INFLUENCE OF SOCIO - ECONOMIC FACTORS ON RECIDIVISM AMONG KENYAN PRISONERS: THE CASE OF NAKURU MAIN PRISON

BY

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DECLARATION

This research project report is my original work and has not been presented for an award to any other university or any other institution of higher learning for examination or academic purposes.

Signed_____   _____

Carlos Kipkurui Kitaria   **Date**

(Reg. No.L50/84411/2012)

This research project has been presented for examination with my approval as the University supervisor.

Signed_____   _____

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DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate this work to my wife Jecinta, my son Kimaru for their continuous support while I was preparing this project.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABS: Australian Bureau of Statistics

SCRGS: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Services Provision

AIC: Australian community

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to investigate the socio - economic factors that influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison. Recidivism directly affects the Kenyan society both socially and economically. In social aspects, the family ties and bonds are disrupted when a person is jailed, economically because insecurity affects investment besides being a burden to our economy. The study was guided by the following objectives,: To assess the influence of demographic characteristics on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners To establish the influence of stigmatization on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners, To determine the influence of homelessness on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners, To examine the influence of imprisonment experience on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners, To ascertain the influence of rehabilitation programs on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. The research questions were then derived from the above objectives and are: How do demographic characteristics influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners How does stigmatization influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners, How does homelessness influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners, How do imprisonment experiences influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners, , How do rehabilitation programs influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. The population of interest for this study comprised of prisoners of Nakuru main prison in Nakuru town. According to inmates lockup figures (report); Nakuru main prison (March 12, 2014), the prison has a total population of 2,046 of prisoners which became the target for this study The research involved the collection of data from respondents/clients by use of a questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of both open and closed ended questions. The responses were coded by assigning a numerical value to each to make them quantitative that made it possible for the data to be analysed, and in cleaning up the data averages like mean and median as well as distributions like standard deviations were performed on the data sets in order to discover any anomalies and appropriate corrections. The first question anticipated data on influence of demographic characteristics on recidivism and the information gathered revealed that younger inmates were more likely to engage in crime leading to recidivism as opposed to older inmates. The second question anticipated data on influence of stigmatization on recidivism and the information gathered revealed that attitudes of people in the society to those who have been imprisoned fuels reoffending. The study also found that imprisonment experience and homelessness is also a catalyst to reoffending. It also found that better rehabilitation programmes reduces reoffending. This study recommends that the prisons department needs to Prioritize the rehabilitation programmes and come up with a very effective programme that can change recidivism, engage stakeholders such as the experts and the community in what best can be done to ex convicts to prevent them from going back to crime, restructure their systems of exposure to recidivist such as labour as a corrective measure since the study has proved it not to be working, develop follow up programmes for the released inmates. This research provides promise for crime control strategies targeted at reducing recidivistic behaviors, Identifying recidivists and understanding the correlates of high volume offending, and evaluating programs designed to reduce crime.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

A feature of the correction programs across the globe is that it is increasingly experiencing recidivistic behaviours characterized by an increasing trend towards crime.Recidivism is the relapse into criminal activities where generally former prisonerøs return to prison for a new offense.It is therefore a term frequently used in the criminal justice literature to refer to repetitious criminal activity and is synonymous with terms such as repeat offending and reoffending. A recidivist offender is generally seen as one who engages in repeated criminal activity despite rehabilitation programmes. Recidivismreflects the degree to which released inmates have been rehabilitated and the role correctional programs play in reintegrating prisoners into society. Rehabilitation is a term used to signify any programmed ameliorative exercise, guidance or instruction afforded to those with a particular disability, whether physical psychological or social; the term is also applied to the economic help or relief given to refugees or victims of natural disasters and sometimes to urban reconstruction programs. Rehabilitation is generally synonymous with therapy, as sponsored by official or public programs.People who can profit from rehabilitation include convalescents, deaf mutes or blind people, amputees or paralytics, emotionally disturbed people, alcoholics, criminals, and juvenile delinquents. In all cases the purpose of such beneficial is the installing or restitution of positive skills or attitudes in a person to provide him or her with a more contributive andfulfilling role in society. Crime offenders are therefore arte rehabilitated to ensure that they change and stop committing any more crimes.

The United States recently became the country with the most people incarcerated and the highest incarceration rate of any nation in the world. This high level of incarceration does not stem from abnormally high crime rates, but is instead linked more strongly to our nationøs sentencing practices and drug policies, both of which have been developed to be õtough on crime.ö This õtougherö and harsher stance is not as effective as approaches other nations use, which focus more on crime prevention and rehabilitation.

During 2002, the United States prison and jail population exceeded 2 million for the first time in history. In 2004, the nationøs prison population is counted at 1.47 million[2] and the total

number of people incarcerated is 2.1 million. The United States has the highest rate of incarceration at 726 prisoners per 100,000 people. According to United States prison statistics, the prison population is enormous growing. The number of people incarcerated in 2003 in the U.S. was 2,078,570. Since 1995, the average annual increase in the incarcerated population was 3.7 percent. A large prison population predictably means a large number of people who are released back to the community. The number of inmates returning to state prisons within three years of release has remained steady for more than a decade, a strong indicator that prison systems are failing to deter criminals from re-offending (American Civil Liberties Union. 2004..) Willing, (2004), found that slightly more than four in 10 offenders return to prison within three years, Of the 33 states that provided data for both periods, 15 reported recidivism rates had increased by as much as 30% by 2007. Among them: In South Dakota, the return rate rose 35% in 2007,Washington state reported a 31% jump during the same period, Minnesota's rate increased 11%, and by 2007 the state posted the highest prisoner return rate of all participating states at 61.2%.

Women account for about 6.9 percent of inmates in 2003, up from 6.1 percent in 1995. By far the most prevalent demographic group is young African American adult males. More than 10 percent of all African American men in their twenties are either in prison or in jail. The rate is even higher for young African American men who did not complete high school; about 60 percent of this group has prison records by their mid-thirties. African Americans also make up a disproportionate percentage of the parole and probation population. (McKean and Ransford, August 2004)

According to Karimi, (2011) The Kenyan prisons hold 40,000 ó 50,000 in-mates at any given time with 50% as re-offenders. In the prison setting there are rehabilitation programs designed to improve the wellbeing of prisoners while in prison as well as when they have been discharged after completing their sentence or after being acquitted by the court.Prisons are increasingly being expected not only to house offenders, but also to contribute to transforming them into law-abiding citizens. These expectations lead to many different approaches that have the potential to transform prisons. The rehabilitation programs include spiritual welfare, formal education, guidance and counseling and vocational training.Formal education is designed for prisoners who at the time of arrest were undergoing the program and would like to continue with it after prison. Formal education was made mandatory for prisoners of twenty five years and below during the late 1990sø when prisons opened its

doors and allowed for scrutiny by the society and during the advocacy of human rights in our jails.

Attention to rates of recidivism is an important way to monitor the role of prisons in rehabilitating inmates. Prisons have traditionally been designed to punish and confine those who break laws. However, as more and more tax payers money goes to correctional budgets, public opinion and public policy increasingly are demanding that prisons expand programs that rehabilitate inmates and prepare them for return to their communities. The effectiveness of prisons in rehabilitating inmates can be measured in ways besides recidivism. For example, reductions in substance abuse among released inmates and increases in their employment rates and educational levels are other examples. However, recidivism offers a more encompassing measure of a prison's efforts to rehabilitate inmates. Furthermore, recidivism affects a major social and economic concern; the rate of crime. Therefore, although they produce desirable social outcomes in that they educate prisoners or assist in recovery from substance abuse, another important benefit of programs that contribute to reducing recidivism, their effect on reducing crime and rates of reincarceration.

1.2. The Prison System in Kenya

The correctional programs in Kenya are regulated by the government of Kenya. The Prisons Service Is Headed by Commissioner General of Prisons and gets its mandate from The Prisons Act, The Borstal Act, And the Public Service Act. The prisons service has 107 prisons which are categorized as the maximum security prison, medium security prisons, open prisons and farm prison holding 40,000 – 50,000 in-mates at any given . The prison service has various categories of convicted prisoners and those awaiting trial. Convicted prisoners include condemned prisoners, life sentence, long sentence and short sentence prisoners. Those awaiting trial include murder suspects, robbery with violence suspects, and ordinary remands. Unfortunately, there are no known Government reintegration programs in the prisons and very few resources or organizations on the outside to help in returning citizens to normal life and avoid recidivism. Without the support of a reentry program, released citizens have a seventy-five percent chance of committing another crime and a fifty percent chance of returning to prison. Here in Kenya, when a person is released from prison, he is left on his own; thus it is almost impossible for that person to survive, let alone find a place to work. (Report by: Jefferson Gathu–Director CBI Kenya -2012).

1.3 Statement of the problem

As the country becomes more developed there is greater need for improved security that fosters development and hence realization of the countryøsø vision 2030. According to the press briefing (report) by the Kenyan police (December, 2013) crime rate has been on the rise for the past five yearsin Kenya and in the world in general. High rates of recidivism result in high costs both in terms of public safety and in tax money spent to arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate re-offenders.

According to Payne (2007) analysis of recidivism rates, the key findings about the correlates of recidivism are as follows; that consistent with the early findings of the age-crime curve, reoffending peaks in the midto late teenage years. The probability of being a recidivist is greatest between the ages of 17 and 21 years of age, and decreases into adulthood. Secondly, there is conflicting evidence about the probability of reoffending and gender. Some studiessuggest that females are less likely to reoffend, while others find no difference by gender. McKean (2004) pointed out that,females, particularly juveniles, are less at risk of recidivism, and will commit less serious offence types. Criminal history is also important. The younger the age at which an offender commences offending, the more likely they are to be recidivist offenders. According to him, more frequent and serious prior offending is linked to increased risk of reoffending, as is prior imprisonment. The current most serious offence is also a key indicator of recidivist behaviour, but there is little consistency between studies in the types of offences most linked to reoffending. Serious acquisitive offences, such as robbery and property offences, are clear markers of an increased risk of reoffending. An offenderøs lifestyle and drug use are also shown to be linked to recidivism.Unemployment, limited or low level education, poor residential location, family instability and serious, prolonged drug use are the key factors identified. Finally, Payne (2007) found out that Post-release difficulties are particularly important. These difficulties, such as limited accessto financial resources, limited contact with family and limited knowledge of social support and health services are all key factors identified as barriers to successful reintegration. They are factors that are subsequently linked to a higher probability of reoffending. These inconsistencies have paved way for unclear causes of recidivism hence lack of proper mitigating measures on recidivism.

Recidivism is affecting the Kenyan society socially and economically. Socially because family lives are disrupted when a family member is jailed or dies through crime commission and economically because so much property and life is lost through crime commission and prevention. This therefore prompted the researcher to carry out this study in order to find out

why people commit and repeat crimes. Gathu (2012) pointed out that there¢s limited literature on why recidivism among Kenyan prisoners is on the increase. Institutions concerned and the policy makers have continuouslyset up policies to try and reduce crime and especially reoffenders with little success. It is against this background that this research was done and came up with reasons why people commit and repeat crime despite the correctional programs.

1.4 Purpose of the study

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the socio - economic factors that influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison.

1.5 Objectives of the study

The study was guided by the following objectives

1. To assess the influence of demographic characteristics on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners
2. To establish the influence of stigmatization on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners
3. To determine the influence of homelessness on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners
4. To examine the influence of imprisonment experience on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners
5. To ascertain the influence of rehabilitation programs on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners.

1.6 Research questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. Do demographic characteristics influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners?
2. How does stigmatization influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners?
3. To what extend does homelessness influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners?
4. How do imprisonment experiences influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners?
5. How does rehabilitation programs influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners

1.7 Significance of the study

At a time when there is increase in crime, evidence based policy development has become increasingly important in the criminal justice policy arena. Growing concern for public safety places government at the forefront of the crime prevention agenda. The criminal justice

system is the network of agencies that aim to prevent and investigate crime as well as to ensure that those who break the law are held accountable.

This research report will provide promise for crime control strategies targeted at reducing recidivistic behaviours, Identifying recidivists and understanding the correlates of high volume offending, and evaluating programs designed to reduce crime, which remains key to any state.

In her account of the development of therapeutic jurisprudence in the Australian court system for example, Jefferies, (2003) noted that courts, Australia wide, have experienced shifts in the intellectual paradigm concerning the roles and responsibilities of the criminal justice system in delivering interventions designed to address the underlying causes of offending .These shifts have resulted in a greater emphasis being placed on proactive crime prevention strategies than on reactive crime control measures to deliver tangible reductions in crime. Jefferies suggested that growing community expectations of a more responsive and cost effective criminal justice service may be part of the reason for this move towards therapeutic jurisprudence. It is no longer considered sufficient to deal with crime when it occurs, but instead, a concerted effort should be made to prevent it from occurring.

 The research report will provide a conceptual framework through which recidivism can be defined and interpreted and arms both researchers and policy makers with information useful in critical assessment of the research literature.

The study will also benefit the policy makers in that it will help identify prisoners at higher risk for recidivating and then liaise with the relevant department in order to establish the best policies that can help curb or reduce crime; this is because Any effort to reduce recidivism must recognize that the diversity of the prison population requires Solutions that can address a myriad of inmate needs. No single program can reduce recidivism significantly because many different factors affect it. Released inmates encounter a range of common problems that contribute to returning to criminal behaviors (McKean 2004) .The correctional facilities will also have a heightened awareness in regard recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. The facilitiesø top management will use the study findings in decision making to enable them to improve their services such as providing effective and intensive parole supervision, case management, and monitoring after release.It will serve as an industry analysis to enable them to know how recidivism is there among Kenyan prisoners. Finally, researchers and academicians will use these study as a basis for future research.

1.8 Limitations of the study

There were several challenges the researcher encountered. Convicts feared giving out information for fear of victimization hence limited full disclosure of information. Some of the respondents were not be willing to sacrifice their time to fill in the questionnaires administered by the researcher due to fear that the information they may give may be used against them since majority of the still have pending cases in court.

