

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE
YOUTH IN NORTH WEST KISUMU LOCATION, MASENO DIVISION,
KISUMU COUNTY**

BY ROBERT ODHIAMBO OSIR

REG NO: C50/81579/2015

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY (CRIMINOLOGY AND SOCIAL ORDER) IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

NOVEMBER, 2019

DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been submitted for award of a degree in any other institution.

Student: Robert Odhiambo Osir

C50/81579/2015

.....

.....

Signature

Date

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the university

Supervisor.

Dr. James Kariuki

.....

.....

Signature

Date

DEDICATION

This Research is dedicated to the following: my wife Faith Nandai, my son Jayden Jones and daughter Jerilyn Praise for their patience and support while undertaking the courses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and Foremost, I would like to thank God for enabling and making this project possible. I acknowledge the dedication, guidance, understanding, humility and patience of my Supervisor, Dr. James Kariuki, Lecturer at The University of Nairobi. I would also like to acknowledge all my lecturers for advice and words of wisdom and express my sincere gratitude to family, friends, colleagues as well as staff of UON.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ALAC	Alcohol Advisory Council
AIC	African Inland Church
ACK	Anglican church of Kenya
BOG	Board of Governor
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
E.G	For Example
E.T.C	Et Cetera (And so forth)
E K	East Karateng
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
HTCA	Holy Trinity Church of Africa
I.E	In Other Words
I L R F	International Labour Right Forum
KCIDP	Kisumu County Integrated Development Plan

KSM	Kisumu
KYTC	Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Centre
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MSN	Maseno
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NREGA	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
N W	North West
OCJS	Offending Crime and Justice Survey
OCPD	Officer Commanding Police Division
PHD	Doctor of Philosophy
PGI	Peer Group Influence
PTA	Parents Teacher Association
SEEUY	Scheme for the Educated Unemployed Youth
UON	University of Nairobi
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
WK	West Karateng

Table of contents

DECLARATION.....

.....ii

DEDICATION.....

.....iii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....

.....iv

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

.....v

Table of
 contents.....vii

ABSTRACT.....
viii

1.0 CHAPTER ONE:
INTRODUCTION.....
1

- Background of
 Study.....1
- Youth Offending in
 Kenya.....2
- Problem
 Statement.....3
- Research
 Questions.....4
- Objectives of
 study.....4

- Main objective.....5
- Specific Objectives5
- Justification of study.....5
- Scope and limitation of study.....6
- Definitions of Key Terms.....6

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....8

2.1 Introduction.....8

2.1.1 Youth and Criminality.....8

2.1.2	Contributing factors to youth criminal behavior.....	8
2.1.3	The impact of society on youth's criminal behavior.....	8
2.1.4	Education and Youth Offending.....	9
2.1.5	Peer influence on youth's criminal behavior.....	9
2.1.6	Drug and Alcohol addiction youth's criminal behavior.....	10
2.1.7	Family structure on youth criminal behavior.....	10
2.1.8	Community and neighborhood on youth criminal behavior.....	11
2.1.9	Media influence towards youth criminal behavior.....	11
2.1.10	Unemployment and youth criminal behavior.....	12
2.2	Theoretical framework.....	12
2.2.1	Rational Choice theory.....	12
2.3.2	Social control	

theory.....	13
2.3.3 Social learning	
theory.....	14
2.4 Empirical study and Gap	
Knowledge.....	15
2.5 Conceptual framework.....	
.....	17

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH

METHODOLOGY.....19

3.1

Introduction.....

19

3.2 Research

design.....19

3.3 Unit of Analysis and

Observation.....19

3.4 Population of

study.....20

3.5 Sampling Size	20
3.6 Sampling method	21
3.7 Data collection	22
3.8 Key Informants	22
• Data Analysis	23
3.10 Ethical Considerations	23

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION.24

4.1 Introductions	..24
4.2 Response Rate	24
4.3 General Information	25

	4.3.1
Age.....	25
	4.3.2
Gender.....	26
	4.3.3 Level of
Education.....	26
4.4 Social Economic Factors contributing to criminal behavior among the youth.....	27
4.4.1 Poverty in the family.....	27
4.4.2 Relationship between unemployment and youth’s involvement in crime.....	29
4.4.3 Immoral and criminal acts within the neighborhood.....	31
4.4.4 Immoral of unethical parents and guardians in the family and its effect on youth behavior.....	34
4.5 Family socialization practices that influence criminal behavior among the youth of N W Kisumu.....	35

4.5.1 Lack of confidence and frankness between parent and youth	37
4.5.2 Lack of parental measures to avert influence of media on the youth.....	40
4.5.3 Single parenthood and delinquency	43
4.6 Peer group influence on the criminal behavior among the youth in N W Kisumu.....	46
4.7 Influence of media on criminal behavior among the youth in NW Kisumu.....	49

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND

RECOMMENDATIONS.....57

5.1

Introduction.....	
.....	57

5.2 Summary of

findings.....	57
---------------	----

5.3

Conclusions.....	
.....	61

5.4
 Recommendations.....
.....62

5.5 Suggestions for further
studies.....63

References
.....64

Appendixes

INTRODUCTION LETTER

.....A

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE

YOUTH.....B

KEY INFORMANT

GUIDE.....G

LETTER OF AUTHORITY TO COLLECT

DATA.....J

List of figures

Figure 2.1: Conceptual
Framework.....18

Figure 4.1: Relationship between poverty and crime
.....28

Figure 4.2: unemployment and Underemployment and the youth to crime

.....31

Figure 4.3: Immoral and Criminal acts within the neighborhood and youth

crime.....33

Figure 4.4: Figure 4: Lack of self-esteem and frankness between youth and guardians lead to

crime.....
.....39

Figure 4.5: media access and delinquency

.....41

Figure 4.6: Are there parental measures to avert influence of the media on the youth in North West

Kisumu?.....
.....42

Figure 4.7: Does single Parenthood lead our youths to

crime?.....44

Figure 4.8: Peer group influence leads the youth to

delinquency.....48

Figure 4.9: Media influence and youth

criminality.....54

List of tables

Table: 3.1: Population as per KCIDP II 2018-2022.....21

Table 4.1: Response Rate.....25

Table 4.2: Respondents age.....25

Table 4.3: Level of education26

Table 4.4: Family Socialization practices that influence delinquency36

Table 4.5: Forms of Media youths are exposed to in North West

Kisumu.....40

Table 4.6: Ill-practices and criminal acts that peer group influence can lead a youth into.....47

Table 4.7: Social Media Platforms used by the youth in NW Kisumu.....50

Table 4.8: Effect of Social Media on the youth51

ABSTRACT

Increased incidences of crime across the country are becoming a matter of grave concern. Of even greater concern, however, is the growing number of youths who are taking to crime. The study aimed at finding out socio-economic factors that contribute to criminal behavior among the youth; to establish whether family socialization practices have an influence on criminal behavior among the youth; to investigate the influence of peer groups on criminal behavior among the youth and to find out whether the media has an influence on criminal behavior among the youth. The study adopted descriptive survey

design. All the residents of NW Kisumu Location of Maseno division formed the population of the study. The study adopted purposive sampling designs. A sample of 130 respondents was used to collect data for both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected using questionnaires. The secondary data was sought from Maseno police station and Government administration offices within Maseno. The study had 10 key informants a cross the area of study who included; the chiefs, assistant chiefs, OCS, church leaders, youth leaders, CBOs, NGOs, village elders, MCA, assistant county commissioner and social workers. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. The data was presented using frequency distribution tables, percentages, pie charts and bar graphs. The study established that there is very low crime rate in the area since the year 2010. Poverty does not drive the youth in NW Kisumu into crime. Unemployment does not lead the youth of N W KSM into crime as leaders in the area have worked together to reduce unemployment through youth empowerment and self-employment. The youths in the area have great access to media and social media platforms. Social media platforms have immensely affected the youths' social life and led some into crime. Parents and guardians are ignorant of the effect of the social media to their children. Lack of parental care and mentorship leads the youth into crime. There is no relationship between single parenthood and youths' involvement in crime. Criminal activities within the neighborhood leads the youth into crime. Parents or guardians with immoral behavior or unethical conduct negatively impact the youth thereby contributing to criminal behavior. The study hence concludes that parents to be trained on the significance of good parenting. The youth's access to social media should be controlled. The study recommends Leaders from all corners should come together to address the issue of youth unemployment, and both the local and central government should join hands to come up with measures for curbing youths' joblessness. Self-employment should be encouraged and supported. Parents and guardians to be advised to spend more time with their children, mentor them, advise them and listen to them. They should also give their children time to express themselves so as to build confidence and self-esteem and sense of belonging in them and love to their parents. Parents with immoral and unethical behaviors in the community (e.g. those who are alcoholic, drug addicts) should be rehabilitated so that they be good examples to the youth in the community.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Juvenile violence and crime are one of the most visible forms of crime in society. Globally, print and the broadcast media recount daily offence by rings in learning institutions or streets by juveniles. The key casualties and culprits of such violence, virtually far and wide, youths (Reza et al., 2001). The developing and developed countries are facing the problem of youth's criminality. Juvenile crime among the youth is an evidently rising delinquent in our society (Roe and Ashe, 2008). According to Oculi and Mwanguri (2006) crime is an infringement of criminal decree where formal consequences are utilized by some state agency. According to Gimode (2001) there has been an upsurge of violent crime in Africa. Teenage disorder is a substantial challenge by tremendously damaging corollaries for citizens and the certain persons intricated (Roe and Ashe, 2008).

Crime is a key bother to each nation, particularly the engrossment of juveniles in criminal doings. Kenya has registered escalating instances of children involvement in criminal doings as evidenced by intensifying number of juveniles arrested or charged (Omboto et al. 2013). Nevertheless, while the justice order warrants that the teenagers are susceptible to law for whatever unlawful doing committed, the law has flopped to lessen lawbreaking

successfully. Instead, the laws have only fronted spiraling paces of incarceration which is at immense expense to governments (Ojo, 2012).

1.1.1 Youth Offending in Kenya

Youth is a significant phase of progress in human life as it forms the utmost energetic forces of our society (Karabi & Borbora, 2013). Kenyan youth today lives in multifaceted and arduous era. Political and Social mayhems of the 1990s left wounds that are being stomached today overly by the youth (Ojo, 2012). The current rates of juvenile crime in developing nations have now a risk to personal safety and property security (Fajnzylber, 2000). To comprehend the complicated nature of criminal doings, it is vital to explore causes or factors that may lead to crime (Call, 2000).

There has been a mismatch that does exist in Kenya between the ambitions of the youth and the fortunes accessible to them. Although majority of young Kenyans hold high optimisms and desires, a demographic upsurge of the youth, meagre macroeconomic feat, inadequate labour market prospects, inefficient education system, and a society that refutes the creativity of young people; signifies that a number of the youth are incapable to translate their ambitions into a industrious and rewarding future (Omboto et al. 2013). A study based in Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Center (KYTC) in Kenya, concluded that an increase in juvenile crime has been contributed by an upsurge in minors school dropout, an escalating unemployment and poverty levels, mediocre parenting and drug

abuse (Omboto et al. 2013). The study further asserted that criminals in the major towns in Kenya are of age ranging from 15 - 25 years old (Makhoha, 2008).

Due to joblessness and the deficiency of probabilities for gainful employment, youths are drawn to a life of crime. A report on crime survey conducted by UN Habitat in Nairobi concluded that the youth delinquency and crime is a big problem. Major arguments upon which they are arrested are theft, assaults, in possession of drugs, assaults, and killings (UN Habitat, 2002). Youth crime is triggered by among other reasons, irritations and deprivations arising from incapability to attain wants and desires. These hindrances break or deteriorate the social ties between the youths and groups meant to control their social behavior (Ahuja, 1996).

