FACTORS THAT HINDER FEMALE RECIDIVISTS FROM RESETTLING INTO THEIR VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AFTER IMPRISONMENT IN KENYA.

The case study of Thika Women Prison

BY

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A RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.
DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that this project paper is my own original work and has not been submitted to any other university for examination.

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Sign: 

Date: 3 NOVEMBER 2010

The research project has been submitted for examination to the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Faculty of Arts of the University of Nairobi with my approval.

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Date: 8/11/10
DEDICATION

This project is a special dedication to my precious and very loving sons Stush Ochieng and Stewart Owiti. Their existence has added a special meaning to my life and is the reason for this great achievement.
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My most sincere gratitude goes to my supervisor Dr. K. Kiemo who encouraged, guided and supervised this project and brought it to this successful end. Your positive criticisms and patience throughout the process has brought me this far.

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ABSTRACT

The global trend is that more women are incarcerated than men in most countries of the world. The international norms and standards for criminal justice and for the treatment of offenders do not adequately reflect the requirements of women and this needs to be modified. As women constitute only a small but steadily growing minority in the prison population their particular circumstances and needs are often overlooked by prison regimes designed for male prisoners.

The main objective of this study was to find out the community factors that influence long-term resettlement of the female ex-offenders into the community. The research questions were derived from the specific objectives of the study which included cultural, social, economic and demographic factors. The literature review was intensively done to compare the related works done by others and to identify knowledge gaps that would need to be filled by this study.

The research adopted exploratory design. According to Bless and Smith (2004) the purpose of exploratory research is to gain a broad understanding of a situation, phenomenon, community or person. The research was both qualitative and quantitative in nature. The qualitative aspect was used when analyzing the open ended questions from the questionnaires, one on one interview questions and those from the Focus Group Discussions. The quantitative approach was used to generate information from the closed ended questions from the questionnaire. To confirm who the real the recidivists were, secondary data was obtained from the courts, police and prisons records. The sampling method was purposive and covered 50 respondents who formed half of the target population at the time of the research. Methods of data collection included structured questionnaires, FGDs and one on one interviews. The data was presented and interpreted using tables, graphs charts frequencies and percentages. It was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel. The findings of the study revealed that 70% of the respondents were youths and unemployed. Majority of the offenders possessed low levels of education with 46% having gone up to primary level while only 6% possessed college level qualifications. The offenders were never visited and were considered as outlaws by their counterparts in the community.
The research established that their marital status were affected by imprisonment with the results of the indicating that during the first imprisonment only 36% were married but after the second imprisonment the number dropped to 18%. Also after the first imprisonment, most recidivists could not find husbands as 56% admitted that it was not easy to get a husband once they were discharged from prisons since nobody was willing to marry “outcasts”. After completion of their first sentence, 68% of the recidivists could not go back by their former employment. The study concluded that some of the recidivists lost their marriages when they were sent to prison while others were not able to get husbands from the community as a result of the perception, stigma and stereotype attached to female imprisonment. It was also concluded that rehabilitation programs offered to the prisoners were not as effective since they focused more on offering technical knowledge and manual work. The research came up with a number of recommendations which included introduction of free secondary education for the girl child in order to ensure that the females do not get influenced into criminal activities. To adopt in-between homes where the ex-offenders can make temporary stop-over for the purpose of community re-integration and before joining the wider community after completion of prison sentences; impart entrepreneurial and life skills on the recidivists during rehabilitation and finally research should be done to find out whether there are post-prison follow-up services given to ex-offenders to help reintegrate them into the society. Further research in female imprisonment was deemed necessary to help in solving the problem of female recidivism.
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ABBREVIATIONS

CJI - Crime and Justice Institute
CRC - Criminology Research Centre
FGDs - Focus Group Discussions
JPC - Justice Policy Centre
MOHA - Ministry of Home Affairs
PSC - Public Service Commission
SEU - Social Exclusion Unit
SPSS - Statistical Package for Social Sciences
USA - United States of America
US - United States
CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Background

According to Reckless (1973) advanced as well as developing countries evidently have a growing problem of crime and delinquency. He adds that the magnitude of the problem is registered in the increased public concern about the safety of individuals and their property and even the studies done on crime show that there is a trend in the escalation of crime. Clinard and Abban (1971) also noted that as the less developed nations attempt to bring about transformations that culminated from several countries of development, most industrialized nations have several severe repercussions which are often evident as there emerges a state of homelessness.

According to Rathman (1971) an imprisoned person whether male or female loses rights which essentially are punishment enough. The correctional process over 200 years ago has operated as if existing on an island. The prison facility has been isolated from the society by a grim institutional architecture and locations which have fostered separation from the outside world. It is therefore thought that it may not be fair to subject the ex-offenders to further punishment by isolation discrimination and stigmatization after having gone through the process of imprisonment which in itself is punishment. This is why this study was specifically designed to focus on female recidivists who in the view of the researchers have their own unique needs and problems which other criminological studies that have been conducted have failed to address.

Howard (1981) argued that the risk factors associated with women’s violent behavior are no different from those associated with men’s violent behavior. The global trend is that more women are incarcerated than men in most countries of the world. The United States of America (USA) is an example of one of the countries with this phenomenon although men greatly outnumber them in many prisons globally. Since 1990 the annual rate of growth for the female offenders has averaged 7.5% higher than the 5.7% average increase of male inmates.
According to Nagel (1971) it is to be successfully confronted by the society, its causes must be known and those causes go beyond the individual. He further suggested that correctional responses to criminal behaviour must therefore be directed not only at the offender but also at the malfunctioning of his environment. This means that the problems within the offender's environment should be dealt with first since they directly play a pivotal role in shaping the character and criminal tendencies of the offender. It is therefore obvious that although the offender may be blamed for committing crimes in the community, the community also plays a critical role in the individuals' involvement in crimes.

According to Adler (1975) as women are climbing up the corporate business ladder they are making use of their vocational liberation to pursue careers in white collar crimes. He went on to explain that the emancipation of women during the 1970s increased their economic opportunities and allowed them to be as crime prone as men. While some women have demanded equal opportunities in the fields of legitimate endeavors, others have forced their way into the world of major crime such as white-collar crimes.

The researcher agreed with Rutere (2003) when she argued that there is a dearth of studies on recidivism in Kenya and more specifically with the female recidivists. What are available are the police records and the statistical abstracts which are just figures of the prisoners at that particular period. They do not provide any information why there are recidivists; that is why the prison has not been able to rehabilitate them and why criminals relapse into crime after they are released from prisons. Explanation for this relapse was deemed central in this study since it was to fill the gaps that existed by generating information to be used in the formulation of theories that would help to provide understanding of the recidivistic behaviour. This information is useful in helping to formulate policies that will be put in place to curb recidivism.
Cressy and Ward (1988) from a number of their studies concluded that roughly a third of the offenders released from prisons will be re-imprisoned. Although this has not been ascertained in Kenya, this study looked into this issue more critically by identifying and exploring on four community factors that might have contributed to many first-time female offenders re-imprisoned and why they were not re-integrated into the community. While the number of male inmates has grown to 80% since 1977, the number of female prisoners has increased by 114%.

By mid-year 2001, there were almost 95,000 women in state or federal prisons (Rien, 2002).

Another research carried out in the United States (US) on the women imprisonment by Rothman (1971) further confirmed that the increase on the women incarcerations has been drastic. Recidivism runs up to 80%, which means that most first-time offenders fall back to criminal activities immediately after release. In 1977 the USA imprisoned 11,212 women and by 2004 the number had risen to 96,125 which was a 75% increase (Cloward, 1971).

Sutherland and Cressy (1969) also emphasized that a large number of offenders under the care of any criminal agency in the US are recidivists. This is as a result of lack of acceptance, stigmatization, and discrimination received by the ex-offenders once they go back to the community. The Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) report (2003) revealed that the women prisoners make up over 30% of the prison population and this number doubled since 1996. It further revealed that during May 2002, there were 41,810 women prisoners and that 11,000 women are received into prisons every year.

In Kenya as in other parts of the world, women imprisonment is on the increase with the rates of recidivism escalating (Rutere, 2003). The UN Habitat reports of 2002 to 2005 showed that women daily average population in the Kenyan prisons increased by 42.1% while men increase over the same period was only 26.3% indicating that the Kenyan prisons have continued to experience explosive growth with women having been the hardest hit. This is why the researcher chose to find out the community factors that might have contributed to this phenomenon.
Police, courts and prison records furnish insistent testimonies that repeat offenders constitute the largest number of offenders who are hard core (Kenya Police, 2001). This study was intended to establish the community factors that influence the long-term resettlement of the female recidivists in Kenya. More specifically, the study was expected to provide an explanation why female first time offenders repeat crimes rather than getting reformed and an in-depth discussion on how the cultural, social, economic and demographic factors influence their resettlement leading to increased rates of recidivism. According to the Handbook on Human Rights in Kenyan Prisons (2001) recidivism is estimated to be high, with 79% being male prisoners and 34% of female prisoners going back to jail after serving their terms.
1.2 Problem Statement.

According to Cloward (1971) recidivism in the US runs between 60% and 80%. This means that most first-time offenders fall back in criminal activities immediately after release. There was need to study female recidivists in order to establish which factors hinder them from resettling into their communities at the end of their jail terms. Cloward and Abbert (1971) argued that basic research in the area of crime is lacking in most of the developing countries. They added that what is available is only routine official statistics often of only limited value. The past studies by Minga (1977) and Rutere (2003) have concentrated on males and their findings cannot help to shape the character formation of the women due to their unique needs.

The global trend is that more women are incarcerated than men in most countries of the world. The international norms and standards for criminal justice and for the treatment of offenders do not adequately reflect the requirements of women and these needs to be modified. As women constitute only a small but steadily growing minority in the prison population their particular circumstances and needs are often overlooked by prison regimes designed for male prisoners (Huen, 2003).

According to Public Service Commission Act, (2007 revised) and PSC 2, (2007), anybody seeking government employment in Kenya must have never committed a crime of any nature and must have never been committed to prison sentence. Individuals are always issued with the Certificate of Good Conduct which should not be so to any ex-offenders. This in itself is discrimination against the ex-offenders and a way of denying them the chance of employment. With this policy still intact, the recidivist’s fate is sealed by the first imprisonment, leaving them with no other legitimate way of getting a job or earning a living rather than crime. This policy in the opinion of the researcher is a tool that has served to effectively discriminate against the ex-offenders and which has perpetuated the act of re-offending, reducing the number of ex-convicts who are successfully reintegrated into the community.
White-collar offenders may be able to draw networks that do not reveal that they had committed crimes before and this may help them to resettle faster and more easily in the community while other poor offenders are likely to lack such extensive resources where they may also be accepted back into the community without being considered as outcasts. It means that white-collar offenders are not offenders like any other since they can buy their community's acceptance even if they had been incarcerated (Shover and Holchstein, 1977).

