

**PERCEIVED INFLUENCE OF FAMILY DYSFUNCTION ON JUVENILE  
OFFENDING: A QUALITATIVE RESEARCH STUDY CONDUCTED AT NGONG  
PROBATION OFFICE,**

**KAJIADO COUNTY – KENYA**

**BY**

**JACINTA MURIUKI WAGITHI**

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PSYCHOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI.**

**MAY 2023**

**DECLARATIONS**

**STUDENT'S DECLARATION**

I, the undersigned, declare that this dissertation is my original work carried out in fulfillment of the award of degree of Master of Science in Clinical Psychology at the University of Nairobi and has not been presented for the award of a degree at any other university.

Signed *JW* ..... Date *7/06/23* .....

Author: Jacinta Wagithi Muriuki  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Nairobi

**DECLARATION BY THE SUPERVISORS**

This dissertation is submitted for award of Master of Science in Clinical Psychology with our approval as the appointed Supervisors:

1. Dr. Anne Mbwayo  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Nairobi

Signed *A* ..... Date *7/06/2023* .....

2. Dr. Teresia Mutavi  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Nairobi


Signed *TM* ..... Date *7/6/2023* .....

**STATEMENT OF APPROVAL**

This work has been brought together and reviewed under our supervision as University of Nairobi, Department of Psychiatry lecturers.

**1. DR. ANNE MBWAYO**


Senior Lecturer  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Nairobi

Signature: 

Date: 25/10/2023

**2. DR. TERESIA MUTAVI**

Senior Lecturer  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Nairobi

Signature: 

Date: 24/10/23

## **DEDICATION**

First and foremost, I dedicate this research, to the Almighty God for granting me the opportunity to further my studies in a healthy state of mind and body.

Secondly, to my late father and grandparents who instilled in me hope, faith and by encouraging me to work hard in my studies.

Third, to my mother and brothers for holding my hand throughout my study period.

Through their patience, encouragement and support I have been able to make steps day by day.

Fourth, to all the children and adolescents exposed to family dysfunctions, may they find hope and social support to enable them get through their life adversities.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>APA</b>	American Psychological Association
<b>BSC</b>	British Crime Survey
<b>CCJS</b>	Canadian Center for Justice Statistics
<b>FBI</b>	Federal Bureau of Investigations
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>IRB</b>	Institute of Review Board
<b>KCYPS</b>	Korean Children and Youth Panel Survey
<b>KNH</b>	Kenyatta National Hospital
<b>NACOSTI</b>	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
<b>NCAJ</b>	National Council on the Administration of Justice
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UoN</b>	University of Nairobi
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN Habitat</b>	United Nations Habitat

## **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Families play an important role in the development of children and youths. Currently, the rate at which juveniles are getting involved in crime related activities with no respect for law and order is on the rise. According to various studies, there is a general trend among juveniles to participate in at-risk behaviours especially when the family doesn't provide security, support and guidance for their physical, psychological, moral, social and even spiritual development. There is little literature showing the relationship between family dysfunction and juvenile offending behavior especially in the Kenyan context.

**Objective:** The main objective of this study was to explore the perceived influence of family dysfunctions on juvenile offending behavior at Ngong Probation Office.

**Methodology:** The research employed a phenomenological study design using qualitative methods of collecting data that is one-on-one in-depth interview and focus group discussions. Target population were juvenile offenders with their caregivers and probation officers serving as key informants. The sample population of 31 respondents was obtained on theoretical saturation through purposively sampling procedure. Data collected was analysed, through Nvivo version 10 qualitative data analysis software.

**Results:** Results from the data analysed identified 6 main themes in relation to perceived influence of family dysfunction and juvenile offending: parenting styles, substance use by the parents, domestic violence, single parenting, emotional and physical abuse and lastly family history of offending. Other factors associated with juvenile offending were: poverty, peer pressure, idleness and presence of mental illness. Guidance and counseling to juveniles was highly suggested as one of the preventive measures.

**Conclusions and Recommendation:** From the findings the researcher concluded that family dysfunctions are perceived to have an impact towards juvenile offending behaviours. Various factors within the family environment can contribute to juveniles' involvement with crime and other factors outside the family play a role as well. The researcher recommends that various social systems need to undertake the role of sensitizing the public on the relationship between family dysfunctions and juvenile outcomes.



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## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 : Introduction**

Worldwide, juvenile offending has been on the rise, which has led to the increased interest by different professions that deal with children and adolescents to research more on what leads to juvenile offending (Z. Kamaruddin, 2011). Offending includes a range of behaviours from simple threats, minor acts of physical intrusion like hitting to severely damaging and harmful behaviours like robbery with violence (Sharma, 2013). It includes some acts that can be illegal in one culture or time but not in another and they are subject to change overtime in relation to the state law (Polaschek, 2018). For instance it is legal to purchase and be served most alcoholic products at the age of 13 in Burkina Faso, as compared to Eritrea where one has to be 25 years and above (Howard, 2019). The more serious crimes are labeled as felonies while the less serious ones are known as misdemeanors (Asher, 2006).

A juvenile offender in Kenya is a child between seven and sixteen years, who has committed an act which if committed by persons past this age will be considered punishable as a crime or as an act that is injurious to other individuals or the government (Igbinovia, 2012). However, not all apprehended juveniles are offenders as some may be detained during the pre-trial but not convicted of the offence (Young et al., 2017a). Several factors have been considered as a source for juvenile offending behaviours like: neighbourhood, hormonal imbalances, socio economic aspects, antisocial personalities and family functionality (Cassidy, 2011). In this research, the researcher will mainly focus on the family as one of the factors perceived to lead to juvenile offending behaviours.

Family is considered as a basic social unit which has a direct impact in one's life. It has various definitions such as: a group of people held together by common birth, marriage, attachment or residence (Mwangangi, 2019a). It is mostly assumed that a family plays a major part in shaping an individual's behaviours' as some of its functions is to protect, support , provide physical needs and offer moral guidance to the children (Van As & Janssens, 2016). Hence families are considered to be an important factor in determining one's involvement in crime (Kerrie, 2016). Family can be a risk or protective factor to its members. Some families after a turmoil are able to go back to normalcy very fast (Michael, 2003). Family members feel safe and protected from harm, they are able to express themselves freely, feel loved, valued, recognized and appreciated (Ubaidi, 2017).

Children in such families are allowed to make their own decision, with guidance from the parents or caregivers where needed, in order to encourage growth and exploration (Kerrie, 2016). However, there are certain families characterized by abuse: physical, sexual and even emotional, poor communication, neglect, substance and alcohol use by the parents and in case of chaos, it takes a long time before the family gets back to normalcy (Ubaidi, 2017). It is also described by the existence of constant conflicts which could be between the parents, between parent and child or sibling rivalry as well as poor conflict management (Kheswa, 2017). This brings about some of the differences between a functional and a dysfunctional family.

It is assumed, a functional family brings out lawful children as there is existence of a physically and emotionally safe environment for its members due to factors such as positive parenting styles (Carl, 2015). On the other hand, a dysfunctional family is a huge influencer for future delinquency and antisocial behavior to the children (D. S. Group, 2014).

Psychologists detect family dysfunction from an individual during diagnosis and treatment when his or her symptoms and characteristics are presumed to be as a result of factors that are beyond their control like relationships with others (Rudlin, 2018). There is no specific definition of a dysfunctional family, as the word tends to be used to stand for various relational disorders that take place within the family system and its subsystems which are the members (Salvador, 2017). However, according to the American Psychological Association (A.P.A) dictionary, family dysfunction is a family in which relationships or communications are impaired and members are unable to obtain closeness or self-expression ((A.P.A), 2020) .

There are two types of dysfunctional families: complete and partial, complete is characterized by inability of the family system to accomplish its task hence need assistance whereas partial, there is restriction in managing some functioning (Dymowska & Pięta, 2015). In this study, family dysfunction will be documented by highlighting one or more of the following areas: parents' involvement in crime, poor family structure and composition, poor parenting styles, poor communication and interaction and parental psychopathology.

## **1.2: Background**

Recently, there has been an increase in frequency and seriousness of juveniles committing crimes in the world (National Crime Research Center, 2018). Internationally, the number of juvenile cases handled are more than 1.6 million yearly, with an estimate of 72,000 taken to custody (Tiampat i, 2017). Some of the common characteristics shared by juveniles who are at a greater threat of offending, include among others poverty, since most of them come from informal settlements as well as family dysfunction (Allen et al., 2010). When the emotional stability, psychological aspects and moral ethics of a family are compromised, the order of the family is affected hence leads to delinquency (Nevisi, 2019).

According to an interim Report of the Family Breakdown Working Group, children who are brought up in a dysfunctional family are likely to suffer the following; psychological impairment and end up with alcohol and substance use as well as a high probability of developing delinquent behaviors (Duncan, 2007). In addition, female children are demonstrated to be less involved in delinquency than the male ones and it's mostly those who have been bullied or not committed to education who are susceptible (Cassidy, 2011). This is due to some restrictive and stimulant social factors which inspire women to adapt to social norms but not men, such as risk of being sexually assaulted to impose fear (Social & Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, 2004). Also girls are subjected to more control by the family than boys. For instance the society is less tolerable of a deviant behavior from a girl child than a boy child (Cassidy, 2011). However, girls are found to be more involved in non-aggressive type of delinquency offences like possession of drugs (Liu & Miller, 2020).

Researchers who work in the area of child development propose that a tendency to violence mainly develops from wrong treatment before the age of 3 (Duncan, 2007). Violence maybe triggered in such individuals by many stressors like physical, sexual abuse, deprivation of parental love and affection as early as from infancy (Marrimedia, 2019). Then during the adolescent period, the violence may be exacerbated by presence of chaotic or disintegrated family life, and the use of drugs or other substances (Bosick & Fomby, 2018). On the other hand, empathy is one of the inhibitors to developing violent behaviours. However, in broken and dysfunctional families, empathy may lack due to a disruption in the pattern for developing potential attachment (Duncan, 2007).

In United States of America (U.S.A), through the FBI juvenile offenders arrest statistics, they reported a 76% in 2008, 78% in 2009 and 2010, 77% in 2011 and 2012 and in the years 2013 and



in 2014 it was 78% (Masood, 2019). The rate of cases dropped from 52.3 % per 1000 in 2005 to 28.1 % in 2015. Nevertheless, according to research by the National Report in 2014, they predicted an increase in juvenile offending crimes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (Charles, 2014). This is attributed to the probability of an increase in juvenile population by 16%, higher than in 2010 (Masood, 2019). Economic and Social policy Initiative in Latin America, reported that, between the years 1997 to 2010, there was a global increase of adolescent crime by 180 percent (National Crime Research Center, 2018).

Additionally, self-report surveys such as British Crime Survey (BSC) and Canadian Center for Justice Statistics (CCJS), noted a significant increase of adolescents' involvement in crime within the past decade (National Crime Research Center, 2018). In Eastern Europe, countries that were part of the Soviet Union reported to experience a lot of dysfunctional families. As a result, many parents have been denied the rights of child rearing due to drug and alcohol addictions, mental health issues or existence of criminal background as such factors and others are believed to contribute towards juvenile offending (Lawrence & Hesse, 2010).

In Pakistan, the number of juvenile offenders in detention facilities was 1,383 in the year 2011. The juveniles were involved in crimes such as robbery, car lifting, pickpocketing and murder (Masood, 2019). In Africa, statistics on the nature of youth criminal behaviours is scarce, and the little available information portrays that youth crime is high in towns where two thirds of the population are between ages 12 -25 (National Crime Research Center, 2018). However, considering the youths cover the biggest population there is a constant fear that delinquents may graduate and become hardened criminals of the future (Igbinovia, 2012).

In South Africa, many youths are drawn into gangs due to prior family affiliations, hence they naturally inherit their parents role (Lawrence & Hesse, 2010). Additionally, when parents are not

available as the major source of emotional affection, children tend to look for their replacements which brings about the negative peer groups and gangs involvement (Thozama, 2007).

In her research, Liese (2003), postulated that children who experienced emotional deprivation, parental negligence, lack of parental support, family violence and unhealthy nurturing patterns, among other factors may feel an emotional emptiness that affects their actions and behaviours (Kheswa, 2017). On the contrary, children from warm and loving families also do get involved in crime. Another research conducted in South Africa by Strydom, & Strydom, (2006) to examine perceptions and fear of crime in a certain community, found out that most members considered poverty, unemployment and laziness of the offenders to be the cause of crime. However the researcher observed that most parents overlooked the effects of early traumatic childhood experiences as a factor in relationship to crime and only considered the socio-economic issues (Thozama, 2007).

In Kenya, according to data published in the (Kenya Youth Fact Book) by Kenya Economic Survey, the government runs eleven rehabilitation centers which host an average of 70 children who are between 10-17 years of age. Most of them report committing their first offense between ages 12-15 (30%) or 16-19 (23%), (Ashoka, 2014). Various reasons like poor parenting practices, inability to provide an ordinary and loving family setting and poor marriages have been accredited to the increased rate of juvenile offending behaviours (Makumba, 2018). As per a study done by the UN Habitat on Youth and Crime in Nairobi (2011), it showed that most of the young people who are in conflict with the law mainly get arrested on grounds of theft (45%), assault (23%), drug possession and mugging each at (10%) and manslaughter (7%). The commonly used weapons by the juveniles are: machete (panga), guns and knives (National Crime Research Center, 2018).

### **1.3: Statement of the Problem**

Cases of juveniles offending are unfortunately on the increase and have become more complicated to be managed (Social & Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, 2004). According to a research compiled by National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) for eight counties in Kenya between the year 2016 – 2018, it showed that the police handled 2,758 juvenile cases, with the highest number being 691 in Nairobi County (Wamahiu, et al, 2019). The number of gangs dominated by juveniles is also increasing (National Crime Research Center, 2018). For instance, in Kisauni, Mombasa, by December 2015, the police arrested a total of 50 youths aged between 12-17 years, known as Wakali Kwanza who carried out daylight robberies (Odhiambo, 2019). Unfortunately, the same misery is experienced in most Kenyan towns.

Although various researches have been conducted in order to determine the reason behind the rise, the main focus has been on socio- economic factors like poverty (Bonavila, et al, 2017). However, little focus has been placed on understanding the perception of family dysfunction to individuals in relation to crime. Currently, there has been intense irreversible damages within family systems which ends up affecting its members including children (Nevisi, 2019b). Many children happen to be victims of abuse and negligence by their parents or caregivers, effects of abuse have been linked to delinquency, behavioral problems and criminal behaviors later in life (Lawrence & Hesse, 2010).

Masood, (2019), in his studies on causes of juvenile delinquency behavior, found that: family, peers, neighbourhoods, economic and personal factors to be some of the risk factors. Another study done by Odongo in (2017), he noted that juvenile offending was brought about by high levels of poverty in the country, unemployment and strained family dynamics (Karanja &

Kariuki, 2019). Additionally Kheswa, (2017) stated that children who undergo constant abuse, conflict, neglect, domestic violence and separation within the family environment are likely to develop behavioural and emotional problems.

Family can be a difficult dynamic when it comes to understanding juvenile offending behavior, with the various studies done producing varying results (Coleman, 2014). As a result, there is a gap of information available on studies in the area of perceived family dysfunction influence on juvenile offending. Based on this background, this study sets out to explore the interaction that may be present between perceived family's influences in juvenile offending behaviours.

#### **1.4 : Research questions**

##### **1.4.1 : Main research question**

The main research question was, what is the perceived influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviours?

##### **1.4.2 : Specific research questions**

- i. What are the most perceived forms of family dysfunctions by juveniles' offenders at Ngong Probation Office?
- ii. What are some of the perceived causal factors towards juvenile offending behaviours at Ngong probation office, by the juvenile, their caregivers and even probation officers?
- iii. How can juvenile offending behaviours be prevented according to juveniles, their caregivers and probation officers?

#### **1.5: Objectives of the study**

##### **1.5.1: Broad objective**

The main objective of this study was to explore the perceived influence of family dysfunctions on juvenile offending behavior at Ngong Probation Office.

### **1.5.2 : Specific objective**

The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. To determine the perceived relationship between family dysfunction and juvenile offending behaviours at Ngong Probation office
- ii. To determine the most perceived forms of family dysfunctions by juvenile offenders at Ngong Probation office.
- iii. To determine the perceived causal factor of juvenile offending behavior by the juvenile offenders, their caregivers and probation officers at Ngong Probation Office.
- iv. To explore ways in which juvenile offending behavior can be prevented at Ngong Probation Office.

### **1.5: Justification of the study**

The Juvenile Justice System in Kenya is facing a lot of challenges one of them being the ever growing number of juvenile offenders brought about by poverty or family dysfunctions (Save the Children's Resource Centre, 2017). It has been well-known that the majority of the prison population are youths between ages 15 – 24 years (Magai et al., 2018). With the offenders committing offences not limited to murder, assault, rape, defilement, violence, robbery, truancy, substance and alcohol use.

A document analysis done on the Government of Kenya National Development Plan (2000-2008), revealed that, most of the plans and programmes are not adequate in coming up with policies to prevent juvenile offending behaviours as they mostly focused on eradicating the signs rather than the causes (Wambugu et al., 2015).

With little known information about the causes of juvenile offending, this brings about a gap of information causing poor management of the problem. To add on to that, according to various research and best practices, juvenile offenders need to be assisted, cared for and protected rather than being detained as it tends to exacerbate their behavior (Kariuki-githinji, 2020).

The scholar hopes that, information generated from this research, will help in understanding factors around family dysfunctions that push adolescents into getting involved in offending behaviours. Therefore, knowledge on the link between family dysfunction and juvenile offending behaviours has a direct effect on prevention and intervention policies focusing on juvenile offending, particularly in relation to family systems.

### **1.6: Significance of the Study**

Family is perceived as the backbone of every individual and the society. It is through the family that people tend to first learn about who they are and their surroundings as well (Lander et al., 2013). A family can shield its members from the harsh reality of the world. It can also be the cause of one experiencing the harsh reality first hand. This is mostly brought about when there is the presence of alcoholism and substance use, physical, emotional and psychological abuse, negligence, and divorce within the family.

Due to such factors, it has been observed that there is a role which a family can play in terms of leading to juvenile offending behavior (Coleman, 2014). Additionally, adolescents tend to display more delinquent related behaviours as compared to their counterparts both children and adults (Kroese et al., 2020). Generally, the impact of family dysfunction upon its still developing members is yet not well known by many people (Gitonga, 2013).

On the other hand, juvenile delinquency affects the society at large, identifying and providing interventions is an important goal for the justice system as well as the society. This creates a need for research in order to come up with theoretical and practical solutions for the reduction of youth criminal activities and delinquency. Hence, a clear and in-depth knowledge of the family role on the same is needed (Coleman, 2014).

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the review of available literature in relation to the study. It will be done in three segments: juvenile offending behavior, some forms of family dysfunctions in relation to offending behavior and theoretical background.

### **2.2 Juvenile offending behavior**

Juvenile offenders are a disadvantaged population often from family dysfunction and poor treatments backgrounds (Rosenbaum, 2015). The antisocial behaviours they portray from minor unacceptable behaviours such as being disrespectful to major crimes like robbery, rape, murder have been escalating leading to fear and concern over this age group (Ahmad, 2007). Juvenile offending behaviour is defined differently depending on the profession. In legal domain, it is known as juvenile delinquency which is any behavior that is committed against the law by an individual below the considered adult age of the state (Lawrence & Hesse, 2010).

Psychology defines juvenile delinquency, as behaviours that cause harm to other people or properties. Psychologically, juvenile offending is considered as one of disruptive, impulse control and conduct disorders that are behavioral disorders, which are expressed in two different ways through: internalization and externalization (S. Group, 2018). In internalization disorders, what is portrayed include isolation, withdrawal and depression. Externalizing disorders are directed outwardly and consist of behavioral excesses like causing social disturbances, physical and verbal aggressiveness and violence ((A.P.A), 2020). Majority of crimes that juveniles engage in are offences like shoplifting, stealing, alcohol and substance use, running away from home and school and assaults like fighting which are referred to as status offences (Lawrence & Hesse, 2010).