1.2 Problem Statement

Development and prosperity of a nation depends heavily on the health and productivity of its growing population. The health of a nation also relies on the security of each individual to be able to contribute effectively to national development. Security issue in Kenya has been persistent since she gained her independence but it has taken different dynamics over the decades. The youth are the most important resource for the nation in for realizing Vision 2030; therefore, involvement in crime reduces the count of productive youths in the economy thereby endangering the achievement of the nations' development plan (Makhoha, 2008). A crime survey in Nairobi conducted by UN Habitat and the City Council in 2002 found that youth delinquency and crime is a major problem. The UN Habitat study on youth and crime in Nairobi found the major grounds on which

young people are arrested are theft, assault, drug possession, mugging, and manslaughter (UN Habitat, 2002). Johnson C (2015), in his analysis of New Zealand Criminal Youth Justice System, where he presented youth offending and youth Recidivism, he talked about why youth offend and the drivers of crime in New Zealand. Johnson observed that youth offending is a complex social and political issue in which young immature minds are influenced and directed in some way or another into engaging in criminal activity. In that study, he observed that there are a number of contributing factors that can impart some explanation as to why a young person engages in criminal activity for the first time.

On 16th March, 2016 the Standard Newspaper conveyed that there was a gang of four teenagers comprising of two secondary school students in Nakuru who were accused of hijacking a taxi, murdering its driver. They were hence caught in Nakuru after being trailed by the flying squad police officers. In Kisauni Mombasa, by December 2015, police apprehended a total of 50 criminal youths aged between the age of 12 - 17 years known as Wakali Kwanza who carried out daylight robberies. In Nairobi, unlawful group of youngsters known as Gaza terrified residents of Kayole. The miserable story is recurrent in virtually all Kenyan towns. The developing and developed countries are facing the problem of youth violence and crime. In the field of criminology, studies on youths' attitudes toward crime and finding out its genesis, and coming up with possible measures of curbing such offenses is quite vital in any society.

Most of the studies reviewed talked more about urban centers. None of the studies reviewed talked about Kisumu County and most particularly North west Kisumu. In particular, no studies have examined causes of youth violence and crime in the context of

the devolved system of Kenyan counties of which Kisumu is one of them. It is on this mentioned basis that this study at hand intends to fill that gap by seeking to determine factors contributing to high rate of youth offending in Kenya and how to curb them, and more particularly in Kisumu County, Maseno Division, North west Kisumu.

1.3 Research Questions

The research sought to answers these questions:

- How do socio-economic factors contribute to criminal behaviour among the youth?
- How does family socialization practices influence criminal behaviour among the youth?
- What influence do of peer groups have on criminal behaviour among the youth?
- What influence does the media have on criminal behaviour among the youth?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 Main Objective

To examine factors contributing to youth's criminal behaviors and the extent of its social and economic impact in North West Kisumu Location.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

This study sought:

- To find out socio-economic factors that contribute to criminal behaviour among the youth
- To find out whether family socialization practices have an influence on criminal behaviour among the youth
- To investigate influence of peer groups on criminal behaviour among the youth
- To find out whether media has an influence on criminal behaviour among the youth

1.5 Justification of the Study

Law breaking is of enormous bother in Kenya. Identifying causes and preventive or corrective measure measures remains crucial in coming up with interventions to avert child delinquency from intensifying into chronic lawbreaking. In an endeavor to ensure social growth in Kenya, as one of the major pillars in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and the country's Vision 2030, the government is incorporating measures to thwart crime in the country. Juvenile delinquency has caught the government's attention to ratify conventions and develop laws to prosecute young criminal offenders. The study findings may aid the leadership in North West Kisumu in emerging with operative ploys in handle unlawful deeds amongst the youths.

The kind of information provided will help abundantly in understanding the factors contributing to youths' criminal behaviours and the extent of its social and economic impacts on North west Kisumu. The research findings will be of immense value to all the leaders (both elected and non-elected, religious and security heads) in the division, in making informed decisions to restore peace, harmony, and encourage hard work and discipline among the youth in North West Kisumu and Kisumu County at large.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The content scope rotated around theories and concepts about criminal activities among the youth of North west Kisumu of Maseno Division, Kisumu county. The study revolved around factors leading to high rates of the North West KSM youths getting engrossed in criminal activities and also came up with measures that can be adopted to curb chances of the youths' involvement in criminal activities. Youth and crime was chosen as the main area of study due to the fact that there has been an increase in the cases of the youth getting involved in criminal activities in North West Kisumu today, hence there is a need to find out reasons behind youths' involvement in crime and how to curb it. The study may not be generalized to apply to other counties in Kenya given that it was carried out in North West Kisumu, MSN Division Kisumu county.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Crime: It's an act or blunder amounting to an offense indictable by law. It is something reprehensible, foolish, or disgraceful. It is the act of doing something forbidden by law or ignoring to do as law obligates (English Learners Dictionary, 2008).

Behaviour: American Heritage Idioms Dictionary (2002) defines behaviour as the way in which one acts or conducts oneself, especially towards others.

Criminal Behaviour: US Legal (2016), defines criminal behaviour as any act of disruptive behaviour or antisocial behaviour that violates a law and is punishable by society.

Youth: Age between babyhood and adulthood or maturity. Scholars contend that age-grounded exactness have not been unswerving across. In Much of sub-Saharan Africa, the youth is linked with young men/women from the age of 15 - 30 or 35 years old (Ferragina et al., 2016)

Violence: International Labour Rights Forum (ILRF) (2019), defines violence as a physical harm that constitutes a felony or misdemeanor. It is a behaviour that frightens, manipulates, embarrasses, segregates, terrifies, terrorizes, threatens or injures someone.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter captures a review of studies that are relevant to the youth and crime. It reviews studies that have been carried out on factors contributing to juvenile's unlawful doings. The key areas to focus include a number of contributing factors that can impart criminal behaviour in the youths. It also identifies certain key theoretical foundations upon which the findings of this study will be interpreted.

2.1.1 Youth Criminality

2.1.2 Contributing Factors to Youth's Criminal Behaviour

Johnson (2015) presented youth offending and youth Recidivism, he talked about why youth offend and the drivers of crime in New Zealand. Johnson observed that youth criminal acts as intricate social and political subject whereby young minds are swayed to some path into involving in felonious doings. In that study, he observed that there are numerous causal factors that can impart some clarification as to why young person's engage in crime.

2.1.3 The Impact of Society on Youths Criminal behaviour

How the society is organized to provide for the youth's wants plays a fundamental part in

swaying the youth unlawful deeds. This is exemplified by the modus in which political composition operates in the world. For instance, the existing economic order operating in the society, employment/joblessness, available education and training chances to the youth, social components, and legal system which governs the society. These factors key in shaping the youth as they develop into maturity.

2.1.4 Education and Youth Offending

The study by McKlaren (2000) identified a robust linkage involving education and juvenile offending. This is pointed evidently in the youth court whereby several juveniles charged weren't school-goers. Characteristically, as soon as out of learning system, they are left 'disoriented', and 'unchecked' by the authorities. This in turn shows that there exists a noteworthy letdown from the authority in checking youths dropping out of school or other learning institutions untimely (Stevenson et al., 2007).

2.1.5 Peer Influence on Youths Criminal behaviour

Peer persuasion is regarded as one of the most influential aspects in youth offending. It refers to behavioural aspects owing to socializing with unlawful juveniles hitherto engrossed in felonious offending and other unsociable conducts (Fergusson, 2005). Becroft (2009) postulated that bad companions degenerated into a training field for unsociable conducts. Curtis et al. (2002) stated rebellious friends can often be the motive a juvenile engrosses in unlawful wrong acts. They further observed that once the youths attain teenage, family's control withers and peer's effect creeps in and solidifies (Curtis et al., 2002). Another aspect linking to peers' delinquency is drugs abuse and alcoholism. A

number of youths are getting involved in criminal activities from the influence of drug misuse and alcoholism presenting the youths with aggressive tendencies to acquire influential status among their peers (Becroft, 2009). Research has shown that adolescents whose peers disapproved of delinquent behavior were less likely to report having committed delinquent acts (Elliott, 1994), including sexual assaults (Ageton, 1983). In this present work it has been found that violent behavior of youth is often occurred in the course of gaining independence from parents and developing an identity within the peer group. Study indicates that young people are just like to commit violent behavior because of verbal coercion from friends due to their own private desire to gain acceptance within the peer group.

2.1.6 Drug and Alcohol Addiction on Youths Criminal Behaviour

Drug misuse and alcoholism is revealed as a common predicament for teenage offences. This is exemplified in the Youth Court (Lynch, 2012). It is evident that teenage on the effect of substance abuse and alcoholism are likely to involve in wrongdoing compared to those who aren't. (2007) observed that 80% of the teenagers before the Youth Court have alcoholism or substance abuse addiction or linked to their offences (Becroft, 2009).

2.1.7 Family Structure on Youths Criminal Behaviour

Family features such as inferior parental succor, family dimensions, home inharmoniousness, child mistreatment, and inconsiderate guardians are peril features related to juvenile misbehavior (Derzon and Lipsey, 2000; Wasserman & Seracini, 2001). A study conducted by McCord's (1979) concluded that the strongest forecasters of later

convictions for violent offenses were poor parental, parental conflict, and parental aggression. Some researcher has related being brought up in a one-parent families with raised delinquency (McCord, Widom, & Crowell, 2001). Some studies have postulated that young people from big-sized families have a bigger possibility of committing a felony (Wasserman & Seracini, 2001; West & Farrington, 1973).

2.1.8 Community and Neighborhood on Youths Criminal Behaviour

Prevailing studies point to an influential linkage between inhabiting in a hostile neighbourhood and involving yourself in unlawful doings (McCord, Widom, & Crowell, 2001). Sociological concepts of deviancy deduce that “disorganized neighborhoods have weak social control networks; that weak social control, resulting from isolation among residents and high residential turnover, allows criminal activity to go unmonitored” (Herrenkohl et al., 2001:221).

Even though researchers have deliberated on interaction between environmental and personal factors where most agree that “living in a neighborhood where there are high levels of poverty and crime increases the risk of involvement in serious crime for all children growing up there” (McCord, Widom, & Crowell, 2001:89).

2.1.9 Media Influence Toward Youth Crime

An aggressive video or a felonious movie illustrates a portrait of risky behaviours, with

scenes of abduction, rape, homicide which offer new model of behavior to teenage to replicate in their lives. Furthermore, these movies/programs tend to glorify irregular activities. Konch and Borbora (2013) conducted noted in their findings that; *“Kamal, 23 years old unmarried boy convicted as kidnapper and also confessed, ‘I am highly influenced by the internet pornography and mobile phone.’”* Apart from all these important factors, some another factors have been also found from the entire study like believed in practices of the black magic, suddenly face unexpected situation, revenge, parents for love affairs, dowry etc are equally related to formation of criminal tendency and also become factors to committed crime

2.1.10 Unemployment and Youth Criminal Behaviour:

In a study on ‘Involvement of Youth Attitudes in Crime: A Study Conducted in Four Jails of Upper Assam, India,’ conducted by Karabi Konch & Joyanta Borbora (2013); and the study area by then, it was established that lack of employment opportunities lead the criminal activities among unemployed respondents. They informed that they also need money to continue their daily requirements. When they don’t find any legal opportunity to earn it they got involved in criminal activities to finance their living expenses. When research work questioned them about the different central government schemes like NREGA, SEEUY, it has been found that many of them did not aware of such schemes. It reflects about poor professional educational environment system in research areas.

In a study on “Involvement of Youth Attitudes in Crime: A Study Conducted in Four Jails

of Upper Assam, India,” Konch & Borbora (2013); recognized that lack of unemployment leads the youth into crime. In a Study Conducted in Four Jails of Upper Assam, India,’ conducted by Konch and Borbora (2013): noted in their findings that: “*Pranjit 30 years old, unmarried science graduate boy convicted as terrorist. He expressed ‘I failed to engage in any job after 2 years of my graduation. So I decided to join local terrorist organization’*”.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Rational Choice Theory

It is also termed as choice theory or rational action theory, it’s an outline for comprehending and habitually strictly shaping social and economic conducts. The key principle of this concept is that amassed social behavior stems from the deeds of particularized performers, each making their separable preferences. “The concept is centered on the causes of the particularized adoptions. The theory then assumes that an individual has favorites among the available choice alternatives that allow them to state which option they prefer. These preferences are assumed to be complete (the person can always say which of two alternatives they consider preferable or that neither is preferred to the other) and transitive (if option A is preferred over option B and option B is preferred over option C, then A is preferred over C).” Sedar Kenan (2009) posits that, “While conventional criminology leaned towards seeing criminals steered by their conditioning and environment, more current economics-based theories portray them as *rational* choice makers who base their decisions to commit crimes on an analysis of the

risks of the venture compared with the expected profits. That is, the criminal does a cost-benefit analysis.” Serdar Kenan (2009) concluded that, “rational choice approach is vital in the field of criminal justice, due to rational choice theory provides a general framework for comprehending every kind of crime. It is also very key in explaining crime and in evoking new forms of prevention.”