According to Cressey and Ward (1969) it is striking to note that many offenders who have been convicted and sentenced for common serious crimes of violence and theft continue to commit the same or even worse crimes. This is so because the community members have always remained negative about anybody who has ever been sent to prison, irrespective of how much the individual has tried to reform. The recidivists face a situation of complete rejection from the community once they have been sent to prison.

The factors reviewed in past studies as the ones influencing long-term resettlement of female offenders may not be universally applicable. At the same time they appear to apply in the western countries which may not be the case in Kenya. This calls for the need to find out through research how the Kenyan situation is and what ought to be done the Kenyan way in order to curb the problem of resettlement of the ex-offenders into the community (Rulere, 2001).

Despite the government's efforts to introduce such initiatives as Kazi Kwa Vijana, Women and Children funds among others, offending and reoffending is still a common phenomenon among the female ex-offenders. There is therefore an urgent need to come up with a lasting solution to the problem of female recidivism in Kenya.
1.3 Research Questions.
The study was guided by the following questions:

1. What demographic factors hinder long-term resettlement of the female recidivists into the community?
2. What socio-cultural and economic factors hinder the resettlement of female recidivists into their various communities?
3. What psychological factors hinder the social re-integration of the female recidivists into their various communities?
4. What prison-related factors hinder female recidivists from being re-integrated into their communities after completion of their sentences?

1.4 The study objectives.
The main objective of this study was to establish factors that hinder female recidivists from resettling into their various communities after imprisonment in Kenya.

Specific objectives
1. To establish how demographic factors hinder the resettlement of the female recidivists into their various communities.
2. To establish how socio-cultural and economic factors hinder the resettlement of the female recidivists into their various communities.
3. To find out how Psychological factors influence social re-integration of the female recidivists into the community.
4. To establish prison related factors that hinder female recidivists from being re-integrated into their communities after completion of their sentences.
1.3 Research Questions.

The study was guided by the following questions.

1. What are some of the demographic factors that hinder the long-term resettlement of the female recidivists into the community?

2. What are some of the socio-cultural and economic factors that hinder the resettlement of female recidivists into their various communities?

3. What are some of the psychological factors that hinder the social re-integration of the female recidivists into their various communities?

4. What are the other prison-related factors that hinder the female recidivists from being re-integrated into their communities after completion of their sentences?

1.1 The study objectives.

The main objective of this study was to establish those factors that hinder long-term resettlement of the female recidivists into their communities.

Specific objectives

1. To establish how some of the demographic factors hinder the resettlement of the female recidivists into their various communities.

2. To establish how some of the socio-cultural and economic factors hinder the resettlement of the female recidivists into their various communities.

3. To discuss how some of the psychological factors influence social re-integration of the female recidivists into the community.

4. To establish the other prison-related factors that hinder the female recidivists from being re-integrated into their communities after completion of their sentences.
1.5. Justification of the study.

Crime threatens the security of any individual and the society at large. It also undermines economic growth, investment and national productivity as well as individual and societal well-being (UN habitat, 2002 and 2005). Research on the nature of offenders and crime reducing forces is needed and more so, in the area of crime in the developing countries (Clinard and Abbott, 1973).

Kenya like any other developing countries lacks recent criminological studies except for what was done in 1975 by Muga on crimes and another by Kutere in 2003 on the factors precipitating recidivism respectively. There is therefore need to fill the existing knowledge gap in this area.

When offenders leave prisons upon completion of their sentences, they are not easily reintegrated into the community and decide to commit another crime that will take them back into prison. This study will enable us understand why the majority of the ex-offenders repeat crimes and end up in prison and more importantly be able to suggest possible policy interactions to curb this behavior. It is also important to establish whether the prisoners appreciate the programs offered to them while in prison and whether they are useful in changing their criminal character after imprisonment. This will help in formulating policies that will help with addressing the problem of recidivism.

The government spends huge sums of money for the running and maintenance of the penal institutions. However, Police arrests, court records, prison records, police records and the statistical abstracts bear evidence that there is an alarming increase in the number of recidivists yearly. This study will be useful to help establish the necessary steps that will ensure that ex-offenders are effectively reintegrated into the community without facing eternal condemnation, isolation, discrimination and stigmatization. It will also help the community members to appreciate the fact that they need to give a second chance to the ex-offenders in order for them to fight the problem of recidivism.
Through this study, the government and other stakeholders like the Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will have a clearer picture of the ex-offenders' plight and sufferings resulting from rejection, stigmatization and discriminations and as a result come up with ways of empowering them socially and economically and in the process reduce their chances of becoming recidivists. Through this research, these other stakeholders may work hand with the government in order to come up with other viable strategies which will help to resettle the recidivists more effectively after their imprisonment. For instance, in the case of establishing half-homes for the female recidivists.

The recommendations made in the study will assist the prison department to introduce new and modern rehabilitation programs that are current instead of emphasizing only on the technical training.
1.6 Scope and Limitations.

1.6.1 Scope.

The target population at the time of the study was 100 prisoners. This study was focused on only 50 recidivists who were in Thika Women's Prison at the time of the research and who were selected using the purposive sampling procedure. The respondents must have served prison terms more than once. It did not involve getting information from other recidivists in other prisons. However, this did not affect the quality of data collected because probability sampling ensures that the sampled respondents serve the purpose of the study without introducing biases.

Sociologists have linked recidivism to many other factors such as the nature of crime committed, family background among others. However, this research ignored the same as it concentrated on other factors like the age, education level, and marital status among others. This study only focused on one aspect of recidivism by convicted prisoners. It did not consider the other offender like the remands and the Civil Debtors (CD).

Under the cultural factors, the study specifically looked into how stigma, stereotype, and lack of trust result into recidivistic behavior in ex-offenders. On economic factors, the study only dwelt on the unemployment and lack of financial capital while age, level of education, and professional background formed the basis of demographic factors being discussed in this research. The social factors identified as being of interest to this study only focused on the community perception, peer influence, and personal values.

1.6.2 Limitations.

The research targeted 100 respondents which was the entire population of the study but it was found out that only 50 respondents were recidivists who were the focus of this study. Research on prisons and particularly on female criminality is an area that has not been widely explored. The available literature was limited and out dated in the sense that it was of the 1970s. The limitation has made it necessary to rely on the literature obtained from studies done outside Africa and especially the studies in America. These studies may not be applied in whole to the Kenyan situation. However, they were important since they gave the researcher a guideline to the study.
There was language barrier which made it difficult to communicate to the respondents during the one on one interviews. Majority of the respondents were illiterate and preferred to communicate in their local language, which the researcher was not conversant with. However, this problem was solved partly by using an interpreter. Majority of the respondents were illiterate and were not able to answer the questions making it difficult to access some information that may have made the research even richer.

The researcher was not allowed to access all the available information and when she was allowed it was to a limited extent although she expected to access the information more easily owing to the fact that she works in the prisons department. It was noted that only a few researchers had been allowed to carry out researches in prisons a fact that made this research difficult because it was like a beginner’s exercise. No empirical studies have been undertaken in prisons and prisoners as admitted by Mushanga (1976) and other criminologists.

1.7 Definitions of key terms

Community - This is the social setting where the ex-offender came from before he or she was taken to prison. The community is bound together by certain set and agreed upon norms and values which every member of the social group is expected to adhere to and in case of breach of these norms the member faces grievous consequences (Adler 1975).

Imprisonment - Confinement of a person, especially in prison and restriction of their enjoyment of freedoms, especially liberty that they would normally enjoy in different circumstances (Handbook on Human Rights in Kenyan Prisons, 2006).

Incarceration - Is used synonymously with the term imprisonment which means the process of confining a person in a prison or any place where they are not able to escape offence (The Prison Act, 1977 revised).

Inmate - A term used to refer to an offender in prison already serving sentence or sentences after being proven guilty by a court of law (The Prison Act, 1977 revised).
Prison Any building, enclosure or place where a person is lawfully detained awaiting trial or upon conviction (Handbook on Human Rights in Kenyan Prisons, 2006).

Recidivism This is the repetition of criminal behavior or habitual criminality measured by one criminal act that result in conviction by a court of law when committed by individuals who had been released from correctional supervision within the previous three years, which means that most first-time offenders fall back to criminal activities immediately after release (Clinard, 1974). It is also the tendency for some prisoners to break the law and be sent back to prison after serving a previous term (Handbook on Human Rights in Kenyan Prisons, 2006).

Recidivist Is a person who commits crime repeatedly. One who has been described as a criminal. An offender who is neither deterred nor rehabilitated through any sort of conviction or term of imprisonment (Omolo, 1984).

Reformation The process of changing a prisoner’s character (Handbook on Human Rights in Kenyan Prisons, 2004).

Rehabilitation The process of supporting a prisoner’s re-entry into the society after a successful reformation of character (Handbook on Human Rights in Kenyan Prisons, 2006).

Verdict This is the final decision normally reached by a court of law having proved beyond reasonable doubt that the accused person is either guilty or not guilty of the said offence (The Prison Act, 1977 revised).

White collar offenders These are those offenders who steal not because they do not work. They are those who work and earn a living but decide to steal from where they work and when caught and taken to prison they are able to buy their freedom because of their financial capabilities (Adler, 1975).
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the review of the existing literature on the community factors influencing long-term resettlement of female ex-offenders and their subsequent reintegration back in the community. The literature reviewed was intensively done to appreciate the related works done by others and also to identify knowledge gaps that would need to be filled by this study. It was organized thematically based on the research objectives and was also meant to shape the research and help in conceptualizing the concept.

According to Lipton (1975), there is such a serious need to introduce community re-adjustment measures so that the rate of recidivism can be reduced among the Kenyan women taken to prison. They defined community re-adjustment as referring to an offender's ability to reside within the community without engaging in behavior that violates community norms or to maintain attitudes and values that are not considered seriously deviant within his or her community. The specific factors reviewed as influencing the long-term resettlement of female recidivists range from social, economic, cultural and demographic factors.