### **2.2.1 Juvenile offending trajectories**

According to various research done, there is indication that over the life course, the number of offending patterns differs. For instance, a study done by Livingstone et al (2008) of a juvenile cohort between 1983 or 1984, found three patterns of juvenile offending behaviours: First is, early peaking to moderate offenders – exhibited early onset of offending, peaking around 14 years then declining. This group comprised 21 % of the cohort and were accountable for 23% of offences.

Then, late onset to moderate offenders – showed little or no offending behavior during early teens though gradually increased until 16 years. Represented 68% of the cohort and were responsible for 44% of the offence. Lastly, chronic offenders – these showed early onset of offending which increased sharply throughout the study. Occupied 11% but were responsible for 44% of the cohort offences (Richards, 2011).

### **2.3 Forms of Family Dysfunction and relationship to juvenile offending**

Research has shown families to play huge roles in their children and adolescents development and behaviours as it is the environment where personality and bonding are formed (Figueiredo & Dias, 2012). Some researchers have found that family functioning provides the initial and sustainability of family bond, school bonding, choice of friends, conduct disorders and subsequent delinquency (D. S. Group, 2014). The family concept has been going through evolution due to biological factors, sexual differentiation and the symbolic functions of men and women. All of these have brought about significant impact on the structural and functionality of families (Figueiredo & Dias, 2012).

### **2.3.1: Causes of family dysfunction**

Family dysfunction can be brought about by various factors such as: Family history of dysfunction, life circumstances, addiction, untreated mental illness, and terminal or chronic medical conditions (Rudlin, 2018). In a family with a history of dysfunctionality, the likelihood of the cycle remaining unbroken is high, as people tend to learn parenting from their parents (Mahak, 2018). Same author continues to note that if members are brought up by abusive parents, there is a probability that they will also abuse their children or become too lenient with them.

Life circumstances like unmanaged stress can lead to hostility within the family members affecting their stability and wellbeing. Eventually, this ends up causing dysfunctionality if at all the members lack positive stress coping strategies (Spear, 2019). Addiction: Severe addictions can drain the family members financially and even emotionally with the caregiver investing their time, energy, resources on the addicted individual. Thus making the family members experience difficulties when dealing with the situation. Healthy families can also turn to addiction as a form of coping mechanism (Kalpana, 2020). Untreated mental illness: behaviours brought about by untreated mental illnesses can cause a lot of discord hence making a family life very challenging (Spear, 2019). Also a child brought up by a parent or parents with mental illness, mostly lack the idea on how to cope or behave as per the societal expectations (Mahak, 2018).

Terminal or chronic medical conditions: physical illness on its own is not a cause for dysfunctionality in a family. However, it can make life harder for every family member. If it happens that one of the children is sick, the parents attention mostly shifts to him or her and if the parents are unable to maintain a balance, the other children might feel neglected (Spear, 2019).

### **2.3.2: Family based risk and protective factors against juvenile offending**

Research states that at the core of the sudden increase in juvenile delinquency behavior is the loss of capability of parents to care for the children that they brought to the world (Z. Kamaruddin, 2011). According to some family theories in psychology: habitual lack of parental love, negligence and abuse as from infancy has a huge negative impact on someone's behavior in the future (Spear, 2019). Nevertheless, there is no specific factor that leads to juvenile offending behavior or one that shields them from offending. According to various research, family can be a risk and / or a protective factor against juvenile offending (Michael, 2003). Protective factors are those aspects that reduce the probability of adversity progressing to negative child behavior and outcomes like delinquency and future adult offending (Reingle et al., 2011). On the other hand, risk factors are aspects that indicate the probability of future child and adolescent behavioural problems as well as maintaining them (Wasserman et al., 2003).

Additionally unlike protective factors, risk factors involve probability, as there are some children who are exposed to high amounts of adversity and still are able to grow with healthy behaviours (Turliuc, 2013). This happens either by placing positive effects which are directly opposite of the negative effects of risk factors or by shielding the juvenile from the direct effects of risk factors , this brings about resilience (Group Development Services, 2015). Unfortunately not every juvenile is able to develop resilience and for that Fraser et al (2004) came up with two models of resilience stating how protective and risk factors interact leading to the development of delinquent or protection from it (Reilly, 2012).

These models are: additive and interactive models. Additive model, stipulates that with presence of resources which increases strength then the risk factors will become weak. Hence one becomes

resilient which is the result from resources that bring about positive outcomes which overpowers risk factors (Jenson & Fraser, 2006). The second model, which is the interactive model, talks about interplay between the protective and risk factors which is viewed in three ways: the protective factors preventing from the beginning the occurrence of risk factors, the protective factors acting as a cushion against the impacts of the risk factors and finally the protective factor interrupting the process of how the risk factors operates (Reilly, 2012).

The risk and protective factors are categorized under:

- Factors related to family characteristics
- Factors related to family dynamics and functioning

#### **2.3.2.1 : Risk factors**

Many children are capable of becoming adults without being delinquent during adolescence, in spite of the existence of various risk factors. However it has been observed that most adult criminals engaged in criminal behaviors when they were juveniles (National Research Council, 2001). Risk factors can range from susceptibility to peer influence, risk taking behaviours, juveniles' lack of maturity, preexistence of mental illness like intellectual disability, socio economic factors as well as family environment (Richards, 2011). Within the family environment it mostly includes: negative parenting styles, family conflict or disruption, absence or low parental attachment and exposure to parents with criminality tendencies or substance abuse problems (Rudlin, 2018).

According to other studies by (Green et al. 2008; Demuth and Brown 2004), parental literacy level and marital status can also influence development of delinquent behaviours (Development Services Group, 2015). These aspects are usually conveyed in terms of probability, though one

can't predict with full certainty. As there is no distinct risk factor that is able to predict who might or might not partake in delinquent behavior though the effects are cumulative (Reilly, 2012). That is, the more risk factors present in a juvenile's life, the higher the chances are for developing delinquent behaviors. Also, the age of exposure amplifies this relationship (Development Services Group, 2015) .

Although exposure to more than one risk increases cumulative risk, it also leads to separation of At-risk from High-risk exposed youths, especially during a young age. At-risk includes any youth who has been exposed to risk factors but High-risk youth are those who have been exposed to multiple risk factors (Elena et al., 2016). Additionally, there are two types of risk factors: static and dynamic. Static risk factors are those historically related to the juvenile which cannot be changed by any treatment or programme such as parental criminal involvement (Reingle et al., 2011) .

Dynamics are those which are capable of changing with time due to normal development or even treatment for instance parental violence ((N.C.P.C), 2016). Risk factors are also linked to childhood and adolescents' developmental stages. In that, during childhood, the risk factors are mostly connected to the individual such as personality and family aspects like poor parenting. As the child develops and gets to the adolescent stage, other influencers start playing a major role in his or her life such as peers, school and the community (Development Services Group, 2015).

### **Risk factors related to family characteristics**

Teenage parenthood: Being born to a teenage mother has been linked as a cause to delinquency behavior, this is thought so due to the mother's history of associating with antisocial partners. (Lucie, 2011). Single headed families : Single parents are capable of raising their children well, however research shows children raised by single mothers tend to have a high risk for offending behavior (Wasserman et al., 2003). This is mostly attributed to the mother's history of associating

with antisocial partners and also lack of resources for monitoring children's activities ((N.C.P.C), 2016).

### **Risk factors related to family dynamics and functioning**

**Ineffective parental behavior :** Poor parenting practices is one of the most influential aspects of juvenile offending behaviours development (Wasserman et al., 2003). Adolescents from families with lack of discipline and order are four times more at risk of delinquency as compared to their counterparts from structured families (National Crime Prevention Centre, 2009). When families separate and do not connect, adolescents usually shift to other support systems, especially peer groups which might be tangled in unacceptable behaviours (Onsando et al., 2021). **Parental criminality :** Longitudinal studies done in Cambridge and Pittsburgh showed that having a sibling or parent with criminal tendencies , was a high risk factor for delinquent behaviours (Wasserman et al., 2003).

**Childhood mistreatment and family violence :** This is when the child is a victim or a witness to violence, negligence, physical, sexual and psychological abuse (Lucie, 2011). Child maltreatment often occurs with other family risk factors like violence. According to a certain study (Lewis, Mallou and Webb, 1989), suggested that 20 percent of children who were mistreated become delinquent before reaching adulthood (Wasserman et al., 2003). Furthermore, abused or neglected children tend to start offending behaviours early and more frequently than those not abused (National Crime Prevention Centre, 2009).

### **2.3.2.2 : Protective factors domains**

Several studies have shown how family is an important factor in determining behavioural outcomes. A functional family provides immediate and continuous influence on family bonding, conduct disorder, delinquent behaviours, choice of peers and school bonding (D. S. Group, 2014). Therefore, family environment, especially parent-child relationships is one of the key protective factors against development of juvenile behaviour problems (Group Development Services, 2015). These aspects tend to be viewed as buffers against risk factors. Which help us in understanding factors that hinder the youths from delinquent behaviours ((N.C.P.C), 2016).

A longitudinal study by Foster et al (2017) found out that there were lower levels of parent-reported conduct problems, depression and high self-esteem among youths who reported to have a close relationship with their parents (Smyth & Darmody, 2021). Wan et al., (2022) did an empirical research on family functioning and delinquency among Chinese adolescents and mechanisms connecting the process. The data was conducted among a sample of 8811 Chinese adolescents from a child development project. The researcher found that adolescents who came from families with better functioning had little delinquent behaviour, with positive behaviour acting as a mediating factor between delinquency behaviour and family functioning.

Additionally, Yusoff et al., (2022) in Malaysia, did a study on the relationship of family functionality and parent behaviour on delinquent behavior of adolescents. The study included a sample size of 196 female delinquent adolescents from a correctional facility. The researcher found that family functionality and parental behaviour had a positive association with juvenile delinquency. According to a research by Thomlison (2004), better child development occurs in families where there is a presence of positive adult figure, presence of parental monitoring, ability to mediate daily stressors and emotional closeness (Reilly, 2012).

### **2.3.3: Impact of family dysfunctionality on adolescents**

By the late twentieth century, criminal behavior was still not considered as a psychological disorder but rather as a voluntary action (Z. Kamaruddin, 2011). However, during twenty first century, many researches were conducted in order to determine how psychological stressors such as family dysfunctions can influence offending behavior (Senthil et al., 2014). In Spite of the global differences in the types of family, family serves various functions to its members such as: economic support, socialization, nurturing, protection and ensuring its' continuation (Mwangangi, 2019b). This brings out, the general assumption, that family functionality has a direct impact on its individual members at childhood to adulthood (Derzon, 2009). Practically, there are no psychological or social aspects of someone's behaviours that are not rooted from their family lifestyle traditions either in the past or present (Tratsiakou, 2019).

There is also a probability that family factors interact with other factors to bring out the offending behaviours. Children born from economically deprived homes, with unmet health needs, being victims of violence and abuse are at a greater risk of ending up in the criminal justice system (Kago, 2018). Previously, research conducted in determining how the family unit leads to juvenile offending behaviours, majorly focused on family structure that is whether the family was "intact" or "broken" without considering reasons as to why it is the way it is, additionally the terms used were vague (Allen et al., 2010). Due to such reasons, some research have been discredited and instead the focus has shifted to family practices, since it's not only about the family structures but also about how functional the family is (Coleman, 2014). Some of the factors that are perceived to be a cause for development of juvenile offending behaviors include:



### **2.3.3.1 : Parenting styles**

Parenting is a blended activity composed of specific behaviours carried out individually or together that end up affecting children's behaviors within the family (Sarwar, 2016). It is the base for development of a healthy emotional environment and the primary avenue through which a child learns the socialization and interaction processes (Mowen, 2011). Most parents acquire parenting skills from their parents, they implement some and discard others depending on how they relate with their parents (Kimingiri, 2015).

Therefore, if a parent was brought up in a toxic environment in which they were exposed to abuse, neglect, violence and other forms of negative parenting, they might apply the same when raising their children (Kheswa, 2017). Such children might be at risk of ending up with socio-emotional, behavioural and cognitive problems due to exposure to psychological and physical abuse (Khaemba, 2014). According to a clinical and developmental researcher Diana Baumrind (1971), classical typology of parenting behaviours: parental characteristics of being compassionate, rational, supportive and nurturing to their children is known as parental responsiveness or warmth (Courtney, 2018). When a parent is monitoring, controlling and supervising the child's behavior with set rules and consequences is called demandingness or control, (Hoeve et al., 2009).

These two domains led to the identification of the four parenting styles, which are: authoritative, authoritarian, neglectful and permissive (Williams, 2006). Authoritative style of parenting, is characterized by rational discussion and reasoning between a parent and a child. Parent encourages verbal discussions and explains his or her reasons behind policies set (Mowen, 2011). Additionally, they portray responsiveness towards the child's needs, demandingness, observing of the child's behavior, provision of clear standard of conduct and discipline that is reason based

rather than power assertion or withdrawal of love (Hoeve et al., 2009). Authoritarian parenting, it's whereby there is a total parental control with no flexibility and presence of high punitive and forceful enforcement measures. The parent may portray some level of warmth but they usually demand respect from the child (Johnson, 2016). This parenting approach is likely to produce children with behavioural difficulties due to constant use of power assertion and little emotional connection or affection (Gitonga, 2013). Neglectful type of parenting, is portrayed by low levels of control and warmth, minimal provision of basic needs and no emotional involvement with their child (Courtney, 2018). Permissive parenting, is whereby parents lack control over their children, parents tend to be greatly supportive, friendly, and lenient and don't establish boundaries nor enforce any rules upon their children (Johnson, 2016).

Therefore adaptation of the different parenting style can either contribute or prevent juvenile offending behaviours (Yusuf, Daud, & Arshat, 2021). For that, many parenting practices have been studied as antecedents of delinquency for both girls and boys (Derzon, 2009). For instance, several longitudinal studies while investigating the effects of punishment on aggressive behaviours concluded that, punishment possibly results in defiance than compliance (Joan, 2019). Moylan et al., (2010) in Pennsylvania, U.S, studied the impact of child neglect and exposure to domestic violence in children on the internalization and externalization of adolescents' behaviours. Results pointed out that, children who have experienced domestic abuse and neglect are at a risk of externalizing and internalizing behaviours in adolescence. Data used in this research was from the Lehigh Longitudinal Report, a prospective study of 457 youths who dealt with impact of family violence and familial resilience.

Similarly, Hoeve et al., (2011) did a study on 330 Dutch families to examine the cross sectional and longitudinal link between parenting styles on male and female adolescents between ages 14

to 22. The study revealed parenting style by sexual interaction: neglectful parenting was linked with higher levels of crime in boys and permissive parenthood with girls' delinquency. You & Lim, (2015) conducted research on long-term association between abusive parents and the road to delinquency. Longitudinal data of 5th to 7th graders from Korean Children and Youth Panel Survey (KCYPS) were examined to investigate if parental abuse and neglect are predictors of early adolescents' delinquent behaviour. The results showed (both physical and emotional) parental mistreatment and neglect to have a huge impact on the behavioural aspects of children.

Sarwar (2016) , did a research in Pakistan, to determine the influence of parents and parenting style on childrens' behaviours, the study discovered that authoritarian parenting style contributes to rebellious and problematic children. On the contrary, authoritative parenting was found to be effective and spending a lot of time with adolescents led to reduction of problematic behaviours. Another study in India by Poduthase( 2012) , to explore adolescents' perspectives on parent-adolescent relationships among delinquent and non-delinquent adolescents, showed that parent's attitudes and behaviours can directly and indirectly contribute to adolescent's behaviour. Adolescents with criminal behaviour came from families where parental disputes were normal, and there was presence of a violent and/or intoxicated father and severe parental punishment during childhood.

A study done on a sample of 404 in Nigeria, on influence of parenting styles on adolescents' delinquency by Nwamaka, (2010) concluded that uninvolved parents and unresponsiveness to their needs tend to negatively affect adolescents' behaviours. In Kenya a study done by Buliva, (2020) on parenting styles and forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students through a sample population of 358 participants. The researcher found a positive association between authoritarian and permissive parenting styles and forms of delinquent behaviour.

According to Kemunto, (2016) in her research on relationship between parenting styles on learner's behavioural problems and academic performance, a study done on 400 learners from secondary schools and 40 parents. It revealed that, authoritative parenting brings out learners with low problematic behaviours in comparison to authoritarian, neglectful and permissive parenting styles. Maami, (2019), researched to explore the impact of parenting styles on pre-adolescents social behavior. Participants were 25 pre –adolescents (10-12 years) and 25 parents. She found out that pre-adolescent whose parents used authoritarian or neglectful parenting style, ended up with social behavioural problems.

Additionally, Onsando et al., (2021) did a study on the influence of parenting style on male delinquency at Kamiti youth correctional and training center on a population of 120 delinquents. They found that authoritarian parenting style (42%) and permissive parenting style (29.4%) posed risk factors to development of delinquent behaviours.

Early studies on effects of parenting on children and adolescents concluded that strong attachment between parent and child lessened the probability of juvenile crime involvement (Mowen, 2011).

#### **2.3.3.2 : Parents involvement in crime**

Some studies argue that crime runs in the family as in every 6 out of 10 convicted offenders in any prison, he or she comes from a family with a generational crime history (Bakari, 2021). Having a criminal or antisocial parent increases the chances of one becoming delinquent as shown in the classical longitudinal survey done by Joan McCord (1977) and Lee Robins (1979), the transmission tends to be higher in male children than females (Sergi, 2020). Also the relationship between parental criminality and juvenile delinquency is strong when the parent is a repeat offender and the criminal activities took place during the child-rearing period (Earls,

2020). Some explanation as to why offending tend to run in some families include: Possible existence of intergenerational continuities in exposure to multiple risk factors such as family disruption, teenage pregnancy, parental criminality hence absentee parent, poor parental approach which lead to a constellation of antisocial features when the child is growing up, criminality being among them (van Dijk et al., 2019).

Direct and mutual influence of family members on each other. For example a younger sibling may duplicate the antisocial behavior of an older sibling or the older sibling may encourage the younger sibling to imitate their antisocial behaviours (David, 2010). Studies show that the impact of sibling negative role model relationships is stronger within the same gender rather than opposite sex (Perron, 2013). Another explanation is poor parental supervision between arrested parents and their children. This is due to increased risk of developing an insecure attachment during infancy because of the poor parental absence and the inconsistency in parental behaviours (K. E. Carter, 2009). Additionally, children with incarcerated parents are exposed to other factors such as substance use by the parents and parental violence as well as violence within the neighbourhood (Agrawal et al., 2021).

Kyne, (2018) did a study at California State University by using secondary data analysis, to measure the variability of numerous family characteristics within two offending juvenile groups. The total population was 665 juveniles and the results suggested that there is a relationship between parents' incarceration, parent supervision and juvenile offending. Still in the U.S, Weyland, (2021), conducted a study on parental incarceration and juvenile delinquency: the role of gender on a sample of 2,458 youths and their parents. The scholar found out that the risk of juvenile delinquency increased with parental incarceration and that female children were at a higher risk if their mothers were incarcerated.

Van Dijk et al., (2019), did a study on the extension of intergenerational continuity of crime in families of organized criminals in Amsterdam. Their respondents were 25 offenders and their 48 children who were 19 year olds. The results achieved was that half of the organized criminal offenders' sons followed their father's footsteps while the daughters committed minor crimes. Nijhof et al., (2009), investigated the level of impact that frequency and seriousness of parental criminality had on juvenile offending on 577 Dutch parents and their children (8-14 years). The outcome was 34% of the children had been exposed to parental criminality hence the frequency of juvenile offending was high for them.

Laurens et al., (2017) carried out a population data linkage research on pervasive influence of maternal and paternal criminal offending on early childhood development in South Wales, Australia. A population of 66, 477 comprising of children and their parents was used. The results were that children with offending parents were more vulnerable to odd emotional, behavioural, cognitive, social, physical and communication functioning at 5 years than children of non-offending parents. Another Australian study conducted by Tzoumakis et al., (2019), on parenting offending and children's conduct problems at the age of 11. The study sample population comprised of 21,000 children and their parents. The study founding was that, parental offending increased the chances of a child's conduct problem and maternal violent offending was also found to be the one most strongly associated with childhood conduct behaviours.