1.9 Delimitations of the study

The study was carried out within Nakuru main prison. Prisoners serving their jail terms and those on remands were interviewed. The Prisoners provided information related to their crime aspects as concerns personal and the reasons for committing crimes. This information was easily obtainable since the person carrying out the research is an employee within the facility and interacts with other prison employees and prisoners as part of his duties.

1.10 Basic assumptions of the study

The assumptions in this study were that respondents from prison answered the questions truthfully and would provide relevant information that would be used in arriving logical conclusions and recommendations of the study. Also the results obtained from the sampled prisoners is a good representation of the entire correctional facilities in the entire country

1.11 Definitions of significant terms as used in the Study.

Recidivism: repeat offending or reoffending; it is to continue repeating crime even after punishment

Reoffenders: Persons who repeat crime even after they have undergone imprisonment.

The sample: The group of individuals/offenders whose recidivism is being measured.

The indicator events: The number and type of events observed subsequent to the index event which are considered to be indicative of re-offending

Time: The period over which the sequence of indicator events are observed.

Nakuru Main Prison: correctional facility located at Nakuru town and including the women wing

Ordinary remands: offenders awaiting trial. Their offences are considered lesser and includes loitering for immoral purposes, stealing, assault, among others

1.11. Organization of the study

Chapter covered background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, limitation and delimitation of the study, basic assumptions of the study, definition of significant terms used in the proposal, and organization of the study.Chapter two covered literature review, which is organized under Introduction, Review of Past studies, Theoretical Framework – The recidivism Theory, Empirical review, Stigmatization and recidivism in prison, Homelessness and recidivism in prison, Imprisonment experience and recidivism in prison, Demographic characteristics and recidivism in prison, Rehabilitation programs and recidivism in prison, Conceptual Framework and Summary of literature review. Chapter three covers research methodology with the following topics; introduction, research design, target population, sample size selection and sampling procedure, data collection methods, data analysis, data presentation, operational definition of variables. Chapter four contains presentations of the findings arising from data analysis using the techniques described in chapter three.

Finally chapter five contains the summary of findings, discussions of the findings, the conclusion, research recommendations and a section for suggested areas for further studies and the contribution of this study to the body of knowledge.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter concentrates on literature by different authors on socio - economic factors on recidivism of prisoners. This section will describe the complexities of defining and understanding recidivism. It highlights the underlying research base from which recidivism is measured and understood. It varies significantly in context and purpose, as well as across the key methodological elements. To facilitate this discussion the report used key examples from the Australian literature that were identified through a broader literature review, conducted by the AIC and using the Australian criminology database, a bibliographic database maintained by the AIC that indexes and abstracts articles from published and unpublished material on all aspects of crime and criminal justice in Australia. It represents the most comprehensive collection of research material in Australian criminology.

In this section, this report brings together the broader literature on recidivism with the intention of summarizing key findings from the research. At the same time this section uses that research to further illustrate the complexities within and between the studies and their likely impact on understanding recidivism.

2.2. Concept of recidivism

According to Payne (2007) research and public policy series, Australian Institute of Criminology (2007), the term recidivism originates from the Latin *recidere*, which means to fall back. It is often used interchangeably with others such as repeat offending or reoffending. In the criminological literature it has been variously described as ₌the reversion of an individual to criminal behaviourø (Maltz, 1984), the ₌return of a prisoner to custodyø (SCRGS, 2006), the ₌reappearance of a juvenile in courtø Victoria; Department of Human Services (2001) or the, reconviction of a drug court participant. (Payne, 2005).

Although the technical elements of each definition may vary, there is one common theme that underpins them ó recidivism is generally used for describing repetitious criminal activity, and a recidivist offender is an individual who engages in such activity. It is these offenders who

are the subject of much debate as they have become variously described throughout the literature as "chronic", "multiple", "frequent", or "prolific" offenders, among others.

Previous research suggests that as high as 68% of the prisoners at any given time are repeat offenders and a majority of this being middle aged persons. Although recidivism continues to be a research problem of considerable academic and applied interest, a very limited number of conjoint studies have focused on this subject. Despite the importance of recidivism, there is a large divide between research and policy. What policy makers would like to measure often bears little resemblance to what researchers are able to measure, given the limitations on appropriate data and available information. As a result, research findings are often used out of context and with little regard for limitations imposed on them by the methodological constraints they face. This is driven primarily by a lack of clarity surrounding an appropriate definition of recidivism and clear articulation of research methodologies.

Thompson (1995)surveys a prevalence of recidivism among adult offenders released from full time custody. ABS Prisoners in Australia, (2005)examines the ABS Prison Census, annual information released on prisoners in Australia. Makkai& Payne (2003) discusses drugs and crime; a study of incarcerated male offenders. Johnson (2004) examines drugs and crime; a study of incarcerated female offenders. SCRGS (2006) discusses report on government services. Jones et al. (2006) discusses risk of reoffending amongst parolees. Ross &Guarnieri (1996) examines recidivism rates in a custodial population; the influence of criminal history, offence and gender factors. Baldry et al. (2006)examines Ex-prisoners, homelessness and their state. Stevenson & Forsythe (1998) discusses the stolen goods market in New South Wales; an interview study with imprisoned burglars.

In Australia a research was conducted on a multiple topic areas and about 416 articles published between 1995 and 2004.The most frequently cited topic area was juvenile offending, with 159 articles (38%). This was followed by prison or detention related topics (37%), Indigenous offenders (26%) and drug and alcohol issues (19%). Approximately 15 percent of articles examined, recidivism and women or those with a mental health disorder. Sex offender research accounted for 49 articles (12%). This indicates that the seven identified topics accounted for more than 85 percent of recidivism research conducted in Australia, Payne; Research and Public Policy Series (Australian Institute of Criminology 2007)

Thompson (1995) conducted general study aimed at identifying the prevalence of recidivism among adult offenders released from full time custody in NSW in 1990 and 1991. All prison releases were included regardless of offence type. Exploratory analysis by offence type,

Indigenous status and gender were included in the study. These analyses further restricted the specification of the index event. His quantification was based on episode of conviction irrespective of the offence type. Observation period was consistent for all offenders ó two years from being released from prison in 1990 to 1991. He found out that 35% of males and 38% of females prisoners returned to prison within two years. The recidivism rate was higher for younger offenders, offenders with prior imprisonment, offenders with a higher security classification at the time of discharge, offenders sentenced for property, violent offences rather than drug and sex offences and Indigenous offenders.

ABS Prisoners in Australia (2005) examined released annual information on the ABS Prison Census on prisoners in Australia. As a census, the information was collected for all prisoners incarcerated on the night of 30th June each year. Its data was on corrective services data and quantification on the Episode of imprisonment irrespective of the offence type. The observation period was retrospective for each prisonerøs lifetime. The observation varied depending on the age of the prisoner. He found out that 60% of prisoners have been in prison on at least one other occasion in their lifetime and that the proportion of prisoners with prior imprisonmentincreased by about 10% since the 2004 census. The proportion of prisoners with prior imprisonment was highest for those incarcerated for property offences or offences against justice procedures.

Makkai and Payne (2003) discuss drugs and crime, a study on incarcerated male offenders. This study was conducted using a geographically stratified random sample of the prison population in Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. There were 2,135 adult male respondents. Its data was based on self-report data while the quantification was on Episode of imprisonment irrespective of offence type. The observation period was retrospective for each prisonerøs lifetime. The observation wasvaried depending on the age of the prisoner. He found out that 63% reported a history of prior imprisonment. The average number of prior imprisonment episodes was 3 and the average time since the last imprisonment episode was 58 months.

Johnson (2004) examines drugs and crime, a study of incarcerated female offenders. This study surveyed the female prisoner population in 2003. There were 470 adult female respondents. Its data and quantification was on self-report data and episode of imprisonment irrespective of offence type respectively. The observation period was retrospective for each prisonerøs lifetime. The observation also varied depending on the age of the prisoner. He found out that 43% reported a history of prior imprisonment. The average number of prior

imprisonment episodes was 3 and the average time since the last imprisonment episode was 32 months.

SCRGS (2006) examines a report on government services of 2005. He examines the proportion of prisoners in each Australian state and territory who return to corrective services supervision within two years of their release from prison. The sample includes offenders who were released from prison into further non-custodial correctional supervision orders. The data and quantification was also based on Corrective services and episode of imprisonment or custodial supervision irrespective of offence type respectively. The observation period was consistent for all offenders i.e. two years from being released from prison. He found out that 38% of prisoners across Australia were reimprisoned within two years of their release. A further 7% of prisoners were returned to other corrective services orders within two years, a total return rate of 45%.

Jones et al. (2006) assess the risk of reoffending amongst parolees. This study explored patterns of reoffending among 2,793 New South Wales offenders released to parole supervision in the 2001to 2002 financial year. Its data was based on Court appearance data and Court conviction data while the quantification was on episode of court appearance, conviction or imprisonment. The observation period was consistent for all offenders, two years from being released from prison. He found out that 68% of parolees reappeared in court, 64% were reconvicted and 41% were reimprisoned within two years of release. This study also showed that the risk of reoffending was increased for parolees who: had multiple prior imprisonment episodes, had at least one prior drug conviction, were younger, were Indigenous and were given parole by the court rather than the parole authority.

Ross and Guarnieri (1996) examined recidivism rates in a custodial population, the influence of criminal history, offence and gender factors. This study followed 838 adult offenders released from prison in Victoria between 1985 and 1986 its data and quantification was based on Court conviction and Corrective services data respectively. The observation period was consistent for all offenders i.e. seven years from being released from prison in 1985 to 1986. He found out that 74% of prisoners were reconvicted at least once within seven years of release. Around 25% were reconvicted within three months of release and 54% were reimprisoned at least once within seven years of release.

Baldry et al. (2006) studied Ex-prisoners, homelessness and the state in Australia. This study examined post-release reimprisonment among a sample of prisoners released from NSW and Victorian prisoners in 2001 or 2002. The study used a prospective self-report methodology by

re-contacting the prisoners and asking them to complete a survey. Reimprisonment was identified either through self-report or through observation, where the prisoner was back in prison at the time of the survey. The study's primary aim was to examine the impact of post-release housing on the likelihood of reimprisonment. Its data and quantification was based on Self-report and corrective services data and episode of reimprisonment respectively. The observation period was consistent for all offenders, nine months after being released in 2001 or 2002. The results suggested that approximately 40% of prisoners had returned to custody within the 9 months follow-up period. Homelessness and instability in family environment were significant contributors to increasing reimprisonment.

Stevenson and Forsythe (1998) examined the stolen goods market in New South Wales, an interview study with imprisoned burglars. This study used a self-reported offending methodology to examine the prevalence of pre-imprisonment custody among a sample of burglars imprisoned in NSW. Its data and quantification was based on Self-report and episode of offending i.e. burglary offences. Two measures were recorded; one was the number of times burglary was committed in the last free period before the current incarceration and the other was lifetime charges by police. Estimates of the extent of reoffending showed that the median number of burglary offences committed per month was 8.7 for adults.

Generally these findings therefore show that there is a high percentage of recidivism among prisoners. This reoffending cases contribute to the high rates of crime hence poses a lot of threats to any development of any state. Correctional programs should be designed to reduce and possibly eliminate recidivism among offenders. It is therefore of critical importance to know the specific causes of recidivism. Segmentation and careful design of programs to satisfy these segments, ensures reduced reoffending by ex-convicts hence promote investments that contribute to development.

The situation makes it necessary for the policy makers and program designers to choose superior strategies and tactics in order to succeed. It is, however, not so easy for them to organize. In the first place, the principles and assumptions of recidivism are quite new, so there may be less than perfect results from initial attempts to change the way rehabilitations are done, especially during transition when different sectors of the economy are changing at different rates. Employees are likely to suffer, at least at the subconscious level, from the less than convict responsive attitudes, Pritchard (2005).

However, although such studies have contributed substantially to the literature on recidivism, their findings may not be applicable to other countries, due to differences in cultural,

economic and legal environments. A set of determinant factors that have a significant role in recidivism in one nation may prove to be insignificant in another (Smith, 1991).

2.3. Theoretical Framework –The recidivism Theory

It is not a new concept in criminology although, for the reasons mentioned earlier, it has gained greater prominence in more recent times. One of the earliest and most frequently cited recidivism studies was conducted in Philadelphia in 1972.Wolfgang, Figlio and Sellin (1972). The authors used a longitudinal cohort methodology with official police arrest data to measure the frequency of offending among nearly 10,000 males born in 1945. The authors found that by the age of 18, only 35 percent (n=3,475) had been arrested by the police at least once, but that these offenders had accounted for more than 10,000 episodes of arrest, giving an average of almost three arrests per offender.(Wolfgang, Figlio&Sellin,1972)

Further analysis revealed that these young male delinquents could be categorized into three sub-groups:one time offenders, non-chronic recidivist offenders, chronic recidivist offenders ó these represented only six percent of the total cohort, but were found to be responsible for more than half of all recorded criminal offences committed by the cohort. This seminal study demonstrated that recidivism was an important consideration in understanding population level crime rates, and drew attention to the fact that a small number of young offenders accounted for a large proportion of crime. It also indicated that ҃recidivismø as a generic term to refer to any secondary offending, could be disaggregated depending on the level of subsequent offending. Terms such as chronic and non chronic recidivism, or persistent and non-persistent offending, have now become an integral part of criminological parlance and have in some ways added to the confusion about what recidivism actually means.(Wolfgang, Figlio and Sellin 1972)

Underlying the use of recidivism as a concept of ҃generalized reoffendingø is a plethora of discrete research studies that have attempted to quantify and measure it. It is these research studies, and the various methods by which they are undertaken, that have led to much of the existing confusion surrounding recidivism. For this reason, it is important now to move away from a generic and conceptual understanding of recidivism to a more structured view of the underlying research, where recidivism is seen to be composed of two main components: first, the broad purpose of the research and the context within which it sits; and second, the key methodological elements that need to be identified and analyzed to derive a useful and meaningful quantitative measure of recidivism. (Payne 2007)

Fundamental to this model is the purpose and context within which the research is undertaken. Recidivism research can be grouped into one of three broad categories depending on the aim and objectives. The first category generally referred to as prevalence studies attempt to estimate the size of the recidivist population as well as the proportion of all offences attributable to recidivists. There are two types of prevalence studies: those that aim to measure recidivism among a total population such as a cohort of all persons born in a particular year and those that take as their starting point a particular group of known offenders and seek to estimate the extent to which this group reoffends. Two studies undertaken in South Australia illustrate the differences in these approaches. One took as its starting point, all young people born in that state in 1984 and found that 83 percent were never apprehended by police during their juvenile years, while 17 percent were apprehended at least once. The second study concentrated on that subset of the same birth cohort who had actually been apprehended on at least one occasion and found that 44 percent had been apprehended multiple times (Skrzypiec 2005). The different results obtained by these two studies are simply due to the different samples used.

