

**A DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN BUSIA TOWNSHIP LOCATION,
BUSIA COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The term juvenile delinquency has a very extensive meaning and includes rebellious and hostile behavior of children and adolescents and their attitude of indifference towards society. Juvenile delinquency is a problem that only affects not just one particular society; delinquent youth can be found around the globe. Throughout the nineteenth century, moralists and critics warned that newspapers were the cause of juvenile crime. In the 1920s, scholars were alarmed at what they saw as rampant sex, violence and general lawlessness on the movie screen. Most studies carried out on delinquency in Kenya have focused only on adults and crime. Not much attention has been given to juveniles. The study investigated factors that explain the predominance of juvenile delinquency in Busia Township location. The main objective of the study was to analyze contributing factors that explain the high levels of juvenile delinquency in Busia Township location. Specific objectives of the study were; to explore the relationship between socio-economic status of parents and their children's delinquent behavior, to assess the effect of household types on delinquency rates amongst juveniles and to analyze the influence gender of a child has on becoming delinquent among the juveniles. The study adopted a cross – sectional descriptive research design that enables the researcher to use a variety of data collection techniques to gather information that describes existing phenomena. The target population of the study comprised of households with children between the ages of fifteen and eighteen and two penal institutions. The study population constituted a total of 7133 households. Simple random sampling was used to select sample of 400 households from the target population. A total of 400 delinquent children from 400 different families participated in the study. Data collection methods used include; observation, focus group discussion, interview schedules and questionnaires. The data collected was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. Qualitative data analysis involved identification, examination, and interpretation of patterns and themes in the textual data. Quantitative data was analyzed by the use of descriptive statistics such as the mean, a measure of central tendency, and a measure of spread. Results of the study revealed that majority of parents are farmers (40%) or have lowest paying jobs (24.4%). Majority of juveniles are enrolled in school (82.8%), 82.1% were in day schools. There was a relationship between socioeconomic factors and delinquency rate, most respondents engaged in fishing 36.6% as a source of income hence were low income earners. Amongst those who engaged in stealing 67.5% were from male headed families while 32.5% were from female headed. 6.9% of lone children engaged in stealing, 4.5% were involved in drug and substance abuse. Those who were 2-5 in the family 62.9% engaged in stealing while 64.5% on drug and substance abuse. 6 and above in a family 30.2% engaged in stealing while 31% were involved in drug and substance abuse. In terms of sequence of birth 20.4% first born were involved in stealing, 34.2% in drug and substance abuse. 50% of middle children were involved in theft cases while 47% in drug and substance abuse. 29% of last born were involved in theft cases while 18.4% were engaged in drug abuse. Middle children (49.0%) were found to be more delinquent. 63.2% males were involved in theft cases with 36.8% females engaging in the same. In terms of drug and substance abuse 62.2% were males and 33.8% were females. Therefore male children were likely to involve in delinquent behavior than female children. In conclusion, families with low income had the highest rates of delinquency. Majority of household were male headed. The available data showed that delinquency and crime had strong gender association. The government should therefore organize rehabilitation programmes for them or create employment opportunities for the jobless. Family planning methods awareness creation should be encouraged to regulate the number of children in every family. Policies such as free primary and secondary education should be fully implemented to ensure all children regardless of sex.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The term juvenile delinquency has a very extensive meaning. It includes rebellious and hostile behavior of children and adolescents as well as their attitude of indifference towards society. Juvenile delinquency is a problem that only affects not just one particular society since delinquent youth can be found all over the world. In many countries, communities and many other, delinquency rates are extremely high among minorities, and there are several theories as to why this may be. Some authors (Bartlett, 2001) suggest it is because the majority of society has a generally negative or stereotypical attitude toward these youth that the youth can detect. Others suggest it is because minority youth are not widely exposed to positive role models that they can relate to (Jones 2001; Bartlett 2001).

1.1 Background of the study

King Athelstan of England enacted a law that "man shall not slay none younger than a fifteen winters' man." A juvenile who had committed an offense was dealt with as an ordinary criminal. It is therefore not surprising that in the 18th and 19th centuries, when the prevailing criminological theories favored the imprisonment of offenders, juveniles as well as adults were imprisoned (Farrington, 2002).

Crime and disorder were dominant political issues in the British colony of Kenya. The European settler population (which numbered 16812 in 1931) tended to be highly sensitive to the threat of crime perpetrated by African majority of at least three million. The management of juvenile delinquency was influenced by the metropolitan trend towards a more rehabilitative and separatist system (Campbell, 2002). Juvenile delinquency had become a moral problem.

Juvenile delinquents account for a great number of the illegal acts committed in the United States, especially those that involve taking another's belongings (World Youth Report, 2003). During the 1960's more than 60 percent of all persons arrested for auto theft and about 50 percent of those arrested for thefts and burglary in America were under 18 years of age (Farrington, 2002). Delinquency is rising among girls, although many more boys than girls

come before juvenile courts as witnessed in both developing and developed countries. Police records indicate that the crime rates of male juvenile and male young adult offenders are more than double those of young females, and conviction rates are six or seven times higher (Brownell, 1997). Delinquents come from both well-to-do families and poor families, and almost as many arrests are made in rural communities as in cities and their suburbs (Shoemaker 2004; Donald 2004).

Scholars' views on separate juvenile systems were divided. Some were empathetic towards the women's efforts while others felt it was a reaction to the increased delinquency caused by the Industrial Revolution (Elliot 1985; Menal 1989). Regardless of their opinions, the fact that children were being exploited as opposed to being "saved" could not be ignored. The first juvenile court was established in 1899 in Cook County, Illinois. Before that time, children were treated very similar to adult criminals (Elliot *et al* 1985 pp 175). If they were imprisoned, they would be thrown in jail with adult men and women and they carried out the same sentences as their adult counterparts. Children who were convicted of certain offenses were even sentenced to death (Bartol & Bartol, 1989). Study on delinquency has proven that children who are handled in the adult court are more inclined to re-offend compared to those children who are handled in the juvenile justice system for a similar offense. Of those youth that committed new crimes, those individuals that were sent to the adult court re-offended at twice the rate of those sent to juvenile court (Robert, 2007). Statistics on delinquency show that approximately 30 to 40% of all boys growing up in an urban area in America will get arrested before their 18th birthday (Campbell, 2002).

Juvenile delinquency has emerged as a social problem only recently in some areas of the world. However there is evidence even in "new nations" and "underdeveloped countries" of increased concern with problems of youth under the law. No source of data is adequate for the determination of how much delinquency there is in any country, much less for comparison of the volume of delinquency today with that of the past, or from one country to another (Geisser, 2011). It is evident that public concern with the problem has increased in most countries, especially since World War II. Such published reports as are available from countries involved in both world wars indicate that delinquency rates increased *during* the conflicts (Middendorff, 1960).

Although a few countries such as Britain reported stabilized or slightly decreasing delinquency rates during the late 1950s, these reports carried the caution of uncertainty. By contrast, most European countries, Japan, and the United States reported startling increases during this period. Reports filtering out of Russia, China, and various underdeveloped but rapidly changing countries, such as Ghana and Kenya, indicated a high level of public concern and probably actual increases in the incidence of juvenile delinquency (World Youth Report, 2003). The United Nations has attempted to promote better standards of data gathering and reporting and to arrive at some international consensus as to the volume and nature of delinquency throughout the world (Farrington, 2002)

Delinquency rates per 40% in the more technologically and economically advanced countries appear to be the highest in the world. Studies of the relation between delinquency rates and cycles of economic depression and prosperity have yielded inconsistent results (Bogen 1944; Fleisher 1963; Glaser & Rice 1959; Gibbs 1966). In large cities of these same countries high delinquency rates are associated with poverty, as reflected in ecological distributions and rates for persons in different social classes. In smaller communities delinquency appears to be more evenly distributed throughout the class structure. There is growing interest, but little evidence, concerning increases in delinquent behavior on the part of "middle-class" youngsters in prosperous and technologically advanced countries.

