youths as well as old men do use the drugs for different purpose at different times in each part of the regions where they live. Reformed criminals within the area of study (the Central Maragoli Location) have not been spared.

When the respondents (ex-convicts themselves included) were asked to list out the most commonly abused drugs within the region through an open ended question, the commonly featured drugs that were mentioned adversely included the following; *Alcohol, Bhang, Cigarettes, Cocain, Busaa, Kuber, Miraa (Khat), and Heroin* among others.

#### **4.6.3 Access to the Drugs Commonly Abused**

In an open ended question, the respondents were asked how they think the reformed convicts do get access to the above mentioned drugs. Again here it was amazing that these drugs were readily available at the disposal of the convicts within their environment. Adversely mentioned by the respondents included; they buy them locally, at market places and trading centers, they access the drugs through their friends, who give them as gifts or when in need, for those in custody, they get them within the penal institutions, especially when visited by loved ones, who occasionally sneak them in, some get them from the local peddlers who sell them in small quantities within the community, and others access them through the use of the social media that directs them on where and when the specific drugs are available especially the ones that are not found locally like the imported ones, these include Cocaine, heroin, Bactra among others.

#### 4.6.4 Effects of the Abused Drugs on Ex-Convicts

When asked through an open ended question, what effects the mentioned drugs had on the reformed offenders within the region of survey, the respondents reported a variety of responses which have been thematically categorized as following;

In Health related issues; Most of the drug users have become impotent as they can no longer shire children due to prolonged use of the drugs eg *miraa* (Khat), majority of the youths have gone mad due to prolonged use of *marijuana* (Bhang) especially within Central Maragoli Location. Quite a number of elevated blood pressure have been reported both on adults and children alike, in some cases within the region which the medics agree is on the increase within the region of the survey, there is an evidence of impairments in cognitive functions among the youths especially those affecting memory and their ability to learn, rendering many youths becoming less intelligent within the region.

In Social related Problems; Break down in value system as reflected in the increased incidences of gang rape, vandalism cases among others within the area of the survey, increased difficult relationships as evidenced by broken marriages especially divorce and separation cases commonly heard within the Vihiga Courts of law and its environs, affects their mental ability to make right judgments and decisions, and they become aggressive over trivial and unnecessary issues.

In Economic related Problems; Loss of jobs and other incomes as a result of arrests for being found in possession of the illicit drugs e.g. Bhang among others, loss of economically productive life due to ill-health created as a result of being addictive to these drugs, and Lack of investments within the region as a result of increase in insecurity caused by the youths who have

turned to drugs hence terrorizing the would be investors hence economically crippling the economic development of the district.

#### **4.7 Attitude and Perceptions of the Community Contribution to the Relapse of the Reformed Convicts**

Reformed convicts are part and parcel of the community members within the society. They are brothers, sisters, sons and daughters of the same community members in which they live in. Developing a particular attitude and perceptions concerning them is socially and psychologically normal as human beings. However, when a particular negative or other form of attitude and perceptions are developed about them in relation to the offences they might have committed or actions they did, and it is projected to them, then some kind of segregation and discrimination will automatically be evidenced.

The attitudes and perceptions of the community members' living in Central Maragoli concerning the plight of the reformed convicts was measured using a likert scale of 1 – 5. Their attitude and perceptions were captured in analysing the rate of their agreement or disagreement to the following 10 key statements on Table 4.12.

Table 4.12

*Attitude and Perceptions of the Community Members*

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	TOTAL	Mean & Mean %
	(f) (%)	(f) (%)	(f) (%)	(f) (%)	(f) (%)		
5.1 Many reformed convicts in this area do involve in repeat offences after release from custody	128 (39.75)	102 (31.68)	25 (7.76)	21 (6.52)	46 (14.29)	322	64.40 (20)
5.2 Repeat offenders do not reform even after being released from prison	98 (30.43)	88 (27.33)	49 (15.22)	49 (15.22)	38 (11.80)	322	64.40 (20)
5.3 I can't trust an Ex-convict he/she comes at my home or place of work.	120 (37.27)	111 (34.47)	16 (4.97)	53 (16.46)	22 (6.83)	322	64.40 (20)
5.4 Repeat offenders can easily be identified from their previous behaviors.	56 (17.39)	66 (20.5)	59 (18.32)	82 (25.47)	59 (18.32)	322	64.40 (20)
5.5 Ex-convicts don't get fully reformed after imprisonment.	134 (41.61)	115 (35.71)	43 (13.35)	18 (5.59)	12 (3.73)	322	64.40 (20)
5.6 I believe reformed convicts can easily live comfortably in the village given time	21 (6.522)	11 (3.416)	12 (3.73)	142 (44.10)	136 (42.24)	322	64.40 (20)
5.7 Most criminals within this region are people with less education	121 (37.58)	102 (31.68)	65 (20.19)	22 (6.83)	12 (3.73)	322	64.40 (20)
5.8 Offenders learn from the environment hence community can help them change.	113 (35.09)	140 (43.48)	22 (6.83)	26 (8.07)	21 (6.52)	322	64.40 (20)
5.9 Criminals should be given opportunity to earn genuine living	97 (30.12)	103 (31.99)	76 (23.60)	13 (4.04)	33 (10.25)	322	64.40 (20)
5.10 Reformed convicts can change given the opportunity.	98 (30.43)	99 (30.75)	66 (20.50)	45 (13.98)	14 (4.35)	322	64.40 (20)