The second category studies are exploratory in nature. Rather than simply attempting to estimate the prevalence of reoffending, they are more concerned with identifying those personal, socioeconomic and psychological factors that correlate with, and may therefore help to explain, recidivism.

The third set involves the use of recidivism as an outcome measure in evaluation. Here researchers are asked by policy makers and program operators to measure the extent to which participation in a particular program or intervention reduces the risk of reoffending. Some examples from the Australian literature include; evaluations of re-offending among participants in specialist drug, mental health and domestic violence courts (UWA CRC 2003; Lind et al. 2002; Makkai and Veraar 2003; Payne 2005; Skryzpiec, and Wundersitz and McRostie 2004). Evaluations of juvenile justice interventions such as youth conferencing (Hayes and Daly 2004 and Luke and Lind 2002) andevaluations of particular policing operations for example Makkai et al. 2004).

The purpose for which the research is undertaken also helps to define its contextual parameters, that is, the broad range of factors that influence the research and the methodological decisions made by the researchers. It provides the backdrop for the analysis, often defining the parameters of both the data collection and the analytic techniques to be

used. Having an appreciation of that context provides the necessary platform from which the results are interpreted.

There are a wide variety of contextual issues to be understood. At the very least they include those factors associated with the selection of the target sample, the location of the study and the time period within which it was conducted. Other factors are the data sources used, the counting rules, and the length of the observation period.

Once the purpose and context of the research has been determined, it is the researcher's task to develop an appropriate conceptual and methodological approach that will effectively answer the questions posed by policy makers and program operators. For every given question, researchers are responsible for determining and implementing a measurement model that will provide the most accurate answer possible, usually in the most efficient and cost effective manner. In its simplest form, this model views recidivism as any secondary event occurring subsequent to an index event. Time is inherent in the model because the index and indicator events must occur separately, whether separated by minutes, days, weeks or years. The index and indicator events are essentially the same units (of offending), but the index event is the first of the events observed over time.

There is one important alternative to this sequential model worth noting. Although depicted s a prospective, forward observation of events, it is easy to conceive of the retrospective identification of recidivism - most commonly referred to as criminal history analysis. In this retrospective analysis, the index event is typically the last of all events within the sequence, and the indicator events are those that occurred in the prior time period. In either case, whether the prospective or retrospective identification of events is used, the same three key elements of recidivism can be identified.(Payne, 2007)

While the term recidivism is freely used throughout the research and policy environments to describe the general act of reoffending, in reality it evades simple and systematic definition. In his 1984 study of recidivism, Maltz highlighted this issue, noting that: For the most part, recidivism has been defined on an ad hoc basis, without consideration of its true meaning; and it has been measured in ways remarkable for their inconsistency. Yet we find recidivism rates based on different definitions applied in different contexts and measured in different ways being compared to each other(Maltz 1984).

The inconsistency noted by Maltz is not only inevitable but also legitimate because of the wide variation in the purpose and context which define the research questions and parameters

of investigation. Purpose and context impact on decisions regarding the type of sample selected. Depending on the purpose of the research, this may vary according to the demographic profile of offenders, the type of offence committed, their ethnic, racial or cultural identity, their gender, or whether the individual has been involved in a particular program. Other components inherent in the choice of the sample include geographic location and the year of investigation.

Purpose and context also drive decisions about which data sources will be used to determine the indicator event. Since there is no absolute measure of the total number of offences committed by offenders, researchers must rely on data sources such as self-reported or administrative data to provide proximal measures and estimates. Researchers must also develop definitions and counting rules, where, even if the same indicator events are selected and the same data sources are used, different researchers may apply different definitions and counting rules to quantify those events. The results of the research will inevitably be quite different depending on the data sources used and the counting rules applied to those data.

Finally, the purpose of the research is also likely to play a significant role in determining the length of time over which the indicator events are observed. Some studies, for example, may track offending over a six or 12 month period, while others may opt for a five or ten year observation period. Differences in observation periods result in differences in the thresholds used for determining whether recidivism has occurred, which are ultimately driven by the context and purpose of the research.

For the reasons outlined above, the results from recidivism studies inevitably vary, often quite substantially, which may lead to confusion among non-specialist readers of these studies. The key to using the results wisely is to understand the purpose and context of each piece of research as well as the methodology used by the researchers to determine what and how to measure reoffending. Such understanding is critical to ensuring that the results from a particular study are appropriately interpreted and applied, and for determining the extent to which findings from one study can be legitimately compared with those from another.

In conclusion, recidivism is an interesting and useful conceptual tool with the capacity to inform debates over effective crime prevention strategies. It is a criminological concept that describes the phenomenon of criminal propensity, where a recidivist offender is generally identified as one who repeatedly engages in criminal activity. Although in this generic sense, recidivism provides a useful point of reference, in reality, it evades systematic and consistent description and identification. That the purpose and context of recidivism research vary

significantly between studies and influence both the methodologies used the meaning of the research findings, and the level of comparability between different studies. That the research varies markedly in the ways by which recidivism is measured ó researchers focus on different samples of offenders, use different sources of information and data to identify recidivism, apply various counting and quantification rules and use different observational periods. (Jason Payne, 2007)

The available prisons records show that there are recidivists in the Kenyan prisons and is contributing to the increasing rate of crime. Recidivism has been given attention by the researcher because it is affecting the Kenyan society socially and economically. The study therefore seeks to understand socio - economic factors on recidivism and specifically find out why offenders repeat crime or relapsed into criminal activities instead of reforming after going through imprisonment.

2.4. Factors Influencing Recidivism

In this subsection, the study outlines the various factors that influence the number of time one returns to prison after release. Recidivistic behaviours are influenced strongly by stigmatization, rehabilitation programs, imprisonment experience, demographic characteristics and homelessness. These factors are explained as under:

2.4.1 Stigmatizationand recidivism among prisoners

Stigmatizationincludes the following: Stigma is a feeling of disapproval that people have about something or somebody including ways of behaviour. Social stigma is the extreme disapproval of (or discontent with) a person or group on socially characteristic grounds that are perceived, and serve to distinguish them, from other members of a society. Stigmatizationthereforeis the kind of treatment that makes one to feel that they are very bad or unimportant.

Stigma may also be described as a label that associates a person to a set of unwanted characteristics that form a stereotype. It is also affixed. Once people identify and label your differences others will assume that is just how things are and the person will remain stigmatized until the stigmatizing attribute is undetected. A considerable amount of generalization is required to create groups, meaning that you put someone in a general group regardless of how well they actually fit into that group. What is considered out of place in one society could be the norm in another. When society categorizes persons released from prison

into certain groups, the labeled person is subjected to status loss and discrimination. This therefore may affect the behavior of those who are stigmatized. (Edwards,Lashonda&Jenkins,Sharonrae,2014). Those who are stereotyped often start to act in ways that their stigmatizes expect of them. It not only changes their behavior, but it also shapes their emotionsand beliefs. Members of stigmatized social groups often face prejudice that causes depression. Members of stigmatized groups start to become aware that they are not being treated the same way and know they are probably being discriminated against.Because of this, they are then forced to be lonely or regroup with other ex-convicts who are accommodative to each other.

Society establishes the means of categorizing persons and the complement of attributes felt to be ordinary and natural for members of each of these categories. When a stranger comes into our presence, then first appearances are likely to enable us to anticipate his category, attributes and his social identity. We lean on these anticipations that we have, transforming them into normative expectations, into righteously presented demands. It is when we are likely to realize that all along we had been making certain assumptions as to what the individual before us ought to be. These assumed demands and the character we impute to the individual will be called virtual social identity. The category and attributes he could in fact be proved to possess will be called his actual social identityGoffman(1963).

While a stranger is present before us, evidence can arise of his possessing an attribute that makes him/her different from others in the category of persons available for him to be, and of a less desirable kind in the extreme, a person who is quite thoroughly bad, or dangerous, or weak. He is thus reduced in our minds from a whole and usual person to a tainted, discounted one. Such an attribute is a stigma, especially when its discrediting effect is very extensive. It constitutes a special discrepancy between virtual and actual social identity. Note that there are other types of such discrepancy for example the kind that causes us to reclassify an individual from one socially anticipated category to a different but equally well-anticipated one, and the kind that causes us to alter our estimation of the individual upward Goffman (1963).

Perceptions of stigma by association have been found to be related to lower self-esteem and psychological distress in those connected with stigmatized individuals (Struening, Perlick, Link, Hellman, Herman &Sirey, 2001; Mak and Kwok, 2010), which, in most empirical research, is family, People often try to hide their relationship to a stigmatized family member (Phelan, Bromet andLink, 1998) or encourage that member to hide his or her condition. Such

concealment õadviceö is detrimental to the psychological well being of the stigmatized family member.(Stutterheim et al. 2009)

Coleman and Cross were the first to identify intellectual giftedness as a stigmatizing condition and they created a model based on Goffmanøs, 1963, work, research with gifted students, and a book that was written and edited by 20 teenage, gifted individuals. Being gifted sets students apart from their peers and this differentness interferes with full social acceptance.

Stigmatization affects social groups while a personøs behavior is influenced by many small groups. Groups that have a direct influence and to which a person belongs are called membership groups. In contrast, reference groups serve as direct (face-to-face) or indirect points of comparison or reference in forming a personøs attitude or behavior. Reference groups expose a person to new or old behaviors and lifestyles, influence the personøs attitudes and self-concept, and create pressures to conform that may affect the personøs choices.(Kotler, 2006).

Stigma can also affect the family members who have strong influence on onesø behavior. The family is the most important mentoring organization or institution in society. Ex-convicts are largely influencedby the husband, wife, and/or children on the behaviour. Husband-wife involvement varies widely by product and behaviour category. Children may also have strong influence on family decisions. For example, children as young as six years may influence the family car purchase decision (Churchill, 1995).

A person belongs to many groups ó family, clubs, and organizations. The personøs position in each group can be defined in terms of both role and status. A role consists of the activities people are expected to perform according to the persons around them. Each role carries a status reflecting the general esteem given to it by society. Consumers usually choose products appropriate to their roles and status. (Kotler, 2006).

As we know it today, stigma is not merely a physical mark but rather an attribute that results in widespread social disapproval - a discrediting social difference that yields a ─spoiled social identityø, to use Goffmanøs terms. Most definitions of stigma comprise two fundamental components, namely the recognition of difference and devaluation (Dovidio, Major, and Crocker, 2000). They also emphasize that stigma occurs in social interactions. As such, stigma is not considered to reside in the person but rather in the social context (Crocker,

Major, & Steele, 1998; Hebl and Dovidio, 2005). What is stigmatizing in one social context may not be stigmatizing in another situation (Crocker, Major and Steele, 1998).

The dual process model of reactions to perceived stigma (Pryor, Reeder, and Landau, 1999; Pryor, Reeder, Yeadon, and Hesson-McInnis, 2004) posits that people commonly have both implicit and explicit negative reactions to stigmatized conditions. Implicit reactions entail a reflexive system yielding automatic and immediate responses. Explicit reactions are derived from a rule-based system involving controlled and thoughtful responses. Research has shown that perceivers often manifest an immediate and automatic aversion to stigmatized individuals followed by controlled and thoughtful reactions which can either temper immediate negative reactions or further polarize them (Pryor et al, 2004).

2.4.2 Homelessness and recidivism in prison.

Homelessness describes the condition of people without a regular dwelling. People who are homeless are most often unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, secure, and adequate housing, or lack fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. The legal definition of homeless varies from country to country, or among different entities or institutions in the same country or region. The term homeless may also include people whose primary night-time residence is in a homeless shelter, a warming center, a domestic violence shelter, cardboard boxes or other ad hoc housing situations. According to American Government homeless enumeration studiesalso include persons who sleep in a public or private place not designed for use as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (Chamberlain Mackenzie 1998).

Homelessness started as a result of economic stresses in society and reductions in the availability of affordable housing. Tied into this were an increasing number of impoverished and runaway children, teenagers, and young adults, which created more street children or street youth.Prisoners released from prison without any proper source of income, and with the increased rate of inflation, have also promoted homelessness among these offenders.

Homeless are forty times more likely to be arrested and twenty time more likely to be imprisoned. (Baldry2001). According to Willis 2004, seventy percent of ex inmates made their link between their homelessness and offending. They also link barrier to securing accommodation to being an ex inmate.

In regards to released prisoners in Kenya, there is no support at all to assist them restart their lives again. Once released they are on their own and that relatives even run away from them instead of welcoming. Some would find their properties destroyed or stolen.Homelessnessis therefore as a result of economic stresses in society and reductions in the availability of affordable housing among other things for poorer people. Offenders therefore would possibly find it hard to survive without a home, hence to satisfy this need they commit crime again (Gathu 2012)

2.4.3 Imprisonment experience and recidivism in prison

Lifestyle is a person's pattern of living as expressed in his/her activities, interests and opinions. It involves measuring consumers' major activities, interests, and opinions about themselves, social issues, business and products (John, 1995).

Each person's distinct personality influences his/her behavior. Personality refers to the unique psychological characteristics that lead to relatively consistent and lasting responses to one's own environment. Personality is usually described in terms of traits such as self-confidence, dominance, sociability, autonomy, defensiveness, adaptability, and aggressiveness. Brands have personalities, and consumers are likely to choose brands whose personalities match their own. A brand personality is the specific mix of human traits that may be a particular brand (John, 1995).