Throughout the nineteenth century, moralists and critics warned that newspapers were the cause of juvenile crime. There was concern that the great flow of stories about crime and vice would lead people to imitate the vividly described immoral behavior (Steinberg, 2008). In the 1920s, scholars were alarmed at what they saw as rampant sex, violence and general lawlessness on the movie screen. During the same era the motion picture industry was not protected by the first amendment of the law. This protection did not come until the Indian Supreme Court's *Miracle* decision in the 1950s. The protection was mostly witnessed in the modern world (Sethna 1980; Jehanir 1980). After World War II, there was concern about violence and gruesomeness in comic books such as *Tales from the Crypt* by Migel Ferrer, *Haunt of Fear* by Bill Gaines and *Vault of Horror* by Daniel Massey. The comic book industry was attacked for contributing to juvenile delinquency. This led to the establishment in 1947, of the Association of Comic Magazine Publishers, which drafted a code in the 1950s

banning, among other things, torture, sadism and detailed descriptions of criminal acts. A seal of approval in England then was printed on the cover of acceptable comics (Farrington, 2002).

Kenya has experienced rapid modernization in all areas of its society in recent years. The modernization phenomenon causes various kinds of problems. One of the serious problems is that the number of juvenile delinquents has mushroomed in Kenya (Kiunjuri, 2001). Determining factors that lead to juvenile delinquency can help parents learn about prevention. For example, children who grow up with either one parent households or households where both parents work all the time are at a higher risk for juvenile delinquency due to lack of supervision (Campbell, 2002) .

Statistical data indicate that rates of youth crime rose in the 1990s (Kiunjuri, 2001). In Western Kenya, Busia Township location arrests of juvenile delinquents and under-age offenders increased by an average of around 50 per cent between the mid- 1990s and the late 2000s. Many of the criminal offences are related to drug abuse. This is because Busia is a border town bordering Uganda where cannabis production and consumption is legal. Those most likely to be on the receiving end of crime are between the ages of 15 and 18, with 91 in every 1,000 in this group becoming victims of some form of crime. Surveys have shown that men are more likely than women to become victims. Older people are less often affected; as mentioned, crimes are usually committed by representatives of the same age groups to which the victims belong. Young people who are at risk of becoming delinquent often live in difficult circumstances. Children who for various reasons—including parental alcoholism, poverty, breakdown of the family, overcrowding, abusive conditions in the home, the growing HIV and AIDS scourge, or the death of parents—are orphans or unaccompanied and are without the means of subsistence, housing and other basic necessities are at greatest risk of falling into juvenile delinquency. The number of children in especially difficult circumstances is estimated to have increased from two thousand to five thousand between 1992 and 2000. The study therefore intended to investigate the factors that contributed to juvenile delinquency in Busia Township location.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The study intended to investigate factors that explain the predominance of juvenile delinquency in Busia Township location from 2007 -2012. Modernization is proceeding rapidly in Kenya; however, it is widening the wage differential between the cities and the farming villages. The number of single mothers is increasing due to the collapse of the traditional family system. An influx of people to the large cities has created slum areas in those cities. The above mentioned has led to many juveniles neglecting their studies, becoming addicted to drugs and becoming delinquent due to the lack of parental supervision. It has become a big social problem.

The study needed to find out why juvenile delinquency is increasing in Busia especially in the last ten years. For many young people today, traditional patterns guiding the relationships and transitions between family, school and work are being challenged. Social relations that ensure a smooth process of socialization are collapsing. A lack of discipline by the young may also lead to delinquent behavior. Young people who do not learn moral conduct in their homes can fail to develop a firm sense of right and wrong and can easily enter into delinquent conduct. Rapid population growth, the unavailability of housing support services, poverty, unemployment and underemployment among youth, the decline in the authority of local communities, the disintegration of the family and ineffective educational systems are some of the pressure young people in Busia township location must deal with. Youth nowadays, regardless of gender are subject to individual risks. The involvement of girls and women in criminal activity had increased so greatly that they accounted for the fastest growing segments of both the juvenile and the criminal justice systems. Any solution to juvenile delinquency must involve all sectors of society: individuals, families, schools, churches, community groups, governments and businesses. The first signs of career criminality arise in early childhood hence the need of the study. Compounded by the rise in broken families delinquency rates is likely to continue unless more research and resources are expended on rehabilitative efforts. The purpose of this study was to find out the contributing factors that explain the high levels of juvenile delinquency in Busia township location.

1.3 Research objectives

The main objective of this study was to investigate contributing factors to juvenile delinquency in Busia Township location.

1. To explore the relationship between socio-economic status of parents and their children's delinquent behavior.
2. To assess the effect of household types on delinquency rates amongst juveniles.
3. To analyse the influence gender of a child has on becoming delinquent among the juveniles.

1.4 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following questions:

1. What are effects of socioeconomic status of parents towards delinquent behaviour?
2. What is the effect of family types and delinquency amongst young people aged 15 to 18?
3. What is the influence of gender on delinquency rates?

1.5 Justification of the study

Most studies carried out on delinquency in Kenya have focused only on adults and crime. For instance (Keriga 2009; Bujra 2009) focused on crime prevalence in Nairobi. Not much attention has been given to juveniles. Yet this is a critical area since it is the juveniles who go into adult hood with delinquent behaviors hence the increase of crime. Effective approaches and measures for preventing juvenile delinquency should be emphasized. This study specifically assessed the factors which account for increased juvenile delinquency in Busia Township location. It investigated delinquent behaviours amongst juveniles in that what drives them to commit crimes, the effect of environment and that of gender on delinquency. The study benefited the residents of Busia Township by helping them know the trends of crime rates among the younger population. It could have also served as an eye opener to the rest of Kenyan parents in moulding their children. The findings could have stimulated more researchers in the field of crime particularly in areas not covered by the study and/or in some parts of the country to help generalize the findings.

1.6 Scope of the study

The study focused on a differential analysis of contributing factors towards Juvenile delinquency in Busia Township location. The study was carried out in Western Kenya, Busia District within Busia Township location. The target group were young offenders between the age of 15 -18. Offenders between the age of 15-18 are the one's referred to as juvenile offenders according to the children's act sec 191(1) (g). The act states that a child who has attained the age of fifteen years can be dealt with in accordance with any act which provides for the establishment and regulation of Borstal institution.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Literature was reviewed on the effect of socioeconomic status of parents towards juvenile delinquency, on appropriate analysis of gender and delinquency and appropriate study on the relationship between family types and delinquency rates amongst juveniles.

2.2 Socioeconomic factors influencing juvenile delinquency

Ngale, 2009 in 'Family Structure and Juvenile Delinquency' did a study in Cameroon and found out that juvenile delinquents come from the lowest socioeconomic stratum of society. He further explained that except for one out of the 120 respondents of the study whose father is a pharmacist, 87.9% of the fathers of the rest have lowest paying jobs that can range in monthly salary from 20.000frs CFA to about 50.000frs CFA, (between 40 to 100 \$). Fathers falling in this category as revealed by this study are traders, police constable, farmer, driver, painter, builder, storekeeper, clerk, hunter, nurse, secretary, mechanic, barber, cook, and dockyard worker. These jobs are not only the lowest paid ones in the Cameroonian context, but they are also the most associated with "drop outs" from the formal educational system of this country, with the corollary of negative social, and self esteem. Secondly, 10.8% of the fathers of our respondents are unemployed. Furthermore, 66.1% of respondents' mothers are jobless housewives, whilst 33.9% of them have the lowest paid jobs like tailor. Most fathers, i.e. 98.7% of the fathers of our respondents are either unemployed, or have the lowest paying jobs. The causal link between low socio-economic status and juvenile delinquency can be considered on the premise that children from such homes lack a consistent and adequate supply of basic amenities such as books, fees, clothing, food, medicines.