2.2 The demographic factors.

2.2.1 Age of the recidivists.

According to a survey conducted by Upton in Minnesota in 2005 revealed that more than 100,000 young adults aged 18-24 leave a federal or state prison each year. The social and economic divide between the correctional and the general population is evident when people enter the system and it is even more pronounced when they leave. Through the survey, it was established that among inmates under the age of 25, one-fourth had spent sometime in their childhood living in public housing and nearly half (46.5% - a) said that their parents/guardians had received public assistance with about 16% having been in foster care or institutional homes and one third reported that their parents/guardians had abused alcohol or drugs.
The youths themselves also often had a drug or alcohol history. It was further argued that if these troubled young people have to be re-integrated back to the society as working contributing adults they must be provided with support to find a job, build a family and participate fully in the civil society.

2.2.2 Level of Education of the recidivist.

Generally it had been observed that quite a large number of criminals were of low education level and did odd jobs that were poorly paying which lured them into crime easily. According to the September (2000) issue of Lawyer Magazine, the real cause of crime was the search for wealth and the desire to close the gap between the rich and the poor. It further saw that the rift was extremely wide and it claimed that about 10% of Kenyans owned more than the 90% of the total resources. Thus left 90% of the total population to share the only 10% of the country's total resources. With the disintegrating, traditional family structure, the school has been assigned a major role in training children for adult life.

On the basis of very inadequate and unreliable statistics which do not include white-collar crimes, it appears that crime decreases with the amount of formal education. McCormick (1964) estimated that about 12.5% of all prisoners in the US could not read a newspaper or write a letter. In 1951 he estimated that from 10.30% of the admissions to conventional institutions throughout the country were illiterates. It is probable that this level of educational achievement of criminals and delinquents is lower than the level among the non-offenders. The current education system in Kenya stresses personality development of the child rather than dissemination of academic and technical skills. The time one spends in school can also hinder commission of crime. Then low levels of education and therefore poor job skills, work experience coupled with their ex-con status make them undesirable to employ (Rutere, 2003).

2.2.3 Professional background of the recidivists.

According to Kipury (1981) rehabilitation which is also a very important aim of imprisonment is said to be an object to encourage the offender to abstain from criminal behavior in future by providing her, for example, with social support in the form of probation, or a second chance in the form of an absolute/conditional discharge.
It is the duty and responsibility of the prison service to bring back to the society the prisoner as a better person. That is the more reason why the offenders are often deployed in various programs like the technical training, computer training, tailoring and dress making among others. In prison, the offenders are deprived of liberty sometimes for years which in essence is regarded as deterred measure but the increasing tendency was noted earlier to shift emphasis on reform and rehabilitation to teaching him a legitimate trade and the habit of steady work, to prepare him for his ultimate return to society as a respectable citizen (Rutere, 2003).

2.3. The socio-cultural and economic factors.
2.3.1. Social factors.
2.3.1.1 Community Perception.

A report by Vischer (2007) stated that there was a false perception in that all those who commit crimes are violent and dangerous and once released will have a negative impact on the communities to which they return. Several examples given as to why stigma exists included, consistent negative portrayal in the media of persons who commit crimes, a lack of positive news about the lives of former prisoners and a tough-on-crime platforms voiced by political officials that creates negative generalizations of former prisoners. These examples made it difficult to change the negative perceptions and public stigma associated with being a former prisoner and can create a backlash that hinders their ability to successful transition back to the community, find employment and secure housing. The report further explained that the nature of crime also played a big role in the re-integration process. It was easier forgetting a ‘simple’ crime like stealing a hen than a ‘serious’ crime like murder. People will tend to stay away from an offender who committed murder than the one who stole a hen from the community.

According to Mushamba (1985) “Kenya Prisons Service is devoted to transforming self-willed outcasts into useful citizens, to protecting society and to deterring the strong and the weak from the world of crime, with fairness and firmness aimed at rehabilitation and deterrence.” This statement sums up what the prisons are about that is to reform offenders and to deter criminality.
The community members should therefore be made aware of the fact that this commitment is intended to bring back completely reformed members back to the community. Therefore, there is no need to discriminate against the ex-offenders when they come back to the community from prisons. It is also in light of these factors that the study will sought to come up with a number of policy recommendations that if adopted, will help in curbing the problem of resettlement of the female recidivists into the community upon completion of their jail terms thus reducing the increasingly growing rates of recidivism in the Kenya prisons.

2.3.1.2 Personal values

Personal factors mentioned as influencing successful transition back to the community are lack of pro-social networks, an unstable or unsupportive family environment and lack of financial management skills. The other inescapable problem is the unwanted byproducts of custody. The inmate loses his job, is separated from his family and is compelled to associate with other offenders (Ngando, 1978).

According to Ngando (1978) although imprisonment is regarded as an attempt at reforming, a custodial sentence presents two inescapable problems. One being the difficulty under the conditions so unlike those of real life, of telling whether and if so, when reformation has been achieved. Conformity under the strict regime of a prison is no indication that a prisoner has become law abiding. It was noted that in communities where there was high concentration of former prisoners the acceptance is high compared to those with few ones.

According to Angote (1981) many petty offenders re-offend more often than serious offenders as established by preliminary observation carried out. It was further revealed that about 80% of those interviewed did not see the likelihood of ever fitting back into the wider society. From this interview it was clear that petty offenders are the ones who swelled the inmate population.
2.3.1.3 Peer Influence.
The cause of recidivism does not lie much in the individual. It lies in the social environment. An offender leaves prison and meets an environment where he cannot get a job and he is viewed as a sub-human because of the stigma attached to the prison. He ends up committing crime in order to try and sustain himself (Omolola, 1981).

On the realization that the Conformity under the strict regime of a prison is no indication that a prisoner has become law-abiding, it is necessary to establish that in communities where there was high concentration of former prisoners the acceptance is high compared to those with few ones. Other personal factors mentioned as influencing successful transition back to the community are lack of pro-social networks, an unstable or unsupportive family environment and lack of financial management skills. The other inescapable problem is the unwanted byproducts of custody may be due to assumption that they may incorporate other good youths to crime (Lhrlich, 1973).

2.3.2 The Cultural factors
2.3.2.1 Stereotypes.
According to Ferrington and Morris (1983) there is some empirical evidence that married women with a caring role are more likely to be treated leniently than the unmarried ones. This is said to may have been so because they are expected to remain in the home to continue their dependent maternal function. Unmarried women or those in unconventional relationships tended to receive more harsh treatment confirming a sentencing model based on a cultural need to reinforce gender roles within a framework of a heterosexual marriage or family life.

According to the Economic Survey on Women (2007) women have been expressed as a small percentage of the prison population roughly 10% such that it is evident the small margin is almost forgotten by the community.

One wonders why their re-integration to the community would be a matter of concern. The disparity between the rural setting and that of the urban setting in terms of social reintegration is quite eminent.
2.3.2.2 Lack of trust.

According to Bien (1976) the existing work on resettlement in the community after a prison sentence emphasizes that it is important for ex-offenders to change their identity and especially in the sense of who they are. He further said that resettlement which he also referred to as re-entry is identified as the implementation of the strategies designed to re-integrate the ex-offender into the community. Re-integration in this context he added was taken to mean anything and everything that is intended to reduce the chance of re-offending once a prisoner has left prison. More interactions occur and through them the residents become aware that generalizations about former prisoners are not accurate.

2.3.2.3 Stigmatization and Discrimination.

According to Cohen, Lazar and Fien (1991) women often receive harsher treatment than men in the criminal justice system. It is suggested that this different treatment results from the notion that criminal women have not only violated legal boundaries but also gender role expectations and when they come from prisons upon completion of their various jail terms they are not able to be re-integrated to the communities as ‘normal’ members with their roles since they are considered as outcasts instead they are discriminated against and stigmatized. This leaves them with very little option but to engage in criminal activities which in the long run will take them back to prison.

In the rural areas, the ex-offenders experience more lack of acceptance than in the urban areas in the sense that in the urban setting it is possible for one to change their locations and move to areas where they are not known to hide their identity. The rural culture does not give room to the ex-offender for coming back to the community as easily and as comfortably as the urban culture does (Adler, 1975).

An interview with an ex-convict in Minnesota explained the problem of stigmatization and victimization where she said that in every job interview she attended, the fourth question was asking whether one had been convicted of a crime. She said they asked that question before asking about the individual’s prior work history or education (Uggen and Wakefield, 2005). When first time offenders become repeat offenders the results are thousands of new victimizations each year with associated psychological, physical and material costs to individuals and communities.
Parole violations and new crimes are often committed because re-entering prisoners lack the skills and support to adapt to community life. Many are unable to find employment not only because they lack significant work histories and work skills but also due to social stigma related to their criminal and substance use histories (Bien, 2002). This is essentially the reason why the female recidivists are a subject of this study in order to come up with solutions that will help correct their problem of recidivism.

According to Angote (1981) when prisoners are released from prisons they are not fully welcomed into the society. There’s a way in which ex-prisoners are stigmatized and this makes them prefer coming back to prison irrespective of how deplorable the conditions are. They become recidivists. In a separate interview an ex-convict said that he came back to prison because having been a convict he was ashamed of himself and of the people who also regarded him with suspicion. They thought of him as murderer or robber by the mere fact that he had been in prison.

2.3.3 The economic factors.

2.3.3.1 Lack of financial capital / Income.

According Bien (2002) missing from the general description of the re-entry process is how women fare in transition from prison to community. They face several obstacles such as re-establishing a home and family life. This includes regaining legal and physical custody of children, finding affordable housing and meeting other basic needs and securing employment that pays a sufficient income. Shankfield and Hardcastle (2006) noted that even though many women enter prison with few job skills and experiences and have few opportunities for vocational training while incarcerated, making decisions about continuing prior intimate relationships which may have been exploitative or sexually or physically abusive and creating a new relational web of connections, reinforcing non-criminal attitudes and behaviors remains a very big challenge.
Fulfilling multiple conditions of parole plan including continued sobriety if not recovery from alcohol or drug addiction and finally negotiating the stigmatized perception of women ex-prisoners and the general public, potential employers, landlords and community members had posed great challenge for the offenders re-entering the community (Rien, 2002).

Another report by Justice Policy Centre (2006) established that without any source of income, returning prisoners have no resources to secure basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter and that they are often prohibited from living in public housing.

According to a report on the Saturday Nation Newspaper on 30th October 2010, selective punishment of the poor people led to recidivism whereby freed inmates became jailbirds shunting in and out of prison. The report adds that the typical prisoner is the jailbird caught in a vicious cycle of survival crimes; unlike serious offences such as rape, murder and robbery with violence which call for custodial sentences, the best cure for petty crime is tackling its cause - poverty.