Individuals with short sentences handle their imprisonment by maintaining and emphasizing a psychological continuity/personality between a remembered before and an anticipated after. The incarceration can then be endured as an unpleasant interim/interruption within an ongoing life/lifestyle. Strong outside support, frequent visits, telephone calls, and exchange of letters with family and continuing friends who encourage and support them is needed. Their psychic reality remains outside, even over a long period of time, and their personal identity is stabilized and reinforced if they get support. Individuals with prior economic/social poverty for some, prison represents only slight decrement, or even actual improvement in living conditions and/or social opportunities, may experience minimal or absent culture shock. Individuals with low intelligence entail ability to introspect and conceptualize that may be poorly elaborated hence less or no feelings at all. Having passed through the transition to incarceration, there continue to operate factors which make our physical and emotional survival particularly difficult in our new status and environment of the imprisonment (Bhati, 2006)

In an environment where violence is never far from the surface, the situation hangs like a double edged sword over the prisoners head. Chronic anxiety interferes with concentration and judgment, and probably contributes to physical stress-related disorders over the long run. Faced with the absence of our own group, many of us choose to lie. Not only does this run the risk of violent or even fatal consequences if discovered, but it also feeds into. Murder, assault, fraud, drug use and sale, theft, espionage, exploitative sex and rape all are common entertainment fare. Moreover, the perpetrators of these crimes often are portrayed in a sympathetic if not approving manner. Another most important factor that militates against both our adjustment in prison and our making positive use of our prison time is that we are unacknowledged political prisoners. Political prisoners differ fundamentally from other prisoners in being, not only well-socialized, but in fact extraordinarily ethical. At the very least, this is because as members of a persecuted political minority, they have been forced to consider matters of right and wrong more consciously than the average citizen. Such persons tend intrinsically to be rule-followers because, although they think certain rules should be different, they believe in the concept of rules. The abrupt collapse of one's personal psychological identity, all or most of one's interpersonal relationships, and all of one's social and cultural roles, precipitates a state of inner chaos that some will not survive and several become immune/hardcoreøs.

2.4.4 Demographic characteristics and recidivism in prison.

There are a number of demographic and lifestyle factors, documented by scholars and companies, that have resulted in various changes in consumer behaviour. The consequences of demographic factors are an ageing population and an increasing number of people.With age reasoning and thinking capacities differ; the older a person is the higher the reasoning capacity. Age is one of the most consistent and long standing criminological findings is the relationship between age and crime, first discovered in the early nineteenth century in the pioneering work of AdolpheQuetelet (1833). Since then, studies have repeatedly shown that criminal offending peaks in the mid to late teenage years, before diminishing in adulthood. Interestingly, the age-crime curve has remained constant, despite a long period of change and development in criminal justice policy around the world Hirschi&Gottfredson (1983).

Makkai et al. (2004) measured the probability of reoffending among a sample of property offenders apprehended in the Australian Capital Territory in 2001. The analysis indicated that juveniles were more likely to have reoffended, and to have reoffended sooner than adults. This was the case even when controlling for factors such as drug use, prior offending history

and Indigenous status. Thompson (1995) and Jones et al. (2006) also examined the rate of reimprisonment among released prisoners in New South Wales. Their studies showed that the risk of reimprisonment was higher for offenders who were younger at the time of release. Ross and Guarnieri (1996) also measured recidivism among a sample of released prisoners. They found that the younger the offender when they first offended, the higher the probability of reconviction and reimprisonment. Stevenson and Forsythe (1998) used self-report analysis to examine the frequency of offending among a sample of burglars imprisoned in New South Wales. The study asked offenders to report the frequency of their offending in the months preceding their imprisonment. They found out that juveniles reported a higher frequency of offending than adults.

Genderunlike age, the link between gender and recidivism is unclear. Of the Australian recidivism studies, some found significant differences between men and women, while others found no difference. In their analysis of West Australian offenders, Broadhurst and Loh (1995) found that regardless of Indigenous status, men were more likely to be rearrested and rearrested sooner, than women. Their analysis estimated that 52 percent of non-Indigenous males would be rearrested within ten years compared with only 32 percent of non-Indigenous females. Moreover, males were more likely to be rearrested sooner than females 17 months compared with 27 months. Cain (1998), and Carcach and Leverett (1999), studied juveniles in New South Wales. They found that males were more likely to reappear or be reconvicted in court. Males were also likely to reappear in court sooner than females.

The difference between male and female recidivism rates is complex. There are almost as many studies that find no difference by gender as those that do. Moreover, gender is one variable unlikely to be defined and measured differently in different contexts. The gender differential in recidivism rates appears to be related to the offender population studied. Most of the studies that found no gender differential focused on the more serious offender populations that is, offenders released from prison. Studies that focused on the general offender population that is, those offenders who came into contact with the police found that females were less likely to be identified as recidivist offenders. This suggests that at the more serious end of the offending scale, there is no difference between males and females, but for the average offender having contact with the police, gender is an important factor in recidivism.

The environment also is an increasingly important issue for an individual released from prison. A number of environmental problems have increased the interest of governments,

official institutions and international companies around the world in coming up with ideas for solving these problems such as recidivism. (Hogg, 2003).

Family members can strongly influence individualsø behavior. The family is the most important reference organization in society to every individual. Policy makers are interested in the roles and influence of the husband, wife, and children on the purchase of different products. Husband-wife involvement varies widely by reasoning, views and advices. Children may also have strong influence on ones decisions. For example, children as young as six years may influence the family car purchase decision (Churchill, 1995).

A person belongs to many groups ó family, clubs, and organizations. The personøs position in each group can be defined in terms of both role and status. A role consists of the activities people are expected to perform according to the persons around them. Each role carries a status reflecting the general esteem given to it by society. People make decisions based on their roles and status (Kotler, 2006).

2.4.5 Rehabilitation programs and recidivism in prison.

Rehabilitation programs are designed and are intended to reduce crime. Most of the offenders once found guilty by a court of law are subjected to these programs. However despite these programmes, they repeat crime and are therefore taken back to prison. Kenya has a well-designed treatmentprogram for young offenders who go onrelease on license, either early or afterserving a full-time sentence of maximumthree years. In Kenya the After-CareCommittee decides on early release issues.Probation Officers have been called up onto provides the above services, through an administrative arrangement, until the õParole Billö is enacted by Parliament. Supervision and aftercare services are provided by the Home District Probation Officer. The immediate aim of the program is to resettle them back home so they report to the Probation officer immediately on release. Assistance usually ranges from tools (for various trades undertaken in the institution), counseling and ensuring that they go back to school if they are off formal school-going age. They are also assisted to get trade training in the local training institutions like polytechnics. The Probation Department has also established an aftercare resettlement fund that assistant the released inmates with tools and payment for their training, depending upon the availability of funds.

The probation officer actually helps the exanimate and their families in order to facilitate proper reintegration. Kenyaøs conditions of supervision and aftercare for young offenders include: being of good behavior; being truthful; reporting to the Probation Officer at least

once a month or as required, refraining from keeping bad company, especially bad peers; informing the Probation Officer of their movement; remaining in regular employment, school or training program; avoiding intoxicating liquor or drugs; and observing any other condition laid down by Probation Officer.

On failure to observe any of the conditions, the Probation Officer would first issue a warning. That failing, the release would be recalled by the Corrections Commissioner to the Borstal Institute where one would be detained for a period not exceeding three months. After this one would remain on suspension for the period that was originally committed to serve. In Kenya, in the case of a high risk offender, an order is sometimes made for supervision after completion of the sentence. The court decides the period of supervision. When on supervision, one is required to report to the police station or post nearest to their home at least once a month. Their movements and actions are monitored closely during this time by the police. There is no such program for adults; instead they finish their programmes in prison. However despite such programmes they still repeat crime.

FIGURE 1: FACTORS INFLUENCING RECIDIVISM

2.5 Conceptual Framework

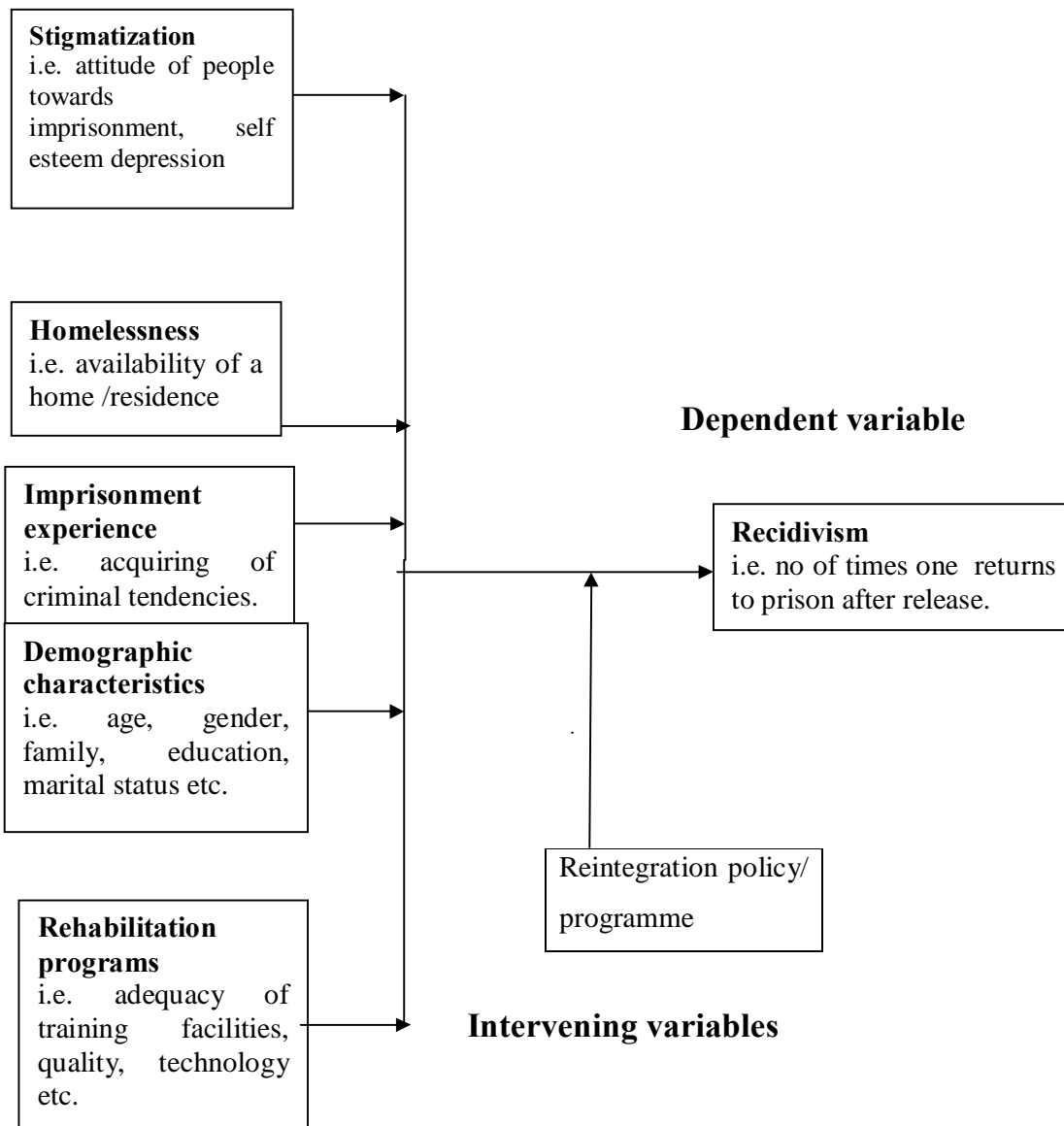The study was be guided by the following conceptual variables;

Independent Variable

Stigmatization
i.e. attitude of people towards imprisonment, self esteem depression

Homelessness
i.e. availability of a home /residence

Dependent variable

Imprisonment experience
i.e. acquiring of criminal tendencies.

Recidivism
i.e. no of times one returns to prison after release.

Demographic characteristics
i.e. age, gender, family, education, marital status etc.

Reintegration policy/ programme

Rehabilitation programs
i.e. adequacy of training facilities, quality, technology etc.

Intervening variables

Fig 1

Figure 1 shows the relationship between the independent variables and dependent variables. Rehabilitation programs, demographic characteristics, imprisonment experience, homelessness and stigmatization factors all have an influence on the depended variable.

This conceptual framework hypothesizes that there is a relationship between the Stigmatization i.e. attitude of people towards imprisonment and recidivism. The second independent variable shows that there is a certain percentage that Homelessness i.e. availability of a home /residence recidivistic behaviours of convicts. It also shows that there is a certain percentage that Imprisonment experience i.e. acquirers of criminal tendencies, influence the no of times one returns to prison after release. The fourth independent variable, Demographic characteristics i.e. age, family, education, marital status etc, depicts the existence of a relationship that demographic characteristics affect the recidivism. Finally rehabilitation programs i.e. adequacy of training facilities, quality, technology etc, will reflect its relationship and the recidivistic behaviours within the prison settings. An **intervening variable** facilitates a better understanding of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables when the variables appear to not have a definite connection. In this case rehabilitation programmes and re integration policy can influence recidivism rates if put in place.

2.6 Summary of literature review

From this literature recidivisms influenced by different factors and are bound to change from time to time. Several factors do contribute to these changes. Recidivism research, therefore, offers a methodology for understanding crime and criminal activity within the context of fluctuating and increased crime rates and growing concern for public safety. It helps to identify the size and characteristics of the recidivist population, improve understanding of the factors that correlate with high volume offending, and assist in evaluating the effectiveness of programs designed to reduce reoffending. The research report will assists in the development of the evidence base necessary for effective and efficient crime prevention strategies, with the potential to reduce the burden and cost of crime in Kenya.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter covers the actual data collection and analysis process. It covers the research design, the population, sampling frame and sampling design, data collection methods, and data analysis and data presentation.