2.2.2 Social Control Theories

Early social control theory was propagated by Albert J Reiss 1951, Toby Jackson 1957 and F Ivan Nye 1958 and Modern social control theory was propagated by David Matza and Travis Hirshi (1969).

F. Ivan Nye (1958) accredited the family as a source of developed links between family, social control and youthful misbehavior. He proposed that social control has four manifestations:

- **Direct Control:** (Family Level Punishments & Rewards): “By which reprimand is exposed or operated employed for unlawful conduct and compliance is awarded by parents, family and authority.”
- **Indirect Control:** A juvenile identifies with parents’/ authority figures and refrains because the delinquent act might cause pain and disappointment to parents.
- **Internal Control:** (conscience or sense of guilt):- Derived from ones conscience or super ego.

Nye’s theory found support among actively delinquent youth who reported poor family

relationships and weak social controls as the contributing factors. Accordingly, functional families are central in helping nurture youth who are not deviants while dysfunctional families contribute to delinquency. Rendering to social control theory, adolescents abuse drugs due to the fact that there is inadequate social control to confine them from drug misuse. Inadequate parental supervision resulting to an intensified association with drug abusing peers and subsequently to higher drug abuse (Liddle & Rowe, 2006). Moreover, proper parental watch, is discovered as efficient in cutting down law-breaking and substance misuse (Liddle & Rowe, 2006). Numerous studies on family structure globally have postulated that teenagers who staying with both biological parents are considerably appreciably less likely to abuse substances than those who do not stay with both parents (Rice & Dolgin, 2008).

2.2.3 Social Learning Theory

This theory postulates that individuals learn from each other, out of seeing, replication and displaying. It is of the observation that people learn by witnessing others. Bandura maintains that folks' behaviors could be regulated by their surroundings. Observational learning stems from observing undesirable and desirable behaviors. Observational learning supervenes through witnessing the actions of others. It is a method of social learning that assumes several methods, pegged on several courses. In humans, this form of learning appears not to need strengthening to occur, but instead, requires a social model such as parents, sibling, friend or teacher with surroundings. "Criminal behavior is maintained by its consequences, both material and social. Such social variables as age, sex, social class, ethnic membership, and residential area influence the manner in which

criminal behavior is conditioned. Punishment decreases a response rate only if it is used in a consistent manner, and is applied near the time of the occurrence of the forbidden act. As it is used to control criminal behavior, punishment is likely to create avoidance and escape behaviors rather than law abiding behaviors” (C. R. Jeffery, 1965). Jeffery (1965) maintains that “a good number of official criminal and delinquent acts are unswerving by young adult males who are members of a marginal group and who live in slum areas. One of the features of a slum neighborhood is deprivation; the populaces are without the important social reinforcers in our economy. They are not reinforced for lawful behavior. A middle class person can secure food, clothing, and automobiles by noncriminal means.”

2.3 Empirical Studies & Gap of Knowledge

Numerous researches have been conducted on youth’s involvement in crime at international level, and very few if any have been conducted in Kenya. At the international platform, Akram et al. (2013) conducted a study on “Causes and implication of male youths’ violence in the Punjab, Pakistan,” and concluded in their findings that youths are swayed by several factors to get into violent and criminal activities. Some of the factors they identified are lack of interest in education, poor academic performance, poor standard of education, dropping out of school lead to violent behavior and criminal activities. The study also discovered that Family Size plays a role in the youths’ involvement in crime. With the increasing number of children in a family the attention of the parents to each and every child decreases. With the increased number of children, the house becomes overcrowded and there is a possibility to increase frustration, irritation and conflict among the family members and resultantly youth violent behavior. They also

realized that Family's economic status plays a role. They concluded that self-esteem is another factor. Low self-esteem is the source of all manner of personal and social ills.

Criminality prevention entails preventing individuals from ever starting to offend and, in the event that they do start to commit crimes, to stop them from offending as soon as possible thereafter. The former can be attained by cultivating a series of policies that sway upon the aspects which incline young people towards perpetrating offences. The latter can also be achieved this way, but more often the prevention of reoffending is considered to be the responsibility of the (CJS) criminal justice system. (House of Commons, 1993).

In Kenya, according to research conducted by Maguire et al. (2002) cultural, economic, social institutional, situational psychological and biological factors are responsible for developing criminal behavior in individuals. From the above-mentioned studies, and owing to the literature reviewed, it is quite evident that youth offending has been on the rise and it comes with negative impacts both to the lawbreaker, the offender's family, the society, and the county at large. Reviewed studies also indicate that there is high need to identify root causes of such heinous acts and come up with punitive measures to be operationalized to curb such vices in our society.

However, most of the studies reviewed talked more about urban centers. None of the studies reviewed talked about Kisumu County and most particularly N W Kisumu in Maseno Division. It is on this mentioned basis that this study at hand intended to fill that gap by seeking to determine factors contributing to high rate of youth offending in Kenya

and how to curb them, and more particularly in Kisumu (KSM) County, Maseno Division, N W Kisumu Location.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

It is a pictorial illustration that displays the connection between dependent variables and independent variables (Young 2009). Conceptual frame work is the explanation of how independent and dependent variables in then study relates. A variable is a measurable characteristic that takes deferent values amongst the subject. The main variable under investigation in this study is youth involvement in criminal behaviour. It is the dependent variable. Examples of criminal behaviour among the youth are theft, robbery with violence, rape cases, cultism, killing and murder cases, drug peddling, drug abuse and addict, terrorism etc.

There are a number of factors that this study perceives that may lead to youths' involvement in criminal activities. They are the independent variables of the study. These factors include; socio-economic factors (e.g. poverty, unemployment, disreputable morals in the neighborhood etc.), family socialization factors (e.g. unfavorable conditions at home, single parenthood, unhappy home, poor parenting and family bonding etc.), Peer Group influence factors (e.g. Alcohol and substance abuse, introduces teens to cultism, having criminals as role models etc.) and Media influence factors (e.g. Watching violent movies/videos and shows, accessing sites of violent scenes, watching live violent scene

online, cyber bullying etc.).

There are consequences that are brought about by the above mentioned independent variables. Such consequences or factors lead to the occurrence of the dependent variables. They are considered to be the intervening variables of the study. Such variables are foul language, indiscipline, poor academic performance, indecent dressing and lifestyle etc.

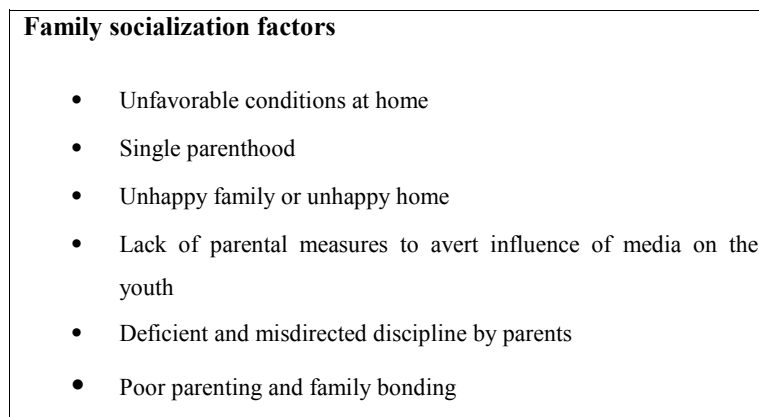
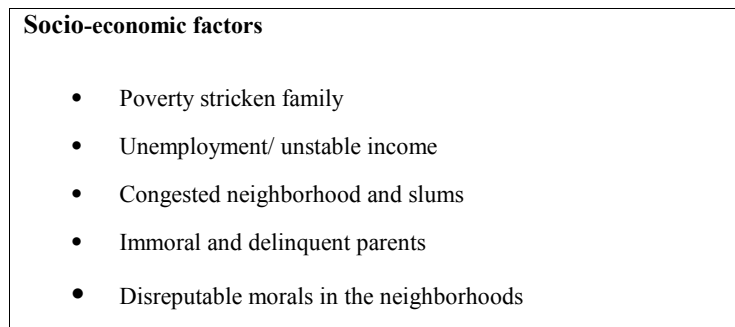
The above mentioned variables are summarized and pictorially presented as shown in figure 2.1 below:

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Independent Variables
Dependent

Intervening

Variable



Peer group influence

Drug abuse

cultism

criminal role models

weaken bonds between
parents.

Rejection by normal and
well behaved youths

**Youth
involvement in
criminal
behavior**

Theft

Robbery

Rape cases

Cultism

Killing

Drug peddling

Drug abuse and
addict

Terrorism

Media influence

- Watching violent movies/videos and shows
- Accessing sites of violent scenes
- Spending more hours in video games
- Watching live violent scene online
- Cyber bullying

Source: Author, 2019

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), Research methodology is a section that pronounces the procedures that have been followed in conducting the study. This chapter shows the ploy used to conducting the study. It comprises research design, study population, data collection tools, data collection technique, data analysis and presentation.

3.2 Research Design

Kothari (2014) maintains that research design is an arrangement of circumstances for

collections and analysis of data in modus aiming to conjoin value to the research purpose with economy in procedure. Design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted. The study adopted descriptive survey design. According to Sekaran and Bougie (2011), descriptive study is assumed to aid ascertaining and describing the traits of the variables of concern in a situation.

3.3 Unit of Analysis and of Observation

Bachman and Schutt (2003), unit of analysis may be groups i.e family, schools, prisons, towns, states or counties. The unit of analysis was on factors contributing to criminal behavior among the youth and the units of observation is an object which information is collected for (Lavrakas, 2008). In this study the unit of observation was the youth and also key informants.

3.4 Population of the Study

Population comprises of all items in the field of inquiry (Kothari, 2006). The study targeted all youths of North West KSM, Maseno Division in Kisumu County. All the youths of the location formed the population of this study. However, not all the elements in the population were studied. Only a subset of the population was sampled for study purposes. Total number of youths in North West, MSN division as per Kisumu County Integrated Development Plan II (KCIDP) II 2018 – 2022 is 19% of the total population.

Total population is approximated at 30,000 thus the youths are 5,700. The study only focused on 1300 youths who were out of school thus forming target population in the study.

3.5 Sample Size

The study focused on 1300 youths of age 18 – 30 years who are out of school. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) alluded that 10% - 50% is good representative for survey research. The study focused on 130 youths out of school as a sample size. This was to obtain small number which enabled rich qualitative data in consideration of time and budgetary strain. Small respondents reduced cost as few number of research assistants were involved. The study reflected on four sub location proportionately as tabulated below.

Table: 3.1: Population as per KCIDP II 2018-2022

SNO	Sub Location	Total population	youth Population	Target population (Youth out of school)	Sample Size

1.	West Karateng (WK)	8948	1700	390	39
2.	East Karateng (EK)	6842	1300	300	30
3.	Sunga	7368	1400	320	32
4.	Marera	6842	1300	290	29
TOTAL		30,000	5700	1300	130

Source: KCIDP, II 2018 – 2022

3.6 Sampling Method

For the efficiency, reliability and accuracy of findings, and to ensure a fair representation, the study adopted non-probability sampling techniques. N W Kisumu was divided into four administrative Sub-locations. Purposive sampling method was used to sample four sub – locations that the researcher selects the youth from and generate list of key informants for interview. The key informant included OCPD, village elders, church elders, youth leaders, MCA, Assistant county Commissioner, ward administrator etc. Purposive sampling was adopted to select respondents from shopping centers and market place due to easy reachability by researcher, time available and budgetary constraints. This was done through judgment of the researcher. Assistant chiefs were requested to allow interview youths during Barraza’s. The same was repeated until the desired target was achieved. The study utilized proportional sampling technique to draw a random

sample from the list. Creswell (2009) proportional sampling is a method of sampling that ensures that variables in the selected sample represent the study population proportionately.