2.3.3.2 Unemployment

According to the Urban Institute report (2007), the barriers the prisoners face when returning home which they admitted are difficult to overcome included lack of available housing, gaming employment, access to social services, public stigma and personal barriers. It went on to explain that service providers felt that there were insufficient employment opportunities available to this population because their skills are not compatible with the jobs available in the community. They said that job training available to the former prisoners does not reflect current employment opportunities and that the job training that exists is often inadequate.

Ehrlich (1973) argues that high levels of unemployment are associated with high levels of criminal activities. At the individual level, unemployed persons feel less happy and satisfied with their lives. Among ex-criminals, unemployment increases the likelihood of recidivism. Employment gives economic and extra-economic benefits. Nock and Rossi see it as giving social prestige. Given the financial circumstances faced by released prisoners finding a job would be expected to command high priority for purely income reasons (Rossi and Nock, 1980).
It was realized that most of these studies were done in the western countries and Kenya is unique, hence a study of its own with the Kenyan situation in mind is important. This kind of study will help us establish the relationship between education, occupation and recidivism in Kenya.

According to Howard (2001) unemployment and poverty, violent and psychological factors are equally valid predictors of violence regardless of race and gender. However, it has been indicated that in certain circumstances women's reasons for committing violence are unique to those of men's. For example, women will more often use violence when it is economically motivated to survive abuse or for revenge. In terms of the crimes committed white collar offenders may be able to draw networks that do not encourage criminal behavior that they had developed prior to their incarceration to cease their resettlement while other offenders are likely to lack such extensive resource (Shover and Holchstein, 1977).

A study conducted by the Criminal Research Centre in the USA in 2006 highlighted the importance of employment as being a key issue in the successful re-integration of ex-offenders as it provides more than the income necessary to support adequate and material conditions. It also revealed that employment provides structure and routine while filling time, opportunities to expand one's social network to include other productive members of society and generally contributes to enhance self-esteem and other psychological benefits.

Shumfield and Hardcastle (2006) argued that societal benefits relating to employment of ex-offenders would include reduced crime and re-incarceration rates, reduced costs within the corrections system, safer communities and inclusion of additional workers into the a shrinking workforce. However, it was revealed that the ex-offenders were sidelined in terms of family support and peer influences, accommodation, employment offered to only a few offenders with a relatively low wages compared to those who have never been to prison. Fahey, Roberts and Engel (2006) argue that many employers did not want to be the first to employ recently released offenders, rather they were more comfortable considering someone who had already established a track record after release.
2.4 Psychological factors

According to a study carried out by Lipton (1978) it was suggested that another way of helping the ex-offenders to fit back to the community is by treating them in a “Total Institute” then releasing them into a military establishment which differs profoundly from civilian life. For many persons the discipline, communal living and the general structure of the military life may inhibit behaviors that might be expressed in the absence of this setting. The success achieved in such a situation assuming that military offenders are not otherwise unique compared with the general run of offenders may or may not be related to the successful adjustment to civilian life.

Kipury (1981) during a preliminary interview had an encounter with a prisoner who was serving four years for bank fraud which she said was a framing by one of her friends. She said even the friend was later arrested and committed to Kamiti Maximum prison where he is to date. When asked what she planned to do about the matter since she was there simply because she was framed and whether she had reformed, she said that now she had learnt more tactics of committing crime and was now going to commit the actual crime. It was further argued that these generalizations are often made without considering the fact that many former prisoners are victims. Although women have dubious distinction of being the fastest growing segment of the population less attention has been paid on their involvement in the criminal justice system and whether they are rehabilitated and effectively reintegrated back to the community is not considered as a matter requiring urgent attention (Statistical abstract on the Treatment of Offenders, 2007).

2.5 Prison related factors

Argute (1981) conducted an interview with a man who was on a four years sentence for his third conviction. She said that his first conviction of four months was a result of being drunk and disorderly. On release he was back again for nine months on assault conviction. His third conviction was based on an offence of stealing. She evidently seemed to have become more daring with each new crime since his first conviction. Giving the researcher's overview of the prisoners’ attitude, most prisoners have their various reasons for being there with 80% committed petty offences related to theft and they all invariably come from poor families or had problems and did not know how to relate themselves to society. Since they have no means to fend for themselves they were better off in prison.
The treatment handed out should be such as to encourage their self respect and personal responsibility so as to build their morale, to inculcate in them the habit of good citizenship and hard work, to encourage them to lead a good and useful life on discharge (rule 16 C of the Prisons regulations). The aims of penal systems are retribution, individual deterrence, general deterrence, protection of the public, rehabilitation and reformation among other expounds.

The object of individual deterrence is to prevent the particular offender before the court from offending again and that although it is always easy to distinguish it in practice from other theories of sentencing, the principle of individual deterrence can be best observed in sentences which are expressed as being designed to teach the offender a "short sharp lesson" (Kipury, 1981).

2.6 Theoretical framework.

2.6.1 Introduction.

In this section the discussion was based on the sociological theories that explained recidivism. In the discipline of sociology there are theories that explain any social behavior. It is from these theories that an understanding was brought about on certain phenomena in the daily activities. The theories selected here were analyzed and where there was need they were criticized in an attempt to explain recidivism. The theoretical review in the present study sought to understand some of the explanations given as being the reasons why female ex-offenders do not completely resettle in the community once they are discharged from prisons. The theories identified for the purpose of this study included Labeling Theory, Differential Association Theory and Crime and Social Structure Theory.

2.6.2. The Labeling Theory.

This theory assumes that people first violate a norm by chance or for explained reasons. This initial act of deviance is called primary deviation. The theory is not concerned with the primary deviations but explains secondary deviations. It does so by focusing on the people and institutions that have the power to label behaviour as deviant. The assumption of this theory is that a major cause of continued deviation is the way that the law makers, the police, judges, psychiatrists and others who have the power to affix the label deviant treat people who initially break laws. Deviant behaviour that is a product of this labeling process is termed as secondary deviation (Conklin, 1972).
Supporters of labeling theory emphasize the importance of stigma as an element in the continuation of deviant activities and careers. They point to the critical part played by social control processes both informal and official in the development of stigma.

Possession of stigma is said to produce a variety of interactional problems for the person. Becker (1963) claimed that being in a deviant status such as an ex-offender becomes for the individual a 'master status' that exposes him to the likelihood that he will be regarded as deviant or undesirable in other aspects. In turn the cumulative social and social psychological effects of stigma and stigma management are said to escalate the probability of additional secondary deviation.

Secondary deviation develops as deviants gradually organize their identity and self-conception on the basis of deviance. Society plays a part on whether or not a criminal will reform or not. There are those who feel rejected in the society after serving a prison sentence and therefore gang up with their fellow ex-offenders to feel the same. These ex-offenders may be denied employment, company or there may be general rejection because he or she had been imprisoned. As a result the ex-offender commits more crimes.

Shover (1985) argued that the nature of the stigma of the persistent offenders (recidivist) changes over the years. Whereas ex-offenders were stigmatized when they were young, they increasingly are stigmatized as recidivists who have failed to desist from this self-defeating behaviour. As this process occurs, they run the risk of alienating the few remaining straight people with whom they maintain contact. Further Shover argued that these persistent offenders suggest a process of stigma transformation. This suggested that as criminals persist in crime commission it becomes difficult to desist from it. This may be as a result of lack of any other means of livelihood, lack of good company etc. In this study the researcher set out to find out how stigma management results in recidivist behavior and how this can be controlled.

According to Schrag (1961) one way the labeling of deviant behaviour leads to secondary deviation is through the effects of the label on the self-concept of the person who has been labeled. People who violate laws and are arrested by the police and tried in court may have conceptions of themselves altered and come to think of themselves as criminals.
Garfinkel (1963) observed that court appearances have been called status degradation ceremonies in which people accused of violating the laws are recast as unworthy persons. These people may then reject other people and become hostile to the society in order to maintain their self esteem. Being labeled criminals in court can thus produce a self fulfilling prophesy, so that people behave in ways consistent with their altered self concepts. In other words, once they are labeled criminals by the police, courts and the society at large, they continue being criminals.

The labeling perspective suggests that when youngsters engage in minor vandalism or petty theft, they might think little of it. If they are arrested, brought to court and treated as criminals, they may come to think that they have done something very wrong and perhaps they are very unworthy people. As a result, they may begin to associate with others who have also been labeled criminals. This would lead them into additional or more serious crimes resulting in recidivism. What this perspective puts forward is that labeling a person a criminal has stigmatization effect on the individual person. This stigma and the efforts to overcome it (stigma management) may result in more indulgence into criminal behavior.

Labeling theorists blame the society for labeling a criminal as 'criminal' in the first place. They argue that the society acts in a way to reject the released criminals. These criminals therefore feel stigmatized by the society and may go back to their criminal activities. They may also gang up with other criminals they are aware of. This theory tries to explain to us why criminals become recidivists.

However, it may also be prudent to ask why some criminals reform despite the fact that they have been labeled as criminals and why others do not get stigmatized but they continue committing crimes. This theory does not provide answers to these questions. However, this study intends to pursue these questions.

2.6.2.1 Stigma management

Goffman (1961) assumed that possession of a stigma makes one deviant. His analysis was based on how one's behavior revolved around the management of visible and invisible stigma. Goffman (1961) treated the social world as a theatrical stage where people displayed actions whose meaning can be discerned through the interpretation of the stage managed appearances.
In him people were actors meaning that social interactions were sustained through the manipulation of appearances. He argued that these actors have different attributes of self in different environments. Further these attributes are revealed at different times.

In the social negotiations, one posses a certain definition of the situation which others accept for the sake of creating a cooperation interaction (Tseelon 1991). This process of impression management is dynamic in the sense that such people have to keep changing their social roles depending on which one favours their interests at a particular point in time. This means that a criminal may release no truth to a stranger, little truth to a law officer and more truth to a friend in crime.

The choice depends on the impression one would like to create. In other words the impression created serves to manage the stigma. In this theory, Goffman deals with the social management of social stigma or stigmatized attributes. According to him, victims of stigma deal with it through concealment, covering and passing depending on the obtrusiveness or unobtrusiveness of the stigmatized attributes. In life, everybody tends to cover, conceal or pass an event at some point and yet not everybody has a stigmatized attribute. Criminals act as law abiding citizens to fool innocent people. It is not possible to identify from a group of people since they act and behave like law abiding people.

Criminals may manage their stigma by acting like law abiding citizens, or by deciding to become what people think they are. For example, a woman who decides to start selling changaa after being excommunicated from her local church manages her stigma by avoiding the faithful church members and dealing only with the customers. In other words, she manages her stigma by associating with other lawbreakers and assuming what others say or think about her.