#### **4.7.1 Offenders' Involvement in Repeat Offences after Release from Custody**

The study sought to gauge the general attitudes of the respondents on those released from the lawful custody. Respondents were asked to rate the statement in terms of their agreement or disagreement on a scale of 1 to 5 on the likert scale as indicated in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, 128 (39.75%) strongly agreed with the statement, 102 (31.68%) Agreed, while 25 (7.76%) were neutral, 21 (6.52%) Disagreed and 46 (14.29) strongly disagreed with the statement.

On average majority of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement signifying their negative attitude towards the same offenders since majority do involve in repeat offences even after completion of their jail terms. This finding concurs with the findings on a study carried out in Connecticut USA by Petersila (2003), stating that More than two thirds of reform convicts get re-arrested for new offences within 2 years of their release.

#### **4.7.2 Repeat Offenders' Reformation after Release from Prison**

The study sought to gauge the attitude of the general respondents on the offenders' reformation after having undergone rehabilitation programs within the prison programs. When the statement was read out to the respondents, their responses rated in either agreement or disagreement to the statement was as per captured in Table. 4.12

Table 4.12 shows that, 98 (30.43%) strongly agreed with the statement, 88 (27.3%) agreed, while 49 (15.22%) were neutral about the statement. 49 (15.2%) disagreed and 38(11.80) strongly disagreed.

On average, the respondents rated the statement at scale 3.5 (rounded to scale 4) signifying that they generally agreed with the statement that "Repeat offenders do not fully reform even

after being released from the prison.” To this end, the community generally projected a low attitude, towards reformed convicts especially in view that they have finished their prescribed jail terms, which ought to have fully transformed their behaviors. This finding concurs with the views presented by Sarkin (2009) who propounds that as much as the released offenders complete their prescribed jail term duration, their full absorption into the community systems would greatly depends on the general community acceptance, and how they will be perceived.

#### **4.7.3 Trusting the Ex-Convicts by the Community**

The study also sought to gauge the communities’ attitude towards trusting the offenders if it happen to be at the vicinity of the respondents premise. When they were read the statement, their responses ratings in terms of agreement or disagreement were as per captured in table 4.12

Table 4.12 shows that, 120 (37.37%) strongly agreed with the statement, 111(34.47%) agreed with the statement while 16 (4.97%) were undecided. Only 53 (16.46%) disagreed and 22 (6.83%) strongly disagreed.

When average computation was done, the respondents rated the statement at scale 3.8 (rounded off to scale 4) signifying that on average the respondents agreed that they can’t trust an ex-convicts when at their home or at place of work. This state’s how the attitude of suspicion is still evidenced within the community concerning the perceived reformed convicts.

#### **4.7.4 Repeat Offender’s Ability to be identified by their Previous Behaviors.**

This study aimed at assessing the community’s perception on previous behaviors of the offenders who keep on relapsing. This would enable researcher to gauge their feelings towards

future actions should it reoccur. Respondents were asked and their feedback was as captured in table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, 56 (17.39%) Strongly agreed with the statement, 66 (20.50%) agreed while 59 (18.32%) were undecided. 82 (25.47%) disagreed and 59 (18.32%) strongly disagreed.

On average, the respondents rated the statement at scale 2.9 (rounded off to 3) indicating that they were not fully decided whether to agree or not agree with the statement. Their neutrality to the statement signified their neutral attitude concerning the previous actions of the reformed convicts being linked to their current criminal activities. It is evidenced that some previously well behaved individuals may currently turn to be worse criminals in view of the prevailing socio-economic conditions. So as much as the previous actions of the offenders do count, majority of the respondents feel it better to judge the reformed convicts with their current actions and not the previous ones.

#### **4.7.5 Ex-Convicts and their Reformation after Imprisonment**

This study aimed at assessing the attitudes of the community on the reformed offenders especially pertaining to the rehabilitation activities they underwent during the duration of their imprisonment, as indicated in table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, only 12 (3.73%) strongly disagreed, 18 (5.69%) disagreed and 43(13.45%) were undecided. A whole 134 (41.61%) strongly agreed with the statement, while 115 (35.71%) agreed with the statement as well.