3.2 Research design

The research design is a descriptive study utilizing the survey design, aimed at determining the factors determining recidivism in Kenya.The study used the descriptive study research design, employing both quantitative and qualitative approaches. According to(Yin, 2003) descriptivestudies are used to describe an event/ process in its natural ambit and the main objective is to answer how, who and what questions. The design is therefore suitable for this study as it seeks to establish what factors influence recidivism among prisoners. The research was cross sectional as it studied a particular phenomenon in this case the socio - economic factors on recidivism basing the Kenyan prisoners the care of Nakuru main prison as the study site. Descriptive studies are used to investigate contemporary phenomena; it does not require control over the investigated behavioral element but seeks interpretations of those people most knowledgeable or affected, for these case the prisoners of Nakuru main prison.

The descriptive study design was appropriate for this research as it provided an opportunity to obtain critical and practical understanding of the factors determining recidivism in Nakuru main prison and Kenya in general

3.3 Target population of the study

The population of interest for this study comprised of prisoners of Nakuru main prisoninNakuru town. According to inmates lockup figures (report); Nakuru main prison(March 12, 2014), the prison has a total population of 2,046 of prisoners which was the target for this study. They were categorized as follows.

Table 3.1 Prisoners Nakuru main prison

Gender	capital remands	Robbery with violence	convicted	ordinary remands	total
Male	234	142	727	780	1873
Female	32	12	74	55	173
Total	**256**	**154**	**801**	**835**	**2046**

Source: Inmates lockup figures (report) Nakuru main prison (March 12, 2014)

3.4. Sample size selection and sampling procedures.

The study presents sample size selection and sampling procedure as used in the study.

3.4.1. Sample size selection.

Cooper and Schindler (2000) define a sampling frame as the list of elements from which the sample is drawn. The population of this study comprised of all types of offender/prisoners of Nakuru main prisonin Nakurutown whose sampling frame was obtained from the inmatesø lockup figures (report); Nakuru main prison (March 12, 2014). Stratified random sampling was used to select a representative sample from the four strata of the population namely Capital remands (murder), Robbery with violence, Convicted prisoners and Ordinary remands. In this section, the study discusses sample size selection and sampling procedure. According to Yohane (1967) the sample size is computed based on the following formula;

$n = N/(1+Ne^2)$ Where   N = Target Population = 2,046.

e = significance level =5%

$n = 2,046/ (1+2,046 e^2)$

$= 2,046/6.115$

$= 335.$

3.4.2 Sampling procedures.

Based on this and taking into account the possibility of non response from some respondents the data wascollected from the entire sample population of 335. The target respondents

wereprisoners who represent the selected Nakuru main prisonin Nakuru Town. The prisonersfrom the three strata were chosen based on their ability to understand recidivism.

Table 3.1 shows procedures for sample selection based on three categories of prisoners. The study allows proportional allocation based on.

$$n_i = (n/N) \times N_i$$

Where n_i = proportion in category *i (where i = 1,2,3)*

Where n is the sample size.

N_i = Total number of respondents in category *i (where i = 1, 2, 3)*

N = Target population.

n1 = (335/ 2,046) x 256 = 42

n2 = (335/ 2,046) x 154 = 25

n3 = (335/ 2,046) x 801 = 131

n4 = (335/ 2,046) x 835 = 137

Total = 335

3.5 Research Instrument

The research involved the collection of data from respondents/clients by use of a questionnaire. The use of the questionnaire is justified because it is an effective way of collecting information from a large literate sample in a short period of time and at a reduced cost than other methods. Additionally, questionnaires facilitate easier coding and analysis of data collected (Mugenda&Mugenda, 2003).

A structured questionnaire was composed of closed ended items which were used to ensure that the respondents are restricted to specific categories in their responses. Responses wereranked on a five-point Likert Scale to give an indication of the degree of the aspect being measured. The Likert Scale was used as it is simple to construct, easy to read and complete and produced highly reliable data.

The first section of the questionnaire gathered the background information of the respondents pertinent to the study. Section two and three of the questionnaire collected data related to

31

major factors influencing the socio - economic factors on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. The last section targeted information of likely measures to recidivism of Kenyan prisoners.

3.5.1 Pilot testing

The questionnaire was pilot tested with a representative sample of Nakuru main prison on petty offenderswhich had relatively similar characteristics in setting and operating under just like all the three categories of prisoners in Nakuru main prison, Nakuru town. The results of the pilot study helpedin identifying necessary changes that were effected in the questionnaire to improve the instrument prior to its administration.

3.5.2 Administration of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was self- administered. The researcher personally delivered the instrument to the target respondent and later picked the filled up questionnaire from the prisoners immediately after the prisonershad filled it.The method of administration was appropriate for this study because of the distribution of the population, cost effectiveness and the resulting higher response rate. A letter introducing the purpose of the research accompanied the questionnaires to the prisonersof Nakuru main prison in Nakuru Town.

3.5.3 Research Validity

Saunders (2000) contends that research is valid only if it actually studies what it set out to study and only if the findings are verifiable. In this study validity was ensured through thorough examination of existing literature to identify conceptual dimensions and appraisal of the instrument by a panel of prisons administration and research experts including my supervisor. Construct validity describes whether the case study gives support to the intended interpretation of the variables and in this study it will be increased through multiple sources of evidence as well as key informants reviewing the research instrument to avoid misunderstandings.

The researcher needed some kind of assurance that the instrument used resulted in accurate conclusions validity involves the appropriateness, meaningfulness, and usefulness of inferences made by the researcher on the basis of the data collected. Validity can often be thought be thought as judgemental (Wallen&Fraenkel, 2001)

3.5.4 Research Reliability

Reliability indicates the stability and consistency with which the data collection instrument measures the concept (Zikmund, 2000).It is a measure obtained by administering the same test twice over a period of time to a group of individuals. In this study, the reliability of the research instrument was improved through the use of the split-half reliability procedure where the researcher administered the entire instrument to a sample of respondents during the pilot testing and calculated using the total score for each randomly divided half i.e. odd and even numbered items of the questionnaire. A reliability coefficient between the two total scores was calculated using the Spearman-Brown prophecy tool. According to Fraenkel&Wallen (2000) if the results produce a reliability coefficient $>= 0.7$ the instrument will be considered reliable.

3.6 Data Analysis Techniques

In order to facilitate data analysis the filled up questionnaires were checked for completeness, consistency and clarity. The responses were coded by assigning a numerical value to each to make them quantitative that made it possible for the data to be entered in to the computer using the SPSS for Windows Version 10 for analysis. In order to clean up the data averages like mean and median as well as distributions like standard deviations were performed on the data sets in order to discover any anomalies and appropriate corrections. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, median mode were used for quantitative analysis of the data.

In order to establish the recidivism, descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages, median and mode were used to summarize opinions of the respondents. Since the study was expected to establish the factors influencing recidivism among prisoners, descriptive measures of frequencies, percentages, median and mode were used.Skewness test to establish the nature of distribution indicated the data was not normally distributed, and since the data was to be in ordinal scale the spearman rho, a non parametric test was used to explain the association between data use and each of the independent variables.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

The researcher asked for permission from Nakuru main prison before data collection. Research clearance was obtained from the National Council of Science and technology as well as letter of authorization from the University of Nairobi. The respondents were assured

of confidentiality and no promises were made or incentives offered to coerce them to provide feedback. Due to sensitivity of some information collected, the researcher holds a moral obligation to treat the information with utmost propriety. The researcher ensured that the report produced is general without specific reference to any organizations or individual client as this may be used unethically by other people to degrade a particular prisoner. The researcher has maintainedprisonersø confidentiality by acknowledging that prisonersø accounts are sensitive data.

3.8 Operational Definition of Variables

Mugenda&Mugenda, (2003), says that Operationalising or operationally defining a concept to make it measurable is done by looking at the behavioural dimensions, indicators and properties denoted by the concept to make it measurable and observable. The measures make it possible to construct a meaningful data collection instrument. The variables are seen as operational as they fall in the range of intervals and ratios scales. The study was guided by the following conceptual variables;

Table 3.2

Objectives	Operational Definition of Variables					
	Variables	Indicators	Measure	Scale	Data Collection Tools	Tools of Analysis
To assess the influence of demographic characteristics on recidivism	Dependent Variable Recidivism	Gender	Male or female	nominal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Age	Age bracket	interval	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
	Independent Variable	Level of education/ Occupation	Highest level attained	nominal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
	demographic factors	Marital status	Married or single	nominal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Influence of associates i.e. friends, family members, workmates	Rate of influence	Ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
To establish the influence of stigmatization on recidivism	Dependent Variable Recidivism Independent Variable	Attitude of people towards imprisonment	Satisfactory level	Ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Self esteem	Satisfaction level	Ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies

		Depression	Depression level	Ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
	Stigmatization	personality	Values/tastes	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
To determine the influence of homelessness on recidivism.	Dependent Variable recidivism Independent Variable homelessness	availability of a home /residence,	Permanent house structure	Ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Social class	Congestion level	Ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
To examine the influence of imprisonment experience on recidivism	Dependent variable recidivism Independent variable imprisonment			ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Acquiring of criminal tendencies.	history			
		Type of the offence	history	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Role & status	Level of income	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
To ascertain the influence of rehabilitation	Dependent	adequacy of	Group	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies

program on recidivism	variable recidivism Independent variable rehabilitation	training facilities	identity			
		quality	Tests, satisfactorily	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		technology	Technology used	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Lifestyle	Level of income	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies
		Personality	Values/tastes	ordinal	Questionnaire Interview	Percentages and Frequencies

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This section outlines the entire research findings of the study. The study had sought to investigate the socio - economic factors that influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison. It had specifically sought to establish the influence of stigmatization on recidivism, determine the influence of homelessness, examine the influence of imprisonment experience, assess the influence of demographic characteristics and ascertain the influence of rehabilitation programs on recidivism.

4.2 Questionnaire return rate

The study was conducted at Nakuru main prison in Nakuru town. The study administered 335 questionnaires to the respondents to enable collect the necessary data. The following table shows the response rate. The questionnaires were administered in the following categories; 42 Capital remands (murder), 25 Robbery with violence, 131 Convicted prisoners and 137 Ordinary remands. Convicted prisoners consists of prisoners found guilty of various offences like murder, robbery with violence, stealing, rape, among others .The responses are indicated in table 4.1. Ordinary remand includes various offences like stealing assault, loitering among others.

Table 4.1 Response rate

	Capital remands (murder)	Robbery with violence	Convicted prisoners	Ordinary remands	Grand Total
Target no. of Questionnaires	42	25	131	137	335
No. of questionnaire Returned	39	25	127	130	321
Response Rate (%)	92.8	100	96.9	94.8	95.8

The response rate was 95.8% where by 321 questionnaires out of 335 were filled in and returned. return rates of 92.8% for the Capital remands (murder), 100% for the Robbery with violence, 96.9% for the Convicted prisoners, and 94.9% for ordinary remands and thus, have helped increase the reliability of the study. There was 100% response rate for the Robbery with violence, this was attributed by the fact that they were few and are housed in one ward hence easy to get them. There was an also high response from the other segments which was attributed to the great support and mobilization received from the prison warders.

4.3 General Characteristics of the respondents

The study sought to find out the demographic characteristicsø of the respondent based on Age, gender, Marital Status, level of education and character before crime and the findings are presented as follows;

4.3.1 Crime rate and imprisonment

First, the study wanted to find out if the respondent has ever committed a crime or not. The study therefore sought to find out the number of crimes committed and hence imprisoned or remanded. The findings are presented in table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Crime rate and imprisonment

No of Crimes	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
1	100	31.2
2	100	31.2
3	77	23.9
4	44	13.7
Total	**321**	**100.0**

31.2% was their first time committing crime, 31.2% was their second time, and 23.9% was their third time while 13.7% was their fourth time committing crime. The majority of the respondents have committed crime more than once. The fact that those who have committed crime more than once are more than first time offenders indicates that there is recidivism amongst the Kenyan prisoners.

Table 4.3 Frequency of committing crime

Recidivist	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Crime once	100	31.2
More than once	221	68.8
Total	**321**	**100.0**

31.2% committed crime once while 68.8% were more than once hence recidivism. The researcher therefore concluded that the recidivist were 68.8% of the total respondents which were 221 respondents.

4.3.2 Distribution of respondents by age

The study wanted to determine the age group of the respondents and find out if it had any influence on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners and therefore he came up with data in table 4.4

Table 4.4 Age Group

Age	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Less than 17 years	15	6.8
18-30 years	76	34.6
31-45 years	76	34.6
41 years and above	54	24
Total	**221**	**100.0**

The findings indicate that between 18-30 years and 31-45 years of the respondents constituted 34.6%, 24% were 41 years and above while 6.8% were Less than 17 years. The findings show that the majority of the respondents were middle aged prisoners aged between 18-30 years and 31-45 years. This has been contributed by the fact that the average active ages of a human being is between these ages.

4.3.3 Distributions of respondents by Gender

The study sought to establish the gender of the respondent and find out if it had any influence on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. There were 173 female prisoners which represents 8.5% of the total population of prisoners. The researcher therefore distributed the questionnaires according to the populations of the 91.5% males and 8.5% females in the prison which is equivalent to 306 questionnaires to males and 29 questionnaires to females. Therefore he came up with the following data.

Table 4.5 Respondents by gender

Gender	Noofrespondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)	More than one crime	Proportion (%)
Females	25	7.8	12	5.4
Males	296	92.2	209	94.6
Total	321	100.0	221	100

With regards to gender, there were 92.2% male and 7.8% female respondents. A total of 221 of the respondents were repeat crime offenders, whereby 94.6% were male and 5.4% were females. The researcher therefore concluded that there was more male recidivist than women.

4.3.4 Marital Status of the respondents

The study wanted to establish if the marital status of the respondent could influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. The results are given in table 4.6

Table 4.6 Marital Status

Marital Status	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Single	61	27.7
Married	107	48.3
Separated	53	24
Total	**221**	**100.0**

48.3% of the respondents are married, 27.7% are single while 24% are separated. The finding reveals that most respondentøs are married, while those single and separated are almost equal. The researcher therefore concluded that marriage may not have any influence to crime because those married compared to those unmarried, are almost the same.