Agrawal et al., (2021), did a cross-sectional 2 year research study on psychosocial factors and psychopathology among 200 juveniles who were in conflict with the law at Hamidia Hospital. The results revealed a positive association between disturbed family dynamics such as broken family and history of criminality in family as a mode of influence of criminal behaviours in juveniles.

A study conducted in Kenya by Karanja & Kariuki, (2019), on assessment of the socioeconomic background and role of family in rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. A sample of 120 respondents was used: 99 juvenile delinquents and 21 parents of ex-rehabilitees. The researcher found that, before the juvenile's arrest, cases of family members reported to have committed a crime were present, especially of their fathers.

However there is no evidence that criminal parents directly encourage their child to commit a crime or teach them criminal techniques on the contrary they usually disapprove of their children offending (van Dijk et al., 2019).

### **2.3.3.3 : Poor communication and interaction**

Family communication means making ideas, information, thoughts and feelings known to every family member (N. Kamaruddin et al., 2012). A home with empty words is a breeding zone for adolescents with poor emotional and social development. When combined with lack of love, affection, consistency and harmony it tends to lead to juvenile offending behaviours (Nevisi, 2019). On the other hand, the quality of a family relationship is expressed through the interaction patterns, and a child who portrays behavioural problems signifies the probability of a dysfunctional family interaction (Van As & Janssens, 2016). Dysfunctional family interaction patterns are characterized by criticism, misunderstanding and power struggles (Kalpana, 2020). According to Walsh (1995) functional families are characterized by an environment full of mutual trust, free expression of emotions, opinions and responses in a caring, empathetically and acceptance of individual different views is encouraged (Van As & Janssens, 2016).

Whereas, dysfunctional families are characterized by mistrust, criticism and scapegoating (Rudlin, 2018). Sometimes communication is blocked between family members and avoid sharing valuable, painful or threatening feelings which ends up being destructive as no problem

is resolved due to lack of communication (Mahak, 2018). Additionally, highly emotional expression can also be destructive, since it leads to emotional conflict and feelings of despair (Van As & Janssens, 2016). The lack of discourse within the family often leads to the children seeking solace elsewhere while lack of communication within the family leads to loss of trust, unity and understanding which leads to low self-esteem or self-confidence (Ubaidi, 2017).

The realization of one losing their self-esteem or confidence leads to the creation of ideas that normally they wouldn't do on how to boost it back, such as: joining peer gang groups, shoplifting, drug and substance abuse (SecureTeen, 2017). Child abuse which takes place in various forms like emotional, physical as well as neglect have also been established to increase the risk of juvenile offending behavior for both boys and girls (Krug, 2022). Furthermore, such children tend to start offending earlier than their counterparts and mostly develop to be chronic offenders. (Hartinger- Saunders et al., 2012).

A study conducted by Richman and colleagues, stated that children exposed to disharmonious families as early as around 3 or 4 years, develop antisocial behaviours by 8 years (Earls, 2020). Depending on the frequency and type of abuse, those exposed to chronic and persistent maltreatment from childhood to adolescence or starting in adolescence, are at more risk than those limited to their childhood. (Judy, 2011). Therefore, an open parent - child relationship and communication is an important aspect in maintaining a healthy functioning of the family system and children's development (Bireda, 2018).

Vidal et al., (2017) did a study on family environment, maltreatment and social risk factors: as determinants among maltreated children and adolescents transitioning from child welfare to juvenile justice. The research conducted on 10,850 participants revealed that, recurrence of maltreatment



and experiencing at least one incidence of neglect as well as adverse family environment, increased the risk of transitioning to the juvenile justice system.

Cassidy, (2011) conducted a study in the UK on exploration of family factors and psychological distress to youth offending in 219 participants of 12-17 year olds. As per his results, family relations and other family factors were found to be a causative agent for delinquency. In Switzerland, an exploratory study done by Mwangangi, (2019) on the role of family in dealing with juvenile delinquency found that there are a number of family connected factors that lead to child crime. The factors included: degree of family cohesion, uninvolved parenting styles, parental attitudes and physical violence.

Đurišić, (2018), did a study on relations and communications in families of children with externalizing behaviour problems in Serbia. The sample size consisted of 135 both male and female students between the ages of 11 – 14. The researcher after analyzing the data found that, students with externalizing behaviour problems came from families where quality of family relationships is low, there is presence of poor connectivity, dissatisfaction, poor communication and adaptability.

A quantitative study done in Malaysia by N. Kamaruddin et al.,(2012) on the impact of time spent in communication between a parent and child in relation to juvenile misconduct. In a population of 641 secondary school students and 522 parents, the results showed that 50.7% of the adolescents felt the amount of time they spend with their parents has an effect towards their delinquency.

Thoyibah et al., (2017), conducted a study on the correlation between family communication patterns and juvenile delinquency in junior high school. The researcher used a sample size of 243 students from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The results showed a positive relationship pattern between

family communication and juvenile delinquency.

As per a study on perceived parent-child communication and wellbeing (depression, substance-use, self-esteem and school adjustment) among Ethiopian adolescents done by Bireda, (2018). The participants were 809 around 16 years old and results showed a positive connection between how parent-child communication is perceived in relation to their wellbeing by the adolescents.

#### **2.3.3.4 : Parental psychopathology**

Bond between a parent and their child is important for the child's physical and emotional development. Unfortunately, many children are currently being brought up by parents who at some point suffer from mental disorders (College, 2021). This could either be mild such as intermittent depression or severe like schizophrenia. Such children are at a greater risk of developing behavioural, emotional or social problems as parenting has been interfered with by mental illness (Dandona, 2018). Such parents mostly have diminished emotional availability and impaired capability of meeting their child developmental needs (Brunette & Jacobsen, 2016).

Rates as high as 45% of parental antisocial personality disorder has been associated with a number of their boys including pre-adolescents who have conduct problems (Van Loon et al., 2014). Similar rates occur for parental depression. Depressed parents show a lot of parental deficiency such as poor supervision, inconsistency and irritability (Brunette & Jacobsen, 2016). According to Pittsburgh Youth Study, association between delinquency and parental depression or anxiety is stronger in younger than older children (Wasserman et al., 2003). Children of antisocial parents are at a heightened risk of violence, antisocial and delinquent behavior than their counterparts (College, 2021).

In addition, parental substance abuse has also been associated with juvenile offending behaviours. Effects of parental substance abuse on children and adolescents are divided into two:

children being exposed to drugs and alcohol and their parents becoming unequipped to provide the basic physical, emotional and psychological care that they need (Network, 2012). When one parent is addicted to drugs, the other one might struggle to maintain the family routine and structure (Dandona, 2018). Hence substance use by a parent or both parents can affect the behavior of the child especially since most children do not share about what happens at home (Folk et al., 2020). The risk is reliably higher if both parents have another psychiatric disorder like depression or antisocial personality rather than just one parent (Solis et al., 2012).

In the Netherlands, Van Loon et al., (2014) did a cross-sectional study of child interaction and family environment on 124 families with mentally ill parents and 127 families of parents without mental illness, with 11- 16 years old children. Results showed poor interaction between mentally ill parents and less monitoring of the adolescents. As a result, adolescents with mentally ill parents exhibited external behaviours than their counterparts.

Athanassiou et al., (2023), in Australia, obtained findings from a longitudinal study on relationship between parental mental illness and / or offending and offspring contact with the police in childhood. The research consisted of a sample of 72, 771 children between 5-13 years and their parents. The results showed that parental mental illness and offending were both associated with police getting in contact with offsprings. Stronger links were perceived when both parental offending and mental illness were together whether from one parent or both.

Lander et al., (2013), carried out a study on the impact of substance use disorders on families and children: from theory to practice. They found out that substance use disorders negatively affect the behavioural and emotional patterns of the family, leading to negative outcomes for both the children and adults. Marci et al., (2015), did a study on psychopathology, symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and risk factors in juvenile offenders. A total of 135 juvenile

offenders participated in the study and from the results; 52% reported education achievement problems and 34% reported a family history of psychiatric disorder. Rathinabalan & Naaraayan, (2017), conducted a case control study on the effects of family factors on juvenile delinquency. 60 juveniles as case and an equal number of school students as control were interviewed. The results showed that, paternal age of above 60 years, paternal smoking and alcohol use, single parent and maternal employment to be risk factors for juvenile delinquency.

A cross sectional study of situational factors (mental health, poverty, living with a biological parent, HIV status and stigma) with parenting and child outcome done by Sherr et al., (2017) in Malawi and South Africa with 939 respondents (4 to 13 years). They found that positive child outcomes was found in parents with good mental health and living with a biological parent.

#### **2.3.3.5 : Family structure and composition**

Families are the most influential socializing agents. They guide their children to respect other peoples' rights, control their unacceptable behaviours and also delay their gratification (Makumba, 2018). Every family needs a structure and hierarchy in order to function properly. Family structure means how the family is organized which is described through the family subsystems and boundaries (Van As & Janssens, 2016). Lately, family structure has really changed, not only due to high divorce rates and growth of complex step-families but also the rapid increase of non-marital childbearing and cohabitation (Halsted, 2013). Currently, 1 in 4 children experience their parents' divorce and 1 in 10 children live with one parent, mostly the mother (Kroese et al., 2020). The changes end up bringing out negative effects on the family structure as well as its functioning (Figueiredo & Dias, 2012). Moreover, the disruptions tend to increase the probability of depression and at times poverty, leading to poor parenting strategies which ends up breeding delinquency (Mwangangi, (2019). Furthermore,

juveniles from a single- parent household might show more delinquency due to presence of a weak attachment with one or both parents (Kroese et al., 2020).

Schroeder et al., (2010), did a research study on the first and third waves of National Youth Study to evaluate any effect in changes of family structure; family time and parental attachment in relation to juvenile offending. Results depicted that change in family time and parental attachment are among the family environmental factors that contribute to delinquency. Coleman, (2014) did a library based research on family and youth delinquency. The findings showed a broken family structure can lead to poor attachments and lack of behavior controls which contributes to delinquency.

Another study done by Behere et al., (2017) still in the United States on effects of family structure on mental health of 154 preadolescents admitted at Lincoln Prairie Behavioural Health Center. They found out that only 11% of the preadolescents came from intact families living with biological parents whereas the 89% came from families that had some disruptions in their structure.

Additional study by Withers, (2018), where he researched if bad parenting can cause delinquency in a sample population of 230 juveniles in a detention facility. Out of the 230 only 15-20% came from families with both parents, the rest were raised by single parents or extended family members. The researcher also found out that most of the boys had not met their biological father. Others had step-fathers who were either absent, abusive or neglectful.

Villavicencio Jr, (2020), did a secondary analysis study on the parental structure and involvement on subsequent delinquency on a population sample of 1,272 composed of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The population came from a project which focused on measuring academic abilities, parental involvement, household structure, risky and delinquent behaviours. The results showed a positive

relationship between parental-child involvement and delinquent outcomes.

According to Figueiredo & Dias, (2012) exploratory and comparative research on differences in children's behavior with married or come we stay and divorced or separated parents, based on teacher's and parents' perspective in Portugal. The participants were 62 children: 30 from married parents while 32 from separated or divorced ages 6 to 9 years. The outcome was that, both the teachers and mothers' perceived children from single families to be more problematic as compared to their counterparts.

(Reeta & Singh, 2020) did a study in India on broken families and impact on juvenile delinquency and concluded that single headed families especially those that are led by mothers produce delinquent juveniles compared to their counterparts. In Nigeria, a cross-sectional survey study done by Bella et al., (2011), on children and adolescents within the juvenile system: psychosocial needs and psychopathology. The results from the sample population of 59 participants was that all had significant psychosocial needs such as difficulties with their primary support, social environment, educational system or economy.

Kago, (2018) did a study in Kenya with a sample of 71 respondents to investigate the relationship between three dimensions of parental involvement (behaviors, parenting style and accessibility) and juvenile delinquency. The study findings were that; almost half of the participants grew up without a father figure due to separation, divorce, death or unmarried. Such adolescents portrayed delinquent behaviours like parental defiance, substance use and aggressiveness.

Another Kenyan study done by Kioko, (2019), on the prevalent family structure and functions among juvenile delinquent children in rehabilitation centers in Nairobi and Kiambu counties. A sample size of 113 juveniles from 2 rehabilitation centers was used. The study established that

many of the participants stated that during the time they were arrested, they were living with their mothers only. The rest of the population were living with extended family members. Same study also found out that the majority of the participants came from dysfunctional families.

## **2. 4 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.4.1 Family system theory**

The researcher chose family system theory by Dr. Murray Bowen, as a theoretical framework since it clearly brings out the importance of family and family relations to its' members. According to this theory, patterns of interaction between family members brings about and perpetuates both problem and non-problematic behaviours, (Wendel & Johnson, 2016). Bowen sees the family as a system in which the members are intensely emotionally connected, and each member plays specific roles and follows certain rules that are specific to each family system (Murray, 2020). Based on the rules and roles within the system, patterns develop , members implore each other's approval, attention and support, they respond to each other's needs, expectations and emotional upset (Sauber et al., 2014) .

This connection and responses makes the functioning of the members to be interdependent that every member's behavior tends to affect the behaviours and emotions of the other members (The Bowen Centre for the Study of the Family, 2021). Depending on how a certain system operates, these behavioural patterns can either lead to balancing or dysfunctioning of the system members (Devlin, 2020). Bowen believed that due to the interconnection between its members a family should be studied as a whole rather than individual elements (Murray, 2020). He also argued that unless family dynamics are changed, rarely will the individual change (Onsando et al., 2021). In addition, the theory brings out the importance of identifying and breaking repetitive sequences of behaviour patterns of which problem behaviour is part of (Wendel & Johnson, 2016).

From the theory mentioned above, the family is seen as a system and the primary relationship context where individual's characters and patterns of behaviours are learned and reinforced. It is the first environment that a child gets to interact with therefore influencing how they will see the world and society at large. A change or a disturbance from one individual may likely lead to a change in the system or other members. The researcher hopes to use the theory and its concepts to bring out the perceived influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behavior.

This study assumption is that parenting styles, parental history of criminality, family structure and composition, parental psychopathology and family communication and interaction are some of the contributing factors towards juvenile offending behaviours. With this regard, the research seeks to investigate whether the aforementioned factors are applicable in the perceived assumption of influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviours.



## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODS**

### **3.0: Introduction**

This chapter outlines the methodology and procedures which will be used when collecting data. The study method and design, study population, study setting, sample size and sampling procedure, eligibility criteria, data collection procedure, data analysis, data management and ethical consideration will all be described in this chapter.

### **3.1: Research method and Design**

#### **3.1.1: Research Method**

This was a qualitative study, since it's ideal for collecting data on individuals' personal histories, experiences and perspectives (Farr, 2008) . It was an opportunity to explore respondents' viewpoints and experiences.

#### **3.1.2: Research Design**

Research design is an arrangement for circumstances for collection and analysis of data obtained from sources deemed appropriate by the scholar for the research study (Odhiambo, 2019). This research explored the relationship between two variables: perceived family dysfunction and juvenile offending behavior. The research design was a phenomenological approach which involved the researcher examining participants' lived experiences in relation to an event through their own description (Bhandari, 2020).

### **3.2: Target Population**

The researcher's target population for the study were all the juveniles from seven to eighteen years who were accorded probation sentences by the court and report to Ngong Probation Office. The juvenile's caregivers and probation officers were also interviewed as key informants.

### **3.3: Research Setting**

The study was done at Ngong Probation office 25 km from Nairobi Town and geographically under Kajiado County, within Kajiado North Sub-County under the 47 counties of Kenya. However, it is among the six under Nairobi County when it comes to allocation of stations within the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Probation and Aftercare Services is a department within the government in the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, State Department for Correctional Services (Baugh, 2017).

Probation is one of the five court dispositions in the country. The others are community service order, suspended sentence, conditional discharge and imprisonment. Their area of work includes : providing advisory reports to courts and other agencies to determine bond and bailing terms as well as decision making on sentencing and releasing of offenders (Query, 2020). Probation officers also supervise, reintegrate, resettle and rehabilitate offenders serving various non-custodial sentences within the community.

When an offender is granted a probation sentence, they are supervised to ensure they change and also offered counselling for the same. Ngong probation office has five probation officers, where one of them is the station in charge and another deputy in charge of the station. Ngong probation was chosen since the researcher was an intern at that office, and due to exposure of the various juvenile cases being referred by the court to the office hence the birth of the research topic.

### **3.4: Sampling size and sampling procedure**

Ngong probation office has a total population of 98 offenders as at October 2021. Out of which 77 are adults: 17 females and 60 males. They have 21 juveniles; 19 boys and 2 girls. In this research, the main respondents were juveniles' offenders. So all the 21 juveniles will be interviewed in relation to their availability and meeting the inclusion criteria. The juveniles'

caregivers and the 5 probation officers present at Ngong probation office were also included in the study in order to get an in depth understanding of the phenomena being researched. The researcher used non probability purposive sampling technique to recruit study participants in accordance with qualitative research method. This is because the researcher was interested in recruiting key participants with some specific socio demographic characteristics.

### **3.5: Inclusion and Exclusion criteria**

#### **3.5.1: Inclusion Criteria**

- All juveniles who have been given probation sentencing by the court and are serving their term at Ngong Probation office.
- All juveniles serving probation sentence and consented for participation by their parents/guardian to participate in the study.
- All juveniles serving probation sentences and who assented to participate in the study.

#### **3.5.2: Exclusion Criteria**

- Any other individual who is serving a probation sentence at Ngong probation office and is not a juvenile.
- Juveniles who will decline to give assent to participate in the study.
- Juveniles who have given assent but not available during the interviewing day due to being sick, attending court proceedings or any other reasons.

### **3.6: Recruitment Procedure**

Recruitment of the respondents into the study was entirely on a voluntary basis. The participants were obtained from Ngong probation office through the In-charge of that office. This was after granting permission to conduct the study in the area. Statistical data of the juvenile offenders and their caregivers was requested from the probation office. This was done to ensure that only the

targeted population were recruited by differentiating them from anyone else who also seeks services from the same office. The researcher then scheduled a day to meet up with the respondents for recruitment, putting into consideration not to interfere with workflow nor burdening their personal times.

Adequate information about the research study was given to the potential respondents of the three categories. An opportunity was given for them to ask any questions pertaining to the study. Those who agreed to voluntarily take part in the research, and meet inclusion criteria were recruited then requested to give consent in writing by signing consent forms before data collection. For the juveniles they signed assent forms after their parents' or caregivers consented to their participation and met the inclusion criteria. Ethical standards were maintained until study completion. Focus group of 8-10 participants who gave consent to participate in group discussions was also formed for juveniles and their caregivers. Group rules and norms were discussed and every member encouraged to follow in order to ensure confidentiality. The parents and the juveniles were also informed prior about the focus group, what it entails, what would happen during the groups plus the rules and norms. The participants were informed that data will be collected through audio-recording during the sessions. An informed consent of joining the focus group was availed for the participants to approve their attendance, attendance by appending a signature, which was also the approach used during the process of recruiting them to the groups. The groups were moderated by the researcher whose main role was to ensure that the topic was understood, addressed and thoroughly discussed in an inclusive manner. There was a co-facilitator whose main role was note taking. The group discussions took place in an open ground due to lack of enough office space. The probation officers did not take part in anything related to the interviews or focus groups. This was made clear during the first meeting with the respondents. The data collected was stored in a password protected computer, only accessible by

the researcher. Transcription of the audio-records was done while a written summary was obtained from the notes taken.