From the statistics of the study, 87.6% of the respondents are drop outs from primary school, whilst 12.4% have equally dropped out from forms one (10.7%), and three (1.7%). These dropout levels are more related to the socioeconomic status of parents who might not be able to afford fees and basic school requirements for their children, and also the fact that these parents are permissive and thus indifferent to their children's educational predicaments

Ngale, 2009. The author further points out that some of the crimes committed are more indicative of family socio-economic problems than the personalities of the respondents. In this wise, stealing accounts for 29.1% of the crimes committed, most likely due to the inability of parents to provide regular and substantial meals to their offspring. 22.4% of the respondents run away from school, not because they are unintelligent, but most likely since their parents are unable to provide basic school requirements, remain indifferent, unavailable, unable to follow up on school performance, and are most likely unconcerned about the consequences. Thus when children run away from school, which performs a vital function of keeping the former occupied while working parents are at their job sites, they might most likely avoid going home because their parents might not be home, there might be no food for them, and overcrowding could push them to loaf in the streets, increasing the probability of getting involved in deviant behavior, but not of the violent kind.

According to Popenoe, 1997 'Life without father', parents of delinquents spend little time with their children due to job constraints. The low paying jobs of fathers of the respondents of the study have the singular characteristic of also being jobs with heavy time constraints, leaving the men with little or no time for their families. To illustrate this fact, 73.1% of the men are employed as the following jobs: trader, farmer, driver, constable, dockyard worker, builder, storekeeper, hunter, nurse, secretary, mechanic, barber and cook. These are jobs that generally keep fathers away from their children for very long periods of time, and at all hours of the day and week. If we add to this percentage 10.8% of unemployed fathers who are prone to moving around looking for jobs, or just loafing, we have quite a significant percentage of 83.9% of fathers who are home for short, unpredictable periods of time. This prevents them from effectively and consistently carrying out their socializing and moralizing role. In addition to the long absences of working parents, based on the fact they have the lowest paying jobs, they remain incapable of meeting up with their financial responsibilities, thereby aggravating their sense of impotence. Thus a vicious circle is established in which fathers have low salaries, cannot effectively take of their family's financial needs, are forced through guilt to stay away from home for even longer periods of time, thereby increasing the chances of their squandering the little money they have, and finally indefinitely prolonging the "runaway attitude" because of aggravated poverty. Physical presence at home of mothers

because of joblessness might not necessarily be a positive influence in the moralization of children, especially if associated with low or no financial contribution from their husbands. The mother's inability to meet up with their traditional care giving role, their husbands' low paying jobs, and the generally permissive parenting styles are powerful ingredients to nurture an atmosphere of "want", be it physical, moral or financial, thereby favoring the emergence of anti-social behavior among their children (Popenoe, 1997).

Furthermore, in a setting of jobs with maximum time constraints, there is the critical issue of parental monitoring of their children which relates to the types of delinquent behavior our respondents got involved in. Monitoring is reflected in the parent often not knowing where the child is, whom the child is with, what the child is doing or when the child will be home (Gilmore, 1990). Monitoring becomes increasingly important as children move into adolescence and spend less time under the direct supervision of parents or other adults and more time with peers. Previous research found that coercive parenting and lack of parental monitoring contributes not only directly to boys' antisocial behaviors, but also indirectly as seen in the contribution to their increased opportunity to associate with deviant peers, which is predictive of higher levels of delinquent acts (Kim, *et al.* 1999). Gorman-Smith & Tolan, 1998 found that parental conflict and parental aggressiveness predicted violent offending, whereas, lack of maternal affection and paternal criminality predicted involvement in property crime.

2.3 Household type and juvenile delinquency

Studies show that children who receive adequate parental supervision are less likely to engage in criminal activities. Dysfunctional family settings—characterized by conflict, inadequate parental control, weak internal linkages and integration, and premature autonomy—are closely associated with juvenile delinquency (Campbell, 2002). Children in disadvantaged families that have few opportunities for legitimate employment and face a higher risk of social exclusion are overrepresented among offenders (Geisser, 2011). The plight of ethnic minorities and migrants, including displaced persons and refugees in certain parts of the world, is especially distressing. The countries in transition are facing particular challenges in this respect, with the associated insecurity and turmoil contributing to an

increase in the numbers of children and juveniles neglected by their parents and suffering abuse and violence at home (Bartol & Bartol 1989).

The family as a social institution is currently undergoing substantial changes; its form is diversifying with, for example, the increase in one-parent families and non marital unions. The absence of fathers in many low-income families can lead boys to seek patterns of masculinity in delinquent groups of peers. These groups in many respects substitute for the family, define male roles, and contribute to the acquisition of such attributes as cruelty, strength, excitability and anxiety (Gilmore, 1990). The importance of family well-being is becoming increasingly recognized. Success in school depends greatly on whether parents have the capacity to provide their children with “starting” opportunities (including the resources to buy books and manuals and pay for studies (Brownell, 1997). Nevertheless adolescents from low-income families often feel excluded (Kaufman & Widom, 1999).

To raise their self-esteem and improve their status they may choose to join a juvenile delinquent group. These groups provide equal opportunities to everyone, favourably distinguishing themselves from school and family, where positions of authority are occupied by adults (Langer, 1997). When young people are exposed to the influence of adult offenders they have the opportunity to study delinquent behaviour, and the possibility of their engaging in adult crime becomes more real. The “criminalization” of the family also has an impact on the choice of delinquent trajectories. A study carried out in prisons in the United States reveals that families involved in criminal activities tend to push their younger members towards violating the law. More than two-thirds of those interviewed had relatives who were incarcerated; for 25 per cent it was a father and for another 25 per cent a brother or sister (Kaufman & Widom, 1999).

2.4 Gender and juvenile delinquency

Available data show that delinquency and crime have strong gender associations. Police records indicate that the crime rates of male juvenile and male young adult offenders are more than double those of young females, and conviction rates are six or seven times higher (Brownell, 1997). The number of male juvenile suspects for every 100,000 members of the

designated age group is more than six times the corresponding figure for females; for those in the youth category the male-female suspect ratio is even higher, at 12.5 to 1.6 (Bartol & Bartol 1989). There are a number of reasons why more young men than young women are involved in violent or criminal behavior (Hearn, 1998). Various restrictive and stimulative factors encourage women to conform to social norms that do not apply to men, one example being the fear of sexual assault (Barness 1994; Ephross 1994). Girls are subject to stronger family control than are boys. Cultural concepts are such that society at large is less tolerant of deviant behaviour among young women than among young men (Brownell, 1997). In addition, aggression and violence play an important role in the construction of masculinity and sexuality in patriarchal societies, the primary objective being to reinforce and maintain the status and authoritative position of men. The male perception of violence can be minimized, forgiven, denied or justified (Acoca, 1999). Men often do not consider such acts as verbal or sexual insults to constitute violent behaviour. (World youth report, 2003)

There are cultures in which the dominant type of masculinity is more or less openly directed towards violent confrontation, domination and control (Gilmore, 1990). In other cultures the socialization of young males towards hegemonic masculinity is not attached to norms of physical prowess, hard work and a readiness to fight. For both boys and girls, the street gang is an ideal context for "doing gender" (establishing gender differences) (Bartol & Bartol 1989).

Consequently, girls who are gang members are not simply passive recipients of "patriarchy" but active participants in the construction of gender relations (Barness 1994; Ephross 1994). The peer group plays an important part in the construction of gender roles and relations, including delinquent behaviour. Youth gangs reflect the gender-based power relations in society and the related discourse and practices by which they are reproduced. Consequently, differences in male and female behaviour in this context are partly a product of the social construction of gendered dominance and subordination in gang arrangements (Buttel, 2003).

In the later part of the 20th century, it became clear that the involvement of girls and women in criminal activity had increased so greatly that they accounted for the fastest growing

but it becomes a strain when students not only get a bad grade but also have a fight with friends and lose a close relative.