3.7 Data Collection

The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected using questionnaires. This instrument of data collection is deemed useful for this study because it helped to collect numerous information over a short period of time, cheap and easy to administer. The questionnaire is also suitable due to it being standard. The secondary data was sought from Maseno police station and Government administration offices within Maseno (MSN). Some of the key informants used in supplying the information and assist in follow-up on response were village elders, church leaders, head of security and elected leaders within N W Kisumu. The study wanted to find out from them socio-economic factors that contribute to criminal behavior among the youth in the division, to find out whether family socialization practices have an influence on criminal behavior among the youth, to investigate how peer groups influence impacts on criminal behavior among the youth and to find out whether the media has an influence on criminal behavior among the youth. The instrument adopted in interview comprised of FGD (focus group discussion) and questionnaire.

3.8 Key Informants

The study interviewed 10 key informants within the Location. They included chief, assistant chief, OCS, church leaders, youth leaders, CBOs, NGOs village elders, MCA,

assistant county commissioner, social workers and other relevant informants within the study.

3.9 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed by help of Statistical Package for Social Science tools (SPSS) for data analysis where regression and correlation analysis were used. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data. The data was then presented using frequency distribution tables, percentages, charts and histograms.

3.10 Ethical Consideration

To ensure quality, reliability and objectivity of this study, the research observed the following ethical considerations:

- Respondents' participation in this research was entirely voluntary and based on their own volition.
- No one was coerced or influenced in whichever means to participate in this research. No inducements or any form of bribery was given to the respondents to supply information during data collection process.
- No information was collected from the vulnerable in the society (like children, the mentally impaired or the older persons) without the assistance and consent of their parents or guardians.

- During data collection process, the respondents and informants were not asked intimidating and embarrassing questions. The questions were as objective as possible.
- No subjectivity or biasness was exercised by the researcher in the entire research process.
- The information provided was treated with strict adherence to confidentiality, anonymity and privacy. The information was not used or made viable for any other purpose other than this academic purpose for which it was researched

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

The study sought to examine factors contributing to youth's criminal behaviors and the extent of its social and economic impact in the North West of Kisumu County. Specifically, the study hence strived to establish socio-economic factors contributing to criminal behavior among the youth in N W Kisumu, to find out whether family socialization practices have an influence on criminal behavior among the youth in the Division, to investigate the influence of peer groups on criminal behavior among the youth and to find out whether the media has an influence on criminal behavior among the youth. This chapter hence displays data analysis, findings and discussions as far as the

above-mentioned objectives are concerned.

4.2 Response Rate

A total of 130 respondents were targeted by the study. The study administered a total of 130 questionnaires to key informants, the youth and other members of the community. Out of the 130 questionnaires administered, only a total of 92 questionnaires were dully filled and returned. This gave a response rate of 70.7% which agree with Sudman & Blair (1998) who argued that more than 50% was a recommended rate.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

	Frequency (n)	Percentage
Targeted Response	130	100%
Received Response	92	70.70%

4.3 General Information

The study pursued to gather some general information from the respondents that would be helpful in interpretation of the results. The respondents were hence asked to provide general information as discussed below:

4.3.1 Age

The respondents were requested to show their ages. All the responses received were summarized and categorized as shown below.

Table 4.2: Respondents Age

Age Bracket	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
18 - 25 years	26	28.3
26 - 30 years	31	33.7
31 - 35	15	16.3
36 - 40 years	12	13.0
41- 50 years	5	5.4
51 years and above	3	3.
TOTAL	92	100.0

The information captured above depicts that majority of the respondents were of the age bracket below 30 years, the age regarded as the youthful stage, as supported by The National Youth Policy (2006) of Kenya, which labels youth as someone ranging from the age of 15-30 years. This shows that majority of the respondents were in a better position to provide information on the factors contributing to youth's criminal behaviors and the extent of its social and economic impact in the North West of Kisumu county

4.3.2 Gender

The respondents were asked to indicate their gender. Male respondents constituted 65% of the respondents were male while 35% were female.

4.3.3 Level of Education

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of education. The responses received were summarized analyzed, categorized and presented as shown below.

Table 4.3: Level of education

Education Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Primary Education	13	14.1
Secondary Education	32	34.8
College Education (diploma)	26	28.3
Degree	16	17.4
Post graduate	5	5.4
TOTAL	92	100.0

The information captured above uncovers that majority of the respondents were at least having a college training and above. This hence puts the respondents in a better position to read and understand what the research was seeking to establish.

4.4 Socio-Economic Factors contributing to criminal behavior among the youth

One of the objectives of the study was to find out the socio-economic factors that

contribute to criminal behavior among the youth in the North West of Kisumu county. To realize this objective, the study came up with several questions on socio-economic factors that may lead to crime among the youth. The respondents were hence asked to give their positions and opinions as far as such factors are concerned. Such responses were analyzed and presented as discussed below.

4.4.1 Poverty in the Family

The study sought to establish from the respondents whether there is any relationship between poverty in the family and youth's involvement in crime. The respondents were hence asked to express their opinion on how relate the behavior of the youth from the poverty-stricken families as far as criminal activities in the Location are concerned.

From the response gathered through open ended questions, majority of the respondents were of the opinion that poverty in the family do not drive the youth to crime in the region. The respondents also maintained that there are no particular families in the region that can be singled out as poverty stricken since many residents in the Location are either engaged in small scale farming or small and medium enterprises.

The findings on this factor can hence be summarized in the figure 4.1 below by asking the following question:

Figure 4.1: Is there relationship between poverty and crime in the region?

The information presented in above denotes that it is hard to relate family's economic

status in the region to the youth's involvement in criminal activities. This is supported by majority of the respondents (77.2%) who were of the opinion that there is no relationship between poverty in the families and youth delinquency in the North West of Kisumu County. However, 18.5% of the respondents were of the opinion that poverty leads to crime in the area.

church leader said that:

“Most of the youth from the humble or poor families are always devoted members of the church, they are disciplined, well-behaved and they work hard to have a better future and change the face of their families”.

A wholesale trader in the area, said that;

“Majority of the youth in the areas, from the year 2010 have been actively involved in small scale trades like poultry farming, rabbit rearing, pigs rearing and vegetables farming. This argument was highly supported by the respondents who were parents, who in one accord maintained that most of their sons are engaged in boda-boda operating businesses, while female youths are majorly in small and medium enterprises like pottery. This has led to reduction of poverty and criminal activities within the youth.”

These findings are however contrary to the findings of Prior and Paris (2005) who indicated in their study findings that various observations pointed that majority of the youth are in crime because of poverty, which drove them into criminal acts for survival.

4.4.2 Relationship between unemployment and youth's involvement in crime

The study sought to establish from the respondents whether there is any relationship

between youth's unemployment in the Location and their involvement in criminal activities. The study hence begun by seeking to establish from the respondents the level of youth's employment in the area. The response received indicated that majority of the respondents were of the opinion that the level of youth's employment in the region is very low.

Parents interviewed maintained that:

“Most of the youth in the area, who are graduates from the universities and colleges are yet to get employed in their various fields of specialization. This has left them desperate and vulnerable. Community elders and the elected leaders in the region, with stakeholders and well-wishers led a seminar where the youth were coached on how to be create self-employment for themselves.”

The respondents were then asked to relate the level of youths' employment or unemployment with criminal activities in North West Kisumu.

The Youth leader in Nyawita Village said that:

“Due to an employment, before the year 2010, youths were being used by political leaders to settle problems within their competitors thus resulting to violence within N W Kisumu. However, today majority of our youth are engaged in various small and medium scale business activities, thanks to the youth's Sacco that we formed and also financial support from the local and county leadership.”

One youths who graduated from Maseno University with the Bachelor of Arts in Economic in 2017 said that:

“I have been jobless since I graduated three years ago. I have dropped my CVs all over the county both in private and public

organizations, done a number of interviews but all in vain. I felt frustrated. I needed to be independent, pay my bills, support my parents and siblings. But today, since I ventured into poultry farming, I have become independent and supportive to my parents and siblings.”

The area MCA said that:

“Unemployment was a factor that used to propel the youths into crime. That is no more. We sat as the leadership of the region together with our neighbors and stakeholder and came up with ways of helping our young generation. Today, we organize seminars for them for counseling, mentorship and financial management. We offer them small loans to start their businesses, be self-employed and support their families.”

The study further analyzed all the response as far as the above-mentioned factor is concerned. The study hence asked whether unemployment or underemployment in North West of Kisumu County has led to youth’s involvement in criminal activities in the area. The findings were summarized and presented as shown below.

**Figure 4.2: Does unemployment and Underemployment lead the youth to crime in N
W Kisumu?**

The information presented above depicts that there is no relationship between unemployment and underemployment in the region and crime. The local leadership has worked in hand with stakeholders and other well-wishers to eradicate poverty among the youth in the region hence a number of youths are self-employed in various “Small and Medium enterprises”. This was upheld by the majority of the respondents (91.3%).

4.4.3 Immoral and Criminal acts within the neighborhood and youth’s involvement in crime

The study sought to establish from the respondents whether there are some elements of immoral behavior within the community and whether such acts within the neighborhood leads the youth to crime. The study began by seeking to establish from the respondents whether there are some disreputable morals and criminal behavior within the Location’s neighborhood.

The study established that there are such uncouth and immoral acts like robbery with violence, drug or substance abuse, rape cases, abortion, cultism. The study further sought to establish from the respondents how such immoral acts within the neighborhood lead the youth into deviant behaviors.

An ordained priest father at Marera Catholic Church maintained that:

“Some of the youths due to lack of proper mentorship, counseling, guidance and proper bringing up by the parents, tend to admire criminals from neighborhood and end up choosing them as their role model.”

Assistant chief at East Karateng' said that:

“Some of our youths are getting indoctrinated into criminal gangs seeking for sense of belonging and trying to prove their self-worth to some of their peers in the gang within neighborhood.”

Two village elders from Sunga and West Karateng' were all of the same opinion that:

“Some of the youth in this area may see crime as fashionable by admiring other criminals paying their bills and living better lives in the neighborhood thus making them be involved in petty theft.”

On whether there is any relationship between criminal acts in the neighborhood and the youths' involvement in crime, the study further analyzed the findings and summarized the findings in figure 3 below by asking whether there is any relationship in the above-mentioned factor.

Figure 4.3: Do Immoral and Criminal acts within the neighborhood lead the youth to crime?

The information presented above depicts that immoral and deviant behaviors in the

neighborhood in North West Kisumu has led a number youth to crime. This was supported by 74% of the respondents who maintained that there is a direct link between the social environment where youths are brought up has a direct link with their engrossment in delinquency.

The findings of this study are echoed by findings of **Billings, Deming and Ross** (2016) in their study on “Neighborhood Spillovers in youth crime: Social interactions matter.” They observed that the propensity for youths to commit crime has long been associated with where they live.

Similarly, a study conducted by Case and Katz (1991) and Damm and Dustmann (2014) found “a strong relationship between neighborhood criminal activity and the likelihood that individual youths are arrested for a crime. Youth’s crime has long been associated with residing in disadvantaged or high crime neighborhoods.”

4.4.4 Immoral or unethical parents or guardians in the family and its effect on youth’s behavior

Cognizant of the fact that parents are bestowed with the task of raising children to follow society's rules and norms for acceptable behavior, the study sought to establish from the respondents whether there are parents or guardians in North West Kisumu who exhibit unprincipled or unscrupulous behaviors and whether such behavior lead the youth to crime. The respondents were hence asked to express their opinions on the above-mentioned factor. The response received were analyzed and presented as discussed below.

The area assistant chief at Marera Sub-location said that:

“Some of the parents in this sub-location spend most of their time-consuming illicit brews in the villages, some even end up sleeping by the roadside the whole night drunk with all manner of indecency. This directly affect the youths as they copy what their elders in the family do.”

The area assistant chief at Sunga Sub-location maintained that:

“I have heard of many cases where some parents are accused of stealing chicken, goats, sheep, clothing, grains from other villagers to get money for illicit brews. This sets a bad precedence for their children. Such children may end up being hardcore criminals”.

Area chief also alluded that:

“Follow up of youth arrested brewing illicit brew depicts that they either copy the same from parents and significant others within the family.”

A pastor from the local church in East Karateng and church elders from Sunga ACK were of the same opinion that:

“Homes with constant quarrels, family violence, and insults; always affect the present and future lives of their children. Children are growing without morals and respect for life and other people’s property.”

These findings are supported by the findings of Kazdin (1997) who observed that when families have difficulties with the task laid on them to mentor and be good examples for their children, then the product is often juvenile delinquency.