### **3.7: Data collection procedures**

Research proposal was approved by the University of Nairobi - Department of Psychiatry and an introductory letter issued. Clearance from the KNH-UoN, Institution of Review Board (IRB) on the data collection instrument was sought and a research permit obtained from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). After clearance with the relevant authorities and permission by the In-charge of Ngong probation office, participants were identified through non-probability purposive sampling method. Recruitment was done after the researcher introduced herself and clearly informed the participants about the study objectives, risks and benefits. Consenting and assenting was sought from the eligible participants who thereafter voluntarily agreed to participate in the study. A day and time was scheduled for filling the socio- demographic questionnaire, conducting one-on-one in-depth interview and focus group discussions at the Ngong probation office. The probation officers were selected as the key informants considering their experience in handling juvenile offenders as well as knowledge on criminal behaviours. In ensuring confidentiality during consenting, assenting and data collection, the researcher requested to interview the participants' individually in one of the probation offices. The focus group discussions were conducted at an open quiet place that was far from interference by third parties.

### **3.8: Data collection method**

The researcher developed and used a questionnaire in order to gather the socio-demographic aspects of the respondents and semi-structured interview guide during one-on-one in-depth interview and focus group discussions. Audio recording of the individual interviews and focus

groups was done to ensure that all data was captured. Respondents were informed of this as well.

The tools were in English language, and therefore the juveniles and their caregivers' tools were translated to Kiswahili. The data collection methods were deemed appropriate for the study as it is affordable, easy and the researcher was also able to collect a lot of information over a short period of time.

### **3.9: Validity and reliability of the data collection methods and instruments**

Validity is the ability of a data collecting tool to measure what is intended for, hence the required concept will be measured accurately (Taherdoost, 2016). Whereas reliability is when an instrument maintains consistency (Heale & Twycross, 2015). Since the instruments are not standardized, a pretest study upon the target population was conducted in order to check for validity so as to identify items that were not appropriate which were discarded or modified. Data from the pretest was used to compute the reliability of the instruments to be used. The use of data triangulation was applied so as to provide an alternative to validation and also for provision of greater understanding of the findings. Triangulation in qualitative is seeking corroboration between two or more sources for data and interpretations in order to understand the phenomena comprehensively (N. Carter et al., 2014). In order to triangulate the data collected from the juveniles and their caregivers, Probation Officers (PO) were interviewed as key informants so as to provide feedback on the same questions asked. All interview notes were noted immediately after the interviews and focus group discussions so as to prevent any detail being left out due to forgetfulness. Additionally, the multiple data collection methods of interviewing, focus group and recording enhanced corroboration and converging of evidence of the lived experiences.

### **3.10: Data analysis and presentation techniques**

The collected data was transcribed, thematically coded and analyzed using Nvivo version 10 qualitative data analysis software. Thematic content analysis was done and themes identified using both deductive and inductive approaches. Dominant patterns were highlighted and findings presented in form of the identified themes.

### **3.11: Data Management**

The research tools that are demographic characteristics questionnaire and semi-structured interview guide tool were administered by the researcher. The researcher ensured safety of the data collected through securing the hardcopies in a locked cabinet, only accessible by the researcher. The soft copies were stored in a password protected computer.

### **3.12: Ethical considerations**

Initial approval was obtained from the University of Nairobi- Department of Psychiatry and the Kenyatta National Hospital / University of Nairobi – Ethics and Research Committee (E.R.C) the research permit was provided to the researcher by the In- charge at Ngong Probation office. All the respondents, that is the juveniles, caregivers and probation officers were informed of the research objectives clearly and that participation was voluntary. Written consent was obtained from the participants by signing consent forms and they were informed that they could withdraw from the study at any period with no loss of benefits. Informed consent was obtained from the caregivers and probation officers, then assenting was done on the juveniles whom consent had been given. Thus the juvenile's social and emotional vulnerability was considered when interviewing them. The researcher ensured that the probation officers only gave a list of juveniles who were accorded sentencing and conformed the list with their data. The respondents were clearly informed that the roles of the probation officers during the research were that of

participants. Hence, whatever they said or did during the research study didn't affect the services received from the probation office. Additionally, the circumstances surrounding the data collection were kept as dependable as possible to decrease the effect of external factors that might create variation in the results.

They were informed that the data collected was purposefully for research and assured that the information they gave during data collection, was treated as private and confidential. Confidentiality was achieved by recording their names only on the consent forms and that codes were used in the socio-demographic and interview transcripts. Their coded names were indicated on the consent forms for easier reference and retrieval. The study included only those respondents who met the inclusion criteria. No compensation was done.

### **3.13: Risks and Benefits of participation**

#### **3.13.1: Risks of participation in the research**

The study didn't anticipate any physical, social or economic risks associated with participation. Nevertheless, the respondents found some of the questions asked to be emotionally disturbing. In such cases, they were allowed not to answer any question that made them feel uncomfortable. Psychotherapy was offered by the scholar to those who were emotionally affected and referred to other professions on need basis. Another probable risk of participating in the study was that confidential information about the respondents might be accidentally revealed. However, all measures were put into place in order to ensure safety of the respondents' confidential information, such as the use of passwords on the soft copies.

#### **3.13.2: Benefits of participating in the research**

The respondents benefited from the study research as they got to understand how family dysfunction can lead to juvenile offending behavior. This enabled them to prevent further impact



upon their families or other children if present.

A long term benefit included presentation of the study findings to the stakeholders involved in the management of delinquent adolescents and as such formulation of policy to cater to their psychological needs in Nairobi and Kenya in general.

## **CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

### **4.0: Introduction**

This chapter presents the research findings from the study. It comprises the analysis, presentation and interpretations of the study findings. The main source of data for the study was from interviewing the participants and focus group discussions. The audio recorded data was transcribed verbatim and the Swahili version translated into English. The researcher used thematic content analysis to identify themes and subthemes. The process involved identifying the dominant patterns in exploration of the perceived impact of family dysfunction on juvenile offending. Hence this section will provide a clear description of the personal details of each respondent.

#### **4.1: Demographics of the interviewees**

##### **4.1.1: Categories of the interviewees**

Out of the total population of 31 respondents who turned out for the individual interviews, 13 were juvenile offenders while 13 others were their caregivers. 5 probation officers were also included in the study to help the researcher understand more about perceived impact of family dysfunction on juvenile offending. The researcher found out that with the 31 respondents, saturation of themes was achieved. Most of the respondents, especially the caregivers, had only reached primary level of education. The juvenile as well some of them had dropped out of school and were part-time casual workers. For the focus group discussions, which was conducted on the juveniles and their caregivers separately, the total population was 16. That is 8 caregivers and 8 juveniles. The following tables shows the summary of the respondents' demographic status:

**Table 1: Individual respondents**

<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Description</b>
13 juvenile interviews	10 – Males 3 - Females
13 Caregiver interviews	3- Male 10 - female
5 Probation officers	2 – Male 3- Female
Total	31

**Table 2: Sociodemographic status of Focus Group Discussions respondents**

<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Description</b>
8 juvenile FGD	6 - boys 2 - girls
8 caregivers FGD	8 - females
Total : 16	

**4.1 : Results**

Findings of the research revealed several themes and subthemes in relation to perceived family dysfunction and juvenile offending. The identified themes were as follows: factors within the family dysfunctions that lead to juvenile offending, factors associated with juvenile offending and how to prevent juvenile offending. The table below is a summary of the results in form of themes, sub themes findings.

**Table 3: Summary of the themes, sub themes findings**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Sub theme</b>
<b>Factors within family dysfunctions associated with juvenile offending</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Domestic violence</li><li>o Substance and alcohol use by parents</li><li>o Single parenting</li><li>o Emotion and physical abuse</li><li>o Family history of offending</li><li>o Parenting style<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Neglect parenting</li><li>- Permissive parenting</li><li>- Parent defending criminal act</li><li>- Authoritarian parenting</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Other factors associated with Juvenile offending</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Poverty</li><li>o Idleness</li><li>o Mental disorders (Substance and alcohol use)</li><li>o Peer pressure</li></ul>
<b>Prevention of juvenile offending</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Engaging in religious activities</li><li>o Talent nurturing</li><li>o Providing guidance and counseling</li></ul>

- 
- o Addressing drug abuse
  - o Parents active involvement in raising the juveniles
  - o Multi-stakeholder support
- 

#### 4.1.1 : Factors within family dysfunctions that lead to juvenile offending

Factors within the family system that were perceived to bring about juvenile offending behaviours include: parents' domestic violence, substance and alcohol use by parents, parenting styles, single parenting, emotional and physical abuse and family history of offending.

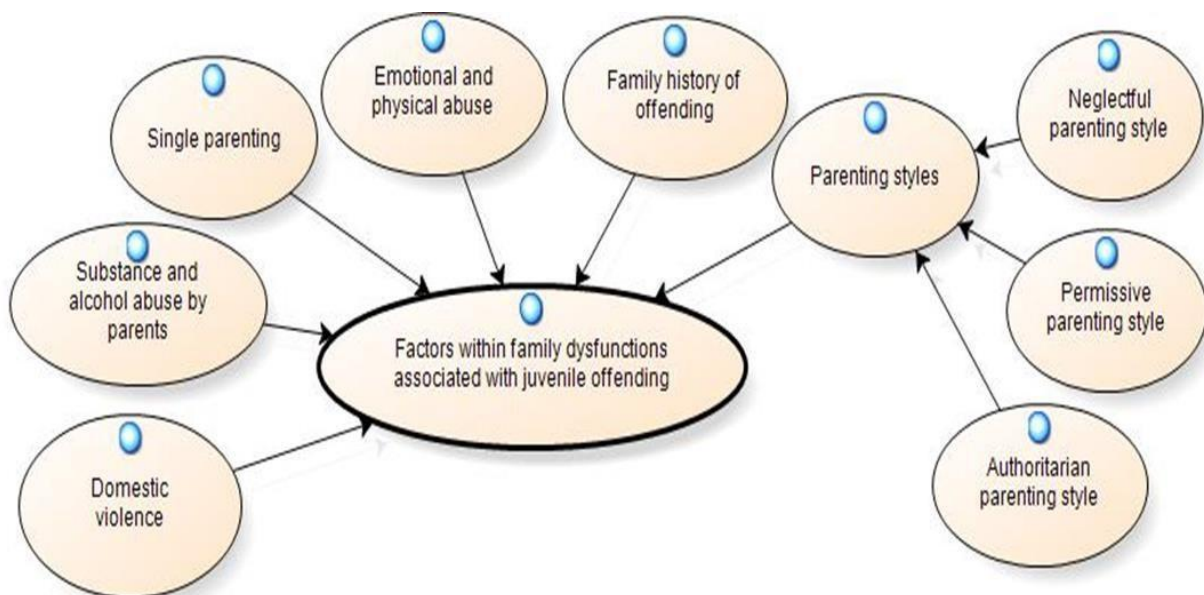


Figure 1: Factors within family dysfunctions associated with juvenile offending

#### **4.1.1.1 : Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence was perceived as one of the contributory factors to juvenile offenders as it leads to runaways and involvements with gangs. One of the juvenile respondents stated *“You cannot watch your mother being beaten up and you are just seated there, that is something that will hurt you so you feel you have to escape from that to avoid getting stressed. Their relationship was characterized by just fighting and abusiveness that at some point they even made me regret why they were my parents”*. JNW Juvenile FGD

His comment was supported by another juvenile who stated that; *“It was a bad relationship because my father had many women and I could witness the verbal abuses. If he was still with us, maybe I wouldn't be in this situation.”*IL

This sentiment was also expressed by a caregiver respondent who claimed that; *“It was an abusive marriage both physically and emotionally and at times the children would see all this. We separated 10 years ago and it has not been easy. I hide what I sometimes do for survival from my children so as not to encourage them, though the money is never enough so my son ended up running away and joined a gang.”* JN

#### **4.1.1.2 : Substance and alcohol use by parents**

Substance use by parents, especially alcohol was identified as one of the family dysfunctional factors that contribute to juvenile offending. A caregiver during the focus group discussions said *“My husband is a drunkard and he always comes home drunk there is no time they will ever agree or relate with the children, you know how a father can come and sit down with a child for*

*a talk if he is drunk every little thing will irritate him and he will start being abusive and the child will find ways to always escape his father".SA*

In an individual interview, a juvenile stated *"I have been brought up by my grandparents since I was young because my mother drinks a lot hence she doesn't take care of us and she stays in different places, so I had to look for a job. I met friends who introduced me to stealing since I wanted money for circumcision". GN*

A probation officer added that *"Majority of juvenile offenders have parents who enable their criminality, especially those parents who abuse alcohol and drugs." GK*

#### **4.1.1.3 : Single parenting**

Single parenting was viewed as a cause of disability that might lead to juvenile offending. A juvenile highlighted *"I was brought up by my grandmother. My mother separated with my father when we were very young and my mother doesn't have a job, but I enjoy living with my grandmother because she loves us very much and it is peaceful." JNW*

This was supported by another respondent, *"I think if there is a father figure in the house the boy will not get involved in crime because he is afraid of his father knowing, so he will be scared to do it, but when you are a single mother and you are bringing up your child alone very few of the boys grow up to be decent boys, most of them have a don't care attitude because they know there is no man in the house."JN FGD caregivers*

The same sentiments were shared by JK: *What JN is saying is true, because the responsibility of bringing up the children is entirely left to me, he keeps on lying to his son that he is going to send him money for school fees and he never does.*

A probation officer also highlighted that single parenting can lead to juvenile offending, *“Juveniles coming from single parent family have a higher chance of offending especially when raised by single mother as juveniles don’t respect their mothers the way they respect their fathers.”BA*

#### **4.1.1.4 : Emotional and physical abuse**

From the data analysis, the following findings were identified. One respondent emotionally said *“Emotional abuse is how I feel when my mother is around because she insults us. I prefer when she is away. I have never seen my father so I cannot describe my parents’ relationship. We all have different fathers and my mother did not take part in raising us. We are being raised by our grandparents” GN.*

This was supported by another juvenile respondent by stating *“Half of my life I grew up with my mum and other half in the streets, most people in my family don’t love me. They hate me and make me hate myself and regret why I was born, am stressed with many things so I use drugs”.RM*

#### **4.1.1.5 : Family history of offending**

The study identified that some of the interviewed juvenile offenders come from a family with a history of crime. For instance, a caregiver reported *“There is a history of criminality from my husband’s side, three of his brothers have been arrested due to stealing. At times I feel like it’s a*



*course because they once stole some money from their mother, my husband being among them.*

*This was after they sold her shamba and didn't give her all her money". JK*

Another caregiver added that *"If you only had a mother and she is arrested you will also have to go and steal so that you can feed yourself". AN*

A probation officer also identified family history of offending as a factor associated with juvenile offending *"some of the juvenile offenders come from family background that condone criminal activities or engage in family cultures that seem to glorify immoral behaviors".AD*

Another probation officer also explained *"There is some genetic predisposition because children from parents with a criminal history are vulnerable to engaging in criminal behavior". JO*

#### **4.1.1.6 : Parenting styles**

Different families have different ways of bringing up their children. According to my previous chapter, some parents raise their children similarly to how they were raised while others come up with different ways. From the data collected, it is evident that how parenting is done can contribute to juveniles' offending as well. Various parenting styles were mentioned as factors, such as:

##### **4.1.1.6.1 : Neglectful Parenting Style**

A caregiver during a focus group discussion shared that, *"After I gave birth to my last born my husband would move around with other women. He neglected his responsibilities towards us. My child was really affected by his behaviour as he felt that their father doesn't love them. I feel like his presence could have made a difference in her behaviour."AW.*

A fellow caregiver supported the statement and said *"A child is always afraid of the parents finding out what he is doing so they will hide their behaviors from the parents as much as*

*possible, but if the parent is not around then the child will not fear anyone". SA*

*A juvenile commented that "Since my parents separated our father has never played a role when it comes to our upbringing- he doesn't pay fees or buy food. I had to drop out of school and start looking for jobs. I forgave him for that but where I felt completely neglected by him was when he didn't even consider helping me be circumcised. I completely lost my respect for him. I got into crime as I was looking for money to help myself and my family". IL*

*A probation officer supporting the above comments added that "children who are brought up by parents who neglect them, engage in crimes" GK*

#### **4.1.1.6.2 : Permissive Parenting Style**

*A caregiver claimed that: "For me, my child was arrested due to his poor behaviors which was brought about by his upbringing by my mother where there were no firm rules. Also, refusing to discipline your child is like if he starts to steal small items and the parent knows about it but all she says is "Don't do that again". SA*

*Corroborating the previous statement another caregiver said, "The way we defend our children when they are wrong. Recently, I heard someone complain that she had hung her shoes out to dry and she was confident that a certain child is the one who stole them, but she said even if she goes to the parents of the child and reports her the parents will not accept. The problem is on us because we tend to defend our children yet we know they are doing these criminal things and we cover up the evidence completely". AO*

*A Probation officer from his experience highlighted that "In situations where the parenting style is permissive or uninvolved, there is high chances of children tending to criminal offending". KO*

#### **4.1.1.6.3 : Authoritarian Parenting Style**

With this subtheme, it was mostly discussed by probation officers. Where one stated that: ” *Most juveniles relate remotely with their parents with little conversations due to fear and hence find it difficult to share their challenges. They navigate the phases and changes in life on their own*”. JO

A colleague supported by saying, “*Juveniles who have authoritarian parents tend to rebel against parents and authority figures and exhibit offending behaviors*”.BO

Another probation officer concurred, “*I find two parenting styles; permissive and authoritarian that promote juvenile offending and delinquency especially where their immediate environment is supporting negative culture and behavior*”. AD

#### **4.1.2 : Other factors associated with juvenile offending**

In this theme various factors apart from family dysfunction were identified to be contributing to juvenile offending as mentioned by the participants. They include: poverty, idleness, peer pressure and mental illness especially substance and alcohol addiction.

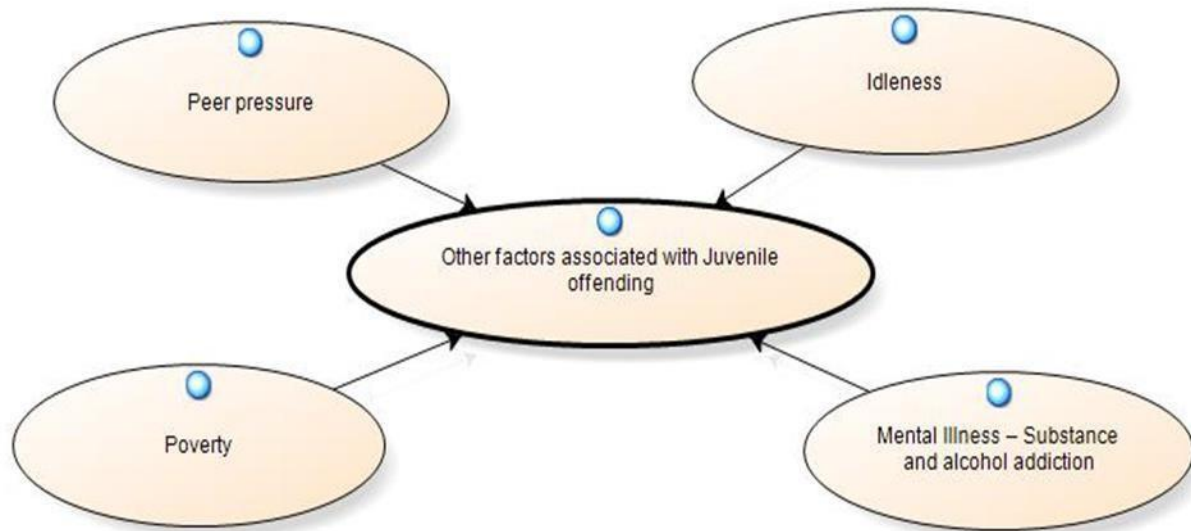


Figure 2: Other factors associated with juvenile offending

#### 4.1.2.1 : Poverty

This was among the most mentioned factors by all the participants, besides family dysfunctions. A dysfunctional family which also struggles financially, had a higher probability of producing juvenile offenders as from the findings.