A robber who pretends to be a law abiding person and continues to rob manages his stigma by pretending to be law abiding citizen when he is with law abiding citizens and vice versa when with other robbers. The assumption in this study is that stigma and stigma management in criminals leads them to commit further crimes. Goffman is important in this study because he helps us to explain stigma management in criminals.
2.6.3 The Rehabilitation Model

According to this model, the concept of rehabilitation rests on the assumption that criminal behaviour is caused by some factors. This perspective does not deny the fact that people make choices to break the law, but it asserts that these choices are not a matter of 'pure free will'. Instead, the decision to commit crime is held to be determined or at least heavily informed by a person's social surroundings, psychological developments or a biological makeup. People are not the same and thus are free to express their will that are rather different. These 'individual differences' shape how people behave including whether they are likely to break the law. They are characterized by various criminogenic risk factors such as lack of parental love and supervision, exposure to delinquent peers, the internalization of antisocial values or an impulsive temperament. They are more likely to be involved in crime than people not having these experiences and traits. The model is traced to the positive criminology which argues that given proper care and treatment, criminals can be transformed into productive law-abiding citizens. The rehabilitation school therefore suggests that people are not to blame for the crimes they commit. In fact, criminals are considered victims of the social injustice, poverty, problematic families, racism, ethnicity, ignorance and frame ups, oppressive social and economic systems among others. Their criminal acts or behaviours are therefore a justified response to a society that has betrayed them. Their crime committing inclinations may therefore be traced to psychological problems and personality disturbances caused by their problematic and an impoverished upbringing such that even as the general public seek state protection from crime and criminals, that are in favour of programs designed to help unfortunate people who commit crimes due to emotional or social problems. This model suggests that crime can only effectively be dealt with if the root causes are identified and addressed.
2.6.3.1 Criticisms of the model

The rehabilitation model only makes sense if criminal behaviour was caused and not merely a free willed, rational choice. If crime were a matter of free choices then there would be nothing particular individuals to be fixed or changed. But if involvement in crime is caused by various factors then logically re-offending can be reduced if correctional interventions are able to alter these factors and how they have influenced the offenders. For instance, if association with delinquent peers cause youths to internalize crime causing beliefs e.g. it is ok to steal, then diverting to other peer groups and changing these beliefs can inhibit their return to criminal behaviour. The researcher thinks that this model does not address certain important areas of the offenders life and therefore not having adequate explanations to this phenomenon of criminality. This model does not provide an explanation as to why some individuals commit crimes yet they are not affected by any of the social, psychological and economic factors. It does not explain why a youth from a well off family where he is taken to school under great supervision and provided with all the incentives in life still may end up as criminals.

One of the main findings of this study reveals that female offenders did re-offend because they were economically handicapped since a large percentage had a legitimate source of income whereby it was established that they were either employed or self employed, yet they continued to commit crimes repeatedly and became recidivists. The concept of greed or the desire to acquire more and more day by day is not captured by this model. However, it has adequately explained the idea of giving individual criminality without giving collective conclusions or stereotypes.

2.6.4 Non-intervention model

Non-intervention model also known as liberalism assumes that criminals are let to run free within the society. It does not focus on the idea that we are making ourselves criminals. It states that for such crimes as smoking pot, being naked or something else that doesn’t really do much harm to anyone else should not be labeled as criminals. It argues that once individuals are marked as criminals, so they become.
The non-intervention philosophy of justice borrows heavily from the writings of Edwin Lemert (1967) and Edwin Sehur (1973) who argued that the more the government intervenes in the lives of people (Offenders included) the greater the harm done to their future behaviour pattern. They consequently call for limiting of government’s intrusion into the lives of people especially juveniles and misdemeanants. This model explains why the government’s efforts to eradicate street families and commercial sex workers on the streets have failed in spite of constantly arresting them and charging them in a court of law. Instead, they have continued to commit these crimes repeatedly and they have ended up forming the bulk of the prisons repeat offenders (recidivists).

2.7 The Conceptual Framework.

The conceptual model represented in Figure 2.1 below represents the outline of the four main factors presumed by the researcher to be the ones influencing the long-term resettlement of the female recidivists in the Kenyan prisons. The conceptual model above explains that cultural, social, economic and demographic factors independently lead to more arrests and re-arrests which then lead to repeat convictions which in turn result into more recidivists or repeat offenders.

There are other factors that lead to recidivism but the above four factors were used for the purpose of this study. (Figure 2.1).
Figure 2.1 The Conceptual Model

Demographic factors
- Age of the offender
- Level of education
- Professional background

Socio-cultural and Economic Factors.
Social factors
- Community perception
- Peer influence
Economic Factors
- Unemployment
- Lack of financial capital
Cultural factors.
- Stigmatization
- Lack of trust and

Psychological factors
- Personal values

Prison-related factors

Independent variables

Results

Female Recidivists (Female Repeat offenders)

Dependent variable
CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction.

This chapter discussed the research design and methodology of the study. It provided full
description of the research design and a detailed description of the methods used in the selection
of the population. The sampling procedures, research tools, data collection techniques and data
analysis procedures have also been highlighted. The procedures adopted to attain acceptable
validity and reliability of the research tools have also been explained. A design has been used to
structure the research and to show all the major parts of the research.

Purposeful sampling method was employed by the researchers to identify the actual respondents
who were to be used in the study. Data was collected from offenders who had been convicted for
committing crimes more than once (recidivists).

3.2 Site selection and description

The study was conducted at the Thika Women's Prison, a relatively small prison that offers
custody to the female offenders. It was established as the women wing of the larger Thika
Command Prison. It has a capacity of 100 to 150 offenders at a given time. However, at the time
of this study, it was holding only 100 offenders as the total population. The prison holds both
convicted and unconvicted offenders who mainly are mainly convicted of petty offences whose
penalty range from 6 months imprisonment to a maximum of 5 years.

It is 10 kilometers square and is located in the Central Province, Thika West District,
Thika Municipality Division and the Thika Municipality location. The facility is situated within
Thika Town center and located between Thika Stadium and the Thika District Hospital. This
institution was chosen due to its convenience to the researcher and because of the researcher's
professional interest.
3.3 Research design

The research adopted exploratory design. According to Bless and Smith (2004) the purpose of exploratory research is to gain a broad understanding of a situation, phenomenon, community or person. The need for such a study could arise from a lack of basic information in a new area of interest. It sought to establish the various community factors that influence the long-term resettlement of female ex-offenders.

Therefore, the study is a new concept in the prison department in the sense that female recidivists have not been given attention in any previous studies. In essence, this study is being done for the first time.

3.4 Population and sampling design

3.4.1 Population

The target population of the study constituted the female offenders in Thika Women Prison. There were 100 female offenders who were serving different sentences at the time of the study. The research focused only on the recidivists.

3.4.2 Sampling design

The study adopted purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is done by keeping a certain purpose in mind. The samples are an accurate or near accurate representation of the population and the results are expected to be accurate, less time consuming and less expensive.

3.4.3 Sample selection and sample size

Using purposive sampling method, a sample of 50 respondents was selected. This selection involved going through the prison register from which a list of recidivists was created (the sampling frame).

3.4.4 Unit of Analysis

In this study, the unit of analysis was the individual female recidivists who were above 18 years. Nachmias and Nachmias (2001) define the unit of analysis as the most elementary part of the phenomenon to be studied.
3.5 Data Collection Methods, Techniques and Tools.

3.5.1 Tools of data collection

The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative techniques of data collection. Quantitative technique was used to generate data in numeric form. In this study questionnaire was the main instrument for the collection of the quantitative data.

The questionnaires incorporated appropriately the sample of questions suggested in line with the study objectives. The questionnaires had both open and close ended questions. On the other hand qualitative data was obtained in narrative form. The study adopted various participatory data collection techniques to obtain data.

3.5.1.1 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Discussion was facilitated on the specific issues of interest by a group composed of eight (8) participants. An interview guide was also used as the appropriate data collection instrument which contained well selected thematic areas for discussion during the FGDs.

3.5.1.2 Face to face interview

This was done with the help of interview guide to probe keenly and deeply into the issues of the family, marriage positive to the respondent. It provided an environment of discussing issues which could not be discussed in the FGD. The interviews dwell on the community factors influencing resettlement of female ex-offenders, the perceptions of the community leaders, employers and family members on the ex-offenders.

3.5.2 Data collection techniques.

The introductory letter from the university and the researcher's letter of introduction were attached to the questionnaires and administered to the respondents. The questionnaires were administered and collected immediately after they had been completed by the respondents. This was to avoid further consultations among the respondents and to enhance objectivity in research.
3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation.

Data obtained from the field was arranged according to its source i.e., the questionnaire and the interview guide. The responses obtained from the questionnaire were coded and tied in various categories that related to each particular question. Qualitative data from the LGDs were organized thematically and the responses from interview schedules were placed in narrative form in the tables, interpreted, and explained.

The data was then coded and entered into the computer and the analyses done using the Statistical Packages of Social Sciences (SPSS) and Excel. The information was then presented into tables and interpreted based on the frequencies and percentages.
CHAPTER FOUR
DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the results, interpretation and discussions within the framework of the set study questions. The study focused on the community factors influencing the resettlement of the female recidivists into the community. The specific objectives of the study were the cultural, social, economic, demographic and personal factors. The data was analyses and presented according to the objective of the study. Out of 50 questionnaires administered to the respondents, there was 100% response.

1.2 Demographic factors

4.2.1 Age of respondents

The researcher sought to establish the age brackets of respondents who committed crimes more frequently within the community. The findings of the study revealed that 70% of the offenders were youth aged between 18-15 years, 12% were between young adults aged between 15-45 years, 10% were middle aged adults aged between 45-55 years and 8% were elderly women whose ages were above 55 years. This suggested that the highest percentage of those who committed crimes in the community were youths (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Age of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth 18-15 yrs</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young adults 15-45 yrs</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle aged adults 45-55 yrs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly above 55 yrs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.2. Respondents' level of education

The level of education of the respondents was sought in order to establish if it could be used to explain why they committed crimes. The study found out that 58% were illiterate, 23% were semi-illiterate, 12% had completed their primary level of education, 6% had gone up to the secondary level and 4% had gone up to the college level. The results suggested that majority of those who were committed to prisons either possessed low levels of education or completely had not attained any form of education (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 Respondents' level of education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-illiterate</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.3 Recidivists' Professional training before imprisonment

Professional training before imprisonment was sought by the researcher to establish whether lack of professional skills may have contributed to the offenders committing crimes. It was also expected to be a useful concept by the researcher during the process of policy formulation and recommendations based on the professional needs of the offenders aimed at making them more productive members of the community upon completion of their jail terms. The findings of the study revealed that 28% possessed skills in salon, 6% in dressmaking, 14% in information technology and the 52% did not have any professional training. The results indicated that the largest prison population did not possess any form of professional qualifications with a small percentage having qualifications only on technical training (Table 4.3).
### Table 4.3 Recidivists' professional training before imprisonment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prof. training</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salon</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress making</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information tech</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.1 Religion of respondents.