These findings are also echoed by the findings of Kaufman and Reiner (1964), who

observed that youthful proficiencies in the family determine in great part how the teenagers will be molded and will eventually acclimatize with the external environment.

The Glueck and Glueck (1968) after 10 years of their intensive research on the casual factors of delinquency concluded that, “among the forces that: count most in determining whether or not, a boy win be conditioned to antisocial behavior is the home atmosphere”.

- **Family socialization practices that influence criminal behaviour among the youth in North West Kisumu**

Family is the basic unit of society. It is one of the major factors influencing personality and all-round development of an individual. It is the family which lays the foundation for patters of adjustment, attitude development, and finally personality and cognitive development.

The study hence sought establish some of the family socialization practices that may influence criminal behaviour among the youth in the area. The respondents were hence asked to list down such practices. The response received was summarized and presented as shown in table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Family Socialization practices that influence delinquency

Socialization Practices	Frequency (n)	Response rate per variable (%)
Lack of financial support	79	85.9

Poor child-parent relationship	77	83.7
Constant family quarrels	78	84.8
Discrimination in the family	80	87.0
Parental Deprivation	83	90.2
Harsh punishment on the child	82	89.1
Divorce/separation by the parents	84	91.3
Lack of time for the child	69	75.0
Alcoholism	89	96.7
Inter-parental relationship	91	98.9

The information summarized and presented above depicts that Lack of financial support, Poor child-parent relationship, Constant family quarrels, Discrimination in the family, Parental Deprivation, Harsh punishment on the child, Divorce/separation by the parents, Lack of time for the child, Alcoholism and Inter-parental relationship; are some of the key socialization practices within the family that may lead the youth into involvement into criminal activities.

The information captured in the table above denotes that family socialization practices are directly responsible to delinquent behavior among the youth in the North West Kisumu.

This was supported by the area assistant chief in Sunga Sub-location who said that:

“Some of the cases that were brought to my office about youth petty theft and alcoholism were majorly from the families that are divorced, families where parents are ever quarreling and in conflict or lack of proper parental supervision.”

On the same breath, Stormshak, et al. (2000) concludes in his study by maintaining that,

“The family is considered to be the first and most essential unit of social organization. It is the first institution of children's socialization and it is considered to be the most influential environmental determining the formation of personality development of the child. Family influence delinquency through child rearing and parent-child interaction.”

Youth leader in East Karateng said that:

“Youths who are not appreciated back at home, are not given attention and much needed love from the parents and even their siblings have sought for sense of belonging in bad companies, thus becoming criminals.”

This finding agrees with the findings of Sullenger (1931) who maintained that, “A child who fails to experience the warmth of love and sympathy or who has his efforts toward self – expressions constantly checked is likely to produce behaviour problems. Many cases show that where these legitimate satisfactions are not met in the home the child is prematurely driven to the streets or other outlets are resorted to, such as excessive day dreaming, timidity, temper tantrums, lying, stealing, running away, setting fires and the like.”

4.5.1 Lack of confidence and frankness between the parents and the youth

On the family socialization practices that may lead the youth in delinquency, the study sought to establish from the respondents whether lack of frankness and confidence between the children and their parents may lead the youth into criminal activities. The respondents were hence asked to express their opinion on the above-mentioned factor. The response received were summarized, analyzed, discussed and presented as indicated

below.

A number of the youths interviewed were of the opinion that most of them joined other groups to seek for sense of belonging due to lack of proper attention at home.

One of the youth in Chulaimbo said that:

“My friend complained to me that his parents hardly give him any attention at home, his parents are so cruel on him that he could not even face them to express himself whenever he is facing any challenge. That forced him to join his peers for attention, only to be recruited in drugs and substance abuse.”

Church leader of Sunga AIC cemented the above mentioned finding by saying that:

“This is also brought about by poor bonding between the parents and their children.”

These findings are echoed by the findings of Alok Kumar (2015) in his study on Family Environment and Juvenile Delinquency; where he concluded that, “As the child spends most of the time in the family his early life experiences in that family lay the ground work for the type of future behavior and the development of attitudes values and a life style. He may turn into a delinquent or a good citizen of a nation. with healthy self-esteem like themselves and value their achievements. While everyone lacks confidence occasionally, people with low self-esteem feel unhappy or unsatisfied with themselves most of the time.”

Social workers and CBOs heads in the location were of the similar opinion that some of the many causes of low self-esteem may include: Unhappy childhood where parents (or other significant people such as teachers) were extremely critical, poor academic

performance in school resulting in a lack of confidence, poor treatment from a partner, parent or care-giver, for example, being in an abusive relationship, mental illness such as an anxiety disorder or depression and they graduate with this to youthful stage.

On whether lack of confidence and frankness between the parents and the youth lead to delinquency, the study further summarized the findings by asking the following question to the respondents:

Do lack of self-esteem and frankness between the parents and their children lead them into crime?

The response was summarized and presented as shown in figure 4.4 below.

Figure 4.4: Lack of self-esteem and frankness between youth and guardians lead them to crime

The information presented above depicts that lack of openness, proper bonding and amicable interaction between the parents and their children may lead to youth's involvement in crime. This was supported by 77.2% of the respondents

4.5.2 Lack of parental measures to avert influence of the media on the youth

The sway of the media on the psychosocial maturity of children is acute. The study also

sought to establish from the respondents. Whether teens from North West Kisumu are also exposed to the above-mentioned forms of media. The respondents were first asked to list some of the key forms of media that the youth and children are exposed to in the region. The responses received were summarized and presented as shown in table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5: Forms of Media youths are exposed to in North West Kisumu

Forms of media	Frequency (n)	Response Rate (%)
TVs	89	96.7
Computers	32	34.8
Smart phones	45	48.9
Video games	61	66.3
Movies	75	81.5
Social media platforms		
Facebook		
WhatsApp		
Twitter		
Instagram		
Google	87	94.6
Radio	92	100
Magazines	65	70.6
Internet	43	46.7

The information captured above depicts that the youth and teens in North West Kisumu

region are exposed to a number of forms of media and they also have access to social media platforms.

The study further sought to establish from the respondents whether access to such forms of media have led to delinquent behaviour among the youths in the region. The response received was summarized and presented as shown below.

Figure 4.5: media access and delinquency

The information in figure 4.5 above denotes that access to various forms of media and social media platforms have a direct effect on the conduct of the youth in the area. This was supported by a number of key informants.

Youth pastor in HTCA alluded that:

“Some video games like “Grand theft auto” build negativity in brains of the youths. Involves theft missions, death missions and disrespect to the law. Some youth re engaged in the same from their younger stage in life growing up with element of crime in their mind thus committing crime from what they have in mind.”

The study further sought to establish from the respondents whether parents in the region have put any measures to avert the influence of media on their children. The respondents were hence asked to indicate their position on whether parents in NW Kisumu have put in place any parental measures to regulate their children’s access to the media and also moderate the content of the media accessed by their children. The responses received were summarized and presented as shown in figure 4.6 below.

Figure 4.6: Are there parental measures to avert influence of the media on the youth in North West Kisumu?

The information presented above depicts that majority of the parents in NW Kisumu have not put any parental measures in place to deter the media influence on their children.

Youth leader in Marera sub-location lamented that:

“Parents are ignorant of the fact that time spent by their youth watching TVs, movies and in the internet is having massive negative impact on their children.”

The findings of this study are echoed by the findings of Coles (1997) in his study on The Moral Intelligence of Children. The study concluded that parents play an important role in their children’s social learning, but if a parent’s views are not discussed explicitly with children, the medium may teach and influence by default. The study further observed that media, such as magazines, radio, video games and the Internet, also have the potential to influence children’s eating habits, exercise habits, buying habits and mental health. If children are allowed to be exposed to these media without adult supervision, they may have the same deleterious effects as television.

4.5.3 Single Parenthood and delinquency

The study sought to establish from the respondents whether single parenthood due to death, divorce, separation, abandonment; can lead the youth into criminal acts. The respondents were hence asked to express their opinion on the above-mentioned factor.

The responses received were summarized, analyzed and presented as discussed below.

The study begun by seeking to establish from the respondents whether there are cases of single parenthood in the region. Assistant chiefs from all the four sub-locations (West Karateng', East Karateng', Sunga and Marera) were of the agreement that there are numerous cases of single parenthood in their sub-locations that has been brought about by among other factors:

- Death of either of the parents
- Separation between the parents
- Break-ups
- Divorce
- Incest
- Abandonment by either of the parents
- Adoption by single parents

The study further sought to establish from the respondents whether children brought up by single parents have any chances of indulgent in crime. the responses received from the respondents were summarized, analyzed and presented as shown below.

Figure 4.7: Does single Parenthood lead our youths to crime?

From the information presented in figure 4.7 above, majority of the respondents (60%) maintained that there is no relationship between single parenthood and crime among the youth.

Area chief argued that:

“Most of the youths raised by single parents are very hardworking, disciplined and focused as compared to those who are pampered by both parents.” This was echoed by the priest father at Marera Catholic church who maintained that, *“Single parents are giving maximum attention to youth because they know it’s their sole responsibility to shape their future so that they could be independent, turn up lift the face of their families and also assist their siblings. Widows in this area are giving the youths in their homes the best by teaching them the right way to live.”*

A lengthy interview and engagement with a respected lady who is senior member of the community who is also a village elder at Sunga sub-location gave a lot of insight to the above-mentioned findings. She said:

“My husband died and left me with 10 (ten) children. The first-born daughter was in form one, while the youngest son was 2 days old. I did not have any stable job. I started doing small scale business where I could buy omena from Lake Victoria and sell at Lela Market. I have managed to take all my children to school, they have remained discipline, hardworking and performing exemplary well. Through support from my brothers, friends, bursary funds and massive support from their respective head teachers, they have all managed to sit for KCSE and passed really well. Some have joined public universities and colleges to further their education. None of my sons or daughters have been involved in any criminal act, or found in any bad group. I have

taught them to fear God and humanity, conduct themselves with dignity and decorum, support one another and always do their best.”

The above-mentioned findings are supported by the findings of Philip N. Cohen (2012) who singled out that “Single Moms Can't be Scapegoated for the *Crime* Rate Anymore.”

The information presented in figure 4.7 above further depicts that 25% of the respondents were of the agreement that single parenthood leads the youth into crime.

A senior pastor in Kuoyo AIC church was of the opinion that:

“In most families with single mothers, teenage boys are more likely to indulge in crime since there is no father figure to mentor and guide the boys.”

This finding is supported by the findings of a study conducted by R L Maginnis (1997) on Single-Parent Families Cause Juvenile Crime. The study concluded that, “Fathers typically offer economic stability, a role model for boys, greater household security, and reduced stress for mothers. This is especially true for families with adolescent boys, the most crime-prone cohort. Children from single-parent families are more prone than children from two-parent families to use drugs, be gang members, be expelled from school, be committed to reform institutions, and become juvenile murderers. Single parenthood inevitably reduces the amount of time a child has in interaction with someone who is attentive to the child's needs, including the provision of moral guidance and discipline.”

The findings presented in figure 4.7 above denotes that, as much as single parenthood is perceived as a major contributor for delinquency in the society today, it is not a major

factor in North West of Kisumu County.

- **Peer group influence on the criminal behaviour among the youth in NW Kisumu**

Cognizant of the fact that in every society, there exists groups that are part of the larger society but whose members adhere to norms and values that favour the violation of the norms of the larger society, this study sought to establish from the respondents whether there are peer groups in the region, and whether such groups leads the youth to criminal acts. The respondents were hence asked to express their opinion on the above-mentioned factor. The responses received were summarized, analyzed and presented as discussed below.

The study began by seeking to establish from the respondents some of the criminal activities that peer group can influence the youth into. The responses received were summarized and presented as shown in table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6: Ill-practices and criminal acts that peer group influence can lead a youth into

Forms of ill-practices	Frequency (n)	Response Rate
alcohol and substance abuse	85	92.4%
introduction to cultism	78	84.8%
robbery with violence	60	65.2%
having criminals as role models	78	84.8%

school dropout	88	95.7%
pick-pocketing	87	94.6%

The information presented above depicts that peer group influence lead the youth into a number of criminal activities including introduction to alcohol and substance abuse, introduction to cultism, robbery with violence, having criminals as their role models, school dropout, pick-pocketing among other ill practices in the society. This is supported by the large number of the respondents as indicated by the rate of response per each variable.