<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Caregiver</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<p><i>"I did it because my parents had no money to take me to school ..... Young people get involved in crime because of their poor living</i></p>	<p><i>"Because of poverty young people are stressed and sometimes they run away from home and get involved with bad company, which in the end they start committing crimes."MN</i></p> <p><i>"Yes, that is exactly the reason why. In fact, there was a time my son confessed to me that</i></p>	<p><i>"Drug prone environments like the slums can influence juvenile offending."</i></p> <p>GK</p>

<p><i>conditions when they see parents struggling to provide". SL</i></p>	<p><i>they were very hungry and we didn't have food, I was not employed by then so we were struggling. He said he had to go and steal someone's Ugali so that they could eat something." JK</i></p>	
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**4.1.2.2 : Peer pressure**

Due to them being young, juveniles are prone to easily influence each other positively and negatively.

<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Caregiver</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<p><i>"I started living with him (a friend), we became a gang, and he showed me how to snatch people's phones and also steal from drunkards in the streets. I always say not all friends are good friends." IL</i></p>	<p><i>"I asked my son why he wouldn't stop smoking marijuana and he told me he cannot just decide to stop, he has to make it gradual, he has a cousin of his who they influence each other into bad company". JN</i></p>	<p><i>"Negative peer pressure influence juvenile offending" KO</i></p>

#### 4.1.2.3 : Idleness

During the data collection period, the researcher discovered that due to poverty some of the juveniles dropped out of school. Some of them work while others stay at home. Being free was perceived as one of the causes as to why juveniles get involved in crimes.

<i>Juvenile</i>	<i>Caregiver</i>	<i>Probation Officer</i>
<i>“Young people like drinking and staying idle and the family is silent about these things. This leads to engaging in criminal activities”. JNM</i>	<i>“Being idle. If you don’t have any work to do your mind will wander off to the wrong things like drug use or go steal”.MN  “If you sit all day idle you will not think of good things you will only think of evil ways but if your mind is occupied with work and being productive you will not think of doing anything evil. That’s why they end up joining a bad company and getting into crimes”. JW</i>	

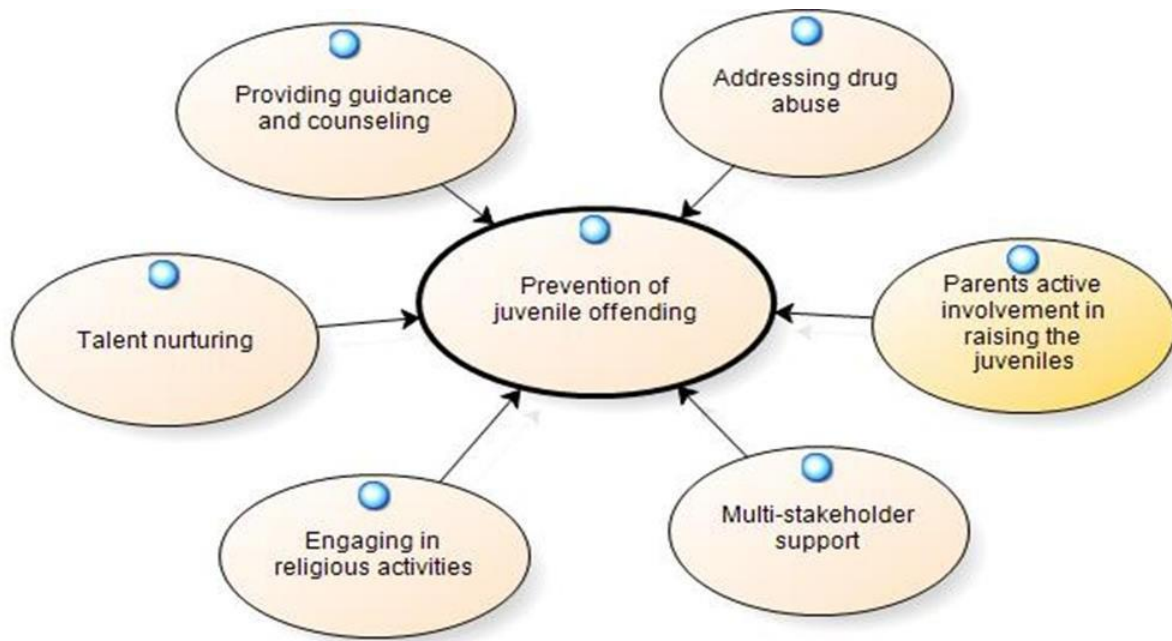
#### 4.1.2.4 : Mental Illness – Substance and alcohol addiction

This sub-theme brought about a feeling of anger to many caregivers and was associated with juvenile offending.

<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Caregiver</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<p><i>“I would say youth and crime are linked to drug use. A young guy who uses drugs is quite easily triggered to steal, especially if he stays for more than an hour without accessing any drugs he will think of going to steal so as to support his lifestyle”. IL</i></p>	<p><i>“What I would say is our children are good children. The problem is those selling them those drugs. You find that when a child uses drugs, they start to engage in some bad behaviors”. JN</i></p>	<p><i>“Drug use is very common among youths which as a result attach other related offences like possession of narcotic drugs, malicious damage, assaults and creating disturbances among other interpersonal offences”.AD</i></p>

**4.1.3 : Prevention of juvenile offending**

All the participants had different views on how juvenile offending can be prevented but the following themes stood out: Engaging in religious activities, talent nurturing and keeping juveniles engaged, providing guidance and counseling in schools, addressing drug use, parents’ active involvement in raising the juveniles and multi-stakeholder supports.



*Figure 3: Prevention of juvenile offending*

#### **4.1.3.1 : Providing guidance and counselling**

Provision of guidance and counselling was viewed as one of the ways that can help juveniles in regards to preventing them from offending. However, not many of them were aware of its importance or places one can acquire the services for themselves and their juveniles.

*A caregiver said, AS: "If possible, you can take him for a guiding and counseling session, it might be that they are very expensive but you try. For example, I tried that with my child but at times they work and at times they don't work, so you try to just talk to them and bring them close."*

From a probation officer *"Guiding and counseling should be introduced in school curriculum".BA*



Another probation officer said, *KO: Mental illness cases among the juveniles should be attended promptly. Social/ life skills should be imparted to the juveniles.*

#### **4.1.3.2 : Engaging in religious activities**

According to some of the caregivers, the only way they bring up their children is through religion. Some of their responses were as below:

*MN: Spiritual counseling of my daughters, holding dialogues and meeting to solve differences.*

*MG: I talk to them and raise them on the foundation of religion.*

*JW: I think prayer can help because you can't be sure of what happens to them while away from home.*

#### **4.1.3.3 : Talent nurturing**

Nurturing juveniles' talent and also ensuring that they are engaged in various activities was deemed important so as to prevent idleness which in return brings about juvenile offending.

A caregiver stated that *“They should promote their talents, let us say you have a talent in drawing, they should support you by buying you the materials you need to advance your drawings and encouraging and praising the work you are doing telling you how great you will be one day”*. SA

*“There are courses that can be offered like, printing course, shoe making and repair course, car painting course, such courses”*. JW

According to a juvenile, *“Keeping the young people busy in areas they enjoy and talking to them will help”*. AK

A probation officer added that, *“Juveniles need to be engaged in different activities that they are good at within the community”*. KO

#### **4.1.3.4 : Addressing the issue of substance use**

A caregiver stated that *“The government should arrest people who sell bhang to young people”*.MW

A statement provided by a probation officer who said, *“Juveniles should not have easy access to drugs such as bhang and the government should put strict measures”*.BA

Another probation officer highlighted *“Juveniles should be sensitized on drug addiction and its dangers.”*KO

#### **4.1.3.5 : Parents’ involvement in raising children and training of parenting skills**

It was deemed important for parents to be part of their children’s lives if at all the society wants to prevent juvenile offending. Suggestions were made regarding this sub-theme, like by a caregiver who said, *“I would say parents should join hands to discipline children, let it be like before where a mother would see someone else’s child misbehaving and she would sit down with him and advise him on what he has done. Additionally, parents should try not to separate so that the child can be brought up by both parents”*. JN

A juvenile said, *“Parents’ to be close with their children and allow them to be free to express their feelings and problems”* AG

Probation officer added that, *“Juveniles need mentorship programs, life skills and psychoeducation besides a shift in blending parental styles. There is a need to involve families and create awareness on effective parenting patterns”*. AD

#### **4.1.3.6 : Multi-stakeholders support**

The view by the respondents in relation to these sub-theme is that if different systems within the society could work together then juveniles would not engage in crimes. Some of their views were as follow:

*MW: Parents should be supported and intimate partner violence should be addressed because it is a contributing factor to children running away from home and engaging in crimes.*

*TMG: Our government should create a good and clean environment from drugs to raise children in schools, community and church.*

*JW: To add on that, we should try and have these children constantly monitored, if they are in school the teachers should be able to monitor the company the child keeps and her progress in school.*

## **CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 : Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary of the findings based on the data collected and analyzed.

Therefore, conclusions will be drawn and recommendations will be made in order to address the perceived impact of family dysfunction on juvenile offending. However, these conclusions are relevant to future progressive research in the same topic.

### **5.2 : Discussions**

The purpose of this study was to explore the perceived impact of family dysfunction on juvenile offending. This was done through interviewing participants and from the data collected and analysed the following findings were concluded. That there are factors within the family system that can contribute to juveniles' involvement in crime. In addition, the researcher was able to find that there are other causal factors besides family dysfunctions. Furthermore, the respondents were able to give out some ideas on how juvenile offending can be prevented. Below are the findings from the analysed data as well as studies that support the researchers' findings.

#### **5.2.1: Objective 1: Factors within family dysfunction perceived to cause juvenile offending**

Family is the basic social unit, which is responsible for offering protection and guidance to its members. It's where children are taught how to control unacceptable behaviours, delay gratification, and respect other peoples' rights. On the contrary, children can learn aggressiveness, antisocial, and violent behaviours from the family. The study's findings established that family dysfunction can have an impact in relation to juvenile offending. From the respondents' various factors were identified within family that can contribute to juveniles'

involvement with offending behaviours and discussed as follows:

Findings from this study pointed out that the majority of the juveniles were brought up in families where they witnessed domestic violence. In return, this contributed to some of their parents separating or even the juveniles being stressed out and hence looking for other means of coping with stress such as drug use. Therefore, the level of violence at home between parents or towards their children is a predisposing factor to juvenile offending as it leads to other problems such as single parenting, substance use and crime involvement. This study was evidently corroborated by other research findings such as a study done in Kenya – Malindi at a remand home by Bakari, (2021) on family factors influencing juvenile delinquency which exhibited that there is a connection between the process of family conflicts, socialization and committing of various juvenile crimes. As they not only increase domestic violence, but also violence against other members of society. Another research, comparative one on parent-adolescent relationship and juvenile delinquency done by Poduthase, ( 2012) on adolescents who have engaged in delinquency and those who have not. Found out that adolescents with delinquent behavior came from families where parental fights were common, had an alcoholic and /or abusive father and also experienced severe punishment during childhood. Additionally, a study done by Herbet et al., (2015), on delinquent behavior among students exposed to family violence on a sample population of 8,194 students aged between 14 and 20 years. The researcher found that one out of two participants had delinquent behavior and 61.8% of them had experienced one or two forms of family violence. (Perron, 2013) conducted a study on effects of family conflict and attachment on delinquency and substance use. A sample of two groups of adolescents in grade 8 and 12 was used. The researcher found that family conflict was significantly associated with juvenile delinquency and substance use.

Findings from this study showed that children who come from families where there is a history of substance use are at a risk of becoming offenders. This is due to them copying what their parents do and end up getting involved in taking substances such as bhang which is illegal in the country. Moreover, such children may tend to commit crimes such as stealing in order to support their substance use lifestyle. Also parents who use substances or alcohol tend to neglect their responsibilities leaving the children in a dilemma of finding for themselves. Which in return some opt for the quicker means such as stealing. A study supporting this finding done by Jackson, (2013) while assessing the impact of family structure, parental drug use and environmental conditions on adolescents' self-reported drug use, serious delinquency and deviant behaviors found that the outcome behaviours are affected by both home conditions and neighbourhood. A study done by Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime, showed that among 15 year olds who had a parent who uses substances then there was a double probability that the juvenile will also use drugs (Savignac, 2009). Another study done by Rathinabalan & Naaraayan, (2017) on the effects of family factors on juvenile delinquency found that maternal unemployment, single parent, paternal age more than 50 years and paternal smoking are major independent risk factors of juvenile delinquency.

Single parenting is evidently one of the contributing factors within the family dysfunctions that leads to juvenile involvement with crime as per this study's findings. This is so, as some of the causes that lead to single parenting is domestic violence and substance use which brings about neglect of responsibilities. Juveniles' from these families are at a more disadvantageous position regarding their needs being met such as provision of food and school fees. In return they get involved in stealing in order to cater for their needs, others drop out of school and unfortunately due to idleness they join gang groups or bad peer company and end up offending. Additionally, parents admitted not to spend a lot of time with their

children as they are busy working. Impact of this is that they end up having no idea what their children are up to. To others, due to single parenting they had to leave their children under the care of their grandparents who are not firm in exercising behaviour management. The complex process of divorce or separation that involves multiple changes in the family also impacts on the children's emotions, health and behavior where some express it through aggressiveness. This finding was supported by previous studies such as: Kroese et al., (2020), did a systematic review study on growing up in single-parent led families and criminal involvement of adolescents. The results established that, growing up in single- parent families is associated with an increased probability of adolescents' involvement in criminal activities. Ikäheimo et al., (2013) who studied on the influence of family structure on criminality in adolescents, established that adolescents who came from single parent families, child welfare placements and the one who do not live with their biological parents showed a greater risk of offending at an earlier age than adolescents from families with two parents. In addition a study done by Kago, (2018) on paternal involvement and adolescent delinquency found out nearly half of the participants grew up without a father figure either due to divorce, death, not living together, or unmarried. The adolescents presented with delinquency problems, including substance abuse, parental defiance, and assaultiveness. Another supportive study was by Onsando et al., (2021) study on influence of family structure on development of male delinquency at Kamiti Youth Correctional and Training Center. Using a sample size of 68 males aged between 15 and 18 years, they found that the majority of the juveniles came from families where parents were absent (33.6%). 30.9% came from single parents' households while 23.5% were from grandparents headed families.

Child abuse is a serious global problem, which take form in various form from physical, sexual and emotional. From the findings, the study postulated that the juveniles who participated, in one way or another, have experienced some form of abuse directly from their parents. One even prefers when his mother is away due to the fact that she keeps on insulting them especially when drunk. Probation officer acknowledged that the lack of good relationship between juveniles and their parents' leads to them keeping their challenges to themselves. Some run away from home as they feel misunderstood and unloved, so they prefer living in the streets. Poor communication between the juveniles and their parents has shown to interfere with their education and also self-esteem. These children are not given room to express themselves hence they look for platforms where they can be heard, of which it might be negative environments. This finding was supported by a study done by Currie & Tekin, (2012) on childhood maltreatment and future crime using data from a longitudinal study. The results showed that maltreatment increases the probability of juveniles engaging in crime and the probability increases with constant exposure to multiple forms of maltreatment. Yao et al., (2022) did an exploratory study of child maltreatment and chronic offending in a sample of Chinese juvenile offenders and found that the majority of them experienced at least one type of maltreatment. Various studies in Australia state that there is a relationship between children who are exposed to neglect and abuse and social problems like substance use and running away from home (Cashmore, 2011). This finding was also supported by Yusuf et al., (2021) when they conducted a research in Nigeria among adolescents in government remand homes on perception on the role of parenting styles on juvenile delinquency, found that parental abuse stands as the key predictor of juvenile delinquency among the adolescent.



Different parenting styles were found to be contributing to juvenile offending namely: neglecting, authoritarian and permissive parenting. Probation officers said that most juveniles come from neglected families especially if parents use substances. This layer makes the juvenile take responsibilities for themselves. Permissive parenting was one of the styles found to contribute to juvenile offending. This was evidently as parents stated that some parents are aware of their children's misconduct but still defend them when they are on the wrong. Some parents are also lenient when it comes to punishing those misconducts and accommodate the behaviours. A supportive study to this finding was done by Tapia et al., (2018), exploring on gendered relationships through parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. The results came out that authoritarian, permissive and neglectful parenting were associated with the highest number of delinquents. Another supportive study You & Lim, (2015) on longterm relationship between abusive parenting type and adolescent mental health and the path to delinquent behavior. The results showed that parental abuse and neglect in emotional or physical form had an impact in child's aggression and depression. To add onto the supportive studies, Poduthase, (2012), did a study on parent-adolescent relationship and juvenile delinquency in India. The sample size was a population of 21 adolescent boys between the ages of 14 -17 years. The researcher found out that adolescents with no delinquent behavior, experienced higher parental guidance, attachment and involvement. Kimingiri, (2015) , did a study on the influence of parenting styles in juvenile delinquency and from his findings, parenting styles influence juvenile delinquency.

One of the respondents stated that they come from families where being apprehended for committing a crime is not new as three of his uncles have been arrested. Some of the juveniles stated that if a parent is arrested a child will have to steal as well in order to survive.

Supporting this finding, a study done by Tzoumakis et al., (2019) on parental offending and

children's conduct problems found that parental offending increases a child's likelihood of conduct problems. Another supportive study is by Hoeve et al., (2011), who researched on maternal and paternal parenting styles, unique and combined links to adolescent and early adult delinquency. The study was conducted on a sample population of 330 families with children aged between 14-22 years. The researcher found that delinquency levels were lower in families with at least one authoritative parent and highest in families where both parents are neglectful. Van Dijk et al., (2019), in Amsterdam, carried out an explorative and qualitative study on mechanism of intergenerational continuity on families of organized crime. The study population consisted of 25 organized offenders and their 48 children who were 19 years old. The results showed that the majority of the organized crime offenders' sons followed in their fathers' footprints.

### **5.2.1 : Objective 2: Other factors that cause juvenile offending**

From the study's finding poverty levels is one of the factors that contribute to juvenile offending as due to lack of money can lead people to steal. The lack of money also exposes the juveniles to the probability of them dropping out of school, running away from home and starting looking for jobs, some of which are illegal since they lack skills and need quick money. Additionally, poor economic circumstances tend to turn stable families into disorganized environments which exposes the children to juvenile delinquency (Bakari, 2021). Juvenile respondents stated it is hard to see your family struggling and yet there is nothing that you can do about it. Studies that align with these findings include one done by Amama, (2015) on impact of urbanization on juvenile delinquency that found inadequate parental supervision, urban poverty, lack of self-control, relative deprivation and access to illegal means as associated with juvenile delinquency.

Another supportive study done by Effiom, (2014) when assessing the impact of poverty on criminal behaviour among youths found poverty to have a significant influence on criminal tendencies among youths. An additional study which was done by (Corbett, 2019), a systematic review on parental influence and other demographic factors such as socioeconomic and race on juvenile delinquency. The results showed a small connection between poor parenting and delinquency and strong positive association between low income families and juvenile delinquency.

An idle mind is the devils' workshop, is one of the statements provided by a respondent. A child who is not engaged has all the time to be occupied with the wrong things like stealing, using substance and join bad company. This was supported by a study done by Miric, (2016) on leisure time and juvenile delinquency which found that most juveniles commit crimes during their leisure times that is when they are bored or idle.

While friends can be a basis of support and wellbeing, they can also have negative effects on an individual. Juveniles tend to be influenced by the type of friends that they have during the adolescent period. According to this study findings, juveniles offend as a result of peer pressure. This is mostly when they see their peers doing something and they want to belong so they end up doing it as well. Some of them admitted that they get to be influenced and groomed into crime by their friends. A study conducted by Arshat, et al., (2021) in government remand homes on the role of peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents, found that there is a significant correlation between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescents.

Another study by Zakaria et al., (2022) in Malaysia on the role of family life and the influence of peer pressure on delinquency showed that parent separation, parental un-involvement, criminal gang membership, peer pressure and parents' involvement in crime were the significant factors

for involvement in delinquency. A study in Kenya by Odhiambo, (2019), on socio-economic factors (family, peers, unemployment and media ) contribution to juvenile behavior among the youth, using a sample of 130 respondents. The study established that poverty and unemployment do not contribute to juvenile delinquency. However, some parenting styles and criminal activities within the neighbourhood such as substance use were found to be positively associated with delinquency.