On average the respondents rated the statement at scale 4.06 (rounded to 5) signifying that the respondents strongly agreed with the statement. This gave a strong indication that the community perceives the ex-convicts negatively concerning their formation while in prison as

might have been evidenced when they are released. This no wonder why there is an increase in their relapse after their incarceration. This finding concurs with Mulama (2006) who stressed that for effective re-entry of the ex-prisoners into the community, long term initiatives need to be put in place for their full acceptance, and not half-hazard prison decongestion programs witnessed by releasing large numbers to reduce overcrowding in jails.

#### **4.7.6 Reformed Convicts Can Live Harmoniously in the Village Given Time**

The study aimed at assessing the attitude of the community on their general perception of the reformed behaviors of the ex-convicts when given opportunity to live again in their midst, as presented in table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, only 21(6.52%) strongly agreed with the statement and only 11(3.41%) agreed, while 12 (3.73%) were undecided. A total of 136 (42.24%) Strongly disagreed with the statement while 142 (44.10%) also disagreed. On average, the respondents rated the statement at 1.9 (rounded of to 2) on the likert scale, indicating their total disagreement with the statement.

This implied that the respondents still have a strong opinion that reformed convicts, without appropriate engagement, cannot live in full harmony with the villagers, strongly indicating their negative attitude and perceptions on the reformed convicts.

#### **4.7.7 Criminals and their Educational Levels**

The study aimed at assessing the attitude of the community particularly regarding the level of those who constantly recidivates. Findings of this are presented in table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, only 12 (3.73%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, and 22 (6.83%) disagreed while 65 (20.19%) were undecided. A total of 121 (37.58)



of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement and 102 (31.68%) of the respondents agreed.

On average, the respondents rated the statement at 3.9 (rounded off to 4) on the likert scale, indicating their total agreement with the statement. This implied that the community has a low attitude about the levels of education of the reformed convicts making them continue relapsing. This has been evidenced by the previous tabulations in the general academic levels of those who recidivate. The finding is in line with the findings on educational levels of the constantly relapsing convicts by the Canadian Authority which revealed that over 60% of the convicts who recidivate, tests below the high school levels (Correctional Services of Canada, 1995).

#### **4.7.8 Offenders' Ability to Learn from the Environment for a Positive Change**

The study was aimed at assessing the respondents' attitude towards the reformed convicts with regards to their ability to adapt to changes within the community. When the statement was put to the respondents, their rating in response as per the degree of their agreement was as per the captured in table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, only 21 (6.52%) of the respondents strongly disagreed, 26 (8.07%) disagreed while 22 (6.83%) were undecided. A total of 113 (35.09%) strongly agreed and 140 (43.48%) also agreed with the statement.

On average, the respondents rated the statement at 3.9 (rounded off to 4) on the likert scale, signifying their full agreement with the statement that offenders are capable to learn from the environment hence the community can play an important role in assisting them to fully reform. This indicated a positive attitude towards a good environment in relation to the full reformation of the reformed convicts.

#### **4.7.9 Criminals Given Opportunity to a Earn Genuine Living**

The study was aimed at assessing the attitude of the respondents in relation to their feelings on whether they can give opportunity to the reformed convicts to earn genuine living. Their attitude toward the statement was captured in the table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, a total of 103 (31.99%) agreed, and 97 (30.12%) strongly agreed, while 76 (23.60) were neutral. Only 33 (10.25%) strongly disagreed and 13 (4.04%) disagreed.

On average, the respondents rated the statement at 3.7 (rounded off to 4) on the likert scale, signifying their total agreement with the statement that criminals should be given opportunity to change. This highlighted the fact that given opportunity, the community is ready to support them change but in an enabling environment. This finding confirms Gerber and Fritsch (1994) and MacKenzie (2000) in their findings indicating that effective life skills or social education training among the reformed convicts will greatly enhance their full acceptance within the community hence their opportunity to pick up their lost lives and move on.

#### **4.7.10 Reformed Convicts Can Change Given the Opportunity**

The study aimed at assessing the respondents' attitude toward the reformed convicts with regards to their ability to change their ways of behaviour in the event that they are given another chance to reform. The findings are indicated on table 4.12.

Table 4.12 shows that, 14 (4.3%) strongly disagree, 45 (14%) disagreed while 66 (20.5%) were neutral about the statement above. A total of 98 (30.4%) strongly agreed and 99 (30.7%) of the respondents agreed with the statement.

On average, the respondents rated the statement at 3.7 (rounded off to 4) on the likert scale, signifying their full agreement with the statement that reformed convicts can change given the right opportunity. This implies that the community is very receptive about the

reformed convicts only when given right environment and the reformed convicts convincing them that they are ready to change on their perceived behaviors.