GST explains the link between these potential strains and consequent delinquency. GST argues that each type of strain can lead the individual to experience an array of negative emotions, including anger, fear, and depression. Among the various negative emotions, anger is the most important to GST, because anger is very likely to increase an individual's level of outward attribution of the injury, instigating the individual to act, motivating the individual to take revenge, and lowering the individual's inhibitions. Hence, anger influences individuals in various ways that are conducive to delinquency. Although anger is the most criminogenic emotion, delinquency might still occur in response to other negative emotions (e.g. depression). For example, anger might cause an individual to act aggressively against other individuals, whereas depression might lead the individual to take drugs in order to feel better. (Agnew, 1992)

Studying the effects of stress or strain on delinquency during the adolescent years is important for two reasons. Empirical studies on delinquency have shown that there is a relationship between strain and juvenile delinquency (Agnew, 2006a; Drapela, 2006; Seiffge-Krenke, 2000; Sigfusdottir, Farkas, & Silver, 2004). Delinquency not only causes immediate problems to juveniles (e.g., increasing victimization) (Kennedy & Baron, 1993) but also increases the risk of later life maladjustment (Moffitt, 1993; Sampson & Laub, 1993). In fact, scholars have found that delinquency during the adolescent years is a risk factor for later criminal involvement and negative life consequences (Elliot, 1994; Farrington, 1989; Nagin & Paternoster, 1991; Moffitt, 1993; Sampson & Laub, 1993; Tolan & Tomas, 1995). Agnew's (1992, 2001, 2006a, 2006b) General Strain Theory (GST) is not only an important criminological theory (Cullen, Wright, & Blevins, 2006) but also used by many scholars to examine the strain/deviance relationship.

Labeling theory on the other hand posits that individual deviants who are identified and sanctioned may interpret their "offender" stigma as a master status, thus altering their social identity, and consequently, their behavior. In its most superficial form, labeling theory merely suggests that individuals may feel obligated to act out roles dictated by their new

status as criminals. Since peer delinquency and other controls do not fully account for delinquent behavior, it is possible that an altered self-concept independently affects recidivism (Bernburg, Krohn, & Rivera 2006). Indeed, the relationship between self-identification as deviant and actual deviant behavior cannot be overlooked. However, it is possible that the relationship between identity and behavior is mediated by social influences (Chiricos, Barrick and Bales 2007; Mouttapa et al. 2010).

Because of this, the offender may withdraw his or her stakes in conformity, reject the institutions that they feel rejected them, and seek out deviant peers who may be seemingly less judgmental and willing to provide a system of social support. Subculture formation that approves of or condones deviance may be conducive to further criminal behavior on the part of the individual offender, as well as on a societal scale (Braithwaite, 1989). It is in view of the above discussion that the study therefore attempts to investigate the factors assessing juvenile delinquency to their full potential.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter covered the following: study design, location of the study, description of the target population, sampling procedures and sample size; instruments to be used in data collection, pilot study, validity, reliability, and methods that will be used in the analysis and presentation of data.

3.2 Research Design

The current study used a cross sectional descriptive research design. The research design enabled the researcher to use a variety of data collection techniques to gather information that describes existing phenomena. It can be used when collecting information about people's attitudes, opinions or habits. (Orodho, 2002; Kombo, 2002) this position is also supported by Gay, 1992 who states that a survey study can be used to assess personality variables such as attitudes and opinions about events, individuals or procedures. Variables are attributes or qualities of the cases that we measure or record (Kombo, 2006; Tromp, 2006). The independent variable in this research is the factors which causes juvenile delinquency. The dependent variables on the other hand are the delinquent juveniles. The study therefore focused on a differential analysis of contributing factors towards juvenile delinquency. The study took a period of six months.

3.3 Study area

The study was carried out in Busia Township location in Busia County, Kenya. The location is immediately east of Busia Uganda across the international border that divides the two towns. The coordinates of Busia, Kenya are: 00 27 11N, 34 07 30E (latitude 0.4530; Longitude 34.1250). It has a population of 35,663 (2009 Census). Over 60% of the people in the location are peasant farmers heavily relying on cassava, millet, beans and maize production. Others engage in small scale businesses across and within the border. Though most residents of Busia district are ethnically Luhya, there is also a substantial population of Luo and Iteso residents. The district population is 48.1% male and 51.9% female. It covers

an area of 169 sq km with average temperature of 22 degrees C and between 750 mm and 1800mm of rainfall per annum. The area is linked with a lot of crime especially that of juveniles. This is mainly due to population growth, disintegration of families and ineffective educational systems. The main reason for carrying out this study is that a study of this nature has never been done in the area. The study was solely funded by the researcher.

3.4 Target population

The target population of the study comprised of households with young delinquents between the ages of 15 and 18, their parents, surrounding community and (2) penal institutions. The two penal institutions were the police and the courts. The total population of the area is 35,663 (2009 Census). The total population of the area translates to 7133 households.

3.5 Sampling techniques and sample size

Simple random sampling was used to select household from the target population. A total of 379 delinquent children from 379 different families will participate in the study. For a survey design based on a simple random sample size required can be calculated according to the following Yamane (1967) formula $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$ often used in determining a more conservative sample size.

n= required sample size

N=Population size

e= precision level (standard value of 0.05)

n= 7133

$1+7133(0.5)^2$

n=7133

18.8325

n=378.87

n=379

This is because due to their character it would be easier to gather useful and reliable information from them. The main purpose of using random sampling technique is that random sample yield research data that can be determined statistically (Orodho, 2002)

3.6 Data collection procedures

Data collection refers to gathering specific information aimed at proving or refuting some facts. It is important in research as it allows for dissemination of accurate information and development of meaningful programmes. The researcher first obtained a research permit from ministry of children and gender to enable her carry out the research. The institutions and households participating in the study were visited by the researcher and discussions were held with the heads and parents. The researcher then explained to them the purpose and objectives of the study. The researcher personally distributed the copies of questionnaires and collected them immediately after the exercise to ensure efficiency in collection of the data. Data collection method included; observation, focus group discussion, interview schedules and questionnaires.

3.6.1 Observation

This is a tool that provides information about actual behavior. The researcher had a checklist to provide information about actual behavior to be observed. The researcher noted down the observation (Kombo, 2006; Tromp, 2006).

3.6.1.1 Focus group discussion

This is a special type of group in terms of its purpose, size, composition and procedures. It is usually composed of 6-8 individuals who share certain characteristics, which are relevant for the study. The discussion was carefully planned and designed to obtain information on the participant's beliefs and perceptions on a defined area of interest. The group was to be assembled by first identifying the participants of about six to twelve participants. The participants were then asked to share their thoughts, feelings, attitudes and ideas on the subject. A recording list should be made of the discussion (Kombo, 2006; Tromp, 2006).

3.6.1.2 Household questionnaire

The questionnaire was the main tool for collection of data in this study. The questionnaire consisted of items aimed at answering the following objectives: socio economic status of parents and their children's delinquent behaviour, the influence gender has on becoming delinquent among the juveniles and the effect of family types on delinquency rates among juveniles. The questions were directed to parents and their delinquent children (Kombo, 2006; Tromp, 2006).

3.6.1.3 Interview schedule/guide

An interview schedule is a set of questions that an interviewer asks when interviewing respondents. An interview schedule makes it possible to obtain the data required to meet the specific objectives of the study. Interview schedules are also used to standardize the interview situation so that the interviewers can ask the same questions in the same manner. In most cases the questions are usually asked exactly as they appear on the guide. Interviews with key individuals within the community will be conducted for detailed and qualitative information. In this research, household heads and delinquent children were asked the questions. The purpose of the interview in the study was to clarify some issues that could not have been clearly established through the questionnaires.

3.6.2 Secondary data

Secondary data is data collected by someone other than the user. Sources of secondary data used by the researcher included censuses, organizational records and published books. Secondary data analysis saves time that would otherwise be spent collecting data. In addition, analysts consider secondary data essential since it is impossible to conduct a new survey that can adequately capture past change and/or developments. Secondary sources which can broadly be classified into two broad categories.