4.3.5 Educational level of the respondents

The study wanted to establish the educational of the respondents and find out if it had any influence on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. He therefore he came up with the following data;

Table 4.7 Educational level

Educational level	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Primary	91	41.4
Secondary	76	34.3
College	38	17.1
University	16	7.2
Total	**221**	**100**

The findings indicate that primary educated and secondary educated prisoners are the majority. 41.4% of the respondents are from primary and below, 34.3% are secondary level, 17.1% college level while 72% are university level. There are few university educated prisoners who repeat crime after incarceration.

4.3.6 Occupation before crime.

The study sought to establish the Occupationof the respondents before committing crime and find out if it could influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. The results are given in table 4.8

Table 4.8 Occupation before crime

Occupation	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Student	23	10.6
Employed	37	16.5
Self employed	47	21.2
Casual employees / unemployed	114	51.7
Total	**221**	**100.0**

From the above table, the data established that 51.7% of the respondents were Casual employees and unemployed, 21.2% were self employed while 16.5% were employed while 10.6% were students before committing crime. The study concluded that the majority respondents were Casual employees and unemployed. This was contributed by the fact there were shortage of job opportunities at the moment in Kenya. This has therefore influenced the rise in crime rate hence recidivism. Again, high number of unemployed corresponds with low levels of education.

4.3.7 Crime committed and fairness in incarceration

The study sought to establish the Crime committed by the respondents and find out if they were satisfied with the incarceration process, then determine if it had any influence on recidivism and therefore came up with the following data;

Table 4.9 Crime committed

Crime committed	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)	More than one crime	Proportion (%)
Capital remands (murder)	77	24	63	28.5
Robbery with violence	77	24	58	26.4
Ordinary remands(other crimes)	167	52.0	100	45.2
Total	**321**	**100**	**221**	**100**

From the data above, it is clear that 45% were Stealing, burglary, pick pocketing and loitering with immoral purpose (others crimes), 24% Capital remands (murder), 24%, Robbery with violence. Those who have committed more than one crime were 28.5% capital remands (murder), 45.2% others crimes, 26.4% robbery with violence. The study found out that the majority of the respondents were ordinary remand or other crimes while the other categories were almost the same. Those who have repeated crime were also almost evenly distributed. The researcher therefore concluded that the type of crime have no influence on recidivism because all those convicts of different categories were almost the same.

Distributions of the respondents by incarceration satisfaction level

The researcher further sought to find out the incarceration satisfaction level from the recidivists. From the data 122 responded Yes while 199 responded No. These factors are as indicated in the table 4.10.

Table 4.10 Satisfaction level

Satisfaction	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Yes	122	38
No	199	62
Total	**321**	**100.0**

The data above established that, 62% of the respondentsø felt that the incarceration process was unfair to them while 38% felt that it was fair. Most of them indicated that their judgments were influenced either through bribes, power influence, lack of prober investigations, circumstantial and cooked evidences, language barriers etc. This was contributed by the fact that majority of the convicts are not financially stable to appeal on these judgments. The researcher therefore concluded that satisfaction level of incarceration affects recidivism to a great extend

4.3.8 Use of drugs

The study wanted to determine if the respondents have ever used drugs and find out if they were on drugs when they committed their crime and therefore came up with the following data;

Table 4.11 If ever used of drugs

Use of drugs	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)	More than one crime	Proportion (%)
Yes	199	62	157	71.1
No	122	38	64	28.9
Total	**321**	**100.0**	**221**	**100**

The data established that, 62% have ever used drugs while 38% have not. Out of the 221 recidivist 71% have ever used drugs while 28.9% have not used drugs. The researcher therefore concluded that drugs have a lot of effect on crime commitment and especially on reoffenders.

Table 4.12 Committed crimes under the influence of drugs

Influence of drugs	More than one crime	Proportion (%)
Yes	151	68.3
No	70	31.7
Total	**221**	**100**

68.3% of the recidivist were under the influence of drugs when they committed crime. The researcher therefore concluded that the use of drugs influence crime hence recidivism.

4.3.9 Parental background

The study further wanted to determine if the kind of parental upbringing the prisoners have had in the past effects recidivism. The findings are presented in table 4.13

Table 4.13 Parental background

	Both parents	Single parent	Step parents	relative	community	Street child
Respondents (Frequency)	133	78	44	36	22	8
Proportion (%)	41.4	24.3	13.7	11.2	6.9	2.5

The data established that, 41.4% were brought up by parents, 24.3% single parents, 13.7% step parents, 11.2% relatives, 6.9% community while 2.5% were a street child. From the findings it is clear that majority had both parents as they grew up. The researcher concluded that the even with proper family set up of parenting, people still commit crime hence recidivism.

4.3.10 Income (economic status)

The study sought to find out the extent to which income (economic status) affect recidivism even after being punished and therefore he came up with data in table 4.14

Table 4.14 Income (economic status)

Income	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	38	17.1
Slight effect	15	6.9
Average effect	38	17.1
Above average effect	54	24.3
Large effect	76	34.6
Total	**221**	**100**

From the table above, 34.6% percentage of the respondents agreed income has a large effect on crime commitment hence recidivism. 24.3% responded above average, 17.1% no effect, 17.1% average effect, while 6.9% responded slight effect. Most of the respondents therefore agreed that income effects recidivism to a large extend.In this case low income motivates urge for crime.

The study further sought to establish if the respondents got any sources of income to support themselves and family after they were released from prison. The researcher had therefore enquired if they got any financial sources or any other assistance after release from prison. The results are given in the table 4.15

Table 4.15 Income assistance

Income	More than one crime	Proportion (%)
Yes	97	43.9
No	124	56.1
Total	**221**	**100**

56.1% of the prisoners who had committed more than one crime responded that they did not receive any support from anybody, while 43.9% received. This implies that the majority of the recidivist did not get assistance to support themselves therefore the researcher concluded that source of income after the release of a prisoner has high effect on recidivism.

4.4 Presentation of the findings on socio economic factors

The researcher in this section presents the findings from the data analysis that had sought to investigate the socio - economic factors that influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison. The findings are based on the specific objectives that specifically sought to establish the influence of stigmatization on recidivism, determine the influence of homelessness, examine the influence of imprisonment experience, assess the influence of demographic characteristics and ascertain the influence of rehabilitation programs on recidivism.

4.5 Influence of stigmatization on recidivism

On stigmatization the study sought to find out how much influence the attitude of people towards imprisonment, self esteem and depression has on recidivism. The responses from the respondents were as follows;

The study sought to find out more specifically the amount of effect attitude of people towards people who have been imprisoned has on recidivism and therefore he came up with data in table 4.16

Table 4.16 Attitude towards prisoners

Attitude	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	46	20.6
Slight effect	7	3.4
Average effect	16	7.1
Above average effect	45	20.6
Large effect	107	48.3
Total	**221**	**100**

From the table above, the data established that 48.3% percentage of the respondents who are recidivists agreed that the attitude of people towards imprisonment has a large effect on recidivism. 20.6% responded above average, 20.6% no effect, 7.1% average effect, while 3.4% responded slight effect. The majority of the respondents therefore agreed that this has an effect, the researcher therefore concluded that the attitude of people towards people who have been imprisoned affects to a large extend recidivism.

The study also wanted to establish the effects of self esteem i.e. feeling worthless and lack of a sense of importance or value in society on recidivism and therefore he came up with data in table 4.17

Table 4.17 Self esteem

Self esteem	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	15	6.9
Slight effect	23	10.3
Average effect	61	27.6
Above average effect	30	13.8
Large effect	92	41.4
Total	**221**	**100**

The data above has established that 41.4% of the respondents agree that self esteem has a large effect on recidivistic behaviours. 27.6% average effect, 13.8% above average effect, 10.3% slight effect while 6.9% responded no effect. Most of the respondents agreed that that there is substantial amount of effect therefore concludes that feeling worthless and lack of a sense of importance or value in society affects recidivism. The research further sought to find out the level of effects of Suffering from depression and feeling hopeless on recidivism and the findings are presented in table 4.18

Table 4.18 Depression

Depression	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	38	17.2
Slight effect	15	6.9
Average effect	38	17.2
Above average effect	54	24.2
Large effect	76	34.5
Total	**221**	**100**

The findings indicate that suffering from depression and feeling hopeless affects recidivism. The data established that 34.59% responded large effect, 24.2% above average effect, 17.2% average effect, 17.2% no effect while 6.9% responded slight effect. This is supported by the fact that if one is depressed, he tends to isolate from people and therefore may be tempted to get back to crime. Research has shown that perceivers often manifest an immediate and automatic aversion to stigmatized individuals followed by controlled and thoughtful reactions which can either temper immediate negative reactions or further polarize them hence depression, Pryor et al, 2004.

The study also further sought to establish the effects of discrimination in employment opportunities on recidivism and therefore he came up with data in table 4.19

51

Table 4.19: Discrimination in employment

Discrimination	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	1	0.6
Slight effect	6	2.8
Average effect	19	8.4
Above average effect	30	13.7
Large effect	165	74.5
Total	**221**	**100**

The research indicated 74.5% of the respondents agree that discrimination in employment opportunities has a large effect, 13.7% above average effect, 8.4% average effect, 2.8% slight effect while 0.6% responded no effect. The researcher concluded therefore that from the data above that discrimination in employment opportunities greatly affects recidivism because most of the released prisoners get deprived of some source of income.

The research finally sought to find out if negative feelings, attitude and anger towards those who arrested the convict affect recidivism table 4.20 presents the findings.

Table 4.20 Negative feelings, attitude and anger

Negative feelings, attitude and anger	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	71	32.1
Slight effect	38	17.4
Average effect	47	21.2
Above average effect	39	17.5
Large effect	26	11.8
Total	**221**	**100**

32.1% responded no effect, 21.2% average effect, 17.5% above average effect, 17.4% slight effect while 11.8% responded large effect. Most of the respondents agreed that negative feelings, attitude and anger towards those who arrested the convict have fewer effects on recidivism. From the findings most of them do not revenge.

4.6 Influence of imprisonment experience

This study sought to find out the main indicators of imprisonment experience that influence recidivism. The study sought specifically to find out the effects of acquiring criminal tendencies while in prison and weather there is any form of hardening through prison experience. The responses from the respondents were as follows;

The study sought specifically to find out if acquiring of criminal tendencies while in prison can affect repeat of crime even after being punishedimprisonment and the findings are presented in table 4.21

Table 4.21 Acquiring of criminal tendencies

Criminal tendencies	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	15	6.9
Slight effect	8	3.5
Average effect	30	13.8
Above average effect	69	31
Large effect	99	44.8
Total	**221**	**100**

From the table above it is very clear that acquiring of criminal tendencies while in prison affects repeat if crime. 44.8%, 31%, 13.8% responded large effect, above average effect and average effect respectively while 3.5% slight effect and 6.9% responded no effect. In conclusion the researcher found out that acquiring criminal tendencies increases recidivism. One gets a difference experience compared to what brought them to prison.

Hardening through prison experience

The study also sought to find out the effectsof prison experienceand the findings are presented as follows.

Table 4.22 Hardening through prison experience

Hardening	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Yes	89	28.3
No	232	71.7
Total	**221**	**100**

data in table 4.22 established that 71.7% of the respondents did not agree that that prison experience hardens them. 28.3% responded yes and therefore agreed that the prison experience hardened them to repeat crime. Most of them indicated that they have now known that crime does not pay and that prison have taught them to put priorities right and besides they need their freedom. The study sought to find out if long term jail has any influence on recidivism and therefore he came up with data table 4.23

Table 4.23 Long term jail

Long term jail	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	43	19.3
Slight effect	55	25
Average effect	12	5.6
Above average effect	54	24.3
Large effect	57	25.8
Total	**221**	**100**

The data in table4.23 established that 25.8% of the respondents indicated large effect, 25% slight effect, 24.3% above average effect, 19.3% no effect, and 5.6% average. The response is evenly distributed. They emphasized that they get used to prison life as compared to outside world. The researcher concluded that long term jail does affect recidivism. One sees prison as a second home.

In regard to Lack of freedom and separation from family and friends the study sought to find out if freedom and separation from family and friends has any influence on recidivism and therefore he came up with results in table 4.24

Table 4.24Lack of freedom and separation from family and friends

Freedom And Separation	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	22	17
Slight effect	22	19.4
Average effect	100	11.3
Above average effect	22	24.3
Large effect	155	28
Total	**221**	**100**

Data in table 4.24 established that 28% of the respondents indicated large effect, 24.3% above average effect, 19.4%, 17% and 11.3% were slight effect, no effect and average effect. The researcher concluded that a majority of the respondents felt that freedom and separation has low affect recidivism.

The study further sought to find out the effects of hard work and harassments from both prison wardens and fellow prisoners on recidivism and therefore he came up with data in table 4.25

Table 4.25Hard work and harassments

Hard work and harassments	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	93	42.3
Slight effect	27	12.1
Average effect	37	16.9
Above average effect	40	18
Large effect	24	10.7
Total	**221**	**100**

The data above established that 42.3% of the respondents indicated no effect, 18% above average effect, 16.9% average effect, 12.1% slight effect, and 10.7% large effect. The

researcher concluded that a majority of the respondents felt that hard work and harassments from both prison warders and fellow prisoners do affect recidivism. They cited harassments like sodomy and unfair treatments by prison warders during executing of hard labour.Stigmatization therefore makes one to feel that they are very bad or unimportant. This leads to isolation of released prisoners which therefore promotes repeat of crime hence recidivism

4.7 Demographic characteristics

The study wanted to find out if demographic factors influence recidivism by specifically looking at education, family, marital status, lifestyle and personality. The findings are presented as follows,

I regards to education study sought to find out if education has any influence on recidivism and therefore he came up with the data in table 4.26

Table 4.26Education

Education	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	15	6.9
Slight effect	15	6.9
Average effect	69	31.1
Above average effect	15	6.9
Large effect	107	48.2
Total	**221**	**100**

The data in table 4.26 establishes that 48.2% of the respondents indicated large effect, 31.1% average effect while above average effect, slight effect, no effect were each rated 6.9%. The researcher concluded that a majority of the respondents felt that education do affect recidivism. Regardless of education background people try to still earn a living through shortcuts hence crime.