This concurs with the facts that “appropriate interventions, conducive environment and enabling community life skills will have a great impact in the lives of the reformed convicts hence a remarkable change for their future Endeavour’s, (MacKenzie, 200)

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter covers the summary of the findings, conclusions, recommendations for policy action, contributions to the body of knowledge and suggestions for further research.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Findings.**

The study investigated socio-economic factors that contribute to the relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya.

The first objective of the study was to examine the extent to which unemployment as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of reformed convicts in Vihiga District within Vihiga County.

The study found out that majority of the ex-convicts within the District do not easily get employment opportunities especially after spending a considerable duration in jail where they were incarcerated. All the reformed convicts interviewed 12 (100%) confirmed this while 310 (96.3%) of the household members expressed the difficulty in getting employment. Most of the time, they are branded jail birds and always come out stigmatized, compounding their predicaments in getting job opportunities. The study did establish that neither the community members nor other potential employers would wish to offer them any job opportunities owing to the highest amount of suspicion people have on them which was expressed by 270 (83.9%) from the household respondents. The condition of being unemployed in the currently competitive environment pushes them

further to recidivate back into their earlier criminal tendencies hence a relapse into criminality.

It also came out clearly that majority of those who constantly relapse, expressed by 270 (83.9%) of household respondents, do not possess other vocational skills which could have enabled them to be self-employed. This further compounds their unemployment conditions.

Majority of the youths, who grow up within the region of the study (Central Maragoli), also end up with unfulfilled ambitions expressed by 209 (64.9%) further frustrating their lives, a condition that enhances them to relapse hence the increased recidivism rate.

The second objective of the study was to establish the extent to which educational level as a component of Socio-economic factor contributes to the relapsing of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District, Vihiga County.

The study established that almost all of those who relapse within the area of the study have at least some forms of basic levels of literacy. Majority expressed by 310 (96.3%) have attained Primary levels of education owing to the existing government policy on education which declared Primary Education free and compulsory. The few who could have not attained at least Primary education before the enactment of the said policy or due to other factors did not manage to attain the Primary level of education, have at least some forms of skills which have been inherently acquired e.g. Acrobat among others.

The study also revealed that the rate of recidivism is directly proportional to the levels of education acquired. i.e. the higher level of education one attains the lower the rate of relapse, making majority of those who relapse have lower levels of education. It also came out clearly that over 80% of those who relapse are at the levels of up to Primary level of education while at the tertiary levels, the rate goes down to less than 3%, and on

the other hand, none of those who recidivate have University levels of education within the region of the study.

Other forms of education that the community members proposes that reformed convicts could be exposed to in an effort to improve their livelihood include: Social Edeucation, which to a great extent would enables them to shape up their morality in an effot to conform to the desired behaviors. Vocational Skills education would as well enhance their future in terms of their employability. Religious education has also been floated as another form of education that could target their morality hence contributes greatly in an effort to improve the livelihood of the reformed convicts.

The third objective was aimed at assessing the effects of drug abuse as a component of socio-economic factor and how it contributes to the relapse of reformed convict.

The study established that all the reformed convicts interviewed 12 (100%) who have relapsed, do abuse drugs for quite a number of reasons including enjoying a temporal relief from the hard economic pressures created due to lack of employment opportunities discussed earlier. 298 (92.5%) of the household members interviewed indicated that drug use and abuse is a major contributor to the relapse of the reformed convicts. It was also established that majority also abuse drugs due to great influence from the environment where they live and grow up in.

There were many different types of drugs that the reformed convicts always abuse including bhang, Khart, alcohol, cocaine among others within the region of the study. The drugs were established to be available locally making the reformed convicts easily accessing them hence the rampart abuse.

The drug abuse among the reformed convicts was also established to have serious negative effects among the reformed convicts resulting to their relapsing into criminality after some forms of rehabilitation. Prominently pointed out included health problems which to a great extent incapacitate the reformed convicts rendering them unproductive within the society hence their criminal tendencies. Other effects also pointed out include breakdown in social values making the reformed convicts unable to fit well within the society resulting to their alienation from the mainstream social systems of the community. Finally drugs issues were also found to have devastating economic effects to the reformed convicts. It was established to have decreased their productivity level drastically, hence their heightened poverty level within the society.

The fourth and final objective of the study sought to assess the attitudes and perceptions of the community towards the reformed convicts as a component of socio-economic factor contributing to their relapse. Through the use of the likert scale, the general attitude and perceptions of the community was found to be generally low with regards to the reformed convicts within their community. It was established that there exists a very low degree of trust, strongly expressed by 120 (37.24%) respondents to the reformed convicts with regards to their actions. The community does not have faith in their transformations purportedly being carried out while in the prisons, hence not convinced of their reforms. This has painted a negative attitude about their reformation to the community members. Further, the community perceives them as those with lower level of education hence the least cadre of individuals within the society. This has to a great level enhanced their recidivism rate. However, on further probe, there was a discovery of a ray of hope through some of the statements flashed out during the study.