The researcher sought to establish if religion played any role in the number of offenders that were committed to prisons and their subsequent re-integration back to the community. It was established that 88% of the respondents were Christians, 8% were Muslims and 4% did not belong to any religion. Based on the geographical and regional setting, religion did not have a bearing on the offenders who committed crimes although majority of the recidivists were Christians (Figure 4.1).

**Figure 4.1 Religion of respondent.**
4.2.5 Ethnic community of respondents.

The researcher sought to establish whether ethnicity played a major role in the manner and rate at which recidivism took place. Having taken into consideration the geographical placement of the communities, four communities which were considered as common by the researcher were selected at random. The findings showed that 90% of the respondents belonged to the Kikuyu community, 2% Luo, 2% Kabita and 6% Luhya community. Taking into consideration the fact that this study was conducted in a Kikuyu dominated region, majority of the recidivists were from the Kikuyu community and therefore concluded that ethnicity did not contribute to high rates of recidivism in Kenya. However, the dominating ethnic community would form the highest percentage in the number of recidivists based on the specific region (Table 1.1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic group</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabita</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kikuyu</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tot</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.6 Marital status of respondents before imprisonment.

The researcher compared the marital status of the offenders before and after the first imprisonment in order to ascertain the effects imprisonment had on the marital status of the female recidivists. The study revealed that before imprisonment, 16% were married, 22% were separated, 8% were divorced, 18% had never married before and 16% were widowed. After imprisonment, 26% were divorced, 22% were separated, never married remained as 18% and the widowed also remained as 16%. This indicated that imprisonment affected the recidivists negatively with majority of them losing their marriages as a result of imprisonment. This was suggested by the fact that the number that was married before the first imprisonment reduced by half after the second imprisonment (Tables 1.5 and 1.6).
Table 4.5 Marital status of respondents before imprisonment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.6 Marital status of respondents after imprisonment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 Socio-cultural and Economic factors

4.3.1 Social factors

1.3.1.1 Some reasons why female recidivists commit crimes.

The researcher sought to establish some of the reasons that drove the female recidivists to commit and repeat crimes in the communities. The findings revealed that 58% lacked stable source of income, 10% said that they experienced constant misunderstandings with their marriage partners, 9% said that they had broken marriages and so they had to look for alternative ways to feed for their children 39% said they were influenced by friends into criminal activities and 18% did not respond in any way. This suggested that female recidivists committed crimes within the communities due to instability resulting from the families suggesting that they were motivated into committing crimes by their families (Table 4.7)
Table 1: Some reasons why female recidivists commit crimes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for crimes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of stable source of income</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant misunderstandings</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>among marriage partners</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken marriage</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence from friends</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.1.2 Some offences committed by respondents.

There was need to establish the offence for which the offenders were sent to prison. The findings of the study in the table below revealed that 28% were charged with stealing, 14% obtaining through false pretense, 6% giving false information, 20% drunk and disorderly and 12% were charged with stealing by servant. However, some of the respondents had indicated multiple offences. This suggested that all the crimes committed by the recidivists were economically related reasons for committing crimes (Figure 1.2).

Figure 1: Some offences committed by respondents
4.3.2 Economic factors

4.3.2.2 Rehabilitation programs recidivists were deployed in.

Prison department’s core function is to rehabilitate the offenders and then release them back to the community as reformed, changed and corrected members of the society. For this reason while in prison, the convicts are often deployed to different rehabilitation programs in order to impart them with knowledge and skills that would otherwise help them to operate income generating activities thus empower them economically when they are discharged from prisons. This study revealed that 50% of the offenders were deployed to industry, 14% were registered to school, 14% to computer, 10% to soap making, 2% Shamba while 10% were deployed in other rehabilitation programs.

This suggested that majority of the recidivists only received technical knowledge and skills which are not technologically competitive in the current world (Table 1.8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rehab programs</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap making</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamba</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.2.3 Period served in prison

The researcher was interested to find out if the period served by the recidivists in custody deterred them from committing crimes in future. The findings revealed that 50% of the offenders had served for a period between 0-6 months, 22% had served between 6 months-1 year and another 12% had served for a period between 1 year-2 year while 6% had served 2 years-5 years. It became apparent that the ex-offenders who continued to re-offend and perpetuated the high rates of recidivism were offenders serving short prison terms compared to the ones serving long terms (Table 1.9).
Table 4.9 Period served in prison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-6 months</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months - 1 yr</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 yr - 2 yrs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 yrs - 5 yrs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1.2.4. Respondents' occupation before imprisonment

The respondents' occupation before imprisonment was used by the researcher to establish if the offenders' commission of crimes was influenced by the fact that they did not have any source of income. It was caused by another factor. The results showed that 32% were self-employed, 12% were employed, and 26% were housewives and that they didn't have any occupation. This study revealed that majority of the female recidivists did not commit the various offences because of lack of means to earn a living since 74% were either employed or self-employed (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10 Respondents' occupation before imprisonment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self Employed</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housewives</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3.2.6 Period served by respondents in the organization

The period the respondents had served in an organization may have had some impact on how they were perceived by their employers and colleagues irrespective of the fact that they were in prison. The researcher therefore set out to find out if the respondents would get back their former employment upon release. The results of the study showed that 50% had worked for a period between 0-6 months, 16% had worked for a period between 6-12 months, 6% had worked for a period between 1-2 years and 12% had worked for 5 years and above. The table takes care of only 11 respondents who were employed during the time of incarceration. The findings showed that majority of the recidivists had worked for a very short period between 0-6 months, a short period that may not guarantee the recidivists their chances of employment upon completion of their sentences. (Table 4.14)

Table 4.14 Period served by respondents in the organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6 months</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12 months</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years and above</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 Psychological factors

4.4.1 Respondents' ease of getting husbands after imprisonment

The researcher sought the opinion of the respondents on whether they thought it would be easy for them to get husbands to marry upon completion of their jail terms. The findings revealed that 18% were still in marriage. However, for 56% of the respondents, it was not going to be easy, while 26% were not sure whether they would get husbands to marry them. This confirmed that after the second imprisonment the recidivists had lost hopes of getting husbands who would marry them, suggesting that female imprisonment was not taken as a normal phenomenon.
4.5.2 Respondents' employers' knowledge of their being in prison

The respondents' acceptance of liability and the will to reform and become 'good citizens' was questioned when the researcher set out to establish if the respondents were comfortable with their former employers knowing that they were in prison. The study revealed that 10% were comfortable and said their employers were aware of the fact that they were in prison. 68% said they were not comfortable at all and that their employers were not aware while 10% were not sure whether their employers knew. These findings suggested that the recidivists did not accept their status as recidivists and would not wish to be exposed to the entire public including their former employers that they were in prison.

4.3.3 Cultural factors

4.3.3.1 Perception of community members about female recidivists.

The researcher sought the opinion of the respondents on how the community members perceived female recidivists in order to establish whether the female recidivists were accepted or rejected once they had completed their sentences. The study indicated that 16% were considered as outcasts in the community, 44% were considered as dangerous criminals, 10% were considered as permanently bad people who could not be rehabilitated and 30% said that the community members admitted that committing crimes was inevitable. These findings suggest that there was a very negative perception among the community members on the recidivists while only 10% admitted that commission of crimes was inevitable. (Table 4.12).

Table 4.12 Perception of community members about female ex-offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceptions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They are outcasts</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are dangerous criminals</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They were permanently bad people who cannot be rehabilitated</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committing crimes is inevitable to all sexes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3.3.2 Respondents' membership to women groups.

It was important for the researcher to establish whether the respondents belonged to any community women groups in order to assess their rates of social interactions with the rest of the members of the communities. Results showed that 66% belonged to a women group while 33% did not. This suggested that majority of the recidivists were socially active in how they interacted with the rest of the community.

4.3.3.3 Respondents' intention to continue with membership after prison

In order to establish if the recidivists would be comfortable mixing with other members of the community after completing their prison terms and if they would expect to be trusted and accepted back by others in the communities, the researcher sought to find out if the respondents would continue being members of the women groups. The findings revealed that 26% would continue being members, 66% would not and 10% were not sure. This widely suggested that the recidivists were not comfortable and free enough to mix with other members of the community once they were discharged from prisons.

4.3.3.4 Number of times respondents got visited.

Prison rules and regulations allow the prisoners to be visited by their relatives and friends. Therefore this study sought to find out the number of times the recidivists got visited. The study revealed that 20% were visited after every two months, 14% were visited once a month, 48% were never visited and 18% were not clear of the number of times they had been visited. From the findings of the study, it was apparent that 66% which is a very high percentage were either never visited or could not remember when they were last visited. This gave an indication that the community members outside the confines of the prisons did not want to associate with the recidivists and is the main possibility why they were never visited (Table 4.1).
Table 4.13 Number of times respondents got visited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of visits</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After every two months</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never visited</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4.5 Respondents willingness to stay in the same place after prison

The researcher sought to find out if the recidivist would stay at the same place within the community upon completion of their sentences. The results showed that 70% would not stay at the same place, 20% would but not immediately and 10% would not. These results indicated that majority of the recidivists would not stay within the same place and would rather relocate to other places where their true identities are not clear and not where they would be easily identified as ex-offenders or recidivists by other members of the community. Others were better off going back to the same place though not immediately in order to ensure that their actual identity is partially lost or forgotten (Table 4.14).

Table 4.14 Respondents' possibility to stay in the same place after prison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not immediately</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3.4.6 Impact of imprisonment on offenders’ contributions to community

The study sought to establish the effects imprisonment had on the offenders’ contribution to the development of their communities. The results showed 48% thought that their imprisonment would affect their contributions negatively, 36% thought their imprisonment would affect the community positively and 16% were not aware of the effect their imprisonment had on the community. These findings suggested that imprisonment of the female recidivists have a serious negative impact on their contributions to the development of the community (Figure 1.3).

Figure 1.3 Impact of imprisonment on community contribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positively</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negatively</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.5 Respondents’ number of children.