The responses were further analyzed and presented as shown in figure 4.8 below to further establish whether peer influence may lead to delinquency among the youth.

Figure 4.8: Peer group influence leads the youth to delinquency

The information captured in figure 4.8 above depicts that peer group influence in the

region has led many youths into crime. This is supported by 98% of the respondents who maintained that peer group influence has contributed largely to the youth involvement in delinquency.

One of the youths quoted that:

“I got into illicit brew due to my friends who were consumers as I was told I am not a man enough.”

Assistant areas chiefs were all of the same opinion that:

“peer influence is a disease that has killed the dreams and hopes of many youths in the area.”

Area chief lamented that:

“Most of the youth’s crime reported to my office are due to peer influence, they do crime together to enhance their belonging to the group. Some of the youths who have denounced the delinquent behavior reports to me that they fear being attacked by the colleagues in crime as they see them as informer to the authority.”

One of Youth in Lela Market argued that:

“Youths normally reoffend due to pressure from fiends, they engage in criminal activities with aim of upholding and keeping their friendship.”

OCPD in Maseno said that:

“Peers have greater influence on one another, not only do they spent time together but also are involved in criminal activities like bang smoking and illicit brew taking which conflicts with the

law of the land.”

The findings of this study agree with the findings of a study conducted by May Omogho Esiri (Ph.D.) in 2016, which concluded that, “Peer pressure processes are identified as group dynamics, delinquent peer subculture, peer approval of delinquent behaviour and sanctions for non-conformity which include ridicule, mockery, ostracism and even mayhem or assault in some cases. Also, the paper highlights acceptance and rejection as key concepts that determine the sway or gladiation of adolescents to deviant and criminal behaviour.”

The study findings are also supported by the findings of a study conducted by Agnew (1991); Matsueda and Anderson (1998); Warr (2002); Weerman, (2011). Their studies maintained that, “Friends exert a considerable influence on people’s behaviour. They may stimulate positive behaviours, but also negative ones. In criminology, influence processes related to crime have received considerable attention. Several decades of research consistently show that association with delinquent peers influences the criminal behaviours of individuals.”

4.7 Influence of media on criminal behaviour among the youth in N W Kisumu

Cognizant of the fact that social media can pose positive clouts on the youths, it is not enough to overlook or feign the negative effects it also has on the teenagers, youths or adolescents. It is on this basis that the study sought to establish from the respondents some of the influence of the media on criminal behavior among the youth.

The study began by seeking to establish from the respondents some of the social media

manifestos that the youth in the area have access to. The response was summarized and presented as shown in table 4 below.

Table 4.7: Social Media Platforms used by the youth in NW Kisumu

Forms of the social media platforms	Frequency (n)	Response rate (%)
Facebook	85	92
WhatsApp	81	88
YouTube	78	85
Telegram	50	54
Instagram	58	63
Twitter	51	55
We Chat	43	47
Messenger	74	80

The information captured in table 4.7 above depicts that the youth in North West Kisumu are using the media platforms to a greater extent. This is supported by the majority of the respondents as indicated by the high rate of response (most of who are the youth) who were able to state some of the common media platforms that they use.

The study further sought to establish from the respondents, major effects of social media use by the youth in the region. The respondents were hence requested to convey their opinions on the same. The responses received were analyzed, summarized and presented as shown in table 4.8 below:

Table 4.8: Effect of Social Media on the youth

Effects of social media on the youth	Frequency (n)	Response rate (%)
Facebook depression	78	85
Cyberbullying	61	66
Sleep deprivation	79	86
Lower self-esteem	51	55
Social isolation	59	64
Poor concentration	81	88
Decreased activity	67	73
Internet addiction	55	60

The study hence established from the respondents that majority of the youth in the area spend much of their time on Facebook where they share photos, and post about their daily activities. In the process to appease their Facebook friends and peers some of the teenagers get emotionally disturbed or depressed. This finding is echoed by the findings of [Vinay Prajapati](#), (2019) who maintained that, “Facebook depression is an emotional disturbance associated with social media usage. When a teenager is made to feel inferior to their social media counterparts, they often fall into a depression commonly referred to as a Facebook depression. The need to stand out, fit in or be accepted by their Facebook or Twitter friends is what drives users towards this form of emotional disturbance.”

The study hence established from the respondents a number of the youth have fallen

victims of cyberbullying whereby some of their pictures have been erroneously posted with false and embarrassing information about themselves. This has led them into depression, stress and loneliness.

“I remember in early 2018, someone posted my picture in Facebook on accusation that I had stormed a supermarket in Kisumu town and made away with a fridge. I was left depressed and stressed throughout.” A youth in Maseno said.

Asked whether the much time they spend on the social media do affect their sleeping time and whether it affects their concentration during the day, majority of the respondents (78%) were in agreement. On this point, one of the youth in Sunga sub-location said,

“I normally chat with my friends in the better part of the night, in the morning hours I cannot perform daily activities to support myself financially thus sometime take money from my parents without their consent to fill the urge of being in the media.”

This finding is supported by the findings of [Prajapati](#) (2019) who maintained that, “Social media is among the leading causes of sleep deprivation in teens today. They are constantly worried about what their friends are posting and sharing. Adolescents can stay active on social for longer durations if not prompted to stop. And if they do these especially during sleep time or just before sleep, then there is a high possibility of their sleep being disrupted. The readings can help you understand the importance of sleep and the associated risks of sleep loss.”

The respondents were asked whether constant use of the social media platforms has in anyway affected their self-esteem. Majority of the respondents (67%) were in agreement. The youth leader in East Karateng’ said that majority of the teens and the youth tend to

compare themselves with others celebrities whom they see in the media. They admire their wealthy lifestyle, hence start admiring them and consider them as role models and struggle to be like their role models.

This finding is echoed by the findings of [Vinay Prajapati](#) (2019), who observed that, “Mostly teen girls start comparing themselves with celebrities after spending time on social media and want to look slim, pretty, and rich like them. In the teenage, it is normal to copy those persons to whom they admire or consider a role model. This imitation can negatively affect their self-respect and dignity. The outcome of different studies is girls who spend more time on social media to portray them similar to celebrities are isolated from friend circles. Their friends do not accept them.”

The study sought to establish from the respondents whether the youth in the region have developed any addiction to the internet and whether such addiction has any negative effect on them. The respondents were hence asked to express their opinion on the above-mentioned factor.

The response received was summarized analyzed and conclusions drawn. A youth in Sunga sub-location explained that,

“I can hardly spend one hour without accessing the internet. At times I find it hard to concentrate on my daily activities. Similarly, I have to look for money to buy bundles which sometimes I am forced to steal from my parents.”

This agreed with the previous findings of [Vinay Prajapati](#) (2019) who observed that, “Uncontrolled social media usage among teens can lead to internet addiction. The more

time kids spend on social media, the more they get exposed to new stories and ideas that they would want to explore. This habit eventually turns into an addiction that if not handled early can affect their school performance, mental health, and even personal development.”

The study further sought to establish from the respondent whether the use of media and social media platforms can lead the youth into criminal activities. The respondents were hence asked to express their opinion on the above-mentioned relationship.

Figure 4.9: Media influence leads the youth to criminal activities

The information presented in figure 4.9 above depicts that the use of media by the youth leads them to the crime. This was supported by majority of the respondents (89%).

The study further sought to establish from the respondents how the media influences the youth and leads them into crime. The information gathered from the key informants for the study in North West Kisumu which included:

- The area youth leaders
- The area MCA
- The assistant chiefs

- Village heads
- Headteachers from the public schools in the area
- Local traders
- PTA Chairperson
- BOG Chairperson

Came up with the following summaries in their respective submissions:

- Internet addiction forces the youth to look for means to get money to buy bundles even if stealing (the local trader)
- Internet addiction may lead joining bad groups leading hem into crime (PTA Chairperson)
- The youth watch violent movies over the internet, they are exposed to some criminal gangs and their lifestyle hence the youth may want to emulate them in their real life, leading them into criminal activities (Youth Leader Marera Location)
- Some criminal gangs are recruiting the youth through the social media platforms (Youth leader in the area)
- Due to cyberbullying, Facebook depression and sleep deprivation brought about

by addiction to the social media by the youth, a number of youths in the region are left with very low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence thus they resort to drug and substance abuse (area MCA)

- Watching of violent movies and access to adult material in the internet leads to cases of teenage pregnancies, abortion or tempted abortion cases. This leads to low self-esteem, social isolation that may lead the youth into crime (Area Assistant chief)

The aforementioned findings of this study are also echoed by the findings of the following researchers:

[Vinay Prajapati](#) (2019) While talking about the Negative Effects of Social Media on Teenagers, Youth or Adolescents, maintains that, “Social media negative effects are not unknown. Sadly, our teenagers and adolescents are have taken on the use of social media to extents that if not monitored or restricted, it can have some very severe effects on their overall well-being.”

Khurana N (2015) reiterated that “When You turn on the television, and violence is there. You go to a movie, and violence is there. Reality is distorted. If you live in a fictional world, then the fictional world becomes your reality.”

Shreesha Gosh (2017) recapped that, “The negative effects of social media cannot be kept far aside. Concerns have been raised that social media likely encourages young people to participate in violence and has a large impact on their behavior. Several news reports of cyber bullying, criminal activity on social media or through it, gang violence, and suicide

have surfaced and social media appears to fuel these troubling incidents. The advancement in technology has led to a greater access to firearms and harmful explosives, and it is even more encouraged by social media, raising serious concerns. Social networks like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are considered to be the drivers of violent crimes. They also tend to instigate people into indulging in criminal activities.”

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The main objective of this study was to examine factors contributing to youth’s criminal behaviors and the extent of its social and economic impact in the North West of Kisumu county. This chapter hence presents summary of the findings as far as the above-mentioned objective is concerned, conclusions from the findings and recommendations. The chapter further gives suggestion for further research by highlighting some key grey

areas.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study sought to establish socio-economic factors contributing to criminal behavior among the youth in the North West of Kisumu county. On this objective the study sought to examine poverty in the family, youths' unemployment, immoral and criminal behaviors within the neighborhood, and immoral or unethical parents or guardians; and whether they contribute to the youth's involvement in criminal acts.

On whether poverty drives the youth in North West of Kisumu county into crime, the study established that majority of the youth from poor families are disciplined, hardworking, dedicated and focused. They engage themselves in small scale business enterprises like selling of second-hand clothes, hawking, operating boda-boda businesses, barber shops and salons.

On whether unemployment in the region drives the youth into crime; it was established that before the year 2010, unemployment was a factor that led the youth in the region into crime. However, from the year 2010, after the community leaders, church leaders and well-wishers held several seminars with the youths and the youth leaders in the region, most of the youths who were once involved in criminal activities have so far been rehabilitated, mentored and empowered to be self-employed and independent. Although the study established that unemployment is still a big challenge facing the youth in the NW Kisumu Location, the majority of the youth have since been involved in small scale income generating business activities, through financial support from Youth SACCO

loans, and local leaders.

The study established that there are a number of uncouth and immoral acts in the neighborhood such as robbery with violence, drug or substance abuse, rape cases, abortion, and even cultism. On whether there is any relationship between such criminal acts in the neighborhood and the youths' involvement in crime, the study established that immoral and deviant behaviors in the neighborhood in North West Kisumu has led a number youth to crime.

The study sought to establish whether there are parents of guardians in North West Kisumu who exhibit unprincipled or unscrupulous behaviors and whether such behavior lead the youth to crime. The study established that there are some parents and guardians in the region who are unethical in their conducts e.g. those are alcoholic and drug addicts. Some parents and guardians have also been involved in some petty offence. Such uncouth acts have led a number of their children into crime.

Another objective of the study was to establish some of the family socialization practices that may influence criminal behavior among the youth in the area. The practices identified were: Lack of financial support, Poor child-parent relationship, Constant family quarrels, Discrimination in the family, Parental Deprivation, Harsh punishment on the child, Divorce/separation by the parents, Lack of time for the child, Alcoholism and Inter-parental relationship; as some of the socialization practices that when not checked, may lead the youth into delinquency. The study hence established that socialization practices are directly responsible to delinquent behavior among the youth in the North West

Kisumu.