Quite substantially, some opinion leader had hopes that, given appropriate environment, with good role modeling, the reformed convicts can change and lead good and honest living when given opportunity. To this extend, the community has some soft sport for their transformation when given opportunity and favorable environment.

### **5.3 Conclusion.**

In regard to the first objective, relapsing of the reformed convicts back to their previous criminal activities has been found to be a great draw back to the economy of the country. Regions with a high number of relapsed convicts spend many resources on their rehabilitation which goes to waste and could otherwise be better put to other development agenda.

It was established that unemployment as a key factor that contributes to the relapse of the already rehabilitated reformed convicts, has been influenced by discrimination by those who would be potential employers both at local as well as national levels. High rates of suspicion about the genuine transformation of the ex-convicts whom, to a great extend do not possess locally viable skills for their employability have compounded the matters to a worse degree. It has also been evidenced that high ambitions of the youths that end up not being fulfilled to their satisfaction heightened the already explosive phenomena.

Based on the second objective, education plays important role in development of any society. It was evidenced that majority of the reformed convicts who recidivate quite often were those at lower levels of education. As the education increases, it positively influences the rate of relapse among the reformed convicts by significantly reducing it magnificently. It was evidenced at the Central Maragoli Location that at Primary levels, over 90% of reformed convicts' recidivate whereas; none was identified with a bachelor's degree level of education to have relapsed. Other forms of education which were equally found useful at positively influencing the



rate of relapse among the reformed convicts include; Education in Social oriented disciplines, locally viable Vocational skills trainings as well as Religious education and ethics among others.

In regard to the third objective, drug addiction and abuse was found to have contributed highly to the rate of relapse of the reformed convicts. The study established that there was a lot of youth influence on drug use and abuse at an early age making them prone to the dangers of the same drugs as they mature in life. These drugs were locally available and the convicts could easily access them within their villages in the community. The same drugs were found to have devastating effects on the health of individual reformed convicts further lowering their economic viability. It also negatively influenced their economic productivity further enhancing their recidivism rate. The drugs use and abuse was also established to have influenced their relapse by destroying key social values that used to bind the community together hence the decaying social fibers.

In reference to the fourth objective, community perceives the reformed convicts who constantly relapse as those with low levels of education and moral values. The duration spent in imprisonment has not helped much in transforming their personal characters. They are still perceived with a lot of suspicions rendering them not fully absorbed into the existing community social systems. The general community therefore has low attitude towards them further increasing their rate of relapse to criminality. However, there is a ray of hope that, given good environment with appropriate mechanisms put in place, they can change and be productive members of the society where they live in.

#### **5.4 Recommendations for Policy Action**

Having looked at the theoretical frame work, the conceptual frame work alongside the literature review and the key findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Local talents and individual initiatives should be identified and nurtured as from the early stages in life. This will help mold individuals with locally viable and naturally in-built skills increasing their chances for self employment. This will greatly reduce the unemployment phenomenon which has been pointed out to contribute significantly to the high rate of relapse among the reformed convicts.
2. Education not only reduces the relapsing rate as found out in the study but further opens up the society for new initiatives outside their boundaries. Vihiga District is better placed to replicate the numbers of those with Primary levels of education to all other levels e.g. Secondary levels, Tertiary education levels and at University level by further supporting those who drop out at an alarming rate due to poverty. This could be done by improving such programs that offer bursaries at the local level, alongside prevailing upon local leaders to initiate institutions of higher learning within the District
3. The level of drug intake in the District is alarming. The policy on drug use and abuse need to be domesticated and effectively implemented. The local community should be actively involved in such programmes that educate the masses on the dangerous effects of drugs particularly to the youths within the District.
4. The already existing programs within the district like the Probation and Aftercare services, the Power of Mercy, Vihiga County Community Justice Centre initiative among others should be actively involved in improving the community's attitude and

perceptions on the reformed convicts owing to their experiences and in-depth networks approach and techniques among the criminals within the District.

#### **5.4.1 Suggestions for Further Studies**

This study did not explore certain areas that were equally of great importance. Such areas were left out because the scope of this study warranted. In view of this, the study suggests the following areas for further research:

1. Challenges facing the Offenders rehabilitation programmes both at community levels as well as institutionalized rehabilitations programmes.
2. Opportunities and challenges in integrating Offenders Management Programmes to community development agenda in an effort to effectively reduce the relapse of reformed convicts.

## 5.5 Contribution to the Body of Knowledge

The study contributes to the body of knowledge on reformed conflict as shown in table 5.1.