From the analysis of the data, juveniles have become more prone to using substances like bhang. This places them in a position of being arrested due to being in possession of narcotics and stealing. Drug abuse brings about compulsive economic behaviour whereby some users use violence so as to afford the substances, whereby they end up incarcerated. On the contrary, adolescents who engage in substance use mostly perceive it difficult to express their concerns and problems, bringing about poor relations (Bireda, 2018). Reeta & Singh, (2020) did a study on substance use and criminality among juveniles under enquiry, where they found out that out of 487 juveniles under enquiry booked under different crimes 86.44% of the sample had a history of substance use. A similar study by Koh et al., (2017) among adolescents from an addiction-treatment sample on violence, delinquent behaviors, and drug use disorders found that, drug use was worse in adolescents with a history of violent delinquency, then followed by adolescents with non-violent delinquency history and lastly those without a history of delinquency.

### **5.2.2 : Objective 3: How to prevent juvenile offending**

Children are naturally not born as social beings, conforming to the society's rules. Therefore, it is up to other society members such as primary caregivers like parents to ensure that they adapt to societal norms. From the data collected, various suggestions were mentioned by the 3 categories

of participants regarding preventive measures against juvenile offending in regards to family dysfunctions.

The study findings showed that guidance and counselling was suggested to be one of the preventive measures against juvenile offending. It was recommended for it to be part of the school curriculum. Juveniles need mentorship programs, life skills and psychoeducation on crime and the effects of substance use. This was in regard mostly due to the increase in substance

use by juveniles which brings about misconduct which attracts other offences. These findings were corroborated by a study done by Young et al., (2017b), on juvenile delinquency, welfare, justice and therapeutic interventions: a global perspective. The researcher found that adoption of evidence-based therapeutic interventions was associated with better reductions in recidivism compared with penal methods when dealing with juvenile delinquency.

From the current study, it was observed that most juveniles do not have a close relationship with their parents. This could be as a result of parents separating leaving parenting responsibility to one, who ends up becoming preoccupied with responsibilities that he or she lacks time to bond with them. It could also be as a result of delegating parenting responsibilities to extended family members who might have trouble in carrying out proper supervision. Hence, counselling of juveniles by their parents, communication, supervision and showing affection are some of the ways suggested in the study to parents as a form of helping juveniles not to offend. This tends to promote family relations and increasing attachment between parents and their children, leading to decrease in juvenile offending. Another finding was parents to be involved when it comes to raising their children and if possible not to separate. Additionally, it was pointed out that there is a need to involve families in children and adolescents related programmes as well as create

awareness on effective parenting patterns. This was supported by a study done by Fagan & Benedini, ( 2016) where they did an evaluation review study on the effectiveness of family-focused interventions in decreasing child externalizing behaviors, substance use, and/or delinquency, and they found over half (62 %) of all tests of mediation, showed that improvements within family environment were linked to reductions in antisocial behaviours.

In this subtheme, the participants suggested that the different social systems come up with mechanisms on how to prevent juvenile offending. For instance, religious interventions such as religious counselling or behaviour interventions. Other stakeholders were schools, it was suggested that teachers need to assist parents in monitoring students' behaviours while at school, like the type of friends they have. This finding was supported by a control group study done by Michaelsen, (2016), on the effect of early intervention programmes on at-risk juveniles. The sample population was of 500 families and the results stated that early interventions through the family, educational system and generalized community as a whole, reduces delinquent behaviour and recidivism.

For the government to ensure that no child is left at home idle or drops out of school due to learning difficulties it was suggested that they need to engage the youths in different activities within the communities. This could be done through nurturing of talents or ensuring availability of resources for such. Government can also sensitize the youths against drug use, come up with strict laws and policies regarding drugs and ensure that people selling drugs are arrested. In support of this finding, Kelly,(2013) did an analysis study on youth crime and antisocial behaviour reduction policies and a qualitative study on sport based interventions. She found three ways in which sports based interventions leads to youth crime reduction: providing different activities, development of supportive and mentoring relationships and influence of

ways in which violent behaviors are dealt with by criminal justice agencies through multi agency relationships and partnerships.

Lastly, for gender based violence to be addressed as it's one of the reasons why some children run away from their homes. Unfortunately, upon running, they end up getting involved in odd situations like illegal jobs or bad company as a means of survival, which in the long run they engage in criminal activities.

### **5.3 : Conclusions**

Juvenile delinquency is being experienced by many countries around the world. Therefore, it is important to remember that a child's behaviour largely depends on the environment that he or she is born or raised in. Thus knowledge on the cause and how to prevent it is very important. So that as a community we get to understand how to bring about positive behaviours from children. The study focused on the perceived influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviours. From the findings it is evident that the family unit has a significant impact on juvenile offending. What children learn and experience plays an important role towards their growth and development. Hence a toxic family environment can have a negative effect on the behaviours of its members especially children and adolescents. This stems from change in family structure, domestic violence, substance use by the parents, existence of history of criminality within the family, children exposure to abuse and the different parenting styles. Hence the challenges mentioned above render the family system dysfunctional and come out as the key variables that influence juvenile offending. From the current study, it is evident that family factors tend to affect one another which in return impact on its members negatively. Due to various experiences that the study participants have gone through such as witnessing family instability, maltreatment, parental divorce, single parent household. These factors tend to

interfere with the socio economic aspect, educational outcomes and contribute to risky and delinquent behaviours. Other associated factors that were picked from the findings include: poverty, peer influence, being idle and mental disorders. It is evident that a clear understanding of the family systems characteristics appears to be important in order to prevent juvenile offending as well as to improve the effectiveness of corrective and educational interaction plus therapeutic process of rehabilitation. Children need stable family environments consisting of protective and nurturing parents, for them to grow positively into their full potential. Evidence indicates that by targeting family-based risk factors, and/or reinforcing protective factors, can reduce the prevalence of juvenile delinquency.

#### **5.4: Recommendations**

The researcher makes the following recommendations in regards to the findings:

1. Public sensitization on the association between children's outcomes and family dysfunctions. The sensitization can be done during public forums where parents are involved such as academic days or religious gatherings. Parents can also be taken through modern strategies of behavior which are effective and socially adaptive. So as to provide adolescents with the needed educational impact, psychological and social support.
2. Government to review economic policies in order to ease poverty levels in families. For instance, the government should consider the provision of counseling and mentoring programs for children and adolescents affordable or offer economic empowerment to the public. Also, formulation of policies that would protect the rights of the child in the event the parents decide to separate or divorce.



3. Learning institutions should hire professional therapists or counselors whose only job will be to offer therapy or counseling sessions and awareness programmes to their students who are experiencing emotional instability, family problems and other related issues.
4. Education systems should offer particular care and attention to the problems, needs and perception of young persons. This could be through developing specialized prevention programmes and educational materials, approaches, curricula and tools. Teachers should also be equipped and trained to prevent and deal with conduct problems from early levels.
5. The juvenile justice systems should be designed in a way that takes into consideration all the risk factors leading to juvenile offending so as to address child related crimes from a solution's perspective rather than from a linear approach of offenses and penalties.
6. Multi-sectoral approach when dealing with juvenile crime. Sectors within social systems such as the community, schools, religious sectors, non-governmental organizations and government authorities can combine efforts to address juvenile crime.
7. This study provides an opportunity to further analyze resources and/or policy related to family dysfunction and juvenile offending for future researchers.

### **5.5: Limitation of the study**

Some of the respondents were skeptical about sharing some of their home situations. However the researcher assured the respondents orally before administering the research instruments about anonymity and confidentiality of their shared information. Additionally, the research instruments introduction also emphasized confidentiality, anonymity and the purpose of the study.

## 5.6: Study contributions

1. The study findings will be shared with the Probation office, the researcher hopes that, the Probation Office will utilize the research findings as a means of understanding the juveniles in regards to offending wholistically. This in turn will assist them to come up with policies that will help the juveniles rather than focusing on punishment only.
2. Additionally, the findings can also be used by other court users apart from the probation office such as the judiciary system, children's department, social work department and police officers in understanding the role of family in regards to juvenile offending. Hence formulate policies that focus on how to prevent further offending by including caregivers.
3. Publication of the dissertation in national journal publications for the public to have access to it for empowerment and encouraging future research.

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## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix I: Adult Consent Form**

**Title of the study:** PERCEIVED INFLUENCE OF FAMILY DYSFUNCTION ON JUVENILE OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

**Researcher:** JACINTA WAGITHI MURIUKI

#### **Overview and Purpose**

Hello, am Jacinta Muriuki from the University of Nairobi School of Medicine and Health Sciences – Department of Psychiatry. I want to do a study on the perceived influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviours. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether or not to be a participant in the study. I will briefly explain what the research is all about, in case you do not understand anything, you are free to ask any questions. When you feel like you have understood the information given and you are willing to take part in this study, then I will ask you to sign your name in this form. You will get a copy of it for yourself. You should understand the general principles which apply to all participants in research: i) Your decision to participate is entirely voluntary ii) You may withdraw from the study at any time without necessarily giving a reason for your withdrawal iii) Refusal to participate in the research will not affect the services you are entitled to in any facilities.

#### **What will happen if you decide to be in this research study?**

If you agree to participate in this study, the following things will happen:

You will fill a socio-demographic questionnaire and interview questions and also participate in group discussions. We will ask you questions about perceived influence of family dysfunction on

juvenile offending behavior. The questions should take about 30 – 60 minutes to answer. You may choose not to answer any and all of the questions, and you may stop the interview at any time.

### **Risk**

Since this study doesn't involve any experiment or consumption of anything we expect minimal risks such as the possibility of feeling uncomfortable due to some questions.

### **Benefits**

We hope that the results of the study will help you in preventing future family dysfunctions and, we also hope that the information obtained will assist the government in setting up programmes that focus on improving family dynamics so as to prevent adolescent's involvement with crime.

### **Compensation**

You will not be given any financial incentive to take part in this research. The respondents will not receive any form of compensation as the research has no funding and the researcher is still a student.

### **Confidentiality**

Your name will only appear on the consent forms. Any other personal information about you will never appear in any reports or publications about this study. As we will give you a code hence your name will not be connected with anything you say in our records. Only the researcher in this study will have access to the information you share with us. Your answers will only be used by the University of Nairobi for research purposes only. All of your answers will be kept confidential. We will not share your answers with anyone outside of the study team.

The answers you share with us will be stored in a password protected computer and we will keep all of our paper records in a locked file cabinet. However, no system of protecting your confidentiality can be absolutely secure, so it is still possible that someone could find out you were in this study and could find out information about you. Also, answering questions in the interview may be uncomfortable for you. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, you can skip them. You have the right to refuse the interview or any questions asked during the interview.

### **Terms of participation**

Participation in this study is purely voluntary. Meaning that, you are free not to participate in this project, you may end your participation at any time for any reason, and you may choose not to answer any questions without anything bad happening having any impact on the probation sentencing.

### **What if you have Questions in the future?**

If you have any problems or questions about this study, you may contact the Secretary/Chairperson, Kenyatta National Hospital-University of Nairobi Ethics and Research Committee Telephone No. 2726300 Ext. 44102 email [uonknh\\_erc@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:uonknh_erc@uonbi.ac.ke). You can also contact the researcher [*Jacinta Muriuki*] at [*0704322307*] or go to [*University of Nairobi School of Medicine and Health Sciences- Department of Psychiatry*].

### **Participant's statement**

I have read the above information, or it has been read to me. I have had my questions answered in a language that I understand. The risks and benefits have been explained to me. I understand that my participation in this study is voluntary and that I may choose to withdraw any time. I

freely agree to participate in this research study.

I understand that I am not giving up any rights by signing this form and agreeing to participate in this study. All of my questions have been answered and I agree to participate in this study. I understand that all efforts will be made to keep information regarding my personal identity confidential.

By signing the below, I am agreeing to the terms described above

**Name of the respondent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of the respondent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher's statement**

I, the undersigned, have fully explained the relevant details of this research study to the participant named above and believe that the participant has understood and has willingly and freely given his/her consent.

**Researcher's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** -----

**Date:** -----

**Witness Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** -----

**Date:** -----

## **Appendix II: Parent Consent Form**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this form is to provide you as the guardian of a prospective research study participant information that may affect your decision as to allow/not allow the juvenile to participate in the research study. This form will also be used to record your consent if you decide to let the juvenile be involved in this study. If you agree, your child will be asked to participate in a research study. The purpose of the interview is to gain understanding and awareness about the perceived influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behavior. The interview will last no longer than one hour. The juveniles will be selected based on a voluntary basis and upon approval from the director of the In-Charge, Ngong Probation Office.

### **What will the Juvenile be asked to do?**

If you allow the juvenile to participate in this study, he/she will be asked to engage in an interview and focus group discussion process with the researcher where he/she will be able to share personal experiences, thoughts, and feelings about their life. The juvenile will meet with the researcher on three occasions in a private setting. The first meeting is to inform the juvenile of the study. The second meeting is for the interview process. The final meeting is where the juvenile will meet with all of the juvenile offenders who have participated to review common information and gather any final thoughts.

### **What will happen if you decide you want your child to be in this research study?**

If you agree for your child to participate in this study, the following things will happen: He/she will be interviewed by a trained interviewer in a private area where he/she feels comfortable answering questions. The interview will last approximately 60 minutes.

### **What are the risks involved in this study?**

There may be minimal risks and do not exceed what your child would experience in a physical or

psychological interview. Risks involved in participants may include fearing to expose personal experiences. The risks associated in this study are minimal, and are not greater than risks your child ordinarily encounters in daily life.

**What are the possible benefits of this study?**

The possible benefits of participation in the study are an increase in a juvenile's self-awareness and the opportunity to share their experiences and voice their perceptions and concerns regarding their lived experience.

**Does the juvenile have to participate in the study?**

No, the juvenile does not have to be in the study. You can agree to allow the juvenile to be in the study now and change your mind later without any penalty.

**What if the juvenile does not want to participate?**

In addition to your permission, the juvenile must agree to participate in the study. There are no positive or negative repercussions for agreeing or refusing to participate in the study. If the juvenile initially agrees to be in the study, he/she can withdraw at any point during the study.

**Confidentiality**

This study is confidential. No one will know that your child participates in the study. The records of this study will be kept private. Research records will be stored securely in locked filing cabinets and only the researcher will have access to the records.

**What if you have questions in future?**

If you have further questions or concerns about your child participating in this study, you may contact the Secretary/Chairperson, Kenyatta National Hospital-University of Nairobi Ethics and Research Committee Telephone No. 2726300 Ext. 44102 email [uonknh\\_erc@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:uonknh_erc@uonbi.ac.ke). You can also contact the researcher [*Jacinta Muriuki*] at [*0704322307*] or go to [*University of Nairobi School of Medicine and Health Sciences- Department of Psychiatry*].

**Consent form (statement of consent)**

The person being considered for this study is unable to consent for him/herself because he or she is a minor (a person less than 18 years of age). You are being asked to give your permission to include your child in this study.

**Parent/guardian statement**

I have read this consent form or had the information read to me. I have had my questions answered by him or her in a language that I understand. The risks and benefits have been explained to me. I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form after signing it. I understand that my participation and that of my child in this study is voluntary and that I may choose to withdraw it any time. I understand that all efforts will be made to keep information regarding me and my child's personal identity confidential.

By signing this consent form, I have not given up my child's legal rights as a participant in this research study.

I voluntarily agree to my child's participation in this research study: Yes    No

**Parent/Guardian signature /Thumb stamp:** -----

**Parent/Guardian printed name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



**Researcher's statement**

I, the undersigned, have fully explained the relevant details of this research study to the participant named above and believe that the participant has understood and has willingly and freely given his/her consent.

**Researcher's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** -----

**Date:** -----

**Witness Printed Name:** -----

**Contact information:** -----

**Signature /Thumb stamp:** -----

**Date;** --- \_\_\_\_\_

### **Appendix III: Assent Form**

**Title of the study:** PERCEIVED INFLUENCE OF FAMILY DYSFUNCTION ON JUVENILE OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

**Researcher:** JACINTA WAGITHI MURIUKI

I am doing a research study about the perceived influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behavior. This research study is a way to learn more about people. At least 20 adolescents will be participating in this research study with you. If you decide that you want to be part of this study, you will be asked to engage in an interview and focus group discussion process with the researcher where you will be able to share personal experiences, thoughts, and feelings about your life. You will meet with the researcher on three occasions in a private setting. The first meeting is to inform you of the study. The second meeting is for the interview process. The final meeting is where you will meet with all of the juvenile offenders who have participated to review common information and gather any final thoughts.

There are some things about this study you should know. These are: there may be minimal risks which do not exceed what you would experience in physical or psychological interview. They may include fearing to expose personal experiences. The possible benefits of participation in the study are increase in self-awareness and the opportunity to share your experiences and voice your perceptions and concerns regarding your lived experience.

If you do not want to be in this research study, we will tell you what other kinds of treatments there are for you. When we are finished with this study we will write a report about what was learned. This report will not include your name or that you were in the study. You do not have to be in this

study if you do not want to be. If you decide to stop after we begin, that's okay too. Your parents know about the study too.

If you decide you want to be in this study, please sign your name.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, want to be in this research

study. Signature/Thumb stamp: ---- \_\_\_\_\_ -

Date: .....

## **Appendix IV: Tools for Juvenile Offenders**

Dear participants, I am Jacinta Muriuki, a student at University of Nairobi. I am requesting you to participate in this research by completing the following questionnaire. The questionnaire is very brief and should take less than 30 minutes to complete. This study aims to explore the perceived impact of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviours. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and all information collected in this survey will be kept strictly confidential. Please answer all questions honestly; you will not be “judged” based on your responses. The information gathered will only be used for study purposes. If you do not wish to answer a question, please draw a line through it. When completed, the form will be quickly reviewed to make sure you didn’t mistakenly skip questions (without crossing them out). Please feel free to ask if you need any of the questions explained to you.” Thank you for giving your valuable time to complete the following survey questionnaire.

### **SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE**

Participant Identification Code: .....

Date: .....

Contact: .....

	<b>SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHI C CHARACTERISTICS</b>	
Q1.	What is your gender?	1. Male 2. Female 3. Others : Specify .....
Q2.	How old are you (Una miaka mingapi)?	
Q3.	What is your religion (Dini yako ni ipi)s?	1. Catholic (Mkatoliki) 2. Protestant (Mprotestanti) 3. Muslim (Muislamu) 4. Hindu (Mhindi) 5. Other: Specify.....
Q4.	What is your highest level of education?	1. Primary 2. Secondary 3. Vocational Training
Q5.	What is your marital status?	1. Single 2. Dating 3. Married
Q6.	What is your employment status?	1. Employed 2. Unemployed 3. Self-employed 4. Part – time work
Q7.	Are both your parents alive?	1. Yes 2. No

Q8.	Do you have any siblings?	1. Yes: Specify how many..... 2. No
Q9.	Whom do you live with?	1. Mother 2. Father 3. Both parents 4. Other: Specify.....

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. Explain to me what happened that you find yourself in probation?