The researchers sought to find out if the respondents had children, the number of children and how their imprisonment might have affected their children in the community. The study showed that 1% of respondents had no children, 7% had 1 child each, 11% had 2 children each, 14% had 3 children each, 18% had 4 children and 46% had 5 children and above. The study established that majority of the recidivists had children as many as four and above. This suggested that majority of the recidivists may have gotten involved in criminal activities while struggling to lend for their children (Table 4.15).
Table 4.15 Respondents' number of children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of children</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No children</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 and above</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.3.1 Effects of imprisonment on recidivists' children relationships with others

The researcher sought the opinion of the respondents on the effect imprisonment had had on their children's relationship with other children whose parents had never been committed to prison. Results showed that 78% had children affected negatively, 14% had children affected positively and 8% did not respond. This data caters for only those who have children. The results of these findings showed that imprisonment affected the recidivists' children negatively in the sense that the children were also viewed as criminals just like their parents in prisons.

4.4 Psychological factors.

4.4.1 Respondents' possibility of having been framed

The researcher sought to know the opinion of the respondents concerning their imprisonment and the opinion they held would make them reformed and 'better citizens' or if it would make them 'better criminals'. The respondents were expected to admit that they really committed the said offence or say if they were framed. The findings revealed that 76% were framed while 24% were not. This suggested that majority of the recidivists did not take their imprisonment positively which may have contributed to them continuing to commit crimes with an intention to seek justice.

4.4.2 Respondents' length of sentence.

According to a report on the Saturday Nation Newspaper of 30th October 2010, those recidivist who frequent the penal institution are the offenders who have been convicted for less serious crimes (petty offences) with short prison terms. The researcher sought to establish whether the length of sentence served by the respondents influenced the number of times the offender continued committing offences and re-offending leading to recidivism.
The findings in the revealed that 24% of the offenders served between 0-6 months, 26% served between 6 months-1 year, 24% served between 1-2 years, and 13% served between 2-5 years and only 4% served sentences 5 years and over. This report has also been supported by the above findings (Table 4.16)

Table 4.16 Respondents length of sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6months</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6months-1yr</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1yr-2yrs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2yrs-3yrs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 3yrs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5.5 Opinion of offenders on sentence passed

The opinions of the offenders were sought regarding the sentences passed on them in order to ascertain that the recidivists were satisfied with the verdict reached by the courts as this was deemed paramount in the process of rehabilitating them. The results showed that 68% had no opinion on this matter, 22% thought the sentence was unfair and only 10% thought the sentence was fair. The results showed that the recidivists were not completely satisfied with the verdict but instead remained indifferent over the same. This clearly showed that the recidivism rate swelled since the recidivists did not accept the liability of their involvement in crimes.
4.5 Prison related factors

4.5.1 Respondents' plan after discharge

In the effort to establish if rehabilitation and the reformation by the female ex-offenders had been achieved, the study sought to find out what the offenders plan to do after being discharged from prison. The results shown in the figure below revealed that 20% forgave their accusers, 24% were to go back to their work as usual, 10% were to change their habits, 6% were to seek justice and 20% said none. This suggested that majority of the offenders took the imprisonment positively. (Figure 4.4)

Figure 4.4 Respondents' plan after discharge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forgive the accusers</td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work as usual</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change habit</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek justice</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5.2 Respondents intention to go back to former employment

It was important for the researcher to establish if the respondents in their own volition and without coercion given a chance would accept to go back to former employment after completing their sentences. This was aimed at establishing if the respondents felt remorse for the offences they committed, felt no guilt and had been reformed as a result of the imprisonment. From the table below 68% said they would not go back, 16% accepted that they would go back given the chance and 16% were not sure whether they would go back. This indicated that majority of the offenders though may have felt remorse for the offences committed did not expect good working conditions hence would rather not go back to former employment.
4.5.3. Respondents planned to commit the offences

The researcher sought to establish if the offenders had prior plans to commit the said offences or they simply found themselves having participated in the criminal activity without prior knowledge or plan. The findings revealed that 18% of the respondents had planned to commit the offences while 62% committed the offences without prior plans. They accidentally became victims. This indicated that majority of the recidivists committed the crimes without having set prior plans.

4.5.4. Respondents possibility of committing offences alone or with others.

Committing crimes alone or with others was sought as this was aimed at providing help to the researcher in order to establish whether the respondents were really criminals or they were influenced to commit the said crimes by others or the environment. The results showed that 32% committed the crimes alone while 68% committed the offences with others (had accomplices). The results of the study revealed that majority of the recidivists committed the offences in the company of their accomplices. This in other words suggested that the involvement in the criminal activity was well planned by the recidivists.

4.5.5. Whereabouts of the respondents' accomplices.

The researcher sought to find out the closeness that existed between the respondents and their accomplices and if they were in touch a factor that could lead to future criminality should the respondents be set free. The results showed that 14% of the offenders knew that their accomplices were in another prison, 6% did not know the whereabouts of their accomplices, 4% said their accomplices were at large and 76% were not comfortable giving any response. The figure below only accounts for respondents with accomplices only. The positions taken by the respondents in the manner in which they reacted to this matter suggested that the recidivists and the accomplices were very close such that the recidivists were not willing to 'sell out' the accomplices hence the purpose of withholding the information about the accomplices.

(Figure 4.5)
4.5.6 Relationship of respondents with the accomplices.

The researcher sought to establish the offenders' relationship with the accomplices in order to find out the closeness they have and the influence this closeness may have had on the offender in relation to crime. The study revealed that 74% of the accomplices had no relationship with the respondents, 10% were husbands of the offenders, 10% were friends of the offenders and 6% were offspring of the offenders. The study therefore evidenced that the accomplices and the recidivists had no serious relation with the highest number of the recidivists confirming that there was no relationship. However, few recidivists had relationship with the accomplices.

(Table 4.17)

Table 4.17 Relationship of the respondents to the accomplice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offspring</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No relationship</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.5.7 How respondents spent free time in prison

The researcher sought to know how respondents spent their free time while in prison in order to establish if it could have a bearing on the continued trend of recidivism. The result of the study revealed that 16% attended fellowship, 24% read novels and journals, 20% chatted with friends and the remaining 40% spent their free time sleeping. The findings revealed no link between how the recidivists spent their free time and the growing trend of recidivism. (Table 4.18).

Table 4.18 How respondents spent free time while in prison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attending fellowship</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading novels and journals</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatting with friends</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1 Introduction
This chapter presented the discussion of findings, conclusions arrived at having gone through the
findings of the study and the policy recommendations that it put in place should be in a position
to provide solutions to the problems ex-offenders not resettling effectively in the community
after imprisonment. It started with a summary of the research findings, followed by the
discussion conclusion and recommendations.

5.2 Summary of the findings
The key findings on the factors specified in the objectives of the study are discussed below:

5.2.1 The Demographic factors.
Imprisonment affects women marital status. Out of 36% of those who were married before
imprisonment, 18% were divorced after they were released while separated remained 22%,
widowed 18%, never married 18% respectively and divorced increased from 8% before
imprisonment to 26% after they were released. This data indicates that the number of the married
reduced and divorced increased.
The findings of the study revealed that 70% of the offenders were aged between 18-25 years.
12% were between 25-35 years, 10% were 35-45 years of age and 8% were above 55 years old.
This data showed that crimes rate is highest among offenders aged between 18-25 years (youth),
thus confirms Figgen (2005) survey that more than 100,000 young adult aged 18-21 leave a
federal or state prison every year. It was also an indication that many of the prisoners in Kenya
are young women who after finishing their elementary studies have no work and from there
henceforth crime remains as their only option.
The study also found out that, female offenders possessed low levels of education. This is the reason why 46% had only completed the primary level, 43% secondary while only 6% had acquired college education. It was also evident that lack of professional skills might have contributed to the offenders committing crimes. This was explained by the fact that 78% had salon skills, 6% dressmaking and 14% information technology while majority who were 52% did not have any professional training.

The findings of the study conducted indicated that there were 88% Christians, 4% Muslims and 8% recidivists who were not affiliated to any religion. This confirmed that religious did not have any influence in the offender’s recidivistic behaviour.

5.2.2 The Socio cultural and economic factors

The number of women imprisonment has increased with low employment rates hence high re-arrest has seen many more women spending their lives behind the bars (Economic Survey on Women, 2007). This confirms the reasons why 58% of respondents were sentenced because of lack stable income, 10% experienced misunderstandings within marriages, 6% had broken marriages, 8% were influenced by friends into criminal activities and 18% did not respond.

The opinion of the respondents on the perception of the community members about female ex-offenders was sought in order to establish the extent of acceptance or rejection the offenders expected upon completion of their sentences. The result was that 16% said they are outcasts, 2% said they can change, 11% said they are dangerous criminals, 8% said they cannot be rehabilitated and 10% said committing crimes is inevitable.

This study agrees with Vesher (2007) that there was false perception in that all those who commit crimes are violent and dangerous, and once released will have negative impact on the communities they return to. This explains why majority of the respondents thought they cannot be accepted back in the community. Concerning the case of female recidivist getting husband upon completion of their jail terms 18% were still married, 56% said No while 26% said they were not sure. This indicated that majority of the offenders would not get husbands when they leave prison.
The findings of the study revealed that 18% were charged with stealing, 14% obtaining through false pretense, 10% giving false information, 20% drunk and disorderly and 12% were charged with stealing by servant. This study agrees with Angote (1981) that many petty offenders re-offend more often than serious offenders as established. Concerning self reliance it was found that 42% were self employed, 48% were employed, while 26% were housewives. From this data it was found out that committing crimes does not have any connection with lack of stable source of income. It was clear from this study that 74% of the respondents had a stable source of income.

5.2.3 Psychological factors

It was established also that 80% of the offenders had served for a period between 0-6 months, 10% had served between 2 months to 1 year and another 10% had served for a period between 1-2 years while 6% had served between 2-5 years. These findings revealed that there was a lot of time wasting by the female offenders who were confined in prison repeatedly over short periods and who did not get rehabilitated. The time they spent in prison did not economically benefit the family, community and the government. The imprisonment of the female offenders contributed negatively to the community development as revealed by the research where 58% thought that their contributions were affected negatively while 30% thought that it affected them positively although 12% were not aware of the effect their imprisonment had on their community. The study findings confirmed that 60% of the offenders' children were affected negatively, 10% positively and 30% gave no response. This suggested that majority of the prisoners' children were affected negatively by their parents' imprisonment.