Table 5.1

*Contribution to the body of knowledge*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Contribution to Body of Knowledge</b>
<p>1 To examine extent to which unemployment as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapsing of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.</p>	<p>Unemployment of the reformed convicts has been influenced by discrimination from would be potential local employers. This has been due to suspicions as per their reformation at the prison, heightened by lack of locally viable skills, and unaccomplished high ambitions leading to their relapse into criminality.</p>
<p>2 To establish the extent to which educational level as a component of socio-economic factor contributes to the relapse of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.</p>	<p>The level of education positively influences the relapsing rate of the reformed convicts. As the level of education increases, the relapsing rate of the reformed convicts magnificently reduces. Equally viable forms of education include; Social Oriented disciplines, Locally viable Vocational skill trainings as well as Religious education and Ethics.</p>
<p>3 To assess the effects of drug abuse as a component of socio-economic factor and how it contributes to the relapsing of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.</p>	<p>The locally available drugs which have easily been accessed by the reformed convicts from their early youthful ages have had devastating effects on their health lowering their economic viability, destroying key social fibers in their society while further enhancing their relapse into criminality.</p>

4 To assess attitudes and perceptions of the community towards the reformed convicts as a component of socio-economic factor contributing to the relapsing of the reformed convicts within Vihiga District.

The community perceives reformed convicts as those with low levels of education and moral values. The duration spent incarceration has not transformed their personal characters. They are perceived with a lot of suspicions hence alienated from the community social systems. Community still has low and negative attitudes towards them. However, given opportunity, they can change and be productive members of society.

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**APPEDICES**

**APEDIX 1:**

**Letter of transmittal**

**Salvatory O. Capis**  
**Box 372 – 50300 Maragoli**  
**Kenya.**

Dear Respondent,

**RE: DATA COLLECTION FOR A RESEARCH STUDY**

It is my great pleasure in contacting and informing you that you have been selected to participate in a research study that seek to establish *The Socio-economic factors that contribute to the relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya; a case of Vihiga District within Vihiga County.*

This study is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management of the University of Nairobi.

Participation in this study is absolutely voluntary and the data collected will form a pool to be used with other data collected from other respondents selected for this study. The data will be collected with your will full consent and will be treated with the necessary confidentiality. Your name or any form of identity will not be included in the questionnaire for the information you offer will be used solely for this study.

Although this study may not confer direct benefits to you as a person at this time, it will have long term benefits to the entire community in providing recommendations to address the problems of relapse on the reformed convicts particularly after their demanding rehabilitation process which is a security threat.

I therefore kindly request you to fully participate and incase there may be need for further clarification, you can reach me on the telephone number 0725825412, or Email; [capicity2000@yahoo.com](mailto:capicity2000@yahoo.com)

**Yours Faithfully**

**Salvatory O. Capis.**

## APPENDIX 2

### SEMI-STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSE HOLD SURVEY.

#### Statement to be Read before the Interview Begins:

*Halo. My name is Salvatory O. Capis. I am a student at the University of Nairobi conducting a survey on **Socio-Economic factors contributing to relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya: A case of Vihiga District, Vihiga County**. The study is entirely for academic purposes. The information provided by the interviewee will be treated as highly confidential and will in no way be disclosed to any third party. Information is only collected for research purposes in order to establish the Objectives of the study. I therefore request you to feel free and provide frank and honest answers without fearing any persecution or disclosure. I will only be looking at the collective feedback of ALL the respondents not the individual responses*

#### Section A. Socio-demographic information of the respondent

1.1. Name of Village: .....

1.2. Sub-location: .....

1.3. Sex:

Male

Female

1.4. Religious Affiliation: .....

Christian

Muslim

African Traditional Religion

No religion

Any other (specify) .....

1.5. Education level attained: .....

Never went to school

Primary

Secondary

Tertiary

University

1.6. What do you do for a living? .....

(1) Formal employment (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Casual jobs (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Subsistence farming \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Business (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Any other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_



1.7. How long have you been living in this area? .....

**Section B. Unemployment in relation to relapse into crime.**

2.1 Do the ex-convicts easily get employed within this region?

Yes                       No                       Don't know

2.2 Who employs them \_\_\_\_\_

2.3 Given opportunity, would you allow an ex-convict work for you at your homestead?

Yes                       No                       Don't know

2.4 Of the Ex-convicts you know, do they possess some skills for the jobs they do?

Yes                       No                       Don't know

2.5 If yes (to Q4 above), what skills do they possess?

-----  
-----

2.6 Of the ex-convicts you know, what are their approximate academic levels

Pre-School Education       Primary Education       Secondary Education  
 Tertiary Education       University

2.7 What are some of the ambitions of the youth within this area as they grow up?

-----  
-----

Do these ambitions get fulfilled?

-----  
-----

What happens in the event that they are not fully met?

-----  
-----

2.8 Do you think the un-met ambitions contribute to them getting involved in criminal activities?

Yes                       No                       Don't know

2.9 Do the un-met conditions as well contribute to them relapsing after their release from institutionalized rehabilitations?