Published sources

Mostly secondary data are collected from published sources. Some important sources of published data are published reports of central, County governments and local bodies, statistical abstracts, census reports and other reports published by different ministries of the government, journals, magazines and periodicals, reports submitted by economists, research scholars, bureaus and many others.

Unpublished sources

Statistical data can also be collected from unpublished sources. Some of those sources are; the research works carried out by scholars, teachers and professionals, the records maintained by private firms and business enterprises, records and statistics maintained by various departments and offices of the central and state governments, corporations, undertakings etc.

3.7 Reliability and validity of research instruments

3.7.1 Validity of the study

Validity is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of the data actually represents the phenomena under study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999). Since some of the items in the interview schedule are measuring what the questionnaire purport to gather, their responses were compared and validated accordingly. The opinion of the researcher's supervisor was also sought whether or not items in the instruments represent elements of the study and whether they were valid in content and also whether they would provide data required.

3.7.2 Reliability of the study

According to (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999) the reliability of an instrument is the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. In order to test the reliability of the instrument to be used in the study, the test- retest method will be used. The questionnaire will be administered twice within an interval of two weeks.

To determine the coefficient of stability, Pearson correlation formula was used. This was to establish the extent to which the questionnaire elicits the same responses every time it is administered. A correlation coefficient of 0.5 was considered reliable for the study. The results obtained from the case study assisted the researcher in revising the questionnaire to make sure that it covers the objectives of the study (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2000). According to (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999) the reliability of an instrument is the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. In order to

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3.8 Data analysis

The data collected was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. Qualitative data analysis involved identification, examination, and interpretation of patterns and themes in the textual data. It then determined how the patterns and themes helped answer the research questions at hand. Quantitative data was analyzed by the use of both descriptive statistics such as the mean, a measure of central tendency, and the standard deviation, a measure of spread. Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS), a computer application that provides statistical analysis of quantitative data was be used to facilitate analysis of the quantitative data.

Items from the questionnaire, observation and interview schedules were organized, tabulated and analyzed using simple frequencies and percentages where necessary. Responses that are received from the questionnaire items and interview schedule were organized tabulated and analyzed using simple frequencies and percentages, where necessary. Quantitative data was analyzed qualitatively by sorting out data into various items according to the findings. This was either done thematically – the researcher was required to develop a summary report identifying major themes and the association between them, or through content analysis – systematically describes the content of written and/ or spoken material. The researcher gave suggestions and recommendations for future research.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents research findings of the study which have been discussed under thematic sub-sections in line with the study objectives. The thematic areas includes; Questionnaires return rate, Demographic characteristics of respondents, relationship between socioeconomic status of parents and their children's delinquent behaviour, effect of family types on delinquency rates amongst juveniles and influence gender has on becoming delinquent among the juveniles.

Questionnaire Return Rate

A total of 417 questionnaires were administered to the respondents, 400 questionnaires were returned for analysis which formed 95.9% return rate. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a response rate of 60% is good and that of 70% and above is very good. This therefore meant that the questionnaire return rate of 95.9% was appropriate for the study. The questionnaire return rate was high because the researcher ensured that the respondents had been sensitized prior to the administration of the questionnaires. Questionnaires were administered and collected on the same day from respondents by the researcher.

4.2 Socio demographic profile of study respondents

4.2.1 Parents' age profile

Table 4.1 below shows the age profile of the parent respondents. The result indicate that majority (35%) of the parents of the Juveniles were aged between 41-50. Those aged 20-30 years constituted 8.8% while 25% were aged 31-40 years. Those aged 51-60 constituted 20.3%. 61 and above were 10.8%.

Table 4.1: Socio demographic profile of study parents' respondents by age

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Age		
20-30	35	8.8
31-40	101	25.3
41-50	140	35.0
51-60	81	20.3
61 and above	43	10.8

Source: Field Data, 2013

Majority (78.1%) were Christians. Muslims constituted 12.3%, while traditional religions constituted 9.6%. There were no atheists in the study area (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Religious background of parent respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Religious background		
Christian	310	78.1
Muslim	49	12.3
Indigenous Religion	38	9.6
Atheist	0	0

Source: Field Data, 2013

Almost an equal number of the parents reached primary (25.5%) or secondary (25.8%) or tertiary level of education (27.3%). The illiterate respondents constituted 21.5% (Table 4.3)

Table 4.3: Education level of parents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Education Level		
Primary	102	25.5
Secondary	103	25.8
Tertiary	109	27.3
Illiterate	86	21.5

Source: Field Data, 2013

46.8% were self employed, 20.5% unemployed and 32.8% were formally employed. Teachers constituted 16.7%, those with petty business constituted 11.3%. Majority of the respondents were farmers 40.4% while civil servants constituted 31.5% (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4: Employment status of parent respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Employment Status		
Formally employed	131	32.8
Unemployed	82	20.5
Self-Employed	187	46.8
Type of employment		
Teacher	34	16.7
Petty business	23	11.3
Farmer	82	40.4
Civil Servant	64	31.5

Source: Field Data, 2013

6.3% of respondents earned less than 2000, 24.0% percent of the respondents earned between 2000-5000. Those who earn 5001-10000 constituted 17.3%, while those who earned 10001-15000 constituted 22.6% of the respondents. 12.4% of the respondents earned 15001- 20000. 11.5% of the respondents earned 20001-30000. The least 2.8% earned more than 30000 (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5: Income profile of the parent respondent

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Turn over salary		
<2000	13	6.3
2000 -5000	50	24.0
5001 – 10000	36	17.3
10001 – 15000	47	22.6
15001 – 20000	32	12.4
20001 – 30000	24	11.5
>30000	6	2.8

Source: Field Data, 2013

Majority of the respondents 59% used corporal punishment as a disciplinary tactic. 24% of the respondents used grounding while those 13% used none (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Disciplinary status of parent respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Disciplinary tactics		
Corporal punishment	232	59
Grounding	96	24
None	52	13

Source: Field Data, 2013

As evidenced in Table 4.4, majority of the respondents were farmers. Over 60% of the people in the location are peasant farmers heavily relying on cassava, millet, beans and maize production. (G.O.K 2009). A high percentage (35.0%) was between the ages of 41-50. The salary turnover of most respondents was between Ksh 2000-5000. This is very low hence it is evident that majority of the families live below poverty line. This is an indicator of crime. According to Ngale, 2009 crimes such as stealing accounts for a larger of the crimes committed in developing countries, most likely due to the inability of parents to provide regular and substantial meals to their offspring. (Brill 40) argued that poverty can lead individuals to commit theft, robbery or other violent acts. The author added that poverty may lead to an actual or perceived inferior education which would cause youth to count to quality

schools and jobs. Ngale, 2009 pointed out that some of the crimes committed are more indicative of family socio-economic problems than the personalities of the respondents. Crime thus offers a way in which impoverished people can obtain material goods that they cannot attain through legitimate means. Those who earn more than 30000 constituted 2.8% of the respondents. This also indicated that the poverty level in the area was high. The most common type of disciplinary tactics used was corporal punishment. Majority of the respondents were Christians. Respondents aged 41-50 were the majority while those aged 61 were the least. This showed that most delinquents came from younger families.

4.2.2 Juvenile's socio demographic profile

Table 4.7 shows the socio-demographic profile of the juvenile respondents. The result indicate that majority (43%) of the Juveniles were aged 16. Those aged 15 years constituted 18.4% while 39.1% were aged 17 years. Majority (82.8%) were enrolled in school currently, 17.2% were not in school. A large majority (82.1%) were in day schools while those in boarding school constituted 17.1%. In terms of performance, 48% were average performers while 40.4% were poor performances, only 12% performed well in school. In terms of school attendance 34% were regular while 66% were irregular.