The study sought to establish whether lack of frankness and confidence between the children and their parents may lead the youth into criminal activities. The study hence established that when the parents or guardians are not free and frank with their children, when they fail to give their children space to express themselves, when the parents don't give their children time to air their grievances, the child grows up with low or lack of self-esteem and frankness between the parents and their children. The child may opt to seek for attention from a bad group that may lead him/her into delinquency.

The study sought to establish whether lack of parental measures to avert influence of media on the youth may lead the youth into crime. It was established that the youth in the area are exposed to all forms of media like TVs, Computers, Smart phones, Video games, Movies, Social media platforms (Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Google, YouTube, Snapchat), Radios, Magazines and Internet. The study hence established that access to such forms of media and social media platforms have a direct effect on the conduct of the youth in the area and that many parents are ignorant of the effect of such media on their children. The study further established that majority of the parents in NW Kisumu have not put any parental measures in place to deter the media influence on their children.

The study hence established from the respondents that many youths in the area spend much of their time in the social media platforms. This has led to a number of negative impacts on the youth such as "Facebook depression, Cyberbullying, Sleep deprivation,

Lower self-esteem, Social isolation, Poor concentration, Decreased activity, Internet addiction” among other effects.

The study further sought to establish how the media influences the youth and leads them into crime. It was established that Internet addiction forces the youth to look for means to get money to buy bundles, Internet addiction leads to poor performance in schools and colleges, Internet addiction leads to school dropouts, early pregnancies, hence joining bad groups leading them into crime, the youth watch violent movies over the internet, they are exposed to some criminal gangs and their lifestyle hence the youth may want to emulate them in their real life, leading them into criminal activities, Some criminal gangs are recruiting the youth through the social media platforms, due to cyberbullying, Facebook depression and sleep deprivation brought about by addiction to the social media by the youth, a number of youths in the region are left with very low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence thus they resort to drug and substance abuse, watching violent movies and access to adult material in the internet leads to cases of teenage pregnancies, abortion or tempted abortion cases. This leads to low self-esteem, social isolation that may lead the youth into crime.

The study sought to establish from the respondents whether single parenthood may lead the youth into criminal acts. The study established that there are numerous cases of single parenthood in their sub-locations that has been brought about by among other factors: Death of either of the parents, Separation between the parents, Break-ups, Divorce, Incest, Abandonment by either of the parents, Adoption by single parents among other factors. The study however established that there is no relationship between single

parenthood and crime among the youth in the region.

The study sought to establish whether there are peer groups in the region, and whether such groups leads the youth to criminal acts. Although the study established that the rate of crime in the region have since dropped to a greater extent since the year 2010, it was however established that some few elements of delinquency have been contributed by peer group influence which leads the youth into a number of criminal activities including introduction to alcohol and substance abuse, introduction to cultism, robbery with violence, having criminals as their role models, school dropout, pick-pocketing among other ill practices in the society.

5.3 Conclusion

Based on the findings, the study hence concludes that poverty doesn't drive the youth in NW Kisumu county into crime, since many youths from poor families have resolved to work hard to change the face of their poor families.

The study also concludes that youth unemployment is still a challenge that needs to be addressed. If unemployment is not tackled, it may lead the youth into crime.

Social media contributes a lot to youths' delinquency. Access to social media has a lot of negative impacts on the youth and their social life, e.g. leading to school dropouts, early pregnancies, cyberbullying, poor concentration, sleep deprivation etc. The study however concludes that many parents are ignorant of the effects of social media on their children.

Peer-group influence leads the youth into criminal activities, particularly if the group is

involved in unethical conducts.

Single parenthood doesn't lead the youth into delinquency, since many single parents are working hard to give their best to their children, while the children are working hard to change the face of their families.

The study also concludes that criminal activities within the neighborhood can lead the youth into crime. Parents or guardians with immoral or unethical behaviors negatively influence the youth into crime. They pose a bad example not only to their children but also to the community.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study and inspired by the literature reviewed, this study hence makes the following recommendations:

Poverty doesn't necessarily lead the youth into crime. Therefore, when a crime has been committed in a neighborhood with poor and rich families, the poor families alone shouldn't be the target.

Leaders from all corners should come together to address the issue of youth unemployment, and both the local and central government should join hands to come up with measures for curbing youths' joblessness. Self-employment should be encouraged and supported.

Parents to be trained on the negative impacts of social media on the lives and the future of their children. Seminars should be organized by the local leaders and school heads to

enlighten the parents on how to take control measures on their children's access and use of the social media.

The youth should also be advised against the negative impacts of the social media both on their academic performance, their social life and their future.

Parents and guardians to be advised to spend more time with their children, mentor them, advise them and listen to them. They should also give their children time to express themselves so as to build confidence and self-esteem and sense of belonging in them and love to their parents.

Parents with immoral and unethical behaviors in the community (e.g. those who are alcoholic, drug addicts) should be rehabilitated so that they be good examples to the youth in the community.

The local leaders should come up with strategic measures to assist the youths and orphans through financial support to start small scale business and farming in order to meet their hopes and ambitions.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Study

This study was limited to NW Kisumu Location, Maseno Division, Kisumu county; a similar study can still be carried out on the same topic but a different location like in Mathare or Kibera slums or any other estate in any county in Kenya. Similarly, another related study can still be conducted on a similar area but investigating measures to be put in place to curb crime among the youth in Kisumu County.

REFERENCES

- Agnew R (1991) *The interactive effects of peer variables on delinquency*. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury
- Ahuja R., (1996). "Youth and Crime" New Delhi, India, Rawat publication, Jaipur.
- Albert J. Reiss Jr (1951), 'Delinquency as the Failure of Personal and Social Controls' [American Sociological Association](#)
- Alok Kumar (2015) *Family environment and Juvenile Delinquency*. Veethika-an interdisciplinary international research journal©2015 QTanalytics
- Akers, Ronald L. (1998) "Social Learning and Social Structure: A general Theory of Crime and deviance." Boston, MA: Northeastern University Press
- Akram, M., Zafar, M., Abbasi, S., Nawaz, H., and Sher, F. (2013). Causes and Implication of Male Youth Violence/Crime in the Punjab, Pakistan. *International Journal of Educational Science and Research*, 3(1), 113-122
- Arthur R (2007) *Family life and youth offending*. Home is where the hurt is. Advances in

Criminology. London, Routledge.

Austin RL (1978). Race, father absence and female delinquency. *Criminology* 15(4):487–504

Bandura, Albert (1969). “Principles of behavior modification.” New York. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Call. T. Charles (2000). “Sustainable development in central America: The Challenges of Violence, Injustice and Security.” CA 2020: working paper No. 8.

[Case A](#), Katz ([1991](#)). *The Company You Keep: The Effects of Family and Neighborhood on Disadvantaged Youths*. Boston. National Bureau of Economic Research

Clarke, R. V., & Cornish, D. (1985). *Modeling offenders’ decisions: A framework for research and policy*. Chicago. University of Chicago Press

Crocket, L.J, Eggebeen, D J and Hawkins A J (1993). Fathers present and young children behavioral and cognition adjustment. *Journal of family issues* 14(3):355-377

Cohen Philip (2012) Single Moms Can't Be Scapegoated for the Murder Rate Anymore. Andrew Kelly/Reuters. Blog:

Coles R (1997) Moral intelligence of children. Newyork. Plume. *New york times’* bestseller

Creswell W. John (2009) *Research design: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Methods approaches* (3rd Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Curtis N M, Ronan KR, Hololum N, Reid and HARRIS (2002). Antisocial behaviours in New Zealand Youth: Prevalence, *Interventions and promising new directions*, *New Zealand Journal of psychology*

Damm, Anna Pill, and Christian Dustmann. 2014. “Does Growing Up in a High Crime Neighborhood Affect Youth Criminal Behavior? *USA, American Economic Review* 2014, 104(6): 1806–1832

Elizabeth S. S & Laurence S. (2008). *Rethinking Juvenile Justice*. USA, Harvard University Press

Elliot, D.S (1994) *Serious violent offenders: Onset, Development, course and termination*. The American society of criminology 1993 presidential address. New York: Cambridge University Press

Fajnzylber, P., Lederman, D. & Loayza, N. (2002). “Inequality and Violent Crime” *Journal of Law and Economics*, 45 (2):34-45

[Flisher AJ](#), [Gilreath T](#), [King G](#) (2006) A systematic literature review of tobacco use among adults 15 years and older in sub-Saharan Africa. South Africa. University of Cape Town, E36A Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory, Cape Town 7925, townsend@curie.uct.ac.za

Gelles, R. J. and Levine, A. 1999. *Sociology: An introduction*, 6th ed. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Gimode, E. A. (2001). An Anatomy of Violent Crime and Insecurity in Kenya: The Case of Nairobi. Kenya, *Africa Development*, 25(1, 2): 295-335

Glueck, S. and Glueck, E. (1968). *Delinquents and non-delinquents in perspective*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Herrenkohl, T.L Hawkins, J D Chung, I Hill KG and Battin – Pearsons,S (2001) School and community risk factors and intervention in Child delinquents: Development, Intervention and

Henry B.A c- Moffit T E and Silva (1996) Temperamental and familial predictors of violent and non-violent criminal conviction. *Developmental Psychology* 32:614–623.

Hirshi, T (1969) *Causes of delinquency.*, USA, Berkely University of California

James Derzon (2009). The role of the family in crime and delinquency: Evidence from prior quantitative review. *Southwest Journal of Criminal Justice*, 6(2) :108–132

Jerry C R (1965) “Criminal Behavior and learning theory.” *Journal of criminal law, criminology and police science.*. 56(3):294-300.

J Robert Lilly, Francis T. Cullen, Richard A. Ball (1989) *Criminological Theory: Context and consequences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Johnson C (2015) “An analysis of New Zealand Criminal Youth Justice System. How we further prevent youth offending and youth Recidivism”. New Zealand. Massey University, Auckland.

Kaufman, I. & Reiner, B.S. (1964). *Character disorders in parents of delinquents*. New York. Family Service Association of America,

Karabi Konch and Joyanta Borbora (2013). Involvement of youth attitudes in crime: A study conducted in four jails of upper Assam India. *American international journal of research in humanities, arts and social sciences*, 2013:116-121

Kazdin AE. (1997). Parent management training: evidence, outcomes, and issues. *J. Am. Acad.Child Adolesc. Psychiatry* 36:1349–56

Kaye L McLaren (2000) “Tough is not tough- Getting smart about youth and crime. Review of research on what works to reduce offending by young people” New Zealand. Ministry of Youth Affairs.

K.C. Dubey (2009). *Introduction to Crime psychology*”, New Delhi, Omega publications.

Khurana (2015) *Impact of social Networking site on youths*. New Delhi, Amity University, Noida- 201301, UP.

Kothari, C.R. (2006). *Research Methodology. Methods and Techniques*. Delhi: New

Age International Limited

Lavrakas Paul J. (2008) Encyclopedia of Survey Research Methods. Chicago. Sage Publishers

Lilly J R; F T Cullen; R A Ball (1989) Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences. Chicago. Sage Publishers

Lynch, N (2002) Youth justice in New Zealand. Wellington. Brokers

Maginnis R L (1997) Single – parent families cause juvenile crime (From Juvenile crime: Opposing view points) Michigan. Greenhaven Press

Maguire, M, Morgan R and Rener R (Eds) 2002. The Oxford Hand book of Criminology, 2ND Ed., Oxford: Clarendon press

Magun E, Hawkins JD, Catalano, R F Hill K, Abbott R and Herrenkol (1995) Risk factors measured at the ages for violence age 17-18. Paper presented at American society of Criminology, November 1995, Boston, MA

Makokha, C. M. (2008). Factors Influencing Male Delinquents to Commit Capital Offences: A case study of inmates in Kamiti Prison. Nairobi, Un published University of Nairobi M. A Project Paper

Maseko, J.S.(2009) Socialisation of children and youth: Role of the home and the school. uir.unisa.ac.za/bitstream/handle/10500/2134/02Chapter2.pdf

Matsueda and Anderson (1998) The dynamics of delinquent peers and delinquent behaviors. Washington. Blackwell Publishing Ltd

May Omogho Esiri (2016) Influence of peer pressure on criminal behavior. *IOSR Journal. Nigeria*

McCord, J. Wisdom, C.S and Crowell (2001) Juvenile crime, juvenile justice. Panel on Juvenile crime: Prevention, treatment and control. Washington DC: National academy press

Micheal Pressley, Christian McCormic (2007) “Child and adolescent Development for educators.