5.2.4 Prison related factors

Using four selected tribes in the region where the study was conducted, it was indicated that 90% of the respondents were from the Kikuyu community, 10% from Luo, 2% Kamba and 6% Luhya. This suggested that crimes were committed more by the dominant community or tribe within a given region. According to the study the accomplices and the offenders were not in any close contact which might have in future influenced them to commit crimes.
This was because 14% of the offenders knew that their accomplices were in other prisons, 6% didn't know where their accomplices were, 1% said they were at large and the remaining 76% did not give any indication that they were in contact.

This is also further explained by the fact that 18% were never visited, 70% were visited after every two months, 14% once a month while 18% did not give any information about the visitation.

It can therefore be summarized that the ex-offenders and their accomplices lost touch completely. Majority of the prisoners' children were affected negatively by their parents' imprisonment. The study found out that 60% of the offenders' children were affected negatively and 10% positively while 30% gave no response on this matter.

It was established through the study that 14% of the offenders knew that their accomplices were in other prisons, this explained that the accomplices and the offenders were not in any close touch which might influence them to commit crimes in future.

The study also revealed that majority of the offenders had no source of income meaning that lack of source of income was not the reason they committed crimes.

5.3 Conclusions.

Imprisonment of the female ex-offenders should be taken as a normal phenomenon in order to enhance their effective reintegration once they are discharged from prison. It is a matter of concern where ex-offenders are treated as unacceptable, outcasts and unwelcome members of the society. The following conclusions were therefore, arrived at based on the findings of the study:

Most of the female offenders were youths with their ages ranging between 18-35 years and with low levels of education.

Some of them lost their marriages when they were taken to prison while others were not able to get husbands from the community following the perception and the stereotype attached to female imprisonment. The community members think that female ex-offenders are dangerous and cannot be trusted with any responsibilities as wives.
The offenders who have never been married are not sure whether they would ever get husbands as a result of the social stigma attached to imprisonment. The children of the ex-offenders would be affected by their parents' imprisonment negatively. It was also concluded that the rehabilitation programs offered to the prisoners were not as effective since they focused more on offering technical knowledge and manual work.

It should be noted that both the community and the individual recidivists contribute to a great extent in perpetuating recidivism. But most importantly is that the effect of this problem is felt very negatively by both the community and the individual recidivist alike, not excluding, the government of the day.

5.1 Recommendations.

The following recommendations were made based on the discussions and conclusions of the study:

5.4.1 Specific policy recommendations

A program on the free secondary education just like the free primary education should be introduced for the girl child in order to ensure that the females do not get influenced into criminal activities simply because they possess low levels of education. The government should introduce adult education at local level to empower women who are prone to committing crimes. This may help them in understanding the laws and defend themselves in courts.

The government should introduce rehabilitation programs that are up to date with the modern technological advancements and not only focus on the technical skills that are often offered to them while in prison in order to empower the ex-offenders with knowledge and skills that can make them useful within the current job market.

The government through her judicial systems should focus on non-custodial sentences where possible and limit on the custodial ones in order to reduce moral contamination on the young offenders brought about by the custodial sentences.
The government should ensure that all offences that do not require custodial confinement should be translated into non-custodial ones since that will help in reducing stigma, discrimination and stereotypes associated with imprisonment.

The government should also establish half homes, half homes where the ex-offenders can go to when they are discharged from prison as a stopover before they join the wider community which has negative perceptions about female incarcerations.

The government should also direct more of her resources to address the problem of unemployment. More resources should be allocated to the youths and women programmes and be made accessible to all the youths and women fairly and without favour. This will be intended to empower them economically hence reducing criminality once they leave prison since they will be having source of income.

The government should also implement the recommendations put forward by Rutere, (2003) where she suggested that the government should follow-up the ex-convicts to continue rehabilitating them and try to solve the problems they might be facing in the society. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should invest in helping the ex-convicts to resettle in the community as more is needed in terms of financial assistance as well as emotional support for the ex-offenders.

The researcher agrees with the recommendation put forward by Rutere, (2003) that the wider Kenyan society should be educated to accept the ex-offenders and treat them as normal human beings. This means that they should be accept the ex-convicts and involve them in the daily activities of their society. They should not treat the ex-convict as a criminal after all the ex-convict has also served his sentence for the offence committed.

The government should come up with community awareness program for both the ex-offenders and the community. That will be aimed at preparing the ex-offenders as they join the wider community from the prisons as well as the community as they prepare to receive the ex-convicts discharged from prison.
The researcher agreed with Osborn, (1934) who argued that criminals can neither be coerced nor bribed into a change of purpose, but that there’s only one way left where they must be educated. He further argued that we must provide a training which will make them not good prisoners but good citizens, a training which will fit them for the free life to which they sooner or later they are to return. They should be educated not for the life inside but for the life outside.

In conclusion, if the above recommendations are taken into consideration, then the players in the reformation and rehabilitation process will be on the road to reducing and eventually eradicating recidivism in our society thereby achieving complete resettlement of the female recidivists in the community.

5.4.2 Areas for further research:

The researcher suggests that more research is needed in the areas of female criminality as this area is widely ignored. Females have their unique problems which make them vulnerable and require special attention. However, majority of the studies that have previously been conducted have dwelt more on men than women hence ignoring their vulnerability and the most effective way to address the problems.

Research should also be done to find out whether there are post prison follow up services given to the ex-offenders to help reintegrate them into the society. These kinds of services are very necessary and should actually be provided. There is need therefore to conduct research in order to establish whether these follow up services would be important in the sense that they would help the ex-offender resettle and thus would probably reduce crime rate in the country.
APPENDIX 1.

Questionnaire Administered to the Prisoners.

Instructions: Answer all questions accordingly (tick where appropriate)

I. Background Information.

1. Name of Respondent (optional)

II. Demographic factors.

What was your age at the time of imprisonment?

- Youth 18-45 years
- Middle aged 46-55 years
- Elderly above 55 years

What was your highest level of education at the time of your conviction?

- Illiterate
- Semi illiterate
- Primary
- Secondary
- College/Diploma/Certificate
- University
- State any other

What is the level of education for majority of your colleagues in custody?

- Primary
- Secondary
- College/Diploma/Certificate
- University
- State any other

Tick which ethnic group you belong to.

- Luo
- Kikuyu
- Kalenjin
- Luhya
- Mijikenda
- Any other (specify)
State whether you were in possession of any professional training/trade before imprisonment.

III. Socio-cultural and economic factors.

What was your marital status before imprisonment?
- Married
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Never married

What is your present marital status?

(a) What is your religion?
- Christian
- Muslim
- Any others (Specify)

(b) If Christian state whether
- Catholic
- Protestant

What was your religious commitment before imprisonment?
- Saved Christian
- Not saved

Tick what offence(s) you were convicted for.
- Stealing
- Obtaining through false pretence
- Giving false information
- Loitering for the purpose of prostitution
- Stealing by servant
-端rug and disorderly House breaking
- Being in possession of changan
- Any other (Specify)
12. In your own opinion, did you plan to commit the offence? ____________

11. (a) Did you commit the offence alone or with others?
   Alone ____________ With others ____________

   (b) If with others, where are your accomplices?
   At large ____________ in another prison ____________
   Did not know ____________ none ____________

14. If yes, state your relationship with the accomplice?
   Friend ____________ Husband ____________
   Offspring ____________ No relationship ____________

IV. Psychological factors

15. Do you think you were trained?
   Yes ____________ No ____________

16. How many children do you have? ____________
   No children ____________ 1-3 ____________
   4 and above ____________

17. How has your imprisonment affected your children’s relationship with their friends?
   Positively ____________ Negatively ____________

(b) Briefly explain your answer ____________
Tick what types (s) of rehabilitative programs are you currently deployed in the prison?

- Industry
- Computer
- Shamba
- Soap making
- Any other (specify)

How long have you been in prison?

In your own opinion what do you think is the main reason why individuals, especially women commit crimes which then lead them to end up in prisons?

- Lack of stable source of income
- Misunderstandings within marriages
- Unstable family relationships
- Overwhelming family responsibilities
- Influence by friends into criminal activities
- Any other

What was your occupation before imprisonment?

- Employed
- Self employed
- Housewife

(a) If employed, do you think you will be accepted back at your former place of work?

- Yes
- No

(b) If No, briefly explain why.
IV. Psychological Factors

10. Does your employer know that you are in prison? --- 

11. What is your community's perception on the female imprisonment?
   The arc outcasts
   They cannot be rehabilitated
   They are dangerous criminals
   Committing crime is inevitable to all sexes alike.
   Any other --- 

12. In relation to your contribution to the community how has your imprisonment impacted on your community?
   Positively 
   Negatively 

(a) If not married do you think it is going to be easy to get a husband from your community?
   Yes 
   No 

(b) Explain your answer. 

17. Choose below how many times you often get visited?
   Once a month
   Once in two months
   After every three months
   Never visited
   None of the above 

28. How do you spend your free time in prison?
   Attending fellowships
   Reading novels and journals
   Chatting with friend
   Sleeping
   Any other activity (specify)
30. How long have you stayed in this prison? ..........................

31. On discharge do you plan to go back to where you stayed before imprisonment?
Yes  
No

32. Before your incarceration, were you a member of any community group/organization?
Yes  No

33. Are you planning to go back and continue as a member?
Yes  No

34. In a situation where crime has been committed at your work place, whom do you think would be the first suspect?

(d) Why?

35. In your opinion between the community and the ex-offender who is to blame for the high rates of recidivism which is evident in the Kenya Prisons?

36. Give your suggestions on whether you think sending one to prison helps them to change their criminal behavior and become better citizens?
APPENDIX 2.
INTERVIEW GUIDE.

1. What is your name?

2. How long have you been in this prison?

3. What are some of the reasons why you cannot settle in the community?

4. What are the general perceptions about being in the community after completing your sentences?

5. In your opinion, what do you think is the actual reason why there is repeat offending?

6. Imagine you were asked to leave prison today what plans would you put in place for you to earn an honest living.

7. What are some of the most common crimes committed by most prisoners who come to prison repeatedly?
APPENDIX 3.

Focus Group Discussion Guide (F.G.D.)

1. What are some of the crimes that have led to your coming into the prison?
2. How do your various cultures look at crime commission by the women in the community?
   Out of this number represented here, how many have been to prison more than once?
3. For those who have come back to prison more than once, do you often come back for the same offences or they vary?
4. What are some of the reasons that make you people to keep coming back to prison after you have completed your sentences?
5. What is your perception about your relationship with your community members?
6. How are you perceived when you go back to the community from prison?
7. How do the employers treat the certificates you get from doing courses while in prison?
8. What is your relationship with your siblings who have never been to prison?
9. Do you think being in prison changes you in any way as far as crime commission is concerned?
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