Table 4.7: Socio demographic profile of study juvenile respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Age		
15	49	18.4
16	113	42.5
17	104	39.1
Schooling		
Yes	327	82.8
No	68	17.2
Type of Schooling		
Day	279	82.1
Boarding	58	17.1
Academic performance		
Good	41	12.0
Average	163	47.7
Poor	138	40.4
School attendance		
Regular	136	34
Irregular	264	66
Social status		
Child parent	59	14.7
Sexually active	100	25
Sexually inactive	238	59.5
Relationship with parent/guardian		
Good	137	34.4
Fair	187	46.7
poor	76	19

Source: Field Data, 2013

From the statistics of the study, majority of the respondents were schooling, with an equal number in day school. According to Campbel, 2002 early aggressive behavior may lead difficulties in the classroom. Such difficulties in turn may result in a child's receiving unfavorable evaluation from teachers or peers. Majority of the respondents attended school irregularly and had a fair relation with parents or guardian. The findings are similar to one done by world youth report, 2003 which found out that teenagers who attended school

irregularly were among the most likely to be involved in criminal behaviors. A large percentage of respondents were in school and specifically day school, this was mainly because of the free primary education. The academic performance of most of the delinquents was average. Majority of the delinquents were sexually inactive and the relationship between them and their parents were fair. Many studies have shown that family and child characteristics predict both problems in school and increased likelihood in delinquent behaviours. It is evident that poor school performance, truancy and leaving school at a young age are connected to juvenile delinquency; this is evident in the study where majority of the respondents' school attendance was irregular. Majority of the respondents had fair relations with their parents/guardians. Delinquency tends to ruin relationships between children and their parents hence promote policies and rules that are fair to children should be promoted to improve parent child relations.

4.3 Relationship between socio-economic status of parents and the type of misconduct

Table 4.8 below shows association between socio economic statuses of parents and their children's delinquent behavior. The researcher found out that, parents of age 41-50(41.2%) were the majority, those aged 20-30 were the least with 4.5%, those aged 31-40 constituted 25.7%, those aged 51-60 constituted 17.6 while those aged 61 and above constituted 11%. In terms of education level primary leavers were 22.4%, secondary level constituted 26.5%, tertiary level 31.4% while the illiterate constituted 19.6%. In terms in employment status those who were unemployed (21.6%), the employed constituted 34.3%, those in self employment constituted the highest percentage of 44.1%. in terms of occupation type, teachers constituted 20.3%, fishermen constituted 11.4%, farmers 36.6% while civil servants 31.7%. Majority of the respondents (37.1%) lived in mud walled houses, those who lived in wall mud and roof iron sheet constituted 33.9%, while those who lived in permanent houses constituted 29%. In terms of income level less 6.25% of respondents earned less than 2000, 24.03% percent of the respondents earned between 2000-5000. Those who earn 5001-10000 constituted 17.3%, while those who earned 10001-15000 constituted 22% of the respondents. 12.4% of the respondents earned 15001- 20000. 11.53% of the respondents earned 20001-30000. The least 2.8% earned more than 30000 (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8: Relationship between socio-economic status of parents and type of misconduct

	Type of misconduct	
	Ex-convict	Probationer/Ex--probationer
Age		
20-30	11 (4.5)	24(15.5)
31-40	63 (25.7)	38 (24.5)
41-50	101 (41.2)	39 (25.2)
51-60	43 (17.6)	38 (24.5)
61 and above	27 (11.0)	16 (10.3)
Education Level		
Primary	55(22.4)	47 (30.3)
Secondary	65(26.5)	38 (24.5)
Tertiary	77(31.4)	32 (20.6)
Illiterate	48 (19.6)	38 (24.5)
Employment Status		
Employed	84(34.3)	47 (30.3)
Unemployed	53(21.6)	29 (18.7)
Self-Employed	108(44.1)	79 (51.0)
Type of employment		
Teacher	25 (20.3)	9 (11.2)
Fishermen	14 (11.4)	9 (11.2)
Farmers	45 (36.6)	37 (46.2)
Civil Servant	39 (31.7)	25 (31.2)
Type of housing		
Permanent	71(29.0)	36 (23.2)
Wall mud and roof iron sheet	83 (33.9)	58 (37.4)
Wall mud and roof grass thatched	91(37.1)	61 (39.4)
Income		
< 2000	8 (0.1)	5 (3.9)
2000 -5000	14 (15.4)	36 (28.3)
5001 – 10000	16 (17.6)	20 (15.7)
10001 – 15000	27 (29.7)	20 (15.7)
15001 – 20000	18 (19.8)	14 (11.02)
20001 – 30000	6 (6.6)	18 (14.1)
>30000	2 (2.19)	4 (3.1)

Source: Field Data, 2013

When young people are exposed to the influence of adult offenders they have the opportunity to study delinquent behaviour, and the possibility of their engaging in adult crime becomes more real. The “criminalization” of the family also has an impact on the choice of delinquent trajectories (Kaufman & Widom, 1999), this was also established by the researcher in the findings above. A study carried out in prisons in the United States reveals that families involved in criminal activities tend to push their younger members towards violating the law. More than two-thirds of those interviewed had relatives who were incarcerated; for 25 per cent it was a father and for another 25 per cent a brother or sister (Kaufman & Widom, 1999). Majority of the respondents were between the ages of 41-50 (41.2%). According to (Steinberg, 2008) the same age bracket above is the peak earning years therefore many tend use every means to earn a living and some engaging in criminal activity such as fraud to make money. In terms of employment, a higher percentage (36.6%) of the respondents was peasant farmers. Majority are also secondary school leavers therefore they lack special skills which they can employ to earn a living hence are mostly involved in peasant farming. The study area being largely rural most of the housing types were wall mud and roof grass thatched and indicator of high poverty levels. Majority are low income earners with the highest percentage earning 10000-15000. Poverty and crime have a very “intimate” relationship and whenever the government is dealing with poverty, they always have to deal with issues of crime to develop the country’s economy and society (G.O.K 2009). Adolescents from low-income families often feel excluded (Kaufman & Widom, 1999) and this propel them to become delinquent.

4.4 Socioeconomic characteristics on child delinquency

The table 4.9 below shows the socio economic characteristics on child delinquency in Busia township location. Majority of those between 41-50 had the highest delinquency rate of theft 33.7%, 11.8% drug and substance abuse and 20% school absenteeism. Those aged 20-30; 12.9% were involved in theft cases, 16.6% in fights, 28,5% in defilement cases, 22.8% in drug abuse, and 60% in school absenteeism. Those aged 51-60; 14.2% were involved in thefts, 50% in fights, 57.1% on defilement, 26.8 on drug and substance abuse. Those aged 61 and above 9% constituted theft cases, 33.3 % constituted fights, 14.2% constituted defilement case while 25.3% constituted drug abuse cases. In terms of education level, 24.6 % of

primary level leavers were involved in theft cases, 25% in fights, 33.3% in defilement, 25.32 in drug abuse, 66.7% in school absenteeism. For secondary leavers; 20.15 theft cases, 20 % fights, 33.3% defilement cases, 20.1% drug abuse and 33% school absenteeism. Illiteracy level, 13.4% were involved in theft cases, 50% in fights, 33.3% in defilement, and 24.6% in drug abuse. In terms of employment teachers constituted 18.6% of thefts, 40% fights, 25% defilement, 20.7% drug abuse and 25% school absenteeism. Civil servants had 11.7% involved in theft cases, 25% in defilement cases, and 28.5% in drug abuse. As for farmers; 41.7% involved in theft cases, 40% fights, 25.9 in defilement and 50% in school absenteeism. In terms of housing, permanent houses constituted 33.6% theft cases, 20% fights, 25% defilement, 35% drug abuse and 25% school absenteeism. Wall mud and roof iron sheet constituted 23.8% theft cases, 20% fights, 25% defilement, 27.3% drug abuse. Wall mud and roof grass thatched constituted 42.5% thefts, 60% fights, 50% defilement, 37.7% drug abuse and 75% school absenteeism. In terms of income less than 2000 constituted 29% thefts, 12% fights, 26% defilement, 20.7% drug and substance abuse, 33.3% school absenteeism. 2000-5000 constituted 17.1% thefts, 25% fights, 25% defilement, 20.7% drug and substance abuse and 33% school absenteeism. 50001 -10000 constituted 21.6% thefts, 12.5% fights, 11.3% drug abuse and 11.1 % absenteeism. 15001-20000 constituted 6.7% thefts, 12.5% defilement, 9.09% drug abuse and 22.2% school absenteeism. 20001-30000 constituted 8.2% of thefts, 12.5% fights, 37.5% defilement 14.2% drug abuse and 11.1% absenteeism (Table 4.9).