Yes

No

Don't now

**Section C. Extent to which educational level contributes to relapsing into crime.**

3.1 In your opinion, would you say those who commit crimes even after released from correctional institutions have some education?  Yes  No

3.2 If yes, what level of formal education do you think they might have attained?  
 Primary  Secondary  Tertiary  University

3.3 For those without formal education, what other skills do you think they possibly possess?  
(Indicate any possible skills possessed)

3.4 What form of education would you suggest for them?

-----  
-----

**Section D. Drug abuse and its effects on relapse into crime.**

4.1 Are Ex-convicts involved in drug use and abuse?  
 Yes  No  Don't know

4.2 What types of drugs do they commonly use/abuse? (Please list out)

-----  
-----

4.3 In your opinion how do they get access to these drugs?

-----  
-----

4.4 What effects do you think these drugs have on the reformed offenders?

-----  
-----

4.5 What is the general behavior of reformed offenders whenever intoxicated?

-----  
-----

**Section E: Community attitude and perception towards the reformed convicts.**

*While applying the keys provided, indicate the extent of whether agreement or disagreement to the following aspects of statements;*

5= Strongly agree    4=Agree    3=Not sure    2=Disagree    1= Strongly disagree

		5	4	3	2	1
5.1	Many reformed convicts in this area do involve in repeat offences after release from custody					
5.2	Repeat offenders do not reform even after being released from prison					
5.3	I can't trust an Ex-convict if he/she comes at my home or place of work.					
5.4	Repeat offenders can easily be identified from their previous behaviours.					
5.5	Ex-convicts don't get fully reformed after their imprisonment					
5.6	I believe reformed convicts can easily live in harmony with villagers given time					
5.7	Most criminals within this region are people with less education					
5.8	The offenders do learn from the environment hence community can help them change.					
5.9	Criminals should be given opportunity to earn genuine living					
5.10	Reformed convicts can change given the opportunity					

**THANK YOU**

### APENDIX 3

#### IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR REFORMED CONVICTS.

##### **Statement to be Read before the Interview Begins:**

*Halo. My name is Salvatory O. Capis. I am a student at the University of Nairobi conducting a survey on **Socio-Economic factors contributing to relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya: A case of Vihiga District, Vihiga County**. The study is entirely for academic purposes. The information provided by the interviewee will be treated as highly confidential and will in no way be disclosed to any third party. Information is only collected for research purposes in order to establish the Objectives of the study. I therefore request you to feel free and provide frank and honest answers without fearing any persecution or disclosure. I will only be looking at the collective feedback of ALL the respondents not the individual responses*

##### **A) Socio-demographic information.**

1. Name of the Village: .....
2. Sub-location.....
3. Sex (1) Male (2) Female
4. Religious Affiliation.....
4. Highest level of education.....

##### **Unemployment in relation to relapse into crime.**

- What do you do for a living?
- Have you been able to get employment since you left prison?
- How has it been in seeking employment opportunities after release from lawful authority/involvement in crime (probe reasons for success or failure to secure job opportunities)?
- Would you attribute high ambitions as part of the conditions for lack of employment? How? Please explain.....
- Highlight some of the consequences for the unmet ambitions.

**B) Education level as a contributing factor.**

- What education/academic qualification level did you attain?
- How has this affected your life?
- How has this influenced your criminal behavior?

**C) Drug abuse and its effects on relapse into crime.**

- Have you ever smoked a cigarette / taken alcohol?
- What are other types of drugs other than cigarette/alcohol that you have used?
- How do you feel after you have taken these drugs?
- What would you say pushes you to use these drugs?
- How does the drug taking affect you in relation to the offences you have been charged with?
- How do you get access to these drugs? Please explain....
- How easy is it for you to access these drugs within the location?
- What are some of the effects of these drugs on you? Kindly highlight!

**THANK YOU**

APENDIX 4

Glen Israel's (1992) formula for determining a sample size

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} n = \\ \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2} \end{array} \right\} \text{Where } e = \text{level of precision (in this case 0.05)}$$

n = sample size

N = study population

e = level of precision

In our case N= the study population (in this case, Central Maragoli Location having a population of 5310)

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} n = \\ \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} n = \\ \frac{5310}{1+5310(0.05 \times 0.05)} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} n = \\ \frac{5310}{1+5310(0.0025)} \end{array} \right\}$$

n= 371.979 rounded up to **372 respondents**

## APENDIX 5

### OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT (ESTIMATES)

<b>Item/Activity</b>	<b>Cost (Ksh.)</b>
Transport (Reconnaissance and Actual Fieldwork)	20,000
Subsistence Allowance	20,000
Research Assistants	20,000
Typing of Research Project	4,500
Photocopying of Draft Project	3,000
Binding of Draft Project	1,500
Photocopying of Questionnaires	4,800
Miscellaneous	5,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>78, 800</b>