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

2. What has been your probation experience?

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

3. Discuss your understanding of a home or a family?

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

4. Discuss your experience while growing up within your home.

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

5. Describe a typical day in your family.

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

6. Growing up, how can you describe your parents' relationship?

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

7. Can you tell me what you know about abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, psychological

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

8. Describe your roles within your family

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

9. What is your knowledge about mental health illnesses?

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

10. Tell me about your views on juveniles' involvement in crime?

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

11. What would you like to change about your family?

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

12. How can juvenile offending be prevented?

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

13. Any other comments you have that you think are important for the study?

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

**Closing Statement:** I would like to thank you again for your participation and the ability and opportunity to document your perspective



## **Interview Guide for juveniles**

1. Probe: Type of offense, reason for offending, history of criminality within the family, committed by who and reason behind it,
2. Probe: Remorse, any lessons learnt
3. Probe: General idea of what a family or home is
4. Probe: Raised by who, if by extended family reason for it, type of family, adaptation, attachment, parenting styles exposed to
5. Probe: Bonding or how they spend time as a family
6. Probe: Existence of conflicts , arguments, abuse or fights, frequency, impact upon family members
7. Probe: Exposure to any form of abuse, was it by a stranger or familiar person, which steps were taken, how he/she felt in regards to the family
8. Probe: Family roles, discrimination, favoritism
9. Probe: Idea on mental health, family history of substance use, psychopathology history and type of illness, impact on family functionality
10. Probe: Causes, rate, difference in gender and reasons, role of family in causing juvenile offending behaviours
11. Probe: Thoughts on improving their family dynamics
12. Probe: Ideas on how to prevent juvenile offending.
13. Probe: General concept in relation to juvenile offending

## **Focus Group Discussion Guide**

1. What do you understand by the word juvenile offending?

Probe: Definition

2. According to your knowledge, what are some of the causal factors leading to juvenile offending behaviours?

Probe: more on family related causes

3. Describe family dysfunction.

Probe: focus on objectives

4. In your opinion, what leads to family dysfunction?

Probe: Does it occur in every family

5. In your view, how does family dysfunction affect its members?

Probe: relation with juvenile offending, focus on objectives

6. What can be done to prevent juvenile offending

## **Appendix V: Tools for Parents/Guardian of the Juvenile Offenders**

Dear participants, I am Jacinta Muriuki, a student at University of Nairobi. I am requesting you to participate in this research by completing the following questionnaire. The questionnaire is very brief and should take less than 30 minutes to complete. This study aims to explore the perceived impact of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviours. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and all information collected in this survey will be kept strictly confidential. Please answer all questions honestly; you will not be “judged” based on your responses. The information gathered will only be used for the following study purposes. If you do not wish to answer a question, please draw a line through it. When completed, the form will be quickly reviewed to make sure you didn’t mistakenly skip questions (without crossing them out). Please feel free to ask if you need any of the questions explained to you.” Thank you for giving your valuable time to complete the following survey questionnaire.

### **SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE**

Participant Identification Code: .....

Date: .....

Contact: .....

	<b>SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS</b>	
Q1.	What is your gender?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Male</li> <li>2. Female</li> <li>3. Others: Specify.....</li> </ol>
Q2.	How old are you?	

Q3.	What is your religion?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Catholic</li> <li>2. Protestant</li> <li>3. Muslim</li> <li>4. Hindu</li> <li>5. Other: Specify.....</li> </ol>
Q4.	What is your highest level of education?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. None</li> <li>2. Primary</li> <li>3. Secondary</li> <li>4. Vocational Training / College</li> <li>5. University</li> </ol>
Q5.	What is your marital status?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Single</li> <li>2. Married</li> <li>3. Separated</li> <li>4. Divorced</li> <li>5. Widow</li> <li>6. Widower</li> </ol>

Q6.	What is your employment status?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Unemployed</li><li>2. Employed: Specify.....</li><li>3. Self-employed: Specify.....</li></ol>
Q7.	How many children do you have?	

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Describe your relationship with your children?

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

2. What are your views on juvenile criminal behaviours?

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

3. Describe your family set up.

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

4. Explain how you brought up your children?

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

5. When growing up how was your family?

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

6. What do you know about mental health illness?

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

7. What are some of the ways or programs that can be used to prevent the increase in juvenile offending behaviours?

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

8. What do you think would be the best way to move forward and make things better for your family?

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

9. Is there anything else that would be useful to my study?

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

**Closing Statement:** I would like to thank you again for your participation and the ability and opportunity to document your perspective

## **Interview Guide**

1. Probe: How much time spent with them, bonding, family roles
2. Probe: View on juvenile offending, causes, role of family in causing juvenile offending, history of criminality in the family
3. Probe: Type of family, marital history and adaptation by children, presence of gender abuse, impact on family
4. Probe: Parenting styles, attachment, communication
5. Probe: Childhood experiences, what the parent carried forward to his/her current family, how does it impact the family
6. Probe: Idea of mental health illness, family history of substance or alcohol use, frequency of use, psychopathological illnesses, impact on family functionality
7. Probe: Idea of preventing juveniles,
8. Probe: Changes on family relations
9. Probe: General ideas in relation to juvenile offending



## **Focus Group Discussion Guide for Parents**

1. What do you understand by the word juvenile offending?

Probe: Definition

2. According to your knowledge, what are some of the causal factors leading to juvenile offending behaviours?

Probe: more on family related causes

3. Describe family dysfunction.

Probe: focus on objectives

4. In your opinion, what leads to family dysfunction?

Probe: Does it occur in every family

5. In your view, how does family dysfunction affect its members?

Probe: relation with juvenile offending, focus on objectives

6. What can be done to prevent juvenile offending?

**Appendix VI: Tools for Key Informants (Probation Officers)**

Dear participants, I am Jacinta Muriuki, a student at University of Nairobi. I am requesting you to participate in this research by completing the following questionnaire. The questionnaire is very brief and should take less than 30 minutes to complete. This study aims to explore the perceived impact of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviours. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and all information collected in this survey will be kept strictly confidential. Please answer all questions honestly; you will not be “judged” based on your responses. The information gathered will only be used for the following study purposes. If you do not wish to answer a question, please draw a line through it. When completed, the form will be quickly reviewed to make sure you didn’t mistakenly skip questions (without crossing them out). Please feel free to ask if you need any of the questions explained to you.” Thank you for giving your valuable time to complete the following survey questionnaire.

**SOCIO – DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE**

Participant Identification Code: .....

Date: .....

Gender: Male  Female  Others

Age: .....

Designation: .....

Religion: .....

Residence: .....

Contact: .....

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What can you say about juvenile offenders?

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

2. What can you say about family criminal history and juveniles offending

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

3. What is your opinion on parenting styles and juvenile offending behaviours?

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.....

4. In your opinion, describe the relationship between mental illness and juvenile offending.

.....  
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.....

5. Describe your perceptions and experiences regarding the relationships between these juveniles and their parent(s)/guardian.

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

6. In your opinion what influences juvenile offending behaviours?

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.....  
.....

7. From your working experience, what can be done to prevent juvenile offending?

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

**Interview Guide**

1. Probe: Rate, Common gender, educational background, family background
2. Probe: Impact
3. Probe: Parenting type that are more prevalent and impact
4. Probe: how many are affected, is it linked to family or individual decisions
5. Probe: how do they cope, substance and alcohol use, how does it contribute to offending behaviours, common type of mental illness
6. Probe: General causes , role of family
7. Probe: prevention done, what the government is planning to do

## **Appendix VII: Focus Group Consent Form Purpose**

You have been invited to participate in a focus group discussion for a research study on perceived influence of family dysfunction on juvenile offending behaviors. The study will be conducted by Jacinta Muriuki, a student from the University of Nairobi, School of Medicine and Health Sciences– department of psychiatry. The purpose of this focus group is to find out: the perceived relationship between family dysfunction and juvenile offending behaviours. The information obtained in this focus group will solely be used for learning purposes and hopefully in the management of juvenile offending by relevant stakeholders.

This form explains the goals of this focus group, study procedures, risks and benefits. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign this form at the end.

### **Procedure**

In this study, you will be placed in a group of 8 – 10 individuals. The researcher, who will also be the moderator in the group discussions, will ask you several questions while facilitating. A note-taker will also be present. The discussions will take about an hour and will be audio-recorded in order to capture what is said and ensure accuracy. The researcher would love to hear the diverse viewpoints therefore everyone is encouraged to contribute their thoughts. Kindly note that there are no right or wrong answers to focus group questions. Out of respect, please do not interrupt others. However, do not be afraid to speak up even when your responses counter those of other group members. We request that your phones be turned off or be in silent mode. If you cannot and must respond to a call, please do so as quietly as possible and rejoin us as quickly as you can. You may also request that the recording be paused at any time, during the discussions.

## **Benefits and Risks**

Your participation may benefit you and others by understanding the influence of family dysfunction on its members, hence developing ways of curbing it. No huge risks are anticipated. However, you may find answering some of the questions upsetting, though it won't be different from the kinds of things you experience with family or friends. Another risk is feeling vulnerable during or after the group after sharing your experiences with group members. Even though we will try to maintain confidentiality, it's not certain that fellow group members will.

## **Voluntary participation**

Being in the focus group is voluntary, meaning that you don't have to take part in it. You may stop at any time during the course of the study with no consequences or need to justify your decision. In such a case, all your information regarding your participation will be destroyed.

You are allowed not to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

## **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality will be observed as, and no names will be included in the final report but the assigned codes. The information you will share with us will be kept in a password-protected computer and only accessible by the researcher. After the focus group recordings are typed they will be destroyed. Regrettably, while the researcher will be cautious in maintaining confidentiality, she will not guarantee it will be so due to the nature of focus groups. Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to respect the privacy of other focus group members by not disclosing any content discussed during the study.

**Contact**

If you have further questions or concerns about your participation in this study, you may contact the Secretary/Chairperson, Kenyatta National Hospital-University of Nairobi Ethics and Research Committee Telephone No. 2726300 Ext. 44102 email [uonknh\\_erc@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:uonknh_erc@uonbi.ac.ke). You can also contact the researcher [*Jacinta Muriuki*] at [*0704322307*] or go to [*University of Nairobi School of Medicine and Health Sciences- Department of Psychiatry*].

**Statement of voluntary consent**

I understand this information and agree to participate fully under the conditions stated above.

When signing this form I am agreeing to voluntarily participate in the focus group. I have had a chance to read this consent form, and it was explained to me in a language which I use and understand. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have received satisfactory answers. Sign name: .....

Date: .....

Print name: .....

## **Appendix VIII: Swahili Version of Data Collection Tools for Parents and Juvenile Offenders**

### **a. Fomu ya Idhini ya Watu Wazima**

**Kichwa cha utafiti:** KUTAMBUA KAMA MATATIZO YA FAMILIA YANAWEZA SHAWISHI TABIA YA UHALIFU KWA VIJANA.

**Mtafiti:** JACINTA WAGITHI MURIUKI

### **Muhtasari na Kusudi**

Hujambo, mimi ni Jacinta Muriuki kutoka Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi Shule ya Tiba na Sayansi ya Afya - Idara ya Saikolojia. Ninataka kufanya utafiti ili kuchunguza ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Madhumuni ya fomu hii ya idhini ni kukupa taarifa utakayohitaji ili kukusaidia kuamua kama kuwa mshiriki au la katika utafiti. Nitaelezea kwa kifupi utafiti unahusu nini, ikiwa hauelewi chochote, uko huru kuuliza maswali yoyote. Unapohisi kuwa umelewa taarifa iliyotolewa na uko tayari kushiriki katika utafiti huu, basi nitakuomba utie sahihi jina lako katika fomu hii. Utapata nakala yake mwenyewe. Unapaswa kuelewa kanuni za jumla zinazotumika kwa washiriki wote katika utafiti: i) Uamuzi wako wa kushiriki ni wa hiari kabisa  
ii) Unaweza kujiondoa kwenye utafiti wakati wowote bila ya kueleza sababu ya kujiondoa iii) Kukataa kushiriki katika utafiti haita athiri huduma unazostahiki katika vituo vyovyote.



## **Je, nini kitatokea ukiamua kuwa katika utafiti huu?**

Ukikubali kushiriki katika utafiti huu, mambo yafuatayo yatafanyika: Utajaza dodoso la kijamii na idadi ya watu na maswali ya usaili na pia kushiriki katika mijadala ya kikundi. Tutakuuliza maswali ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Maswali yanapaswa kuchukua kama dakika 30 - 60 kujibu. Unaweza kuchagua kutojibu lolote na maswali yote, na unaweza kusitisha mahojiano wakati wowote.

### **Hatari**

Kwa kuwa utafiti huu hauhusishi majaribio yoyote au matumizi ya kitu chochote tunatarajia hatari ndogo kama vile uwezekano wa kuhisi vibaya kutokana na baadhi ya maswali.

### **Faida**

Tunatumai kuwa matokeo ya utafiti yatakusaidia katika kuzuia shida za kifamilia kusababisha uhalifu wa vijana katika siku zijazo na, tunatumai pia kwamba maelezo yaliyopatikana yatasaidia serikali kuweka mipango inayolenga kuboresha mienendo ya familia ili kuzuia kujihusisha kwa vijana na uhalifu.

### **Fidia**

Hutapewa motisha yoyote ya kifedha ili kushiriki katika utafiti huu. Wahojiwa hawatapokea aina yoyote ya fidia kwa kuwa utafiti hauna ufadhili na mtafiti bado ni mwanafunzi.

### **Usiri**

Jina lako litaonekana kwenye fomu za idhini pekee. Taarifa nyingine zozote za kibinafsi kukuhusu hazitawahi kuonekana katika ripoti au machapisho yoyote kuhusu utafiti huu. Kwa vile tutakupua jina la siri kwa hivyo jina lako halitaunganishwa na chochote utakachosema

kwenye rekodi zetu. Ni mtafiti katika utafiti huu pekee ndiye atakayeweza kufikia maelezo unayoshiriki nasi. Majibu yako yatatumiwa na Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi kwa madhumuni ya utafiti pekee. Majibu yako yote yatawekwa siri. Hatutashiriki majibu yako na mtu yeyote nje ya timu ya utafiti.

Majibu unayoshiriki nasi yatahifadhiwa kwenye kompyuta iliyolindwa kwa nenosiri na tutaweka rekodi zetu zote za karatasi kwenye kabati ya faili iliyofungwa. Hata hivyo, hakuna mfumo wa kulinda usiri wako unaoweza kuwa salama kabisa, kwa hivyo bado kuna uwezekano kwamba mtu anaweza kujua ulikuwa kwenye utafiti huu na kupata taarifa kukuhusu. Pia, kujibu maswali katika mahojiano kunaweza kuleta hisia mbaya kwako. Ikiwa kuna maswali yoyote ambayo hutaki kujibu, unaweza kuyaruka. Una haki ya kukataa mahojiano au maswali yoyote yaliyouli- zwa wakati wa mahojiano.

### **Masharti ya ushiriki**

Kushiriki katika utafiti huu ni kwa hiari tu. Ikimaanisha kwamba, uko huru kutoshiriki katika mradi huu, unaweza kukatisha ushiriki wako wakati wowote kwa sababu yoyote ile, na unaweza kuchagua kutojibu maswali yoyote bila jambo lolote baya kutokea athari yoyote kwenye hukumu ya majaribio.

### **Je, ikiwa una Maswali katika siku zijazo?**

Ikiwa una matatizo au maswali yoyote kuhusu utafiti huu, unaweza kuwasiliana na Katibu/Mwenyekiti, Hospitali ya Kitaifa ya Kenyatta-Kamati ya Maadili na Utafiti ya Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi Nambari 2726300 Ext. 44102 barua pepe [uonknh\\_erc@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:uonknh_erc@uonbi.ac.ke). Unaweza pia kuwasiliana na mtafiti [Jacinta Muriuki] kwa [0704322307] au uende kwenye [Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi Shule ya Tiba na Sayansi ya Afya- Idara ya Saikolojia].

## **Kauli ya mshiriki**

Nimesoma habari hiyo hapo juu, au imesomwa kwangu. Nimejibiwa maswali yangu kwa lugha ninayoielewa. Hatari na faida zimeelezwa kwangu. Ninaelewa kuwa ushiriki wangu katika utafiti huu ni wa hiari na kwamba ninaweza kuchagua kujiondoa wakati wowote. Ninakubali kwa uhuru kushiriki katika utafiti huu.

Ninaelewa kuwa siachi haki zozote kwa kutia saina fomu hii na kukubali kushiriki katika utafiti huu. Maswali yangu yote yamejibiwa na ninakubali kushiriki katika utafiti huu. Ninaelewa kuwa juhudi zote zitafanywa ili kuweka taarifa kuhusu utambulisho wangu wa kibinafsi kuwa siri.

Kwa kutia sahihi hapa chini, ninakubaliana na masharti yaliyoelezwa hapo

juu Jina la mhojiwa: -- \_\_\_\_\_

Saina ya mhojiwa: ----- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Tarehe: ----- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## **Kauli ya mtafiti**

Mimi, niliyetia sahihi chini, nimeeleza kikamilifu maelezo muhimu ya utafiti huu kwa mshiriki aliyetajwa hapo juu na ninaamini kuwa mshiriki ameelewa na ametoa ridhaa yake kwa hiari na kwa uhuru.

Jina la Mtafiti: ---

Sahihi: --- \_\_\_\_\_

Tarehe: ----- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Jina Lililochapishwa na Shahidi: ----- \_\_\_\_\_ - -- \_\_\_\_\_

Maelezo ya mawasiliano: --

\_\_\_\_\_

Sahihi : ---- \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ -

Tarehe: ---- \_\_\_\_\_ -

## **b. Fomu ya Idhini ya**

### **Mzazi Utangulizi**

Madhumuni ya fomu hii ni kukupa wewe kama mlezi wa mshiriki mtarajiwa wa utafiti taarifa ambayo inaweza kuathiri uamuzi wako wa kuruhusu/kutoruhusu mtoto kushiriki katika utafiti. Fomu hii pia itatumika kurekodi idhini yako ikiwa utaamua kuruhusu mtoto ahusishwe katika utafiti huu. Ukikubali, mtoto wako ataombwa kushiriki katika utafiti huu. Madhumuni ya mahojiano ni kupata kuelewa na kufahamu kuhusu ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Mahojiano hayatachukua zaidi ya li saa li moja. Vijana watachaguliwa kwa msingi wa hiari na baada ya kuidhinishwa na mkurugenzi wa Msimamizi Mkuu, Ofisi ya Marejeleo ya Ngong.

### **Je, Vijana wataombwa kufanya nini?**

Ukimruhusu kijana kushiriki katika utafiti huu, ataombwa kushiriki katika mahojiano na mchakato wa majadiliano ya kikundi na mtafiti ambapo ataweza kushiriki uzoefu wa kibinafsi, mawazo, na hisia kuhusu maisha yao. Mtoto atakutana na mtafiti mara tatu katika mazingira yaliyo tengwa. Mkutano wa kwanza ni kumjulisha mtoto kuhusu utafiti. Mkutano wa pili ni wa mchakato wa mahojiano. Mkutano wa mwisho ni ambapo mtoto atakutana na wahalifu wote vijana ambao wameshiriki kupitia taarifa za kawaida na kukusanya mawazo yoyote ya mwisho.

### **Nini kitatokea ukiamua unataka mtoto wako awe katika utafiti huu?**

Ukikubali mtoto wako kushiriki katika utafiti huu, mambo yafuatayo yatafanyika: Atahojiwa na mhoji aliyefunzwa katika eneo lililo tengwa ambako anahisi kujibu maswali. Mahojiano yatadumu takriban dakika 60.

### **Je, ni hatari gani zinazohusika katika utafiti huu?**

Kunaweza kuwa na hatari kidogo na isizidi kile ambacho mtoto wako angepitia katika mahojiano ya kimwili au kisaikolojia. Hatari zinazohusika katika washiriki zinaweza kujumuisha kuogopa kufichua mambo yake ya kibinafsi. Hatari zinazohusiana na utafiti huu ni kidogo, na si kubwa kuliko hatari ambazo mtoto wako hukutana nazo katika maisha ya kila siku.

### **Je, ni faida gani zinazowezezana za utafiti huu?**

Faida zinazowezezana za kushiriki katika utafiti ni kuongezeka kwa kujitambua kwa vijana na fursa ya kushiriki uzoefu wao na kutoa maoni na wasiwasi wao kuhusu uzoefu wao wa maisha.

### **Je, mtoto anapaswa kushiriki katika utafiti?**

Hapana, si lazima mtoto awe kwenye utafiti. Unaweza kukubali kuruhusu mtoto kuwa katika utafiti sasa na kubadilisha mawazo yako baadaye bila adhabu yoyote.

### **Je, ikiwa kijana hataki kushiriki?**

Pamoja na ruhusa yako, mtoto lazima akubali kushiriki katika utafiti. Hakuna chanya au athari mbaya kwa kukubali au kukataa kushiriki katika utafiti. Iwapo kijana atakubali kuwa katika utafiti, anaweza kujiondoa wakati wowote wakati wa utafiti.