The study also sought to find out if family has any influence on recidivism. Table 4.27 has the findings

Table 4.27Family

Family	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	46	20.6
Slight effect	7	3.5
Average effect	30	13.7
Above average effect	68	31.1
Large effect	69	31.1
Total	**221**	**100**

Large effect and above average effect were both rated 31.1%, 20.6% no effect, while average effect and Slight effect were both rated 3.5% and 13.7%.The researcher concluded that a majority of the respondents felt that family affect crime hence recidivism. The study also sought to find out if marital status has any influence on recidivism and therefore he came up with the following data in table 4.28

Table 4.28Marital status

Marital status	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	69	31
Slight effect	38	17.3
Average effect	68	31
Above average effect	30	13.8
Large effect	16	6.9
Total	221	100

From the data in table 4.28 both no effect and average effect indicated 31%, 17.3% slight effect, 13.8% above average effect while 6.9% were large effects. From the findings above the researcher concluded that marital status has less effect on recidivism.

The study further sought to find out if Lifestyle has any influence on committing crime hence recidivism and therefore he came up with the data in table 4.29

Table 4.29 Lifestyle

Lifestyle	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	8	3.4
Slight effect	23	10.3
Average effect	61	27.7
Above average effect	76	34.6
Large effect	53	24
Total	**221**	**100**

The data above established that 34.6% of the respondents were above average effect, 27.7% average effect, 24% large effect, 10.3% slight effect and 3.4% no effect. In general majority of the respondents felt that life style affects recidivism. In conclusion, the researcher found out that life style has high effect on recidivism.

The study finally sought to find out if personality has any influence on committing crime hence recidivism and therefore he came up with data in table 4.30

Table 4.30Personality

Personality	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	40	18.1
Slight effect	8	3.4
Average effect	8	3.4
Above average effect	47	21.5
Large effect	118	53.6
Total	**221**	**100**

From the table above, 53.6% large effect, 21.5% above average affect 18.1% no effect while average effect and slight effect both had 3.4%. A large number of the respondents felt that personality affects recidivism. The researcher therefore concluded that to a large extend the personality affects recidivism.

4.8 Homelessness

Homelessness being a condition of people without a regular dwelling and are most often unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, secure, and adequate housing, or lack fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence, is a condition that the researcher is interested in finding its effects. This study sought to find out the kind of house respondents own and the results are given in table 4.31

Table 4.31 Home ownership

	Permanent house	Semi-permanent house	Temporary house	Not yet built but have a plot	Rented house	Have no house and plot
Number of respondents (Frequency)	45	22	31	26	29	58
Proportion (%)	20.8	10	14	12.1	13.1	30

The data established that, 30% have no house and plot, 20.8% have permanent house, 14% temporary house, 13.1% live on rented house, 12.1% have not yet built but have a plot while 10% have semi-permanent houses. From the findings it is clear that they are evenly distributed. The study concluded that with or without proper housing, people still commit crime hence recidivism

This study further sought to find out distributions of the respondents who visited their homes after they were released from prison and the results are given in table 4.32

Table 4.32 Visited their home after they were released from prison.

Visited their home	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
Yes	90	27.9
No	231	72.1
Total	**221**	**100**

From the data established, 72% of the respondentsø visited their homes while 28% did not. Most of them indicated that they went back home where they received support from various people. This was contributed by the fact that majority of the convicts wanted show that they have changed their behaviours and cannot repeat crime.

This study sought to find out if lack of a home and the findings are presented in table 4.33

Table 4.33 Homelessness

Homelessness	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	0	0
Slight effect	44	31
Average effect	33	23
Above average effect	78	54
Large effect	166	103
Total	**221**	**100**

From the findings 51.7% responded large effect, 24.3% above average effect, 13.7% slight effect, 10.3% average effect while no one responded on no effect. Generally majority of the respondents responded that to a large extend homelessness affects recidivism.

4.9 Rehabilitation programmes

The study sought to determine whether Rehabilitation programmes influence recidivism and the findings are presented as follows;

First, the study wanted to find out if adequacy of training facilities has any influence on recidivism and therefore he came up with the following table 4.34.

Table 4.34Adequacy of training facilities

Adequacy of training facilities	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	0	0
Slight effect	16	7.1
Average effect	71	32.2
Above average effect	16	7.1
Large effect	108	53.6
Total	**221**	**100**

The data has shown that 53.6% responded large effect, 32.2% average effect, above average effect and slight affect each responded 7.1%. The researcher concluded therefore that training facilities have a great effect on recidivism. This is because a free person who has the right skills in technology can create or acquire employment hence reduce crime rate.

The study also wanted to find out if the type and quality of training has any influence on recidivism and therefore he came up with **Table 4.35**

Table 4.35 Quality of training

Quality of training	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	30	13.8
Slight effect	38	17.2
Average effect	30	13.8
Above average effect	76	34.5
Large effect	47	20.7
Total	**221**	**100**

From the findings, 34.5% were above average effect, 20.7% large effect, 17.2% slight effect, 13.8% average effect, while 13.8% were no effect. Generally majority of the respondents were above average, therefore the researcher concluded that the quality of training affects

recidivism. Training that is practically applicable and affordable should be offered to prisoners to enable them earn a living when released hence reduce recidivism.

The study wanted to find out if the Technology being taught and used in rehabilitation programs had any influence on recidivism. The results are shown in the table 4.36

Table 4.36Technology

Technology	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	32	14.3
Slight effect	40	17.9
Average effect	32	14.3
Above average effect	47.5	21.5
Large effect	69.5	32
Total	**321**	**100**

From the data, it is established that 32% of the respondents felt that technology affects to a large extend recidivism, 21.5% has above average effects, 17.9% slight effect while average effects and no affect each has 14.3%. The researcher concluded that a majority of the respondents felt that technology being taught and used affects recidivism.New technology enables inmates after release to produce products attractive to the society

The study wanted to find out if psychological and personal management training being taught and used in rehabilitation programs had any influence on recidivism. The findings are as shown in the table 4.37

Table 4.37 Psychological and personal management training

Psychological and personal management training	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	30	13.3
Slight effect	44	19.7
Average effect	36	17
Above average effect	37	16.8
Large effect	74	33.2
Total	**221**	**100**

From the results, the data established that 33.2% of the respondents felt that Psychological and personal management training to a large extend reduces recidivism, 19.7% has above slight effects, 17% average effect, 16.8 above average effect while no effects 3.3% The researcher concluded that a majority of the respondents felt Psychological and personal management training is required to help in curbing crime hence reducing recidivism.

The study wanted to find out if the follow up support after correctional training being taught and used in rehabilitation programs had any influence on recidivism. The findings are as shown in table 4.38

Table 4.38Follow up support after correctional training

support	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Proportion (%)
No effect	21	9.5
Slight effect	46	21
Average effect	34	15.2
Above average effect	48	21.5
Large effect	72	32.8
Total	**221**	**100**

From the results, the data established that 32.8% of the respondents felt Follow up support after correctional training a large extend reduces recidivism, 21.5% has above average effects, 21% slight effects, 15.2% average effect while 9.5% no effect. The researcher concluded that a majority of the respondents felt Follow up support after correctional trainingreduces repeat of crime that is recidivism.Rehabilitation programs should be designed to reduce crime. Most of the offenders once found guilty by a court of law when subjected to these programs, should change their behaviours and avoid repeat of crime hence reduce recidivism.

CHAPTER FIVE:

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter contains a summary of the findings, discussions and conclusions made from the findings. The study had sought to investigate the socio - economic factors that influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison. The study was guided by the following research objectives; to establish the influence of stigmatization on recidivism, to determine the influence of homelessness, to examine the influence of imprisonment experience, to assess the influence of demographic characteristics and to ascertain the influence of rehabilitation programs on recidivism.

5.2 Summary of the study findings

On general characteristics of the respondents 31.2% committed crime once while 68.8% were more than once and therefore they are recidivist. Ages between 18-30 years and 31-45 years responded 34.6%, 24% were 41 years and above while 6.8% were Less than 17 years. On gender, 92.2% were male and 7.8% were female respondents. 94.6% male and 5.4% female respondents have committed crime more than once. 48.3% of the respondents were married, 27.7% were single while 24% were separated. 41.4% were from primary school and below, 34.3% are secondary level, 17.1% college level while 72% are university level. Majority are primary school drop outs and below. On employment, 51.7% of the respondents were casual employees and unemployed, 21.2% were self employed while 16.5% were employed while 10.6% were students before committing crime. From the data, 34.6% were Stealing, burglary, pick pocketing and loitering with immoral purpose (others crimes), 24% Capital remands (murder), 24%, robbery with violence while 17.4% were ordinary remands. Those who have committed more than one crime were 28.5% capital remands (murder), 28.5% others crimes, 26.4% robbery with violence and 17.6 ordinary remands. On incarceration, 62.4% of the respondentsøfelt that the process was fair to them while 37.6% felt that it was unfair.

In relation to drugs 62% have used drugs before while 38% have not from the total respondents. Out of the 221 recidivist 71% have ever used drugs while 28.9% have not used drugs. 68.3% of the recidivist were under the influence of drugs when they committed crime.

56.1% of the recidivist respondents did not receive any support from anybody, while 43.9% received.

On stigmatization, the data established that 48.3% were large effect, 20.6% responded above average, 20.6% no effect, 7.1% average effect, while 3.4% responded slight effect. 41.4% of the respondents agree that self esteem has a large effect, 27.6% average effect, 13.8% above average effect, 10.3% slight effect while 6.9% responded no effect. On self esteem, 74.5% responded large effect, 13.7% above average effect, 8.4% average effect, 2.8% slight effect while 0.6% responded no effect. In regards to acquiring of criminal tendencies while in prison, 44.8%, 31%, 13.8% responded large effect, above average effect and average effect respectively while 3.5% slight effect and 6.9% responded no effect. From the data 72% of the respondents did not agree that that prison experience hardens them while 28% responded yes. 25.8% of the respondents indicated large effect on long term jail, 25% slight effect, 24.3% above average effect, 19.3% no effect, and 5.6% average. From the findings, 28% of the respondents indicated large effect, 24.3% above average effect, 19.4%, 17% and 11.3% were slight effect, no effect and average effect on freedom and separation.

In response to education, 48.2% indicated large effect, 31.1% average effect while above average effect, slight effect, no effect were each rated 6.9%. For family, large effect and above average effect were both rated 31.1%, 20.6% no effect, while average effect and Slight effect were both rated 3.5% and in regards to lifestyle, 13.7%. 34.6% of the respondents were above average effect, 27.7% average effect, 24% large effect, 10.3% slight effect and 3.4% no effect. On personality the findings indicated that, 53.6% large effect, 21.5% above average affect 18.1% no effect while average effect and slight effect both had 3.4%. The findings further showed that 30% have no house and plot, 20.8% have permanent house, 14% temporary house, 13.1% live on rented house, 12.1% have not yet built but have a plot while 10% have semi-permanent houses. 72% of the respondentsø visited their homes after release from prison while 28% did not.

The research further showed that, 51.7% responded large effect, 24.3% above average effect, 13.7% slight effect, 10.3% average effect while no one responded on no effect on homelessness. Training facilities responses indicated that 53.6% responded large effect, 32.2% average effect, above average effect and slight affect each responded 7.1%. From the findings, 34.5% were above average effect, 20.7% large effect, 17.2% slight effect, 13.8% average effect, while 13.8% were no effect.

Finally on technology, 32% of the respondents felt that technology affects to a large extend recidivism, 21.5% has above average effects, 17.9% slight effect while average effects and no affect each has 14.3%. From the findings, the data established that 33.2% of the respondents felt that technology affects to a large extend recidivism, 19.7% has above slight effects, 17% average effect, 16.8 above average effect while no effects 3.3%

5.3 Discussion of the study findings

5.3.1 Influence of demographic characteristics on recidivism

From the findings the majority of the respondents have committed crime more than once hence recidivism. The researcher found out that 68.8% of the total respondents were recidivist and majorities were middle aged prisoners. This finding supportsy Hirschi&Gottfredson, 1983 theory, which stated that criminal offending peaks in the mid to late teenage years, before diminishing in adulthood. From his findings, the age-crime curve has remained constant, despite a long period of change and development in criminal justice policy around the world.

With regards to gender, the study showed that there was more male recidivist than women. This finding agrees with Ross &Guarnieri (1996) findings that male prisoners have a higher chance of retuning to prison than women. The study shows that most respondentøs are married, while those single and separated are almost equal. The stud therefore concludeds that marriage may not have any influence to crime because those married compared to those unmarried, were almost the same. The data indicated that education has great influence on crime.Through education one gets to know what is right and wrong hence is able to put his or her priorities right. The research also indicated that education do affect recidivism. Regardless of education background people try to still earn a living through shortcuts hence crime. This finding supports Payne (2007) analysis of recidivism rates that recidivistic behaviours reduce with education. Majority of the recidivist were Casual employees and unemployed. This was contributed by the fact there were shortage of job opportunities at the moment in Kenya and that education enhances job opportunities. This has therefore influenced the rise in crime rate hence recidivism.

The study further indicated that those who have repeated crime were also almost evenly distributed. The types of crime have no influence on recidivism because all those convicts of different categories were almost the same. From the study most recidivists indicated that their judgments were influenced either through bribes, power influence, lack of proper

investigations, circumstantial and cooked evidences, language barriers etc. while majority of the convicts are not financially stable to appeal on these judgments. This therefore indicates that satisfaction level of incarceration affects recidivism to a great extend. From the study majority had both parents as that grew up therefore even with proper family set up of parenting, people still commit crime hence recidivism. According to Annie Robinson ,2011, abuse in the home has become one of the key influential factors in stimulating violent crimes, she points out in her studies that of the 200 serious juvenile offenders, 74% of these were subject to child abuse either by their parents , siblings and eve the general society. The study therefore concludes that even those brought up by both parents may have undergone some abuse in their lifetime and acquires criminal tendencies. The study concludes that Life style also has high effect on recidivism. This finding supports Kotler, (2006) who stated that reference groups expose a person to new or old behaviors and lifestyles that influence the person's attitudes and self-concept, and create pressures to conform that may affect the person's choices.