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES  
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION  
KISUMU CAMPUS

The Secretary  
National Council for Science and Technology  
P.O Box 30623-00100  
**NAIROBI, KENYA**

9<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: ODHIAMBO SALVATORY CAPIS REG NO: L50/75952/2009 – MASTER OF ARTS IN PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

This is to inform you that Odhiambo Salvatory Capis named above is a student in the University of Nairobi, College of Education and External Studies, School of Continuing and Distance Education, Kisumu Campus.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Capis has successfully completed his course work and Examinations in the programme; he has developed Research Project Proposal and submitted before the School Board of Examiners which he successfully defended and made corrections as required by the School Board of Examiners.

The research title approved by the School Board of Examiners is: *“Socio-Economic Factors Contributing to Relapse of Reformed Convicts in Kenya: A Case of Vihiga District, Vihiga County”*. The research project is part of the pre-requisite of the course and therefore, we would appreciate if the student is issued with a research permit to enable him collect data and write a report. Research project reflect integration of practice and demonstrate writing skills and publishing ability. It also demonstrates the learners' readiness to advance knowledge and practice in the world of business.

We hope to receive positive response so that the student can move to the field to collect data as soon as he gets the permit.

Yours Faithfully

  
**Dr. Charles M. Rambo, PhD**

RESIDENT LECTURER/CO-ORDINATOR POST-GRADUATE  
PROGRAMME – DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI





## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Telegrams: .....  
Telephone: (056) 51450  
When replying please quote



DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE,  
VIHIGA DISTRICT,  
P.O. BOX 645,  
**MARAGOLI.**

VD/MISC/2/VOL.5/37


4<sup>th</sup> September 2012

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

#### RESEARCH AUTORIZATION FOR MR SALVATORY ODHIAMBO CAPIS

The above named person has been authorized to carry out his Research on "*Socio-Economic factors contributing to relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya*". A case of Vihiga District, Vihiga County.

Any assistance accorded to him will be highly appreciated.

  
**District Education Officer**  
Vihiga District  
P. O. Box 645  
Maragoli-50300

NG'OMA P.O.  
DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER  
**VIHIGA DISTRICT**

c.c.

County Director of Education  
**VIHIGA COUNTY**

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Telephone: 254-020-2213471, 2241349  
254-020-310571, 2213123, 2219420  
Fax: 254-020-318245, 318249  
When replying please quote  
[secretary@ncst.go.ke](mailto:secretary@ncst.go.ke)

P.O. Box 30623-00100  
NAIROBI-KENYA  
Website: [www.ncst.go.ke](http://www.ncst.go.ke)

Our Ref: NCST/RCD/14/012/1193

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

Salvatory Odhiambo Capis  
University of Nairobi  
Kisumu Campus  
P.O BOX 825-40100  
KISUMU

### RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on "*Socio-Economic factors contributing to relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya: A case of Vihiga District, Vihiga County*" I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Western Province** for a period ending **30<sup>th</sup> October, 2012**.

You are advised to report to **the District Commissioner and the District Education Officer, Vihiga District** before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit **two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf** of the research report/thesis to our office.

  
**DR.M.K.RUGUTT, PhD, HSC**  
**DEPUTY COUNCIL SECRETARY**

Copy to:

The District Commissioner  
The District Education Officer  
Vihiga County

*"The National Council for Science and Technology is Committed to the Promotion of Science and Technology for National Development."*

Research Permit No. NCST/RCD/14/012/1193

Date of issue 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

Fee received KSH. 1,000

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Institution  
Salvatory Odhiambo Capis  
of (Address) University of Nairobi  
P. O. Box 825-40100, Kisumu  
has been permitted to conduct research in

Location  
Vihiga District  
Western Province



on the topic: Economic factors contributing to  
relapse of reformed convicts in Kenya: A case  
of Vihiga District, Vihiga County.

*Handwritten signature of Applicant*

Applicant's  
Signature

*Handwritten signature of Secretary*

Secretary  
National Council for  
Science & Technology

for a period ending: 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2012.

**CONDITIONS**

1. You must report to the District Commissioner and the District Education Officer of the area before embarking on your research. Failure to do that may lead to the cancellation of your permit
2. Government Officers will not be interviewed with-out prior appointment.
3. No questionnaire will be used unless it has been approved.
4. Excavation, filming and collection of biological specimens are subject to further permission from the relevant Government Ministries.
5. You are required to submit at least two(2)/four(4) bound copies of your final report for Kenyans and non-Kenyans respectively.
6. The Government of Kenya reserves the right to modify the conditions of this permit including its cancellation without notice



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**RESEARCH CLEARANCE  
PERMIT**

GPK6055t3mt10/2011

(CONDITIONS—see back page)