## **Usiri**

Utafiti huu ni wa siri. Hakuna mtu atakayejua kwamba mtoto wako anashiriki katika utafiti. Rekodi za utafiti huu zitawekwa siri. Rekodi za utafiti zitahifadhiwa kwa usalama katika makabati ya kuhifadhia faili yaliyofungwa na ni mtafiti pekee ndiye atakayeweza kufikia rekodi hizo.

## **Je, ikiwa una maswali katika siku zijazo?**

Ikiwa una maswali zaidi au wasiwasi kuhusu mtoto wako kushiriki katika utafiti huu, unaweza kuwasiliana na Katibu/Mwenyekiti, Hospitali ya Kitaifa ya Kenyatta-Kamati ya Maadili na Utafiti ya Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi Nambari 2726300 Ext. 44102 barua pepe uonknh\_erc@uonbi.ac.ke. Unaweza pia kuwasiliana na mtafiti [Jacinta Muriuki] kwa [0704322307] au uende kwenye [Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi Shule ya Tiba na Sayansi ya Afya-Idara ya Saikolojia].

## **Fomu ya idhini (taarifa ya ridhaa)**

Mtu anayezingatiwa kwa utafiti huu hana uwezo wa kujikubali kwa sababu yeye ni mtoto mdogo (mtu chini ya miaka 18). Unaombwa kutoa idhini yako ya kujumuisha mtoto wako katika utafiti huu.

## **Taarifa ya mzazi/mlezi**

Nimesoma fomu hii ya idhini au nimesomewa maelezo. Nimejibiwa maswali yangu kwa lugha ninayoielewa. Hatari na faida zimeelezwa kwangu. Ninaelewa kuwa nitapewa nakala ya fomu hii ya idhini baada ya kuitia saini.

Ninaelewa kuwa ushiriki wangu na wa mtoto wangu katika utafiti huu ni wa hiari na kwamba ninaweza kuchagua kuuondoa wakati wowote. Ninaelewa kuwa juhudi zote zitafanywa ili kuweka maelezo kunihusu na kuhusu utambulisho wa kibinafsi wa mtoto wangu kuwa siri.

Kwa kutia saina fomu hii ya idhini, sijaachana na haki za kisheria za mtoto wangu kama mshiriki katika utafiti huu.

Ninakubali kwa hiari ushiriki wa mtoto wangu katika utafiti huu wa utafiti: Ndiyo Hapana

Sahihi ya Mzazi/Mlezi /Muhuri wa kidole gumba: -----

Jina lililochapishwa la Mzazi/Mlezi: -----

Tarehe: -----

### **Kauli ya mtafiti**

Mimi, niliyetia sahihi chini, nimeeleza kikamilifu maelezo muhimu ya utafiti huu kwa mshiriki aliyetajwa hapo juu na ninaamini kuwa mshiriki ameelewa na ametoa ridhaa yake kwa hiari na kwa uhuru.

Jina la Mtafiti: --- \_\_\_\_\_

Sahihi: ----- \_\_\_\_\_

Tarehe: -----

Jina Lililochapishwa na Shahidi: \_\_\_\_\_

Maelezo ya mawasiliano: ----- \_\_\_\_\_

Saina /muhuri wa kidole gumba: ----- \_\_\_\_\_

Tarehe: ----- \_\_\_\_\_



### **c. Fomu ya Kuidhinishwa**

**Kichwa cha utafiti:** KUTAMBUA KAMA MATATIZO YA FAMILIA YANAWEZA SHAWISHI TABIA YA UHALIFU KWA VIJANA.

**Mtafiti:** JACINTA WAGITHI MURIUKI

Ninafanya utafiti kuhusu ili kuchunguza ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Utafiti huu ni njia ya kujifunza zaidi kuhusu watu. Angalau vijana 20 watashiriki nawe katika utafiti huu. Ukiamua kuwa unataka kuwa sehemu ya utafiti huu, utaombwa kushiriki katika mahojiano na mchakato wa majadiliano ya kikundi na mtafiti ambapo utaweza kushiriki uzoefu wa kibinafsi, mawazo, na hisia kuhusu maisha yako. Utakutana na mtafiti mara tatu katika mazingira yaliyo tengwa. Mkutano wa kwanza ni wa kukujulisha kuhusu utafiti. Mkutano wa pili ni wa mchakato wa mahojiano. Mkutano wa mwisho ni pale ambapo utakutana na vijana ambao wameshiriki kukagua taarifa za kawaida na kukusanya mawazo yoyote ya mwisho.

Kuna baadhi ya mambo kuhusu utafiti huu unapaswa kujua. Hizi ni: kunaweza kuwa na hatari kidogo ambazo hazizidi kile ungepitia katika mahojiano ya kimwili au kisaikolojia. Wanaweza kujumuisha kuogopa kufichua uzoefu wa kibinafsi. Faida zinazowezekana za kushiriki katika utafiti ni kuongezeka kwa kujitambua na fursa ya kushiriki uzoefu wako na kutoa maoni na wasiwasi wako kuhusu uzoefu wako wa maisha.

Iwapo hutaki kuwa katika utafiti huu, tutakuambia ni aina gani nyingine za matibabu ambazo ziko kwa ajili yako. Tukimaliza na somo hili tutaandika ripoti kuhusu kile tulichojifunza. Ripoti hii haitajumuisha jina lako au kwamba ulikuwa kwenye utafiti. Si lazima uwe katika utafiti huu ikiwa hutaki kuwa. Ukiamua kuacha baada ya sisi kuanza, hiyo ni sawa pia.

Wazazi wako wanajua kuhusu utafiti pia.

Ukiamua ungependa kuwa katika utafiti huu, tafadhali saini jina lako.

Mimi, \_\_\_\_\_, nataka kuwa katika utafiti huu.

Sahihi/Muhuri wa kidole gumba: \_\_\_\_\_

Tarehe: .....

#### **d. Zana kwa Vijana Wahalifu**

Wapenzi washiriki, mimi ni Jacinta Muriuki, mwanafunzi katika Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi. Ninakuomba ushiriki katika utafiti huu kwa kujaza dodoso lifuatalo. Hojaji ni fupi sana na inapaswa kuchukua chini ya dakika 30 kukamilika. Utafiti huu unalenga kuchunguza ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Kushiriki kwako ni kwa hiari kabisa, na taarifa zote zilizokusanywa katika utafiti huu zitawekwa kwa siri kabisa. Tafadhali jibu maswali yote kwa uaminifu; "hutahukumiwa" kulingana na majibu yako. Taarifa zitakazokusa nywa zitatumika kwa madhumuni ya utafiti pekee. Ikiwa hutaki kujibu swali, tafadhali chora mstari ndani yake. Ikikamilika, fomu itakaguliwa haraka ili kuhakikisha kuwa hukuruka maswali kimakosa (bila kuyatoa). Tafadhali jisikie huru kuuliza ikiwa unahitaji kuelezewa swali lolote kati ya hayo.” Asante kwa kutoa muda wako muhimu kukamilisha dodoso lifuatalo la utafiti.

#### **HOJA YA SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC**

Nambari ya Kitambulisho cha Mshiriki: .....

Tarehe: .....

Mawasiliano: .....

#### **TABIA ZA KIJAMII-DEMOGRAFI**

Q1.	Jinsia yako ni nini?	1. Mwanaume 2. Mwanamke 3. Nyingine: Bainisha .....

Q2.	Una miaka mingapi?	
Q3.	Dini yako ni ipi?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mkatoliki</li> <li>2. Mprotestanti</li> <li>3. Muislamu</li> <li>4. Mhindu</li> <li>5. Nyingine: Bainisha.....</li> </ol>
Q4.	Kiwango chako cha juu cha elimu ni kipi?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Msingi</li> <li>2. Sekondari</li> <li>3. Mafunzo ya Ufundi</li> </ol>
Q5.	Je, hali yako ya ndoa ikoje?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mtu mmoja</li> <li>2. Kuchumbiana</li> <li>3. Kuolewa</li> <li>4. Kutengwa</li> </ol>
Q6.	Je, hali yako ya ajira ikoje?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kuajiriwa</li> <li>2. Kukosa ajira</li> <li>3. Kujiajiri</li> <li>4. Sehemu - kazi ya wakati</li> </ol>
Q7.	Je, wazazi wako wote wawili wako hai?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ndiyo</li> <li>2. Hapana</li> </ol>

Q8.	Je, una ndugu yoyote?	1. Ndiyo: Bainisha ni ngapi..... 2. Hapana
Q9.	Unaishi na nani?	1. Mama 2. Baba 3. Wazazi wote wawili 4. Nyingine: Bainisha.....

## MASWALI YA MAHOJIANO

1. Nieleze ni nini kilitokea hadi ukajikuta uko kwenye majaribio?

.....

.....

.....

2. Uzoefu wako wa majaribio umekuwa upi?

.....

.....

.....

3. Jadili uelewa wako wa nyumba au familia?

.....

.....

.....

4. Eleza siku ya kawaida katika familia yako.

.....

.....

.....

5. Unapokua, unaweza kueleza jinsi gani uhusiano wa wazazi wako?

.....

.....

.....

6. Unaweza kuniambia unachojua kuhusu unyanyasaji: kimwili, kihisia, kingono, kisaikolojia.

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

7. Eleza majukumu yako katika familia yako.

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

8. Je, una ujuzi gani kuhusu magonjwa ya afya ya akili?

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

9. Niambie kuhusu maoni yako kuhusu ushiriki wa vijana katika uhalifu?

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

10. Je, ungependa kubadili nini kuhusu familia yako?

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

11. Makosa ya watoto yanaweza kuzuiwaje?

.....

.....

.....

12. Maoni mengine yoyote uliyo nayo ambayo unadhani ni muhimu kwa utafiti?

.....

.....

.....



## **Mwongozo wa Majadiliano ya Kikundi Lengwa**

1. Je, unaelewa nini kwa neno juvenile offending?

Uchunguzi: Ufafanuzi

2. Kulingana na ufahamu wako, ni baadhi ya sababu zipi zinazosababisha tabia mbaya za watoto?

Uchunguzi: zaidi juu ya sababu zinazohusiana na familia

3. Eleza matatizo ya familia.

Uchunguzi: kuzingatia malengo

4. Kwa maoni yako, ni nini kinachosababisha matatizo ya familia?

Probe: Je, hutokea katika kila familia

5. Kwa maoni yako, matatizo ya familia huathirije washiriki wake?

Probe: uhusiano na makosa ya vijana, zingatia malengo

6. Ni nini kinachoweza kufanywa ili kuzuia kukosea kwa watoto?

**e. Zana kwa Wazazi/Mlezi wa Vijana Wahalifu**

Wapenzi washiriki, mimi ni Jacinta Muriuki, mwanafunzi katika Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi. Ninakuomba ushiriki katika utafiti huu kwa kujaza dodoso lifuatalo. Hojaji ni fupi sana na inapaswa kuchukua chini ya dakika 30 kukamilika. Utafiti huu unalenga kuchunguza ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Kushiriki kwako ni kwa hiari kabisa, na taarifa zote zilizokusanywa katika utafiti huu zitawekwa kwa siri kabisa. Tafadhali jibu maswali yote kwa uaminifu; "hutahukumiwa" kulingana na majibu yako. Taarifa iliyokusanywa itatumika kwa madhumuni yafuatayo ya utafiti pekee. Ikiwa hutaki kujibu swali, tafadhali chora mstari ndani yake. Ikikamilika, fomu itakaguliwa haraka ili kuhakikisha kuwa hukuruka maswali kimakosa (bila kuyatoa). Tafadhali jisikie huru kuuliza ikiwa unahitaji kuelezewa swali lolote kati ya hayo.” Asante kwa kutoa muda wako muhimu kukamilisha dodoso lifuatalo la utafiti.

**HOJA YA SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC**

Nambari ya Kitambulisho cha Mshiriki: .....

Tarehe: .....

Mawasiliano: .....

## TABIA ZA KIJAMII-DEMOGRAFI

Q1.	Jinsia yako ni nini?	1. Mwanaume 2. Mwanamke 3. Nyingine: Bainisha .....
Q2.	Una miaka mingapi?	
Q3.	Dini yako ni ipi?	1. Mkatoliki 2. Mprotestanti 3. Muislamu 4. Mhindu 5. Nyingine: Bainisha..... ..
Q4.	Kiwango chako cha juu cha elimu ni kipi?	1. Hakuna 2. Msingi 3. Sekondari 4. Mafunzo ya Ufundi/Chuo 5. Chuo kikuu

Q5.	Je, hali yako ya ndoa ikoje?	1. Mtu mmoja 2. Kuolewa 3. Kutengwa 4. Kuachwa 5. Mjane
Q6.	Je, hali yako ya ajira ikoje?	1. Kukosa ajira 2. Walioajiriwa: Bainisha..... .....

		3. Aliyejijiri: Bainisha .....
Q7.	Una watoto wangapi?	

## MASWALI YA MAHOJIANO

1. Eleza uhusiano wako na watoto wako?

.....

.....

.....

2. Nini maoni yako kuhusu tabia za uhalifu za watoto?

.....

.....

.....

3. Eleza mpangilio wa familia yako.

.....

.....

.....

4. Eleza jinsi ulivyowalea watoto wako?

.....

.....

.....

5. Familia yako ilikuwaje?

.....

.....

.....

6. Je, unajua nini kuhusu ugonjwa wa afya ya akili?

.....

.....

.....

7. Je, ni baadhi ya njia au programu zipi zinazoweza kutumika kuzuia ongezeko la tabia potofu za watoto?

.....

.....

.....

8. Je, unadhani ni njia gani bora zaidi ya kusonga mbele na kufanya mambo kuwa bora kwa familia yako?

.....

.....

.....

9. Je, kuna kitu kingine chochote ambacho kingefaa kwa somo langu?

.....

.....

.....

Taarifa ya Kuhitimisha: Ningependa kukushukuru tena kwa ushiriki wako na uwezo na fursa ya kuandika mtazamo wako.

## **Mwongozo wa Majadiliano ya Kikundi Lengwa**

1. Je, unaelewa nini kwa neno juvenile offending?

Uchunguzi: Ufafanuzi

2. Kulingana na ufahamu wako, ni baadhi ya sababu zipi zinazosababisha tabia mbaya za watoto?

Uchunguzi: zaidi juu ya sababu zinazohusiana na familia

3. Eleza matatizo ya familia.

Uchunguzi: kuzingatia malengo

4. Kwa maoni yako, ni nini kinachosababisha matatizo ya familia?

Probe: Je, hutokea katika kila familia

5. Kwa maoni yako, matatizo ya familia huathirije washiriki wake?

Probe: uhusiano na makosa ya vijana, zingatia malengo

6. Ni nini kinachoweza kufanywa ili kuzuia kukosea kwa watoto

## **f. Fomu ya Idhini ya Kikundi**

### **Lengwa Kusudi**

Umealikwa kushiriki katika majadiliano ya kikundi lengwa kwa ajili ya utafiti wa utafiti kuhusu ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Utafiti huo utafanywa na Jacinta Muriuki, mwanafunzi kutoka Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi, Shule ya Tiba na Sayansi ya Afya- idara ya magonjwa ya akili. Madhumuni ya kikundi hiki cha kuzingatia ni kujua: uhusiano unaotambulika kati ya matatizo ya familia kwenye tabia ya uhalifu kwa vijana. Taarifa zitakazopatikana katika kundi hili la kuzingatia pekee zitatumika kwa madhumuni ya kujifunza na kwa matumaini katika udhibiti wa makosa ya vijana na washikadau husika.

Fomu hii inaelezea malengo ya kundi hili la kuzingatia, taratibu za masomo, hatari na manufaa. Ukiamua kushiriki, utaombwa kutia sahihi kwenye fomu hii mwishoni.

### **Utaratibu**

Katika utafiti huu, utawekwa katika kundi la watu 8 - 10. Mtafiti, ambaye pia atakuwa msima mizi katika mijadala ya kikundi, atawauliza maswali kadhaa wakati wa kuwezesha. Mtu anayechukua kumbukumbu pia atakuwepo. Majadiliano yatachukua takriban saa moja na yatarekodiwa kwa sauti ili kunasa kile kinachosemwa na kuhakikisha usahihi. Mtafiti, angependa kusikia maoni tofauti kwa hivyo kila mtu anahimizwa kuchangia mawazo yake. Tafadhali kumbuka kuwa hakuna majibu sahihi au yasiyo sahihi kwa maswali ya kikundi. Kwa heshima, tafadhali usiwakatishe wengine. Hata hivyo, usiogope kuongea hata kama majibu yako yanapingana na ya washirik i wengine wa kikundi. Tunaomba simu zako zizime au ziwe katika hali ya kimya. Ikiwa huwezi na lazima uitikie simu, tafadhali fanya hivyo kwa utulivu iwezekanavyo na ujiunge nasi haraka uwezavyo. Unaweza pia kuomba kwamba rekodi isitishwe wakati wowote, wakati wa majadilia no.



## **Faida na Hatari**

Kushiriki kwako kunaweza kukunufaisha wewe na wengine kwa kuelewa ushawishi wa matatizo ya familia kwa washiriki wake, hivyo basi kuendeleza njia za kukabiliana nayo. Hakuna hatari kubwa zinazotarajiwa. Hata hivyo, unaweza kupata kujibu baadhi ya maswali kuwa ya kukasiris ha, ingawa haitakuwa tofauti na aina ya mambo unayopitia ukiwa na familia au marafiki. Hatari nyingine ni kuhisi vibaya wakati au baada ya kikundi baada ya kushiriki uzoefu wako na wanakikundi. Ingawa tutajaribu kudumisha usiri, hakuna uhakika kwamba washiriki wenzetu watafanya hivyo.

## **Kushiriki kwa hiari**

Kuwa katika kikundi cha kuzingatia ni kwa hiari, ikimaanisha kuwa sio lazima ushiriki.

Unaweza kuacha wakati wowote wa utafiti bila matokeo yoyote au kuhitaji kuhalalisha uamuzi wako. Katika hali kama hii, maelezo yako yote kuhusu ushiriki wako yataharibiwa.

Unaruhusiwa kutojibu maswali yoyote ambayo yanakufanya usijisikie vizuri.

## **Usiri**

Siri itazingatiwa kama, na hakuna majina yatajumuishwa katika ripoti ya mwisho lakini misimbo iliyokabidhiwa. Taarifa utakazoshiriki nasi zitawekwa kwenye kompyuta iliyolindwa na nenosiri na kupatikana tu na mtafiti. Baada ya rekodi za vikundi lengwa kuchapwa zitaharibiwa.

Inasikitisha, ingawa mtafiti atakuwa mwangalifu katika kudumisha usiri, hatahakikisha kuwa itakuwa hivyo kwa sababu ya asili ya vikundi vinavyolengwa. Iwapo utachagua kushiriki, utaombwa kuheshimu faragha ya washiriki wengine wa kikundi kwa kutofichua maudhui yoyote yaliyojadiliwa wakati wa utafiti.

### **Wasiliana**

Ikiwa una maswali zaidi au wasiwasi kuhusu ushiriki wako katika utafiti huu, unaweza kuwasiliana na Katibu/Mwenyekiti, Hospitali ya Kitaifa ya Kenyatta-Kamati ya Maadili na Utafiti ya Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi Nambari ya Simu Na. 2726300 Ext. 44102 barua pepe uonknh\_erc@uonbi.ac.ke. Wewe pia anaweza kuwasiliana na mtafiti [Jacinta Muriuki] kwa [0704322307] au kwenda [Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi School of Medicine and Health Sciences - Department of Psychiatry].

### **Taarifa ya ridhaa ya hiari**

Ninaelewa maelezo haya na ninakubali kushiriki kikamilifu chini ya masharti yaliyotajwa hapo juu.

Wakati wa kutia saina fomu hii ninakubali kushiriki kwa hiari katika kundi lengwa. Nimepata nafasi ya kusoma fomu hii ya idhini, na nilifafanuliwa katika lugha ambayo ninaitumia na kuelewa. Nimepata nafasi ya kuuliza maswali na nimepata majibu ya kuridhisha.

Jina la saina: .....

Tarehe: .....

Chapa jina: .....