Table 4.9: Socioeconomic characteristics on child delinquency

	Type of offence				
	Theft	fight	Defilement	Drug abuse	School absenteeism
Age					
20-30	20(12.9)	1(16.6)	2(28.5)	30(22.8)	3(60)
31-40	26(16.8)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	28(19.9)	1(20)
41-50	52(33.7)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	23(11.8)	1(20)
51-60	22(14.2)	3(50)	4(57.1)	37(26.8)	0(0.0)
61 and above	14(9.0)	2(33.3)	1(14.2)	36(25.3)	0(0.0)
Education					
Primary	33(24.6)	1(25)	1(33.3)	39(25.32)	2(66.7)
Secondary	27(20.1)	1(25)	1(33.3)	31(20.1)	1(33.3)
Tertiary	56(41.7)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	46(29.8)	0(0.0)
Illiterate	18(13.4)	2(50)	1(33.3)	38(24.6)	0(0.0)
Type of employment					
Teacher	25(18.6)	2(40)	1(25)	32(20.7)	1(25)
Fishermen	31(20.1)	1(20)	1(25)	38(24.6)	1(25)
Farmers	58(41.7)	2(40)	1(25)	40(25.9)	2(50)
Civil Servant	20(11.7)	0(0.0)	1(25)	44(28.5)	0(0.0)
Housing type					
Permanent	45(33.6)	1(20)	1(25)	54(35)	1(25)
Wall mud and roof iron sheet	32(23.8)	1(20)	1(25)	42(27.3)	0(0.0)
Wall mud and roof grass thatched	57(42.5)	3(60)	2(50)	58(37.7)	3(75)
Income					
< 2000	39(29)	1(12.5)	2(25)	32(20.7)	3(33.3)
2000 -5000	23(17.1)	2(25)	1(12.5)	30(19.5)	1(11.1)
5001 – 10000	29(21.6)	1(12.5)	0(0.0)	17(11.03)	1(11.1)
10001 – 15000	12(8.9)	1(12.5)	0(0.0)	23(14.9)	0(0.0)
15001 – 20000	9(6.7)	0(0.0)	1(12.5)	14(9.09)	2(22.2)
20001 – 30000	11(8.2)	1(12.5)	3(37.5)	22(14.2)	1(11.1)
>30000	8(6.0)	2(25)	1(12.5)	16(10.4)	1(11.1)

Source: Field Data, 2013

Previous research found that coercive parenting and lack of parental monitoring contributes not only directly to boys' antisocial behaviors, but also indirectly as seen in the contribution to their increased opportunity to associate with deviant peers, which is predictive of higher levels of delinquent acts (Kim, *et al.* 1999). Child delinquency was highest among farmers. It was also evident to note that those who came from wall mud and grass thatched houses were more delinquent and mostly engaged in theft cases. In terms of income level those who earned less than 2000 had the highest crime recording level. Offences such as fights and defilement were fewer regardless of the juveniles' socioeconomic backgrounds. School absenteeism was also less common amongst the respondents. Parents with tertiary education had the highest percentage of juveniles engaging in theft and drug abuse. Gorman-Smith & Tolan, 1998 found that parental conflict and parental aggressiveness predicted violent offending, whereas, lack of maternal affection and paternal criminality predicted involvement in property crime. unemployed fathers who are prone to moving around looking for jobs, or just loafing, had the highest delinquency rates compared to the employed parents. This is also supported by Popenoe, 1997 this prevents them from effectively and consistently carrying out their socializing and moralizing role. In addition to the long absences of working parents, based on the fact they have the lowest paying jobs, they remain incapable of meeting up with their financial responsibilities. The type of housing and also level of education were also a determinant factor in delinquency rate, in that a high percentage of criminality was recorded amongst parents who are illiterate or left school at primary level. Keringler, 1986 argued that education level raises skill level thus higher wage rates which hence lead to reduced crime rates.

4.4 Effect of family types on delinquency rates amongst juveniles

The table 10 below shows the effect of family types on delinquency rates. The researcher established that majority of the delinquents engaged in stealing and drug abuse regardless of family type. Of the respondents interviewed, 266 (67.5%) were from male headed families while 128 (32.5%) were from female headed families. Of the respondents interviewed, 266 (67.5%) were from male headed families while 128 (32.5%) were from female headed families. Amongst those who engaged in stealing 67.5% were from male headed families while 32.5% were from female headed familiar. 6.9% lone children engaged in stealing while

4.5% were involved in drug and substance abuse. Those who were 2-5 in the family 62.9% engaged in stealing while 64.5% on drug and substance abuse. 6 and above in a family 30.2% engaged in stealing while 31% were involved in drug and substance abuse. In terms of sequence of birth 20.4% first born were involved in theft cases, 34.2% in drug and substance abuse. 50% of middle children were involved in theft cases while 47% in drug and substance abuse. 29% of last born were involved in theft cases while 18.4% were engaged in drug abuse. Functional families constituted 44.7% while dysfunctional constituted 55.3%, 46.4% engaged in stealing while 42.3% engaged in drug and substance abuse. Interms of type of family 55.2% were monogamous, 18.8% were polygamous, 13.4% single parent, 2.9% divorcee and 9.6% separated. 58.8% of those from monogamous families engaged in stealing while 7.3% on drug abuse, 18.8% from polygamous families of them 18.1 % engaged in stealing and 19.1% in drug abuse. Single parents were 13.4%, those involved in thefts were 19.9% in drug abuse and 9.3% in thefts. Separated family type constituted 9.6%, 12.4 %involved in theft cases and 5.5% in drug and substance abuse. In terms of family relations 7.9% had violent relations, 7.3% in theft cases and 8.8% in drug and substance abuse. Cordial relations constituted 72.5%, 74% were involved in theft cases while 70% were involved in drug abuse. Those who were verbally abused constituted 19.5%, 18.8% were involved in theft cases while 20.6% were involved in drug abuse.

Table. 4.10 Effect of family types on delinquency rates amongst juveniles

	All N (%)	Type of offence	
		Stealing (%)	Drug and substance abuse N (%)
Family Type			
Male headed	266 (67.5)	162 (67.5)	104(67.5)
Female Headed	128 (32.5)	78 (32.5)	50 (32.5)
Numbers of children			
1	24(6.0)	17(6.9)	7(4.5)
2-5	254(63.5)	154(62.9)	100 (64.5)
6 and above	122(30.5)	74(30.2)	48 (31.0)

Sequence of delinquent child birth			
First born	99(25.9)	47 (20.4)	52(34.2)
Middle Child	187(49.0)	115 (50.0)	72(47.4)
Last born	96(25.1)	68(29.6)	28(18.4)
Family setting			
Functional	147 (44.7)	86 (46.4)	58 (42.3)
Dysfunctional	182 (55.3)	103 (53.6)	79 (57.7)
Type of family			
Monogamous	205 (55.1)	133(58.8)	72 (7.3)
Polygamous	70 (18.8)	41 (18.1)	29 (19.9)
Single	50 (13.4)	21 (9.3)	29 (19.9)
Divorced	11 (2.9)	3 (1.3)	8 (5.5)
Separated	36 (9.6)	28 (12.4)	8 (5.5)
Parents' relation			
Violent	26 (7.9)	14 (7.3)	12 (8.8)
Cordial	238 (72.5)	142 (74)	96 (70.6)
Verbal abuse	64 (19.5)	36 (18.8)	28 (20.6)