M Shaw, A Louw (1998) “Environmental design for safer communities: preventing crime in South Africa cities and Towns. Pretoria, Institute of security studies.

Ministry of Justice (2002) Youth court offending rates. Preventing and reducing, Nairobi, Government press.

Ministry of youth Affairs (2006) National youth policy. Nairobi, Government press.

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003). Research methods: Quantitative and qualitative

approaches. Nairobi: Act Press.

Ndikaru, T. (2011). Crime Causes and Victimization in Nairobi City Slums. *International Journal of Current Research*, 3 (12), 275-285.

Nye, F I (1958) "Family relationship and delinquent behavior." Oxford, Oxford University.

Oculi, O. & Mwanguri, M. (2006). Rethinking Global Security: An African Perspective: Nairobi, Heinrich Boll Foundation.

Ojo, M. O. D. (2012) A Sociological Review of Issues on Juvenile Delinquency. *The Journal of International Social Research*, 5 (21) :465- 482

Omboto, J. O., Ondiek, G. O. Odera, O. & Ayugi, M. E. (2012). Factors Influencing Youth Crime and Juvenile Delinquency. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 1 (2): 18-21

Prajapati Vinay (2019) The Negative Effects of Social Media on Teenagers, Youth or Adolescents, New Delhi, Jamia Central University

Prior, D. & Paris, A. (2005) Preventing Children's Involvement in Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour: A literature Review A paper produced for the National Evaluation of the Children's Fund Institute of Applied Social Studies. University of Birmingham.

Reza, A, Mercy, J.A and Krug E (2001) epidemiology of violent deaths. *nj Prev.*2001; 7:104–111
Roe Stephen and Ashe Jane (2008). Young people and crime : Findings from the 2006 offending, Great Britain Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate

London, SW1H 9AT, England .

Rice,F.P. Dolgin, K.G (2008) The Adolescent: Development, relationship culture. (12th ed). Boston. Pearson Education Inc

[Ronald L. Akers](#) (1998) Social Learning and Social Structure: A General Theory of Crime and Deviance. Boston: Northeastern University Press

Ronet Bachman & Russel K Schutt (2003) The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice system second edition. Boston. University of Massachusetts

Sampson RJ, Lauritsen JL. (1994) Violent victimization and offending: Individual-, situational-, and community-level risk factors. In: Reiss AJ Jr, editor. Understanding and preventing violence, Vol. 3: Social influences. Washington, DC: National Academy Press;

Serdar Kenan (2009). "An evaluation of Rational Choice Theory in Criminology". *America, University Journal of Social applied science*. 4 (8): 36–44.

Shreesha Gosh (2017) Does social media induce Violence among the youth. Gaza City

Sutherland and Cressey (1985). Principles of criminology 74 (5th Edition). New York:

Dryden.

S S Ageton (1983) *Sexual Assault Among Adolescents*. USA. D C Heath and Co
Lexington, MA 02173.

Stormshak, E. A., Bierman, K. L., McMahon, R. J., & Lengua, L. J. (2000). Parenting practices and child disruptive behavior problems in early elementary school. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*

Sudman, S., Blair, E., 1998, *Marketing Research: A Problem-Solving Approach*, McGraw-Hill, Boston, MA

Sullenger , T., E., (1931) Juvenile a product of the home. JSTOR: *Journal of criminal law and criminology*.

Tobby,Jackson 1957 “ social disorganization and stake in conformity” *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. 48 (1): 12–17. [doi:10.2307/1140161](https://doi.org/10.2307/1140161)

Utting D. Bright, J. and Henricson, C. (1993) ‘Crime and the Family’ Family Policy Studies Centre Occasional Paper 16 London

Victoria E Brewer (1995) Gender Inequality and rates of female Homicide victimization across U.S cities. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 32.2 (1995): 175-90.

Warr Mark (2002) *Companions in crime*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press

Wasserman, G A and Seracini, A.G (2001). Family risk factors and Interventions. In *child delinquents: Development, Intervention and service needs*. edited by R. Loeber and D.P.Farrington. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 165–189

Weerman, F. M. (2011). Delinquent peers in context: A longitudinal network analysis of selection and influence effects. *Criminology: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 49(1), 253-286

West DJ and Farrington DP. (1973) *Who becomes delinquent?* London: Heinemann

Wikstrom P.O.H (1985) *Everyday violence contemporary* Sweden. Stockholm: National council for crime prevention

Young- Gul Kim (2009). ACRM customer relationship management framework: Its development process and application. *Industrial Marketing Management*, 38:477–489.

INTRODUCTION LETTER

Purpose of the study

Violence by young people is one of the most visible forms of violence in our society today and all over the world. Development, growth and prosperity a ward, location, region, county or a country; heavily depend on the health and productivity of its growing population.

The main purpose of this study therefore is to examine factors contributing to youths' criminal behaviours and the extent of its social and economic impacts on North West Kisumu, Maseno Division of Kisumu County. The study aims to establish perception of the youth on youth related criminal behaviors in N W Kisumu; to find out level of youth involvement in criminal behavior in N W Kisumu; to examine factors that promote youth involvement in criminal behaviour in N W Kisumu and to assess social and economic impact on youth involvement in criminal behaviour in N W Kisumu.

Participant selection

You are among the participants who have been selected to participate in this study because I feel that because you reside in this Location, you are in a better position to assist in supplying adequate and appropriate feedback on factors contributing to youths' criminal behaviours and the extent of its social and economic impacts in N W Kisumu.

Duration

The study will take two to three months. During that time, I will visit you the first time to hand you the questionnaire, followed by me coming back to collect the already filled in questionnaire.

Your cooperation and support will be highly appreciated.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE YOUTH

I am Robert Odhiambo Osir from Kisumu County, Kisumu Town West Constituency, Kisumu West District, Maseno Division, North West Kisumu Location, Nyawita Sub-location in Nyawita Village. Currently, I am a student at the university of Nairobi, undertaking a Master’s Degree Course in Master Arts in Criminology. As a partial requirement for the award of the above-mentioned degree; I am currently undertaking a research project (thesis) on an investigation into increase in youth offending in rural Kenya, a case study of N W Kisumu ,Maseno Division, Kisumu West District in Kisumu County.

Kindly respond to the following questions as accurately as possible to make this research successful. Read the instructions provided carefully. Your support in providing any useful Information will be highly appreciated.

SECTION A:

General Personal Data

Kindly provide the necessary personal information as required by the following questions:

- What is your age?
- What is your gender?
- What is your level of education?
.....

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

SECTION A:

Socio-economic factors that contribute to criminal behaviour among the youth

Kindly provide your appropriate response as far as the following questions are concerned.

- How do you relate the behaviour of the youth from the poverty-stricken families as far as criminal activities in the Location are concerned? Kindly explain your point.

- What is the level of youths' employment in N W Kisumu? How do you relate the level of youths' employment or unemployment with criminal activities in the Location?

- Is there any relationship between irregular and unstable income flow in the families and youths criminal act? How does family's wealth relate to youth's criminal behaviour? Kindly explain.

- Are there some disreputable morals and criminal behaviour within the Locations neighborhoods?

What are some of the immoral and criminal behaviour in the Location's neighborhood?

How does such criminal and immoral acts within the neighbouring community affect the youth within N W Kisumu?

- Are there cases of delinquent parents and guardians in some families in the Location?

Do such delinquent behaviour from families and guardians affect the behaviour of the youth?

- Are there slums within N W Kisumu?

How do you compare rate of crime in congested neighbourhoods or slums and that in the normal dwelling places? Give reasons.

SECTION B:

Family socialization practices influencing that influence that influence criminal behaviour among the youth in N W Kisumu.

Kindly provide your appropriate and accurate response as far as the following questions are concerned.

- Do hostile and unfavorable conditions at home lead to youth's criminal activities?

Kindly _____ explain.

- Does lack of confidence and frankness between the parents and their children lead the youth to crime?

Explain _____

- Does poor bonding and poor parenting lead the youth into criminal activities?

Explain _____

- Does ill-treatment by foster parents, step-parents or guardians lead the youth into crime?

Explain _____

- Does lack of parental care and affection lead the youth into criminal activities?
Explain

- Does lack of parental measures to avert influence of the media lead criminal behaviour among _____ the _____ youth?

Explain _____

- Does single parenthood (due to death, divorce, separation, abandonment) lead the youth into criminal acts?

Kindly explain. _____

SECTION C:

Peer group influence on the criminal behaviour among the youth in N W Kisumu

Kindly provide your appropriate and accurate response as far as the following questions are concerned.

- What are some of the ill-practices and criminal acts that peer group influence can introduce a youth to?

- How does the influence of gang and gang codes lead the youth into criminal activities?

- How does peer group influence weaken the bond between the parents and their children?

How does such weakened bond lead to youth's involvement in crime?

- Does engagement with delinquent peers lead to rejection by well behaved peers?

Explain.

- Do peers choice of criminals as their role model lead to their involvement in criminal activities?

Kindly explain.

SECTION D:

Influence of media on criminal behaviour among the youth in N W Kisumu

Kindly provide your appropriate and accurate response as far as the following questions are concerned.

- How does cyber bullying lead to criminality among the youth?

- How does watching of violent movies/videos and shows and also in news broadcasted in TVs lead the youth into crime?

- How does use of phones and computers to access sites with adult material or violent scenes lead to youth's criminal behaviour?

- How does spending much time on video games contribute to the youth's involvement in criminal activities?

- What is the effect off social media on the youth's academic performance? And how does that lead to crime among the youth?

Thank you for your participation

KEY INFORMANT GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

I am Robert Odhiambo Osir from Kisumu County, Kisumu Town West Constituency, Kisumu West District, Maseno Division, North West Location, Nyawita Sub-location in Nyawita Village. Currently, I am a student at the university of Nairobi, undertaking a Master's Degree Course in Master Arts in Criminology. As a partial requirement for the award of the above-mentioned degree; I am currently undertaking a research project

(thesis) on an investigation into increase in youth offending in rural Kenya, a case study of North West Kisumu, Maseno Division, Kisumu West District in Kisumu County.

Kindly respond to the following questions as accurately as possible to make this research successful. Read the instructions provided carefully. Your support in providing any useful Information will be highly appreciated.

SECTION A:

Socio-economic factors that contribute to criminal behaviour among the youth

Kindly provide your appropriate response as far as the following questions are concerned.

- How do you relate the behaviour of the youth from the poverty-stricken families as far as criminal activities in the Location are concerned? Kindly explain your point.

- What is the level of youths' employment? How do you relate the level of youths' employment or unemployment with criminal activities in the Division?

- How does such criminal and immoral acts within the neighboring community affect the youth within the Location?

SECTION B:

Family socialization practices influencing that influence that influence criminal behaviour among the youth in N W Kisumu.

Kindly provide your appropriate and accurate response as far as the following questions are

- Does poor bonding and poor parenting lead the youth into criminal activities? Explain _____

- Does ill-treatment by foster parents, step-parents or guardians lead the youth into crime? Explain _____

- Does lack of parental measures to avert influence of the media lead criminal behaviour among _____ the _____ youth? Explain _____

- Does single parenthood (due to death, divorce, separation, abandonment) lead the youth _____ into _____ criminal _____ acts?

Kindly _____ explain.

SECTION C:

Peer group influence on the criminal behaviour among the youth in N W Kisumu

Kindly provide your appropriate and accurate response as far as the following questions are concerned.

- What are some of the ill-practices and criminal acts that peer group influence can introduce a youth to?

- Does engagement with delinquent peers lead to rejection by well-behaved peers?

Explain.

- Does peers choice of criminals as their role model lead to their involvement in criminal activities?

Kindly explain.

SECTION D:

Influence of media on criminal behaviour among the youth in North West Kisumu

Kindly provide your appropriate and accurate response as far as the following questions are concerned.

- How does watching of violent movies/videos and shows and also in news broadcasted in TVs lead the youth into crime?

- How does use of phones and computers to access sites with adult material or violent scenes lead to youth's criminal behaviour?

- What is the effect off social media on the youth's academic performance? And how does that lead to crime among the youth?

Thank you for your participation