A large number of the respondents felt that personality affects recidivism to a large extend. This confirms the theory of John (1995), where he concluded that each person's distinct personality influences his/her behavior. Personality is usually described in terms of traits such as self-confidence, dominance, sociability, autonomy, defensiveness, adaptability, and aggressiveness.

5.32 Influence of stigmatization on recidivism

From the study Majority of the recidivist did not get any assistance or support therefore source of income after the release of a prisoner; this can therefore force the individual to revert back to crime to fend for him and family hence high effect on recidivism. This finding agrees to Payne (2007) analysis of recidivism which found out that Post-release difficulties are particularly important. These difficulties, such as limited access to financial resources, limited contact with family and limited knowledge of social support and health services are all key factors identified as barriers to successful reintegration. They are factors that are subsequently linked to a higher probability of reoffending. These inconsistencies have paved way for unclear causes of recidivism hence lack of proper mitigating measures on recidivism.

The study found that attitudes of people towards people who have been imprisoned before affects to a large extend recidivism. According to Goffman, 1963, one is reduced in other peoplesø minds from a whole and usual person to a tainted, discounted one. He further indicated that Evidence can arise of his/her possessing an attribute that makes him/her different from others in the category of persons available for him to be, and of a less desirable kind in the extreme, a person who is quite thoroughly bad, or dangerous, or weak. Most of the respondents agreed that feeling worthless and lack of a sense of importance or value in society affects recidivism. This agrees to Struening, Perlick, Link, Hellman, Herman &Sirey, 2001; Mak& Kwok, 2010 findings, that Perceptions of stigma by association have been found to be related to lower self-esteem and psychological distress in those connected with stigmatized individuals.

From the study discrimination in employment opportunities greatly affects recidivism because most of the released prisoners get deprived of some source of income. Many see themselves to have no choice but to go back to crime.Negative feelings, attitude and anger towards those who arrested the convict have fewer effects on recidivism. This is because majority of the recidivist saw no need of revenge once outside prison. Suffering from depression and feeling hopeless affects recidivism. This is supported by the fact that if one is depressed, he tends to isolate from people and therefore may be tempted to get back to crime. Pryor et al, 2004 indicates that perceivers often manifest an immediate and automatic aversion to stigmatized individuals followed by controlled and thoughtful reactions which can either temper immediate negative reactions or further polarize them hence depression.

5.3.3 Influence of imprisonment experience

From the study long jail term do affect recidivist. The respondents emphasized that they get used to prison life as compared to outside world and One sees prison as a second home.. The researcher concluded that long term jail does affect recidivism. Majority of the respondents felt that freedom and separation has low effect on recidivism. From the research acquiring of criminal tendencies while in prison affects repeat of crime therefore acquiring criminal tendencies increases recidivism. One gets a difference experience compared to what brought them to prison.

Prison experience does not harden prisoners and therefore cannot cause repeat of crime. This finding is supported by John (1995), who concluded through his research that, Lifestyle is a personøs pattern of living as expressed in his/her activities, interests and opinions. It involves measuring ones major activities, interests, and opinions about themselves, social issues,

71

business and products. The researcher observed that unless there is harassment from both prison warders and fellow prisoners coupled with hard work, prison experience in itself has no effect or cannot cause repeat in crime about half of the respondents cited harassments like sodomy and unfair treatments by prison warders during executing of hard labour.

5.3.4 Homelessness and recidivism

The findings indicate marital status has less effect on recidivism but family affects crime activities. Homelessness and without proper housing, enhances commitment of crime hence recidivism. This finding agrees to Baldry E et al. (2006) who observed that homelessness and instability in family environment were significant contributors to increasing reimprisonment.

5.5.5 Impact of rehabilitation programmes on recidivistic behaviours

Finally training facilities, technology being taught and used have a great effect on recidivism. A free person who has the right skills in technology can create or acquire employment hence reduce crime rate. The quality of training also affects recidivism. Training that is practically applicable and affordable should be offered to prisoners to enable them earn a living when released. From the findings most recidivists were also under the influence of drugs when they committed crime. This therefore is an indicator that drugs bring about recidivism. This is brought about by lack of follow up programmes and projects to individuals who have been released from prison. Also by lack of psychological and personal management training.

5.4 Conclusions

The study found out that there is a high recidivism among Kenyan prisoners. On demographic characteristics, reoffending is common with men who are of middle ages, recidivism is as a result of many factors, which may or may not interact to produce recidivists. This is so because the study revealed that the youth are more involved in crime than any other age group. Lack of proper sources of income and use of drugs are some of the main causes to this behaviour. In the process of trying to earn some income some people use the wrong means while others get frustrated in the process hence use drugs. Others are not well educated to either get a gainful employment or self employment to earn a living, and crime becomes an option to them. However it is important to note that unless these factors are taken into consideration for the purpose of rehabilitating prisoners, recidivists will continue to be created every day.On stigmatization the study concludes that attitude of people towards imprisonment, self esteem and depression has a lot of effect on recidivism. These findings

have agreed to other scholarly researches and theorists on stigmatization. Perceptions about prison and people who have been imprisoned should therefore change if correctional programmes are to be effective. The public should be taught on how to handle people released from prison while prisoners should also be taught on how to handle stigmatization.

In regards to imprisonment experience, the researcher concludes that it has less effect though there are those who acknowledged that prison hardens their behaviour. Factors such as acquiring criminal tendencies while in prison has more effect in that One gets a different experience compared to what brought them to prison. Hard work and harassments from both prison wardens and fellow prisoners and the lack of freedom and separation from family and friends has fewer effects to recidivism. Most of the recidivist does not like the prison life experience however they unwillingly find themselves to have committed another crime.Homelessness without proper housing has great effects on recidivism. When prisoners are released they are like starting a new life and therefore they need a home to stay in. Without a home one is tempted to repeat crime in the process of trying to get one or even getting back to a bad company of friends.Finally rehabilitation programmes to a large extend influences recidivism. Factors like training facilities, technology being taught and used have a great effect on recidivism. Poor training curriculums, wrong or poor technologies that may not be applicable anywhere does not help a recidivist to reform. Practical solutions should be given to prisoners so as to be able to identify and deal with the problem.

5.5 Recommendations

The following are the recommendations to The Prisons Department in Kenya.It is very critical for prisons department to note that stigmatization, demographic factors, homelessness and rehabilitation programmes are the major factors that influence recidivism. Having acknowledged this, they first need to:

1. Prioritize the rehabilitation programmes and come up with a very effective programme that can change recidivism.
2. They need to engage stakeholders such as the experts and the community in what best can be done to ex convicts to prevent them from going back to crime
3. They need to restructure their systems of exposure to recidivist such as labour as a corrective measure since the study has proved it not to be working.
4. They need to develop follow up programmes for the released inmates.

5. The study will also benefit the policy makers in that it will help identify prisoners at higher risk for recidivating and then liaise with the relevant department in order to establish the best policies that can help curb or reduce crime; this is because Any effort to reduce recidivism must recognize that the diversity of the prison population requires Solutions that can address a myriad of inmate needs.

5.6 Suggestion for further study

The researcher suggests to anyone interested in looking further into this topic, the researcher would suggest that a survey be carried out in a different prison in the country instead of focusing on the prison of Nakuru. This will enable the other researchers to collect information from recidivist of a different prison.

5.7 Contribution to the body of knowledge

Table 5.1 Contribution to knowledge

Objectives	Contribution to knowledge
To establish the influence of stigmatization on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison	Attitude of people towards imprisonment has a large effect on recidivism. Feeling worthless and lack of a sense of importance or value in society affects recidivism. Discrimination in employment opportunities greatly affects recidivism.
To determine the influence of homelessness on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison	Without proper housing, people still commit crime hence recidivism Homelessness affects recidivism
To examine the influence of imprisonment experience on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison	Acquiring criminal tendencies increases recidivism Prison experience does not harden prisoners and therefore cannot cause repeat of crime. Long term jail do affect recidivism Freedom and separation has low affect on recidivism.
To assess the influence of	Education has effects recidivism

demographic characteristics on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison	Family affect crime hence recidivism Marital status has less effect on recidivism Life style has high effect on recidivism
To ascertain the influence of rehabilitation programs on recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison	Training facilities have a great effect on recidivism Quality of training affects recidivism Technology being taught and used affects recidivism

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APPENDIX: I REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC SURVEY RESEARCH

CARLOS KIPKURUI KITARIA

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI,

P.O. BOX 30197,

NAIROBI.

17th MARCH, 2014.

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE,

NAKURU MAIN PRISON,

P.O.BOX 14,

NAKURU.

DEAR SIR/MADAM,

RE: REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC SURVEY RESEARCH

I am a student at the University of Nairobi undertaking a Master of Arts degree in Project Planning and Management, having completed the course work and currently conducting the Project research work as part of the fulfillment of the course.

I∅m kindly requesting to conduct an Academic Survey research at your Institution. The survey will involve collection of data on socio - economic factors on recidivism basing the Kenyan prisoners the care of Nakuru main prison. The study will examine Stigmatization, homelessness Imprisonment, Demographic characteristics and Rehabilitation programs and propose recommendations for improvement. I assure you that all data collected will be solely used for Academic purposes and not for any other use what so ever.

Your kindest assistance is highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

CARLOS KIPKURUI KITARIA.

This questionnaire is for the purpose of academic research only. The researcher aims at collecting data to investigate the socio - economic factors that influence recidivism among Kenyan prisoners in Nakuru main prison.

Please answer all the questions in it as honestly as possible and to the best of your knowledge. Do not write your name anywhere on this questionnaire.

SECTION A (please tick where appropriate)

This section aims at collecting background data about the respondent

1. How many times have you committed crime and imprisoned or remanded?

Once	Twice	Three times	Four times

Otherí ..í .(specify)

2. What is your age bracket?

0 - 17 ☐   31 - 45 ☐

18 - 30 ☐   46 and above ☐

3. What is your gender

Male ☐   Female ☐

4. Give your marital status:

Single   ☐   Married ☐   Separated ☐

5. Level of education

Primary	Secondary	College	University

Otherí í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ..í í í (Specify)

6. What was your occupation before committing crime?

Student   ☐   ☐   Employed   self   ☐

employed

Otherí .í í í ..í (Specify)

7. What crime did you commit? (Please tick where appropriate)

Capital remands (murder)	Robbery with violence	Convicted prisoners	Ordinary remands

Otherí .í . (Specify)

(b) In your opinion, were you fairly put in jail?

Yes ☐   No. ☐

Please explain

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8. (a) Have you ever used drugs?

Yes ☐

No. ☐

(b) If yes, were you on drugs when you committed the crime?

Yes ☐   No. ☐

11. (a) How were you brought up?

Both parents	Single parent	Step parents	relative	community	Street child

(b) Did they assist you when you were in trouble?

Yes ☐   No. ☐

12. To what extend do you think income (economic status) affect repeat of crime (recidivism) even after being punished? (Please tick where appropriate)

	1	2	3	4	5
income (economic status)					

13. After your imprisonment were you able to access any financial resources or your job back to support yourself and family?

Yes ☐   No. ☐

Explainí í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .í í í í í í í í í í í
í .í í í ..í í

SECTION B (Please tick where appropriate)

This section aims at collecting data on each objective to enable investigate the socio - economic factors that influence recidivism

Key

1 ó No effect

2 ó Slight effect

3 ó Average effect

4 ó Above average effect

5 ó Large effect

Stigmatization Factors

Stigmatization is the kind of treatment that makes one to feel that they are very bad or unimportant. Kindly respond to the following questions.

To what extent do you think the following factors affect repeat of crime even after being punished?

(Please tick where appropriate)

	1	2	3	4	5
Attitude of people towards people who have been imprisoned					
Feeling worthless and lack of a sense of importance or value in society e.g. self esteem etc.					
Suffering from depression and feeling hopeless					
Discrimination in employment opportunities					
Negative feelings/attitude/anger towards those who					

arrested you					

Imprisonment Experiences Factors

Imprisonment experiences are a person's pattern of living as expressed in his/her activities, interests and opinions while in prison. It involves measuring major activities, interests, and opinions about themselves, social issues while in prison.

a) Do you think acquiring of criminal tendencies while in prison can affect repeat of crime even after being punished? (Please tick where appropriate)

b)

No effect   Very Low effect   low effect   High effect   Very high effect

c) In your own opinion, is your imprisonment experience hardening you to become better criminal?

Yes [ ]   No [ ]

Explain

……………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………

d) To what extent do you think the following imprisonment experience affect repeat of crime even after being punished? (Please tick where appropriate)

	1	2	3	4	5
Long term jail					
Lack of freedom					

and separation from family and friends					
Hard work and harassments from both prison wardens and fellow prisoners					

Demographic Characteristics Factors

These are the general characteristics of the respondents.

To what extent do you think the following demographic factors affect repeat of crime even after being punished? (Please tick where appropriate)

	1	2	3	4	5
Education					
Family					
Marital status					
Lifestyle					
Personality					

Homelessness factors

Homelessness describes the condition of people without a regular dwelling. People who are homeless are most often unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, secure, and adequate housing, or lack fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence.

a) What kind of a house do you own? (Please tick where appropriate)

Permanent house	Semi-permanent house	Temporary house	Not yet built but have a plot	Rented house	Have no house and plot

b) Did you visit your home after they were released?

Yes [ ]   No [ ]

Explain

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í í

c) To what extend do you think the following factors affect repeat of crime even after being punished? (Please tick where appropriate)

	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of a home /residence					

Rehabilitation Programs Factors

Rehabilitation programs are designed and are intended to reduce crime. Most of the offenders once found guilty by a court of law are subjected to these programs.

To what extent do you think the following rehabilitationfactors affectrepeat of crime even after being punished? (Please tick where appropriate)

	1	2	3	4	5
Adequacy of training facilities					

Quality of training (is it applicable once you are released)					
Technology being taught and used					
Psychological and personal management training					
Follow up support after correctional training					

Any other factors **(please specify)**í ..í í

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