Source: Field Data, 2013

Other studies show that children who receive adequate parental supervision are less likely to engage in criminal activities. Dysfunctional family settings—characterized by conflict, inadequate parental control, weak internal linkages and integration, and premature autonomy—are closely associated with juvenile delinquency (Campbell, 2002). The researcher found out that high percentages (55.5%) of children from dysfunctional families are delinquents. Majority of the respondents with 2-5 children had the highest percentage of delinquency rates. In terms of sequence of birth, the middle child was found to be more delinquent. Other studies done (Geisser, 2011) revealed that most middle children are deprived of attention therefore tend to be more delinquent. Majority of the respondents were from monogamous families. Respondents from polygamous families were equally higher, this was mainly because the fight for attention amongst the siblings. In terms of family relation, majority of the respondents had cordial family relations. Children in disadvantaged families that have few opportunities for legitimate employment and face a higher risk of social exclusion are overrepresented among offenders (Geisser, 2011). The researcher found out that 20.6% of parents' lived in abusive relations. According to Bartol & Bartol (1989),

countries in transition are facing particular challenges in this respect, with the associated insecurity and turmoil contributing to an increase in the numbers of children and juveniles neglected by their parents and suffering abuse and violence at home. Monogamous type of families was the highest in the study area.

4.5 Influence gender has on becoming delinquent among the juveniles

The table below shows that a majority of male respondents were enrolled in school (82.6%) male and 83% female. 17.4% male and 17% female were not in school. 24.2% male was child parents while 23.5% females were child parents. 41% male and 33.3% female were sexually active. 34.8% male and 43.1% female were sexually inactive. More male (46.3%) than female (44.4%) were involved in drug abuse. 53.7% male and 55.6% female were not involved in drug abuse. In terms of indiscipline cases majority of males (69%) were either indiscipline or had problems with provincial administration. 61.3% female had problems with the provincial administration. In terms of sibling relation 34.3% male and 34.2% female had good relation. 46.1% male and 47.7% female had fair relations with siblings, 19.6% male and 18.1% female had poor relations with siblings (Table 4.11)

Table 4.11 Influence gender has on becoming delinquent among the juveniles

	Gender	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
School enrolment		
Yes	200(82.6)	127(83)
No	42(17.4)	26(17)
Social status		
Child parent	59(24.2)	36(23.5)
Sexually active	100(41)	51(33.3)
Sexually inactive	85(34.8)	68(43.1)
Sibling relation		
Good	86(34.3)	53(34.2)
Fair	113(46.1)	74(47.7)
Poor	48(19.6)	30(18.1)
Drug abuse		
Yes	102(46.3)	80(44.4)
No	118(53.7)	100(55.6)

Problem with provincial administration		
Yes	169(69)	95(61.3)
No	76(31)	60(38.7)
Indiscipline		
Yes	169(69)	95(61.3)
No	76(31)	60(38.7)

Source: Field Data, 2013

The result shows that male juveniles were higher than female juveniles. Male juveniles were likely to engage in theft than female delinquents. The same findings were found in drug and substance abuse. Both male and female delinquents had fair relations with their siblings. More boys than girls were sexually active. However, generally majority of the respondents were sexually inactive. A higher percentage of male delinquents (69%) were reported to be indiscipline. Available data show that delinquency and crime have strong gender associations. Police records indicate that the crime rates of male juvenile and male young adult offenders are more than double those of young females, and conviction rates are six or seven times higher in the United States (Brownell, 1997). However, it is clear that the involvement of girls in criminal activity had increased so greatly. This trend suggests that prevention and intervention programs for youth should pay special attention to the needs of at-risk girls. In some instances young girls and boys choose to join a juvenile delinquent group to raise their self-esteem. These groups provide equal opportunities to everyone, favourably distinguishing themselves from school and family, where positions of authority are occupied by adults (Langer, 1997). Various restrictive and stimulative factors encourage women to conform to social norms that do not apply to men, one example being the fear of sexual assault (Barness, 1994; Ephross, 1994). Girls are subject to stronger family control than are boys. Cultural concepts are such that society at large is less tolerant of deviant behaviour among young women than among young men (Brownell, 1997). In addition, aggression and violence play an important role in the construction of masculinity and sexuality in patriarchal societies, the primary objective being to reinforce and maintain the status and authoritative position of men. This is portrayed in the findings of this study.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter contains summary of findings, conclusion, recommendations and areas for further research.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study sought to assess the factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in Busia township location. The result indicate that majority (35%) of the parents of the Juveniles were aged between 41-50 while majority of the juveniles were aged 16 years as observed in table 4.1. Majority (78.1%) as seen in table 4.2 were Christians. Almost an equal number of the parents reached primary or secondary or tertiary level of education. Majority of juveniles (82.8%) were in school as observed in table 4.3. In terms of employment most respondents were peasant farmers (40.4%) as witnessed in table 4.4 hence were low income earners. The researcher established that majority of household were male headed and that the number of male delinquents were considerably higher than that of female delinquents.

The first objective of the study was to explore the relationship between socioeconomic status of parents and their children's delinquent behavior. The study points out that some of the crimes committed are more indicative of family socio-economic problems than the personalities of the respondents. This finding was similar to other studies done in Cameroon (Ngale, 2009), showed that stealing accounts for the highest crimes committed in developing countries such as Kenya.

The second objective of the study was to establish the effect of household types on delinquency rates amongst juveniles. Most respondents were monogamous and that middle children were found to be more delinquent than first and last born children. Majority of the respondents were from dysfunctional families however, the family relation was found to be cordial.

The third objective of the study was to determine the effect gender has on becoming delinquent among the juvenile. The study proved that male children were more likely to offend than female children. The most common type of offences in the study area was stealing and drug and substance abuse. 63.2% males were involved in theft cases with 36.8% females engaging in the same. In terms of drug and substance abuse 62.2% were males and 33.8% were females. The above objectives were thus attained.

5.2 Conclusion

The main purpose of the study was to assess the factors which contribute to juvenile delinquency. In terms of the specific research objectives, the following findings emerged from the study:

On socioeconomic factors majority of those children noted to be delinquent were from lower socioeconomic background. The causal link between low socio-economic status and juvenile delinquency can be considered on the premise that children from such homes lack a consistent and adequate supply of basic amenities such as books, fees, clothing, food, medicines.

On family type and delinquency the study found out that most households were male headed. Majority of the respondents were from dysfunctional families. The researcher also established that most middle children were more delinquent. Majority of the respondents were monogamous and had cordial relationship among them.

On gender and delinquency, available data show that delinquency and crime have strong gender associations. Police records indicate that the crime rates of male juvenile and male young adult offenders are more than double those of young females like in the study area. Stealing and drug and substance abuse was the common offence in the study area.

5.3 Recommendations

- i. Children and adolescents in difficult circumstances or poor backgrounds constitute ready reserves for organized crime, participation in armed conflicts, human and drug trafficking, and sexual exploitation. The government should therefore organize rehabilitation programmes for them or create employment opportunities for the jobless.
- ii. Family planning methods awareness creation should be encouraged to regulate the number of children in every family. This will thus ensure that every child receives the much attention they each deserve.
- iii. Policies such as free primary and secondary education should be fully implemented to ensure all children regardless of sex are in school. Affordable vocational training should also be available for every youth.

5.4 Areas for Further Research

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

- i. Challenges facing juvenile delinquents in Busia township location. Drug and substance abuse awareness creation studies to be carried and recommendations implemented.
- ii. Family type and criminal justice system. Most deviant behaviours are recorded amongst large families or single parent headed families. Hence studies which focus on family planning should be encouraged.
- iii. Recidivism of delinquent children. This is common in Kenya where most delinquent children who have once been convicted faces stigmatization from other citizens. They are always labeled criminals hence do not have freedom like others.

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